

Ekrem Čaušević's Biography

Ekrem Čaušević, tenured professor in the Turkish Studies Section at the Faculty of Humanities and Social Sciences of the University of Zagreb, is one of the most prominent Turkologists in the region and the world, and a scholar to whom the academic community is indebted for his valuable insights about Turkish language and culture. He was born in Brekovića, near the Bosnian town of Bihać, in 1952. After completing his secondary education at the academic high school in Bihać, he enrolled in the Oriental Philology program (Turkish, Arabic, and Persian Language and Literature) at the Faculty of Philosophy, University of Sarajevo, where he graduated in 1974. He received his master's degree from the same faculty in 1982, and then went on to complete his doctoral studies in 1986, successfully defending his dissertation on the evolution of future forms in Turkic languages, titled *Dijahroni i sinhroni aspekti evolucije intencionala futura u turskom jeziku* [Diachronic and synchronic aspects of the evolution of the intentional future in Turkish]. He engaged in advanced study at the Universities of Istanbul (1978/79) and Ankara (1986), in addition to shorter research visits to Vienna, Budapest, and Sofia. In the academic years of 1992/93 and 2000/01, as a fellow of the Alexander Humboldt Foundation, he was a guest researcher at the University of Göttingen. In 1976, he started teaching at the Faculty of Philosophy, University of Sarajevo, beginning his very successful career as a professor and scholar. There, he taught the Ottoman Turkish and contemporary Turkish languages. From 1984 to 1992, he was head of the Section for Turkish Language and Literature and head of the Department of Oriental Studies, while during the academic year 1987/88, he served as dean of the Philology Division of the Faculty of Philosophy. When war broke out in Bosnia and Herzegovina, he was in Germany for the purposes of advanced research. After the expiration of his fellowship grant from the Alexander von Humboldt Foundation, and upon the invitation of his Zagreb-based colleague, Ottoman historian Prof. Nenad Močanin, he came to Croatia intending to found a university study program in Turkish language and literature. In 1994/95, the Turkish Studies Section was founded according to the program conceived by Prof. Čaušević, with the enthusiastic support of Prof. Mislav Ježić, who was then head of the Oriental

Studies Department. For over twenty years (1994–2016), Ekrem Čaušević served as head of the Turkish Studies Section and, on numerous occasions, as head of the Department of Hungarian, Turkish, and Judaic Studies, where he still works to this day. The change of environment did not disrupt his collaboration with the Section for Turkish Language and Literature in Sarajevo, where he remained active as a guest professor from 1995 to 2005.

It is difficult to overvalue Čaušević's contribution to the foundation and development of Turkish studies in Croatia. Besides having structured the study program and devised the entire curriculum, for years he arranged for adjunct professors to teach its courses, while at the same time seeing to it that the full-time teaching staff in Turkish Studies gradually grew. He gave special attention to the enrichment of the Turkological library holdings at the Faculty of Humanities and Social Sciences in Zagreb, which eventually grew into a rich collection consisting of thousands of scholarly books. From the very foundation of the Turkish Studies program, he has regularly taught the contemporary Turkish Language, the Ottoman Turkish language, introductory Turkish studies, and the history of the Turkic peoples and languages. Čaušević's erudition, professional competence, and the outstanding zeal with which he succeeds in piquing his listeners' interest, are the main reasons for the high level of student motivation in his lectures and in Turkish Studies in general. Čaušević's lectures have always attracted students from other departments, some of whom, motivated by the professor's enthusiasm and knowledge, have even unenrolled in their original program of study and transferred to Turkish Studies.

In the realm of scholarly research, Ekrem Čaušević has achieved outstanding results and developed Turkology as a new scholarly discipline in Croatia. His interests are very wide, encompassing contemporary Turkish grammar (with special emphasis on syntax), contrastive analysis of Turkish and Croatian, Ottoman grammar, the language of Latin-script Turkish texts from the Ottoman period, and the cultural history of Ottoman Bosnia (18th to 19th centuries). He is the author of more than 140 academic articles published in Croatian and foreign publications, of which many have been well-received in international Turkological circles. Thanks to his dedicated mentorship, new generations of Croatian and Bosnian graduates with MA and PhD degrees have emerged in the field of linguistic Turkology.

The scientific field that engages Ekrem Čaušević the most is linguistics, especially the contrasting of the grammatical structures of Turkish and Croatian. This interest led not only to numerous scholarly articles, but also to three books of capital importance in the field of Turkish studies. The first of these, *Gramatika suvremenoga turskog jezika* [Grammar of contemporary Turkish] (Zagreb: Hrvatska sveučilišna naklada, 1996), marked the revival of linguistic Turkology and studies of the Turkish language in geographical areas where South Slavic languages are spoken, and has been recognized and appreciated in Turkological circles throughout

the world as well. The second book, *Ustroj, sintaksa i semantika infinitivnih glagolskih oblika u turskom jeziku* [The structure, syntax, and semantics of non-finite verb forms in Turkish] (Zagreb: Ibis grafika, 2018), is the first detailed, systematic and all-encompassing analysis of Turkish non-finite forms with a contrastive review of an Indo-European language, in this case Croatian. Given that Turkish non-finite forms are the segment of the Turkish language that poses the biggest difficulty for non-native speakers wishing to learn the language, and the biggest challenge to linguists when they contrast Turkish with other, genetically unrelated and typologically different languages, this book is not only of special significance for learners of Turkish as a foreign language but it is also highly relevant for research in Turkish and Croatian studies. Moreover, this book is generally relevant in the field of contrasting typologically different and genetically unrelated languages. The same can be said of Prof. Čaušević's third book, titled *Turski i hrvatski u usporedbi i kontrastiranju: Sintagma i jednostavna rečenica* [Turkish and Croatian in comparison and contrast: the phrase and the simple sentence] (Zagreb: Ibis grafika, 2021, co-written by Barbara Kerovec). In this book, Turkish and Croatian are mutually contrasted, but now with special emphasis on differences in syntagmatic and sentential structure, revealing how the two languages differ in terms of the syntactic organization of superordinate and subordinate units.

In 2014, Prof. Čaušević published *The Turkish Language in Ottoman Bosnia* (Istanbul: The Isis Press), resulting from his longstanding research of the features and general use of the Turkish language in Ottoman Bosnia. This book is a collection of highly valuable articles that provide groundbreaking insights into the Bosnian variety of the Turkish language. It presents results of research on a corpus of Turkish texts written down in the nineteenth century in the Latin script by Bosnian Franciscans and a number of foreign diplomats who were active in Bosnia during the Ottoman period. This collection of papers refutes the hitherto widespread notion that the Turkish language was widely spoken in Ottoman Bosnia and presents a completely new perspective on multilingual circumstances in the Balkans. The book is therefore an important contribution to the research of the development of Turkish dialects.

Ekrem Čaušević is also the author of the university handbook *Turkološka čitanka* [Turkological reader] (Zagreb: Ibis grafika, 2002), and together with Nenad Moaćanin and Vjeran Kursar, editor of two volumes of proceedings from the CIEPO Conference held in Zagreb: *Perspectives on Ottoman Studies: Papers from the 18th CIEPO* (Berlin: LIT Verlag, 2010) and *Osmanlı Sanatı, Mimarisi ve Edebiyatına Bakış. 18. Uluslararası CIEPO Kongresi Bildirileri, 25-30 Ağustos 2008 Zagreb Üniversitesi Felsefe Fakültesi* [Ottoman art: An overview of architecture and literature. Proceedings of the 18th International CIEPO Congress] (Edirne: Trakya Üniversitesi Balkan Araştırmaları, 2011). Still under preparation is also his exten-

sive Croatian-Turkish dictionary, an extremely important project on which he has been working for years, the publication of which many of us eagerly await.

Many of Čaušević's books and articles came into being within the framework of Croatian and foreign research projects in which the professor participated as a project leader and researcher. He was the principal investigator of two research projects funded by the Croatian Ministry of Science, Education and Sports: "Turkish and Croatian in Contact and in Contrast" (2002–2006) and "Contrastive Analysis of the Grammatical Structures of the Turkish and Croatian Languages" (2007–2011). He has also collaborated on the projects co-funded by the Ministry of Science, Education and Sports and the Croatian Science Foundation, titled "Croato-turcica" (1999–2006), "Cultural History of Ottoman Bosnia: Interculturality in a Divided Society" (2007–2011), and "Evliya Çelebi and the Croats: New Perspectives" (2014–2017). Prof. Čaušević also participated in the international project "Livno and Its Wider Surroundings under Ottoman rule" (2014–2017; Ivo Pilar Institute in cooperation with the Faculty of Humanities and Social Sciences of the University of Zagreb, the University of Heidelberg, and the Cultural-Historical Institute of Bosna Srebrena in Sarajevo). Over the course of many years, he has likewise collaborated on the project revolving around the international bibliography *Turkologischer Anzeiger* (publisher: Oriental Institute at the University of Vienna in cooperation with the University of Budapest), quoted in numerous foreign publications.

As a lecturer and member of organization committees, he has participated in many international scholarly symposiums in Croatia and abroad. He was one of the organizers of the 4th International Symposium on Turkology in South Eastern Europe (BAL-TAM) held in Zagreb in 2007, and the 18th CIEPO International Ottomanist Congress (Comité International des Études Pré-Ottomanes et Ottomanes), held in August of 2008 at the Faculty of Humanities and Social Sciences in Zagreb. He has given numerous guest lectures at various educational and research institutions in Croatia and abroad. Professor Čaušević is a member of the editorial board of several international scholarly journals; a corresponding member of *Türk Dil Kurumu* in Ankara, the umbrella scientific organization for the Turkish language and philology; and a member of the Croatian Humboldt Club, as well as of the Croatian Literary Translators Association.

Besides being actively involved in scholarly research, Professor Čaušević has also translated literary and historical books. From Ottoman he translated and edited the book *Autobiografija Osman-age Temišvarskog* [The autobiography of Osman-aga of Timișoara] (Zagreb: Srednja Europa, 2004), an important source for the study of early modern history in Croatia and the surrounding countries. In cooperation with Tatjana Paić-Vukić and Ayla Hafiz Küçükusta, he edited the Turkish translation of Matija Mažuranić's travelogue *Pogled u Bosnu* [A look into Bosnia]

(*Bosna'ya Bir Bakış yahut Bir Hırvat Vatandaşının 1839-40 Yılları Arasında o Eyaletle Kısa Bir Yolculuğu*), a cultural and historical source for studying the Croatian perception of Ottoman Bosnia in the nineteenth century (Prizren: BAL-TAM, 2011). However, to a wider general public, he is better known as a translator of novels by Orhan Pamuk, the Turkish Nobel Prize winner. These translations received exceptionally positive reactions by Croatian readers and spurred a great interest in contemporary Turkish literature. The professor's desire to collaborate with his colleagues and share his knowledge has motivated him to engage a number of students and younger Turkologists as his co-translators on certain projects, whereupon some of them have eventually become successful literary translators in their own right. In 2004, in collaboration with Marta Andrić, he translated the novel *My Name is Red*, the long-term bestseller and one of the most popular books in Croatia and the wider region. For his translation of Pamuk's memoiristic prose *Istanbul: Memories and the City* in 2006, he was awarded the prestigious *Kiklop* prize. He has also translated Pamuk's novels *The Museum of Innocence* (2009, in collaboration with Kerima Filan) and *Black Book* (2010, in collaboration with Jana Bušić and Dražen Babić), while his forthcoming translation of Pamuk's latest novel, *Nights of Plague*, is under preparation. Much credit goes to Professor Čaušević for his popularization of Turkological topics through numerous public lectures, interviews, and public discussion appearances.

Professor Čaušević's scholarly achievements have been recognized in Croatia and abroad, a fact which is borne out by the acknowledgments he has received for his work. He is a recipient of the Order of Merit awarded by the Government of the Republic of Turkey for outstanding contribution to the advancement of science (2001), the Award of the Turkophonic World for his exceptional contribution to Turkology (TÜRKSAV, 2011), a recognition by the University of Istanbul for his achievements in Turkology (2018), the Award of the Faculty of Humanities and Social Sciences of the University of Zagreb (2018), the UBTAK award conferred by Turkish historians for his contributions to the study of general and cultural history of the Balkans (2018), the BAL-TAM Institute Award, a prize awarded by the Balkan Turkology Research Center of Prizren (2019), and the highest award conferred by the City of Bihać, the 26th February Award (2022). In 2018, on the occasion of his 65th birthday, a collection of papers was published in Turkey under the title *Prof. Dr. Ekrem Čaušević Armağanı / Essays in Honor of Prof. Ekrem Čaušević, Ph.D.* by Osmanlı Mirası Araştırmaları Dergisi (OMAD) as a special issue of the *Journal of Ottoman Legacy Studies* (JOLS). In 2022, Čaušević received the Croatian Academy of Sciences and Arts Award for outstanding scientific and artistic achievements in the Republic of Croatia in the year 2021 in the field of philology for his book *Ustroj, sintaksa i semantika infinitivnih glagolskih oblika u turskom jeziku. Turski i hrvatski jezik u usporedbi i kontrastiranju* [The structure, syntax, and

semantics of non-finite verb forms in Turkish: Turkish and Croatian in comparison and contrast] (Zagreb: Ibis grafika, 2018). In the same year, the Council of the Faculty of Humanities and Social Sciences recommended to the University of Zagreb that Professor Čaušević be awarded the honorary title of *professor emeritus*.

Azra Abadžić Navaey

Marta Andrić

Barbara Kerovec