

Contested Language Diversity - Dealing with Minority Languages in post-Soviet Ukraine and Russia

Initiative: Trilaterale Partnerschaften – Kooperationsvorhaben zwischen Wissenschaftler(inne)n aus der Ukraine, Russland und Deutschland

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Detailed research of the contested language diversity and its impact on the multilingual societies is a very important factor of ethno-linguistic conflict prevention. How is language diversity discursively constructed, and what are the topics and argumentative patterns in the polarized debates on language diversity in Russia and Ukraine? Who are the actors in language diversity contestations, and in which manner do they overlap with the language as well as discursive societies? How do minorities position themselves with regard to the language ideologies? When and under which conditions does it come to disruptions in language biographies? What is the impact of the language diversity contestations on the language policy, and what are the societal consequences? By answering these research questions the trilateral project aims to provide a multifactorial analysis of the polarized language question including differing views of a broad spectrum of actors. The project focuses on qualitative sociolinguistic methods. Concerning data collection and processing we use methodological triangulation: autobiographic narratives (language biographies) of minorities by guided interviews, societal language diversity contestations by analysis of mass media, and official language diversity management by document analysis. The methods of data analysis concentrate on discursive approaches to language policy.

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