



Faculty of Modern Philology and Social Sciences
Multilingualism Doctoral School

Response To Dr. Sándor Czeglédi Evaluation of
Mariia Popova's Doctoral (PhD) Dissertation

Title: Maintenance of the Russian Language in the Post-Soviet States: Activities of Russia

Supervisor: Prof. Dr. István Csernicsekó; Prof. Dr. Kees de Bot

Dear Dr. Sándor Czeglédi,

Thank you for the detailed and insightful feedback on my dissertation. I also appreciate your comments on the interdisciplinary approach I followed. I aimed to provide a comprehensive analysis that integrates both linguistic and political perspectives, and I'm glad this was effective in contributing to broader debates on language policy. I truly value your thorough evaluation and am grateful for your constructive suggestions, which have inspired me to further research.

Regarding the suggestion to include more interviews with stakeholders, I agree that such perspectives could provide valuable insights, particularly by comparing interviews and speeches to explore possible differences in narratives. This comparison is important due to the distinct nature of each format. Interviews often involve spontaneous responses, where public figures may rely on broader rhetorical strategies, whereas speeches tend to be more structured and focused on specific topics or practical issues. By analyzing both formats through discourse analysis, I can gain a deeper understanding of how language policy is communicated in various contexts.

As for the discussion on digital globalization, I fully agree that it represents a crucial and rapidly evolving dimension in numerous domains, including both soft power strategies and language policy. States manage languages within the country and abroad through online media and educational platforms, enriching the tools available for language maintenance or deterrence. These digital platforms enable states to reach broader audiences and adapt traditional language strategies to the modern, globalized world. This trend aligns with international initiatives like the UN Global Digital Compact, which addresses the opportunities and challenges posed by digitalization.

As online technologies continue to grow in importance, they further enhance the strategies for language promotion. Specifically, in the context of Russia's influence in post-Soviet states, technological advancements hold particular relevance. As digital borders become increasingly blurred, Russia gains more opportunities to promote its language and culture, as it is no longer confined by political boundaries and can extend its influence through digital platforms to reach a wider global audience.

While I have mentioned some digital platforms established by Rossotrudnichestvo and the Russkiy Mir Foundation in my dissertation, I fully agree that this area requires deeper analysis. As I mentioned earlier, your suggestion has inspired me to explore this further in my future research.

In response to the question about other ministries and agencies involved in Russian language maintenance policies, I would like to highlight the roles of several key institutions alongside those discussed in the dissertation. The Ministry of Culture of the Russian Federation plays a significant role in cultural diplomacy by promoting the Russian language through international cultural exchanges and events. The Federal Agency for Ethnic Affairs of the Russian Federation promotes the Russian language as a unifying element among various ethnic groups. Additionally, it develops frameworks that guide the promotion of ethnic relations in alignment with foreign policy objectives. The Federal Agency for Youth Affairs promotes the Russian language through youth-oriented programs, educational initiatives, and cultural exchanges, engaging younger generations to ensure the continued use of the language. Furthermore, the Ministry of Digital Development, Communications, and Mass Media is particularly relevant in the context of digital globalization. This ministry regulates media content and digital communications, ensuring that Russian-language media and online platforms maintain a strong presence.

The Ministry of Culture, Federal Agency for Ethnic Affairs, Federal Agency for Youth Affairs, and Ministry of Digital Development demonstrate a commitment to transparency through the availability of various documents reflecting their legal frameworks, operational plans, and strategic initiatives. These documents, including government resolutions, federal laws, and regulatory acts, provide insight into the roles of these agencies and ministries in promoting language maintenance and cultural initiatives.

However, while these reports detail the activities undertaken by these organizations, they fall short of presenting measurable outcomes or effectiveness. This lack of comprehensive data makes it challenging to assess the actual impact of their initiatives, particularly since measuring the effectiveness of language promotion can be inherently complex due to various influencing factors. Furthermore, there is significant overlap in the responsibilities and activities of these agencies, which can obscure accountability and make it unclear which organization is responsible for specific initiatives or outcomes. This overlap complicates the evaluation of their effectiveness.

Once again, thank you for your valuable feedback and suggestions. I will take them all into consideration for my future studies.

10.10.2024

Mariia Popova