



VYTAUTAS MAGNUS
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MCMXXII

STANDARD LANGUAGE IDEOLOGY AND ITS INFLUENCE ON LITHUANIAN MIGRANTS. SAMOGITIANS' ATTITUDES TOWARDS THEIR LANGUAGE VARIETY

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- Why this topic?
- Data collection and participants
- Use of Samogitian before and in migration
- Migrants' attitudes towards Samogitian
- Main factors that influence migrants' attitudes
- Conclusion



Why this topic? (I)

- Studies on
 - the maintenance of the Lithuanian language and its varieties in migration (Ramonienė et al. 2011 -2013)
 - the standard Lithuanian language ideology and its influence on regional variety speakers in Lithuania (Vaicekauskienė et al. 2011-2013)
- The gap between the two studies:
 - The influence of the standard Lithuanian language ideology on migrants



Why this topic? (II)

- What variety Samogitians choose to maintain and speak while living in Germany: Samogitian or standard Lithuanian?
- What are Samogitian migrants' attitudes towards their language variety?
- What are the main factors that influence migrants' attitudes towards their regional variety?
- Can the standard Lithuanian language ideology be considered as one of those factors?



Data collection and participants

- 10 interviewees
 - Samogitians living in various places in Germany
 - have attended school in Lithuania
- 7 in-depth sociolinguistic interviews
 - Linguistic behaviour in Lithuania
 - Linguistic behaviour in Germany

Table 1. General information about the interviewees

Respondent	Gender	Age - group	City of origin	Current place of residency
R1	male	40-49	Telšiai, Lithuania	Hüttenfeld, Germany
R2	female	30-39	Telšiai, Lithuania	Hüttenfeld, Germany
R3	male	60-69	Kuršėnai, Lithuania	Hüttenfeld, Germany
R4	female	60-69	Rietavas, Lithuania	Hüttenfeld, Germany
R5	male	60-69	Plungė, Lithuania	Gerolstein, Germany
R6	male	40-49	N. Akmenė, Lithuania	Worms, Germany
R7	female	40-49	Telšiai, Lithuania	Berlin, Germany
R8	male	30-39	Telšiai, Lithuania	Hamburg, Germany
R9	female	50-59	Tauragė, Lithuania	Hamburg, Germany
R10	female	30-39	Plungė, Lithuania	Hamburg, Germany



Use of Samogitian

Before migration

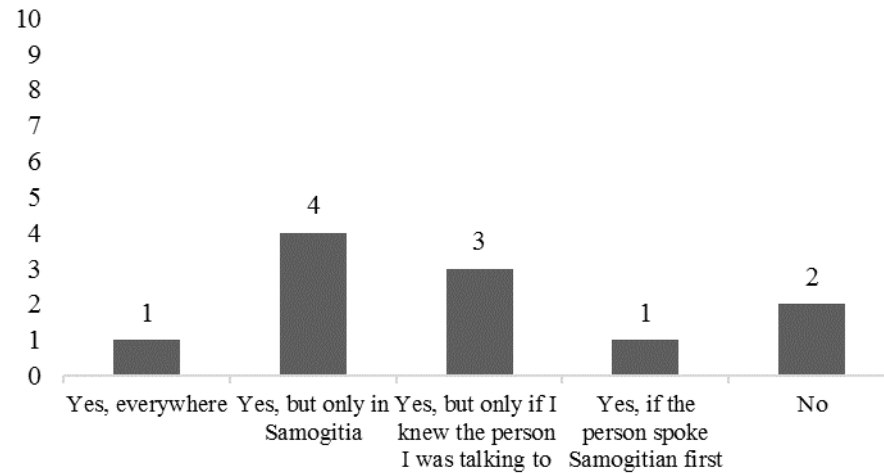


Figure 1. Were you speaking Samogitian in public discourse in Lithuania?

In migration

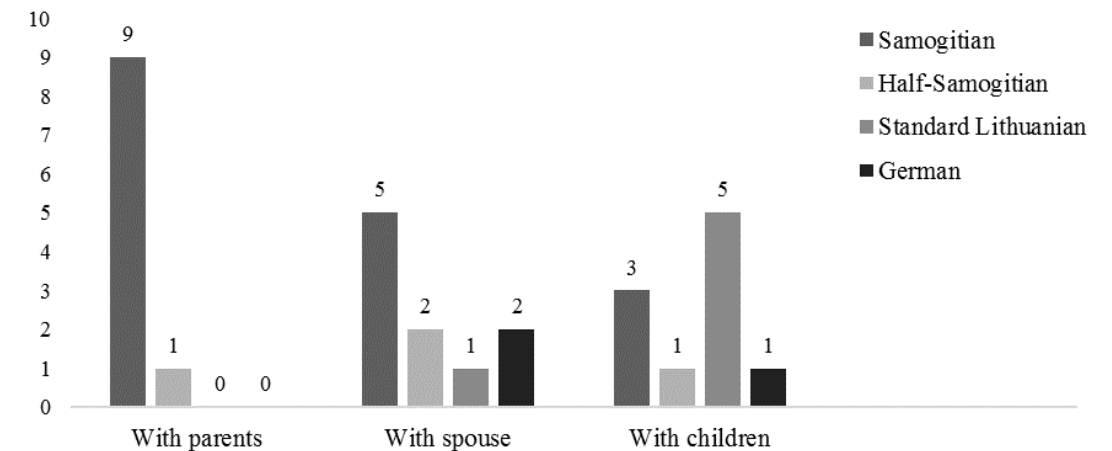


Figure 2. Language choice in migrant families.



Migrants attitudes towards Samogitian

- Positive attitudes towards Samogitian in the private environment, negative in public discourse
- Negative attitudes towards the usage of the variety rather than the variety itself
- Even though officialy migrants declare strong positive attitudes towards Samogitian, subconsciously they tend to associate the variety with low prestige and powerlessness.



Main factors that influence migrants' attitudes

- Education
 - school vs. university
- Soviet language policy
- Societal pressure
 - pressure to speak the “right” way
 - fear of being judged
 - common-sense

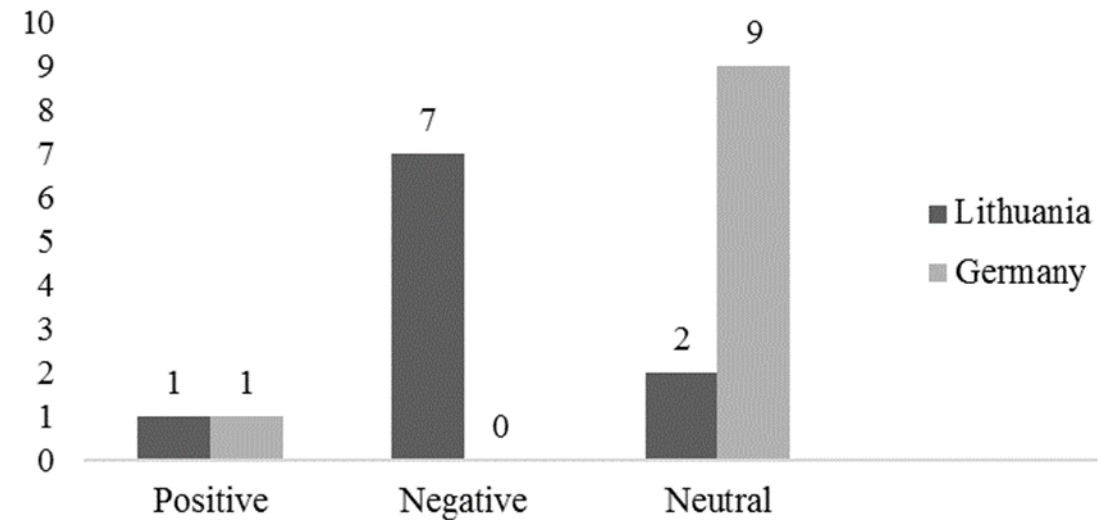


Figure 4. Attitudes of people towards dialect speakers in Lithuania and Germany.



Conclusion

- Even though the pressure to speak the “right” way is not as strong as in Lithuania, the standard language ideology is still highly rooted in the subconsciousness of migrants.



References

- Ramonienė, Meilutė (2013) *Emigrantų kalba*. Vilnius: Vilniaus universitetas
- Vaicekauskienė, Loreta (2013) “Lietuvių kalba: idealai, ideologijos ir tapatybės lūžiai”, 2010-2013, projekto baigiamoji ataskaita.



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