The introduction of date definitions for Serbian language in latin script

serbian-date-lat package

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Abstract

The babel documentations in section 53, and in the serbian.dtx defines date for serbian language in latin scripts, but in the way which not recognize modern grammatical rules of serbian language. Major mistake in the name of month which now call \juni and \juli which is propriate translation is \jun and \jul and after a year is dot. In this document I try to introduction propriate way of date definitions for Serbian language in latin script.

1 Confusion about numbers

In serbian language exist several way to type a date. The most common way is:


2. Danas je 01.06.2011. godine. (Today is 01.06.2011. year.)


The first way is a best way. He represents all grammatical rule, which exist in serbian language. Date is contains a numbers of a day, name of the

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month writing in lowercase, and year. After a day is dot. Day and month is separate by space, and month and year is separate by space. After a year is dot.

The second way is a law way, which is exist in lawer processing, and for a court. Date is contains a numbers of a day, month and year separating whith a dots, whith no extra space, because is, in this world, always exist attempt to overwriting or retyping a date, and that is a confusion for a legal paper.

Note: In a legal papers we maybe wrote a date in samething like that:
1. 6. 2011. (whith a space) and that is a correct date. If a wrote in this way, error is posible, if we retyping by 11. 6. 2011. or 21. 6. 2011. Because of that, in legal papers, always is typing a full number with numbers zero, and no extra space. Example: 01.06.2011. If we have typing a date in this way, we have no confusing.

The last way exist is same papers in local purpose or, if you back in past, etc. In a modern worlds this style is no more purpose. Date is contains a numbers of a day, month and year separating whith a dots, whith no extra space. Day and year is a roman letters, month is arabic letters.


2 The way out

Major changes in translation date for serbian language is in \( \text{juni, juli} \) and after a years is a dot. The correct name of the month is \( \text{jun, jul} \) and today is 6. jun 2011. but not tomorow. To produce a date in serbian language in latin script just put in preambula something like that:

That is correct setup for most users in Serbia, because it is almost all on Microsoft operating system. After that you put, in preambula, few more line like this:

\usepackage{serbian}{babel}
\def\dateserbian{%
    \def\today{\number\day .~\ifcase\month\or
        januar\or februar\or mart\or april\or maj\or
        jun\or jul\or avgust\or septembar\or oktobar\or
        novembar\or decembar\fi \space \number\year .\space}}

So, when you type \today this a produce a date in serbian language, in latin script, in a best way which know a serbian grammatical rule (Section 1., first most common way).

3 The package

Also, I am produce a package with LATEX style extensions. So, if you prefer packages you are must just after a line \selectlanguage{serbian} put the line \usepackage{serbian-date-lat} and push you PC machine to working.

4 Working

This way & package, which I represents in section 2 and section 3, working in all LATEX documentclass & memoir documentclass.

5 Conclusion

I suppose, in the future, the correct setup of date definitions for serbian language in latin scripts, which I represent in this paper, is in the integrate in a babel package, and replace date definitions which we know now.
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