

## LANGUAGE SECURITY AS A GUARANTEE OF PRESERVING THE SPIRITUALITY OF THE NATION IN TODAY'S CONDITIONS

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*У статті йдеться про одну з основних європейських цінностей — мовну безпеку. Висвітлено ідентичність як важливий стабілізуючий фактор, пов'язаний з мовою. Охарактеризовано значення національної мови в умовах військової агресії та економічної кризи. Обґрунтовано залежність духовності нації від мовної безпеки.*

**Ключові слова:** мовна безпека, національна мова, духовність, ідентичність.

*The article deals with one of the basic European values, namely, the language security. The identity as an important stabilizing factor in the connection with language is highlighted. The importance of the national language in the conditions of military aggression and economic crisis is described. The dependence of the spirituality of the nation upon the language security is presented.*

**Keywords:** language security, national language, spirituality, identity.

Each sovereign state ensures compliance with its borders, which define the territory where it independently resolves its own internal and external political issues. First of all, we are talking about territorial, political and economic borders, but the ability to defend cultural, spiritual and language borders is no less important for the security of the state, to guarantee the non-interference of other states in its internal affairs and independence in international affairs.

An important stabilizing factor of such an amorphous and unstable concept as identity is the connection with language. Language serves as a means of expression and formation of ethnic self-awareness, satisfies the cultural and spiritual needs of the people, and is one of the most important ethno-consolidating peculiarities of identity. As a social phenomenon, language has greater stability due to its inertia.

In the conditions of military aggression and economic crisis, special attention should be paid to the national language, despite popular opinion. To become a single nation, you need to have something that unites its representatives, who often belong to different ethnic groups. Such a unifying factor usually becomes national identity, which consolidates society, unites it in conditions when it is necessary to confront an external threat or solve internal problems. Its core is

the national language — an active sign of belonging to the circle of «ones», a means of self-identification as a representative of a certain nation. [1, с. 45]

It has been known for a long time that language is an important factor in national security. Art. 6 of the Law of Ukraine «On the Basics of National Security of Ukraine» (2003–2018) stated that the priority national interests of Ukraine include, among other things, «providing the development and functioning the Ukrainian language as the state language in all spheres of public life on the entire territory of Ukraine»[3], and the threat to the national security and interests of Ukraine in the social and humanitarian spheres are manifestations of the moral and spiritual degradation of society (Article 7), which, without a doubt, should include and show contempt for the state language. By declaring independence, the people (nation) exercise their natural right to self-determination. And although today they talk much about the fact that globalization processes lead to the blurring of the classic «nation-state» sovereignty. [2, с. 10] However, it is the nation-state that has shown the greatest stability over the centuries as a form of self-organization, self-determination, and self-expression of the nation. Only the unity of people on the basis of a system of values, language, culture, and customs can become strong enough, on the one hand, to protect against external threats, and on the other hand, for joint non-conflict living in a certain territory, that is, for the formation of a sovereign state. Hence, every young state begins delineating its territorial, cultural, spiritual, informational and language borders clearly [4].

The young state must implement a purposeful and consistent language policy, otherwise the assimilation of its population by the former colonizer will continue. Strengthening the state language is an important prerequisite for the state to assert its right to exist. Ukrainian-Russian bilingualism, which they tried to present as an «important asset» of Ukraine, was formed here over several centuries as part of the Russian Empire and almost a century as part of the Soviet Union. Within the boundaries of both states, Ukrainian lands underwent a powerful purposeful linguistic assimilation, but the tactics and means of it differed. The pre-Soviet era was marked by external pressure on the Ukrainian language, its numerous direct bans on Ukrainian book printing and removal of books in Ukrainian, the closing of Ukrainian schools, bans on Ukrainian theater performances and even church services, etc. During the Soviet period, they resorted to the deformation of the Ukrainian language system itself, violently replacing specific Ukrainian units and models with Russian or close to Russian ones.

It was the wide presence of the Russian language in the information space of Ukraine that enabled Russia to conduct active political propaganda, exacerbating separatist sentiments and enabling the invasion of Ukrainian territory.

Since language conflicts are only one of the symptoms of deep tectonic ruptures in society, their solution lies far beyond the boundaries of linguistics or even the cultural, spiritual or educational sphere. Their adequate settlement is a condition for preserving the unity of the nation, eliminating separatist sentiments, and therefore guaranteeing national security.

Language can be a vivid marker of identity for some people or ethnic group as a whole and not be so for others. The association between language and identity depends on the social context where a certain ethnic group is located. For some groups, language may be a more important component of identity than for others. In a number of ethnic communities, the loss of any ethnic feature, in particular the loss of language, does not lead to assimilation, but causes a kind of disruption of ethnic self-awareness, which seeks other symbols of ethnic heredity.

The national language is an important dimension of the national security of the state, one of the most effective factors for the unification of society. If this is ignored and the conditions for the spread of the language of the former colonizer are preserved in the future, then Ukraine risks developing not as an independent, but as a post-colonial state.

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