

**Palatalisation and Associated Phonological Processes in the Podhale Dialect as
Represented by the Dzianisz Dialect. A Generative Analysis in the Framework of
Optimality Theory**

This project has two goals: a general linguistic goal and a descriptive goal. The general linguistic goal is to join the ongoing debate in the literature concerning the adequacy of Optimality Theory as a phonological model. The descriptive goal is to collect the data and conduct their analysis in order to discover phonological rules and generalizations that govern the phonology of Dzianisz Polish, a Podhale dialect spoken in the south of Poland. The goal is important because this dialect has not been described before in spite of the fact that it constitutes an important part of the Polish language culture. That is, this project is not just a theoretically oriented linguistic study. It is an effort to document and archive a unique piece of the Polish language culture. This effort should be undertaken as soon as possible because the dialect shows symptoms of extinction, so it is an endangered dialect.

The Dzianisz dialect is part of the broader Podhale dialect. As my pilot study shows, the phonological structure of the Dzianisz dialect is extremely different from that of Standard Polish. Accounting for these differences is a huge challenge for Optimality Theory, which is the framework adopted in this project.