

## MIXED RUSSIAN-UKRAINIAN DIALECT IN UKRAINIAN LANGUAGE AS A REALITY TODAY

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Today Ukrainian people face an extreme problem with regards to linguistic culture. Without any doubts, it is a fact that there has been Ukrainian-Russian bilingualism for centuries.

The biggest problem for Ukrainian language is the presence of Surzhyk (Mixed Russian-Ukrainian dialect). This problem was studied and analyzed by different scholars like L. Masenko, V. Radchuk, Y. Polishuk and any others. These scholars informed that the origin of the Surzhyk can be traced back to bans and restrictions that were present in Ukrainian language within the territory of Ukraine. According to Kiev Institute of Sociology, almost 18 percent of the total population of Ukraine converse in Surzhyk. Statistics indicate that almost 9 percent of people in the east, 12 percent of people in the South, and 2.5 percent of people in west of Ukraine converse in Surzhyk. The highest densities of people speaking Surzhyk live in Poltava, Sumy and Chernihiv regions. Surzhyk can be easily identified when spoken or used not just by people in regional areas, but even in government activities.

People who speak Surzhyk are divided into three categories. a) people who speak exceptionally Russian; b) those who do not speak authentic Ukrainian and use Russian words due to its literary forms; and c) those who have good command over the language, but are too lazy to find the original Russian-Ukrainian translation of words. Since speech and thinking are interrelated, excessive use of Surzhyk can weaken the ability to think, by that lowering moral and cultural standard of people. This status in today's society has led to many Ukrainians feel like foreigners in their own country.

Therefore, it can be said that the origin of Surzhyk was a loss of national pride and identity. As in the words of the great Mikhail Grushevskyi: *“If we as Ukrainians want other nations to respect us, we must at first begin to respect ourselves”*

### Literature

1. Vakal D. Impact of social phenomena Ukrainian-Russian language mixture of broadcasting [electronic resource]. - Access: <http://www.repository.hneu.edu>.