

PROBLEMS OF BILINGUALISM IN UKRAINE

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One of the main features of Ukraine is the presence of a large number of different linguistic minorities. Of course, today the socio-linguistic situation in Ukraine is characterized as bilingualism or bilingualism. Hence, the study of the problems of bilingualism at the present stage of the country's development seems relevant.

First of all, it should be noted that bilingualism (bilingualism) is a specific state of public life in which the fact of functioning and coexistence of two languages within one state is observed and recognized. The source of bilingualism, as a rule, is the ethnic heterogeneity of society itself, for example, the existence in one state of two ethnic groups using different languages. Due to the fact that in the modern world there are almost no ethnically "pure" states, bilingualism, as a linguistic phenomenon, has become widespread [1, p. 36]. Of course, sometimes bilingualism has a positive phenomenon, for example, when there is a coexistence of two languages within one state, but in everyday life citizens communicate in the state language.

Bilingualism reflects a situation where two languages are recognized by the state as a result of legally established norms or laws at the official level and with equal status for each of these languages. Typical examples of countries with official bilingualism are Canada, Belgium, Finland, Kazakhstan and others. Informal bilingualism corresponds to a situation where only one of the two languages most commonly used by the people of that country is officially recognized. At the same time, the unrecognized second language continues to be widely used by a significant part of the population. Today, for some historical reasons, Ukraine belongs to such states, as well as some other states in the geographical area of the former Soviet Union [1, p. 36].

The language situation in Ukraine in recent years is quite paradoxical, because, according to the Basic Law of Ukraine (Constitution of Ukraine), the

state language is one, but two function freely with almost complete absence of the opponent's language in some regions. Objectively, Ukraine lives in the conditions of actual (not legal) bilingualism. Virtually, you can imagine the invisible border running across the country, which divides it into two parts: the eastern, where the use of Russian dominates (much of the eastern part passively speaks Ukrainian), and the western, where the Ukrainian language operates in all areas (most of the population of the western part fully speaks Russian)» [2, p. 62].

Currently, the situation in Ukrainian society is such that the communicative power of the Ukrainian and Russian languages, as well as their functional and social status are far from equal. In particular, in the national dimension, the Ukrainian language is more widely used among Ukrainian youth only in the field of education and official business situations, while in other communicative situations (entertainment, interpersonal communication, media news, literature and music) Russian dominates. In fact, even in the case of using the state language in the sphere of official communication, only one language is formed in the mind of the speaker, the lexical system of which includes Ukrainian and Russian plans of expression. An example of such language behavior is the use of Ukrainian-language «paper» terminology by Russian-speaking citizens when communicating in Russian. Linguistic conformism of Ukrainians, their habit of obeying the dictates of Russian-speaking communication partners have become a mass phenomenon, which is clearly shown by sociological studies of youth language behavior in situations of informal urban communication [3, p. 11].

It should be noted that in modern Ukraine there is a situation that leads to mass social conformism – more than half of the country's population is forced at the social level to switch to the Russian language. Administrative-directive ukrainization has already led to a gap between everyday and social levels of communication. The most difficult consequence of this gap is the fall of social morality and the establishment of the principle of double morality: for me – one, for others – the second [4, p. 54].

Thus, the existing problem requires a radical change in the situation within the state. The legislator must initiate internal changes and establish appropriate control over the implementation of citizens' legislation on communication in the state language. Because, one of the reasons for the manifestation of bilingualism on the territory of Ukraine is mass communication in another (non-state) language. The existence of two languages on the territory of our State has a negative impact not only on patriotism and devotion to the Motherland, but also on the younger generation.

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