

# **An Insight into the Research of Lejaskurzeme Sub-dialects: the 21st Century**

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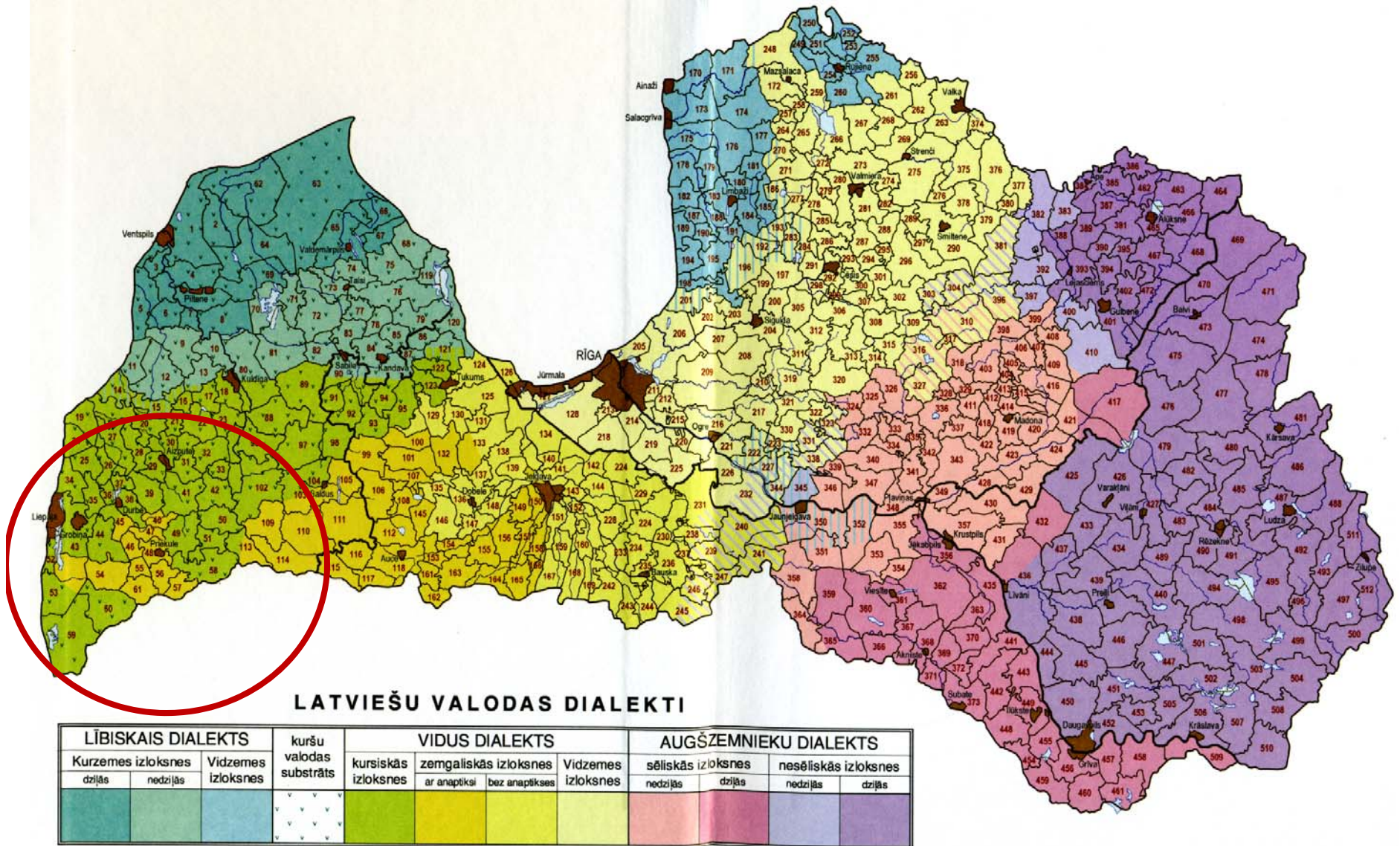
*Dialect Research in the 21st Century:  
Geolinguistic and Sociolinguistic Perspectives*

Vilnius, 5th–6th December, 2013

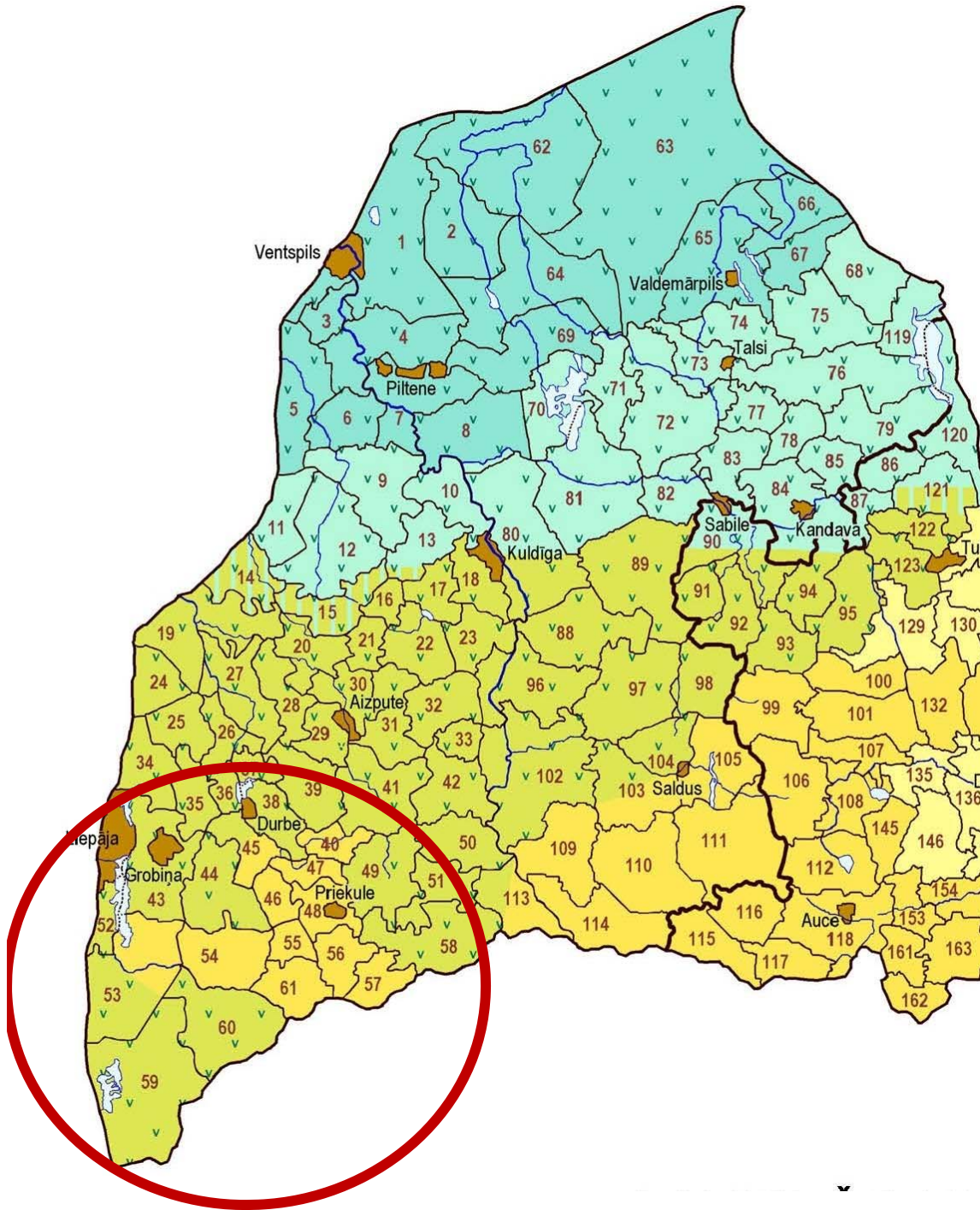
❑ **Lejaskurzeme** – (lit. “Lower Kurzeme”) – a cultural-historical concept; an area in the Kurzeme region in the South-Western part of Latvia. The borders of Lejaskurzeme are not clearly defined.

❑ The term “Lejaskurzeme” appeared in the end of the 19th century.

# Lejaskurzeme (1)



## Lejaskurzeme (2)



### Sub-dialects around Liepāja

Aizvīķi, Bārta,  
Būtiņģe, Dunika,  
Gavieze, Gramzda,  
Grobiņa, Nīca,  
Pērkone, Priekule,  
Rucava, Vaiņode,  
Sventāja

# Study of Lejaskurzeme sub-dialects in the 21st century

□ About the study of Lejaskurzeme sub-dialects till 21st century see **B. Bušmane Lejaskurzemes izlokšņu dotumi un pētījumi latviešu valodniecībā. In : *Mana novada valoda: Lejaskurzeme*. Liepāja : LiepU, 2004, p. 290–311.**

□ Mainly carried out by the teaching staff and students of Liepāja University. Their main objective: to research the language peculiarities of Kurzeme, especially the sub-dialects of Lejaskurzeme

□ Several collections of articles about the sub-dialects of Lejaskurzeme, as well as collections of dialectal texts have been compiled and published:

**MANA  
NOVADA  
VALODA  
LEJASKURZEME**

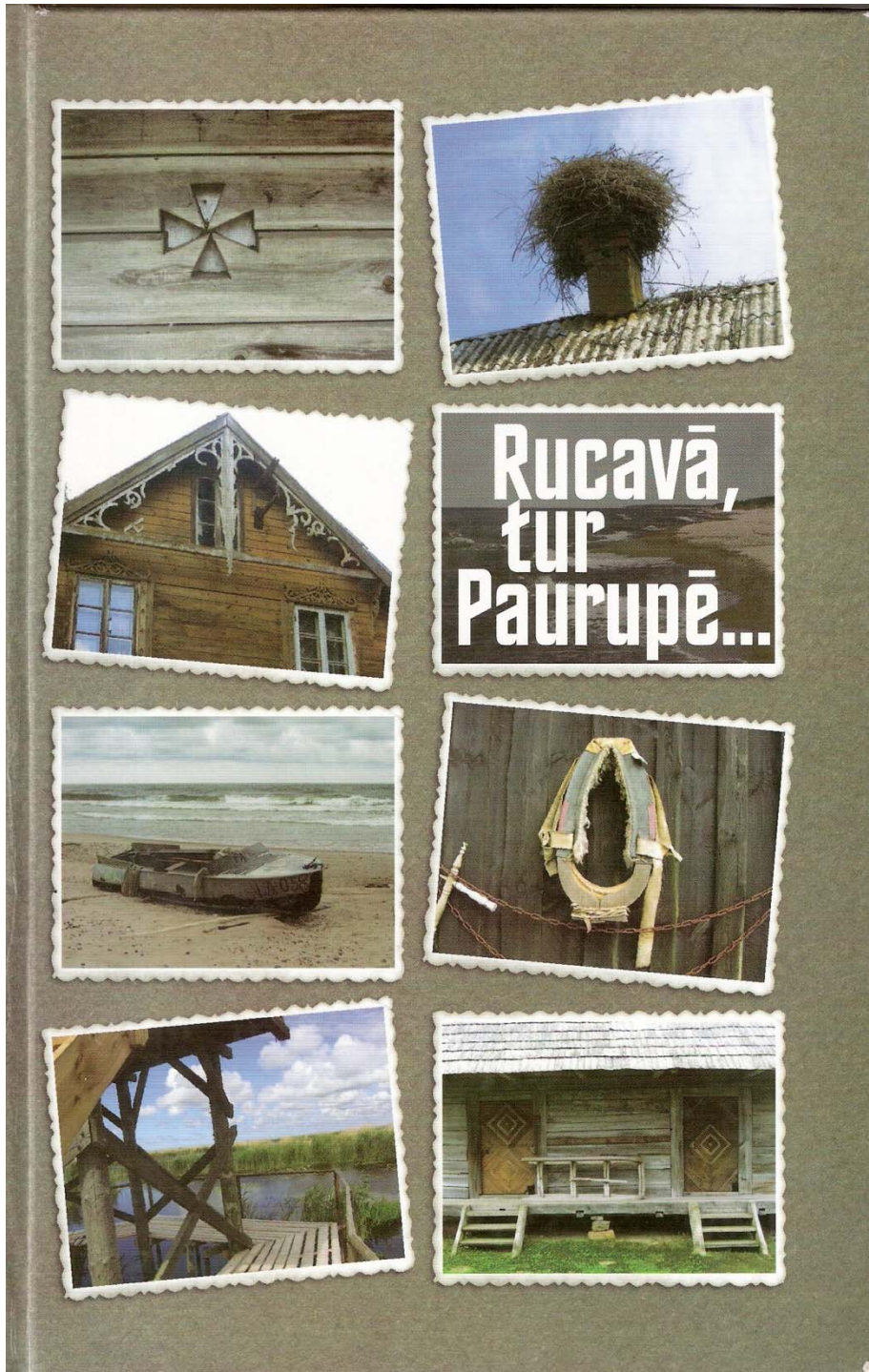


***Mana novada valoda:  
Lejaskurzeme (2004)***

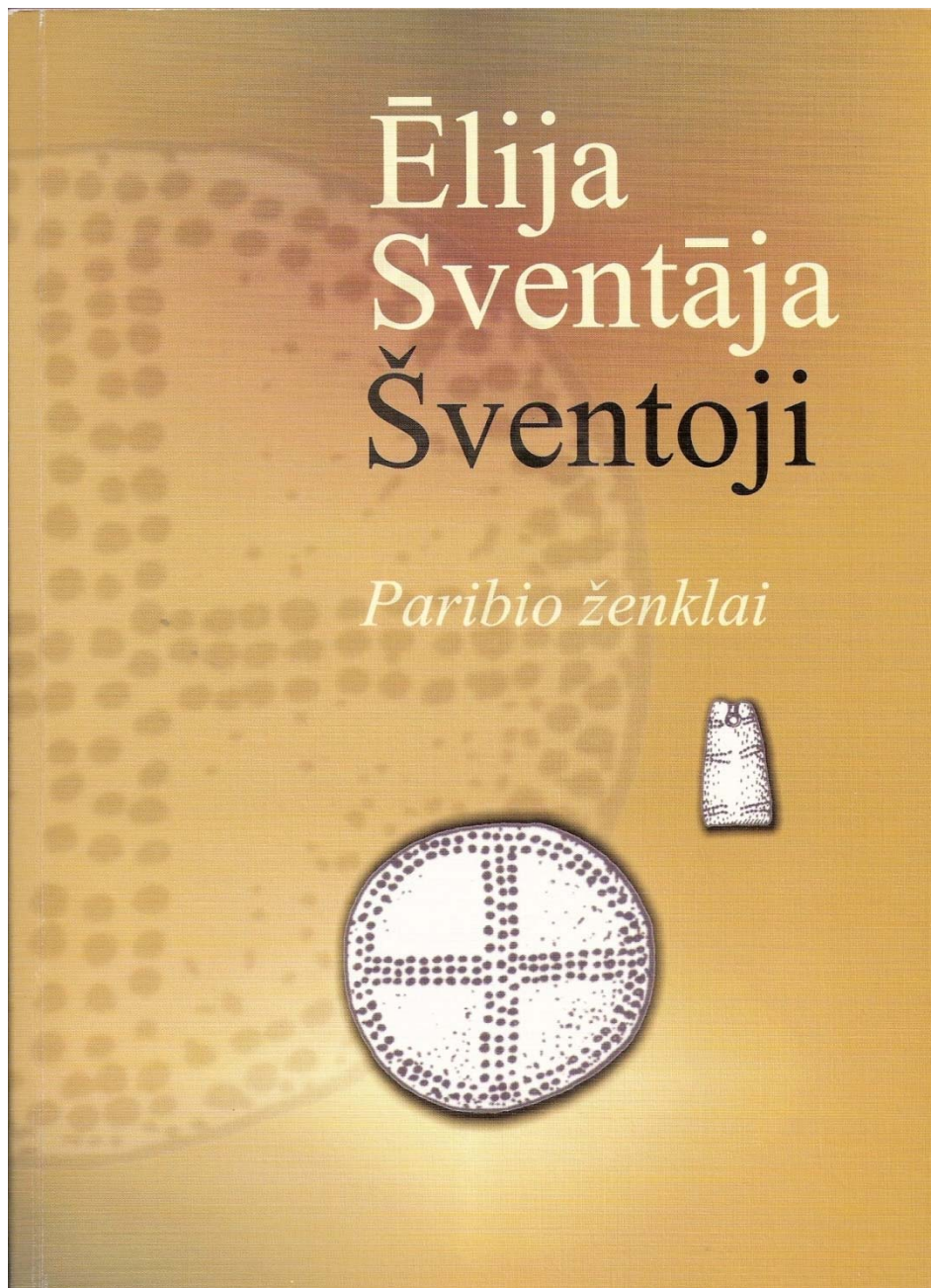
- 1) research of the language of Lejaskurzeme in the course of time (17th–21st century)
- 2) research of the vocabulary of Curonian origin
- 3) text samples of Lejaskurzeme sub-dialects (Bārta, Grobiņa, Nīca, Rucava, Sventāja)
- 4) bibliography of the studies of Lejaskurzeme sub-dialects, published until the end of the 20th century

***Rucavā, tur Paurupē...  
Etnogrāfija, folklorā, valoda  
(2007, 2008)***

- 1) articles about the inhabitants of Rucava, their culture and ethnography: national costumes, folk songs, traditions, etc.
- 2) linguistic articles about: the viability of Rucava sub-dialect, local food terminology, names of villages in Rucava, local surnames, and the grammatical features of Rucava sub-dialect
- 3) rich material of dialectal texts (p. 401–468)



# *Ēlija, Sventāja, Šventoji* (2007)



- 1) articles about the inhabitants of Sventāja, their culture and ethnography;
- 2) linguistic articles about the language of Sventāja sub-dialect
- 3) articles about the folklore of Sventāja



# No Sventājas līdz Ancei



***No Sventājas līdz Ancei:***  
*Latviešu izloksnes*  
*Rietumkurzemes piekrastē*  
*20. gs. beigās/21. gs.*  
*sākumā*  
*(2008)*

Texts in the sub-dialects of  
Lejaskurzeme:

- ❖ **Sventāja** (11–31)
- ❖ **Būtiņģe** (32–46)
- ❖ **Nida** (47–58)
- ❖ **Pape** (59–73)
- ❖ **Jūrmalciems** (74–100)
- ❖ **Pērkone** (101–103)
- ❖ **Liepāja** (103–119)



***Pa vėjame es dziedāju.  
Sventājas dziesmas  
(2010)***

- 1) CD, DVD and book with songs and some texts from Sventāja;
  - 2) short information about informants;
  - 3) short information about the history of Sventāja
- (in Latvian, Lithuanian and English)

□ two doctoral theses have been written, analyzing two sub-dialects of Lejaskurzeme (Rucava and Sventāja)



LIENE MARKUS-NARVILA

**RUCAVAS IZLOKSNES VĀRDNĪCA:  
LEKSIKOGRĀFISKAIS UN LEKSISKAIS ASPEKTS**

Promocijas darba kopsavilkums filoloģijas doktora grāda  
iegūšanai valodniecības zinātņu nozares latviešu  
diahroniskās valodniecības apakšnozarē

**DAS MUNDARTWÖRTERBUCH VON RUCAVA:  
LEXIKOGRAPHISCHE UND LEXIKALISCHE ASPEKTE**

Zusammenfassung der Promotionsarbeit

Liene Markus-Narvila  
***Rucavas izloksnes  
vārdnīca: leksikogrāfiskais  
un leksiskais aspekts***  
(2011)

- 1) discusses foreign and Latvian experience with compiling dialect dictionaries
- 2) describes the vocabulary of Rucava sub-dialect and analyzes its origins



DAIGA STRAUPENIECE

SVENTĀJAS LATVIEŠU VALODA –  
STATIKA UN DINAMIKA

Promocijas darba kopsavilkums filoloģijas doktora grāda  
iegūšanai valodniecības zinātņu nozares latviešu  
diahroniskās valodniecības apakšnozarē

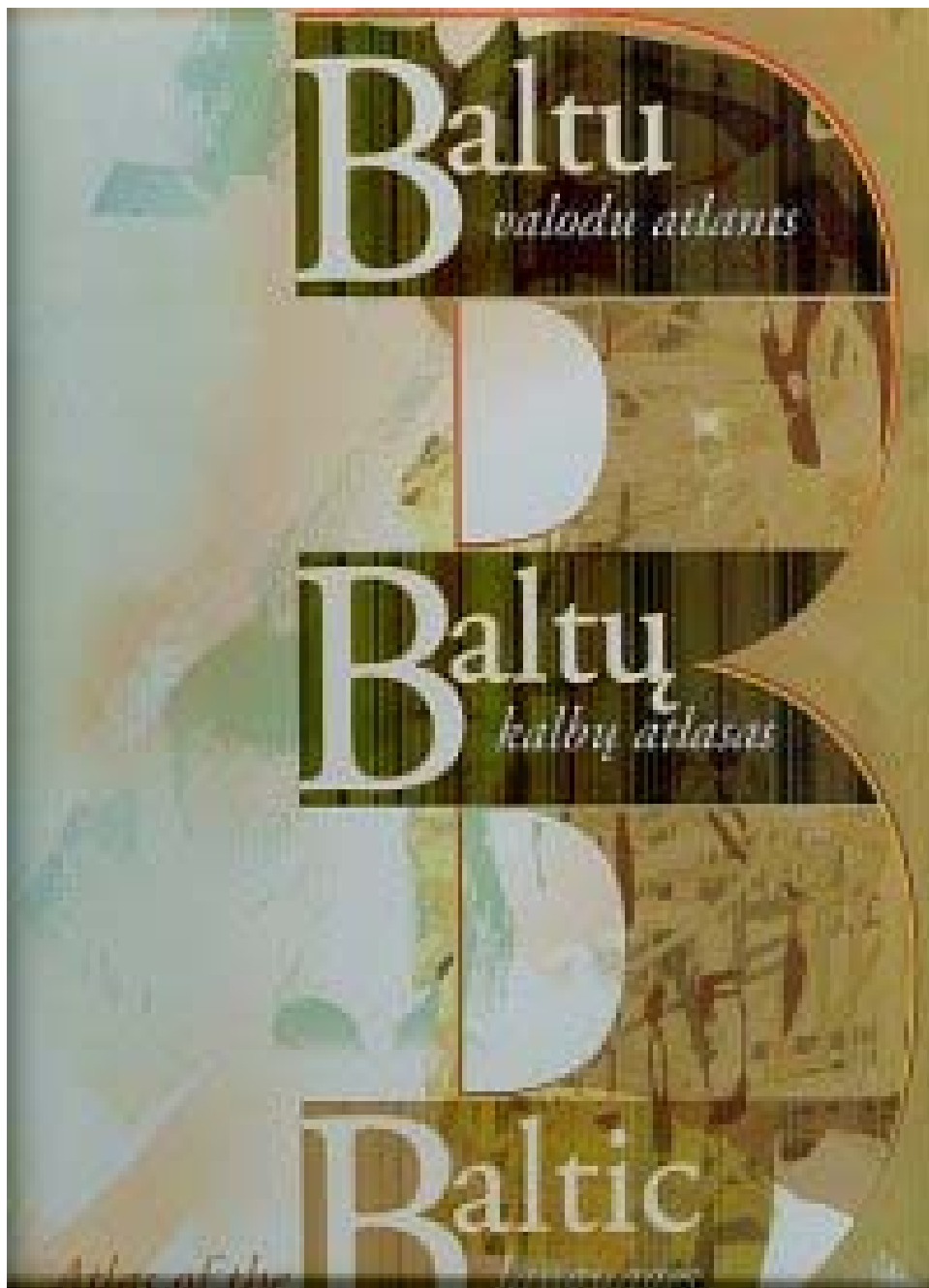
DIE LETTISCHE SPRACHE VON SVENTAJA –  
STATIK UND DYNAMIK

Zusammenfassung der Promotionsarbeit

Liene Markus-Narvila  
*Rucavas izloksnes  
vārdnīca: leksikogrāfiskais  
un leksiskais aspekts*  
(2011)

- 1) describes the phonetics and morphology of Sventāja dialect;
- 2) analyzes the vocabulary used by 3 generations speaking the sub-dialect of Sventāja in the context of *Dialect Atlas of Latvian: Vocabulary*

## □ Language Atlases



***Baltu valodu atlants.***  
***Prospekts***  
**(2009)**

The prospectus gives a brief overview of the Atlas of the Baltic languages, offers 12 maps (Words for the *Clouds, Top, Juniper, Toad, Pigeon, Lark, Stork, Swedish Turnip, Winter Wheat, Grain Bin, Stack, Blacksmith*) with their commentaries in Latvian, Lithuanian and English.

Baltu valodu atlants

Baltų kalbų atlasas

Atlas of the Baltic Languages

LEKSIKA 1  
LEKSIKA 1  
LEXIS 1

FLORA

*Names of the Nettle, Dandelion, Conrflower, Yarrow, Plantain, Juniper, Cone, Blackberry, Onion, Potato, Swedich Turnip, Crops, Winter Wheat, Hazel Tree, Pear, Top.*

***Baltu valodu atlants.***

***Leksika 1:***

***FLORA***

***(2012)***

In this CD it is introduced with a comprehensive introductory article, sixteen linguistic lexical maps and comments as well as fifteen smaller maps on which the name of one or another plant is shown in the area of prevalence only in one of the languages in Latvia or Lithuania.



*Latviešu valodas  
dialektu atlants*

*FONĒTIKA*

***Latviešu valodas  
dialektu atlants.***

***FONĒTIKA***

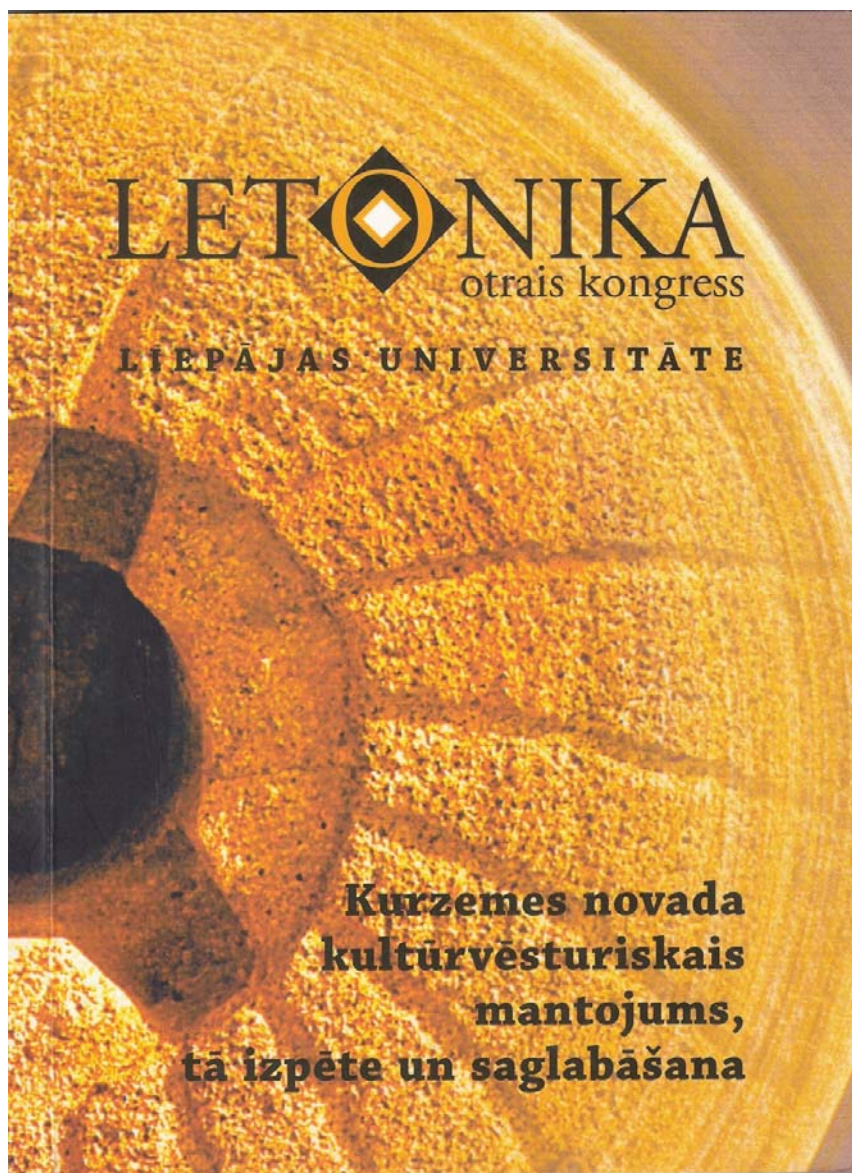
(sagatv. A. Sarkanis 2013)

The phonetic volume of the Atlas comprises 118 maps, 114 of them are directly dedicated to phonetics.

One map usually reflects one question. All maps are supplied with commentaries. The analysis in the commentary usually starts with the most common type of phonetical occurrence.

There is included also sub-dialect of Būtiņģe/Sventāja (Nr. 59a).

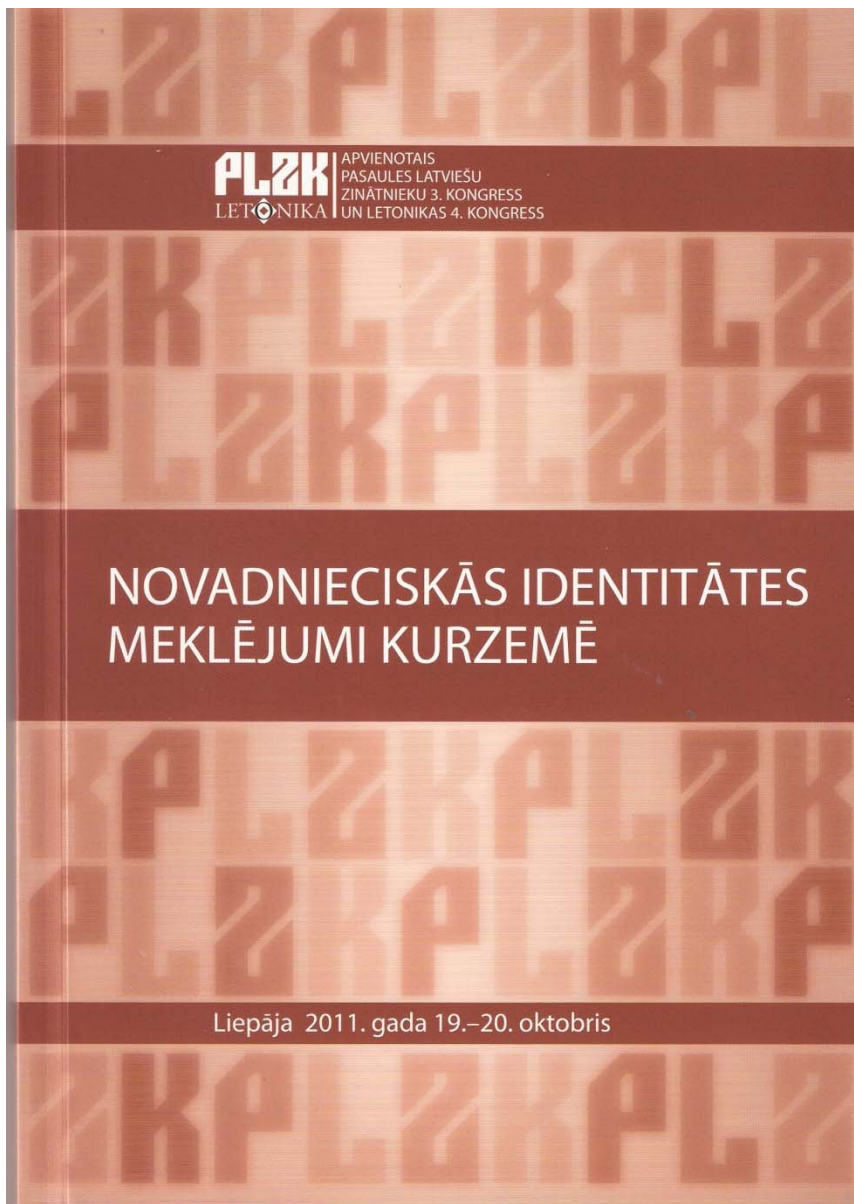
1) collections of articles containing separate publications about the sub-dialects of Lejaskurzeme



Letonikas otrā kongresa rakstu krājums: ***Kurzemes novada kultūrvēsturiskais mantojums, tā izpēte un saglabāšana*** (2008)

Includes such articles as:

- ❖ Beitiņa, M. *About a Peculiar Type of Time Adverbial Clause in the Sub-dialects of Lejaskurzeme*
- ❖ Markus-Narvila, L. *Principles and Criteria for Selecting Headwords in Rucava Sub-dialect Dictionary*
- ❖ Ozola, I. *The Role of Lejaskurzeme Sub-dialectal Syntax in the Historical Studies of the Syntax of the Baltic Languages*

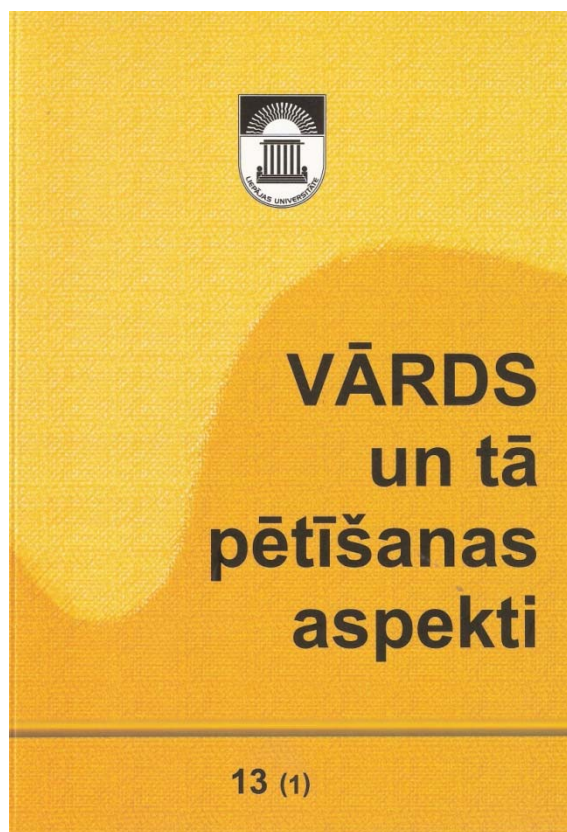


Letonikas ceturtnā kongresa rakstu krājums:  
***Novadnieciskās identitātes meklējumi Kurzemē (2012)***

Includes such articles as:

- ❖ Beitiņa, M. *Features of the Composite Sentences in the Prose of J. Janševskis*
- ❖ Markus-Narvila, L. *Material of the Dainu skapis by K. Barons for the history of morphology of the Rycava dialect*
- ❖ Ozola, I. *The Dynamic of the Present Tense Verb Stems in the Sub-dialects of Lejaskurzeme*

❑ Proceedings of the conference “The Word: Aspects of Research”



## Current studies (1)

- Latvian Council of Science fundamental and applied science project “Latvian Language Dialects in the 21st Century: Sociolinguistic Aspect” (Nr. 264/2012, headed by *Dr. philol. Anna Stafecka*)
  - for the time being, two Lejaskurzeme sub-dialects (Rucava and Bārta) are included in the project
  
- Prof. B. Laumane is currently working on a dictionary of Nīca sub-dialect
  
- Prof. B. Laumane is currently working on a book “***Vēji un vētras***” which will include names for winds, storms and sea-waves

## Current studies (2)

- ❑ In Latvia, work on various reports and publications on Lejaskurzeme sub-dialects is proceeding constantly (some research is also done in Lithuania, mostly in Klaipeda University)
- ❑ Researchers currently working most actively on Lejaskurzeme sub-dialects are: B. Bušmane, D. Kiseļūnaite (Lith.), B. Laumane, L. Markus-Narvila, I. Ozola, D. Straupeniece

□ Individual publications containing some vocabulary of the sub-dialects of Lejaskurzeme





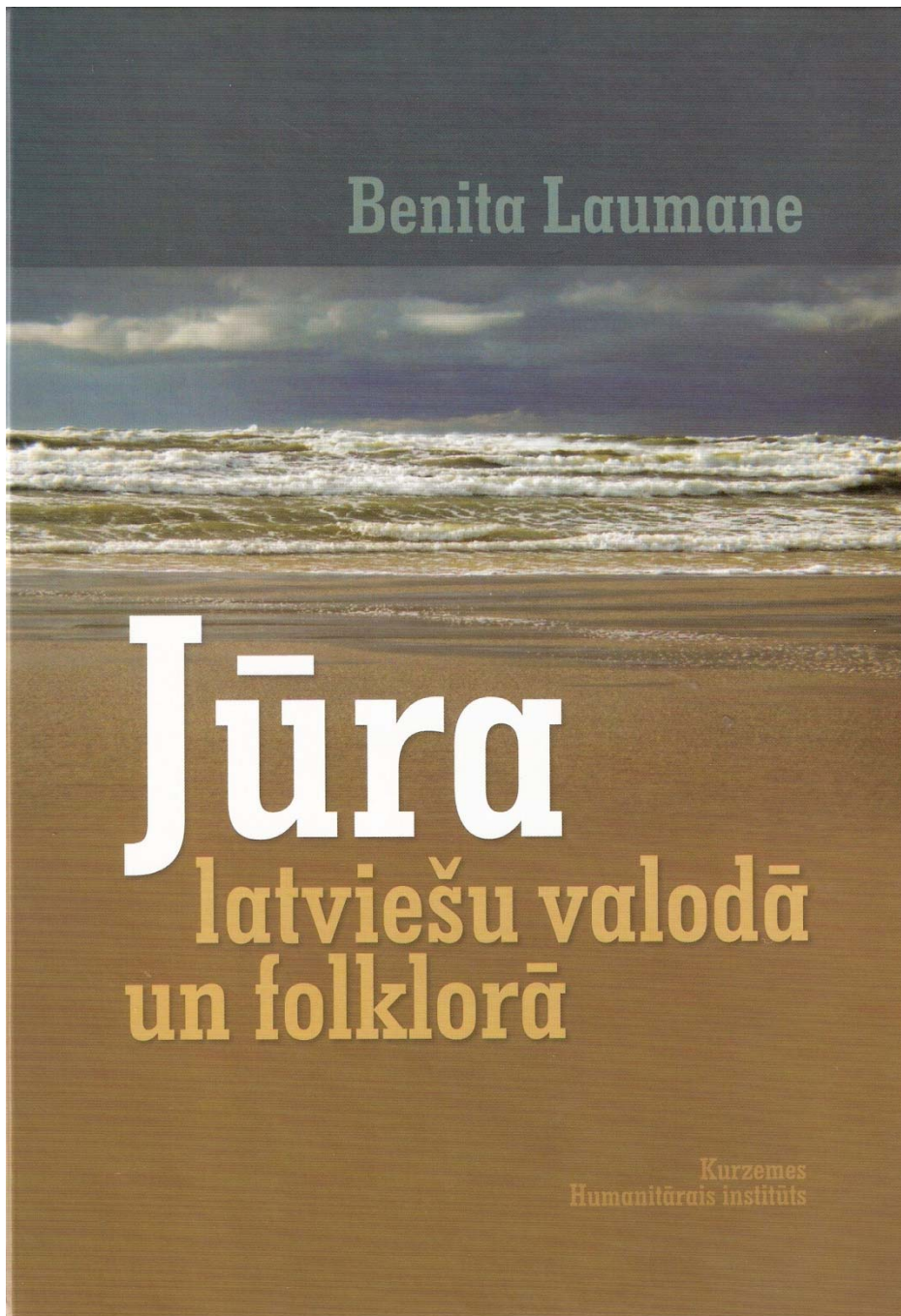
Laumane, B. *Smalki lija zelta lietus: dabas parādību nosaukumi latviešu valodā* (2005)

The book analyzes the names of natural phenomena and focuses on words referring to weather conditions in Latvian standard language, folklore and dialects (e.g., the words for *clouds, cold, precipitation, rainbow, etc.*)

Laumane, B. *Kāja un mārķāja: vārda lietojuma lauks* (2011)

The book gives an insight into the metaphorical uses of the word *kāja* ('leg, foot'), analyzing farmstead names, surnames, proverbs and idioms. A special chapter is devoted to the idiom *iet uz lelles kāju* ('to visit a newborn') and lexeme *mārķāja* ('sand lizard') which are widely used in the sub-dialects of Lejaskurzeme.





Laumane, B. *Jūra latviešu valodā un folklorā: etnolingvistiskais aspekts* (2013)

This research presents linguistic material referring to the sea in Latvian standard language, dialects, and the phraseology used in folklore (folk songs, legends, folk tales and beliefs). The analysis of Latvian language and folklore materials is complemented with linguistic units from Baltic languages, Slavic languages and Finno-Ugrian languages. Latvian language and folklore materials are presented thematically in order to create a cultural overview of the inhabitants of the Eastern coast of the Baltic Sea as a fishermen culture in contrast to the dominating farmer culture. Specific names for household objects and occupations, relationships between individuals and social groups, dietary habits, real life vs. mythical concepts, beliefs, etc. are discussed.

# Conclusions

1. The research work about sub-dialects of Lejaskurzeme are actively carried on also in 21st century.
2. It is important to record texts from various sub-dialect speakers, as it will help further studies and research on the dynamic of Lejaskurzeme sub-dialects.
3. It is necessary to work on a joint dictionary of Lejaskurzeme sub-dialects, which would be a great contribution to the region's linguistic development.
4. It is important to continue to record, study etc. the Latvian language in Lithuania – Būtiņģe, Sventāja.

**Thank You for Your attention!**