

Gelvonai sub-dialect

Kazys Morkūnas

Traditional sub-dialect (inherited from older times) in Gelvonai Valsčius (rural district) having the standard Lithuanian language mixed diphthongs *an, am, en, em* and vowels *a, e* turned respectively into *un, um, in, im* and *u (u), i (i)* is observed in the southern part of the East Aukštaičiai dialect area contacting with the West and South Aukštaičiai dialects. Due to this contact, the above-mentioned diphthongs (*an, am, en, em*) and vowels (*a, e*) in the western and southern outskirts of the Gelvonai Valsčius are pronounced more often than in the eastern part. The sub-dialect has also some other peculiarities differing from the standard language in phonetics, grammar and lexis. Perhaps the most interesting peculiarity in morphology of such words as *galvą, kója, šlapià, kárvė, medinė* is their singular ablative form *gálvąj, kójij, šlapij, kárviij, medinij* (instead of *gálvà, kója, šlapià, kárve, medine*). They had been formed, most probably, due to impact of assimilation of plural dative and ablative forms (compare *akím 'akims, akimis', galvóm 'galvoms, galvomis', kárvem 'karvėms, karvėmis'*)—this caused the assimilation of singular forms of the same cases (compare *ākiij 'ākiai' and akiij 'akimi', gálvąj 'gálvai, galva', kárviij 'kárvei, kárve'*). As other Lithuanian dialects, the Gelvonai sub-dialect (especially in the language of the younger generation) is strongly affected by the standard language. This effect is more easily responded in more discordant peculiarities (e.g., avoidance of diphthongs *un, um, in, im* and vowels *u, i* instead the common language *an, am, en, em* and *a, e*) and more rare in less distinct peculiarities (obscuring the ending vowels, compression of atonic long vowels and prolongation of short strong vowels in the word-stem).