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The Policy of Ukrainian-Russian Language Mixing.
Qua Vadis Ukrainian.

Perhaps the first thing that «catches the ear» of a foreign traveler to Ukraine is the fact that Ukrainian is consistently, massively, and as a matter of fact used together with Russian at the same time and in the same place on Ukrainian television, radio, the Internet, in government, education, on the street, and elsewhere. This phenomenon has been variously and often misleadingly called 'bilingualism', 'linguoshizophrenia,' and many other mostly unhelpful things. Mixing Ukrainian with Russian in every sphere of life has become both a policy of different Ukrainian governments and a fact of life bemoaned by Ukrainian linguists. This fact, like none other, at once defines and signifies the Ukrainian nation in search of a post-Soviet identity.

The proposed paper will discuss:

- 1) the historical roots of the Ukrainian-Russian language mixing and its relation with such classic and better known forms of assimilation as (1) direct ban on the Ukrainian language and (2) interference in its inner structure at the levels of phonology, morphology, syntax, vocabulary, etc. practiced under the Russian imperial and Soviet regimes and aimed to eliminating Ukrainian;

- 2) the structure and principal elements of Ukrainian-Russian mixing as it is currently practiced on television, radio, filmmaking and other spheres of public communication and entertainment that have a direct impact on the Ukrainian language acquisition both by the citizens of the country and foreigners who wish to learn Ukrainian;

- 3) the consequences the Ukrainian-Russian language mixing has on the present-day Ukrainian language, and specifically on:
 - its phonology, grammar, syntax, vocabulary and phraseology;
 - its capacity to verbalize the extra-linguistic reality, coin new words, terminology, slang, etc.
 - the Ukrainian-language picture of the world;
 - the perception of the Ukrainian language by the very community of its speakers and their language value orientation;
 - the perception of the Ukrainian language in the outside world and the implications it has for the presence of Ukrainian, arguably the second largest Slavic language, in the university curricula around the world;

- 4) teaching strategies that the university instructor of Ukrainian can use to minimize the adverse

effects the policy of the Ukrainian-Russian language mixing is having on the actual and prospective language-learners.