

Croatian

Hrvatski

Spoken in: Croatia, Bosnia and Herzegovina, Serbia and Montenegro, and others.

Total speakers: 5 million

Genetic Classification: Indo-European Slavic South Western Croatian

Official language of: Croatia, Bosnia and Herzegovina, Vojvodina

The Croatian language belongs to the South Slavic branch of Slavic group of languages.

The beginning of the Croatian written language can be traced to the 9th century, when Old Church Slavonic was adopted as the language of the liturgy. The two variants of the language, liturgical and non-liturgical, continued to be a part of the Glagolitic service. The modern Croatian standard language is a continuous outgrowth of more than nine hundred years of literature written in a mixture of Croatian Church Slavonic and the vernacular language.

Croatian as a language has always been inferior to German, Hungarian, Italian and Latin, yet it has preserved its identity. Besides fighting for their independence and national freedom, Croatians have also been battling for linguistic emancipation since the 1850's. But it is only since the constitution in 1990 that the name and use of the Croatian language could be guaranteed.

Croatian alphabet

The Croatian alphabet consists of 30 letters:

A, B, C, Č, Ć, D, DŽ, Đ, E, F, G, H, I, J, K, L, LJ, M, N, NJ, O, P, R, S, Š, T, U, V, Z, Ž

Currently SSWAHS Health Care Interpreter Service employs 0.5 FTE Croatian Interpreter and 4 sessional interpreters.