Abstract:

The aim of this thesis is to introduce the linguistic situation in Gibraltar. Main attention will be paid to the special local speech, which is traditionally called llanito.

To describe this phenomenon in all contexts, it must be set in the historical-cultural and linguistic context. The thesis is structured in order to clarify this context.

The introductory chapter outlines the history of Gibraltar, including a comprehensive overview of the most influential ethnic groups who greatly contributed to the origin and development of the specific Gibraltarian speech with their distinct languages and cultures.

Topic of the third chapter are the problems associated with the very concept of llanito. Attention is paid to the questions of terminology - alternative names for llanito are gradually analyzed, namely yanito or gibberish etc., and also hypotheses associated with these names.

The fourth chapter describes the language layers in which we find the most specific features of llanito (syntax, phonetics, vocabulary and phraseology), and the nature of these features.

The next chapter focuses on two Yanito dictionaries, both dictionaries containing Gibraltar terms and fixed expressions. These dictionaries are the only existing data base for llanito.

The final chapter describes the current linguistic situation in Gibraltar. Visions of renowned linguists of its future development are compared with those of native llanito speakers.

Key words: llanito and yanito, cultural and linguistic interaction, etymology, bilingualism, phraseology, yanito dictionaries, sociolinguistic situation in Gibraltar