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The Impact of Extralingual Factors on the Language Situation of Modern Ukraine

Abstract: *The aim of the research is to study the impact of extralingual factors on the current language situation of Ukraine in the context of the dehumanization and cosmopolitanization of the modern globalized world. The research employed such methods as analysis of open sources and empirical data of sociological research, content analysis of Internet publications and factor analysis, and observation. The results of the study show that the language situation in Ukraine has radically changed over the past few years in terms of its main parameters: quantitative, qualitative, and evaluative. The main factor of these changes is hybrid and direct Russian aggression, which has become the greatest threat to political independence and territorial integrity of Ukraine, as well as the existence of the Ukrainian nation. The analysis evidenced that despite the powerful destructive influence of various extralinguistic factors on the language situation in the state, its evaluation characteristics have significantly improved. Constant monitoring and systematic comprehensive analysis of the language situation will contribute to the harmonization of the language space of Ukraine.*

Keywords: *Ukraine, language situation; extralingual factors; state policy; socio-political factors; hybrid and direct aggression.*

Introduction

Relevance

The era of global changes prompts many researchers to carefully study the impact of various extralinguistic factors on the language situation both in a particular country and throughout the world. On the one hand, the researchers focus on the processes of extinction, dematerialization, decline of languages under the influence of globalization and the crises caused by it - political, economic, ecological, demographic, climatic, etc. On the other hand, the last decade is characterized by the increased interest of domestic and foreign researchers in the problems of self-regulation of a particular language community, its ability to create and change reality, successfully counteract external threats and internal crises, form and convey its own vision of the world, and therefore influence the world (Abduvali, 2020). It is significant that one of the main concepts of modern sociolinguistic research is the “language situation”, which is studied to better understand the specifics of human existence and the language community in the globalized world, and to more deeply understand the essence of the daily changes in the development of society. The linguistic environment is Ukraine, like in any other country, is constantly changing (Mooney, 2024). A feature of modern Ukrainian existence is being in the epicentre of hybrid threats, on the edge of life and death. The borderline situations reveal what often remains hidden, invisible in the conditions of stable customary existence (Sydorenko and Matsko, 2020).

Analysis of the impact of extralingual factors, such as political processes, socio-cultural transformations, media and the Internet, war, migration, economic factors and others, on the language situation is of strategic importance for understanding modern language trends and developing an effective language policy (Mukhammadjon, 2022; Hubert Lyall, 2020).

Aim

The aim of the article is to study the impact of extralingual factors on the language situation of modern Ukraine in the context of the dehumanization and cosmopolitanization of the modern global world.

Objectives/questions

1. Analysis of the language situation in Ukraine;
2. Conducting a content analysis of online periodicals with the aim of identifying extralingual factors;
3. Carrying out a factor analysis of the development of the language situation in Ukraine.

Literary Review

Studying the impact of extralingual factors on the language situation is very important, as it provides a better understanding of the processes of language policy formation, changes in language practices and their relationship with socio-cultural, political, and economic processes. Such an analysis contributes to the development of effective strategies for the preservation of linguistic identity, the development of language education, and contributes to the support of the linguistic rights of citizens.

The work of Selihei (2023) is important in the context of the analysed problems. The researcher denotes communicative power as an extremely important parameter of language life, emphasizing the peculiarities of the modern language situation in Ukraine. In particular, he notes that the Ukrainian language has not yet acquired the status of an obligatory language in interethnic communication within the country. For the most part, this function is performed by Russian and English languages. The researcher claims that Ukraine with a single state language actually still remains bilingual with the prospect of transition to trilingualism. Selihei (2023) insightfully indicates the threat of narrowing spheres of functioning of the state language, reduction of its communicative power using the example of active processes of displacement of the Ukrainian language by English from the sphere of science and higher education, which are supported and encouraged by the current government in every possible way. The researcher emphasizes the important role of the elite in raising the prestige of the Ukrainian language, in establishing it as a symbol of power and success. Understanding the problems of the modern existence of the Ukrainian language, the researcher emphasizes the dependence of the stable position of the language on the general state of the economy. He notes that the state that strengthens the national economy thereby also strengthens its national language.

The study of Hrytsenko (2021) reveals the specifics of the linguistic structure of the state and outline the features of the language

situation in Ukraine during the last 30 years. The researcher emphasizes unsatisfactory state of retention of the Ukrainian language, as well as the need to increasing the role of the Ukrainian language in strengthening the unity of the state. The low effectiveness of the general and higher education of Ukraine in the formation of strong positions of the Ukrainian language in society, the Ukrainian mentality of children and youth was noted. The author rightly emphasizes the relevance of a sociolinguistic analysis of the functioning of languages in different regions of the state as a prerequisite for formulating accurate assessments of the language state and forecasting the development of language situations, preventing the use of language in information wars and the production of social tension. The researcher states the strengthening of Hungary's open offensive expansion policy in Transcarpathia, the sharp narrowing of the education of Hungarian youth in the Ukrainian language in recent decades, their exclusion due to ignorance of the Ukrainian language from the national space. He states that "inattention to language planning and language construction of the state and the functioning of languages in each region, underestimation of the importance of correct resolution of language use issues create the ground for inciting conflicts, manipulative use of language issues to achieve political, economic, and military goals" (Hrytsenko, 2021).

The book by Masenko (2019) is a collection of essays written between 2016 and 2019. The author focuses on the issues of language policy and reflect the struggle of civil society for the approval of the state status of the Ukrainian language. The book covers the methods of disinformation, lies and manipulations that the Russian authorities resort to in order to maintain their control and influence on the territory of Ukraine. The researcher analysed in detail the technologies of using Russian-speaking environments as a potential bridgehead for the further absorption of the Ukrainian state. The book is an important source for understanding the modern challenges faced by Ukrainian society in the conditions of aggression and information warfare by Russia.

The studies in which the peculiarities of the functioning of languages in a specific region of the country are investigated are of great importance for the understanding of the modern language situation in Ukraine. In *Essays on the Language Situation in the Ukrainian Danube Region* of Novak (2023), outlined the main differential features of the region's linguistic situation. The author characterizes it as multi-component complex exoglossic (a non-indigenous language that is used as an official or second language in a particular country or community)

interaction of idioms (dialects) of different languages: Bulgarian, Gagauz, Albanian, Romanian, Ukrainian, Russian, etc.); endoglossic (competing dialects and standard languages); unbalanced (components are functionally unequal and are distributed by areas of use). The specifics of the studied region are that the Ukrainian language performs the functions of the language of official communication and education, Russian — the functions of the language of international and unofficial (oral and written) communication. It is notable that for informal written communication they use purely Russian language, which the residents of the region are fluent in. The work also notes that Turkey, Albania, and Bulgaria have been actively pursuing a policy of support for compatriots in this region over the past three decades.

The specifics of the language situation and language policy in Transcarpathia since the declaration of independence of Ukraine were clarified in the studies of Shumytska (2021, 2022). In particular, the problems of functioning of the Ukrainian language in the region were identified, and the inadequate level of its state support and protection was noted. According to the researcher, the lack of a clear language and political vector in the country, the sporadic nature of appropriate measures for its approval, their formalization in regions with their specific geopolitical features that can significantly affect the language and political situation cause a situational shake-up of public attitudes, while being a convenient purposeful manipulative tool.

In recent years, there has been a growing interest of Ukrainian researchers in the study of the language situation in a certain socially significant area. In her work, Danylevska (2019) noted a positive dynamic in maintaining the Ukrainian language in the school education system, which is manifested primarily in the levelling of the language situation in accordance with the ethnic composition of the population in the regions and the state in general. This trend is confirmed by the increasing number of students involved in learning in the Ukrainian language from 1991 to 2017: (49.3% and 89.7%, respectively).

According to Danylevska (2019), the results of the mass survey give reasons to state that the sphere of school education is assessed by the citizens of Ukraine as the most Ukrainianized (41.5% of the respondents think so). In ten years, this indicator has increased by 10%, which is an objective confirmation strengthening the position of the Ukrainian language in school. The conducted thorough research revealed a significant unevenness of the language situation in the field of school education by region. The language environment of schools in the

West of Ukraine is assessed as entirely Ukrainian-speaking by 96% of respondents, which almost coincides with the official statistics of the number of students studying Ukrainian (this indicator in the region is 97.8%). It is 82% in the Centre (99% learn Ukrainian), and 75% in the North (98.4% learn Ukrainian). In the East and South, the discrepancy between the respondents' assessment and the data of official statistics is more significant: 35% against 71% according to statistics and 49% against 82.2%, respectively. A thorough analysis of teaching in schools in the languages of national minorities testified that school education has not yet become a tool for establishing the Ukrainian language as the language of interethnic communication in the state. It was noted that the formalization of the study of the Ukrainian language as the state language caused a low level of proficiency by graduates of schools of national minorities and an aggravation of the language conflict in the education system.

A study by Antropova et al. (2020) examines the concept of the existence of socially motivated variants of language. The authors explain them by sociolinguistic differentiation and specific use of language in different communication situations. The dialectical connection of the objective world, society and language makes the latter especially dynamic, which is manifested in active language processes at all levels of language and in language innovations. Sociolinguistic options not only demonstrate different images of the world, but also reflect changes in the world depending on culture, which, in turn, is reflected in the specifics of linguistic phenomena.

Methods
Design

The research was organized into several stages, each having its own peculiarities and duration. Table 1 contains a detailed description of each of them, including the content and period of implementation. It provides detailed information about how the research was conducted.

Table 1. Research stages

Research stages and their tasks	Terms	Diagnostic methods	Sample
SUMMATIVE STAGE: – Development of a plan for conducting an experiment;	March 2023 - December 2023	Standard general scientific methods	Open international and

– Selection of methods for studying the impact of extralingual factors;			Ukrainian sources
CONTROL STAGE: - Conducting content analysis of online periodicals in order to identify extralingual factors. - Carrying out factor analysis and correlation analysis.	February 2024 - March 2024	Analysis of open sources. Factor analysis.	

Source: created by the authors of the study

Participants

The content of the following online publications was examined: All-Ukrainian online publications Ukrainska Pravda (<https://www.pravda.com.ua/news/>), BBC Ukraine (<https://www.bbc.com/ukrainian>), Radio Svoboda (<https://www.radiosvoboda.org>). Regional Internet editions 056.ua (Dnipro) (<https://www.056.ua>), 061.ua (Odesa) (<https://www.061.ua>). Also, materials from the reports of international and Ukrainian organizations (World Economic Outlook (<https://www.imf.org/>), UNHCR (<https://data.unhcr.org/>), Civic Network OPORA (<https://www.oporaua.org>)).

Materials from reports of international and Ukrainian organizations (World Economic Outlook (<https://www.imf.org/>), UNHCR (<https://data.unhcr.org/>), Civil Network OPORA (<https://www.oporaua.org>)) were also used.

Instruments

The corpus manager Wordsmith 5.0 was used to work with texts. All data are given in relative units (%).

Data collection

1. *The method of analysis of open sources.* This method is an important tool in research involving the collection, evaluation and interpretation of publicly available information. This approach enables obtaining the necessary data from a wide range of sources, including official documents, academic publications, news articles, blogs, social media, and other open platforms.

2. *Content analysis of online publications.* Qualitative and quantitative research method was used for systematic analysis of textual information in order to identify content characteristics and structural features of texts. The method allows researchers to distinguish significant

themes, motifs, and patterns in textual data, which can be useful for understanding a wide range of social, cultural, and communicative phenomena.

3. *Factor analysis.* The method made it possible to analyse extralingual factors related to language policy in Ukraine. The factors taken into account are presented in Table 2.

Table 2. Extralingual factors of changes in the language situation in Ukraine in 2022-2024

Factor	Explanation
Geopolitical factors	The increased level of threats
Political factors	The modern language policy of Ukraine is aimed at establishing the Ukrainian language as the state language in all socially important spheres and ensuring the linguistic and cultural needs of national minorities. The government’s formal approach to resolving issues of language use in the regions contributes to the instigation of conflicts by various political forces both inside and outside the country, which destabilize the language and political situation and threaten the territorial integrity of the state.
Economic factors	The agrarian raw low-tech model of the economy of modern Ukraine does not contribute to the growth of the economic power of the Ukrainian language. The competition between languages has significantly intensified in the global economy. As a result, the range of use of national languages is narrowing in favour of the expansion of international languages, especially English as a global language.
Social factors	The deepening of the social crisis, a significant decrease in funding for the development of domestic science and education significantly reduce the competitiveness of the Ukrainian language as a language of international communication, do not contribute to its full functioning in the scientific, educational, informational and communicative space of Ukraine.
Military factor	The full-scale invasion of February 24, 2022 changed the language situation in Ukraine. The decrease in the population due to hostilities and migration had a significant impact on the number of native speakers on the territory of Ukraine and the communicative power of the Ukrainian language. At the same time, hybrid and direct Russian aggression accelerated the transition of a significant proportion of Russian-speaking citizens of Ukraine to communicating in Ukrainian in various spheres.

Source: created based on Lorenz et al. (2022).

Analysis of data

1. The analysis of the obtained data was carried out using statistical correlation. The Pearson test was used to determine the correlation coefficient:

$$r_{xy} = \frac{\sum(x_i - \bar{x}) * (y_i - \bar{y})}{\sqrt{\sum(x_i - \bar{x})^2 * \sum(y_i - \bar{y})^2}}$$
 (1)

where x_i – the value of X;
 y_i – the value of Y;
 \bar{x} - arithmetic mean for X;
 \bar{y} - arithmetic mean for Y.

2. The Cronbach alpha reliability coefficient indicates the internal consistency of the test items. The Cronbach alpha is calculated by using the formula:

$$\frac{N}{N-1} \left(\frac{\sigma_x^2 - \sum_{i=1}^N \sigma_{Y_i}^2}{\sigma_x^2} \right),$$
 (2)

where σ_x^2 – the entire test score variance;
 $\sigma_{Y_i}^2$ – the i element variance.

Ethical criteria

The ethical aspects of this research are important and require careful consideration to ensure the safety and well-being of participants. Confidentiality and anonymity must be guaranteed to protect participants and encourage them to express their opinions honestly. Participants should fully understand the purpose and process of the study and how the information they provide will be used. It is important to consider the emotional impact of questions and topics to avoid discomfort or stress. It is necessary to adhere to the deontological principles of respect for personal dignity and beliefs. Any form of discrimination and indirect influence on participants’ responses must be avoided.

Results

First of all, the reliability and validity of the research methods were checked using Cronbach’s alpha reliability coefficient. It should be at least 0.75 for such types of research. The results of the calculations are presented in Table 3.

Table 3. Analysis of the validity of research methods

Method	Description	Validity analysis (Cronbach’s alpha)
Factor analysis	Analysis of extralingual factors related to language policy in Ukraine	0.78

Source: created by the authors of the study

So, based on the received results of testing the methods, it can be stated that Cronbach’s alpha of all methods is greater than/equal to 0.75. Therefore, it can be concluded that the chosen method is reliable. The next step was to conduct a content analysis of journalistic discourse. Its results are presented in Table 4.

Table 4. Generalization of impact factors on the language situation in Ukraine

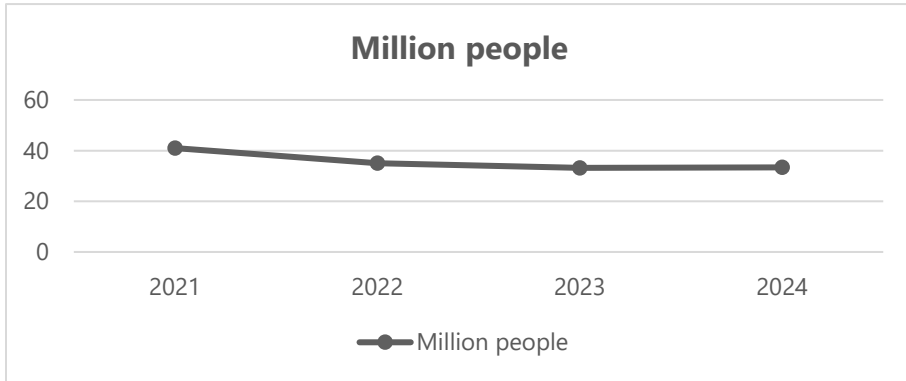
Factor	Impact
Level of education	Respondents with higher education more often use the Ukrainian language at home, at work, with friends, read books and articles in Ukrainian, watch TV shows and movies in Ukrainian, listen to music in Ukrainian, use the Internet in Ukrainian, consider mastery of Ukrainian important for success
Age	Younger participants of the study turned out to be more active users of the Ukrainian language in various spheres of life. They choose the Ukrainian language for communication at home, at work and with friends, as well as for reading books and articles, watching TV shows and movies, listening to music and using the Internet.
Region of residence	Residents of Western and Central Ukraine turned out to be more active users of Ukrainian in various spheres of their lives. They prefer Ukrainian for communication at home, at work and with friends, as well as for reading books and articles, watching TV shows and movies, etc. They also believe that the language situation in Ukraine is not stable.
National self-identification	It was found that respondents who identify themselves as Ukrainians show a preference for using Ukrainian in various aspects of their lives. They use Ukrainian at home, at work, in communication with friends, as well as for reading books and articles, watching TV shows and movies, listening to music and using the Internet.
The deepening of the demographic crisis	Armed Russian aggression (2022-2024) caused a significant increase in mortality among both the military and the civilian population, in particular, children. A significant decrease in the birth rate is observed. The quality of the country’s demographic potential is deteriorating. There is a sharp decrease in the number of speakers as a result of the rapid reduction of the population.
Large-scale forced migration	The hostilities force many citizens of Ukraine to leave their homes and move to other countries that have an active integration policy at the state level and are interested in the quick assimilation of Ukrainian refugees.

Source: created by the authors of the study

The main factor in the significant reduction of Ukraine’s population is full-scale Russian aggression. Fig. 1 shows the dynamics of

changes in the population of Ukraine according to the World Economic Outlook.

Fig. 1. Dynamics of changes in the population of Ukraine according to IMF data



Source: created based on International Monetary Fund (2024); Eurostat (2017)

Analysing the data presented in the figure, it can be stated that there was a rapid reduction of the population of Ukraine during 2022-2024. This factor is essential in the context of changing the language situation. According to the Ministry of Foreign Affairs, 8.2 million Ukrainians were abroad as of June 21, 2023. According to the most recent data of Eurostat, the number of Ukrainian refugees in Europe remained at the level of the end of 2023. At the same time, some changes in gender and age parameters were recorded. In particular, the percentage of men among Ukrainian refugees has slightly increased. But there is a slight decrease in the percentage of women and children. According to the UN Refugee Agency (UNHCR), as of February 15, 2024, there are 6 million Ukrainian refugees registered in Europe who left Ukraine after the start of the war on February 24, 2022. Another 475,600 migrants are outside Europe (<https://data.unhcr.org/en/situations/ukraine>). Such indicators of migration have a significant impact on the language situation, because the number of speakers in Ukraine is decreasing, and native speakers abroad use other languages. Ukraine lost 15% of its pre-war population, mainly young women with children, which significantly affects the country's demographic situation. Table 5 presents the dynamics of changes in the population of Ukraine for 2022-2024.

Table 5. Changes in the number of the population in Ukraine for 2022-2024

Criterion	2022	2023	2024 (forecast until the end of the year)
Total number	43.528.136**	37 110 000**	31 000 000**
Population density	42 people/km ²	35 people/km ²	29 people/km ²
Birth rate	7.3 ‰	5.6 ‰	4.5 ‰
Mortality	18.5 ‰	21.2 ‰	22.7 ‰
Natural growth	-11.2 ‰	-15.6 ‰	-18.2 ‰
Migration growth	0.9 ‰	13.7 ‰	8.0 ‰
Population losses caused by war	-	4.0 mln**	5.7 mln**

Source: created based on Ministry of Finance (2023); State Statistics Service of Ukraine (2024), Tomeiko (2021)

However, we should note that the indicators of the population in Ukraine on the eve of full-scale Russian aggression are inaccurate. The last census in the state was conducted in 2001, and this caused constant manipulation of numbers. So, for example, according to the State Statistics Service, the population in Ukraine was 41.2 million people as of January 1 2022. And within the framework of the preparation of the state budget, this department submitted another figure - 34.5 million people. Explaining the discrepancies, the State Statistics Service emphasized that it included 41.2 million people in the figure in the occupied territories of Donetsk and Luhansk regions since 2014.

Since 2022, the population of Ukraine has significantly decreased as a result of the war. According to various estimates, about 8 million people left the country, and more than 4 million died in the hostilities. Natural population growth has decreased dramatically due to falling birth rates and rising death rates. Population density has decreased significantly due to population decline and forced displacement of people. The demographic situation in Ukraine remains complex and requires taking measures to stimulate the birth rate, preserve people's lives, and attract those who left back to the country. It should be noted that various statistical sources record the deterioration of the quality of the country's demographic potential, which is determined by the number of citizens under the age of 17. In 2021 their share in the structure of the permanent population of Ukraine remained at the level of 17.9% (National Institute

of Strategic Studies, 2022). These indicators changed with the beginning of full-scale Russian aggression. More than 30 percent of all forced Ukrainian migrants are children. As the demographic crisis is a defining feature of the modern era of globalization, it is especially noticeable in the countries of Western civilization, it is not difficult to predict that many countries, in particular European ones, will improve their demographic situation at the expense of Ukrainian migrants.

It should be noted that while Ukraine is assessing minute-by-minute losses of people and damage caused by the war, the authorities of other countries are calculating not only their expenses for supporting Ukraine in the war with Russia, but also their profits from this war, in particular, recording the significant contribution of Ukrainian forced migrants in the development of the economy, in the improvement of the quantitative and qualitative demographic indicators of their countries.

So, today, as for centuries in a row, the purposeful destruction of the Ukrainian identity, and therefore the language, can be traced by two main methods – the method of physical destruction and the implementation of a purposeful assimilation policy. Both methods have a destructive effect on the language situation and significantly lowers the level of primarily communicative power of the Ukrainian language, because its existence tomorrow directly depends on the communicative power of the language today.

Table 6 presents the dynamics of internal population migration for 2022-2023.

Table 6. Dynamics of internal population migration in Ukraine for 2022-2023

Period	The direction of migration	Number of migrants (estimate)
2022 (February-March)	From the east and south to the west of Ukraine	7 million
2022 (April-June)	From the east and south to the west of Ukraine	2 million
2022 (July-September)	Return to the territories freed from occupation	1 million
2022 (October-December)	Movement within the western regions	0.5 million
2023 (January-March)	Return to territories freed from occupation	1.5 million
2023 (April-June)	Movement within the western and central regions	0.7 million

Source: created based on Ministry of Finance (2023); State Statistics Service of Ukraine (2024), Tomeiko (2021)

The above table show that the migration of 7 million people to the west of Ukraine at the beginning of the war led to the integration of Russian-speaking residents from the eastern and southern regions into predominantly Ukrainian-speaking communities. This mixing encouraged increased bilingualism and interaction between language groups. The return of the population to the territories freed from occupation from July to September 2022 (1 million) and from January to March 2023 (1.5 million). Movement within the western regions in October-December 2022 (0.5 million) and in the western and central regions in April-June 2023 (0.7 million) contributed to the strengthening of the Ukrainian-speaking environment, as these regions are traditionally Ukrainian-speaking. Table 7 presents the main trends in the use of the Ukrainian language after February 24, 2024.

Table 7. The main trends in the use of the Ukrainian language after February 24, 2024

Indicator	Data
Reducing the use of the Russian language in everyday life	Significantly decreased since March 2022
Mother tongue for the interviewees	82% - Ukrainian, 16% - Russian
Use of both languages or Russian by internally displaced persons and refugees	More common
Native language for IDPs and refugees	More than 70% consider Ukrainian as their native language
Reducing the use of the Russian language at home	From 13% in August 2022 to 9% in May 2024
Dates of the survey conducted by the Kyiv International Institute of Sociology	May 16-22, 2024
Topics of the survey conducted by the Kyiv International Institute of Sociology	The level of unity of Ukrainian society and the reasons for possible disunity

Source: created based on Hrytsenko (2021)

The table shows that since March 2022, Ukraine has seen a significant decrease in the use of the Russian language in everyday life. Currently, 82% of respondents consider Ukrainian to be their native language, while 16% consider Russian to be their native language. At the same time, internally displaced persons (IDPs) and refugees staying abroad are more likely to use both languages or speak Russian. However, more than 70% of IDPs and refugees also consider Ukrainian as their native language.

At the same time, different sociological studies and our observations confirm that the issue of the relationship between language identity and language practice remains relevant. Although the neighbouring state's full-scale war against Ukraine has significantly accelerated the transition of many Ukrainian citizens to Ukrainian, a large number of speakers still use Russian in everyday communication.

Table 8 presents the dependence of changes in the language situation with the influence of extralingual factors.

Table 8. Dependence of changes in the language situation on extralingual factors

Factor	Correlation coefficient	Description
Political factors	-0.85	High negative correlation. Increasing political instability.
Economic factors	-0.72	A moderate negative correlation. A low standard of living, unemployment, and poverty stimulate emigration and reduce the birth rate.
Social factors	-0.68	A moderate negative correlation. The low level of social security, the availability of education and medical services have a negative impact on the dynamics of the population.
Cultural factors	-0.55	A weak negative correlation.
Military factor	-0.90	Very high negative correlation. The war causes large population losses (deaths, injuries), as well as large-scale migration, destruction of infrastructure, deterioration of living conditions.

Source: created by the authors based on research results

Changes in the language situation in Ukraine are caused by many extralinguistic factors, the most significant of which are military, political, economic, and social. It is worth noting that the hybrid and direct Russian aggression revealed the significant miscalculations of the Ukrainian authorities (current and previous) in the linguistic structure of the state. For example, the situation with Ukrainian refugees who received temporary shelter in other countries testified that, despite the promotion of the theory of multilingualism within the European Union, which has been cultivated for a long time in Ukraine, the authorities of each country pursue an active integration policy at the state level, encouraging adult migrants to attend language courses and obliging their

children to be educated in the official (state) language. Although English has a very strong position as a lingua franca on the territory of European and many other countries, the language of the titular nation is decisive for national identity and it is it that performs the unifying function in the multilingual environment of a certain country.

Discussion

The obtained results indicate a significant influence of extralingual factors on the use of the Ukrainian language in society. Trends have been revealed that confirm the importance of the political, economic, and socio-cultural spheres for the language situation in Ukraine. This can be observed in the studies of Boyko (2021) and Faez, Karas and Uchihara (2021). On the other hand, the negative correlation between migration and sociocultural influence indicates the importance of supporting the Ukrainian language in mass culture and society in general (Siebenhütter, 2020). The research findings emphasize the need for a comprehensive approach to language policy, which takes into account various aspects of the political, economic, and cultural situation in the country.

Extralingual factors, such as the military, political, economic and sociocultural context, play an important role in the formation of language environment. This research shows that they determine the extent to which language is used and perceived in different social and cultural settings. The results obtained in the study of Semenyshyn (2023) indicate that the political context can have a great influence on the language situation in the country. The current study found that internal migration has a significant impact on the language situation in Ukraine. The mass movement of people caused intense mixing of language communities in different regions of the country, increase in bilingualism and interaction between people who speak Ukrainian and Russian languages (Chondrogianni et al., 2023). Returning to liberated lands and moving to Ukrainian-speaking regions contributed to the preservation and strengthening of the Ukrainian language. These processes show how important social and demographic changes are for the development of the language situation in the country.

A study by Curdt-Christiansen and Huang (2020) demonstrates that the development of the economy can contribute to increasing the status and popularity of the language used in economic spheres. The sociocultural context includes cultural and social norms that influence the perception of language in society. Studies by Pangrazio, Godhe and

Ledesma (2020) and Wei (2022) indicate that cultural or social groups may attach more importance to a particular language because of its historical or cultural importance. According to this study, a significant decrease in the number of speakers of the Ukrainian language occurred as a result of the rapid population decline and migration caused by full-scale Russian aggression.

Language development is not necessarily subject to extralinguistic factors such as political, economic or sociocultural context. Studies by Widmann (2021) and Rowe and Weisleder (2020) show that internal factors such as education, individual characteristics and communication influence language ability and language proficiency. Regardless of external conditions or stimuli not related to extralinguistic factors, a person can potentially develop language skills and language proficiency. According to the works of Bilewicz and Soral (2020) and Jost, Baldassarri and Druckman (2022), a person's linguistic stability allows him to withstand the influence of external factors.

The theoretical significance of the research is the expansion of knowledge about the relationship between the language situation (in local or global dimensions) and extralinguistic factors (Suurmeijer, Parafita Couto and Gullberg, 2020; Vergis and Pell, 2020). The results of the study help to better understand how the social, economic, cultural and political environment can affect language use, the communicative power of the language, and its prestige. Understanding the impact of extralingual factors makes it possible to more effectively adapt language teaching methods, develop language policies and promote linguistic equality in different socio-cultural environments. The obtained results can also be useful for language planners and politicians who are faced with the task of preserving and developing different language communities.

Limitations may arise from the use of certain research tools or approaches that may not consider all aspects of the problem.

Conclusions

The obtained data make it possible to better understand the dynamics of language development in the country, identify priority areas of language policy, and determine strategies for strengthening the status and use of the Ukrainian language in various spheres of society. The research findings show that the language situation in Ukraine has radically changed over the past few years in terms of its main parameters: quantitative, qualitative, and evaluative. The main factor of these

changes is hybrid and direct Russian aggression, which has become the biggest threat to the political independence and territorial integrity of Ukraine and the existence of the Ukrainian nation. Other factors are directly related to this factor: geopolitical, political, demographic, economic, social, which significantly affect the latest language situation in the country, which is determined by the crisis, instability, and deformity in the conditions of full-scale aggression. However, the analysis evidenced that despite the destructive influence of various extralinguistic factors on the language situation in the state, its evaluation characteristics have significantly improved. The war intensified the social consolidation processes, accelerated the transition of a significant number of Russian-speaking citizens of Ukraine to communication in the Ukrainian language in various spheres. The results of the study can be used to develop strategies and programmes aimed at supporting and developing the Ukrainian language in conditions of hybrid challenges and threats. Further research can be focused on the study of extralingual factors on the development of the Ukrainian language in emigration.

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