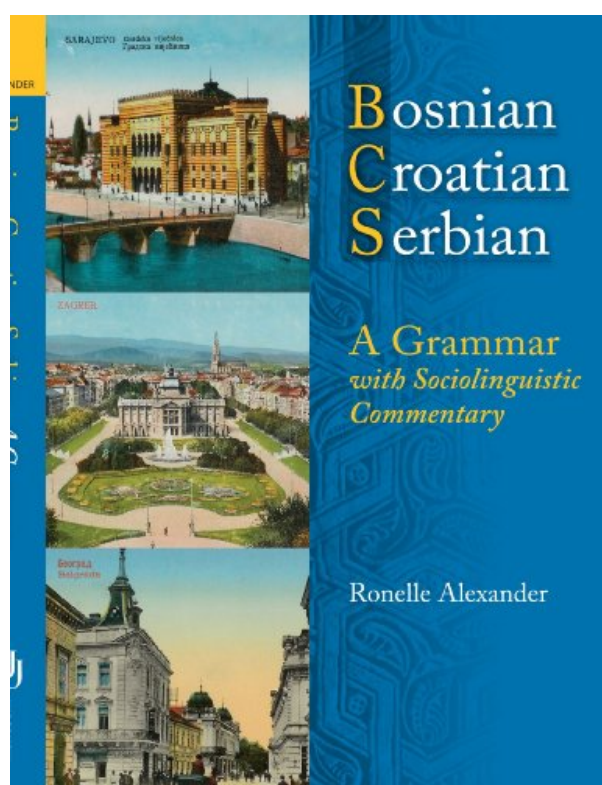
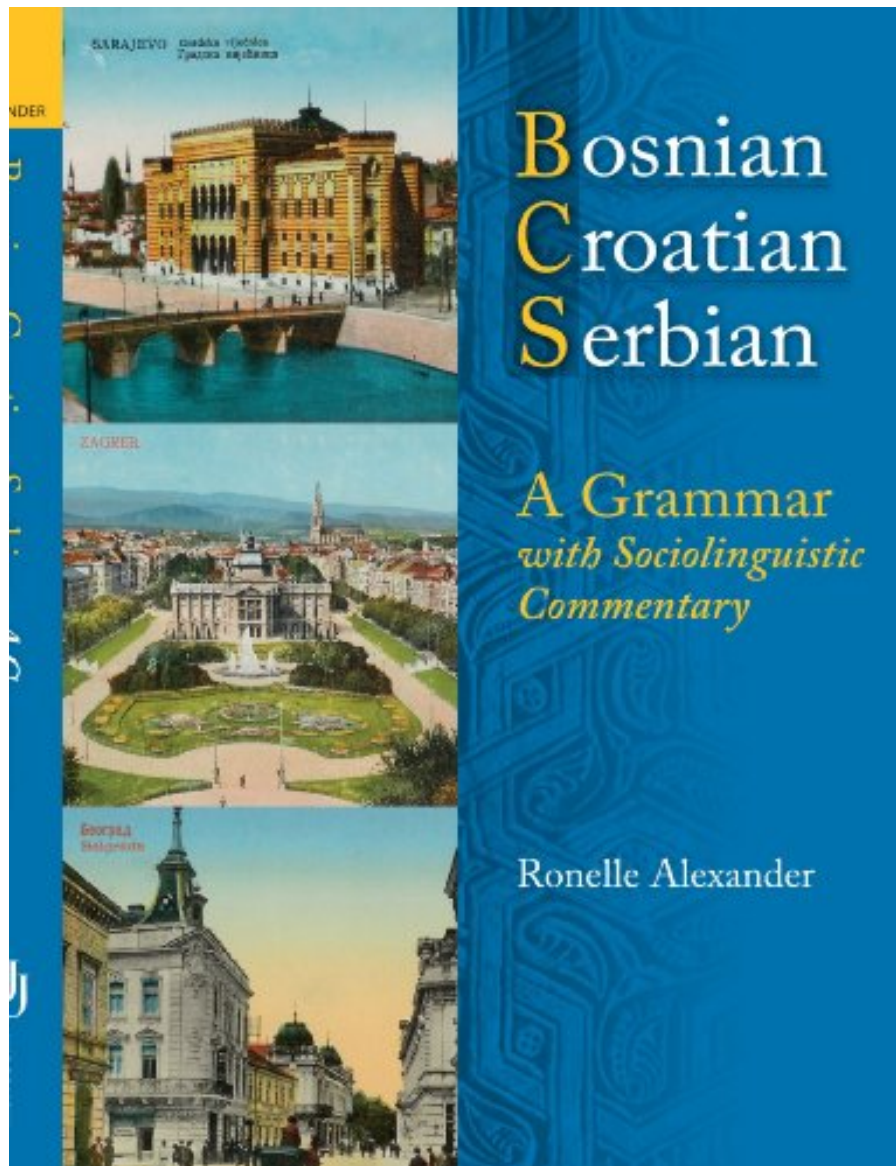


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Review

"Well written and admirably organized, this work is a milestone in the study of Bosnian, Croatian, and Serbian. It is the first unified description of BCS since the break-up of former Yugoslavia and includes Professor Alexander's vitally important sociolinguistic commentary."—Victor A. Friedman, University of Chicago

"An invaluable volume, both for the early twenty-first century and for the emerging situation within the former Yugoslavia. Such works cannot but help ease the wounds inflicted and suffered over the last decades."—Forum for Modern Language Studies

"Comprehensive. . . . Could be profitably used by everyone from beginners to the most advanced learners."—Keith Langston, *Slavic and East European Journal*

About the Author

Ronelle Alexander is professor of Slavic languages and literatures at the University of California, Berkeley. She is the author of the two-volume *Intensive Bulgarian: A Textbook and Reference Grammar*.

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Bosnian, Croatian, Serbian, a Grammar analyzes and clarifies the complex, dynamic language situation in the former Yugoslavia. Addressing squarely the issues connected with the splintering of Serbo-Croatian into component languages, this volume provides teachers and learners with practical solutions and highlights the differences among the languages as well as the communicative core that they all share. The first book to cover all three components of the post-Yugoslav linguistic environment, this reference manual features:

- Thorough presentation of the grammar common to Bosnian, Croatian, and Serbian, with explication of all the major differences
- Examples from a broad range of spoken language and literature
- New approaches to accent and clitic ordering, two of the most difficult points in BCS grammar
- Order of grammar presentation in chapters 1–16 keyed to corresponding lessons in Bosnian, Croatian, Serbian, a Textbook
- "Sociolinguistic commentary" explicating the cultural and political context within which Bosnian, Croatian, and Serbian function and have been defined
- Separate indexes of the grammar and sociolinguistic commentary, and of all words discussed in both

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Most helpful customer reviews

3 of 7 people found the following review helpful.

This is for the serious student

By Spudboater

I purchased this book in April, 2007 after returning from my first trip to Croatia, Bosnia and Montenegro. I contacted my native Croatian immigrant friends in my town, and she and her Croat Serb husband to tutor me once a week as well. This book has been an excellent resource but you really need the textbook to go with it. Serbo Croatian is a difficult language for any English speaker unless you already speak a foreign language and are familiar with linguistics, verb conjugations and all the rest. Certainly learning Croatian or Bosnian, which are pretty much one and the same, using latin script is the easiest way to start. Serbian is slightly different (use cyrillic script), but I assure you, if you speak one, people will understand you, even if they claim they typically can't understand each other. That's just nationalistic bias coming out. There are colloquial difference, but not much different than if you are an English speaker in the US and live in Idaho vs Louisiana, or are from Canada vs England, or New Zealand. I returned to Croatia and Bosnia in September for the month and had made considerable progress. Although my tutor says I'm only to a 5th grade level, believe, me, that is an accomplishment with such a complex language, and in only about six or seven months of study. I continue my studies in anticipation of moving to Croatia or Bosnia in the future for a job opportunity. This is an excellent resource. And my Bosnian friends here think it's good, too. By the way, I taught English as a second language to Croat, Serb and Bosnian refugees here, so...I disagree with other review.

0 of 2 people found the following review helpful.

Serbian Srpsky

By Adelgicio J. M. Paula

For my studies in slavic languages I needed a complete serbian grammar and I met one - this is a good grammar to consolidate the comprehension of the serbian language. I recomend it for those who want to have a fluid knowledge of serbian.

23 of 24 people found the following review helpful.

You couldn't wish for better

By Bel Gufo

This elegant book does it all. It presents a thorough, linguistically rigorous grammar of a sometimes extremely foreign language in a form accessible to everyone from beginners to practiced speakers. The discussion is lucid, with plenty of examples, and is infused with a good teacher's enthusiasm for the subject and sensitivity to the reader's needs. Anything but dry, it abounds with useful observations, many focusing on the particular difficulties presented by "BCS" to English-speaking learners.

The grammatical material is presented in an order that presumably complements the companion volume, a textbook with exercises. That could take some getting used to for an experienced speaker of the language: if you want to read all about verbs, for instance, you have to locate and read many short sections distributed through the book. A complete discussion of the verb or any similar topic is thus presented in segments a beginner can grasp, laid out in an order that a beginner can follow, with no compromise of scholarly detail and accuracy. The attractive layout and typography aid in the endeavor.

The descriptive grammar is followed by a "sociolinguistic commentary" which raises a fine scholarly

achievement to a yet more useful level. The student of BCS must deal with a situation in which people who understand each other with ease insist that they speak different languages, others who understand each other barely or not at all admit only to speaking different dialects, and the cultural history apparently entitles anyone to despise half of his or her colinguists according to whether or not they pronounce a "y" sound before the letter "e." All of this receives careful, clear explanation, illustrated with maps and complemented by painstaking notes to the grammatical examples. As in the grammar, the author's eagerness to help the reader understand is everywhere apparent.

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