The report focuses on the two traditions, which has typological similarities as historically isolated from the main cultural-linguistic area, to which they originally belong. The study is built on the basis of ethnolinguistic field materials collected among the Russian old believers in the Romanian Dobrogea and among Burgenland’s Croats in Austria. Each of these traditions exists in the strange linguistic and ethnic environment (and alien confessional environment, as far as the old believers in Romania are concerned). The existence of the enclave makes an important typological regularity — preserving archaic features in the language and culture as a way of self-identification. Used the term “insular areas” is not new and is widely used in linguogeography. We make an attempt to apply this term not only in linguistic but also in ethno-linguistic aspect, i.e. to the sphere of “cultural dialects”.

The investigation aims to revealing of the conservation of the archaic features in language and culture of the past from the period when these or those peoples left primary living areas. However, the term "archaic" is used to denote the phenomena of language and folk culture of the two types. First, we are talking about linguo-cultural phenomena brought from the primary site of residence of migrants; secondly, common to several Slavic or South Slavic traditions in the distant past. In the second case, we often resort to a comparison with the conclusions and material from the ethnolinguistic dictionary "Slavic antiquities" (Vol. I–V. Moscow, 1995–2012), and also to comparison with the data and maps from the book "Ethnolinguistic geography of South Slavia" (Plotnikova A. A. Ethnolinguistic geography of South Slavia, M., 2004).