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Language Policy in Ukraine in the Context Laws on Languages

In view of the registration of three draft laws on languages by the Verkhovna Rada of Ukraine in January 2017 and restoration of discussions on language policy among politicians, academics, mass media it is substantiated the presence of its theoretical component in Ukraine as well as the lack of presence of a practical component making language policy ineffective. The adoption of the Law «On Languages in the Ukrainian SSR» of October 28, 1989 became an important step in the development of language policy in Ukraine. It is stressed that if state agencies and local authorities carried out adequate organizational, political, economic, methodical and educational work, if proper monitor of the implementation of the provisions of this law carried out, the large number of language issues in Ukraine which nowadays disturbs the society would be successfully solved. The Law of Ukraine «On principles of state language policy» of July 3, 2012 not only has not solved problems in practical terms of the implementation of the language policy but on the contrary it has deepened them according to many leading Ukrainian lawyers, political scientists, experts in the Ukrainian language.

The studies of B. Baurinh, V. Kolisnyk, O. Kuts, L. Rapatska, Zh. Shevchuk, S. Shumlianskyi, V. Zablotskyi, the collective monograph «The language situation in Ukraine: between the conflict and the consensus» published by I. Kuras Institute of Political and Ethnic Studies of the National Academy of Sciences of Ukraine (2008) are important theoretical researches in language policy.

The following is proposed for the preparation and consideration of the draft law on languages in Ukraine: to provide high-quality translation of the European Charter for Regional or Minority Languages into Ukrainian language and its new ratification by the Verkhovna Rada of Ukraine, since it establishes the basic principles of preservation and development of regional or minority languages; to prepare and discuss the concept of state language policy in the scientific (legal and linguistic) sphere and reconcile on the level of the President of Ukraine and the Cabinet of Ministers of Ukraine.

Keywords: language policy, Ukrainian, Russian, bills on languages in Ukraine, the European Charter for Regional or Minority Languages.