

## **Abstract**

The study focuses on the assimilation tendencies of the Hungarian minority in south Slovakia in the rural area of Nitra, mainly observing the relationship of language and ethnicity, which form the minority identity in the framework of the modern Slovak national state. The work is based on the population census, according to which the number of Hungarian and Hungarian-speaking citizens in Slovakia is gradually declining. In this work, I try to support this fact with a case study from the emic perspective of Hungarians in Slovakia, who come from the area of the Podzoborie region Hungarian enclave. Thanks to its heterogenic composition and its proximity to a county city, the enclave offers valuable data in the research of assimilation and Slovak-Hungarian relationships. The main goal of the research was to name possible reasons and factors responsible for the degression of Hungarian self-identification and the knowledge of the Hungarian language in this area, which may be subsequently applied in the reasearch of language and identity of Slovak Hungarians in other parts of Slovakia. I work with the hypoteses that urbanisation, nationalism and exogamy influence rising assimilation of the minority and the demographic formation of said area.

**Key words:** Hungarian minority, Slovakia, assimilation, language, identity, nationalism