

**BOOK REVIEW: KUAČ KRALJEVIĆ, J., HRŽICA, G.,  
& ŠTEFANEC, V. ČESTOTNI RJEČNIK HRVATSKOGA  
DJEČJEG JEZIKA: NATUKNICE [FREQUENCY  
DICTIONARY OF THE CROATIAN CHILD LANGUAGE:  
LEMMAS] AND HRŽICA, G., KUAČ KRALJEVIĆ, J.,  
& ŠTEFANEC, V. ČESTOTNI RJEČNIK HRVATSKOGA  
DJEČJEG JEZIKA: MORFOLOŠKI I RAZVOJNI OBLICI  
[FREQUENCY DICTIONARY OF THE CROATIAN CHILD  
LANGUAGE: MORPHOLOGICAL AND DEVELOPMENTAL  
FORMS]**

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Hržica, G., Kuvač Kraljević, J., & Štefanec, V. (2022). Čestotni Rječnik Hrvatskoga Dječjeg Jezika: Morfološki i Razvojni Oblici. [Frequency Dictionary of the Croatian Child Language: Morphological and Developmental Forms]. Zagreb: Naklada Slap.

Due to the strong influence of frequency on language acquisition, language processing, and memory processes, frequency dictionaries are an indispensable source of data in linguistics. Twenty years after the publication of the *Croatian Corpus of Child Language* (Kovačević, 2002), the creation of a frequency dictionary of child language was a logical next step aimed at making

data on the acquisition of the Croatian language easily accessible in a different way. Through the synergy of a linguist, speech-language therapist, and computer expert, data on word frequencies obtained from the speech samples of three Croatian children, aged 13 to 28 months, were incorporated into the dictionary using methods of computational linguistics and language technologies. The frequency dictionary of the Croatian child language is the first lexicological source of data on the language development of Croatian children. The dictionary consists of two parts. The first part, *Frequency Dictionary of the Croatian Child Language: Lemmas* (178 pages), contains a list of lemmas, while the second part, *Frequency Dictionary of the Croatian Child Language: Morphological and Developmental Forms* (738 pages), contains not only the list of lemmas but also the list of morphological forms of each lemma. This required morphosyntactic tagging and is a

novel approach in the development of dictionaries of child language. The dictionary was created as part of two projects: *Computer assistant supporting text input for individuals with language disorders* (RC.2.2.08-050) and *Multilevel approach to spoken discourse in language development* (UIP-2017-05-6603).

*Frequency Dictionary of the Croatian Child Language: Lemmas* is a lexical description of words that contain data on the frequency of lemmas (both absolute and relative frequency), along with corresponding morphosyntactic categories. The dictionary consists of two parts. In the first part, *Part 1: Lemmas according to their frequency*, frequencies of all lemmas are presented. To facilitate data searching, the dictionary offers several search options. Thereby, the first part is divided into four subsections, *Lemmas listed by frequency*, *Lemmas listed alphabetically*, *Lemmas listed by parts of speech and frequency*, and *Lemmas listed by parts of speech and alphabetically*. In the second part, *Part 2: Lemmas according to the age of acquisition*, all lemmas are listed according to their frequency and age of acquisition. The age of acquisition is given as year;month. Four periods of language acquisition are distinguished: *Lemmas up to 1;05 listed by frequency*, *Lemmas up to 1;05 listed alphabetically*, *Lemmas from 1;06 to 2;00 listed by frequency*, *Lemmas from 1;06 to 2;00 listed alphabetically*, *Lemmas from 2;01 to 2;05 listed by frequency*, *Lemmas from 2;01 to 2;05 listed alphabetically*, *Lemmas from 2;06 to 3;00 listed by frequency*, and *Lemmas from 2;06 to 3;00 listed alphabetically*.

*Frequency Dictionary of the Croatian Child Language: Morphological and Developmental Forms* is a lexical and morphological description of words containing data on the frequency of lemmas and the frequency of all forms of each lemma (both absolute and relative frequency), along with the corresponding morphosyntactic categories. The dictionary consists of two parts, *Part 1: Lemmas with forms according to their frequency* and *Part 2: Lemmas with forms according to the age of acquisition*. To obtain all the developmental forms produced by the individual child, two lists of lemmas with forms are given, an abbreviated one

and an extended one. The abbreviated list contains standard morphological forms, while the extended list contains phonetic, phonological, and morphological variants, namely spoken and non-standard morphological forms. In the first part, all lemmas with forms and individual forms are listed alphabetically: *Lemmas with forms listed alphabetically* and *Lemmas with forms and individual forms listed alphabetically*. In the second part, the lemmas are listed according to the age of acquisition: *Lemmas with forms up to 1;05*, *Lemmas with forms and individual forms up to 1;05*, *Lemmas with forms from 1;06 to 2;00*, *Lemmas with forms and individual forms from 1;06 to 2;00*, *Lemmas with forms from 2;01 to 2;05*, *Lemmas with forms and individual forms from 2;01 to 2;05*, *Lemmas with forms from 2;06 to 3;00*, and *Lemmas with forms and individual forms from 2;06 to 3;00*.

Frequency dictionaries of child language are generally rare, and the dictionaries of morphological forms and their frequencies are even rarer. The frequency dictionary of the Croatian child language is a valuable source of linguistic data on early language development, providing data on the frequency of both lemmas and morphological forms at different stages of their acquisition. The dictionary also plays an important role because it is a rare source of data on the frequency of word forms in morphologically rich languages such as Croatian. The dictionary makes a significant contribution, both from the psycholinguistic and practical point of view, namely clinical and pedagogical. From the psycholinguistic point of view, it provides a deep insight into the lexical and morphological development of Croatian children. Therefore, it will be helpful to all those interested in the study of child language in answering questions about language development within the framework of different theoretical approaches (e.g., the usage-based approach) and it will be an important resource for controlling the stimuli in experimental studies of child language. Due to its relevance to practical work, the dictionary will serve as a basis for the development of diagnostic and therapeutic materials in speech-language pathology, as well as for the creation of materials for teaching Croatian as a first and second language.