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## THE LANGUAGE OF THE REPATRIATES FROM NOWOGRÓDEK AND THE SURROUNDING AREAS

### S u m m a r y

The amount of research that has been so far done on the Nowogródek variety of Polish is rather meagre. Therefore, a monograph on this issue seemed justifiable. The basis used for this research is the language of repatriates from Nowogródek, from Grabniki village (located 2km from Nowogródek and which up until the 1960s lay within the boundaries of this town) and a couple of other villages nearby. It also includes the language of their children, born between 1945 and 1956 in the territory that was incorporated by Poland after 1945. Several respondents represent a group of emigrants who left for the USA and Great Britain. Two people remained in Nowogródek after the Second World War. The repatriates, their children and the emigrants are the author's close and distant relatives, as well as relatives and friends of the author's parents, who come from Grabniki and Nowogródek.

The language material under analysis comes from 56 respondents and several written documents. It also includes speech features of the repatriates' children and grandchildren. Therefore, the total number of informants is 70. However, the bulk of the language material comes from about a dozen of them, while the remaining part comprises much smaller or at times even scant samples from the remaining tens of respondents. The source material on the language comprises 40% oral texts and handwritten texts, out of which 30% are of the informants' colloquial speech and c. 30% only handwritten texts. Some respondents exhibit various degrees of bilingualism (Polish-Belorussian), and there are several cases of trilingual people (Polish-Belorussian-Russian).

The author presents the conclusions on the presence of the linguistic features characteristic for the variety from the northern part of the Eastern Borderlands (Kresy), which are identified with reference to various features of phonetics, inflection and syntax in the oral and written texts of the repatriates.

The following phonetic features have been identified: vowel reduction (Yakanye), pronunciation of nasal vowels, *i* and *y* mixing, the pronunciation of 'ś', 'ź', 'ć' and 'ź' consonants, palatalisation of *s*, *z* in consonant clusters, de-palatalisation of palatal consonants in

consonant clusters, *-c||-ć*, *-ż||-ź* hesitation, *m||m* hesitation, *n||n* hesitation, the pronunciation of *l*, the pronunciation of *l*, *l||ł* hesitation, the pronunciation of *γ*, lengthening of the stressed vowels typical for north-eastern Borderlands speech.

The chapter devoted to inflection provides an overview of the following issues: hesitation in the gender of nouns, particular use of noun endings in the masculine, feminine and neuter declension, mixing hard roots of adjectives with soft, gradation of adjectives and adjectival adverbs, non-masculine personal forms of adjectives, adjectival participles, personal pronouns and ordinal numbers instead of masculine personal forms, non-enclitic pronoun forms instead of enclitic ones, the masculine personal pronoun *oni* instead of the non-masculine personal *one*, masculine personal accusative plural *ich* (*nich*) instead of the non-masculine personal *je* (*nie*), the first-person plural ending *-m* instead of *-my* in the present and simple future, perfect forms without endings, the past perfect (plusquamperfectum) and particular conditional forms.

Syntactical issues include among other things: the verb *jest* ‘sa’ as a linking verb in a complex predicate and as a simple predicate with a plural subject, the construction *u mnie jest* ‘mam’, the dative possessive: *być komuś* ‘mieć’, and the word order *się* in reflexive verbs.

This research provides an overview of the decades of linguistic integration of the repatriates and their children, i.e. their adjustment to the norm of common standard Polish. The main conclusion is that the level of such integration varied and was dependent on education, language environment, and personal attention towards the correct use of language.

In their local speech communities of Nowogródek repatriates and their children numerous unusual words were used, i.e. typical “Kresy” lexical items of Polish origin, frequent lexemes of Borderland (Kresy) origin, Belarusian-Ruthenian and Russian borrowings and expressives, potential formations, repatriates’ neologisms, words from common Polish (including colloquial ones) but really popular among the repatriates and their children, phonetic modifications (e.g. *brydki* instead *brzydki*) and morphological modifications *doczekać* instead of *doczekać się*, and *jelita* – a feminine form of the noun instead of the neuter *jelito*). The glossary attached contains over 4200 lexemes.

The Annex includes photocopies of informants’ handwritten material and selected photos.

*Translated by Rob Pagett*