

The Language History of the Galician Russophiles

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Doktoratskolleg “Galizien” (2007-2010)

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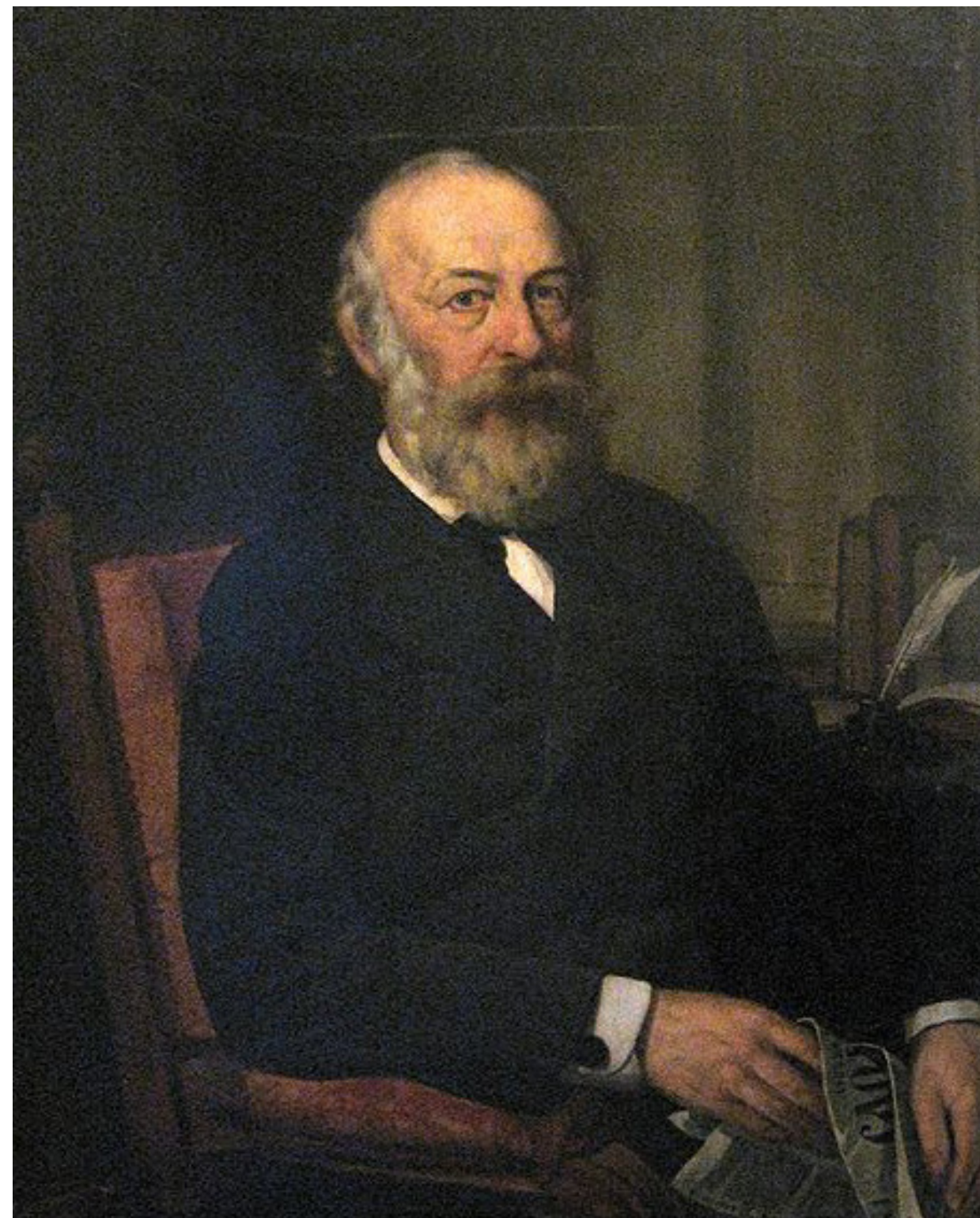
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Jakiv Holovac'kyj (1814-1888)

Leader of the Russophile movement, professor of Ruthenian language at the University of L'viv, author of a great number of linguistic, historical and ethnographical works.



Bohdan Didyc'kyj (1827-1909)

Russophile, editor of the political newspaper *Slovo* and author of the pamphlet *V'odyn čas naucyt'sja malorusynu po velyko-russki*, which was perceived as an attempt to transform Ruthenians into Russians.



Ivan Naumovyč (1826-1891)

Russophile, priest, editor of the journal *Nauka*, initiator of the orientation towards Russian language and cultural unity with Russia in the newspaper *Slovo* 1866.

The Russophile movement emerged in Austrian Galicia after the revolution of 1848-1849. Its main ideas were the introduction of Russian and Church Slavonic, rather than the vernacular, as the basis for the literary Ukrainian language, and cultural unity with Russia. However, the Russophiles swore loyalty to the Austrian Empire. Based on an analysis of their works, the following figures can be named as among the most prominent and important for the development of the Russophile movement in Galicia: Jakiv Holovac'kyj, Bohdan Didyc'kyj and Ivan Naumovyč. The Russophiles became the most powerful ideological and cultural movement in the second half of the nineteenth century in Galicia. Under their control were the most significant literary and political institutions as well as most of the press.

The vernacular has always fulfilled a symbolic role in differentiating Ukrainian from Russian identity. This is why the language of the Russophiles, which was based on Russian and Church Slavonic and which developed between the second half of the nineteenth and the beginning of the twentieth century, carried negative connotations: it was dismissed as *jazyčije* and considered unworthy of scholarly research. Consequently, it has remained hitherto almost unstudied.

This research project examines the language used by Russophiles in their press during the period 1848-1914. Their language consisted of elements from Russian, Church Slavonic, Polish and the vernacular, as well as from German, and represented different language varieties. The analysis embraces the different types of texts shaped by Russophiles and includes scientific, pedagogical and economic articles from their press as well as their literary works and correspondence with Galician and Russian activists. Based on this investigation we argue that the language of their texts was not homogeneous but differed considerably depending on the views of the writers, their knowledge of the languages, their aim and the public they were addressing, as well as the genre of the articles and periodicals in general.

The project therefore considers this language diversity as part of the process of the language codification in Galicia and argues that the language of the Russophiles, which has been considered as a deviation from the vernacular-based standard Ukrainian language, has made a considerable contribution to the history of the Ukrainian language as a whole, and to the distinction between the western and the eastern variants of the language.

Linguistic and sociolinguistic analysis allows one to fill the gap in the history of the Ukrainian language. It elucidates some aspects of the history of Ukraine, Austria and Russia in general and helps to determine the specific characteristics of the mental mapping process and the formation of language in a multicultural and multilingual border region based on the example of Galicia.



The building of the *Tovarystvo imeni Michaila Kačkovs'koho* established by Ivan Naumovyč 1874 with the aim of enlightening and educating people in Galicia. It undertook charitable work and published various books and journals, including the popular journal *Nauka*.



The printing house of the *Stavropihij's'kyj Institut*, where a number of important Galician organisations were located, including the *Halyc'ko-rus'ka matyja* and the *Stavropihij's'kyj Institut*. A considerable number of periodicals were published here.



The Russophiles produced more than forty newspapers, magazines and journals from 1848 to 1914, including political, literary, entertainment, satirical, pedagogical, economic, Panslavonic, students' and women's ones. Among these periodicals there should be singled out the following: the first political and information newspaper *Zorja Halyc'kaja*, the government newspaper *Visnyk*, the political newspapers *Slovo* and *Prolom*, and the satirical magazine *Strachopud*.



An illustration from the satirical magazine *Strachopud* depicting the contradictory viewpoints and language preferences of the various periodicals in Galicia in 1860s.

Doktoratskolleg “Das österreichische Galizien und sein multikulturelles Erbe” -

unter Beteiligung der Institute für Germanistik, Judaistik, Osteuropäische Geschichte, Slawistik sowie Wirtschafts- und Sozialgeschichte.