

“Ukrainian-Russian-Polish trilingualism of Ukrainian people of non-Polish descent” – dr Paweł Levchuk

The topic of this study concerns the previously unexplored phenomenon of trilingualism among the Ukrainians living both in Poland and Ukraine. Participants in the study included non-Polish speakers for whom Polish is a foreign language. 1,160 persons participated in the study, which was carried out in Poland and Ukraine between 2015 and 2017.

The first chapter presents the current linguistic situation in Ukraine, which is described as "post-Soviet" due to the fact that between 1991 and 2015, even though Ukrainian was the official state language, Russian freely existed in all areas of communication in specific regions, even in the role of the dominant tongue.

The aim of the second chapter is to present to the reader a research on linguistic contacts in each of the three languages described. The chapter presents the issues of research on Russian-foreign contacts and Polish-foreign contacts respectively. Research on Ukrainian language contacts has been divided into two areas: Ukrainian-Russian and Ukrainian-Polish.

The third chapter focuses on theoretical issues of the phenomenon of trilingualism, which has not yet been defined in the Polish linguistic publications. In addition, definitions regarding mother tongue, native language, second language, third language, functionally first language and functionally second language were analyzed.

The fourth chapter presents the author's research model, which assumes research concepts and the division of respondents into groups.

In the fifth chapter, four groups of respondents were distinguished: the first two groups are people of non-Polish origin, living both in Poland and Ukraine (each group has 450 respondents). The research results presented in the study concern the general characteristics of the groups presented: the respondents' first language and their cultural identity, their motivation to learn Polish, the declared level of knowledge of each of the studied languages divided into language skills and the frequency of using each of them. The respondents' emotional attitude towards each language was also taken into account.

The sixth chapter first presents the spheres where each language is used (private, public, professional, educational), then the people with whom the respondents communicate in these languages (parents, siblings, colleagues, co-workers, teachers), the frequency of choosing each of them when using media (television, press, Internet, text messages, e-mails, computer programs) and the frequency of their use in the personal sphere (prayer, swearing, daydreaming, taking notes, expressing emotions).

Chapter seven presents case studies of trilingual people, proposing a division into models of becoming and being trilingual.

The monograph was nominated for the J. Giedroyc award at UMCS and received a distinction in the M. Smotrycki competition at the University of Warsaw.

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