LANGUAGE IN THE CONTEXT OF THE
REFLEX BEHAVIOR THEORY AND
PSYCHOLOGY: UKRAINIAN REALITY AND
PROSPECTS

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Abstract. We consider the genesis and prospects of native language for Russian speaking Ukrainians, as well as the state language for all residents of our state (Ukrainians, Russians, Hungarians, Romanians and Crimean Tatars, Gagauz and other regional groups and national minorities).

Keywords: behavior theory, psychology, language study, native language, language genesis, Ukrainian.

Introduction

Our study is principally devoted to the genesis and prospects of the native language of Ukrainians who now recognize Russian language, as the native language, as well as the state language for all residents of our state (Ukrainians, Russians, Hungarians, Romanians and Crimean Tatars, Gagauz and other regional groups and national minorities).

Suppose conceptual provisions of this study in terms of the reflex behavioral theory and psychology:

1. Language of animals is innate. They do not learn it. If a chicken or a kitten were born in the isolation from their brothers or sisters, they still have a special "vocabulary" inherent to chickens or cats. You can teach a parrot to "speak", but the trained bird will not understand the meaning of the words. We cannot say the same about human language.

2. Language of people is not an instinct of the Homo sapiens. It is a product of cultural evolution due to the activity. For the development of an individual, a speaking language environment is extremely important in the early years of life. At first, words mean specific things and phenomena, but then, they gradually undergo complex processes of distraction and synthesis resulting in the fact that one word may reflect a large range of objects and phenomena. It is a form of social inheritance, which is sound and verbal. The "Children of Mowgli" is the proof for it.

Human language consists of sounds organized in a sequence that are created through coordinated actions of special linguistic organ. Fiber vocal cords of an utero human are connected to the circular muscle fibers of the larynx. This creates conditions for learning movements that provide a sound language. This is the essential difference between the anatomical structure of the human vocal organ and that of human like monkeys. Because of this difference in the anatomical structure of the vocal organ, any attempt to teach monkeys to speak does not have visible results.

3. Ivan Pavlov created the doctrine about the first and the second signal systems. The first signal system indicates the orientation system (conditioned reflexes) of animals and humans to external stimuli (visual, auditory, tactile, smell); it is the basis of the direct reflection of objective reality in the form of sensation and perception providing specific objective thinking. The second signal system includes conditional reflexes produced for language stimuli (spoken, heard, seen or read) and their concepts. The influence of words like a "signal of signals" is defined by its semantic value coupled with a certain environmental objects. This is what qualitatively distinguishes the brain of human and animals. We summarize through the words not only objects, their properties, but also our feelings and emotions, which are abstract concepts.

4. Behavior of animals, from their birth, reflects a genetic program consisting of instincts and gradually accumulates a set of conditioned reflexes, as acquired behavior. It occurs within the biological activity due to a certain biological motif, which is always in the present and determined by its past visual experience. German psychologist Adhemar Maximilian Gelb formulated the attractive paradoxical statement that an animal cannot do something biologically meaningless, and the only a human is capable of doing absurd. This
position corresponds to the theory of reflexes. In order to create a conditioned response expressed by an animal, it should be included in a certain absolute biological activity.

5. Psychic activity of a human, which is implemented in the present, is determined by the image of the future and extrapolates this behavior in the future. No monkey will save the stick in present to get a banana in future. A human learns the social behavior and experience to use them in the future.

6. Apart from sex, food and protective instincts inherent to a human, there is an instinct of self-worth that cannot be achieved by animals. Only a human can fight or go willingly to die for an idea and a system of values (in particular, it highlights the importance of deputy head on ideology or chaplain in the army). Thus, values in the form of the preservation of traditions, religion and language motivate a person or group of people to certain actions that are irrational in terms of material wealth, sexual satisfaction or security.

These methodological foundations try to develop our view on the need to maintain a single state Ukrainian language across the territory having the same name.

**Results**

Begin with factual history. Current status of immigrants’ language (Ukrainian, Poles, Czechs, Hungarians, and others.) in America, Argentina and Australia clearly shows that living in the alien environment promotes bilingualism (the use of two languages) in the first generation. And in the second and especially the third generation, it will be a complete linguistic assimilation.

There are millions of Russian citizens living in Israel. If adults continue to speak Russian, their children acquire a new language of communication, which becomes their native tongue - Hebrew. They communicate due to that language in kindergarten, school and on the street. Children gradually turn to Hebrew speaking foreigners for their grandparents. Hebrew is a permit to Israeli society, as it enables young people (future adults) more likely to be admitted to the civil service and easier adapt to military service (compulsory for all). The practice of life shows that Ukrainian in Russia, Romania, Poland, Estonia and other countries are also going this way to achieve social success and gain education.

In this context, do historical overview. The Russian-speaking environment really began to embrace Western Ukraine in the second half of the twentieth century, and for two generations of complicated history of the region, Ukrainian national consciousness remained on their native language, traditions and values. Note that these Ukrainian leaved on the territory of the former Poland, Romania and Austria-Hungary.

In eastern Ukraine (Donetsk and Luhansk) in the days of Tsarist Russia, and then other 75 years of Soviet power, many generations of Ukrainian have grown in the Russian-speaking environment. From their childhood, they have the second signaling system – Russian language - in the form of a conditioned reflex of speaking this language. Internal expansion of the Russian language has led to changes in the way Ukrainians understand a culture of a person. For a long time, the Russian language and culture were considered inherent to educated society. However, Ukrainian will be unpromising for the future social growth since it is a rural language. Such a rural citizen coming to a big city tried to learn a language of the "dominant" nation. Hence, the national psyche disease: lack of national identity, inferiority complex, lack of confidence in their own abilities to create their own state of Ukraine.

That is maybe why there are so many Ukrainians in the Eastern Ukraine said in 2013 that their native language was Russian. The majority of Ukrainians perceived indifference or are not aware of their Ukrainian roots.

We believe that the function of the state is creating the environment of speaking Ukrainian language for children of Russian-speaking Ukrainians due to the media and education. We believe that it is advisable for Russian-speaking people living in the East of Ukraine and in the Crimea not to continue to exist in the alien circle of their own ethnic groups. This situation reinforces, in our view, a number of negative trends: 1) the right not to speak Ukrainian; 2) the formation of "mixed" bilingualism by the interpenetration of two language systems that create a ("doublespeak") form of language; 3) loss of the specific nature of the Ukrainian ethnicity, mental hidden features and characteristics of the national psyche.

Psychologists and psychological linguists argue that the subconscious is like the memories of childhood and the semantic evolution of each person (i.e., the composition and characteristics of their own dictionary of words’ meanings). That's the native language creates subconscious and archetype matrixes of the worldview, as well as perception of the world and culture. This usually happens with all children up to 4 - 5 years. Subconscious is the proportion of a particular speaking native language.
An individual becomes a person when guided by the highest values. Values of Ukrainian people are endured, suffered, proven in critical situations and preserved in oral folk art (folklore) in the form of proverbs, parables, tales, songs and myths. There is no reason to believe that they have lost their relevance in modern life. Instead, they give the correct orientation and sense of being. In the language, the national psychology and the way of thinking appear. We can grasp a secret of the national soul only through its language.

Subconscious thinking of Russian-speaking Ukrainians is inherent in the particular speaking Russian. They consider it their native language. Since 1991, only one generation has grown in the independent Russified Ukraine. The statistics in recent years have shown an increase in our speaking Ukrainian. There is a hope and faith in the true national policy to preserve the soul of Ukrainian ethnicity encapsulated in its language.

No one takes away the right of every child in Ukraine to learn and speak the mother tongue (Ukrainian, Hungarian, Russian, Romanian, Tatar etc.). If a required knowledge of the Ukrainian language is a pass to the career of a diplomat, an officer, a teacher of higher educational institution or high-level officials in Ukraine, a considerable portion of the adult population in different regions will reconsider their views and begin to send their children to Ukrainian classes and speak Ukrainian at home and in the regional community. The prestigious status of Ukrainian language will motivate the need to study Ukrainian across the entire territory.

As educators, we believe that the strong national "educational matrix" not destroyed during the historical turmoil remained. It will help make the right Ukrainian choice. Ukrainian "pedagogical matrix" contains national life and language, culture, ethnology, ethnography, art, science, views on training and education of the younger generation. Ukrainian people were always characterized with the hard work, respect to the soil, mother and family, knowledge and cognition, emotional and aesthetic dominant, being introverts and tolerance. Today, such a matrix will preserve Ukrainian ethnic group in the world of globalization, secularization and pragmatism, and simultaneously, requires creative and responsible transformation for a free and harmonious development of Ukraine in the global economy and information space. A paradigm of Ukrainian "teaching matrix" proclaimed the words by Taras Shevchenko "Learn foreign and respect your own...". So, we will cherish, follow and maintain our cultural matrix and language and they will save us.

Discussion

1. A human language is not inherited. It implies the existence of common neurological substrate of speaking, like making tools according to an example. Today, each Ukrainian is responsible for maintaining the native language. Public policy should promote the development of conditioned reflex of speaking Ukrainian language by all population in Ukraine.

2. With the loss of sensation of mandatory state Ukrainian language, we lose mental and spiritual constant, as well as the need of native state.

3. The government should clearly indicate the status of a single state language, which is Ukrainian language, as a guarantee of national identity and sovereignty. Regional languages (Russian, Hungarian, Romanian, Crimean Tatar et al.) must remain at the choice of the population.

References