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Summary of the doctoral thesis entitled:

Ukrainian-Russian-Polish trilingualism of Ukrainian people of non-Polish descent

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The dissertation concerns the phenomenon so far not subjected to studies of trilingualism of Ukrainians living both in Poland and in Ukraine. The study was attended by non-Polish descent persons, for whom Polish is a foreign language. The research was carried out in the years 2015-2017 in Ukraine and Poland and 1,160 people took part in it.

In the first chapter of the dissertation I present the current language situation in Ukraine, which I refer to as "post-Soviet" because in the years 1991-2015, despite the official language being Ukrainian, it did not interfere with the free functioning of the Russian language in all areas of communication, in individual regions even in the position of the dominant language. The second part of the chapter is devoted to the situation of the Polish language in Ukraine and the growing migration of Ukrainians to the west, where Poland is the first country abroad. The end of the first chapter presents the migration of Ukrainians to Poland, its number, most often performed professions and the adaptation problems of such a large migration group.

The purpose of the next chapter is to present the reader with language contact research between the three languages studied. Respectively, the issues of research on Russian-foreign contacts, then Polish-foreign contacts were presented. The study of Ukrainian language contacts was divided into two areas: Ukrainian-Russian and Ukrainian-Polish contacts.

In the third chapter I focus on theoretical issues of the phenomenon of trilingualism, which has never been defined in Polish linguistic works. In addition, I analyze the definitions of the native language, first and second language and the third functionally as the first or the second language.

In the next chapter, four groups of respondents were distinguished: the first two groups are people of non-Polish descent, living both in Poland and in Ukraine. The other two groups included people who I consider to be people on the borderline of Polish origin, which means that they declared the Polish origin of their great-grandparents, who most often did not take part in raising a small child, let alone adolescent teenagers. The adoption of such assumptions was aimed at comparing the responses of each of the studied groups and could lead to the conclusion that the assumptions were unjustified if the results of the research did not differ sufficiently. The results presented in the dissertation concerned the general characteristics of the aforementioned groups, the first language of the respondents and their cultural identity, as well as their motivations for learning the Polish language, the level of linguistic competence of each language including the division according to the language skills and the frequency of using each one. The emotional attitude towards every of the language was also taken into account.

In the fifth chapter at first the areas of the use of every language were presented, then the people with whom the respondents communicate in either of the languages, the frequency of the choice of the described languages while using the media and the frequency of using them in the personal sphere.

The sixth chapter demonstrates cases studies of trilingual people, proposing a division into models of becoming and being trilingual. The basis for the cases presented in this chapter were in-depth interviews, conducted with individual informers as well as their participating observation.

The last chapter consists of the summary of the presented research, that apart from the analysis of the functioning of trilingualism concerning the use of the Polish language, points, for the first time, at the value of the Polish language for people of non-Polish descent. For those people Polish language slowly becomes a tool for self-fulfilment of an increasing number of people.