**Kajkavian Ikavians**

*We’re our own people* is the name of the 2018 documentary by OŠ Marija Jurić Zagorka film group ZAG.

The documentary was filmed in Šenkovec, a village some 30 km away from Zagreb. Although I personally wasn’t involved in the making of the film because I only joined ZAG a year later, I watched it with great interest.

We learnt about regiolects in Croatian class. Regiolects are dialects of a specific place or region. For homework we had to watch a film and recognize what dialect the protagonists used. Inhabitants of Šenkovci, Brdovec, Laduč, Ključ and other villages by the river Sutla, near the slovene border speak in the kajkavian dialect with an ikavian pronunciation. A lot of people don’t know kajkavian dialect with an ikavian pronunciation exists because people who use the kajkavian dialect usually speak in ekavian pronunciation.

In the beginning of the film, the president of the Ivan Perkovac Association says:

Nigdi ni takvoga kaja

h jem je i

dite, cvit, popivka, vrime.

Nigdo ne povi – samo mi!

dialect

People who use the kajkavian dialect with an ikavian pronunciation are originally ikavians from regions surrounding the river Una who settled the Sutla banks running from Ottoman Turks in the 15th century. During the centuries, their ikavian pronunciation took over characteristics of the kajkavian dialect. Kajkavian Ikavians along with the Institute of Croatian Language and Linguistics published the Dictionary of Kajkavian Ikavian pronunciation of the lower Sutla regions with about 12 thousand words.

I like how Kajkavian Ikavians cherish their specific way of speaking and carry it over to younger generations - the children who recite in their regiolect in the film.

If you too are interested in Kajkavian regiolect in Ikavian pronunciation, watch *We’re our own people*, a film by the film group ZAG, using the link below: <https://udrugazag.hr/63-mi-smo-sami-svoji/>

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