The language of Turopolje

Each nation needs language, tradition and heritage to qualify as a nation. Though you could find various types of villages in Turopolje (inhabited by nobles or serfs), their languages were very much alike because nobles were also peasants, but with certain rights. The language of Turopolje developed to some extent under the influence of the city of Zagreb in its vicinity. Standard Croatian (in the Shtokavian dialect) was also relevant in this respect, but the language was passed down from generation to generation. The native language was spoken at home, so even children can often be heard using the Kajkavian dialect. Turopolje's dialect is one of the more recent Kajkavian dialects. It is a highly specific dialect of both Kajkavian and Croatian. However, thanks to schooling, working in different places and urbanisation, the folk speech is not only changing but also disappearing. We should slow down and prevent these negative trends. There are many Germanisms in it: words that have German origin. This fact hardly surprises me because German was the official language in Croatia in the period between 1849 and 1860. In the end, I would only ask you one little thing: don't fear or be ashamed of your language, because it's real treasure. Talk to your parents in the language of Turopolje and don't think too highly of yourself just because you only use Standard Croatian. The place for your language is in your heart, especially if it was the first one you heard resting in your mother's lap.

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