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CONSIDERATIONS OF PHILOLOGISTS AND LINGUISTS CONCERNING SOCIAL NATURE OF LANGUAGE AND LANGUAGE POLICY ACCORDING TO 1980S PERIODICALS

Numerous intensive discussions on various significant linguistic issues were held at the end of 1980s. Both professionals (philologists, teachers, historians, sociologists and psychologists) and non-specialists extensively expressed their ideas and suggestions. In this respect the 1980s periodicals offer interesting materials. Professional understanding of the issues of language policy and linguistic situation was reflected in public statements and comments of exactly the aforementioned period.

1. The issue of preparation of the language law was proposed in the second half of 1980s. Despite some obstacles specialists considered such law to be essential.

2. At the end of 1980s the issue of assigning an official status and a function of a lingua franca to the Russian language as a mean of communication between the nations was proposed in the Soviet Union. The very idea was opposed by the Georgian linguists (B. Jorbenadze, G. Kvaratskheliã, etc.) in Moscow.

3. Negative outcomes of foreign language education have been identified; introduction of a foreign language from the very first grade at schools has been criticized; for that reason the specialists aimed at providing the arguments, quoting different scientific experiments and authoritative statements, and citing classical works, etc.