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**PROBLEM OF DISTINCTION  
BETWEEN LANGUAGE AND DIALECT– I**

The article deals with one of the important issues of modern linguistics – the distinction between a language and a dialect. We believe that confronting of the linguistic and extralinguistic criteria is not appropriate because the functioning as well as the development of a specific speech unit directly depends on extralinguistic factors: each represents a social phenomenon which exists only within a socium. Therefore, their status will not be defined without considering speakers' self-perception and other ethno-historic data.