

USE OF DUAL IN STANDARD SLOVENE, COLLOQUIAL SLOVENE AND SLOVENE DIALECTS

INTRODUCTION

The dual is an integral element of Contemporary Standard Slovene, the language used in literature and in official writings and speech. It also appears in the majority of Slovene dialects, but to varying degrees. As we shall see, some dialects are witnessing a gradual disappearance of the dual and its replacement by plural forms. Colloquial Slovene is following the tendencies of surrounding dialects, influenced by Standard Slovene.

1 CONTEMPORARY STANDARD SLOVENE, COLLOQUIAL SLOVENE AND DIALECTS

Although the Slovene language is a single entity with rules that can be learned for the purposes of general communication, there are in reality several “Slovene languages”, with often quite significant grammatical differences between them. Contemporary Standard Slovene (CSS, Sln. *knjižni jezik*) is the written and spoken form of the language used in formal and official settings, i.e. books, news media, etc. In less formal speech settings, such as shows on television, radio and the stage, when people are speaking spontaneously, the colloquial standard is used (Sln. *splōšnopogovorni* or *knjižnopogovorni jezik*), which is less strict in terms of its grammatical rules.

CSS is to some extent a “constructed” language whose specific morphological, lexical and phonological features are not specific to the spoken language of any one region of Slovene, although it is mainly based on the language spoken in Ljubljana in the 16th century (the Slovene capital is situated just within the borders of the Upper and Lower Carniola dialect areas).¹ From that time on, the language of the central Slovene region (i.e. the language of Lower and Upper Carniola) came to dominate. The 19th century saw the introduction of new word forms more similar to Old Church Slavonic and other (contemporary) Slavic languages. The phonology of CSS is therefore Carniolan, but the morphology and lexica are the result of historical reconstruction – they do not come from a single dialect base (cf. Jakopin 1966: 100–101; Lenček 1982: 186).

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¹ The Protestant writers of that time were important to the initial development of the standard language: Primož Trubar's first book to be printed in Slovene (1550) and Jurij Dalmatin's first complete Slovene translation of the Bible (1584).

CSS is based on three dialects: Upper Carniolan, Lower Carniolan and Styrian. For any native speaker of Slovene, CSS is their second language, if we take the dialect of their home town or village as their first language. We can illustrate this with a brief example. A speaker from Prekmurje will have three varieties of Slovene at their disposal, each used for different speech situations: dialect, colloquial and CSS. This speaker is obliged to switch codes according to the context in which he is speaking, e.g. to family, local friends, friends from other parts of the country, official business. By contrast, a speaker from the Ljubljana region has merely to choose between colloquial and CSS according to the *speech* situation (formal vs. informal); this is because their dialect is much closer to the former (Škofic 1994: 577–578).

COLLOQUIAL SLOVENE

Slovene colloquial languages have formed between CSS on the one hand and local dialects on the other. So-called regional colloquial languages are all affected by local speech habits and are, by and large, used only in spoken form; their phonology, morphology, syntax and vocabulary differ from written CSS. The colloquial language of Ljubljana (Sln. *osrednjeslovenski pogovorni jezik*) differs from the colloquial languages of other towns in other dialect regions, e.g. Maribor in northern Styria (Sln. *severnoštajerski pogovorni jezik*) or Celje in southern Styria (Sln. *južnoštajerski pogovorni jezik*) (cf. 4.2).

SLOVENE DIALECTS

Slovene dialects are divided into seven dialect groups, following Logar and Rigler's 1983 *Karta slovenskih narečij* (Linguistic Map of Slovene Dialects). This paper uses the established English translations for these dialect groups, as follows: 1. Carinthia (*Koroška*), 2. Littoral (*Primorska*), 3. Rovte, 4. Upper Carniola (*Gorenjska*), 5. Lower Carniola (*Dolenjska*), 6. Styria (*Štajerska*), 7. Pannonian (*Panonska*). The dialect groups are further divided into 36 dialects and 12 subdialects.

The dialects and subdialects, and their respective dialect groups, are given below:

1. Carinthia	Zilja (Gailtal), Rož (Rosental), Obir (Hochobir), Podjuna (Jauntal), ² Mežica and Northern Pohorje dialects
2. Littoral	Rezija (Resia), Ter (Torre), Soča, Nadiža (Natisone), ³ Brda, Karst (with Banjšice subdialect), Istria (consisting of Rižana and Šavrini subdialects), Notranjska and Čičarija dialects
3. Rovte	Tolmin (with Bača subdialect), Cerkno, Črni Vrh, Horjul, Poljanska Sora and Škofja Loka dialects
4. Upper Carniola⁴	Gorenjska dialect, Eastern Gorenjska subdialect and Selška Sora dialect

² The brackets contain the German names of those dialect areas located in Austria.

³ The brackets contain the Italian names of those dialect areas located in Italy.

5. Lower Carniola	Dolenjska dialect and Eastern Dolenjska subdialect, Northern Bela Krajina, Southern Bela Krajina and Kostel dialects (with Babno Polje subdialect)
6. Styria	Posavje dialect (consisting of Zagorje-Trbovlje, Laško and Sevnica-Krško subdialects), Upper Savinja dialect (with Solčava subdialect), Central Savinja, Central Štajerska, Kozjansko-Bizeljsko and Southern Pohorje dialects (with Kozjak subdialect)
7. Pannonian	Slovenske Gorice, Prlekija, Haloze and Prekmurje dialects

Table 1: Slovene dialects and subdialects

2 THE DUAL IN CONTEMPORARY STANDARD SLOVENE, COLLOQUIAL SLOVENE AND DIALECTS

The dual is one of the most interesting areas of difference (and similarity) between the different codes of Slovene. In CSS, use of the dual demands an agreement between pronoun and verb, noun and verb, or noun and adjective. Masculine dual forms all end in *-a*: *dva nova avtomobila sta parkirana* “two new cars are parked”; *midva greva na morje* “we [two male persons/one male + one female persons] are going to the seaside”. Phonetic agreement in the feminine dual is much weaker, and the use of *-i*, *-e* and *-a* endings consequently gives it less stability: *dve lepi deklici hodita po cesti* “two pretty girls are walking down the street”, *midve pečeva kruh* “we [two female persons] are baking bread”. Dual forms of feminine nouns have been mixed with plural forms since the 16th century. In Proto-Slavic, hard and soft feminine declension in the dual differed only in the nominative, accusative and vocative (e.g. **ribě* : **duši*). In Slovene, the ending *-i* from soft declension has become prevalent in feminine nouns in the dual: either *-i* from the soft declension was generalised or, possibly, *-ě* in the unstressed position changed into *-i* (Logar 1996: 319).

The dual is integral to CSS, required by Slovene grammar and used for all inflected word types (nouns, pronouns, adjectives and verbs), in all cases (the genitive and locative plural and dual forms have the same endings) and in all grammatical persons.⁵ In the colloquial language of central Slovenia (i.e. Ljubljana, Celje), the dual is still used for masculine nouns, while dual forms for feminine nouns have been replaced by the plural: *dva brata* “two brothers” (m. du.), *dve sestre* “two sisters” (f. du./pl.).

⁴ Although the English name has been adopted for the Dolenjska and Gorenjska dialect groups (Lower and Upper Carniola respectively), there are single dialects within these groups that bear these names. Therefore, where Dolenjska and Gorenjska appear, the reference is to the dialects and not the dialect groups.

⁵ As far as natural pairs are concerned, these had already been pluralised by the 16th century and now function as collective nouns. The dual is used in such cases only when an emphasis needs to be drawn using the quantifiers *dva/dve* “two” or *oba/obe* “both”.

In the central Slovene dialects, the situation with the nominal dual is very much the same as in colloquial Slovene, while dialects in the north-west and north-east still preserve the feminine dual, e.g. *dve sestri* “two sisters” (f. du.). Masculine and feminine verbal dual forms exist in the majority of Slovene dialects; in fact, in some of them, a distinction between masculine and feminine verb forms appears exclusively in the dual; that distinction does not exist in CSS.

3 LINGUISTIC MATERIALS ON THE DUAL

The presentation of the types of dual in Slovene dialects is based on the most extensive dialect material relating to dialects from the whole of the Slovene ethnic territory⁶ and systematically gathered for the *Slovene Linguistic Atlas (Slovenski lingvistični atlas – SLA)*,⁷ as well as material taken from existing literature on dialectology, supplemented with data from the author’s own fieldwork (2003–2011). The comparison is made with the dual in the Standard Slovene and with descriptions in older linguistic literature and old Slovene texts. Material for dual forms in colloquial Slovene was gathered by means of a special survey the author drew up for this research.

Previous researchers, e.g. Lucien Tesnière (1925) and Aleksandar Belić (1932), emphasised the weakening of the dual as a grammatical category of number; they were interested in the sequence in which it was disappearing in individual word categories and the forms within them. Our research will proceed from an analysis of the situation regarding dual endings in flexible word categories in modern Standard Slovene, colloquial Slovene and Slovene dialects, according to the state of preservation of the dual number.

4 TYPES OF DUAL IN SLOVENE

4.1 Dual in dialects

The distribution of the dual is important because it allows us to look for the driving forces of change; these can be external (contact with other languages; cf. 4.1.5) or internal (influences from other dialects).

In the conclusion of *Les formes du duel en slovène* (Tesnière 1925a: 425), Tesnière noted that the use of the dual was prescribed to a greater extent in the standard language than was the case in certain dialects, and Belić stated that the dual was being lost in Slovene dialects to a greater extent than in the standard language (Belić 1932: 63). For Tesnière (1925a: 424), the dual was disappearing in the following sequence: in cases, first in the locative, then in the genitive, dative and instrumental, and finally in the nominative/accusative; by gender, first in the feminine, then in the neuter and finally in the masculine. With some exceptions, these tendencies are confirmed by the dialect material in the *Slovene Linguistic Atlas*.

⁶ Slovene linguistic territory is the territory in which Slovene is spoken. It therefore encompasses Slovenia as well as those areas in neighbouring countries in which Slovene-speaking minorities reside (northern Italy, southern Austria, south-western Hungary and northern areas of Croatia).

⁷ The first volume of the Slovene Linguistic Atlas was published in 2011.

4.1.1 Dual nouns in Slovene dialects

In Slovene dialects, dual forms have been most consistently preserved in masculine nouns (Jakop 2008). They are slightly less well-preserved in neuter nouns, mainly in the far east but also in the far west of the country. The central dialects have the dual ending *-a* as a result of masculinisation (e.g. *dva okna*, m. nom. du.) instead of the neuter dual ending *-i* (*dve okni*). Feminine nouns tend most towards pluralisation (*dve hčere* instead of *dve hčeri*); the same applies to feminised neuter nouns (*dve okne* instead of *dve okni*). Feminine nouns exist in the dual only in Carinthia, Lower Carniola (most of the subdialects in the Dolenjska dialect area), north-eastern Styria and in the north-east of the Pannonian dialect group (as well as in CSS of course). Some Carinthian and Littoral dialects have retained the dual in the nominative/accusative while the dative/instrumental has been pluralised. The pluralisation of feminine nouns has occurred in central dialects (most of Upper and Lower Carniola, and south-western Styria).

Dialects in the far north-west and far east of the country have preserved the dual to the same level as in CSS. A considerable number of dialects use dual forms in the nominative/accusative only, with the plural having replaced the dual in all other cases. Genitive and locative dual forms have been pluralised in CSS and all dialects; the exceptions here are a handful of subdialects in the Pannonian dialect group, where masculine locative noun endings preserve the dual form *-oma* (*bratoma*), like the instrumental. Although the dative/instrumental has a separate dual form in CSS, there is a tendency in the majority of western and central dialects for dual forms in the dative/instrumental to be abandoned and replaced by plural forms.

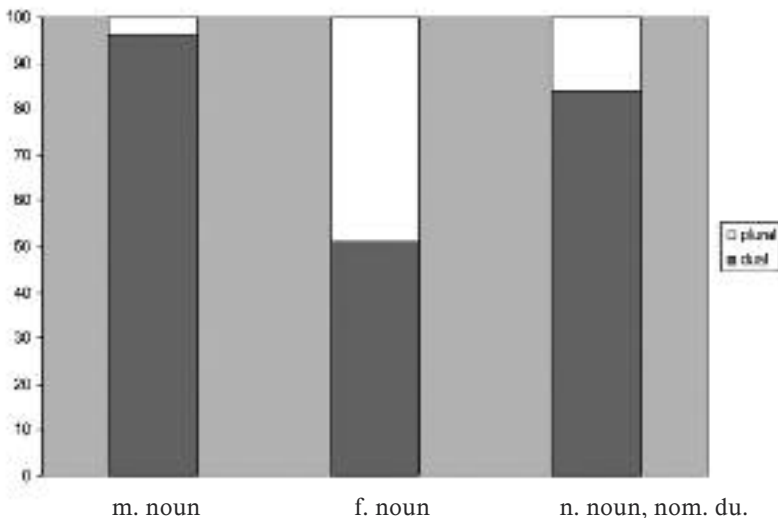


Chart 1a: Dual use of nouns.

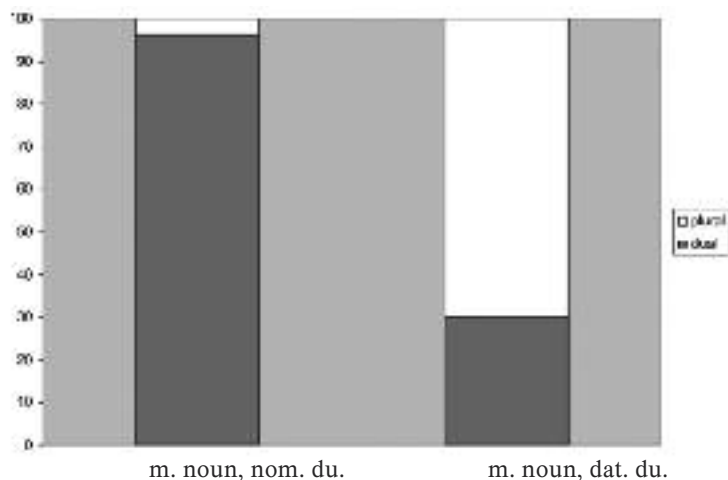


Chart 1b: Dual use of nouns.

4.1.2 Dual adjectives in Slovene dialects

As with nouns, the adjectival dual is better preserved in the masculine, while feminine adjectives are more inclined to be pluralised. Because of the congruence between nouns and adjectives (as in CSS), the dual forms of adjectives have the same (dual) endings as nouns, ending in *-a* in the masculine dual in the nominative/accusative (*dobra*) and in *-i* in the feminine (*dobri*). The pluralisation of feminine adjectives has occurred in the same dialects that have witnessed the pluralisation of feminine nouns, i.e. most of Upper and Lower Carniola, and in south-western Styria.

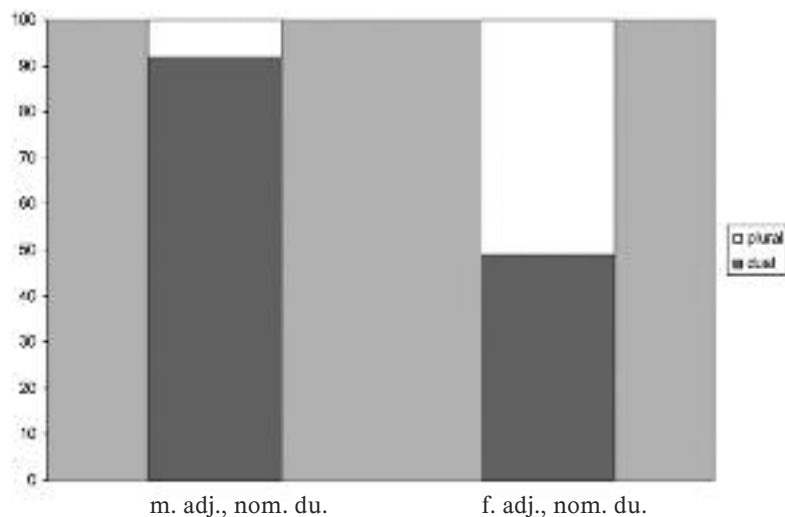


Chart 2: Dual use of adjectives.

4.1.3 Dual personal pronouns in Slovene dialects

Personal pronouns for the 1st and 2nd person nominative dual (*midva*, *midve* (also *medve*) “the two of us” and *vidva*, *vidve* (also *vedve*) “the two of you”), formed as a combination of the etymologically plural pronouns *mi/me* and *vi/ve* and the numeral *dva/dve*, are characteristic of the majority of Slovene dialects. After the numerals *dva* and *dve*, dual personal pronouns are the word types most resistant to pluralisation in Slovene dialects, with most retaining dual forms in the nominative. The plural forms *mi* and *vi* (*me* and *ve*) are only found in the far south-west and far south-east of the country. Generally speaking, all dialects have preserved the dual in pronominal declension.

As with the noun, the pronominal dual is less well-preserved in oblique cases (genitive and dative). The genitive dual forms *naju* and *nama* cover most of Slovene linguistic territory; the pluralised genitive form *nas* and pluralised dative form *nam* appear in the Littoral dialect group and in south-eastern Lower Carniola.

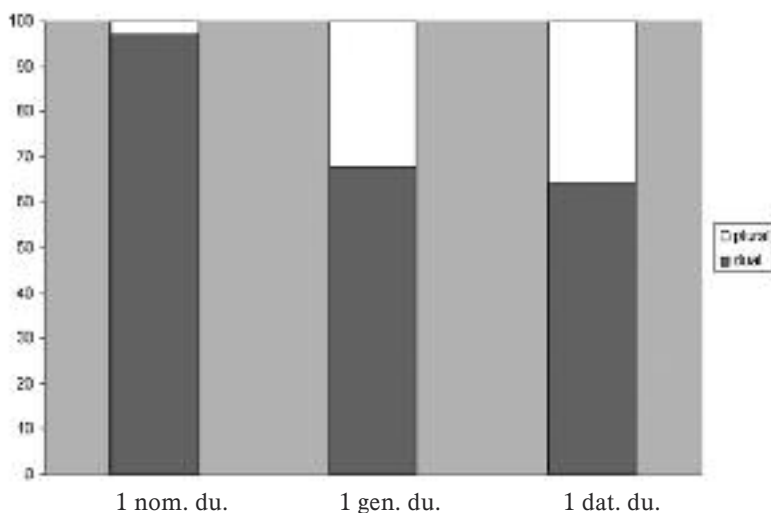


Chart 3: Dual use of personal pronouns.

4.3.4 Numeral *dva* “two” in Slovene dialects

Every Slovene dialect uses the dual forms *dva* and *dve* in the nominative/accusative;⁸ this is in fact the only instance in which dual use is uniform throughout the country. In CSS and in the majority of the dialects, the numeral follows pronominal declension (*dva/dve*, *dveh*, *dvema*, etc.). The dual has been best preserved in the nominative/accusative numeral, less well in the dative/instrumental, and least of all in the genitive/locative. In the genitive/locative, in addition to the widespread plural form *dveh* (the CSS form), one also encounters *dvejih*, which arose from a combination

⁸ The same applies to the pronoun *oba* “both”.

of the dual form *dvěju* (< **džvoju*) and the plural ending *-h*; the form *dvejih* encompasses most of the Lower Carniola dialect group, and has even spread westwards into eastern Notranjska and, separately from this area, into eastern Carinthia. Some dialects have seen pluralisation in the dative as well (*dvem* instead of *dvema*) and, more rarely, in the instrumental (*z dvemi* instead of *z dvema*).

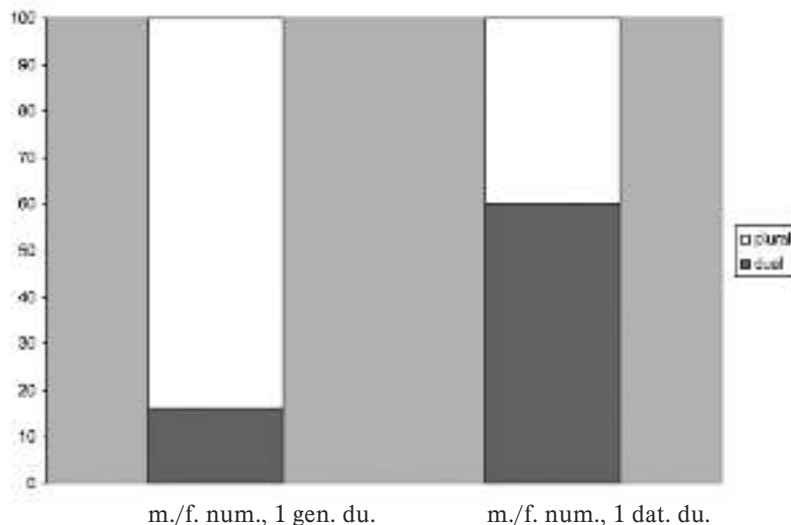


Chart 4: Dual use of numerals.

4.1.5 Dual verbs in Slovene dialects

An overview of Slovene dialects shows that certain peripheral dialects are gradually losing their verbal dual. While the verbal dual in some dialects is indeed weakening under the influence of Italian, Friulian and Croatian, it remains intact in those dialects in direct contact with the German and Hungarian languages. Pluralisation resulting from contact with foreign languages is therefore occurring in the south-west of Slovene linguistic territory (Littoral dialects), where the influence of Čakavian and Italian has been felt, and in the far south-east of the country (Lower Carniolan dialects), under the influence of Čakavian and Kajkavian.

The standard language prescribes no distinction between masculine and feminine in dual verbs in the first person, and the CSS form *-va* for both masculine and feminine is the pattern followed by the north-western dialects of Carinthia, north-western Littoral, parts of the Rovte dialect group and most of Upper Carniola. In contrast, some dialects use dual endings that indicate the gender of the participants. The distinction between verb endings *-va* (m.) and *-ve/-vi* (f., n.) probably arose because the verb forms for the 1st person dual **-va* and **-vě* (> *-vi*) were originally different (cf. Šivic-Dular 2006: 13), and later perhaps because they were required to match personal pronouns (e.g. *midva delava*, *midve delave*), or by analogy with nouns and adjectives (e.g. *delava*

after *dva vesela človeka*, *delavi* after *dve lepi ženski*). This distinction is attested in the central dialects (some Littoral, Rovte and Lower Carniolan dialects), along with Pannonian Prekmurje and north-eastern Prlekija dialects in the east.

The dual ending *-va* has been replaced in some dialects by the ending *-ma* (*delama*), which is a combination of *-va* and the plural ending *-mo* and/or the singular ending *-m*; as with *-va*, no gender distinction is made. This is a particular feature of the Styrian dialect group, but is also found in most of Carinthia, some Littoral dialects and in the western part of the Pannonian dialect group. Pluralisation affects feminine word forms much more than masculine, especially in parts of Littoral, Lower Carniola and southern Styria, where the masculine still retains the dual (*delava/delama* : *delamo*). The dual has been completely pluralised in verbs in the 1st person in south-western Littoral and in the far south-east of Lower Carniola.

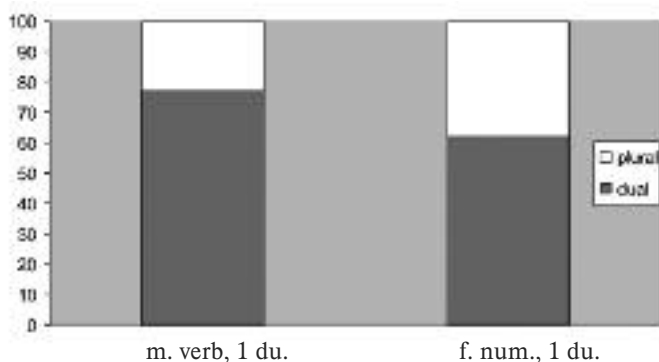


Chart 5: Dual use of verbs.

4.2 DUAL FORMS IN COLLOQUIAL SLOVENE

In addition to the colloquial language of Ljubljana (Toporišič 2000: 13), some other colloquial languages or urban dialects are in use in larger Slovene towns such as Maribor or Celje (both Styrian dialect group). The colloquial language of Ljubljana functions somewhat as the “national” colloquial language, while the colloquial languages of Maribor or Celje might best be described as “regional” colloquial languages.

4.2.1 Dual nouns (and adjectives) in colloquial Slovene

In the colloquial language of Ljubljana and Celje, the dual is used for masculine nouns (and adjectives), while dual forms for feminine nouns (and adjectives) have been replaced by the plural: *dva* (*lesena*) *stola* “two (wooden) chairs” but *dve* (*lesene*) *mize* “two (wooden) tables” (f. du. = pl.). In the colloquial language of Maribor, the dual is used for masculine and feminine nouns: *dva* (*visoka*) *brata* “two (tall) brothers” and *dve* (*debeli*) *kravi* “two (fat) cows” (f. du.).

4.2.2 Dual verbs in colloquial Slovene

In the colloquial language of Ljubljana, the dual ending *-va* in 1 du. is preserved (*bova, delava, greva, sediva*). In the colloquial languages of Maribor and Celje, instead of the CSS dual ending *-va* in 1 du., the ending *-ma* is used (*boma, delama, grema, sedima*), which is a combination of *-va* and the plural ending *-mo* and/or the singular ending *-m*. In the colloquial language of Maribor and Celje, the present tense athematic ending *-sta* (2nd person dual) is replaced by the thematic *-ta* ending (i.e. *bota, data, greta, veta* [2 du.]).⁹

In the last ten years or so in Ljubljana, a gender distinction in dual verb forms in the present tense has (re)appeared (i.e. *dela-va* [m., 1 du.]: *dela-ve* [f., 1 du.]), mostly in the spoken language but also in informal written language. Two examples of dual endings that make a distinction between genders are the dual forms *midve delave* and *midve greve* [f., 1 du.], meaning “we are doing” and “we are going” for two women, where formerly the masculine forms *midva delava* and *midva greva* would have been used for both, two men or two women. This use of the dual form is favoured primarily by young people (many examples of the use of feminine dual forms can be found on the internet, particularly in blogs written by young people and in online forums; examples include *midve sve, bove, delave, počneve*) and also among those working in the service professions, such as hairdressers, saleswomen, etc. (i.e. *Kaj bove pa midve danes?* “What shall we [1 f. du] do/have today?”). To the dialectologist it is further evidence that the dual continues to be a living category in the non-standard language, and one that moves and changes in response to the pressures of modern written and spoken communication.¹⁰

In the colloquial language of Ljubljana, dual forms for feminine participles *-l* have been replaced by the plural (*midve sva šle*), while masculine participles *-l* have preserved the dual (*midva sva šla*); the same applies to the colloquial language of Maribor (*midve/mijadve sma ble, sma šle* vs. *midva/mijadva sma bla, sma šla*).¹¹

4.3 Dual in CSS

Although Slovene has six cases, only four different forms are used in dual noun paradigms, since the nominative has the same ending as the accusative (in the case of the animate, masculine objects take the same ending as the genitive in the singular), and the instrumental takes the same ending as the dative. In CSS, because of the congruence between dual forms of adjectives and nouns, dual forms of adjectives, like nouns, end in *-a* in the masculine nominative/accusative dual, while feminine and neuter forms end in *-i*. There is greater variation in endings in Slovene dialects (cf. 4.1).

⁹ Generalisation of the ending *-ta* (i.e. *veta* for standard *vesta*) is characteristic of the north-eastern dialects (Styrian, Pannonian and eastern Carinthian).

¹⁰ See Jakop (2007: 601–613) for more detailed research on this phenomena.

¹¹ The second form (*mijadve/mijadve*) is less common; it is a compound form of the personal pronoun and numeral *dva* (*midvadva, midvedve*) and is also found in some eastern dialects, e.g. Northern Pohorje, Southern Pohorje, Slovenske Gorice, Prlekija, Haloze and Prekmurje.

Dual noun and adjective forms in the genitive and locative are identical to the plural forms; separate dual forms have been preserved only in personal pronouns in the genitive and locative, i.e. *naju, vaju, njiju* (1, 2, 3 gen.); *pri naju, pri vaju, pri njiju* (1, 2, 3 loc.). In CSS, as well as in most of the dialects, personal pronouns are congruent with verbs: *midva, midve* (also *medve*) *delava* (1 du. m., f.); *vidva, vidve* (also *vedve*) *delata* (2 du. m., f.); *onadva, onidve delata* (3 du. m., f.).

In CSS, the cardinal numeral “two” only makes a gender distinction in the nominative/accusative, distinguishing masculine on the one hand from feminine and neuter on the other, e.g. *dva brata* (m. “two brothers”) vs. *dve ženi* (f. “two wives”), *dve okni* (n. “two windows”); all the other cases have unique forms for all three genders (GEN *dveh*, DAT *dvema*, LOC *pri dveh*, INSTR *z dvema*). If in Proto-Slavic the numeral *dva* was declined like the pronoun (**dvoju*, **dvoĕma*, etc.), today, in CSS and in most of the dialects, it is declined like the noun (*dveh*, *dvema*, etc.), as in the pronoun *oba* “both” (cf. Toporišič 2000: 329–330).

In the dual, masculine verbs end, in all three persons, in *-a* (*-va*, *-ta*, *-ta*). Feminine verb endings in *-e* (*-ve*, *-te*, *-te*) have proved to be unstable and are found today only in the colloquial language of Ljubljana and certain dialects (cf. 4.2.2 and 4.1.5), while in CSS, as well as in the majority of dialects, only *-a* forms are retained, for all genders: in the 1st person *-va* (*delava, greva, sva*), 2nd person *-ta* (*delata, gresta, sta*) and 3rd person *-ta* (which has supplanted the **-te* formerly in use). Second person plural endings (*delate, greste*) developed later from **-te*. In CSS verb forms, only the participles distinguish gender: *midva sva delala* “we two [m.] were working”, *midve sva delali* “we two [f.] were working”.

A number of grammarians since the 16th century have standardised different verbal dual endings for masculine and feminine: from Adam Bohorič (1584: 102, 123) *Mi va ve* [1 m., f.],¹² Valentin Vodnik (1811: 71): *ſva* [1 m.] : *ſvi* [1 f.], to Josip Premru (1900: 53, 55): *sva, sve* [1 m., f.] and Anton Breznik (1916: 118): *delava* [1 m.] : *delave* [1 f.]. Mirko Rupel (1965: 14) noted that, in addition to the more common feminine (verb) forms using *-a* (*Micka in Ančka pišeta* “Micka and Ančka are writing”), the older form ending in *-e* was also permitted (*Micka in Ančka pišete*), while forms ending in *-i* were, according to him, no longer used. Jakopin (1966: 101) found that the forms for masculine and feminine had become the same, as in the present tense singular and plural, which do not distinguish between genders in their endings. Some grammars have noted that the dual endings *-ve*, *-te*, *-te* (*delave, delate, delate*) are spoken in some parts and occasionally also written.¹³

¹² *ſ* stands for the modern *s*. From the second half of the 16th century on, Slovene Protestant authors used the so-called bohoričica (Bohorič alphabet). Its name derives from Adam Bohorič, who codified the alphabet in his book *Articae Horulae Succisivae*, published in 1584.

¹³ Even the Slovene Grammar from 1947 gives, in addition to the regular all-gender verb endings *-va*, *-ta* and *-ta*, occasional feminine or neuter verb endings *-ve*, *-te*, *-te* (Nartnik 1988: 375).

5 CONCLUSION

The dual is a prescribed element of CSS, but has tended towards much stronger and consistent congruence with the plural in Slovene colloquial languages and dialects, particularly in oblique cases and in all feminine forms. We have focused on investigating the differences in the stage of preservation of the dual in individual flexible word categories (in verbs, pronouns, nouns, adjectives and the numeral *dva/dve* “two”). Owing to the development dynamics of Slovene dialects, the features and use of the dual vary widely, influencing also colloquial languages.

The results are comparable with a similar work from 1925, the *Linguistic Atlas of the Dual (Atlas linguistique pour servir à l'étude du duel en slovène)* by French linguist Lucien Tesnière. For Tesnière (1925a: 424), the dual was disappearing in the following sequence: in cases, first in the locative, then in the genitive, dative and instrumental, and finally in the nominative/accusative; by gender, first in the feminine, then in the neuter and finally in the masculine. With some exceptions, these tendencies are confirmed by modern Slovene dialects.

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Abstract

USE OF DUAL IN STANDARD SLOVENE, COLLOQUIAL SLOVENE AND SLOVENE DIALECTS

The dual is a grammatical expression of number in some languages (e.g. Slovene, Sorbian or Modern Standard Arabic) that denotes two persons or objects. In modern Indo-European languages, the dual is an archaism and one that has been preserved only in a small number of Slavonic languages: in Slovene, Upper and Lower Sorbian and Cassubian; in other Indo-European languages the dual has been replaced by the plural. This paper will present this specific grammatical category as preserved to the present day in Standard Slovene, Colloquial Slovene and various Slovene dialects, and enable more precise comparisons and contrasts to be drawn with the dual in all three forms of the Slovene language.

Keywords: dual number, morphology, Slovene dialects, Colloquial Slovene, Standard Slovene.

Povzetek

UPORABA DVOJINE V KNJIŽNI IN POGOVORNI SLOVENŠČINI TER V SLOVENSKIH NAREČJIH

Dvojina je slovnična kategorija za izražanje količine vrednosti (npr. v slovenščini, lužiški srbčini ali sodobni standardni arabščini), ki se spreminja glede na število udeležencev. V sodobnih indoevropskih jezikih je dvojina arhaična slovnična kategorija, ohranjena le še v nekaterih slovanskih jezikih: poleg slovenščine še v gornji in dolnji lužiški srbščini ter kašubščini; v ostalih indoevropskih jezikih je dvojino nadomestila množina. Članek bo predstavil to tipično slovensko posebnost, kot se je do danes ohranila v knjižni slovenščini, pogovorni slovenščini in različnih slovenskih narečjih ter tako omogočil natančnejšo primerjavo med rabo dvojine v vseh treh različicah slovenščine.

Ključne besede: dvojina, oblikoslovje, slovenska narečja, pogovorna slovenščina, knjižna slovenščina.