



EDITORIAL PREFACE

You are holding an issue of Sociolinguistics devoted to the study of ideology and its dialectical relationship with social, discursive, and, above all, linguistic practices. The close connection between language and ideology has been repeatedly reinterpreted throughout the development of the humanities. One of the first scholars in Russia to draw attention to the importance of examining the interplay between language and ideology was the Orientalist and sociolinguist Professor Leonid B. Nikolsky, whose 100th anniversary was widely commemorated at the International Conference “Language and Ideology in Multiethnic Countries of the World,” held in December 2024 at the Institute of Linguistics of the Russian Academy of Sciences and the Institute of Oriental Studies of the Russian Academy of Sciences. This issue is dedicated to the memory of this eminent scholar and aims to offer a fresh perspective on the interrelation of language and ideology, tracing it in both synchronic and diachronic dimensions and situating it within the broader nexus of sociolinguistic phenomena and extralinguistic factors in line with contemporary theoretical approaches.

The issue is structured to provide a coherent progression from general conceptual and methodological foundations of language ideology, including descriptions of its universal models, to more specific aspects of the topic – namely, the strategies through which language ideologies are enacted across diverse sociocultural and historical contexts worldwide. Beginning with an analysis of the evolution of language ideologies from the seventeenth century to the present, based on a comparison of different philosophical perspectives on this problem, the issue advances the argument that modern language ideologies are typically realized through standardized languages that reinforce national order – such as in various European and North American countries – via extensive codification and regulation of linguistic norms. At the same time, the distinctiveness of the current stage of ideological development lies less in state policy than in everyday linguistic consciousness: speakers increasingly classify minoritized and less frequently used languages as “non-prestigious,” as evidenced by the discourse of online commenters.

The authors explore the ways in which contemporary multiethnic and multilingual states address these linguistic challenges through articulations of ideology grounded in their specific sociopolitical realities. The issue offers analyses of language ideologies shaped by specialized national contexts, including the United Kingdom, Luxembourg, Italy, Kazakhstan, and Russia. The contributors examine strategies for implementing linguistic ideology in different socio-cultural and



temporal settings, considering both extralinguistic (political, social, and memory-politics related) and intralinguistic characteristics of particular speech communities.

Taken together, the materials presented in this issue encourage an expanded view of the interconnection and mutual influence of language and ideology – understood both as a system of ideas and as a system of institutions – constituting an all-encompassing, only partially rationalizable construct from which no individual can remain entirely outside. We hope that the scholarly reflections offered here will contribute to a deeper understanding of the intricate relationship between language and ideology.

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