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THE ISSUE OF LANGUAGE-DIALECT RELATIONSHIP ACCORDING TO U. AMMON AND E. COSERIU

The article discusses the opinions of the German scholars – U. Ammon and E. Coseriu on language-dialect relationship.

According to E. Coseriu, a language is a main system, while a dialect represents a variety, a variant of the very system (a national language). A dialect acquires its significance only with reference to a language. The key challenge is to identify the criteria for separating a dialect from a language. The scholar does not accept the communicating of meanings as a criterion since a language may have the dialects that are incomprehensible to their speakers, however, such dialects are not differing languages, rather, they remain as dialects of the same language.

For the purposes of *separating a dialect from a language*, U. Ammon identifies different criteria such as genealogical relationship, history and development of a language, autonomy, distance and affinity, mutual comprehension, territorial spread of a language, number of speakers, spheres of use, status of an official language, norm standardization, etc.

The scholar summarizes that the above-mentioned principles must be commonly applied. Otherwise, a dialect is not isolated as a separate linguistic unit.