

Playing with alphabets: How to communicate in a changing language

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I would like to explore creative responses by the East Slavonic language communities to challenges raised by computer-mediated communication. The example of Latin-based writing of East Slavonic languages in computer-mediated communication highlights the changing nature of languages and the creative component of this development.

My paper will offer a theoretical discussion of how communication is possible in a changing language. With this in mind I shall bring established linguistic theory in the tradition of Humboldt-Coseriu-Andersen into the discussion of language in a new technological reality. The basic principle of Henning Andersen's linguistic theory on language development is that it is a result of linguistic innovation and the acceptance or rejection by the linguistic community of that innovation. I would like to focus on these innovations and how they appear. As such it will be a discussion of what goes on in language development between the linguistic *innovation* and its *acceptance* by the linguistic community.

I shall base this discussion on examples from comments to videos of popular Belarusian, Russian and Ukrainian rock bands on Youtube. Youtube-comments are useful as a readily available source of spontaneous, emotional and immediate linguistic behaviour.

Literature

- Henning Andersen, 1989, "Understanding Linguistic Innovations," in *Language Change: Contributions to the Study of its Causes*, eds. L.E. Breivik and E.H. Jahr, Berlin, pp. 5–28.
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