

The Official Ukrainian Language in Austrian Galicia 1848-1918.

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Historical background

The March 1848 Revolution in Austria brought about a number of changes in the empire. As well as granting equality to every nation in the state and their languages, the Constitution of 1848 also abolished censorship. This gave rise to the political thoughts of freedom, independence and equality of nations.

May 1848 saw the foundation of the first political organization in Galicia, the Supreme Ruthenian Council. In its first manifesto the Supreme Ruthenian Council called upon the Ukrainians to defend their civil and religious rights and demand that the Ukrainian language be introduced in government bodies.

The Slavic congress was held in Prague in June 1848 with the participation of the Ukrainian delegation. The congress proclaimed solidarity of all Slavs within the Austrian empire with a view to preventing Slavic peoples from being germanized and gave an impetus to Austroslavism, a new movement of the mid-XIX century which influenced the development of Slavic languages and literatures in Austria. In comparison with the other part of Ukraine, the Russian-controlled part was under the influence of the Pogodin theory and pan-Slavic movement, which gave the dominant role in the unification of Slavs to the Russian people.

On 4 March 1849, Emperor Franz Joseph I issued a decree on the publication of Law Bulletins, in which all state documents were to be published in 10 languages used in the empire, with each having an equal legal effect. Those were the following languages: German, Italian, Hungarian, Czech, Polish, Ukrainian, Slovenian, Serbian (Serbian grazhdanka print), Serbian (in Latin alphabet), Romanian. In Galicia, Ukrainian was recognized as a state language, while in the Russian-ruled part of Ukraine its usage was banned from the 1860s.

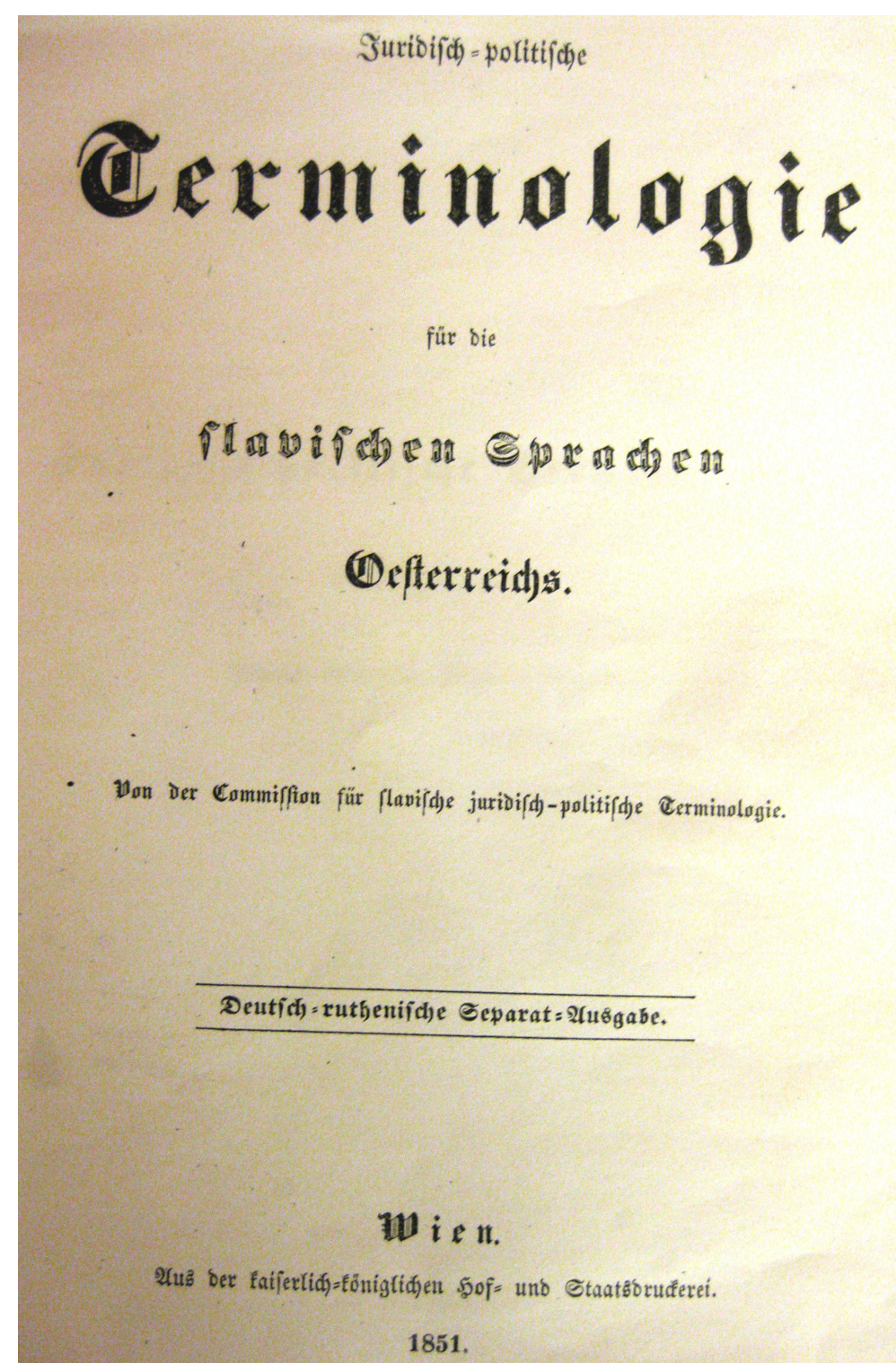
Stages of the development of the official Ukrainian language in Galicia

A special commission was formed in 1849 to create and codify the state government terminology. It consisted of distinguished scientists in the sphere of Slavic studies and linguists, such as Franz Miklosich, Vuk Karadžić, Pavel Šafárik and others. The Ukrainian members of the commission were Yakiv Holovatskyi, Hryhoriy Shashkevych and Yulian Vyslobotskyi. The main principle the commission was guided by was “to develop a legal terminology that would match the spirit of these languages, according to the needs of contemporary laws and government, a legal terminology that was partly borrowed from earlier legal sources and partly created on the basis of natural richness of various dialects, a terminology that one could rely on first when publishing the collection of state laws and then in general everyday usage.”

The year 1851 saw the publication in Vienna of “The Dictionary of legal and political terms in Slavic languages. A separate German-Ukrainian edition”. The spelling in the dictionary was based on the etymological principle and it contained a number of words borrowed from church-Slavonic, Polish and Czech. The dictionary also contained socio-economic, military terms as well as abstract, medical, religious, agricultural, schooling vocabulary groups, names of people according to their occupation and words designating family relations.

In 1892, Kost Levytskyi published in Vienna “The German-Ukrainian dictionary of legal and administrative expressions”. The dictionary marked a new stage in the development of the Ukrainian business language in Galicia since it was based on the phonetic principle and orientated to folk language.

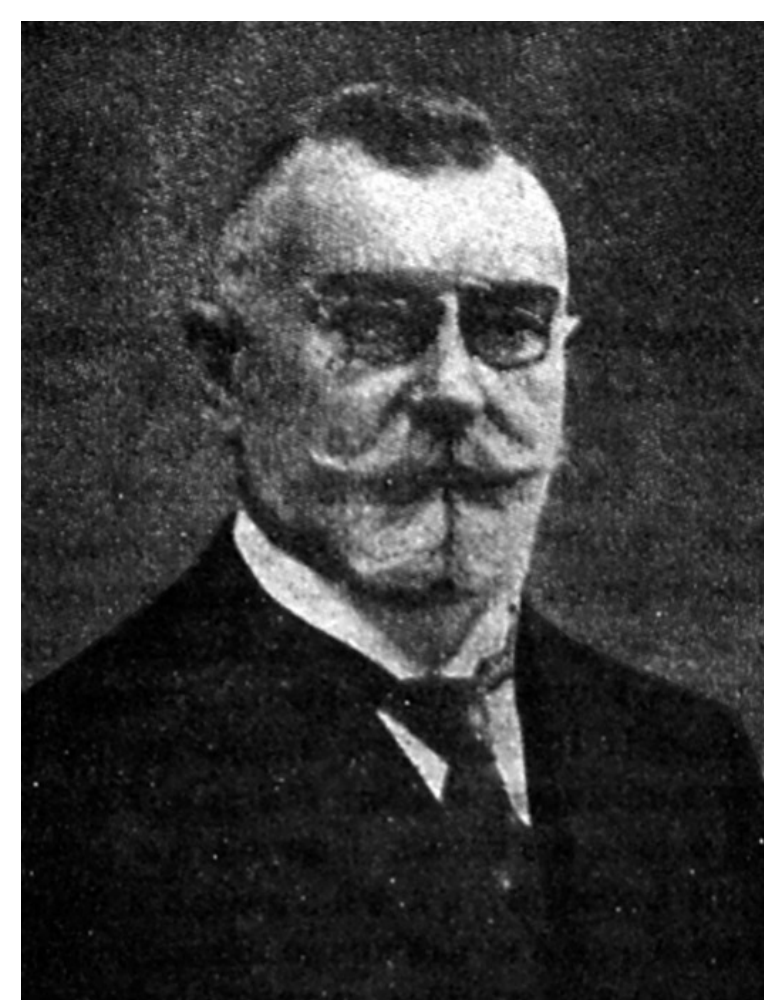
From 1849 to 1918, Laws and Regulations Bulletins were published in Vienna and Lviv. From 1849 to 1895 the bulletin language was edited by Yakiv Holovatskyi, who was a Russophile, therefore it was under a strong influence of the Russian, church-Slavonic language (yet with some words added from the Polish language and Galician dialect); the bulletins were published in church-Slavonic print. From 1895 the bulletins were edited by Oleksandr Kulachkovskyi and from then onwards one could see the orientation to folk language and phonetic spelling there, while the bulletins themselves were published in grazhdanka print.



The Dictionary of legal and political terms in Slavic languages. A separate German-Ukrainian edition.



Yakiv Holovatskyi



Kost Levytskyi

Aims

It is expected that the dissertation will analyze, at the lexical and grammar level, the peculiarities of the official Ukrainian language in the Austrian-ruled Galicia using a retrospective and prospective view. Those will be terms used in the sphere of state government: names of government posts, the structure of state authority, administrative units, as well as terms used in foreign policy and diplomacy, law and economics. The grammatical peculiarities of the language of official documents, namely The Laws and Regulations Bulletin, will be described there too.

Methods

- 1) comparative-historical. A retrospective analysis of words and grammar forms using examples from the Slavic languages of XIX century.
- 2) descriptive. Defining peculiarities of the official style of the Ukrainian language in Galicia from 1848 to 1918.
- 3) structural. Description of the language system on the structural levels – lexical and grammatical – of the Ukrainian language

ВѢСТНИКЪ ЗАКОНОВЪ ДЕРЖАВНЫХЪ

КОРОЛЕВСТВЪ И КРАЕВЪ

ДЕРЖАВНОЙ ДУМѢ ЗАСТУПЛЕННЫХЪ.

Landes-Gesetz-

Verordnungsblatt

Königreich Galizien und Lodomerien

dem Großherzogthume Krakau.

Laws and Regulations Bulletins

„Общій Вѣстникъ законовъ державныхъ и правительства“ (Vienna, 1849–1852)

„Вѣстникъ законѡвъ державныхъ для королевствъ и краѣвъ въ державной думѣ заступленныхъ“ (Vienna, 1870–1895/1896)

„Вістник законів державних для королівств і країв заступлених в радї державній“ (Vienna, 1895/1896–1918)

Все общій Дневникъ земскихъ законѡвъ і правительства для коронной области Галиціи і Володимиріи (Lviv, 1850 – 1852)

Вѣстникъ краєвого Правительства для коронной области Галиціи і Володимиріи съ Княжествами Освѣнцимскимъ и Заторскимъ и съ Великимъ Княжествомъ Краковскимъ. (Lviv, 1853 – 1858)

Вѣстникъ раду краєвого для адміністраційной области намѣстництва въ Львовѣ. (Lviv, 1858 – 1860)

Вѣстникъ законѡвъ і роспораженій краєвихъ для Королѣвства Галиціи і Володимиріи разомъ съ великимъ княжествомъ Краковскимъ (Lviv, 1866)

Вістник Законів і розпоряджень краєвих для Королівства Галичини і Володимирії wraz з Великим Княізівством Краківським (Lviv, 1901 – 1911)

Conclusions

The foundation of the development of the modern system of terms of the official and business style of the Ukrainian language were laid in Galicia when it was part of the Austrian empire.

Ukrainian developed under the influence of the idea of Austroslavism, which arose as a result of the liberalization of the empire’s political regime. It should be added that this development was accompanied by the struggle between two cultural and political trends. One trend was represented by Moscow-philés who were orientated to the Russian and church-Slavonic languages, while the other trend, that of *narodovtsi*, emphasized the importance of the living language of the Ukrainian population of Galicia.

In the process of development of the system of Ukrainian terms in Austrian-ruled Galicia, the historical experience was taken into account of business correspondence in contemporary Ukraine of XII to XVII centuries, although the influence of other Slavic languages (church-Slavonic, Polish, Czech, Russian) as well as German could be felt too.

After the breakup of the Austrian empire the official style of the Ukrainian language was rather developed and it was used by politicians in the newly proclaimed states – the West Ukrainian People’s Republic and the Ukrainian People’s Republic. The system of terms developed by then laid the foundation of modern Ukrainian administrative terminology.