

Abstract

This thesis deals with mixed hybrid Russian-Ukrainian language known as surzhyk with an emphasis on its reflection in contemporary Ukrainian literature. The aim of the thesis is to outline the basic features of the contemplation of literary surzhyk. The first part presents a general definition of the concept of surzhyk, its sociolinguistic definition, geographic and functional extension. Further on, it suggests the relationship between this phenomenon and its literary reflection – so-called literary (or also author's or conscious) surzhyk.

The following section reviews the reflection of literary surzhyk in theoretical works, both linguistic and literally theoretical. The use of literary surzhyk is discussed in detail in the major monographs dedicated to this phenomenon (Artur Bracki, Larysa Masenko, Salvatore Del Gaudio) and in the key works on Ukrainian postmodern literature and Ukrainian society (Tamara Hundorova, Roksana Charchuk, Ola Hnatiuk).

In the third part, Peter Mareš's concept of intratext multilingualism is taken over for further investigation of literary surzhyk. The paper tracks the forms of hybrid language in Ukrainian literature and what functions it performs here. Some specific forms of textual multilingualism have been introduced as the most appropriate for grasping literary surzhyk. Some of the more specific functions – value, comic, atmospheric, expressive, creative, but also nationally classifying, seem to be appropriate. There is a rapprochement of literary surzhyk and some other theoretical concepts: defamiliarization, metatextuality, exotism, orientalism. The speech with the properties of surzhyk is compared with similar hybrid linguistic phenomena, occurring in Russian and Polish literature.

The fourth part offers an analysis of selected works of contemporary Ukrainian literature, with an emphasis on the literary surzhyk contained therein. Some of its functions are specified, as well as attempts to determine the patterns of the surzhyk use in the texts of contemporary Ukrainian authors (Yury Andruchovich, Tanya Maljarchuk, Serhiy Zhadan and others).

The topic of coexistence of Ukrainian and Russian language in Ukraine and the product of such coexistence is most up to date and probably will not lose topicality.