



# **LANGUAGE, IDEOLOGY, AND TRANSLATION IN UKRAINE**

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# 1

## LANGUAGE POLICY: EXPLORING ITS IMPACT AND IMPLICATIONS

### LANGUAGE POLICY OF UKRAINE OVER 30 YEARS OF INDEPENDENCE

Research is needed to analyze and evaluate state policy on the functioning of languages in post-Soviet Ukraine, with particular attention to the main trends and fluctuations in the political actions of the Ukrainian authorities regarding changes in language legislation. A thorough analysis of the Language Laws – the 2012 and 2019 editions – and an assessment of their subsequent impact on Ukrainian society is crucial. Key to this is the analysis of the necessity of introducing the position of Language Ombudsman in Ukraine and her role in ensuring compliance with language legislation.

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**Azhniuk, B. (2017–2018). Ukrainian language legislation and the national crisis.** *Harvard Ukrainian Studies*, 35(1/4), 311–329.

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The paper discusses the significant role of language in Ukrainian nation-building and its ongoing political implications. Despite the

constitutional status of Ukrainian, the introduction of the 2012 law aimed to expand the use of Russian, leading to linguistic segregation and diminishing the role of Ukrainian. The repeal of this law in 2014, sparked concerns of potential unrest and calls for balanced language policies to maintain national unity. The paper emphasizes the tension between protecting minority language rights and ensuring the dominance of the state language, using examples from European legislation to argue for a more integrative approach to language policy.

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**Ажнюк, Б. (Ред.). (2019). *Мовне законодавство і мовна політика: Україна, Європа, світ*** [Language legislation and language policy: Ukraine, Europe, the world]. Київ: Видавничий дім Д. Бурого.

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The collection of scientific papers explores the impact of legislation and state institutions on preserving or transforming language situations according to societal ideals. The papers address the balance between aligning language policies with national interests and fundamental human rights. They emphasize the responsibility of states to support linguistic diversity, including endangered languages, as advocated by international documents like the European Charter for Regional or Minority Languages.

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**Ажнюк, Б. (2021). *Мовна політика: Україна і світ*** [Language policy: Ukraine and the world]. Київ: Видавничий дім Дмитра Бурого.

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The monograph focuses on the significant role of language legislation and state institutions in influencing the preservation or

transformation of language parameters in line with societal ideals. It highlights the critical importance of the Ukrainian language as a cornerstone of national unity and security, crucial for the survival of the Ukrainian ethnic identity. The book addresses the qualitative aspects of the language, including purity, standardization, and richness of stylistic means, which are essential for passing the language to future generations. It also delves into the linguistic and legal issues surrounding language policy, emphasizing the need for language policies to align with national interests and fundamental human rights. The monograph underscores the responsibility of states to support linguistic diversity and protect languages historically or currently present within their territories. Furthermore, it discusses the implementation and potential manipulation of the European Charter for Regional or Minority Languages and other international documents, reflecting on language policy practices in Ukraine and other countries.

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**Kulyk, V. (2021). *Мовна політика в багатомовних країнах: Закордонний досвід та його придатність для України*** [Language Policy in Multilingual Countries: Foreign Experience and Its Relevance to Ukraine]. Kyiv: Дух і Літера.

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The book titled *Language Policy in Multilingual Countries: Foreign Experience and Its Relevance for Ukraine* explores the language policies of multilingual nations around the world. Kulyk offers a comprehensive analysis of the current state and historical origins of language policies in seventeen countries. He delves into how these policies have evolved and their impact on national and regional language dynamics. The author also examines how successful foreign language policies might be adapted to the Ukrainian context,

considering Ukraine's unique linguistic landscape. This comparative study aims to provide insights and recommendations for shaping effective language policy in Ukraine, drawing on international experiences and practices.

## 2

## **LANGUAGE AND IDEOLOGY. LANGUAGE AND IDENTITY. THE ETHNO-NATIONAL STRUCTURE OF CONTEMPORARY UKRAINIAN SOCIETY. BILINGUALISM. SURZYK**

There is a need to examine key issues that reflect the current state of Ukrainian society and determine the direction of the development of the state language - Ukrainian - as well as the influence of other languages, primarily Russian, on the formation of Ukrainian identity. This includes an analysis of Ukrainian–Russian bilingualism and the problem of language mixing.

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**Besters-Dilger, J. (Ed.). (2009). *Language policy and language situation in Ukraine: Analysis and recommendations*. Peter Lang.**

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The collection of scientific papers delves into the intricate and often inconsistent language policy landscape in Ukraine. Despite Ukrainian being the sole state language, nearly half of the population favors Russian for everyday communication, creating tension between the government's Ukrainianization efforts and the needs of Russian-speaking citizens. This volume presents a comprehensive analysis by ten scholars who examine the anthropological, linguistic,

and sociopolitical aspects of Ukraine's language situation. The book offers recommendations for future language policies that aim to promote the Ukrainian language across the entire country while also protecting the rights of non-state languages. The work provides valuable insights into the challenges and potential strategies for harmonizing language use in Ukraine.

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**Besters-Dilger, J. (2007). *The Ukrainian language in education and mass media.* *Ukrainian Philology and Linguistics in the Twenty-First Century*, ed. Michael S. Flier, *Harvard Ukrainian Studies*, 29(1-4), 257-293.**

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The paper discusses the bilingual nature of Ukraine, as revealed by the 2001 national census, where a majority of the population identified Ukrainian as their mother tongue, while a significant part also declared Russian. Despite the apparent language loyalty, a large percentage of Ukrainians and Russians in Ukraine claim fluency in both languages, often speaking a mixed variant known as surzyk.

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**Bilaniuk, L. (2005). *Contested tongues: Language politics and cultural correction in Ukraine.* Ithaca, NY: Cornell University Press.**

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Bilaniuk examines the linguistic and cultural tensions in Ukraine during the 2004 "Orange Revolution," a period marked by significant political upheaval. The book explores how the close yet contentious relationship between Ukrainian and Russian languages reflects deeper historical and ideological divides within the country. Bilaniuk challenges simplistic categorizations of "Ukrainian" and "Russian,"

revealing how these labels are shaped by shifting social and political contexts. Her ethnographic research, combined with historical analysis, sheds light on the social dynamics and power struggles surrounding mixed language practices like surzhyk. Author offers a new perspective on the role of language in shaping identity and social legitimacy in times of political instability.

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**Kulyk, V. (2014). What is Russian in Ukraine? Popular beliefs regarding the social roles of the language.** In L. Ryazanova-Clarke (Ed.), *The Russian language outside the nation* (pp. 117–140). Edinburgh University Press.

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This paper examines the complex social roles of the Russian language in Ukraine, despite its decreased use since the dissolution of the USSR and the promotion of Ukrainian as the state language. It explores how Russian continues to play a significant role in various aspects of Ukrainian society, including media and popular culture, due to its status as a native and primary language for many Ukrainians. The study highlights how the legitimization of Russian in certain roles often leads to its broader use, reflecting its enduring presence in daily communication and cultural contexts. The paper argues that this discrepancy between legal status and social perception influences both public and elite opinions on the language's role and status in Ukraine.

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**Масенко, Л. (2020). Конфлікт мов та ідентичностей у пострадянській Україні** [Conflict of languages and identities in post-Soviet Ukraine]. Київ: Кліо.

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In *Conflict of Languages and Identities in Post-Soviet Ukraine*, Larysa Masenko examines the intricate language conflict in post-Soviet Ukraine. She explores the historical and socio-political roots of the tension between Ukrainian and Russian speakers, emphasizing the role of language policies in shaping national identity and regional dynamics. Masenko contends that resolving this conflict necessitates a nuanced understanding of how language and identity intersect in Ukraine's diverse society. Her book provides a thorough analysis of the challenges and potential pathways toward linguistic and cultural reconciliation.

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**Масенко, Л. Т. (2004). *Мова і суспільство: Постколоніальний вимір*** [Language and society: Postcolonial dimension]. Київ, Україна: КМ «Академія».

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The book discusses the linguistic dynamics in Ukraine, highlighting the importance of evaluating the prevalence and functional capacity of Ukrainian and Russian languages. It examines two main indicators: demographic power, based on the number of speakers, and communicative power, determined by the range of communicative functions each language serves. The Ukrainian linguistic situation is depicted as imbalanced, with a significant portion of the population using Russian as the interethnic communication language despite Ukrainian being the state language. The historical and contemporary challenges of Ukrainian language preservation are explored, emphasizing the influence of colonial and Soviet policies on language use and the impact of Russian dominance in media and education.

## 3

## THE LANGUAGE ISSUE IN THE POLITICAL DISCOURSE OF POST-SOVIET UKRAINE. LANGUAGE CONFLICTS. HATE SPEECH. LANGUAGE AND PROPAGANDA

There is a need to describe and analyze new practices in political and parliamentary communication, considering the language issue. It is important to pay attention to the conflicts generated by the language problem in Ukraine.

In light of the war between Russia and Ukraine, studying speech strategies and practices in wartime discourse becomes crucial. Additionally, examining the role of inherited language in the context of migration processes, especially in relation to forced emigration since 2022, is also noteworthy.

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**Moser, M. (2013). *Language policy and the discourse on languages in Ukraine under President Viktor Yanukovich (25 February 2010–28 October 2012)*. Ibidem Press.**

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Michael Moser offers a comprehensive analysis of Ukraine's linguistic landscape during a politically charged period. The book examines the policies and discourses surrounding language under Yanukovich's presidency, highlighting key figures such as Vadym Kolesnichenko and Dmytro Tabachnyk, who significantly influenced language policy. Moser explores the impact of the European Charter of Regional or Minority Languages and the contentious legal and political maneuvers that shaped language policy, including the controversial draft law of September 2010. Through detailed analysis of legislative actions, media representations, and educational reforms,

the book provides insight into the struggle between Ukrainian and Russian languages and their roles in national identity and politics.

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**Knoblock, N. (Ed.). (2022). *Language of conflict: Discourses of the Ukrainian crisis*. Bloomsbury Academic. <https://www.bloomsbury.com/us/language-of-conflict-9781350098626/>**

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The collection of scientific papers explores the intricate relationship between language and conflict by examining public discourse in Ukraine and Russia since the 2014 Ukrainian Crisis. This volume delves into trends of language aggression, evaluation, and persuasion, shedding light on how various social groups construct competing narratives and worldviews about the crisis. The book highlights how individuals directly impacted by the conflict express and cope with social discord, economic hardship, and violence. Contributors analyze discursive strategies such as categorization, stance, framing, and manipulation, emphasizing the active role of communicators in shaping the conflicting discursive images of the situation. This collection offers valuable insights into the conscious and strategic use of linguistic resources in conflict communication.

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**Müller, D., & Wingender, M. (Eds.). (2022). *Language politics, language situations and conflicts in multilingual societies: Case studies from contemporary Russia, Ukraine and Belarus*. Harrassowitz Verlag. <https://doi.org/10.13173/9783447392365>**

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This volume addresses a wide range of issues regarding language politics and situations in multilingual societies in Eastern Europe,

combining theoretical insights with empirical research, including mass surveys and focus group discussions. It features a methodological-theoretical introduction to linguistic conflict research, followed by three thematic sections on language interactions, language politics, and language situations. This is the second volume of an international sociolinguistic project comparing bilingual and multilingual contexts in contemporary Ukraine and Russia.

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**Romaniuk, S. (Ed.). (2024). Досвід війни: Медійно-дискурсивний простір сучасної України** [The experience of war: The media-discursive space of modern Ukraine]. Warsaw, Poland: Wydawnictwo Uniwersytetu Warszawskiego.

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The monograph *The Experience of War. Media-Discursive Space of Modern Ukraine* focuses on the deep analysis of media discourse in Ukraine during the full-scale Russian-Ukrainian war, highlighting its interdisciplinary nature. It explores how media language shapes national identity and affects public perception of events, including changes in language use. The contributions include studies on linguistic innovations, the impact of disinformation, and the role of media strategies in shaping reality both within Ukraine and beyond. Additionally, the book examines the significance of new terminology in the context of the war, adding another important dimension to understanding media discourse, especially about the war in Ukraine.

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**Zabuzhko, O. (2009). Мова і влада** [Language and power]. In O. Zabuzhko, *Хроніки від Фортінбраса* [Chronicles from Fortinbras]. Kyiv, Ukraine: Fakt. Retrieved from <https://exlibris.org.ua/zabuzko/index.html>

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The chapter examines the impact of Soviet language policy on the Ukrainian language, likening it to linguistic genocide. He reflects on historical events, including the Ems Ukaz and Soviet efforts to enforce Russification through education and government structures. Zabuzhko emphasizes the role of language as a tool of power and control over human consciousness, and highlights the critical role of writers in defending language and national identity.

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**Kudriavtseva, N., & Friedman, D. A. (2023). Critical perspectives on language and power in Ukraine and Kazakhstan:**

**An introduction.** *Ideology and Politics Journal*, 2(24), 3–11.

<https://www.ideopol.org/wp-content/uploads/2023/09/0.2.-Introduction.pdf>

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This issue explores language and power relations in Ukraine in the post-Soviet context. The authors examine how political and ideological structures shape linguistic practices at both the macro-level of state policy and the micro-level of everyday language use. Using critical discourse analysis, the studies highlight the impact of Russian aggression and occupation, addressing the repercussions for language policies, ideologies, and identity formation. The focus is on how language operates as a tool for constructing identities and reproducing or contesting power relations.

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**Melnyk, S. (2023). Pen and sword: Tracing the ideological dimension of Ukraine's language-in-education policy in wartime.**

*Ideology and Politics Journal*, 2(24), 12–33. <https://www.ideopol.org/wp-content/uploads/2023/09/1.-Melnyk.pdf>

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This paper considers the current language-in-education policy in Ukraine within the broad context of language ideologies and sociolinguistic developments, which have taken place since Maidan. The author draws attention to the most recent changes in language education that have occurred due to the full-scale Russian invasion. Since the declaration of its independence in 1991, Ukraine has tried to balance the protection and promotion of Ukrainian as the sole state language, with the preservation of education in national minority languages through immersion education and bilingual schools and classes. Russia's war against Ukraine and its temporary occupation of Ukrainian territories have brought changes to the domain of language education.

## 4

### **THE BATTLEFIELD IN THE MEDIA SPACE: DISPELLING KREMLIN NARRATIVES**

The following key areas highlight how information and discourse are actualized to shape perceptions, counter disinformation and construct social realities:

- ▶ Disinformation as a strategic weapon.
- ▶ The most common Russian propaganda narratives used for disinformation.
- ▶ How Western media counter Russian propaganda myths and narratives with verified facts.
- ▶ Structural forms of discourse and their relation to social practices.
- ▶ Ideologically polarized positioning as a method of constructing social actors and groups.
- ▶ The strategy of presenting a positive Self and a negative Other to emphasize polarity.

- ▶ Discursive strategies of positioning.
- ▶ Stylistic devices employed to implement these discursive strategies.

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