

DOI: <https://doi.org/10.46502/issn.1856-7576/2023.17.01.11>

Cómo citar:

Zinchenko, V., Lopatynska, I., Sabelnykova, T., Tilniak, N., & Sydorenko, L. (2023). Linguistic features of communication in ukrainian. *Revista Eduweb*, 17(1), 110-121. <https://doi.org/10.46502/issn.1856-7576/2023.17.01.11>

## Linguistic features of communication in Ukrainian

### características lingüísticas de la comunicación en ucraniano

#### **Viktoriia Zinchenko**

vicik-210898@ukr.net

<https://orcid.org/0000-0003-3080-4272>

Candidate of Pedagogical Sciences, Associate Professor of the Department of Social Humanities and Legal Disciplines. Kryvyi Rih Educational and Scientific Institute, Donetsk State University of Internal Affairs., Kryvyi Rih, Ukraine.

#### **Iryna Lopatynska**

irina.s.lopatinskaia@gmail.com

<https://orcid.org/0000-0003-4957-9845>

Head of the Department of Social Humanities and Legal Disciplines, Candidate of Pedagogical Sciences, Associate Professor. Kryvyi Rih Educational and Scientific Institute, Donetsk State University of Internal Affairs., Kryvyi Rih, Ukraine.

#### **Tamara Sabelnykova**

tamarasabelnykova@gmail.com

<https://orcid.org/0000-0002-0798-9507>

Candidate of Philological Sciences, Associate Professor, Department of Social Sciences and Humanities, Donetsk State University of Internal Affairs, Kropyvnytskyi, Ukraine.

#### **Neonila Tilniak**

nilatilnyak@gmail.com

<https://orcid.org/0000-0002-5135-7646>

Senior Lecturer, Candidate of Pedagogical Sciences, Faculty of Linguistics, Department of Ukrainian Language, Literature and Culture, National Technical University of Ukraine "Igor Sikorsky Kyiv Polytechnic Institute", Kyiv, Ukraine.

#### **Liliia Sydorenko**

zubatoklili@ukr.net

<https://orcid.org/0000-0002-6547-4050>

Senior Lecturer, Faculty of Linguistics, Department of Ukrainian Language, Literature and Culture, National Technical University of Ukraine "Igor Sikorsky Kyiv Politechnic Institute", Kyiv, Ukraine.

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Recibido: 14/12/22

Aceptado: 15/02/23

### **Abstract**

The establishment of the language in the country should occur under conditions providing relevant linguistic support for this process, as well as proper legal support, for which unique instructional techniques for communication should be used. In Ukraine, in-depth contrastive studies of contact languages are used to successfully implement this process. Contrastive vocabulary dictionaries are created. Interpretive and translation dictionaries are being improved, including both general language and specialized ones. Along with this, special dictionaries are also being expanded due to units illustrating the grammatical properties of the Ukrainian language. The purpose of the academic paper is to systematize information regarding studying issues in the scientific literature related to the linguistic features of the communication process in the Ukrainian language, as well as to clarify their most

significant practical aspects. Analytical-bibliographical, systemic-structural, comparative, logical-linguistic methods, analysis, synthesis, induction, and deduction were used in the course of the research to study scientific literature on issues related to the Ukrainian language's linguistic features. At the same time, a questionnaire was used to practically clarify certain aspects of communication in Ukrainian from the perspective of its linguistic characteristics. Based on the research results, the theoretical fundamentals, concepts and main trends in the linguistic field were studied, as well as the survey results on the linguistic aspects of the communication process in the Ukrainian language were discussed.

**Keywords:** linguistic support of language development, language culture, communicative interaction, the language system's means, communicative potential, practical language activity.

## Resumen

El establecimiento de la lengua en el país debe ocurrir en condiciones que brinden un soporte lingüístico relevante para este proceso, así como un soporte legal adecuado, para lo cual se deben utilizar técnicas didácticas únicas para la comunicación. En Ucrania, se utilizan estudios comparativos profundos de las lenguas de contacto para implementar con éxito este proceso. Se crean diccionarios de vocabulario contrastivo. Se están mejorando los diccionarios interpretativos y de traducción, tanto de lenguaje general como especializados. Junto con esto, también se están ampliando diccionarios especiales debido a unidades que ilustran las propiedades gramaticales del idioma ucraniano. El objetivo del artículo académico es sistematizar la información sobre el estudio de cuestiones en la literatura científica relacionadas con las características lingüísticas del proceso de comunicación en el idioma ucraniano, así como aclarar sus aspectos prácticos más significativos. En el curso de la investigación se utilizaron métodos analítico-bibliográficos, sistémico-estructurales, comparativos, lógico-lingüísticos, análisis, síntesis, inducción y deducción para estudiar la literatura científica sobre cuestiones relacionadas con las características lingüísticas del idioma ucraniano. Al mismo tiempo, se utilizó un cuestionario para aclarar prácticamente ciertos aspectos de la comunicación en ucraniano desde la perspectiva de sus características lingüísticas. Con base en los resultados de la investigación, se estudiaron los fundamentos teóricos, los conceptos y las principales tendencias en el campo lingüístico, así como también se discutieron los resultados de la encuesta sobre los aspectos lingüísticos del proceso de comunicación en el idioma ucraniano.

**Palabras clave:** soporte lingüístico del desarrollo lingüístico, cultura lingüística, interacción comunicativa, medios del sistema lingüístico, potencial comunicativo, actividad lingüística práctica.

## 1. Introduction

The problem of the effectiveness of language learning's communicative aspect is not a recent issue. It is closely related to the practical focus on which the language training's concepts and educational language programs are based. It is believed that students can acquire the mother tongue as a system based on studying vocabulary, phonetic and grammatical system, etc. As a result, the acquired knowledge can later be used for communication. However, in practice, we often have the opposite effect, namely a situation where, having mastered the theory of language, the education seekers have not acquired communicative skills yet. Consequently, practical command of the language remains at a low level, reduced to primitive everyday communication or complete rejection of it due to using other languages. This is precisely why studying scientific works on improving the linguistic component of the communication process in Ukrainian is extremely valuable in the modern conditions of globalization and the transformation of communicative processes in the world.

The theoretical part of the present research analyzes the relevance, concepts and components of the communication process in Ukrainian from the perspective of its linguistic features.

The practical part of the research includes the clarification of the primary tendencies characterizing the communication process in Ukrainian nowadays. It comprises the distribution of using the language system's means in the process of communication in Ukrainian, assessment of the most significant characteristics of "discourse" as an important tool of the linguistic sphere in the Ukrainian language. It also includes features of the Ukrainian language's linguistic etiquette as an element of communication, functions of Ukrainian as its main linguistic features. Along with this, the practical part includes the most promising directions of further scientific investigations in the field of communication in Ukrainian in the context of the linguistic aspects of this process.

Based on the research results, conclusions were made regarding the issues raised. In particular, it was determined that the most pronounced tendencies of communication in Ukrainian are expanding the geographical sphere of communication, declining the culture of written communication, literacy deterioration, increasing the share of communication using modern communication means, decreasing initiative communication, but increasing the share of official, forced, role-based communication. At the same time, explicit language means are prioritized in using two groups the language system's means. The survey made it possible to establish that the most significant features of "discourse" as the linguistic sphere's important tool in the Ukrainian language are its textual character and ambiguity. The survey revealed that speaking etiquette of Ukrainians is a fairly significant component of communication, involving piety, respect for parents, for women, democracy, emotionality, aesthetics, tenderness, etc. Based on the survey results, the functions of the Ukrainian language as its main linguistic features of communication are the possession of correct and expressive pronunciation, understanding the language's essence, mastering its laws and rules, mastering literary norms and tools. The survey participants determined the following most promising directions of further scientific studies in the communication sphere in the Ukrainian language, namely: "Activity approach to studying Ukrainian", "Types of language activities that are implemented in the communicative language competence of a person" and "Communicative aspect of learning Ukrainian as the most significant prerequisite for effective communication".

## 2. Literature Review

Improving the society's language culture and acquiring knowledge about the language's stylistic richness are important goals of national revival in Ukraine nowadays. For young people who will pursue higher education, it is crucial today to optimize the level of language development. After all, they will use the word as a working tool, a carrier of information, a professional verbal weapon and a means of spiritual influence. Thus, they will contribute to elevating people's culture and spirituality (Sokolova, 2022).

Communication is one of the manifestations of social interaction. It is based on exchanging thoughts, assessments, feelings, expressions of will for the purpose of information, emotional impact, stimulation of joint activities, etc. Modern science defines communication as an exchange of information, as an interaction, as a person's perception of a person (Anggraeni, Wahibah & Assafari, 2020).

Knowledge of communicative laws and the ability to apply them, and if necessary, to fight against them, is a significant part of every educated person's communicative competence. Ukrainians

belong to people with a high level of language communication. This is precisely why the experience of the features of the communication process in Ukrainian is extremely valuable nowadays (Ushakova et al., 2022).

Communication has a dialogical nature: it takes place between two people, less often between a person and a group, and even less often between a person and society. The way of communication changed significantly in the second half of the XX century, under the influence of scientific and technical progress and the scientific and technical revolution. As scientists note, the most important reason for these changes is the individual's depersonalization (Tavrovetska & Shebanova, 2020).

There are several classifications of dialogues in modern science. In particular, the classification of dialogic communication according to the following characteristics deserves attention:

- 1) target relations: cooperative (partners' goals coincide); neutrality (the goals of dialogue partners do not contradict each other); co contradictory (the goals of the interlocutors are opposite);
- 2) by the nature of the global goal: cognitive (problematic-dialogical, informational-dialogical, research-dialogical); phatic (aimed at supporting communication and relationships of participants); expressive (aimed at revealing the attitude to the discussed issue or identity of the communication participants). Phatic and expressive dialogues aim to reveal the partner's inner world and further influence him.
- 3) by to the feature of information circulation: degenerate (one that has a monologic form); cyclical (phatic, which does not generate new information, but is only aimed at maintaining contact); one-way informative (provides new information); two-way informative (generates new knowledge in the cognitive sphere of communication participants) (Korolyov, 2022), (Moser, 2020).

Taking into account the individuals' activity spheres in small groups, Ukrainian social psychologists emphasize the system of connections and relationships formed as a result of joint activities and communication. They believe that the system of connections created by communication includes communicative, emotional, role and informal status connections (Bidzilya et al., 2021).

Scholars of small language groups emphasize the importance of investigating and evaluating the group's communicative potential (Parkhurst & Parkhurst, 2018). The group's communicative potential is the group communication capabilities that can be used to ensure all its internal and external real relations and connections (Cavallaro & Sembiente, 2021). For the theory of communication, it is crucial that group norms, values, goals, traditions, behavior, and communicative experience create the psychological basis of the group's communicative potential (De Oliveira & Westerlund, 2021).

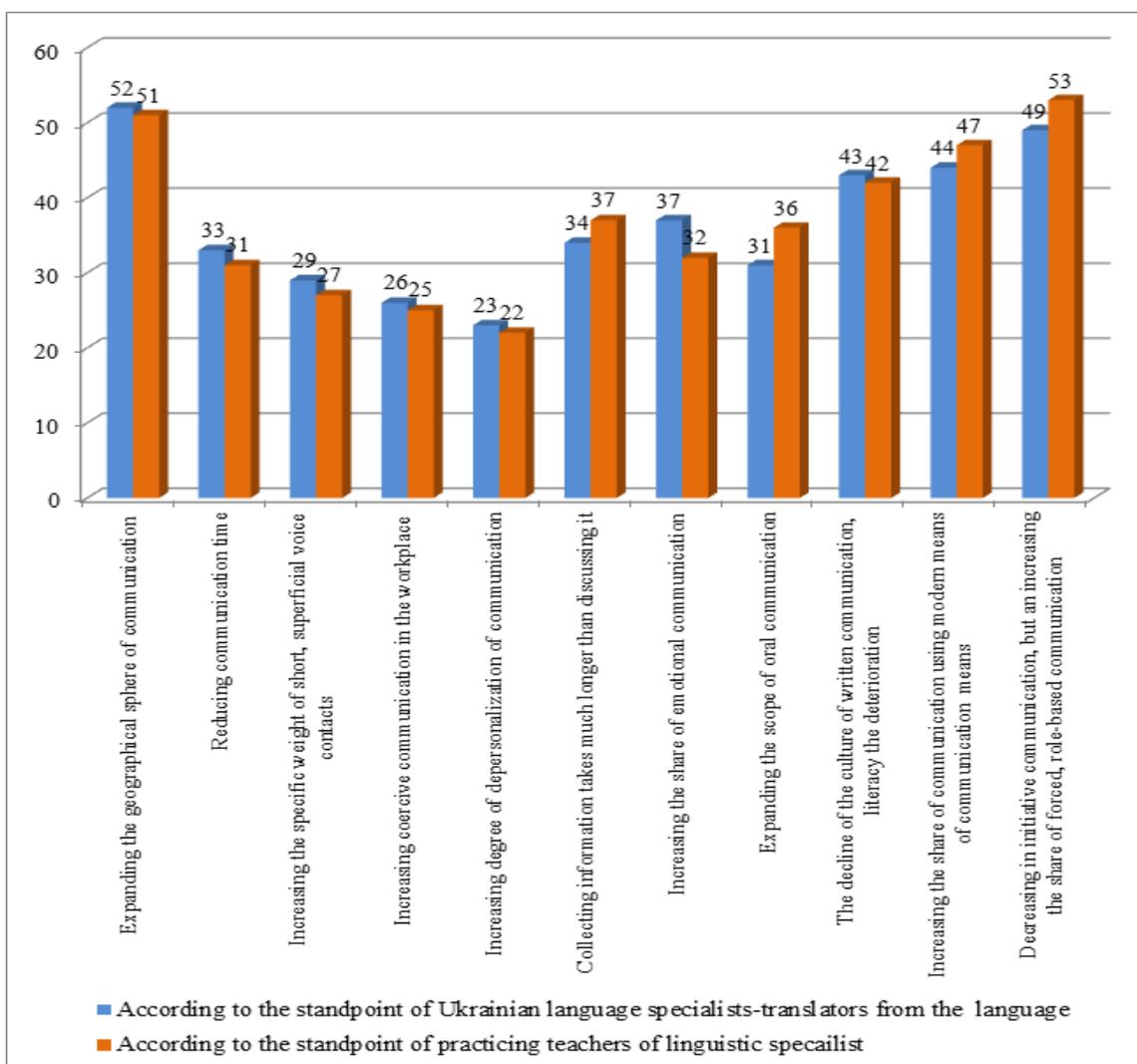
The purpose of the research is to determine the standpoint of the Ukrainian language specialists - translators and practicing teachers of linguistic specialties on the peculiarities of the communicative process in the Ukrainian language from a linguistic point of view.

### 3. Methodology

A practical study of modern tendencies in using multimedia technologies in the visual communications sphere and design education was conducted by interviewing 52 Ukrainian language specialists - translators, as well as 64 practicing teachers of linguistic specialties carrying out research and teaching activities at 16 higher educational institutions in Rivne, Khmelnytskyi, Chernihiv and Kyiv regions of Ukraine. The research was conducted using the Survey Monkey service.

### 4. Results

During the survey, the most pronounced communication tendencies in the Ukrainian language were established (Figure 1):

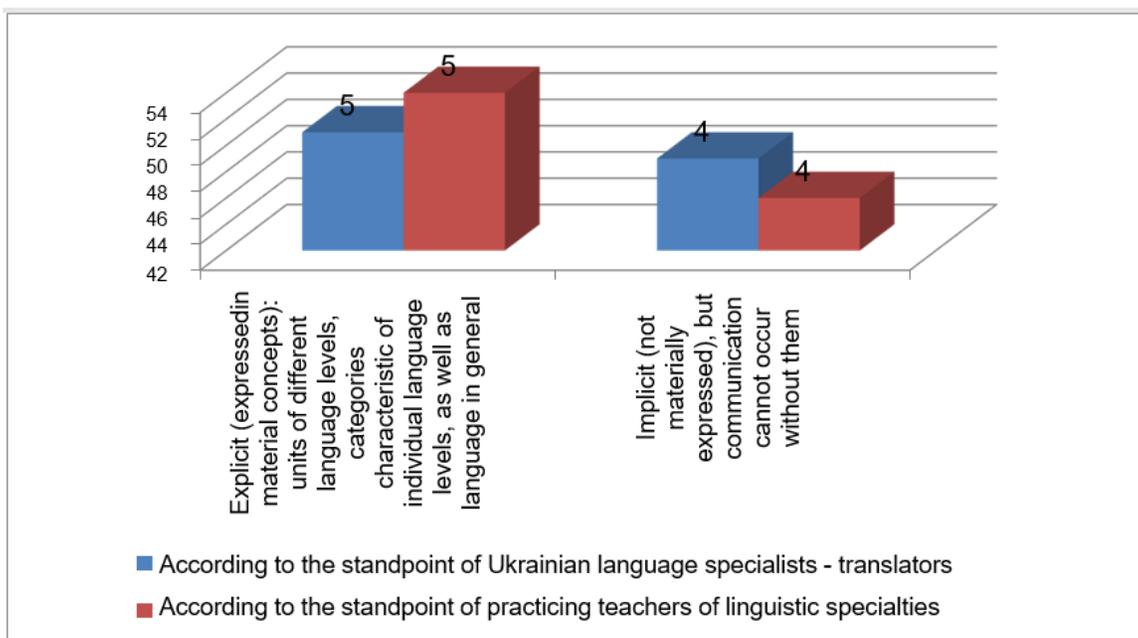


**Figure 1.** The primary tendencies characterizing communication in the Ukrainian language, %  
 Source: compiled by the authors

According to the survey participants' standpoints, currently, in the conditions of globalization of all

social processes in the world, the primary tendencies characterizing communication in Ukrainian are as follows: the expansion of the geographical sphere of communication, the decline of the culture of written communication, and literacy deterioration, an increase in the share of communication using modern communication means, a decrease in initiative communication, but an increase in the share of official, forced, role-based communication.

At the same time, the respondents evaluated the distribution of using the language system’s means (Figure 2):

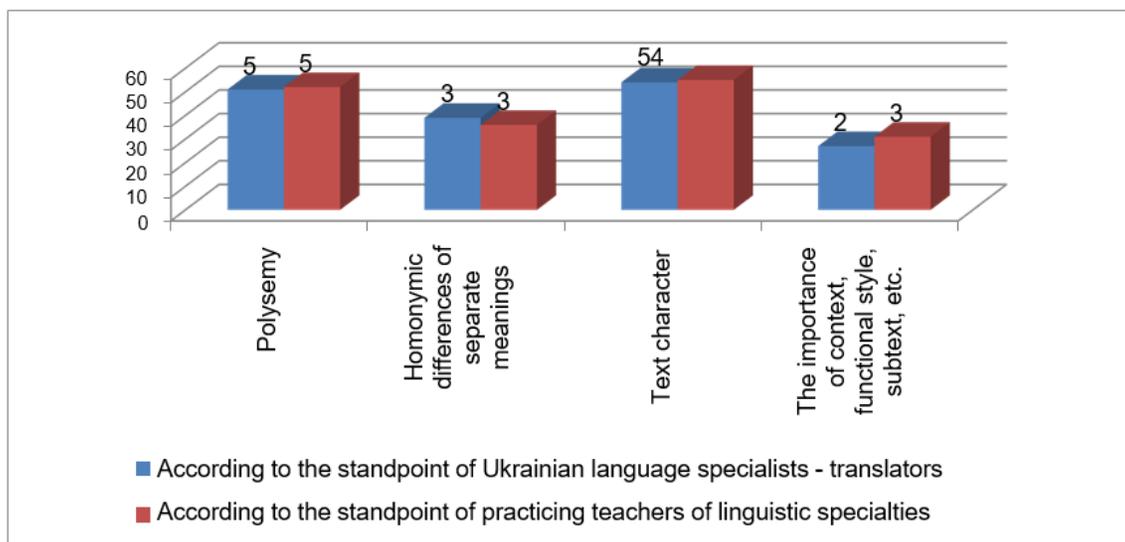


**Figure 2.** Distribution of using the language system’s means in the process of communication in Ukrainian, %

Source: compiled by the authors

During the survey, the participants found that, although having a slight advantage, explicit language means continue to be used more frequently than the other two groups of the language system’s means.

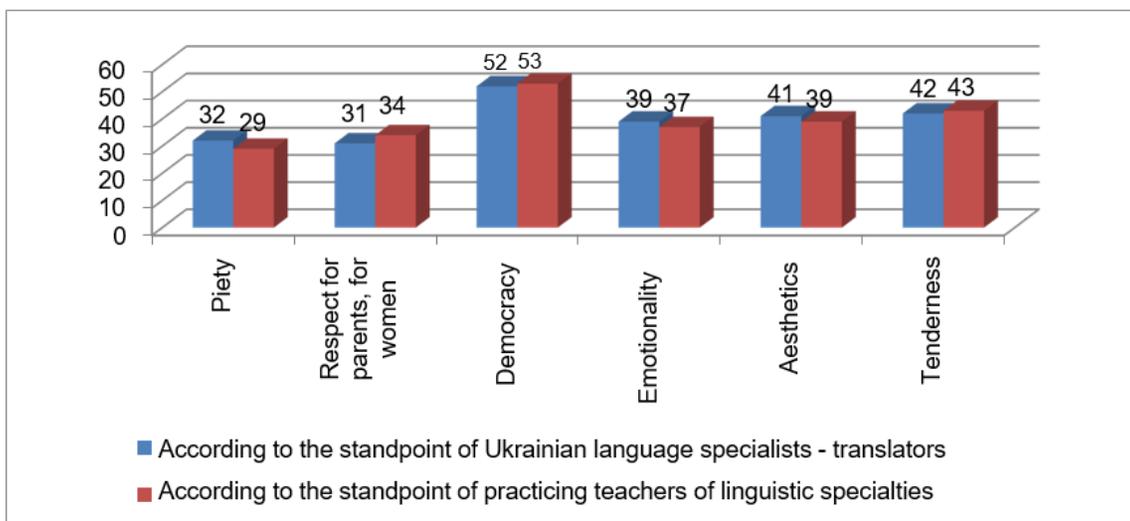
The term “discourse” has a wide conceptual range in linguistics. A significant issue resolved during the survey is the determination of the most important characteristics of “discourse” as an important tool of the linguistic sphere in the Ukrainian language (Figure 3).



**Figure 3.** The most significant characteristics of “discourse” as an important tool of the linguistic sphere in the Ukrainian language, %  
 Source: compiled by the authors

It can be observed from Figure 3 that the predominant characteristics of the discourse are its textual character and ambiguity.

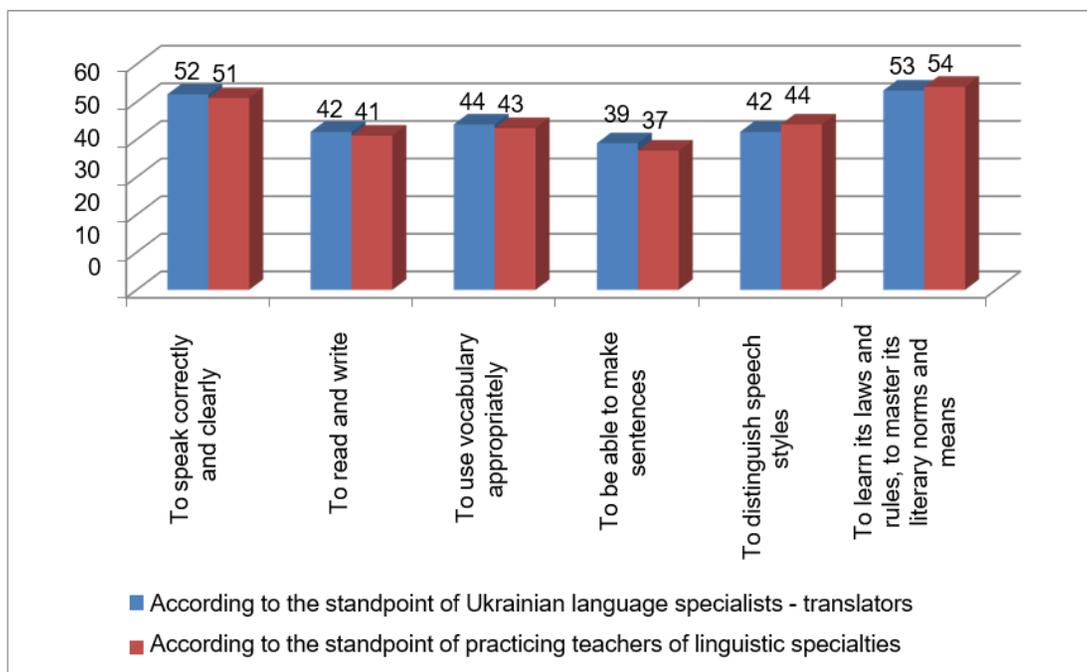
Speaking etiquette is a significant element of the Ukrainian language’s linguistic features. Speaking etiquette is a rather important component of communication for Ukrainians (Figure 4).



**Figure 4.** Features of the Ukrainian language’s speaking etiquette as an element of communication, %  
 Source: compiled by the authors

According to the data in Figure 4, the speaking etiquette of Ukrainians testifies to their piety, respect for parents, for women, democracy, emotionality, aesthetics, tenderness, etc.

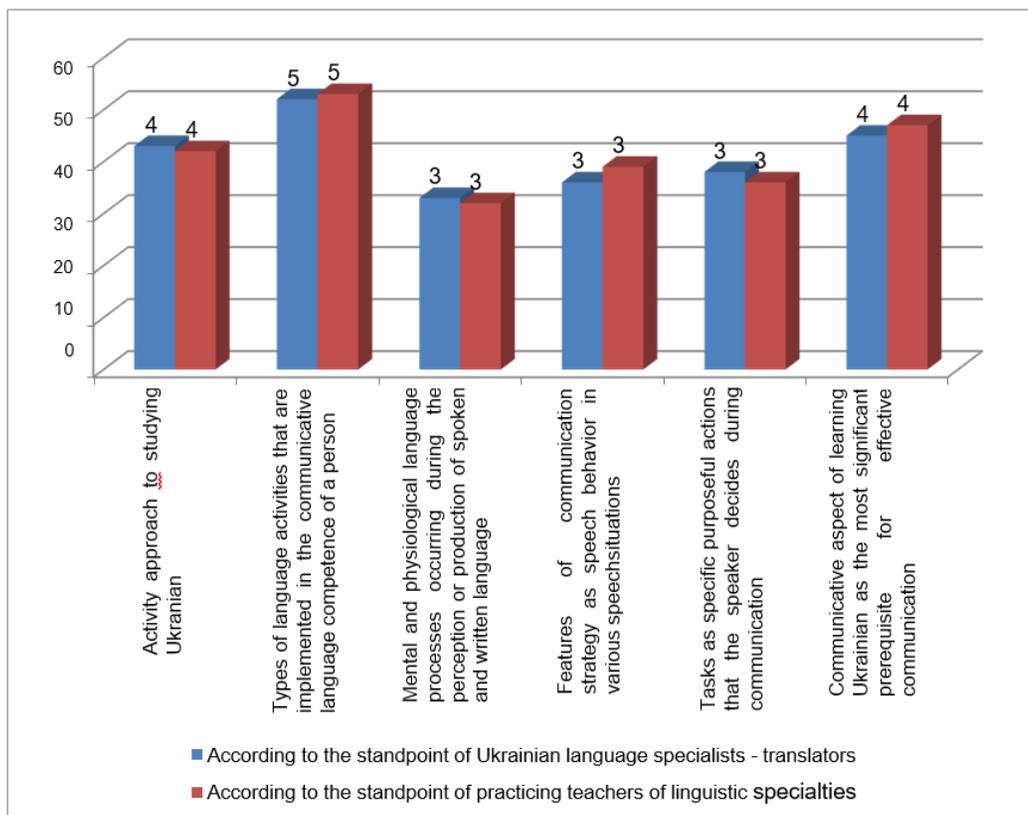
The linguistic aspect of mastering the native language by Ukrainians involves awareness of the language's social role and functions, implemented in the communication process by each person. Awareness of the need to master speaking material ensures the formation of speaking abilities and skills. A significant element of the research is clarifying the respondents' standpoint regarding the Ukrainian language's functions as its main linguistic features of communication (Figure 5):



**Figure 5.** Functions of the Ukrainian language as its main linguistic features of communication, %  
Source: compiled by the authors

It can be observed from Figure 5 that these functions are as follows: the possession of correct and expressive pronunciation, as well as understanding the language's essence, mastering its laws and rules, and mastering literary norms and means.

The survey's significant outcome was the clarification of the survey participants' standpoint regarding the most promising directions of further scientific studies in the Ukrainian language communication sphere from the perspective of the linguistic aspects of this process (Figure 6):



**Figure 6.** The most promising directions of further scientific studies in the Ukrainian language communication sphere from the perspective of the linguistic aspects of this process, %  
 Source: compiled by the authors

The survey participants determined the following most promising directions of further scientific studies in the communication sphere in the Ukrainian language, namely: “Activity approach to studying Ukrainian”, “Types of language activities that are implemented in the communicative language competence of a person” and “Communicative aspect of learning Ukrainian as the most significant prerequisite for effective communication”.

## 5. Discussion

As noted in most educational materials, intercultural communication is communication between speakers of different cultures who use different languages (Ukume et al., 2020). The metaphor “carrier of national culture” usually describes a person’s consciousness, which is formed in the process of mastering a certain national cultural heritage. The bearer of Ukrainian culture has a consciousness formed on the basis of images and ideas inherent in Ukrainian culture (Kalmykova, Kharchenko & Mysan, 2021), (Linares & McCabe, 2020).

Studying the linguistic component’s feature of communication in Ukrainian, it is worth emphasizing that the educational process in this field in Ukraine takes place in conditions when education seekers became aware of the need to master the language of their grandfathers and great-grandfathers as a means of communication with the aim of reviving it in everyday life. This process is extremely complex. Language communication requires speaking, perception and

understanding. And this is possible only under the condition that the speaker and the listener are on the “same speech wavelength”, when the words heard by the student are related to the linguistic source, and, therefore, to the world of things, when conceptual knowledge is related to sensory (Havard et al., 2019).

National and cultural factors have a significant influence both on the elements of the language code in Ukraine and on the communication process. Elements and categories of the linguistic code of each idioethnic language form unique linguistic worldviews differing from conceptual (scientific) worldviews. The influence of national and cultural factors on the individual words’ semantics and, accordingly, fragments of linguistic images of the world is significant (Krasnobaieva-Chorna & Harbera, 2022).

Indicators of stereotyping in the field of linguistics are as follows: repetition of the characteristics of a certain object in different types of discourse; the presence of derivatives in the semantics of which this feature is repeated or even becomes leading; for instance, in the consciousness of certain ethnic groups (in particular, Ukrainians), a pig is associated with physical and moral dirt (“dirty like a pig”; “pig act”); therefore, this feature dominates the derived semantics of a pig; the presence of tropes based on this feature (Ivan turned out to be a pig); the presence of phraseological units containing this word (to put a pig); the presence of paremias (various established expressions – from idioms to proverbs), where this very sign is “played” (“Allow a pig at table to sit and it’ll put on the table its feet”) (Harvey, Tordzro & Bradley, 2022).

Communication etiquette is a universal phenomenon. The language etiquette of communication in Ukraine has ethnic features, national originality. On the one hand, this is caused by the peculiarities of natural and climatic conditions, agricultural methods, contacts with other peoples, the influence of religion, the level of cultural and civilizational development, etc. On the other hand, this is caused by the peculiarities of character, temperament, mentality, national character of the people (Şimon et al., 2022).

An important aspect of the effective development of communication’s linguistic component is using effective language teaching methods. The practical orientation of education involves not only the quantitative advantages of practice over language theory, but primarily, teaching communicative activity, creating such conditions that contribute to the desire of education seekers to express themselves through interaction with the interlocutor (Maaß & Rink, 2020).

In order to implement conscious and practical language activity, it is necessary to create such conditions for involving students, under which language practice would be based not only on the theoretical study of the language system, but on communicative activity. Mastering the mother tongue should meet the modern social and personal needs of education seekers’ language development (Kalmykova, Kharchenko & Mysan, 2021).

Special attention is paid to effective voice communication, which is considered as a process of influencing the interlocutor through speaking. The content side of this influence is carefully selected thoughts and organized in a certain way (utterance or language product), and the formal side is the linguistic design of these thoughts. The latter significantly depends on the specifics of the impact and on the interlocutor (the addressee of the speech) (Qian et al., 2019), (Zalizniak, 2020).

## 6. Conclusions

Therefore, as evidenced by the analysis of scientific literature on the research topic and the questionnaire results, there are certain regularities in studying the features of communication processes and in studying the language system. They are related to the communication process's features, the communication participants' psychological characteristics and their social roles. They can be changed over time and are nationally specific. At the same time, they arise as necessary in any type of interpersonal and mass communication. Therefore, they can be considered objective laws of communication.

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