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Russian-speaking community in Lithuania: cultural and national identification

Nowadays' Lithuania presents a polyethnic country with many national and cultural communities among which we can single out a Russian-speaking one. The representatives of this group are of various origins coming from Russia, born to Russian families in Lithuania or moving from or to Russia, or being of other descent than Russian but speaking the Russian language. In this regard, the research focuses on the reflections of the Russian-speaking community to deeply understand its identification, value orientation, interplay with other national communities, pragmatic, social, economic and cultural role in the society in general. The research also reveals people's goals, suppositions, regrets and wishes.

The study of the Russian-speaking community is organized around the notions of cultural and national identity and identification. The first means the feeling of belonging to some cultural and national group. The latter refers to the process of subconscious attribute of a person to some community. In our research, we regard both notions as dynamic, unstable of cognitive and reflective character. Identity and identification are formed and undergo changes under the influence of personal priorities, social values, cultural, historical and political events (e.g. social, economic and political processes in the country, in the EU, in the RF, in the world). Our study enables the understanding of the essence of this community, its structure, social positional roles, identification and interplay in the society.

The material of the research:

The data collection (about 300 threads) from Facebook by using keywords, grammatical and lexical forms and snowball search. The data collection took place between 2017-2022.

Research methods:

Firstly, the material will be thematically grouped accorded to the final focus of the study. Then quantitative and qualitative content analysis will be applied to operate the data obtained. To define the speaker's intentions, motives and pragmatic goals we will turned to the method of pragmatic discourse analysis. Textual analysis of Facebook posts will be done along with visual analysis. We will also consider the comments following the posts thus regarding the overall research material as a hypertext. The method of modeling and the descriptive method will be applied to make up "the communicative passport" of this community out of the elements explicitly or implicitly traced during the discourse analysis.

Thematically the analysis can trace people's attitudes to the following issues: changes in society, prominent / important individuals, other national and cultural communities, Soviet regime, Russian imperialism, religion, cultural events and places, personal historical memory and interpretation of past events, problems of the neighbouring countries etc.

The questions used to understand the inner motives of the community in focus:

1. Who are **we**? What characteristics do **we** have?
2. Who are **they**? What sort of relations do **we** foster with **them**?
3. What events happen around us? What is our attitude to them?
4 Where are we? What is our attitude to it?

Research questions:

1. How does the Russian-speaking community verbalize and identify itself and other communities in Lithuania?
2. What is the place and role of this community in Lithuania?
3. What are its value orientations?

References

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