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### “Recent Trends in the Ukrainian Language and War Situation (2022–2024)”

The language situation in Ukraine has been in constant evolution since 1991. This process began with the “Law of Languages” (October 28, 1989) even before the country gained its independence. Nevertheless, the language situation has known periods of relative stability alternated by more rapid changes. A powerful extralinguistic factor such as the full-scale invasion of Ukraine by the Russian Federation (24 February 2022) has brought about a series of societal, behavioral and, related to them, changes in language use, distribution, attitude, and perception. The Ukrainian language has never enjoyed such an unprecedented status and social recognition as observable since the outbreak of the war. The Russian language, on the other hand, has never been associated with such low prestige and been so unpopular, even among a part of Russian native speakers, as it can be observed over the last two-year period.

This exceptional situation has also contributed to the strengthening of the linguistic-national consciousness of other, sometimes dormant, ethnic-linguistic groups (cf. minority languages) of Ukraine. Notwithstanding this last aspect, the main social, political, and research interest focuses on the two major vehicular languages of Ukraine, namely Ukrainian and Russian. The study of their constant and long-lasting interaction has in fact had an immediate impact on Ukrainian society as well as in the so-called “near abroad”. It should be added that certain sociolinguistic trends, backed up by the language policy of the last decade (2014-2024), in favor of the process of linguistic and cultural Ukrainization of the country were already underway even before the Russian invasion of February 2022.

The ongoing war has undoubtedly accelerated the rapid diffusion of the Ukrainian language in all social layers and beyond, thus restricting the language domains usually assigned to Russian (e.g., business, retail sales, sport, army, etc.). At the same time, the Ukrainian Lexis undergoes a process of resemanticization and relexicalization of already existing vocabulary, plus the increase of new derivational patterns and lexemes (e.g., neologisms) related to military jargon and war terms. The latter expresses the new realia, which are the consequence of this extraordinary situation. All these interrelated aspects will be the object of our presentation.