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## UJIK INSCRIPTION AND OVERVIEW OF THE RAETIC LANGUAGE

### Povzetek

Napis Ujik, tehnično imenovan tudi NO-3, je eden od treh retijskih napisov, ki na široko odpirajo vrata v razumevanje starodavnega retijskega jezika. Osupljivo je, da vsa dolga desetletja, v katerih so strokovnjaki poskušali razvozlati retijske napise s pomočjo različnih jezikov, od semitskega, madžarskega, do romanskih jezikov; ta jezik z napisov živel pred njihovim nosom in se še dandanes govori v sosedstvu. Žal pa je bil zaradi brezmejnega nadutosti velikih jezikov v njihovi senci popolnoma zapostavljen. Vse to pa kaže, da je treba resnico pogosto iskati ravno v obratni smeri kot trdi visoka znanost. Za znanost je tragično, da so domala vsi svetovni znanstveniki s pristojnih področij stopicali v slepi ulici, ne zavedajoč se svoje zablode. Med tem časom pa so bile postavljene mnoge, premnoge znanstvene teorije in napisana številna dela, za katera so bile porabljene nepregledne vreče denarja. Žal v podporo popolnoma napačnim znanstvenim stališčem o Retih, na katerih podlagi nikdar ne bi razvozlati skrivnosti tega starodavnega jezika.

Na osnovi dokončno pojasnjene vsebine napisa Ujik in drugih retijskih napisov, imamo sedaj neposreden vpogled v ta antični jezik, ki še vedno živi med nami. Ta jezik, jezikovni fosil Evrope pa je Slovenščina sama. Ne Slovanščina, ki je nastala šele v 19. stoletju, pač pa Slovenščina, jezik, ki se danes govori v Sloveniji in okoliških državah! Več kot presenetljivo je, da ta jezik, v 2500 letih, izvzemši zadnjih 200 let, skoraj ni doživel sprememb. To pa zanika znanstvene trditve, da so jeziki podvrženi relativno hitrim in neprestanim vplivom in spremembam! To vedenje pa tudi nakazuje, da se slovenski jezik tisočletja ni kaj dosti spreminjal. Tako tudi ne od časov pred približno 4000 leti, ko so se Slovenci iz Evrope selili na ruske planjave in naprej v severno Indijo. Jezik teh napisov je razumljiv malodane vsakomur, ki pozna slovenska narečja. Še največ posebnosti iz napisov je ohranjenih v zahodnih in severnih narečjih. Iz vsebine besedila napisa Ujik je razvidno, da je bila ta bronasta broška posvečena Ujiku, v zahvalo za spoštovanje boginje RI in za prelepo petje in molitve posvečene njej. Iz besedila lahko sklepamo, da je moral biti Ujik boginji RI popolnoma predan. Tudi slovnica iz napisa Ujik je popolnoma slovenska. Prav zaradi tega je bila slovenščina v veliko pomoč pri odstrtju skrivnostnega pomena tega retijskega besedila.

Za današnje velike narode, predvsem za Nemce in Italijane, ki skozi vsa stoletja genocidno uničujejo slovenščino, bo zelo težko in stresno sprejeti za njih zoprno resnico in dejstvo, da v antični srednji Evropi niso igrali nikakršne vloge. V resnici niso niti obstajali, v času, ko je slovenski jezik opeval in pisal veličastno pesem po večjem delu Evrope. Le kako bodo ti strokovnjaki preoblikovali bajko o priselitvah Slovanov v 6. stoletju?

## Preface

Undoubtedly, there will be many well-intentioned suggestions, how to understand the inscriptions in a very right way. Every vaticinator should know, that there is a huge abyss between an idea, a personal believe and proven fact, which also agree with the contents, semantics and common sense. I guess, no one has an idea, how I was enlightened with the knowledge.

The expressions Slovenes, Slovene should not be confused with the expressions Slavi, Slavic language, for it is also a new invention, not existed before mid-19<sup>th</sup> century. The word Sloveni was introduced by the Czech Linguist Dobrovský. An existence of the lat. word Sclaveni, or ger. word Slawen before 19<sup>th</sup> century correspond to the word Sloveni (Slovenes), and not to unexisting Slavs. The words Sclaveni or Slawen had been sometimes used also to denote the languages, not people, related to the Slovene, like: Wendish, Slovak, Czech, Polish, Russian, Bulgarian, Macedonian or Serbian. None of the noted people ever considered themselves being Slavs before 19<sup>th</sup> century. Therefore, proclamation that the ancient and medieval Slovenes of the Central Europe were Russians, Serbs or even Croatians (falsified nation) would be an ultimate blemish of the truth.

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## Basic data

Object:	Ujik shield - bronze plaque in the shape of a shield.
Size:	10 x 6.8 cm
Letter height:	0.9 – 1.6 cm
Period:	BC 699 – AD 50 <sup>[1]</sup>
Craftsmanship:	Engraved
Site:	Village Mechel/Meclo is situated on the slope, about 744 m above the sea level. Village is positioned some 2 km SW from the Cles (ger. GlöÙ, rtr. Clés), a small town in the region of South Tyrol, now in northern Italy. The site is covered by a mountain range on the west side, while in opposite side its panorama is wide opened to the Non valley, including the part of lake Lago di Santa Giustina
Location:	46° 21' 0" N, 11° 1' 12" E
Current location:	Museum Castello del Buonconsiglio
Inventory Nr.:	4525
Inscription mark:	NO-3
Script:	North Italic script (Sanzeno alphabet)
Language:	Slovene





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## Meaning

Raetic	Slovene	slk. Slovene
Pjel ljepu RI jesi i mualej.	Pjel ljepu RI sь i muolu.	Pel si lepo RI in molil,
Pjel v1 mualej,	Pjel vь muolь,	pel v molitvi,
pjel v1 mualej,	pjel vь muolь,	pel v molitvi,
pjel v1 mualej.	pjel vь muolь.	pel v molitvi.
Ujiku	Ujiku	Ujiku

Table 1: Complete words of the Ujik inscription in Raetic and Slovene.

English
You were singing beautifully and praying to RI. Singing in prayer, singing in prayer, singing in prayer.
To Ujik

Table 2: All words of the Ujik inscription in English.

## Glossary

Raetic	Slovene	Grammar		lit. Slov.	English
pjel	pjel, pel	verb	2sg. pt.ct.	pel	singing
ljepu	ljepu, lepu, lepo	adv.		lepo	beautifully
RI <sup>1</sup>		noun	f. dat. sg.		
jesi	jesi, <sup>2</sup> jьs, sь, si	lnk.verb	2sg. pr.	si	(you) were
i <sup>3</sup>	i, in	conj.		in	and
vi <sup>4</sup>	vi, vь, vu, ц	adv.		v	in
mualej <sup>5-7, 8/9</sup>	muolь, muolu, molu	verb	2sg. pt.ct.	molil	praying
mualej <sup>5-7</sup>	muolej, <sup>8/9</sup> muolitu, molitu	grnd.	f. loc. sg.	molitvi <sup>10</sup>	prayer
ujiku	ujiku, <sup>11</sup> uьku, uьcu	noun	m. dat. sg.	ujcu	to ujik

Table 3: Ujik inscription glossary.

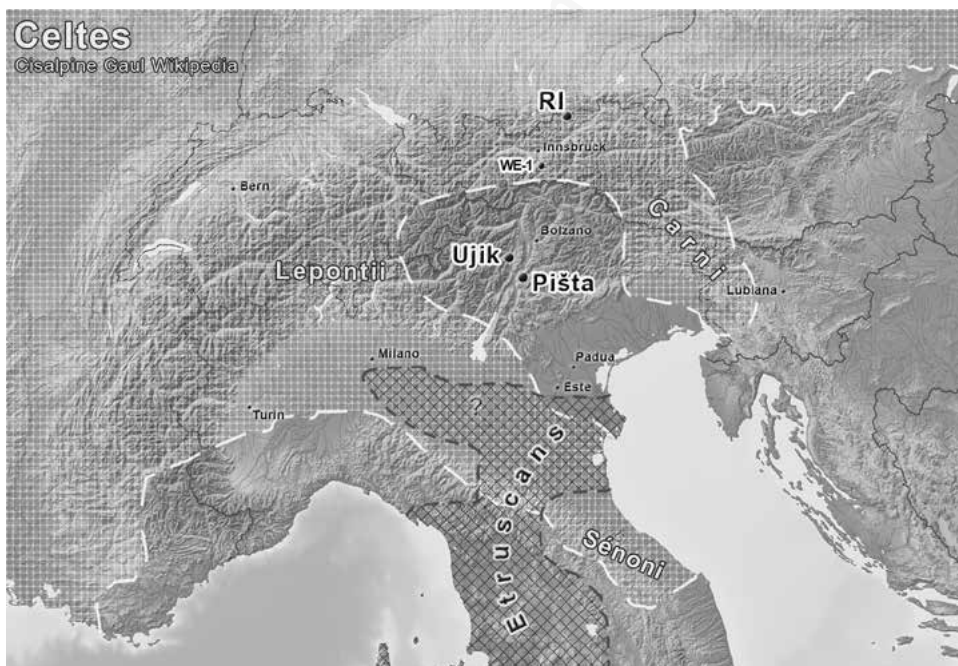
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molel / molil > muolel > mualel > mualej

<sup>11</sup> ujiku Locative case of slv. noun *ujik* with its varieties *ujec* and *ujek*, in the meaning of ‘uncle by mother’s kin, mother’s brother’.

## Inscription lesson

From words of the *Ujik* inscription it can be gathered out, that the Raetic priests and prayers were singing and praying to the god. Further on, it is anticipated, they perform the prayer in singing much often. The one who sung the prayer, did his best, to sing it as beautiful and devoted to the *RI* as he can. The *RI* was the highest goddess of the Raeti. More about *RI* can be found in the contribution of the “*RI* inscriptions” within these Proceedings. From the *Ujik* and other Raetic inscriptions, it is expected a very high devotedness of the Raetic people. The text dedicated to *Ujik* is written in the 2<sup>nd</sup> person, in a singular masculine gender. Word *ujiku* is a dat. case of the noun *ujik*, which is used



*Picture 1: Location of the inscriptions studied.*

to designate a mother’s brother. Word *ujec* (*ujek*, *ujik*) means uncle by mother’s kin, and traces of its use can still be found in the present-day Slovene speech, while in literal Slovene



it almost came out of usage. From explanation above it is evident, that the suffix -u in the Raetic word *ujiku* is a grammatical form in a dat. case of the nom. m. noun *ujik*. A dative case *ujiku* is a response to the question, whom to the inscription on the shield had been dedicated to? The answer is, to the one, who is uncle of the plaque giver, by sister's kin. And that one is *Ujik*, or *Ujiku* in Slovene dative case.

## Overview of the Raetic, the Celtic and the Slovene Relations

*Ujik* inscription is considered to be a Raetic one. The Raeti had been assigned as a Celtic tribe by many ancient writers. Not just Raeti, but also surrounding neighbors were also called the Alpine Nations 'Alpini Populi' by the Romans. Titus Livius was the first ancient historian who brought out the information about Alpine Nations, and named them the Celts.<sup>[12, p.42]</sup>

### The Raeti were of non-Celtic origin

From the text of the ancient writers it is evident, that the conception of who were Celts and what is the meaning of the notion "Celtic", was quite confusing. Some of the ancient writers considered a few tribes as the Celtic one, while other ancient writers report the same people to be none Celtic tribes. Tacitus report: "*..Raeti and Vindelici and of the Gallians..*",<sup>[12, p.53]</sup> which clearly suggests that at least some Romans distinguished the Raeti and Vindelici from the Galls, as a none Gallic tribes. The same author inscribed in the following text: "*These peoples, and also the Pannonians, the Raeti, the Norics, the Mysians of Europe, and the other neighboring tribes who inhabited the right bank of the Danube, the Romans distinguish from one another just as the various Greek peoples are distinguished from each other.*". From Tacitus writing it is seen that Raeti were in good relations with surrounding neighboring people. That shows the affinity among those nations. In later text, Tacitus directly pointed out, that all enumerated nations, including Illyrians, were considered to be a part of Illyria, which stretches as far as to Euxine (Black) Sea.<sup>[12, p.57]</sup> From those writings it is suggested that all those peoples were related in a common language. After the collapse of the Western Roman Empire, these marginal lands fall out of the sovereignty of the Roman central power. When Roman supervision vanished, the name Slovenes suddenly appears on those territories.

### The Raeti were Celts

On the other side the Horatius consider the Raethi as a Gaulish people<sup>[12, p.45]</sup>, and Strabon talks about Norics as to be kin to the Celtic people. Further on, he also talks about the Breuni, Ucenni and Vindelici as Celtic people.<sup>[12, p.41]</sup> Plinius Secundus said that the Raeti were adjoined by the Norici, and that the Raetia was a Gall land.<sup>[12, pp.51-2]</sup> Flavius Claudius Julianus had written down: "*...Western Alps inhabit the Gallians, the Raeti, however..*",<sup>[12, p.61]</sup> and within following text he exposed: "*..with the troops of the Norics and the Raethi who constitute the corps of the Celtic troops.*"<sup>[12, p.64]</sup> Titus Livius reported: "*...Raeti, have*

*without doubt this (i.e. Etruscan) origin...”, especially they preserved the Etruscan language uncorrupted.*<sup>[12, p.14]</sup> Similar, about the Raeti as descendants of the Etruscans, was claimed by Plinius Secundus.<sup>[12, p.47]</sup> Etruscan language belongs to Tyrrhenian group of languages.

### The Raeti were Semitic

Meyer, Risch and Hubschmid are of contrary opinion, which assigned the Raetic as a non-Indo-European language.<sup>[12, p.43]</sup> Alfréd Tóth and Linus Brunner even argue the idea, that Raetic is an extinct Semitic language. Nevertheless, it is the fact that no one really revealed the Raetic language! But the scientific claims without any serious basis are propagating on and on. Some of them carried out even some lists of nouns, adjectives, verbs, pronouns, etc. of the Raetic language. Acting in such a way in the scientific literature without any proofs is at least irresponsible, and for sure not admissible. Approaching that way of researching the Raetic language, Raetic people and Raetia itself, every claim seems to be possible. The statement about Raetic dialects: “..Raetic must have been dialectally strongly differentiated..” and notation in a paragraph before: “..differentiating between Raetic and non-Raetic tribes, one depends wholly on historical linguistics..”<sup>[12, p.49]</sup>, inter alia shows the Raetic language as staying in the darkness of the linguistic twilight.

### The Raeti Survived

Lucius Flavius Arrianus reported that Raetic language was still spoken in the 2<sup>nd</sup> century AD.<sup>[12, p.14]</sup> Observations about the Raeti could be found until the collapse of the Roman Empire, and on the basis of the ancient sources, probably yet a century later, which is, up to the 6<sup>th</sup> century. A German artist Albrecht Dürer painted a portrait of a Slovene village woman on the Brenner Pass, on the Alps. He named this portrait from the 16<sup>th</sup> century ‘Una villana Windisch’, which means nothing else than a Slovene peasant woman.<sup>[13, p.455],[14]</sup> Also, some later writers reported about the Slovene<sup>1</sup> language in northern Italy, Tyrol and in Switzerland. The Friulian historian M. A. Nicoletti reported as early as the mid-16<sup>th</sup> century, how in Friulian medieval parliament Slovene language had been used. At that time the Friulian language was not fully formed yet.<sup>[13, p.456],[14]</sup> The statement also suggests, that Friulan and most likely also the other Rhaeto-Romance languages, Romansh and Ladin, are all newly formed languages.

### The Raeti were Slovenes

That shows that the Raetic language in the far away Alpine valleys had been persisting until 19<sup>th</sup> century. As it was clearly shown by the explanation of the Ujik inscription, the

<sup>1</sup> Sloveni should not be confused with Slavi. The word Slav, Slavs is a modern invention, introduced by the Czech scholar Dobrovský, which came into usage only about 150 years ago. Until the second half of the 19<sup>th</sup> century, the Russians, Ukrainians, Belarusians, Serbs, Croats, part of later Poles and some smaller nations, did not considered themselves Slavs. Early historical records of the words Sclavi, Slavi, Slaven, etc. had been using to designate a specific ethnos living between the Baltic, Adriatic and Black sea. The term Slavi had been applied only to Slovenes (Sloveni), and the name had been used until the late New Age.

term Raetic language is what is nowadays known by the term Slovene language. The Slovene language in this case should not be confused with the modern term of Slavic language, or with a kind of Serb or Russian language. The Raetic language is undoubtedly the same language as the modern Slovene language is! Indeed, only minor linguistic changes had been occurring in the last 2500 years. More about the Celtic origins and their language, the Raetic origins and the name traces, the Raetic tribal names and the Celto-Slovene relations, can be found in the contribution of “Pišta inscription” within these Proceedings.

## The Origin of the Celts and Their Language

Who were the Celts? The answer is not quite simple. A lot of thesis has been defended and an enormous number of papers had been written about them, irrespective of the lack of material, cultural remains and specially an absence of the language evidence. Scholars have been disputing about the Celtic origin and about their expansion over the Europe. On the basis of the oldest archeological remnants, the most believable cradle of the Celts is the Urnfield culture (1200 BC) of the Central Europe. First Celtic culture is considered to be the Hallstatt culture (800-450 BC), followed in much of the Central Europe by the La Tène culture (450~50 BC). La Tène culture had been ruined by the Romans.

### Territory

By the 6th century BC, Celtic culture spanned over many parts of Europe. On the north, they expanded to the upper Rhine, following east by the Main River to Bohemia and west Carpathian mountain range, and down to the Danube River, including Pannonia and Danube valley. From those lands westwards, including Norici, Raeti and Helveti north of Alp's mountain range. This area, named by rich archeological site as Hallstatt in Noricum, is sometimes also called a Celtic homeland. Within La Tène Iron Age, the Celtic culture supposed to expand to much of the Central Europe, to north Balkan, France and to British Isles. In a smaller range, Celts expanded also to Iberian Peninsula, northern Italy and as far as to the central parts of Asia Minor.

### Culture

The Hallstatt iron-working culture has arisen directly from the Urnfield culture (c. 700-500 BC), thus proto-Celtic is considered to be of the same language, as late Urnfield culture. On the other side the Urnfield culture is being connected to Veneti people, whose ethnical descendant were Slovenes, which had already been demonstrated by some scholars.<sup>[15]</sup> Western Hallstatt zone is commonly associated with the Celts, while eastern Hallstatt zone with the Illyrians. The lack of the reliable language remnants leads to dispute on the Celtic origin. Illyrians seemed to have been an elusive phenomenon that cannot have been determined at all. In the time of the Roman conquest of the Alpine territory, there were organized states of the Raetia, Vindelicia and Noric. They cooperated with each other, and it would be a great surprise, if they would have not spoken the same language.

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names that denote one and the same nation. The most likely development of the name Helveti can be seen from the lower instances:

Sl̥vi / Su̥vi > Sl̥ve(n)ci > Hl̥veci > H̥lveci > Helveti (lat.)

Helvetia = Selvecija < Slevacija < Sl̥ve(n)ci

The name Slevaci is very alike to the slv. word slavec ‘nightingale; slv. literally “talking bird”, known as the beautiest singer. The name Slevaci coul also be a derivative of Sloveni, Sl̥veni or Sl̥venci ‘Slovenes’. The Slovene word slovo ‘word’ derives from the root \*slov-, as in the case of the name Slov- + -eni > Sloveni. The name Sloveni is a synonym for those, who speak the same language, which is clearly understandable to them. The verbatim meaning of this expression is “people of the word”.

## Slawi

Saluvii, the military tribal confederation of the south France, lived between the Rhône River and Alps, above the city of Marseille, is believed to be the first transalpine people subdued by the Romans. The Greeks were expressed their name with the letters of Salues or Saluves (Σάλυες).<sup>[25]</sup> The variant of letters v and ç are expressed in the names Salües or Salues, where /s/ denotes the soft /ʃ/. Considering the Greek suffix -es and -os similar to Latin -es, -os, which corresponds to the Slovene collective suffix -i, would resulted in the name Salui, instead of Salues. Regarding the fact that the consonant pair -sl- was not familiar to the Greek language, it is anticipated that they transformed the aboriginal name by metathesis of the neighbor vowels, as in many other cases. Considering that the Greeks most possibly transformed syllable sla- to sal- by metathesis, as in some other cases, disclose the understanding of the anticipated original name Slau or rather a variant Slawi. This case clearly reveals the primary word Slawi, which designates the name of the Celtic confederation. The Greek name Σάλυες therefore expresses nothing else than the name Slawi or Slovenes in nowadays English.

## List of Abbreviations:

2sg adv	Adverb	pt.ct	Past continuous
conj	Conjunction	ger	German
dat	Dative	gr	Greek
grnd	gerund	lat	Latin
loc	Locative	rtr	Rhaeto-Romance
f	Feminine	slk	Literally Slovene
lnk	Linking	slv	Slovene
m	Masculine	srb	Serbian
n	Neuter	stcs	Old Church Slovene
nom	Nominative		

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## Abstract

Ujik inscription, technically named NO-3, is one of the first three Raetic inscriptions. These inscriptions widely open the door to understand the ancient Raetic language. It is astonishing that for all those long decades, the inscriptions have been tried to be explained with the help of different languages, from Semitic, Hungarian to Romance languages, while the language of the inscriptions was alive, and has been spoken in the nearby country. In the shadow of large European languages, it was totally ignored, because of their infinite haughtiness, which shows that the truth can be often found just in the opposite direction than it is scientifically claimed. For the science sake it is very tragic, that almost all scholars worldwide, were tripping into dead-end, and not being aware of their (errors) aberration. At that time, many, too many worthless, even noxious thesis and books have been written, and endless money has been spent to support these wrong positions. Considering the “scientifically adopted knowledge about the Raetic language”, which is completely wrong, the truth would have been never revealed.

On the bases of the ultimately revealed Ujik inscription, we have now the insight directly to the ancient language, which is still alive and spoken as a fossil language of the Europe. That ancient language is the Slovene itself. Not Slavic language, where a common expression for it had sprung up only in the 19<sup>th</sup> century. However, the Slovene language has its proper name, and it is nowadays spoken in the Republic of Slovenia and in the neighboring lands. After about 2500 years the language used in the inscriptions, surprisingly did not change much. The statement conflicts with the scientific claims of rapid and constant change of spoken languages! These inscriptions suggest that Slovene language practically did not change much for thousands of years. The same cannot be claimed for other central European languages. The language of this inscription is easily intelligible to almost anyone who understands the most of Slovene dialects, especially the western part. The bronze shield itself had been dedicated to Ujik, in gratitude of his piety to the RI deity, and beautifully singing and praying to her. From the contents it can be seen, that Ujik was completely committed to RI. Also the grammar of the Ujik inscription is completely Slovene type, and therefore it was great help to us to unravel this semantic mystery of the Raetic text.

Up until now, the larger nations of Europe, the Germans and Italians in the first place, have been ruining the Slovene language by genocide for a long time. They will accept the truth that they played no role in the ancient Central Europe very hard. Tiresome truth is that they did not even exist in those times, when the Slovene language had been singing, writing and spreading magnificent culture throughout the Europe! The question is how will those scientists remodel their mythic fairy tale about the Slavic migrations from the East in 6<sup>th</sup> century AD?