

### Description for general public

The quantity and quality of Polish-Czech linguistic contacts are a subject to a number of complex phenomena and processes that to a large degree determine the shape of social reality in the Czech Republic and Poland and influence the dynamically changing national identity. In summary: since 1989, that is the moment, where for both countries the iron curtain was lifted, there has been a weakening of the sense of connection based on shared Slavic identity, which was emphasised during the previous era; nowadays, one observes the growth of the notion of national identity as based on the values such as ethnicity, territory, language and culture as well as history (the memory of things past, traditions) and religion (when it comes to Poland). Although language has been for ages treated in both countries as the basic medium of tradition, culture or national character, loyalty to the language is not considered obligatory today.

The situation of national languages interferes with more general economic and political globalisation processes, the fact that both countries belong to the EU, migrations (which is more pronounced in Poland than in the Czech Republic), technological revolution, etc. These enable one to participate in a supra-national communication community, but also change the cultural landscape of the Central European countries modifying the specific, locally formed patterns of interlinguistic communication.

The aim of the project is to trace these changes in the course of sociolinguistic analysis focusing on the language preferences related to communication variant in the border area and the psycholinguistic experiments on the reception of neighbour's language. The research will be conducted within the broad framework of ecolinguistics as a holistic research approach using the conceptual and analytical tools allowing one to observe the language ecosystem both in terms of external relations, and in terms of its semicommunication-related aspects (languages in interaction).

Such research will allow a diagnosis of contemporary linguistic situation of the borderland area between Poland and the Czech Republic and help one to draw conclusions with regard to their expected dynamics: their domination by either English as *lingua franca* (ELF) or *lingua receptiva* (LaRa based on national languages) depends on the level of expansion of globalisation processes and the strength and attractiveness of local linguistic practices resulting from sharing similar location over the period of many centuries. A globalised variant of *multilingua franca*, characteristic for the communication in a multicultural environment of globalised cities, is also possible.

The analysed borderland area can be said to be typical in terms of quantity and character of linguistic interactions. It has not been so far an object of analysis in terms of contact linguistics; also the problem of competition between or coexistence of ELF and LaRa communication variants has not been analysed. Yet, observing these changes *in statu nascendi*, showing their complexity, and predominantly evidence-based diagnosis of the current linguistic situation on the borderland area between the Czech Republic and Poland is important for at least two reasons: it can form a basis of practical and customised (not based on prejudices or declarations) linguistic policy supporting national languages in the area, and secondly – as it can point to the glottodidactic solutions for acquiring a similar language and expand the awareness of the popular use of techniques enabling communication in multilingual interactions in a borderland.

The research on Czech and Polish linguistic contacts in the context of LaRa will also enable one to connect to the research on receptive multilingualism, an approach that has been so far neglected in that context.