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The language of Polish emigration in the world: research methods and sources.

The beginnings of research on the language of emigration groups date back to the beginning of the 20th century, but the most important work dates back to 1938: it is Witold Doroszewski's "Polish language in the United States of America".

Organized research on the Polish language in Polish communities (centers in Warsaw and Krakow) dates back to the 1970s. It covers the Polish diaspora overseas (USA, Canada, Brazil, Australia), along with the continental (Western Europe).

Meanwhile, the trend of researching the language of Polish national minorities in areas historically inhabited by Poles (Kresy Południe, Kresy Północne, Russia, Georgia, Latvia, Zaolzie, Bukovina) was developing.

The approach to the main subject of analysis - the Polish language in contact with the language of the country of settlement - changed with the possibility of access to sources, as well as with the development of linguistic methods.

Initially, the research focused on written sources (letters, diaries, Polish diaspora press) and on their basis, interferences at different levels of the language were distinguished. Much space is devoted to lexical interferences: starting from the registration of words adapted to grouping them into lexical-semantic fields. Access to recordings of the spoken language, the possibility of conducting interviews with respondents of different ages and from different social backgrounds made it possible to use psycholinguistic and sociolinguistic methods. The analyzes covered the language of representatives of various generations of emigration: their attitudes towards the Polish language were examined; language as an element of identity; preservation of elements of the native culture. This allowed for the creation of types of ethnic and cultural identification.

The study of the Polish language abroad has become an interdisciplinary discipline in which, in addition to linguistic tools, historical, sociolinguistic and anthropological methods are used. Currently, the literature on the subject is very extensive.

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