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FROM OBSERVATIONS FOR THE DYNAMICS OF THE ADJECTIVE IN THE EASTERN POLESSIAN DIALECT OF THE UKRAINIAN LANGUAGE

Abstract: Based on a comparison of the forms of adjectives recorded in the Eastern Polessian dialect of the Ukrainian language on two time periods (mid-twentieth century and early 21st century) the author characterizes static language phenomena, as well as changed ones. The results of the research showed that the forms of adjectives in most of the studied in the last 60 years dialects remained the same as in the middle of the 20th century. However, there is some dynamics due to changes in the phonetic system of dialect, the influence of adjacent dialects.

Keywords: dialect, language dynamics, Eastern Polessian dialect, adjective, functional activity.

Until recently linguistic scholars (including Ukrainian: P. Hritsenko, K. Glukhovtseva, A. Kolesnikov, A. Martynova, O. Kostiv, etc.) are increasingly interested in the problems of linguistic dynamics, because statics and dynamics are characteristic for language at all stages of its existence. Studying of language changes gives an opportunity to reveal new dialect features and trace the decline of old ones.

Considering the successes in the language dynamics studying (for details, see [7]), we set the goal to conduct a second investigation of the Eastern-Polessian dialects. In 2010–2016 years we carried out the survey of communicants according to the program of “Atlas of the Ukrainian language” in the same areas, as in [1] in 1950–1960. We traced some changes in the forms of adjectives by observing the speech of the respondents and their answers on the questions of program, comparing them with the materials of [1]:

1. It is known, that in the northern dialects of the Ukrainian language the male genus adjectives in the nominative of singular are mostly represented

without a finite *-ї*: *до'бри, молоди', широ'ки, силе'н: u* [1 I, map 237; II, map 216]. Southern dialects do not differ from the literary pronunciation in the nominative of singular: *до'бриї, молоди'ї, широ'киї, силе'н: иї* [1, III, map 241]. If we compare the contemporary Eastern-Polessian dialects with dialects remote from them in time for 60 years, one can note the preservation of the reduced variants of adjectives typical for northern dialects and the increase in the functional activity of variants with the inflexion *-иї*. Because of this, in the south and east of the dialect the male genus adjectives in the nominative of singular with finite *-иї* and *-u* often coexist. We believe that the tendency to balance them will continue, since at the junction of the areas a zone of vibrations (from 37 localities) is formed. In it on the background of the Polessian ending *-u* was found the finite *-иї* in some word forms or, on the contrary, during the dominance of complete adjectives the reduced forms were detected (map No. 1). In the opinion of S. P. Samoilenko, the forms of adjectives without finite *-ї* in the male genus in the nominative of singular gradually begin to disappear from use [11, 155].

Word forms with other endings, probably borrowed from adjacent Russian dialects (*-oi*, *-ai*) or due to the nature of the implementation of the accentuated [и] (*-ei*), always coexist with the word forms on *-u* or *-ui*: in modern Eastern-Polessian dialects, the unstressed ending *-ai* have been found in the word forms *шуро'каї, х'ітраї, д'ішо'ваї* (locality 190th); the accentuated ending *-oi*: *маладо'ї* (locality 14th), *-ei*: *молоде'ї* (localities 156th, 310th), *маладе'ї* (locality 132th). In the speech of informants, we rarely testify short forms with zero inflexions: *пад, слаб* (locality 8th). According to the observation of V. Moisienko, nearer to the present day Polessian residents actively used member formations [8, 182].

2. In the Eastern-Polessian dialects of the Ukrainian language neuter gender adjectives in the nominative of singular are represented mainly by forms with the “newly formed ending –e” [5, 196]: *бага'те, мале', до'ґзе*. Comparison of dialects on two time periods allows to draw conclusions that at the beginning of the XXI century full compressed forms increased the use from 11 localities – up to 108 localities, starting to coexist with the word forms inherited from ancient Slavs with endings *-eue* and *-oue*, and, less often, narrowing their functional activity. At the beginning of the XXI century uncompressed forms were recorded in those dialect zones as in the middle of the XX century i. e. mainly in the north and east of Eastern Polessian dialect of Ukrainian language. In addition to the Eastern-Polessian dialects, the uncompressed forms of neuter gender adjectives in the nominative of singular are used in other dialects of the Northern dialect and in Carpathian dialects [1, I, map 238; II, map 217].

3. In Eastern-Polessian dialects, as in the most of the south-western and south-eastern dialects of Ukrainian language [1, III, 211] and in the literary language, feminine gender adjective in the genitive of singular are mainly formed by finite *-oui*: *до'брої, молодо'ї*. The northern dialects of the Eastern-Polessian dialect are related to the adjacent dialects of the other East Slavic languages by word forms with

the ending *-oi* [3, maps 119–120]. In the studied linguistic continuum these word forms increased the functional activity by 32% to 29 localities. In addition to the influence of similar forms of the genitive of singular at *-oi* of other languages (primarily Russian), in the opinion of N. P. Prilipko, the emergence of inflection *-oi* in the dialects of the Ukrainian language could occur due to the reduction of the final vowel in the inflection *-oui*, which could be influenced by the induction of the forms of the dative and prepositional of singular [10, 73]. In addition to the northern dialect, feminine gender adjective in the genitive of singular with the ending *-oi* are fixed in the Lemkavian dialects, in the steppe, in Slobozhansky and other dialects of the south-eastern dialect of Ukrainian language [1, II, map 218; 9, 157]. In the north-west of the Eastern-Polessian dialect, in some dialects (in 12 localities in the middle of the 20th century and in 11 localities in the beginning of the 21st century), word forms with the ending *-oue* are used. The more common forms for the adjacent right-bank-polessian dialects are forms similar to *до до'броїе, коло молодо'їе* [1, I, map 239]. In some extreme eastern dialects of the studied dialect (in 187th locality in the 50's and 60's of the 20th century and in 190th, 191th localities in the 10's of 21st century), as in the adjoining Russian dialect [4, II, map 42], variants of feminine gender adjective in the genitive of singular with the ending *-ei* have been revealed.

4. In the feminine genus adjectives with a solid consonant in basis as accentuated in the dative and in the prepositional of singular and as unstressed in the prepositional of singular the ending *-ii* is used in the southern Eastern-Polessian dialects: for the last 60 years, the form *молод'її д'ї'ґчин'ї* has increased the use from 14 localities up to 34 localities, *у глибо'к'її крини'ц'ї* – from 21 localities up to 45 localities. In the north of the dialect it has been increased the number of dialects, in which the variants *маладо'ї д'ї'ґчин'ї* were found (from 28 localities in the middle of the 20th century to 76 localities in the begin-

ning of the 21st century), *у глибо'кої крини'це* (from 15 localities in the 1950 s-1960 s to 38 localities in the 2010 s). The forms of adjectives with endings, which in their composition have diphthongs, are rarer in modern Eastern-Polessian dialects than it was in the middle of the 20th century. During this time, the adjective forms with the accentuated ending *-ий* increased the functional activity by 21.5% to 34 localities. The combination of words *у глибо'куй крини'ц'і* was found in 20 localities in the middle of XX century and in 19 localities at the beginning of the XXI century. During last 60 years the variant *молоду'ї д'і'йчин'і* predominantly have been preserved. The form of the adjective *у глибо'куй* with the unstressed ending *-ий* increased the use from 16 localities up to 26 localities. In the north dialects the adjective form with the ending *-ай* – *у глибо'кай* is used in 20 localities in the beginning of the 21st century and in 16 localities in the middle of the 20th century. As in some of the adjoining Kursk dialects [3, II, map 42], in individual Eastern-Polessian dialects (in the 187 localities in the mid-twentieth century and in the 191 localities at the beginning of the 20th century) the adjective in the prepositional of singular *глибо'ка* acquires the ending *-ей*.

5. Unlike the dialects of the south-western dialect, in the Polissya dialects, with the exception of certain Volyn-Polissya, there is no reduction of the feminine adjective endings in the dative and in the prepositional of singular [1, I, map 242; II, map 220]. Locally untypical for the Eastern-Polessian dialects variants of the type *т'і молод'і* (*д'і'йчин'і*), *у глибо'к'і* (*крини'ц'і*), which was found in the middle of the 20th century in the 144th, 146th, 160th, 171th, 279th, 307th localities, during the second investigation (at the beginning of the 21st century) were not detected.

6. A comparative analysis of the Eastern-Polessian dialects showed an increase of the functional activity in the nominative plural of the compressed forms of adjectives on *-и* (*за'рни, до'бри, чужи'*), which probably act as intermediaries from the north to the south, because in the south-eastern dialects

the adjectives in this form consistently end in *-і* [1, I, map 243]. The forms with *-и* were discovered in 66 localities in the middle of the 20th century and in 81 localities at the beginning of the XXI century. Typical for the south-eastern dialects [1, 112–113] and for the literary language, the word forms on *-і* are used predominantly in the south of dialect. They increased the functional activity from 13 localities in the middle of the 20th century up to 35 localities in the beginning of the 21st century, spreading to the northern dialect zones. Uncompressed forms continue to mark the dialects of the northern region of Eastern-Polessian dialect. According to the phonetic regularities in the adjective forms of the nominative plural, the ending *-ийе* locally (in the northern Eastern-Polessian dialects) is modified in *-ийі, -ійі*, and after the basics with sibilant and [p] into *-ийе*.

7. In the Eastern-Polessian dialects, possessive adjectives, formed from the noun *батько* have two suffixes *-ов-* and *-ин-*. The possessive form *ба'т'кини* marks the peripheral eastern and northern Eastern-Polessian dialects. The possessive adjectives with the morpheme *-ов-* are prevalent on the rest of the dialect area. The form *ба'т'кови* is the most commonly used in the studied language continuum. It increased the use from 16 localities up to 76 localities during more than half a century. The word form with flexion *-і* (*ба'т'ков'і*) is influenced by the south-eastern dialects and literary Ukrainian language. Although this form increased the functional activity by 65% – to 33 localities, in the East-Polish dialect it was used here and there.

8. In the studied linguistic continuum the possessive adjectives from the noun *мати* are represented by many forms, the development of which is associated not only with phonetic causes and with grammatical analogies, but also with features of the lexical composition. Since in many northern eastern-polessian dialects the meaning of the 'матер' is transferred by the lexeme *ма'тка* [6, map 73], the forms formed from *ма'ч:* *ин* and *ма'ткин* are widespread in them, although the forms formed

from *ма'терин* are used in the majority of the dialect area. In the Eastern-Polesian dialects in two chronological sections (50–60 s of the 20th century and 10th of the 20th century) in the nominative plural, this possessive adjective most often preserves the inflection *-и*: *ма'терини*. This morphological

form is very common in the adjoining dialects of the southeastern dialect [1, I, map 245]. The literary form *ма'терин'и* is used here and there in the south of the Eastern-Polesian dialect. During last 60 years this word form has increased its functional activity from 4 localities up to 20 localities.

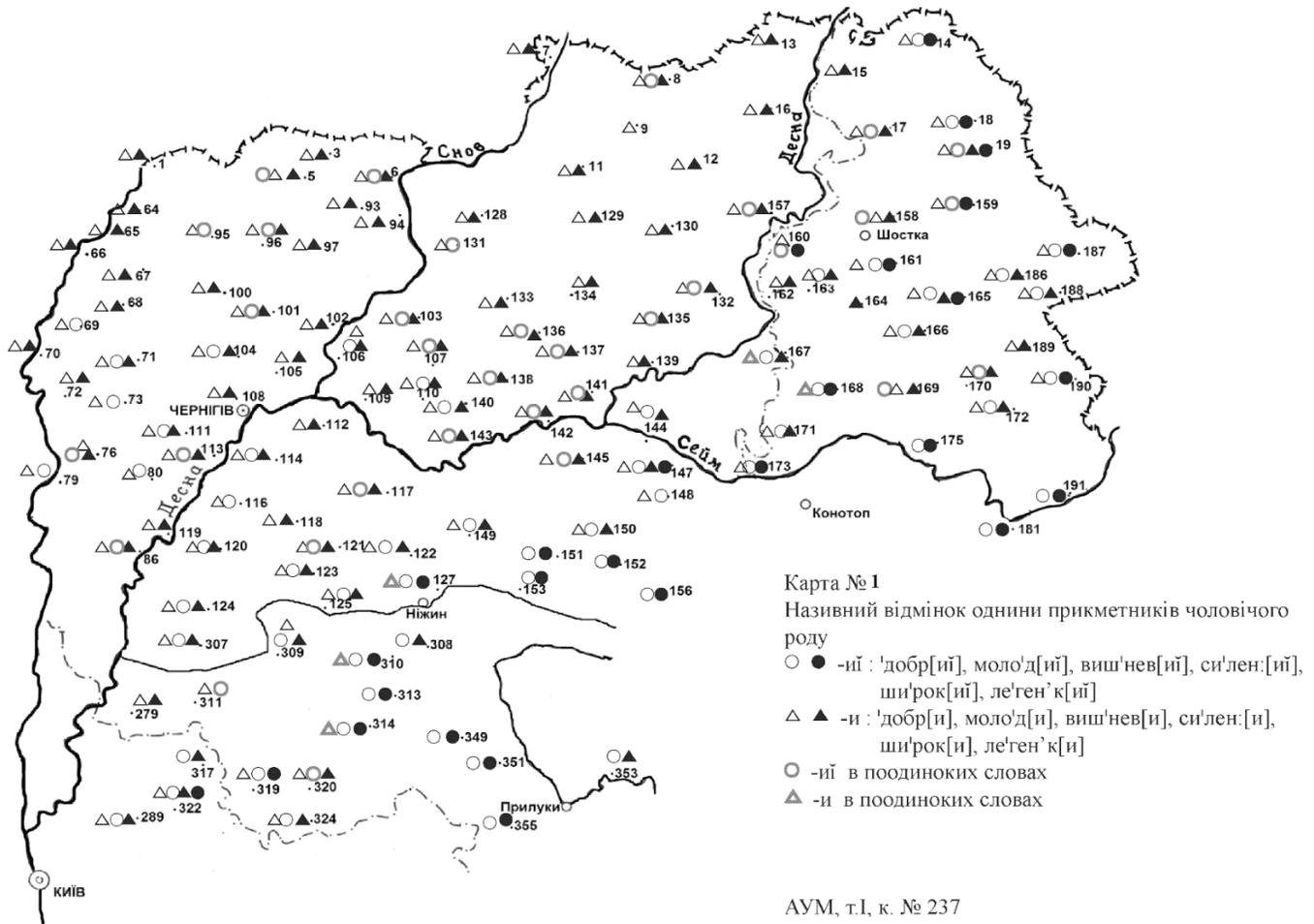


Figure Map No. 1 represents the materials of two chronological sections: the middle of 20th century and the beginning of the XXI century: contour figures reproduce materials collected by the author during 2010–2016; filled figures show materials of the middle 20th century, presented in the АУМ

It should be note that unreduced endings in possessive adjectives in the plural form are used infrequently unlike qualitative adjectives.

Thus, the forms of adjectives found in the middle of the 20th century have been preserved in the majority of Eastern-Polesian dialects for the last 60 years. The dynamics of adjective inflection is in:

- phonetic modification of the inflections of adjectives due to changes in the phonetic system;
- balancing of the complete and reduced forms of the male genus adjectives in nominative of singular occurs in different zones of the dialect;
- in the northern region of Eastern-Polesian dialect the forms common to the adjacent south-eastern dialect were distributed.

It should be noted that, being limited by the program of the Atlas of the Ukrainian language, we presented only certain peculiarities of changes in the forms of adjectives in the East-Polesian dialect of the Ukrainian language. Nevertheless, such in-

vestigation can facilitate a comparative analysis of the adjective changes of modern East-Polesian dialects and other Ukrainian, Russian or Belarusian dialects.

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