

Montenegrin dialects have survived for centuries as a product of the Montenegrin spirit, and as such they constitute an integral part of the historical flow of Montenegrin culture and tradition. Since there have not been any specific efforts so far to include the Montenegrin dialects in the protected Montenegrin cultural heritage, this issue is considered in this study. Due to the complexity of the socio-historical perspective and today's sociolinguistic circumstances that condition the elaboration of this topic – the theoretical and practical structure of the dissertation contains these aspects: a) linguistic aspect in Montenegrin language studies; primarily dialectological, but accompanied by an understanding of the dialect-standard/language norm relationship; b) the cultural aspect and the place of the dialect layer in it as an intangible cultural good; c) educational aspect with analysis of programs and textbooks for the Montenegrin language for primary schools and gymnasiums; d) legal or legislative framework concerning intangible cultural heritage. The long-ruling standard language ideology in the 20th and part of the 21st century, created in Belgrade and Novi Sad, had a culturally far-reaching negative impact in the Montenegrin language area as it identified all the distinctive general Montenegrin language characteristics as regionalisms. With a view to achieving the most reliable results, the research of the value judgments of Montenegrin students has been included in the study, so based on the answers obtained through the survey questionnaire we can monitor how traces of the traditionalist understanding of the language of past systems are outlined in their attitudes, and to what extent are the products of the idealisation of the standard language as a role-model for language correctness still present despite the fact that both programs and textbooks have undergone a thorough reformation phase. All previous results in Montenegrin language studies – and we have highlighted this in the study – have shown that there is a philological, i.e., scientific foundation for registration of Montenegrin dialects in the register of intangible cultural goods.