

UDC 39

DOI: 10.33876/2311-0546/2024-4/236-253

Original Article

© *Herman Ustyantsev, Galina Glukhova, Artem Ananov, Julia Sinitsyna, Irina Khomchenkova, Olga Fedorova, and Regina Nasyrova*

**LANGUAGE AS A MEANS OF COMMUNICATION  
AND REPRESENTATION AMONG  
THE ETHNOPROFESSIONAL GROUP  
OF UDMURT PHILOLOGISTS**

*The article analyzes the Russian-Udmurt linguistic environment and its professional aspects. It examines the existence of both Russian and Udmurt languages, identifies the extent of bilingualism among speakers, and assesses the relationship between language use and ethnic identity. The article presents an interdisciplinary study that combines ethnological and linguistic approaches to address these issues. It employs data from a survey based on the questionnaire of the University of Texas, which includes questions about bilingual language profiles and additional blocks on ethnic and social matters. Additionally, interviews with representatives of the language community were conducted to facilitate a more comprehensive understanding of the subject. The study focused on an ethnographic community of Udmurt philologists, which allowed us to examine the use of the Udmurt language in a context characterized by increased interest in Udmurt studies. The data for this research were collected during an expedition to the Republic of Udmurtia in December 2023. Both qualitative and quantitative methods were employed in the investigation. Qualitative techniques included the analysis of collected interviews, while quantitative methods entailed the analysis and graphical representation of the information gathered. The findings revealed a situation of balanced bilingualism within the studied group. The survey and analysis of the data showed that within this community, the Udmurt language serves as a means of self-identification, representation of ethnic identity, and as a primary means of communication.*

**Keywords:** *Udmurt language, bilingualism, language environment, ethnoprofessional community, language education, ethnic identity*

**Authors Info:** **Ustyantsev, Herman Yu.** — Ph.D. in History, Assistant of the Department of Ethnology, History Faculty, Lomonosov Moscow State University (Moscow, Russian Federation). E-mail: [ustyan-93@mail.ru](mailto:ustyan-93@mail.ru) ORCID ID: <https://orcid.org/0000-0003-0655-3127>

**Glukhova, Galina A.** — Ph.D. in Philology, Associate Professor, Department of Udmurt Literature and Literature of the Peoples of Russia, Director of the Institute of Udmurt Philology, Finno-Ugric Studies and Journalism, Udmurt State University (Izhevsk, Russian Federation). E-mail: [galant@udm.ru](mailto:galant@udm.ru)

**Ananov, Artem A.** — Student, Department of Ethnology, History Faculty, Lo-

monosov Moscow State University (Moscow, Russian Federation). E-mail: [An.artem02@mail.ru](mailto:An.artem02@mail.ru) ORCID ID: <https://orcid.org/0009-0007-6923-3784>

**SinitSYna, Julia V.** — Lecturer, Department of Theoretical and Applied Linguistics, Faculty of Philology, Lomonosov Moscow State University (Moscow, Russian Federation). E-mail: [jv.sinitSYna@yandex.ru](mailto:jv.sinitSYna@yandex.ru) ORCID ID: <https://orcid.org/0000-0002-2408-6270>

**Khomchenkova, Irina A.** — Lecturer, Department of Theoretical and Applied Linguistics, Faculty of Philology, Lomonosov Moscow State University; Research Fellow, Department of Corpus Linguistics and Linguistic Poetics, Vinogradov Russian Language Institute of Russian Academy of Sciences (Moscow, Russian Federation). E-mail: [irina.khomchenkova@yandex.ru](mailto:irina.khomchenkova@yandex.ru) ORCID ID: <https://orcid.org/0000-0003-1653-0201>

**Fedorova, Olga V.** — Doctor of Philology, Professor of the Department of Theoretical and Applied Linguistics, Faculty of Philology, Lomonosov Moscow State University (Moscow, Russian Federation). E-mail: [olga.fedorova@msu.ru](mailto:olga.fedorova@msu.ru) ORCID ID: <https://orcid.org/0000-0002-5034-3859>

**Nasyrova, Regina R.** — Student, Department of Theoretical and Applied Linguistics, Faculty of Philology, Lomonosov Moscow State University (Moscow, Russian Federation). [regina.nasyrova55@gmail.com](mailto:regina.nasyrova55@gmail.com) ORCID ID: <https://orcid.org/0009-0008-6280-0667>

**For citation:** Ustyantsev, H. Yu., G. A. Glukhova, A. A. Anan'ev, J. V. SinitSYna, I. A. Khomchenkova, O. V. Fedorova, and R. R. Nasyrova. 2024. Language as a Means of Communication and Identity Representation among the Ethnoprofessional Group of Udmurt Philologists. *Herald of Anthropology (Vestnik Antropologii)* 4: 236–253.

**Funding:** The research was conducted as part of a grant-funded study on scientific and educational institutions, titled “From the Volga Region to the Caucasus: Linguistic and Cultural Diversity of the Central and Southern Regions of Russia,” which was jointly organized by the Department of Ethnology at the Faculty of History at Lomonosov Moscow State University and the Department of Theoretical and Applied Linguistics at the Faculty of Philology at Lomonosov Moscow State University.

## References

- Batalova, R. M. 1993. Permskie iazyki [Permian Languages]. In *Iazyki mira. Ural'skie iazyki* [Languages of the World. Uralic Languages], ed. by V. N. Yarceva. Moscow: Nauka. 209–214.
- Dunn, A. L., and J. E. Fox Tree 2009. A Quick, Gradient Bilingual Dominance Scale. *Bilingualism: Language and Cognition* 12(3): 273–289. <https://doi.org/10.1017/S1366728909990113>
- Erikson, E. 2006. *Identichnost': yunost' i krizis* [Identity: Youth and Crisis], ed. by A. V. Tolstykh. Ed. 2. Moscow: Flinta, MPSI, Progress. 342 p.
- Ferguson, C. A. 1959. Diglossia. *WORD* 15(2): 325–340.
- Fishman, J. 1972. The Sociology of Language. In *Advances in Sociology of Language*, ed. by J. A. Fishman. The Hague: Mouton de Gruyter. 217–404.
- Gertken, L. M., M. Amengual, and D. Birdsong. 2014. Assessing Language Dominance with the Bilingual Language Profile. In *Measuring L2 proficiency: Perspectives from SLA*, ed. by P. Leclercq, A. Edmonds, H. Hilton. Bristol: Multilingual Matters. 208–225. [https://sites.la.utexas.edu/bilingual/files/2012/01/Assessing\\_Language\\_Dominance\\_BLP.pdf](https://sites.la.utexas.edu/bilingual/files/2012/01/Assessing_Language_Dominance_BLP.pdf)
- Grosjean, F. 2008. *Studying Bilinguals*. Oxford: Oxford University Press. 314 p.
- Guboglo, M. N., and S. K. Smirnova. 2001. *Fenomen Udmurtii. Paradoksy etnopoliticheskoi transformatsii na iskhode XX veka* [The Phenomenon of Udmurtia. Paradoxes of the Ethnopolitical Situation at the end of the 20<sup>th</sup> century]. Moscow: IEA RAN. 496 p.
- Gumperz, J. 1968. The Speech Community. In Duranti, A. (ed.). *Linguistic Anthropology: A reader*,

- ed. by A. Duranti. Cambridge: Cambridge University Press. 1: 66–73. <https://doi.org/10.1017/CBO9780511810190>
- Kashkin, E. V., and M.-E. A. Vinkler. 2024. Yazykovaia situatsiia u tatyshlinskikh udmurtov: nabliudeniia ekspeditsii OTiPLa MSU [The Linguistic Situation of the Tatyshli Udmurts: Observations of the Expedition of the Department of Theoretical and Applied Linguistics of Moscow State University]. *Rodnoi yazyk* 1: 16–43.
- Kelmakov, V. E. 1993. Udmurtskii yazyk [Udmurt Language]. In *Yazyki mira. Ural'skie yazyki* [Languages of the world. Uralic languages], ed. by V. N. Yartseva. Moscow: Nauka. 239–254.
- Kelmakov, V. K. 2006. *Kratkii kurs udmurtskoi dialektologii: uchebnoe posobie dlia vysshikh uchebnykh zavedenii* [A Short Course in Udmurt Dialectology: A Textbook for Higher Education Institutions]. Vol. 2. Izhevsk: Udmurtskii universitet. 385 p.
- Kosareva, I. A. 2017. Etnograficheskie gruppy udmurtskogo naroda (opyt vydeleniia) [Ethnographic Groups of the Udmurts (an Attempt of Definition)]. Part 1. *Izvestiia Obshchestva arkheologii, istorii i etnografii pri Kazanskom universitete* 37: 2. 193 p.
- Kremin, L. V. and K. Byers-Heinlein. 2020. Why not Both? Rethinking Categorical and Continuous Approaches to Bilingualism. *PsyArXiv* 25(6): 1560–1575. <https://doi.org/10.1177/13670069211031986>
- Marian, V., H. Blumenfeld, and M. Kaushanskaia. 2007. The Language Experience and Proficiency Questionnaire (LEAP-Q): Assessing Language Profiles in Bilinguals and Multilinguals. *Journal of Speech, Language, and Hearing Research* 50(4): 940–967.
- Marian, V. and S. Hayakawa. 2020. Measuring Bilingualism: the Quest for a “Bilingualism Quotient”. *Applied Psycholinguistics* 42(2): 1–22. <https://doi.org/10.1017/S0142716420000533>
- Montrul, S. 2016. Dominance and Proficiency in Early and Late Bilingualism. In *Language Dominance in Bilinguals: Issues of Measurement and Operationalization*, ed. by C. SilvaCorvalán, J. Treffers-Daller. Cambridge: Cambridge University Press. 15–35. <https://doi.org/10.1017/CBO9781107375345.002>
- Nasibullin, R. Sh., S. A. Maksimov, V. G. Semenov, and G. V. Otstavnova. 2009. *Dialektologicheskii atlas udmurtskogo yazyka. Karty i kommentarii* [Dialectological Atlas of the Udmurt Language. Maps and Comments]. Vol I. Izhevsk: NITs “Reguliarnaia i khaoticheskaia dinamika”. 260 p.
- Pivneva, E. A. 2011. Podderzhka i razvitie finno-ugorskikh yazykov v kontekste etnokul'turnoi situatsii [Support and Development of Finno-Ugric Languages in the Context of the Ethnocultural Situation]. In *Pravovoi status finno-ugorskikh yazykov i etnokul'turnye potrebnosti rossiiskoi shkoly* [The Legal Status of the Finno-Ugric Languages and the Ethnocultural Needs of the Russian School], ed. by V. A. Tishkov. Moscow: IP A. G. Yakovlev. 64–89.
- Rodina, N. M., and E. Yu. Protasova. 2024. Vzaimodeistvie sem'i i detskogo sada pri vospitanii dvuiazychiia: analiz praktik [The Interaction of Family and Kindergarten in the Education of Bilingualism: An Analysis of Practices]. *Rodnoi yazyk* 1: 44–69.
- Sadikov, R. R. 2023. Etnokul'turnoe razvitie zakamskikh udmurtov v XX–XXI vv. [Ethnocultural Development of the Transcamian Udmurts in the 20<sup>th</sup>–21<sup>th</sup> centuries] *Vordskem kyl* 7: 39–44.
- Sokolovskii, S. V. 2015. Metafizika identichnosti i issledovaniia protsessov identifikatsii v sotsial'nykh naukakh [Metaphysics of Identity and Research of Identification Processes in the Social Sciences]. *Sibirskie istoricheskie issledovaniia* 1: 8–22.
- Toulouze, E. 2013. La langue oudmourte dans la diaspora orientale: étude de cas. *Études finno-ougriennes*. 45: 117–134. <https://doi.org/10.4000/efo.1872>
- Treffers-Daller, J. 2019. What Defines Language Dominance in Bilinguals? *Annual Review of Linguistics* 5: 375–393.
- Trudgill, P. 2000. *Sociolinguistics: An Introduction to Language and Society*. Fourth Edition. Penguin books. 2000. 222 p.
- Vainraikh, U. 1972. Odnoiazychie i mnogoiazychie [Monolingualism and Multilingualism]. In *Novoe v lingvistike. Vipusk 6. Iazykovye kontakty* [New in Linguistics. Vol. 6. The Language Contacts], ed. by V. Yu. Rozencveig. Moscow: Progress. 25–60.

- Vakhtin, N. B., and E. V. Golovko. 2004. *Sotsiolingvistika i sotsiologiya iazyka* [Sociolinguistics and Sociology of Language]. Saint Petersburg: Izdatel'skii tsentr "Gumanitarnaia akademiia", Evropeiskii universitet v Sankt-Peterburge. 336 p.
- Vladykin, V. E. 2000. Strukturnye komponenty udmurtskogo etnosa [Structural Components of the Udmurt Ethnic Group]. In *Narody Povolzh'ia i Priural'ia. Komi-zyriane, Komi-permiaki, Mariitsy, Mordva, Udmurty* [The People of the Volga Region and the Urals. Komi-Zyryans, Komi-Permiaks, Mari, Mordvins, Udmurts.], ed. by N. V. Mokshin. Moscow: Nauka. P. 428–429.
- Vladykin, V. E. and L. S. Khristoliubova. 1997. *Etnografiia udmurtov* [Ethnography of the Udmurts]. Izevsk: Udmurtiya. 245 p.
- Vorontsov, S. V., and A. E. Zagrebin. 2021. Iazykovaia situatsiia v Udmurtskoi Respublike [The Linguistic Situation in the Udmurt Republic]. In *Iazyk i identichnost': antropologicheskoe issledovanie situatsii v Rossii* [Language and Identity: An Anthropological Study of the Situation in Russia], ed. by M. Yu. Martynova. Moscow: IEA RAN. 90–105.
- Vorontsov, V. S. 2019. Etnolingvisticheskie kharakteristiki zhitelei Udmurtii (po dannym perepisei naseleniia) [Ethnolinguistic Characteristics of the Inhabitants of Udmurtia (According to Population Censuses)]. *Vestnik Udmurtskogo universiteta. Sotsiologiya. Politologiya. Mezhdunarodnye otnosheniia* 3(4): 516–522.
- Vorontsov, V. S., A. V. Martynenko, and O. V. Orlova. 2021. *Marii El, Mordoviia, Udmurtiia: sovremennaia etnokonfessional'naia situatsiia* [Mari El, Mordovia, Udmurtia: the Modern Ethno-Confessional Situation]. Ioshkar-Ola. 292 p.
- Waskom, M. L. 2021. Seaborn: statistical data visualization. *Journal of Open Source Software* 6(60): 3021. <https://doi.org/10.21105/joss.03021>