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Lecture 1

Ukrainian is the language of business communication in Ukraine

1. Language as a social phenomenon
2. Basic functions of the language
3. Ukrainian language among the other languages in the world
4. Formation and development of the Ukrainian language

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Basic

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1. Language as a social phenomenon. Basic functions of the language

The most valuable achievement of every nation is its language. *Wilhelm von Humboldt*, a German philosopher and linguist, said "the nation's language is its spirit, and the nation's spirit is its language." That is, language accumulates spiritual energy of the people, it is the primary sign and symbol of the nation.

Language is the most important means of human communication, a means of showing feelings, thoughts, wills. Of course, we use also other means of communication (non-verbal) - facial expressions, gestures, body movements, tone of voice, Morse code, Braille alphabet for the blind, various types of cryptography and more.

Languages have always been influencing each other in certain ways, when speakers of different languages interact closely. This interaction has always been of interest for linguists, and there is even a special branch of linguistics, called contact linguistics, which studies language contacts. Normally, this interaction is reflected in language convergence, borrowing and replacement. It may also lead to the emergence of hybrid languages, such as pidgins, creoles, and other mixed languages.

Language is considered to be an important phenomenon, and many linguists have been studying it for years. Multilingualism has always been common in the human history. In the today's world of globalization, most people became multilingual, and there is much language variation. Therefore, studying the aspects and functions of language is a significant matter.

First of all, it is important to remember that all languages change though time due to various reasons. These reasons include drift, which means tendencies within the language to change due to structural imbalances, dialect interference, and foreign interference (Thomason and Kaufman, 1991). Various factors may lead to

the dialect diversity and even to language splits. Therefore, any language may have numerous offspring (Thomason and Kaufman, 1991).

It is obvious that when the speakers of a language get more power, this language becomes more influential. Thus, such languages as Latin, Sanskrit, Greek, Arabic, French, Chinese, Russian, and of course English have experienced the periods of global importance. As a result, they have all influenced each other in some ways as well. In the present days of globalization, the number of languages becomes less every day, because they either become mixed or are replaced by other ones.

Language is the physical, physiological, anthropological and social phenomenon. A condition of its existence is human society. It is the phenomenon of human civilization. Language is the most important feature of socialization, because every day people communicate, adapt to their environment, interacting with social groups.

Specific and practical manifestation of language in different spheres of life is provided by special form which is called **parole** (meaning "speaking"). There are two linguistic terms **Langue** (meaning "language") and **parole** (meaning "speaking"), distinguished by Ferdinand de Saussure in his *Course in General Linguistics*. **Langue** encompasses the abstract, systematic rules and conventions of a signifying system; it is independent of individual users. **Langue** involves the principles of language, without which no meaningful utterance, "parole", would be possible. **Parole** refers to the concrete instances of the use of **langue**. This is the individual, personal phenomenon of language as a series of speech acts made by a linguistic subject.

To understand the role of language in society it is necessary to consider its functions. A language has a number of **functions** vital to society, social groups and every human being in particular. In the linguistics science is distinguished different classification of these functions.

The well-known model of the functions of language introduced by the Russian-American linguist *Roman Jakobson*. The functions are the following, in order:

1. **Referential** (референційна – від англ. refer – стосуватись чогось);
2. **Emotive** (емотивна – від англ. emotion – душевне хвилювання);
3. **Conative** (конативна – від англ. conation – здатність до вольового руху);
4. **Phatic** (фатична – від грецьк. phatos – пророкування);
5. **Metalingual** (металінгвістична – тлумачна);
6. **Poetic** (поетична).

Austrian linguist *Karl Bühler* distinguished the other functions such as: **representative** (репрезентативну), **expressive** (експресивну) and **appellative** (апелятивну).

According to Ukrainian scientist Stanislav Semchynskiy the main and the most important functions of language are **communicative** (комунікативна) and **cognitive-reflective** (пізнавально-відображальна) in their indissoluble unity.

Summarizing all of the classifications we can prove that the often mentioned functions of language are the next:

1. **Communicative.** The sense of it is that language is used for communication, exchange of information in all areas of communication – science, industry, culture and business relations.

2. **Nominative.** This is the naming function. Language is a means of naming objects and events, attributes and quantities actions and states of the world. And in spite of the same reality, each nation sees the world differently. For example, the Japanese are distinguished and called at least 50 shades of red, and the Eskimos have 40 types of snow (depending on the size of snowflakes, the time of a snowfall or with the wind or no wind it was). Ukrainian language is the original language picture of the world of the Ukrainian nation. Comparing some Russian and Ukrainian words we can notice the differences mentality of our people: *виховати* (заховати від зла) – *воспитать* (кормити); *лікарня* (лікувати) – *больница* (терпіть біль); *весілля* (веселитися) – *свадьба* (свататись, поріднитися),

подружжя (дружба) – супруги (запряжені), шлюб (від злюб) – брак (від брати), свято (святий) – празнувать (гуляти), шанувальник (від пошана, повага) – поклонник (поклоняться, поклонение).

3. Epistemological or cognitive. Man learns the world not only through experience, but also through language, which is the sum of knowledge about the world.

4. Thought creative. Language is the means of creating, expressing and sharing thoughts.

5. Expressive or emotional. It is expression of feelings, emotions, ability to influence the feelings of others.

6. Culturological. Language is the foundation of the culture of every nations.

7. The function of Identification or combining, recognizing (unites speakers in temporal and spatial dimensions). Through the language we understand ourselves like Ukrainian. Each of us has our own "language passport", which shows all the parameters of our "I", such as: the national-ethnics, social, cultural, religious and age identification.

8. Aesthetic. A language fixes aesthetic tastes and preferences of its speakers, besides, speech sonority, harmony of form and content are themselves a source of aesthetic pleasure.

9. Magical-mystical (the ability of language to influence human consciousness and subconsciousness through spells, charms, hypnosis). People since the dawn of civilization believed in magic of words, therefore some words were simply not allowed.

3. Ukrainian language among the other languages in the world. Formation and development of the Ukrainian language.

Ukrainian language belongs to the Indo-European family of languages and the eastern group of Slavic languages. All Slavic languages are divided into West Slavic (Polish, Slovak, Czech and Sorb language); South Slavic (Serbian, Croatian,

Macedonian, Bulgarian, Slovenian) and East Slavic (Russian, Ukrainian, Belarusian). Interestingly, the Ukrainian language vocabulary by 38% different from the Russian, 32% of Slovak, 30% of Polish and 16% of Belarusian.

Accordingly, Ukrainian shared in the historical development of all three branches of the Slavic languages. Today Ukrainian borders on Russian in the east and northeast, on Belarusian in the north, and on Polish, Slovak, and two non-Slavic languages—Hungarian and Rumanian—in the west. Before the steppes of southern Ukraine were resettled by the Ukrainians, this was an area of contact with various Turkic languages, such as Crimean Tatar.

Within its geographic boundaries Ukrainian is represented basically by a set of dialects, some of which differ significantly from the others. Generally, however, dialectal divisions in Ukrainian are not as strong as they are, for example, in British English or in German. Traditionally, scholars have divided Ukrainian dialects into three main groups, the northern dialects, the southwestern dialects, and the southeastern dialects, and these have been subdivided further. Standard Ukrainian, which is accepted as such by the speakers of all the dialects and represents Ukrainian to outsiders, is a superstructure built on this dialectal foundation. It is the only form of Ukrainian taught in school and, except for clearly regional manifestations, used in literature. The standard language is based mainly on the Poltava–Kyiv dialects of the southeastern group, but it also contains many features from other dialects, particularly the southwestern ones.

The question of the origin of Ukrainian language and is still the subject of much attention of researchers. There are different views on the origin of the Ukrainian language. The exact date can not be established, because the phonetic, lexical and grammatical features that distinguish a language from a panel accumulated over the centuries. Most of authors agree that Ukrainian was formed not earlier VI – VII century AD.

There are different concepts of the historical development of the Ukrainian language. The main current hypotheses are two:

1. The concept of the scientist-linguist *Shevelov* - Ukrainian directly released from the Proto-Slavic language. The period of “common spoken ancient language” does not exist.

2. Concept of the Russian linguist *Shakhmatov*. He justified the selection of the Ukrainian language from the Common Old Russian or Common East Slavic. The other linguists belong to this view, such as A. Krimsky, L. Bulakhovsky, Y. Karpenko, A. Gorbach.

3. Innovative hypothesis of the origin of Ukrainian language is the *Alexander Tsaruk's* concept. The scientist denies the division of Slavic Languages at East Slavic, West Slavic and South Slavic; according to his theory Ukrainian language is closer to the Polish and Belarusian than to Russia¹.

Schematically, history of Ukrainian origin can be represented as follows: Indo-European language (3 thous. BC) – Old Slavic language (1 thous. BC – 5-7 century AD) – East Slavic, West Slavic language.

4. The concept of the state language. Language legislation and language policy in Ukraine

National language is a broad concept, this is a language of nation, which was formed on the basis of nationality, a nationwide language that exists in two forms: a) in the highest form of a nationwide language *-the modern Ukrainian literary language*;

¹1. Концепція вченого-мовознавця, славіста, доктора філософії академіка Юрія Шевельова — українська мова безпосередньо виділилася з праслов'янської мови. Періоду спільносхіднослов'янської мовної єдності (спільної розмовної давньоруської мови) не існувало.

2. Концепція російського мовознавця Олексія Шахматова. О. Шахматов, А. Кримський, Л. Булаховський, Ю. Карпенко, О. Горбач — учені-мовознавці, що обґрунтували виділення української мови зі спільноруської (або давньоруської, спільносхіднослов'янської). З праслов'янської мови виділилася спільносхіднослов'янська і лише потім, на її основі утворилася українська мова. Ф. Медведєв, М. Жовтобрюх, Ф. Філін — радянські науковці, що розробили офіційну концепцію радянської історіографії щодо походження російської, української та білоруської мов (її основою стала концепція О. Шахматова). XIV ст. — початок самостійної історії східнослов'янських народностей та їхніх мов

3. Новаторською гіпотезою походження української мови є концепція Олександра Царука. О. Царук заперечує поділ слов'янських мов на східнослов'янські, західнослов'янські та південнослов'янські; згідно з його теорією українська мова більше наближена до польської та білоруської (належачи до «антської підгрупи»), ніж до російської (що належить до «словенської підгрупи»).

b) in the lower forms of a nationwide language *-its regional and social dialects and jargons.*

Language policy is a system of political, legal and administrative measures aimed at regulating relations in the state language. The legal basis for the national language policy in Ukraine are:

- The Constitution of Ukraine, in particular Article 10 (1998);
- Decision of the Constitutional Court of Ukraine on the use of the state language by state authorities, local self-government and its application in the educational process and educational institutions of Ukraine (December 14, 1999);
- Law of Ukraine "On Ratification of the European Charter for Regional or Minority Languages" (2003).
- Law of Ukraine "On the Principles of State Language Policy" (August 8, 2012).

Under the Judgment of the Constitutional Court of Ukraine with regard to usage of the state language (1999), “the **state** (official) language means a language provided by the state with the relevant legal status for obligatory interaction in public spheres of social life”.

The state status of the Ukrainian language is secured by the **Constitution of Ukraine** (1998). Thus, Article 10 of this document says, “Ukrainian shall be the state language in Ukraine. The state ensures comprehensive development and functioning of the Ukrainian language in all spheres of social life throughout the whole territory of Ukraine. In Ukraine, free development, usage, and protection of the Russian language and languages of other ethnic minorities is guaranteed”. Article 12 is also important in the language policy: “Ukraine takes care of satisfying the national, cultural, and language needs of Ukrainians residing outside Ukraine”. A series of articles of the Ukrainian Constitution contain requirements on obligatory knowledge of the state language by the President of Ukraine (Article 103) and by professional judges (Article 148).

Until recently, the **Law “On Languages in the Ukrainian Soviet Socialist Republic”** was in force; adopted on 28 October 1989, it was the first to fix the state status of the Ukrainian language, guaranteeing its comprehensive development and usage in all spheres of social life. This law was superseded by the **Law “On the Grounds of the State Language Policy”** (unofficially – the Kolesnichenko-Kivalov Law or the “language law”) signed by the President of Ukraine on 8 August 2012.

This law stipulates that Ukrainian is the state language, however the law also substantially expands the use of regional languages, if the number of native speakers of such languages comprises at least 10% of the population of a certain region, and sometimes even less than 10%. Thus, Article 7 of the mentioned law **obliges** citizens residing on a certain territory where a particular regional language or that of an ethnic minority functions, **to develop and use such a language in the government and local authorities, associations of citizens, institutions, organizations, in educational etc.** This law covers 18 languages: Russian, Belarusian, Bulgarian, Armenian, Gagauz, Yiddish, Crimean Tartar, Moldovan, German, Modern Greek, Polish, language of the Roma (Gypsy), Romanian, Slovak, Hungarian, Rusyn, Karaite, and Krymchak.

The issue of the state status of the Ukrainian language is complicated, contradictory, and painful. A part of the Ukrainian politicians, as well as of the Ukrainian population support implementation of Russian as the second state language. It is true that certain countries have 2-3 state languages. For instance, Switzerland has 3 – *German, French, and Italian*; Belgium also has 3 – *French, Dutch, and German*; Canada has 2 – *English and French*. However, such a situation in these countries appeared due to compact territorial division of ethnic groups speaking different languages. In reality, the mentioned countries have monolingual territories, several languages being used only in the government authorities. Ethnic groups of various origin live in Ukraine, however their percentage is minor, without clear territorial division. Apart from that, none of the above countries experienced linguicide.

Linguicide (language extinction) means conscious and purposeful destruction of a certain language as the main feature of a particular ethnic group. The Ukrainian language survived **173 bans** in the course of the 18th-19th centuries. Among the most famous are: 1753 – decree on prohibition of teaching the Ukrainian language at Kyiv-Mohyla Academy; 1789 – decree of the Polish Parliament on closure of Russian orthodox parish schools; 1863 – order of Ministry of Internal Affairs P.Valuyev, prohibiting to publish textbooks, popular literature, as well as religious books in the Ukrainian language; 1876 – the Ems Ukaz of Alexander II, prohibiting import of books and brochures in the Ukrainian language to the Russian Empire, as well as theatre performances and even printing text for music notes in the Ukrainian language. This martyrology can be continued... Therefore Y.Shevelyov's statement about survival of the Ukrainian language as a "linguistic miracle" sounds quite fair.

Implementation of Ukrainian as the state language has its history. At first, Ukrainian (named Russian or language of Rus at that time) became the state language in the 15th century – the official language of the Lithuanian-Russian Principdom: it was used for legal documents and court proceedings. The *Law Code* of the Great Prince Casimir IV (1468) applied at courts throughout the country, even in Cracow, and the *Lithuanian Statute (1529)* were also written in the language of Rus. This situation existed till the year 1569 i.e. till the Union of Lublin.

The next stage for maintaining Ukrainian as the state language was the period of the Tsentralna Rada, the Ukrainian People's Republic, the Hetmanate, and the Directorate, when the Ukrainian language was implemented into education as well as into public and political life. The following quotation from the Tsentralna Rada's address "To the Ukrainian People" dated 22 March 1917 can serve as an example: "The Ukrainian People! The centuries'-old ties have fallen. The whole oppressed nation has met its freedom... This is the time to awaken for a new, free, creative life after over two hundred years' sleep. For the first time, you,

o the thirty million people, will be able to speak for yourself, who you are and how you wish to live...”

In Soviet times, Russian served as the state language in reality, though free development of all national languages of the USSR was declared. The linguicide continued, but through degradation of the status and prestige of the language rather than its prohibition: complete Russianization took place: 1938 – Resolution “On Obligatory Learning of the Russian Language in the National Republics of the USSR”; 1958 – Provision on learning the second language (Ukrainian) “according to the wish of students and their parents”; 1978 – Resolution of the Central Committee of the Communist Party of the Soviet Union on extended studying of the Russian language and literature; 1983 – Resolution on extended studying of the Russian language, division of classes in Ukrainian schools into two groups, and **15% raise of salaries to Russian language teachers.**

It was only in the end of 1980s that all spheres of life were democratized. In 1989, the Law “On Languages in the Ukrainian Soviet Socialist Republic” was adopted, aimed at protection of the Ukrainian language and its comprehensive development and functioning in all spheres of social life.

Only on 28 June 1996, the Constitution of Ukraine recognized Ukrainian as the state language. In spite of the existence of Ukraine as an independent country and the official status of the Ukrainian language, the impact of the numerous years of Russianization and assimilation of the Ukrainian people will be felt for a long time, which is demonstrated by the deformed language situation in Ukraine. The Ukrainian language is being steadily squeezed out from numerous spheres of life, with the number of native speakers diminishing progressively.