Using of the language factor in modern conflicts of various levels

Uso del factor lenguaje en conflictos modernos de varios niveles

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Abstract

Language is the basis of a nation's cultural identity. The language is formed over the years, absorbing traditions, national identity, reflecting the peculiarities of everyday life, culture, crafts, traditions, and religion. The history of the people is clearly reflected in linguistic features. As a result of geopolitical processes, some languages of the world become more widespread or are considered languages of international communication, such as English, while other languages die out, turning into languages that are almost not used, and their use among peoples is artificially supported thanks to special cultural

programs. The article analyzes the real causes of conflicts based on the use of language and analyzes the current geopolitical situation. To confirm the hypotheses put forward in the article, the results of the conducted sociological survey and its interpretation with the projection of the results for the formation of geopolitical development trends based on the use of language issues in geopolitical positioning are given.

Keywords: national self-identity, language issue, geopolitical situation, language conflicts, international development, causes of national.

Resumen

El idioma es la base de la identidad cultural de una nación. El idioma se forma a lo largo de los años, absorbiendo tradiciones, identidad nacional, reflejando las peculiaridades de la vida cotidiana, la cultura, la artesanía, las tradiciones y la religión. La historia del pueblo se refleja claramente en los rasgos lingüísticos. Como resultado de procesos geopolíticos, algunas lenguas del mundo se generalizan o son consideradas lenguas de comunicación internacional, como el inglés, mientras que otras lenguas se extinguen, convirtiéndose en lenguas que casi no se utilizan, y se apoya artificialmente su uso entre los pueblos. gracias a programas culturales especiales. El artículo analiza las causas reales de los conflictos basados en el uso del lenguaje y analiza la situación geopolítica actual. Para confirmar las hipótesis planteadas en el artículo, se entregan los resultados de la encuesta sociológica realizada y su interpretación con la proyección de los resultados para la formación de tendencias de desarrollo geopolítico a partir del uso de las cuestiones del lenguaje en el posicionamiento geopolítico.

Palabras clave: autoidentidad nacional, problema lingüístico, situación geopolítica, conflictos lingüísticos, desarrollo internacional, causas de lo nacional.

1. Introduction

The formation of national self-awareness and identity takes place, firstly, using language, its study, use in everyday life, positioning in the world. Therefore, the territories that were under the rule of other nationalities during different historical periods are faced with the problem of preserving or restoring the wide use of the language that dominated this territory historically. States that have a certain influence on these territories (satellite states, former colonial states, states that have economic dependence, states that have gained independence and are only forming the foundations of their own statehood, etc.) try to maintain their geopolitical influence, including by seeking mechanisms of minimizing the processes of historical language development in these territories. The question of the impact on the language development of various historical periods, which contributed to the formation of the modern language ecosystem in the world, is relevant. Statistics are interesting, if we turn to the question of the most used language in the world by the number of native speakers, then among the main languages will be Chinese (1,296,461,000 people), Spanish (460,000,000 people), English (379 000,000 people), Hindi (341,000,000 people), Arabic (313,177,600). At the same time, the analysis of the

most widespread languages by the number of countries in which the language is considered native is a little different. In particular, English is the language of international communication, despite the fact that the area of the continent where this language originated is only 130 thousand square kilometers, English is spoken in 137 countries of the world. Arabic is spoken in 59 countries, French in 54 countries (although this language is not even among the TOP-5 languages used by most people on the planet). Therefore, these statistical data make it possible to determine the influence of language on geopolitical processes, and the formation of political, cultural, economic, and social dependence of states on the state whose language is the basic language in the country. At the same time, it is worth noting that such systems were formed in different historical periods, under the influence of different historical factors. Most of the language systems formed in the territories of those countries where the language is not native to people were formed by imposing this language, through military and civil conflicts, political influences, the conquest of territories, etc. So, the article determines the interdependence of the factors of language development and the formation of conflicts because of the language issue in different territories in different historical periods.

2. The purpose of the article

Therefore, the purpose of the article is to find the interrelationships of language issues in the origin and development of conflicts at different levels. In accordance with the goal of the research set in the article, the following tasks were completed:

- a retrospective analysis of language issues was carried out by analyzing outstanding historical events and their impact on the spread of the language at the global level,
- the conflicts that started on the basis of the resolution of the language issue were defined and analyzed,
- a sociological survey was conducted and its results were summarized, with the subsequent projection of the results on a modern map of military conflicts in the world,
- the search for ways to overcome crisis situations and conflicts that started due to the language issue was carried out.

3. Literature review

The beginning of the development of civilizations is usually equated with the development of speech and language. Initially, life in a collective, which was determined by the need for joint hunting and protection of one's territory, determined the requirement for the ability to exchange information - to create systems of sounds, and later symbols, understandable to a certain community, for the purpose of transmitting the information. The expansion and development of information transmission systems gradually led to the appearance of language and speech in humans (Green, and Scott (2011)). Historians associate the new civilized period of human development with the emergence of the communications system. The formation of the skill of speaking dates back to approximately 2.5 million years ago, during the period of Homo habilis. People of this

period did not yet have a language, but could produce a system of sounds that differed from each other, accordingly, their fellow tribesmen could understand the need that caused the appearance of a particular sound in another representative of the tribe (Park (2007)). With the development of different parts of the brain, researchers separately highlighted the development of Broca's area, which is responsible for the language area (Šubrt (2019)).

Therefore, the formation of the first civilizational formations is associated both with the processes of uniting people into groups to lead a common life, and with the emergence of speech, which helped representatives of the same group to communicate with each other, and also ensured their self-identification - the understanding of belonging to one or another group.

Changes in climatic conditions, the need to unite for protection not only from wild animals, but also from neighboring tribes who fought for access to better lands with drinking water and territories for hunting, determined the need to form not just groups, but to create these groups a certain hierarchy. The transition from a nomadic to a settled way of life determined new requirements for establishing a household, and an increase in the number of members of one group also determined the need for further development of the broadcasting system (Šubrt (2019)).

With the development of settled land use, certain social relations began to appear, which can be characterized as the seeds of the modern system of statehood. The first civilizations formed on the territory of Africa and Asia formed the seeds of statehood, and the basis of self-identification, the formation of people belonging to one state, even to one civilization, was language itself (Brokalaki, and Patsiaouras (2022)). The first written references to the way of life, life activities, culture, and traditions of ancient peoples, which were able to be preserved only thanks to the appearance of language and speech in the state, and later writing, have reached our times. Communications and writing helped form the mechanisms of state administration: records of historical events, orders, keeping records of household items, conducting trade transactions - all these processes became possible only when people learned to speak and, having developed a separate system of signs, to write. Language has become not only an element of identification of a person to a certain tribe, but also a means of developing household and economic relations. Therefore, the analysis of the first civilizations made it possible to determine the functions that language performed in ancient civilizations:

- self-identification, formation of belonging to a certain hierarchical group,
- running a household, trading operations,
- a way of passing down traditions from generation to generation.

With the development of shipping and the formation of a system of settlements of representatives of the same states in different territories, the movement of culture, peculiarities of life, traditions and languages across the territories that were mastered began. For example, during the Hellenistic period, the Greeks built their colonies

settlements on the territories of Southern Italy, Sicily, the coast of the Black and Azov seas, and near the southern coast of Asia Minor. The sociopolitical, economic, and cultural influences of the ancient Hellenes spread to these territories. Although over the years, most of the Greeks who settled in these territories were assimilated by those peoples who came to conquer these territories after the construction of city-polices there, local settlements of Greeks, their culture, traditions, and language continue to develop in the system of local diasporas (Kavoura, and Bitsani (2013), Ellis-Barrett (2017)).

If the Hellenistic period is characterized by the creation of new settlements, then the period of the antiquity of the Ancient Roman Empire was already characterized by the imposition of laws, rules, norms of life, lifestyle, traditions, culture, and language on those peoples who were conquered during the creation of the empire.

With the collapse of the Great Roman Empire and the beginning of the Age of Great Geographical Discoveries, the states of medieval Europe also began to spread their signs of self-identity to other countries: those they fought with or those they turned into colonies. The era of the great Christian campaigns determined the confrontation between the two faiths, Christian and Muslim (Salifu Mahama (2012)). In essence, the wars that lasted for a long period were very bloody and characterized by intolerance of people of one religion to people of another religion, in fact, they were caused only by the struggle for material resources and power over these resources (Sirin (2012), Maney (2005)). The ideological basis of these conflicts was intended only to justify to society the reason for their appearance because the material goods won during these wars went only to a small pro-government group, and the mass population had to understand that the struggle was waged precisely on an ideological basis (Uluğ and Cohrs (2017)).

Since the beginning of the colonial period, most of the participants of the conquering expeditions were nevertheless focused on the search for precious metals, minerals, and other resources that were expensive in the homeland and could provide a person with a safe existence. The ideological basis of these processes was no longer so fundamental, the conquistadors mastered new lands with the aim of forming settlements, recruiting slaves, and enriching themselves. The most prosperous lands of South America and Africa were conquered, and the population lost its identity, language, religion, and lifestyle and the system of state formation was imposed (Garcelon (2014), Odugu (2020)).

An important stage of social transformation was also the industrial revolution, which caused revolutionary currents in England, France, and other European countries, and the First World War caused the collapse of those empires that did not accept the changes of innovative development Austro-Hungarian Empire and the Russian Empire. The latter, both during the tsarist period and during the period of the Bolshevik regime, imposed its rules on the occupied territories and carried out violent Russification of the peoples who traditionally lived in these territories. With the annexation of new territories, either representatives of local clans loyal to the imperial authorities or directly imperial governors came to power, whose activities were aimed at destroying national self-identification,

including the destruction of the language, translation of books, textbooks, training, information sources into the Russian language, bans and suppression of the language of the peoples who lived in the occupied territory (Ismail (2014), Elliott (1986)). With the collapse of the Soviet Union, the issue of national self-identification of the independent states that regained their independence because of the collapse gained great relevance. Accordingly, the part of the population that was Russified or the Russian population that was resettled for the assimilation of territories, with the help of propaganda and information warfare, is used for the purpose of carrying out social transformations and provoking civil or military conflicts (Odugu (2020)). The results of the analysis were grouped and presented as an author's development - a retrospective matrix of causal relationships of the transformation of the language issue in the context of social challenges.

4. Methodology

The research is based on the analysis of the world's leading experience in solving language issues to prevent possible social and political conflicts. In order to provide a comprehensive analysis, the authors turned to the retrospective of the issue, using the methods of literary analysis of scientific periodicals, modern sources of information, where the analysis of cause and effect relationships of language issues, its development and conflicts between different countries, as well as civil conflicts is carried out. Conducting a retrospective analysis made it possible to make a projection of the influence of various states on the formation of the social system, including the language issue, which was drawn on the world map with the indication of historical periods and the results of certain historical processes. Projection and further analysis of trends by forecasting the development of events through the formation of a system of influencing factors on language development and geopolitical positioning made it possible to determine modern centers of possible conflicts. By conducting a sociological survey, analyzing its data, and confirming the reliability of the results by using correlation-regression analysis of the obtained results, the hypothesis of the influence of the language issue on global and local conflicts was put forward. As a result of the conducted research, recommendations were provided on the possibilities of avoiding language-based conflicts by implementing best practices of tolerance and tolerance as an element of sustainable development.

5. Results

Conducting a retrospective analysis of the development of historical processes, their impact on transformations in society and the role of language in these processes made it possible to develop a matrix of causal relationships of the transformation of the language issue in the conditions of social challenges - Table 1.

Table 1.

The matrix of cause-and-effect relationships of the transformation of the language issue in the conditions of social challenges.

Historical period	Causes of social transformations	Consequences of social transformations	The role of language in social transformations	A change in the spread of the language to other countries
Development of the first civilizations	Change in forms and methods of work, leading a household, transition to a sedentary lifestyle	The formation of the first state formations, the first self-identification of the population by belonging to certain social and public groups	Language became the basis of the hierarchical structure of the first civilizations, allowed people to self-identify in a certain group	The appearance of the first languages, alphabets, writing systems, etc. Formation of the first families of languages
Age of Hellenism	The development of shipping led to the formation of cities-settlements on the territory of the coast, which bordered the state of the Hellenes	The formation of social systems like the systems of the Ancient Greeks, which allowed territories to develop based on the best developments in the philosophical and social sciences	Exchange of scientific and philosophical knowledge, cultural exchange, formation of the foundations of Hellenistic state formation, development of the first cities-settlements through the spread of language, culture, and social development	The spread of the language in the territory where new settlements were formed
The era of the Great Roman Empire	Conquest of new territories for the purpose of enrichment and expansion of power	The formation of a powerful empire, the individual territories of which preserved their own self-identification: the language of tradition, everyday life	Language was not a problematic aspect of the formation of the empire, because the territories were subordinated primarily to the imperial authority, and national self-identification was not a priority of the conquerors	Language mixing through the first ever powerful globalization movement within a single empire
Colonial period	The Age of Great Geographical Discoveries and the superiority of numerous countries in technological development allowed the start of colonial wars of conquest on the American, African, and Asian continents	The colonizers destroyed the social order of the colonial territories, including social processes, religion, and language.	Language became a tool for the destruction of national self-identification and an opportunity to communicate with enslaved peoples without obstacles	The spread of Spanish, Portuguese, English, and French languages to the colonial countries of Africa, Asia, and America
The collapse of the empires of Central	Due to the obsolescence of	The collapse of the empires led to a	The restoration of national self-	An attempt to develop the national

and Eastern Europe	socio-political and socio-economic processes, which were caused by the inhibition of the processes of technological development due to obstacles from the ruling elites, the collapse of empires and their reformation took place	partial recovery of the national self-identification of the peoples that were part of them	identification manifested itself in the spread of the language of those peoples who were under the influence of the empire	languages of the peoples that were part of the empires
The period of Bolshevism	After a short period of support for national self-identification, Russification, and harsh terror of those who developed the processes of national self-identification began	Forced Russification had a significant impact on the formation of the culture and history of the peoples that were part of the USSR, national self-identification was destroyed and subordinated to the interests of the central government	Russification contributed to the spread of the Russian language to the regions and territories that were captured, the national languages of the territories were destroyed or subordinated to the interests of the central government	The spread of the Russian language to the countries of the post-Soviet space: Ukraine, Belarus, Kazakhstan, Turkmenistan, Tajikistan, Kyrgyzstan, Armenia, Georgia, Azerbaijan, Latvia, Lithuania, Estonia, Moldova
The overpopulation crisis	The rapid population growth of the countries led to the first position in the TOP language usage of the country with the largest population	Expanding the influence of countries with the largest population in economic and social development	The development of the economy and the need for a labor force, the involvement of high-tech specialists led to the greater popularization of the language of China and India, which were able to ensure the development of the economy, including due to many the labor force	The increasing number of people using Chinese and Hindi
Current state	The development of the processes of sustainable development, democracy, freedom, and tolerance determined the opportunities for national self-identification of countries that did not have such an opportunity	Formation of new principles of social development based on freedom and democracy	Language again becomes an element of national self-identification, its free use allows people to choose, the global nature of socio-economic processes led to the formation of the language of international communication - English	The formation of the modern number of languages and dialects

Therefore, analyzing the data in the table and the results of the retrospective analysis, it was determined that at the initial stages of the development of civilization, language

served as an element of communication to provide for everyday needs, later the issue of language became an issue of cultural exchanges and the development of society, but very soon the issue of language turned into mechanisms of influence of some social groups to others, from one state to other states. Thus, the manipulation of language and national identity issues turned into political issues.

It is possible to prove the hypothesis regarding the processes of political language manipulation for the purpose of developing conflicts by analyzing the relationship between the number of countries in which a certain language is spoken and the number of conflicts, which is presented in Table 2.

Table 2.
The relationship between political conflicts and the number of countries speaking the same language.

Language	Number of countries where this language is spoken	The number of conflicts on a national basis
English	137: UK, USA, Canada, Australia, New Zealand, Papua New Guinea and many other countries in Oceania, Ireland, East Africa, South Africa, Nigeria, Gambia, Ghana, Sierra Leone, Liberia, Guyana, Belize, most of the West Indies, Cyprus, Malta, Philippines	Anglo-Boer War 1899-1902, The Falklands War 1982, British colonial wars (1803-1805; 1814-1816; 1817-1818; 1823-1826; 1839-1842; 1845-1846, 1848-1849; 1845-1872), Black War in Tasmania 1819, Indian Wars. "Road of Tears" (1831), Sepoy uprising (1857-1858), Second Anglo-Burmese War (1852-1853)
Arabic	59: countries of North Africa, Saudi Arabia, Iraq, Syria, Yemen and other countries of the Middle East	
French	54: France, Monaco, Luxembourg, Belgium, Switzerland, Italy (Vallee d'Aosta), Canada (Quebec), West and Central Africa, Djibouti, Tunisia, Comoros, Vanuatu, USA (Louisiana)	Madagascar uprising 1947-1948, French Algeria (1830-1862; Rise of Abd al-Qadir)
Chinese	39: China, Taiwan, Singapore, Malaysia	Taiping Rebellion (1850–1864),
Spanish	31: Spain, South America (except Brazil, Suriname, Guyana and French Guiana), Mexico, Central America (except Belize), Equatorial Guinea, Cuba, Dominican Republic	Spanish War (for the independence of Catalonia) 1936-1939, Rif War 1921-1926, War for the independence of the Spanish colonies in America (1810-1826), First Pacific War (1864–1866), Cuba's Ten Years' War for Independence from Spain (1868-1878)
Persian	30: Iran, Afghanistan, Tajikistan, Uzbekistan	
German	28: Germany, Austria, Switzerland, Luxembourg, Liechtenstein, Belgium	The war of the second coalition 1798-1802,
Russian	19: Russia, Ukraine, Kazakhstan, Belarus, Lithuania, Latvia, Estonia, Kyrgyzstan, Moldova, Tajikistan, Georgia (as well as Abkhazia and South Ossetia), Armenia, Azerbaijan, Turkmenistan, Uzbekistan, Germany, Israel, USA and other countries	Gromadyanskaya war in Russia 1917-1922, The Hungarian crisis 1956, Czechoslovak crisis 1968, Romanian uprising 1989,

Turkish	4: Turkey, Germany, Bulgaria, Cyprus	Serbian uprisings (1804-1813; 1815-1817). Russian-Turkish war (1806-1812). Greek Revolution (1821-1830). Dispersal of the Janissary corps (1826). Russian-Turkish war (1828-1829). Bosnian uprising (1831), Crimean War (1853-1856), "April uprising of the Bulgarians" in the Ottoman Empire (1876), Greco-Turkish War (1897)

The table presents the military conflicts of the 19th-21st century, which related to the national liberation struggle. After analyzing all the conflicts that were presented in the table, the following reasons for the occurrence of wars based on national problems were identified:

– national liberation movement in the colonial and post-colonial periods,
– protection of national self-identity within empires,
– formation of national self-identity after leaving the power of empires,
– formation of national self-identity after the collapse of empires,
– protection of national self-identity when former empires try to regain their influence on the state.

The analysis also showed that those countries that did not spread the language through the processes of evolutionary development of civilization, and not through colonial ways, did not have military conflicts based on the language issue in recent centuries (in particular, countries where Arabic and Persian languages are widespread). Also, there were practically no military conflicts based on the language issue in China because the country also developed monolithically, and not by joining its empire of separate independent territories.

Imperialist influence consists in keeping pro-imperial elements in power, focusing attention on the formation of pro-imperial elites, and restoring control over resources. In this aspect, the place and role of the language issue as an element of influence on an independent state after its stay as part of the empire is interesting.

We can cite an example of using the language issue to restore imperial ambitions in the post-Soviet space. With the collapse of the Soviet Union, member states got the opportunity to form their own international, economic, and social policies. The restoration of national self-identity has begun: the development of education in the country's native language, the restoration and development of national culture, literature, and historical heritage. However, there was practically no change in the ruling elites, especially at the level of individual regions, which determined a certain influence of the Russian Federation on the processes of forming the sociopolitical system and the processes of state formation. Gradually, this influence was minimized due to generational changes and the formation of new social priorities. We present the data for analysis in Table 3.

Table 3.
Analysis of the language structure of the population of Ukraine 2001-2022.

Year	The fate of those who consider Ukrainian their native language in the population structure	The fate of those who consider Russian their native language in the population structure
2001	50,4%	29,6
2010	57%	25,3%
2022	83%	15%

Therefore, the analysis of statistical data on the language structure of the population shows a tendency towards a decrease in the number of the population that defines Russian as their native language. With the beginning of full-scale Russian aggression against Ukraine on February 24, 2022, the number of people who identify Russian as their native language has reached a historic low since the beginning of independence. At the same time, the number of people who define the Ukrainian language as their native language has increased significantly, which determines the high degree of self-identification caused by the full-scale invasion.

To determine the influence of the language issue on the formation of conflicts, a sociological survey was conducted among Ukrainians after the start of full-scale military aggression. The survey results are presented in Table 4.

Table 4.
Mutual coordination of influencing factors on the formation of conflicts.

Impact factor	Assessment of impact on a 10-point scale, respondents by age				The coefficient of correlation of indicators					
	18-25	26-35	36-50	51-more	F1	F2	F3	F4	F5	F6
F1 Language factor	8	8	7	5		-0,98	-0,98	0,98	-0,91	-0,81
F2 Economic factors	6	6	7	7	-0,98		0,904534	-0,98	-0,90	0,90
F3 Struggle for resources	6	6	7	8	-0,98	0,904534		1	-1	0,94
F4 Struggle for territories	4	4	5	6	0,98	-0,98	1		-1	0,94
F5 The struggle for human capital	5	5	4	3	-0,91	0,90	-1	-1		-0,94
F6 Geopolitical struggle	7	8	9	10	-0,81	0,90	0,94	0,94	-0,94	

Conducting a sociological survey among Ukrainians after the beginning of the full-scale military aggression of the Russian Federation against Ukraine made it possible to determine the high correlation dependence of numerous causes of conflicts in

independent territories that emerged from the composition of imperial formations through the analysis of correlation ties.

6. Discussion

So, as a result of the analysis, the factors influencing the formation of national self-identity and the struggle of peoples for it in the conditions of the colonial system and the formation and collapse of empires were determined. After analyzing the conflicts of the 19th-21st century, the main historical events that became the cause-and-effect relationships of their appearance were determined, in particular: the national liberation movement in colonial countries, the protection of national identity as part of empires, the formation of national identity after leaving the power of empires, when the former empires tried to regain their influence on the state. Language as an element of the formation of national self-identity was identified as one of the factors that can provoke conflict in the event of oppression. The analysis of post-Soviet independent countries, where the reverse influence is observed, became interesting. In connection with the Russification of parts of the empire during the period of the tsarist and Bolshevik regimes, in an attempt to restore the empire, the powers-that-be call not for national self-identity, but for the protection of imperial elements. In particular, the analysis carried out based on the results of a sociological survey on the causes of conflicts in independent territories that emerged from the imperial formations among Ukrainians after the beginning of the full-scale military aggression of the Russian Federation against Ukraine, through analysis of correlations, the following factors were determined to play a high role: the language factor, economic factor, struggle for resources, territories, human capital, geopolitical struggle.

7. Conclusion

Thus, as a result of the conducted analysis, a retrospective of the development of the processes of formation of conditions for the protection of national self-identity was determined. The language was identified as one of the factors of national self-identity. Initially, language was formed with the aim of ensuring social processes and exchange of experience, but later it turned into a tool for manipulating human consciousness. Therefore, the formation of national identity, and the factors that influenced their role in historical processes determined the importance of the language issue in the development of conflicts associated with the national liberation movement in colonial countries, the protection of national identity as part of empires, the formation of national identity after leaving the power of the empires, when the former empires tried to regain their influence on the state.

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