

CREATIVITY AND CODESWITCHING ON THE LANGUAGE USE OF THE HUNGARIAN MINORITY OF UKRAINE

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Transcarpathian Hungarians, the Hungarian minority in Ukraine use two/three languages during their everyday interactions (Hungarian which is in minority status, Ukrainian that is the state language and Russian, the non-official state language of the former Soviet Union, de jure another minority language). A Transcarpathian Hungarian person often gets into a situation where he/she has to choose two or more languages for communication and sometimes has to switch between languages (Márku 2013, Cserniczkó ed. 2010). The (vernacular) language can be defined as the „po zakarpatski” contact variety, called so by the community of locals themselves, identified as the Transcarpathian dialect of Hungarian. Contact phenomena as lexical borrowings, interference in translation and codeswitching are integral parts of this language variant (Bartha 1992), however, in everyday interactions of individual speakers they appear with different frequency (Márku 2013). The famous researcher Csíkszetmihályi wrote about creative personality: „Creative individuals are remarkable for their ability to adapt to almost any situation and to make do with whatever is at hand to reach their goals” (Csíkszetmihályi 2008, 2013). For the effective communication, bilingual speaker, taking into account the situation of speech, executes creative communication strategy, when the speaker uses such elements from the mental lexicon “which is at hand” that is activated earlier, so the speaker switches code or uses borrowed words. Code-switching expresses the message that has extra meaning or style value, with this strategy solidarity with the group, or linguistic ingenuity, creativity, humour can be expressed (Márku 2014). In the presentation, I would like to point out that in the case of the Transcarpathian Hungarian community we can expect sustainable bilingual state, if besides the state language and the Hungarian standard, the basic dialect containing the contact elements is considered as valuable as the others. Anna Borbély also draws the attention in the Sustainable Bilingualism Model (SBM): „in this model languages (including their varieties) of bilingual communities must be of equal status in language choice, proficiency and attitudes”(Borbély 2014, p. 268; Borbély 2015.).

Irodalom:

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