A concrete situation of linguistic contact Romanian-Ukrainian

Angela ROBU
angelyk2009@yahoo.com
Ştefan cel Mare University of Suceava (Romania)

Резюме: В об'єднаній Європі, яка підтримує принцип *Єдність у різноманітті,* питання мовного контакту між двома мовами, що належать, генеалогічно, до неспоріднених сім'ям, є надзичайно актуальним. Проблема полілінгвізму та, загалом, мультикультуралізму на Буковині викликало і викликає особливий інтерес, не тільки серед лінгвістів, а й з точки зору соціології, антропології, етнографії та фольклору.

Ключові слова: *білінгвізм, мовний контакт, лінгвістична інтерференція.*

The issues of linguistic contact (bilingualism, diglossia, linguistic interference) are and shall be more and more important in a united Europe that try to find its common origins. In these circumstances, which overlap the ones of a multilingual and multicultural Bukovina, the problem of linguistic contact between two languages belonging genealogically to unrelated families – slavic and romanic – is of utmost novelty.

We have decided to offer a description and an interpretation of the Ukrainean language spoken in a small region of Suceava County, which could be catalogued as: Ukrainean language, South-Western dialect, Bukovinean-Galician subdialect, variety of the Pocutian-Bukovinean type, area Călineşti Cuparencu – Şerbăuţi.

The studied area (Călineşti Cuparencu) neighbours the variety of the type huţulo-bukovinean spoken in the neighbouring vilage, Călineşti Enache, with which it differs in phonetical, morphological and syntactical features.

Călineşti Cuparencu is originally a Romanian village, the oldest document attesting its existence being dated 15th of March 1490. This village has been sistematically colonized by Ukraineans, who established here in the second half of the 18th century, due to the harsh conditions in Galicia. We must specify that they established here on their will, fleeing from the regime instituted by the Polish feudal lords..

At present the village is inhabited 80% by Ukrainean ethnics and 20% by other ethnic groups. In the lingyistic case of Călineşti Cuparencu, almost all the speakers are bilingual. The exception are the persons of different ethnic groups (Romanian, Roma)

BDD-A28770 © 2018 Editura Universităţii din Suceava
Provided by Diacronia.ro for IP 216.73.217.142 (2026-11-14 23:08:05 UTC)

recently entered in the community. Romanian and Ukrainean languages interfere without a competition between the two languages. Within families and in usual conversations Ukrainean prevails. The administrative and technical-scientific language appeal to the Romanian terms, the Ukrainean ones being unknown to the speakers that interrupted the contact with the evolution of Ukrainean language.

Following the classification of the *The General Dictionary of Linguistic Sciences*, we have noticed that the linguistic situation of the Ukrainean speakers in the researched area is determined by several factors:

- according to the family environment from which they come (families with both parents Ukrainean or with one Ukrainean and the other of different ethnicity);
- age of the speakers (elderly people prefer communicating in the mother language while children and younger people prefer the Romanian language, though they can speak Ukrainean too);
- area in which they live (those living in the central area speak well both Ukrainean and Romanian. There is also a more isolated area where only the Ukrainean language is used, the speakers here expressing themselves with difficulty in Romanian language, and the children learning Romanian only in school);
- occupation (the persons that work in the city or in the local administration speak more Romanian, using Ukrainean mostly in the community and in family).

Below we will just show you a few elements regarding the history and the dialectal structure of Ukrainean language. We refer here to some linguistic facts that contribute to the individualisation of Ukrainean among slavic languages. Among the most important particularitie we mention:

- the existence of a characteristic vowel (*и*) between *і* and *е*: *колиска* "craddle", *син* "son", *книга* "book";
- very many soft consonants (long): *життя* "life", *обличчя* "chick", *суддя* "judge";
- the singular feminine vocative ends in *о*: *жінко*, *Наталко*, and in the masculine ends in *-е*: Миколе, *Петре*, *чоловіче*.

Ukrainean has evolved from the Eastern common slavic, obtaining as of the 11th century a regional specificity, known as Southern Russian. The specific features of Ukrainean appear as early as the 12th century (alternation between *у* and *в*, *е* and *о* after a whistling and *j*, endings *-ови*, *-еви* in dativ singular, masculine, ending *-і* in the genitive singular of the nouns that end in *-я* (*земля – земли*), the apparition of the preterite from ending in *-ть*), but sperates as a distinct language only in the 14th century. The history of Ukrainean language has two stages: *the old age* (up to the 18th century) and *the modern age* (from the 19th century up to the present day). All of the histories of the Ukrainean language mention the decisive contribution of Taras Şevcenko's work.

In what the dialectal structure of this slavic language is concerned, the quasigeneral classification comprises three dialects: polisian (*полійський*) or northern (*північноукраїнський*), soutn-western (*південно-західний*), south-eastern (*південно-східний*). The most similarities have been noticed between the south-eastern and sount-western dialects, while the polisian (northern) has a specific phonetic system and grammar level (morphology and syntax), and on the lexical level difers obviously from the varieties of the southwestern dialect. It is considered the the base of the Ukrainean literary language is the south-eastern dialect (varieties from from the middle Dnieper).

By studying the varieties of the south-western dialect we came to the conclusion that the investigated area belongs to the south western dialect, Bukovinean-galician subdialect,

BDD-A28770 © 2018 Editura Universităţii din Suceava
Provided by Diacronia.ro for IP 216.73.217.142 (2026-11-14 23:08:05 UTC)

variety of the pocuto-bukovinean type. Among the most important features of the pocuto-bukovinean varieties (specific to the variety we researched) we mention the following:

- at the phonetic level: the consonants *с'*, *ц'* placed at the end of the word are pronounced hard: *хтос*, *хлопиᵘц*, *дес*; the passing of the dentals *д*, *т* into *к*, *ґ* especially when they are followed by *і* or *и* (this transformation results from the stron palatalization): *к'ишко*, *ґ'їўч'іна*; the palatalization of the vibrant *р* within or at the end of the word: *пор'идок*, *вакар'*, *дохтор'ка*;
- at the morphologic level: the formation of the degrees of comparison of adjectives and adverbs by means of suffixes *-ішч'-*, *-іш'-*, *-ч-*: *даўн'ішиᵘй*, *менче*, also by means of the particle *май*: *май добра*, *май борзо*; there are used forms of infinitive that end in *-чи*, *-чі*: *п'ічи*, *стрич'і*, usage of the forms of the 2nd conjugation, 3rd person plural omitting the final *т* : *уни ход'е*, *нос'е*, *мус'е*;
- at the lexical level one may notice the preservation of older words that do not correspond to the norms of the literary language any longer: *кн'ігиᵘн'а*, *веремн'і*, *дзиґарок*, *куча*; as well as terms of Romanian origin: *дзестр'а*, *пагар'*, *сарака*, *дулч'иц'і*, *тав'іца*, *вакар'*.

As all the linguists involved in the problem of the languages in contact have noticed, most of the times, in a natural way, the two languages do not have the same inventory of phonemes and allophones. In this situation an adaptation from the system of the receiving language of the phonemes that exist only in one of them takes place. Usually, in these situations, „the new phoneme is non-articulated an made up of a sequence." (Sala, 1997: 61)

In what vocalism in concerned, one may notice the preservation of some old phonetical features that do not correspond to the literary language any longer: after palatal consonants *а* coses to *і*, when in non stressed position (*ч'існок* – часник; *памн'ік'* – пам'ять, *м'іс'іц'* – місяць); preservation pf the vowel *о* in a series of words where where in the literay language there is *а*: *колач* – калач, *богач* – багач, *ломити* – ламати. AA phonetic feature that distinguishes the language variety in Călineşti Cuparencu from the Ukrainean varieties in the neighbouring villages (Călineşti Enache, Călineşti Vasilache, Măriţei, Dărmăneşti), as well as from the hutsul variety, but nears it to the literary language is the usage of *'а*, at the beginning of the word in stressed position ahereas in the mentioned varieties is *ê*: *јáма – jêма*, *јáсно – jêсно*, *јáблуко – jêблуко*, *јáгода – jêгода*, *јáрка – jêрка*. But, when *'а*, at the beginning of the word is in unstressed position we have *'и*: *јиᵉ гн'і*.

We may notice that the replacement of *о* with *у* in some word borrowed from Romanian: *кумпаратíва* (< rom. *cooperativă*), *кулáстра* (< rom. *colastră*), *бурдéй* (< rom. *bordei*), *кундýктор* (< rom. *conductor*). In comparison with the Ukrainean literary language in which *и* very rarely at the beginning of the word, in the variery this happens more often, being used in loans from Romanian that begin with *î* or *е*: *иґзістувáтиᵉ* (< rom. *a exista*); *сиᵉ импакáтиᵉ* (< rom. *a se împăca*); *импл'інúтиᵉ* (< rom. *a împlini*); *инкуркатýра* (< rom. *încurcătură*); *инкрéдиᵉр'а* (< rom. *încredere*). Also, the presence in the variety of words containing diphthongs is due to Romanian language, this phenomenon being not characteristic to Ukrainean language: *балáур* (< rom. *balaur*), *караýш* (< rom. *cărăuș*), *кулоар'а* (< rom. *culoare*).

In what the consonants are concerned, we have noticed the greater frequency of some consonants in the variety in comparison to the literary Ukrainean. The sound *ф* did not exist in the slavic common language and has entered the variety in Călineşti, as well as in the Ukrainean literary language from other languages together with the loans. The higher frequency of *ф* in the variety in comparison to the literary language is due to numerous loans from Romanian, Polish and German,: *ф'ін* (< rom. fin); *тр'іфóй* (< rom.

BDD-A28770 © 2018 Editura Universităţii din Suceava
Provided by Diacronia.ro for IP 216.73.217.142 (2026-11-14 23:08:05 UTC)

trifoi), *фр'ізýра* (< rom. *frizură*), *фле*ᵘ*кéй* (< rom. *flăcău*), *фуркулúц'а* (< rom. *furculiță*), *фацáрн'ік* (< rom. *fățarnic*), *ф'ірáнок* (< pol. *firanka*), *фéште*ᵘ*р* (< germ. *Förster*), *фи*ᵘ*ст* (< germ. *fest*), *ф'ípa* (< germ. dial. *Fuhre*). Besides the loans, the consonant *ф* appears in the variety also where in the literary language is the consonant group *хв* and *кв*: *фалúти*ᵘ*е* (ucr. lit. *хвалити*), *ф'іст* (ucr. lit. *хвіст*), *фасýл'а* (ucr. lit. *квасоля*).

Due to numerous loans from Romanian language, the velar *g* is more spread in the variety than in the literary language.: *галаджíја* (< rom. *gălăgie*), *гаранц'íја* (< rom. *garanție*), *гáура* (< rom. *gaură*), *гогошáр* (< rom. *gogoșar*), *гумýї* (rom. *gutui*), *густ* (< rom. *gust*). The sound *g* este is present also in the Ukrainean words, when iot is a variant of the dental *д* strongly palatalized: *g'íти*ᵘ*е* (< ucr. lit. *дити*), *g'істáти*ᵘ*е* (< ucr. lit. *дістати*).

Similar to other pocuto-bucovinean varieties and unlike in the literary language, the variety under study has the feature of consonant depalatalization *ц*, *с* at the end of the word: *столéц* (< ucr. lit. *стілець*), *хло́пи*ᵘ*ц* (< ucr. lit. *хлопець*), *дес* (< ucr. lit. *десь*), *колúс* (< ucr. lit. *колись*).

Bibliography

BIDU-VRĂNCEANU, Angela; CALĂRAŞU, Cristina; IONESCU-RUXĂNDOIU, Liliana; MANCAŞ, Mihaela; PANĂ DINDELEGAN, Gabriela, (1997), *Dicţionar general de ştiinţe. Ştiinţe ale limbii* (*DŞL*), Editura Ştiinţifică, Bucureşti.

COŞERIU, Eugeniu, (2004), *Teoria limbajului şi lingvistică generală*, Editura Enciclopedică, Bucureşti.

FÎNARU, Dorel, (2015), *Lingvistica limbilor lumii*, Institutul European, Iaşi.

HERMAN, K.F., (1995) *Українські говірки Буковини*, în „Збірник наукових праць. Проблеми історії та культури української мови", Editura Ruta, Cernăuţi.

HERMAN, K.F., (1995), *Українські говірки Північної Буковини в історичному та лінгвогеографічному аспекті*: *Фонетика, фонологія*. *Монографія*, Editura Ruta, Cernăuţi.

LOBIUC, Ioan, (2004), *Contacte lingvistice ucraino-române* (pe baza *Atlasului lingvistic român* şi a tuturor celorlalte surse), Editura Universităţii „Alexandru Ioan Cuza", Iaşi.

LOBIUC, Ioan, (1997), *Lingvistică generală*, Institutul European, Iaşi, 1997 (îndeosebi capitolele: *Etimologia la nivelul limbii literare. Principii şi metode*, *Contactele dintre limbi*, *Contactul lingvistic ucraino-român*).

SALA, Marius, (1997), *Limbi în contact*, Editura Enciclopedică, Bucureşti.

BDD-A28770 © 2018 Editura Universităţii din Suceava
Provided by Diacronia.ro for IP 216.73.217.142 (2026-11-14 23:08:05 UTC)