

Zornytskyi Andrii - Research Proposal

The academic project “Lexical system of the Yiddish language: language hybridity and interference” seeks to present a complex description of neologisms, nonce words, and dialectal words that arose in the XIX – the first half of the XX cent. with particular emphasis placed on the linguistic situation in Galicia and Bukovina. The region in question is of special significance in view of its distinctive and richly varied cultural heritage providing grounds for interaction between the Yiddish language as spoken in Western Ukraine, Poland, Romania and other territorial languages of different social prestige. A way to clarify the rates and tendencies of language interference as influenced by broader historical-cultural conditions may be to trace back the main features of Lviv and Chernivtsi koiné varieties spoken by local residents. Another goal of the project is the collection and processing of written documents related to the matter in hand, which activity may be useful not only for the purposes of linguistic research, but also for studies in cultural history. A special place in the project is occupied by the role and impact of the first conference on the Yiddish language convened very symbolically in Chernivtsi – *Chernowitz* as was then the word – in 1908 and both its linguistic and extralinguistic consequences. The project involves consideration of a wide range of collateral political, ideological, religious, and general cultural trends and phenomena from which standpoint it may be rendered as a study in a “people’s history” (*Alltagsgeschichte*) of Galicia and Bukovina during the time period in question.