

**THE REGISTER CRITERION FOR DISTINGUISHING
BETWEEN LANGUAGE AND DIALECT
(CRITICAL ANALYSIS)**

ABSTRACT

In a multinational state (usually, the latter is such entity where the statehood is formed and provided with guarantees by more than two ethnic groups), the official bodies are responsible, among other things, for determining the status of linguistic units. For this purpose, a register of languages is arranged, in which linguistic units are assigned numbers according to the number of speakers: number one is usually assigned to the most widespread linguistic unit, number two - to a less common one, number three – to an even less common one, compared to the latter, and so on. Therefore, the language register is a list of language units that are officially recognized by the state; Accordingly, the difference between linguistic units is determined by the state; the very difference may be ethnocultural, territorial or normative (stylistic).

Therefore, as a result of the registration of a linguistic unit, an independent language occurs (which means that those who speak it are considered as an independent ethnic group) or a different norm (standard), which is then associated with the respective state. For example, in Russia, Karelian and Veps are officially independent languages, while Karelians and Veps are independent ethnic groups; In neighboring Finland, the above-mentioned linguistic units are considered as Finnish dialects and, consequently, those who speak them are considered as Finnish local groups. Karelian and Vepsian written languages are unconditionally associated with Russia. Also: Nowadays, the Kazakh language with Arabic script and the Mongolian language with Mongolian script are unconditionally associated with the People's Republic of China.

Keywords: Language, dialect, criteria for distinguishung language and dialect, registry criteriion.