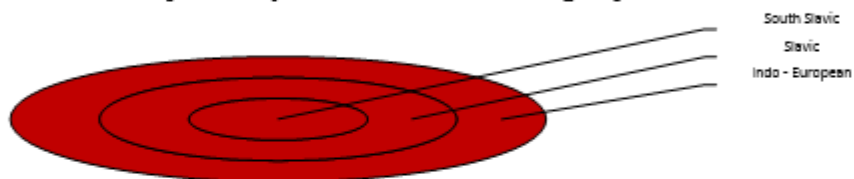


## 1.1. INTRODUCTION

# Introduction

- Like English, Serbian belongs to the Indo-European family of languages. More specifically, it belongs to the Slavic subgroup of languages, and even more specifically, to the South Slavic subgroup.



- All Slavs used to share one mutual language, but over centuries regional differences have emerged.

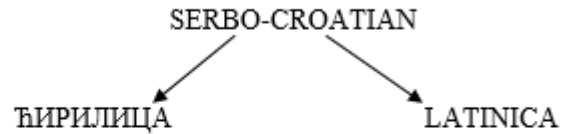


- The Serbian language is usually called Serbo-Croatian, as the two nations share the same language. Serbian is used as a formal language in Croatia, Bosnia and Herzegovina, and Montenegro, as well as Serbia.



CRO + BIH + MNE + SRB

- There are two alphabets that can be used with the same language – Latin and Cyrillic. The Latin alphabet is used more often for the Croatian dialect and Cyrillic for the Serbian dialect.



- Serbian reading and writing is almost completely phonetic: 30 LETTERS = 30 SOUNDS = EACH LETTER/SOUND IS ALWAYS PRONOUNCED/WITTEN IN THE SAME WAY!



BASIC FACTS:

- EVERY LETTER IS ALWAYS PRONOUNCED.
- THERE ARE 25 CONSONANTS.
- THERE ARE 5 VOWELS.
- THE STRESS IS ALWAYS ON A VOWEL.
- THE STRESS CAN FALL ON ANY SYLLABLE EXCEPT THE LAST. (THERE ARE A FEW EXCEPTIONS WITH FOREIGN WORDS.)