

The ecological status of language in the discursive formation of Kashubian communities

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Showing the contemporary situation, as far as the use of the Kashubian language in selected discourses (for instance: in religious and institutional discourses) is concerned, is the underlying theme of this work. Certain aspects of language ecology must be raised, such as: the name of the language and its users, approaches to the language or social characteristics of the language users (see Wąsik). It appears that various discourses consist of various languages that are particularly needed due to some specified extralinguistic variables at a given moment (see Wierzbicka). The Polish and the Kashubian languages are frequently mixed in the above types of discourses, as religion and institutions are core elements around which the use of the Kashubian language is easily observed nowadays. If one lacks knowledge about one of the two main ingredients of any discourse (see Chruszczewski) that is text and context, some situations are not understandable enough. It means that one not only translates texts from one language into another but also situations are translated and interpreted through the offices of language as a metalinguistic tool. Even though, doing any Kashubian course while learning in primary or secondary school appears to be an uplifting example in promoting the minority language, a more complete picture of the practical language use is needed. One also does not neglect the necessity of highlighting the importance of the *Rodna Mowa* competition. Apart from the above mentioned form of linguistic activity, it is essential to conduct a research in, at least, two spheres of everyday life communication where the language is the verbal carrier of emotions, anxieties, requests, delights, strivings and aspirations, etc. on the one hand and cultural (see Duranti) and social identification on the other hand. A closer look at mutual interrelations between the Kashubian and Polish languages (in particular contextual embeddings) will give a broader insight into the matter which is at issue. It is also important to remember about 06.01.2005 – the date when the Polish Sejm enacted a bill about national and ethnic minorities and a regional language. The aforementioned bill gave future prospects for the Kashubians as well. It is, therefore, worth observing to what degree people in question take advantage of it.

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