Prevailing tendencies of North Lemkian resettled dialects in Western Ukraine: phonetic aspect

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Abstract – The aim of this article is to describe the most characteristic phonetic features of the North Lemkian dialects, highlighting the basic tendencies of the functioning of such dialects at the start of the 21st century. The thrust of this research lies in the fact that after significant dialectical studies relating to the pre deportation period, this is the first accomplished study relating to the sounding of these dialects as a direct consequence of resettlement to the Western Ukrainian region.

Key wo rds – North L emkian migrant resettled dialect, phonetic feature, vowel a nd consonant sounding, s andhi vioce sounding type, affricate, interference.

I. Introduction

It is known that N orth Lemkian dialects (the Carpathian group of south-western dialects) of the Ukrainian language, which are the subject of this research, experienced in the 20th century major territorial upheavals: pre 1945 the native area of the Lemkian dialect which changed the geographical domicile of native speakers (today Lemkos are to be found in various regions o f Ukraine and Poland; the deport tation was not limited to Slovakian Lemkos). In accordance with this pact in line with “Soviet” policy (the assimilation of Ukrainians) the achieved by the forced resettlement of people from their time immemorial Ukrainian territory – North Lemkian region (Lemkivshchyna). As a consequence of this, from the middle of the 20th century, speakers o f the dialect, lo st the chance to live on their native land, to preserve and develop without impediment th eir cultural traditions, language.

Actually, n o other U krainian dialect, apart from the North Lemkian o ne, l ost it s c ontrasting ti es, was d issipated an d disappeared amongst other languages and dialects (Ukrainian, Polish, et c). Consequently, the dialect continued to function in a different linguistic environment, re suiting in major changes with in the s ystem o f the dialect occurs; this rea son that t he study, e xploration and a ttention given to North Lemkian resettled dialects is today o ne o f the most topical areas of research for dialectologists.

The ai m of t his art icle, based on p ers onal n otes o f people r epresenting various generations, r esettled fr om the No rth L emkian r egion to th e p rovinces o f Lviv, Ternopil or Ivano-Frankivsk respectively, is to display by investigation the presence in the dialects certain phonetic features, expose phonetic prosess es, which take place in circumstances where velling out of the dialect occurs; highlight curre nt tr ends in th e functioning o f the North Lemkian resettled dialects in western Ukraine.

II. The most important features of the phonetic system of North Lemkian dialects

With regard to the North Lemkian dialect characteristics, the following can be included:

- fixed accent on t he penultimate s yllable (kn own as paroxytone): de'vrevo ‘tree’, kal'peľaš ‘hat’, per'o ‘pen’, pyroša ‘dumpings’;
- hardening of s oon consonants p ositioned at th e end of the word: h'isť ‘guest’, k'aniń ‘stone’, v'zlež ‘black ice’;
- p'alec ‘finger’, švadist ’joy’, t'in ‘shade’, v'delc ’fork’;
- z'akalec ‘underbaked piece of bread’, ľolud ‘acorn’;
- hardening o f t he s ufficia l z. c. s beł ore k: šorhack’i ‘wealthy’, šaľečk’ij ‘mercantile’, náujětel’sk’ij ‘teaching’, šel’šk’i ‘rural’, učko ‘narrow’;
- presence of al veolar (in p ronunciation where th e t o ugh t ouches t he u pper p alate a nd t eeth) o f t he s uffixal s t in pla ce o f the s oft f ronted p alatal poi n t i: dialeko ‘far away’, k'alec ‘piece’, l'edvi ‘hardly / scarcely’;
- usage of the hard n before k as velar ľošepka ‘wooden c rockery for making butter’, bošenkyt a ‘lamenting, sighing t o God’;
- transition o f the leading c onsonant (and al so t he s ubproposition t o) v o into h (positioned p receding t he voiced consonant) and d into x (positioned p receding t he voiceless consonant): švědev ‘widower’, hlasnyj ’own / personal’, hmytysya ‘to wash...self’, h'merty ‘to die’, hно́ кy ‘at night’, x’gvypty ‘to drown’, švyty ‘to teach’; h bolot’i ‘in the mud’, h vod’i ‘in t he water’, h švar ‘in firewood’, h žvyl’i ‘in the ground’, h vyt’i ‘in summer’, h hm’ist ‘in the town’, h ne’d’il’u ‘on Sunday’, h ožer ’i ‘in the lake’, x’pol’u ‘in the field’, x’kovoir ’i ‘in the pantry’, x’rob ’i ‘in myself’, x’t’x’konči ‘in this house’;
- presence in interword phonetics sandhi voice sounding type (voiceless consonant [positioned at the end of the word] situated before the next sonorous, voice sounding consonant or vowel [positioned at the beginning of the
next word] effected as voice sounding: )|jag ’dub ‘like an oak tree’, bәd bә “only that’, nīɗ k ‘bude ‘the night will come’; bәhәd n’a hokolə “my he ad hurt s’, jag vөvөz “when .... transported out’, jag jәm s’p’t.wav ‘how I sang’, nәz nәri “our people’, rәz vәl̰kә “grew ta ll’, pרўzәm nd в әкәl “will accept to school’, tag mәbәt bәty “so it must be’, tφh tәdә “those people’, v lәz “look ‘(they) are going to the forest’, jag lәhen “like ‘fәre’, tag ’u nәs bә “how it w as he re’, xәd |Aәnәt “p’iđe ”if only Andrew will go”.

Particular features of North Lemkian dialects, distinctive also to some other Carpathian dialects, are:

- maintaining the di stinguishing y (in the front line o f the upper-middle elevation) – u (in the paral line of the upper-middle el evation): bәty “to b e’ i bәty “to b e eat”; lвy (for example ‘to ma ke a ‘nest’ i lәtә “for ex ample ‘bowl I like a wolf’y; lәтә “spoon’ i лӣsқa “fox”; lәj my “give me”, cәroby ry “did for you” i mә “we, you” – personal pronoun);

- presence of aff ricate dәzәt (sound created from the moment the air passage is overwe, which is not destroyed comple tely, but gradually transits to the glottis [1, p. 2 6]) replacing dә “dәzykә “rainwater”, mәdә “boundary”, lәdә “alien”, pәmәdә “between”, pәrә “yam”, pәdә “’spinning’, rәdә “’rust”, lәdә “’root”, vәdә “’vision”.

Additionally, dialectologists of North Lemkian dialects continuously maintain (as pәsәu i t s pres ence i n ot her south-western d ialects o f t he U krainian l anguage) t he following characteristics:

- dәsәl-pa tala l-p ronunciation (very so ft p pronunciation with preceding sibilant sound) sounds z, c, s, dә as z”, c”*, s”, dә*: lә́’ilyә “herb”, vә’ibә “withered”, vә’izdә “star”; cә’sәk “nail”, vә’i rә “sa zәooc. g rasshopper”, vә’i tә “flower”; bәbә “by a “splashing by hand in anything liquid”, mә’tә “’sag “cr eeping shape of the moon”, mә “’dәty “tender form of word of youth”, sә’u sә “woodpile, neatly stacked row of wood”, sә’i “to sit”, ә “’nu vә “luck”, lәcә “’feastday”, jәs “nәty “to brighten up, to shine”;

- usage of dә, tә as g, k in certain forms: гәвәk “adult girl”, ләkә “’tightly”, lә “’nvә “crush”, kә “dough”;

- absence of double consonants in noun nearer gender to *iө: lә’i “’life”, оләдә “’task”, lә – i “’herb”, сә “’seasonings”, ә ‘tә “reading”.

III. Current trends of functioning dialects due to settlements

The analysis o f c u rrent North Lemkian dialect usage has provided the criteria to pool the speakers of the said dialect into the following groupings: 1) participants, who can speak the dialect – t he әsә “people, usually o f e ldery a ge, who freely con versed i n t he d ialec t, pә r i or t o re settlement o r immediately a fter deportation, lived in the Lemkian dialect environment in vi llages, co nsequently i n ot coming into intensive contact with the stan dard Ukranian language and its respective dialects. In this respect, we include participants from both the s econd and y ounger g enerations, who ha ve consciously mastered t he d ialec t o f t heir pare nts; 2) participants, in whom the dialect is somewhat impaired – in t his c ategory t he re are p eople with secondary or h igher education, who live in vil lages or towns; who subject to the prevailing language environment are able to apply or at least o th er t y pe o f l anguage us age, differentiating between t he

Conclusion

Correspondingly i n iight of t he ab ove e, pres ent t he following b asic t rends in n functioning o r he mkian dialects have been noted: a) reduced domain of usage; b) changes in dialect u e to e counters with s outheast- west ern dialects; c) e v ergence with t he stan dard Uk rainian langu age; d) intensive enrichment of dialects formed as a mark of new realities of life.

The area w here t he North Le mkian dialect prev ailed, after t he Second W orld W ar w as c ounterfeasable s ubstantial irreversibles c hanges – t he territorial in tegrity o f t he Ukraini an region was lost due to the forced deportation of t he i nhabitants o f t he Lands [2, p. 93]. A gain t t he background o f t he ese c ircles t ances, dialecto l ogists are forced to state th at the gradual decline of ancient dialectic features: c urrently and further ahead are beco ming more difficult i n identifi ng liv ing dialectic s p cee, as e very y ear t he n umbers o f t ypical n ative d ialect s p eakers decline, assimilation p rocesses abound, brought about by inter-dialectic and inter-language encounters.

References


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