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The world in the 21 century: Communications and Cross-culturing

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PROBLEMS OF THE BELARUSIAN LANGUAGE

Belarus became independent in 1991 with the dissolution of the Soviet Union. All of 15 countries of the previous USSR got sovereignty and nowadays are countries with their own cultural peculiarities. BUT: some features of sovereignty of our country, as we think, are just formal. Firstly, it refers to the problem of the Belarusian language. Despite the fact, that it is our native and state language, not many people use it now.

In 2001 "Belaruskaya gazeta" polled "Do the Belarusians need the Belarusian language?" The replies of the respondents represented a variety of images, with them they associate the Belarusian language: "This is the same as asking: Does the person need mother? Maybe it's better to grow in the incubator? Tongue of any person - is the ability to self-identification" and so on.

But why do we still have problems with our language?

1. The well-known fact that in the Russian Empire and Rech Pospolitaya carried out "Russification" and "Polonization" of our nation.

2. At the time of the Soviet Union communists cared about the status of the Belarusian language only if a policy of "Belarusizatsiya" in the early 20s of the previous century.

3. With the approval of Stalinism, the program to strengthen the national identity of the population of the Soviet republics curled up. Since that time it was a state policy to ensure that the Belarusians firmly forgot their native language, and history. The scope of the use of the Belarusian language has decreased substantially.

However, there were positive aspects: it is during the Soviet period, when Belarusian classics of modern times Vasil Bykov, Vladimir Karatkevich, Ivan

Shamyakin and others blossomed. It is also worth noting that the Belarusian language held leading positions in the public television and radio broadcasting of the BSSR.

4. With the collapse of the Union nationally-oriented policies by which Belarus gained its independence were in power. However, the Supreme Council made a serious mistake by taking the law "On Language" and making the only official Belarusian language. This fact has been negatively received by a significant part of the population of Belarus, which was simply not ready for such a turn of events. People could not accept the language they did not understand. Abrupt and painful "Belarus zatsyya" had resulted in many problems in education, public administration, the language issue is reflected in the outcome of the referendum in 1995, which established the Russian language as a second state language. Only in rural areas, there are a number of educational institutions, where the whole cycle of the subjects are taught in Belarusian, but rural schools with few students don't affect the overall linguistic situation in secondary education in the country as a whole. Let's analyze some statistics.

1) Comparing 1999 and 2009 censuses, we see that now only 30% of total population speak Belarusian at home. The main language used for communication is Russian. It is usually spoken at home almost by 6.673 million people - 70% of the population. The Belarusian language is used to communicate by 2.227 million people. According to a 1999 survey 65% of respondents stated that they spoke Russian at home, 25% -reported Belarusian.

2) In the school year of 2010-2011, approximately 363,000 children attended kindergartens: 76% of this number attended Russian-language establishments, 13% Belarusian-language ones and 11% establishments with Russian- and Belarusian-language (or other language) groups.

3) The results of pupils in the subjects taught in Belarusian due to the absence of language practice. For them it is almost a foreign language, which is closer to English than to Russian. About 1.2 million children attended secondary schools in 2010-2011: 77% of children were taught in Russian and 23% in Belarusian. The number of school where children are taught in Belarusian is decreasing. There is a the

shift from Belarusian-to Russian-language education that started immediately after the May 1995 Referendum when Belarusian-language classes in bilingual schools started to close down and the schools transformed into exclusively Russian language schools.

4) At the beginning of 2011-2012 academic year 164.2 thousand students studied in the Russian and Belarusian languages (37% of all students), in the Belarusian language-4.2 thousand students(0.9%),in the Russian language about 60% at institutions of higher education. Practically there is no "official language" in the air of Belteradio.

Conclusion. However, officials need to understand that only administrative measures to achieve solution to the problem are impossible to eliminate the cause rather than consequence. And the reason for this plight of the Belarusian language is in its desocialization. The approval of the Belarusian state is vital to raise the status of the Belarusian language in the community, to expand the scope of its use, and to make it real, rather than on paper. How can we do it? We can do it as in the Ukraine. They brought in the Ukraine language in all the spheres of life. But this method is too sudden for our people, and we think, it would be better to introduce it more gradually.

1. First of all, Belarusian mass media need reformation. It should be effective to translate all the Belarusian TV and radio channels and programs into Belarusian not to forget about foreign mass media. It concerns advertising. Foreign films and literature can also be translated into Belarusian.

2. It is important to add more lessons in our native language and literature at school, university, other educational institutions. In general people should get education in Belarusian beginning from kindergartens.

3. There should be more festivals and cultural arrangements devoted to the history of our country, because it's rather difficult and even necessary to be independent and sovereign without it. Along with other nationalities we have the right to exist as a nation with its own culture, history and language.