

*While learning new hope, we head for a new earth.
And in the spirit of love of many generations, we keep building you,
our ancient land...*

John Paul II

Memory and Identity (Pamięć i tożsamość, Kraków 2005, 80).



NATIONAL PROGRAMME
FOR THE DEVELOPMENT OF HUMANITIES

The Regional Ethno-Linguistic Heritage of the Lublin Region: A Dialect Dictionary of the Lublin Region (Volumes VI-XII) with Lexicographic, Cartographic, Iconographic and Sound File Documentation.

The Project has been funded by the Polish Ministry of Higher Education as part of the National Program for the Development of the Humanities No 0125/NPRH7/H11/86/2018-2023.

Project Leader: Professor Dr hab. Halina Pelc

The aim of the Project *The Regional Ethno-Linguistic Heritage of the Lublin Region: A Dialect Dictionary of the Lublin Region (Volumes VI-XII) with Lexicographic, Cartographic, Iconographic and Sound File Documentation* is to preserve and propagate the vanishing cultural and linguistic tradition of the Lublin region as an essential part of the Polish national heritage. The project has been designed to prepare unique ethnic and regional resources valuable not only from the point of view of the Lublin region, but also from the standpoint of the whole Polish cultural heritage. The Project, realized under the Agreement No 0125/NPRH7/H11/86/2018, approved by the Ministry of Higher Education, is part of the module *The National Heritage*; the priority field of research: “*The Ethnic and Regional Cultural, Linguistic and Historical Heritage*” (*Dziedzictwo narodowe – priorytetowy obszar badawczy: Dziedzictwo kulturowe, językowe i historyczne o charakterze etnicznym i regionalnym.*)

The expected outcome of the Project will be the publication of a seven volume collection of several thousand thematically-arranged entries. Based on the lexical-documentary research done with a view to preserving the linguistic heritage of the Lublin region, the seven volumes are part of the Project Leader’s long-term research. The project is

expected to lead to the preparation and publication of 12 volumes in all. So far five volumes, prepared by the Project Leader, have been published.

The research area on which the Project is founded coincides with the administrative division of the Lublin region established before 1975, and re-established in 1999, as a meeting point of different cultures, languages and dialects, including Little-Poland, Mazovian and East-Slavic (mainly Ukrainian) linguistic influences. The linguistic and cultural diversity of the Lublin region has been one of the most important arguments in favour of preparing a dictionary which could address the complexity of the dialects spoken in the Lublin region and thus reflect its ethnic and dialectal heritage. In the face of the globalisation trends on the one hand, and the tendencies of preserving the cultural and linguistic diversity in the European Union on the other, the *Dictionary* fits well into the schema of preserving the region's linguistic heritage, bridging not only the East with the West, but also the European Union with Eastern Europe.

The thematic arrangement of *A Dialect Dictionary of the Lublin Region* is as follows.

Volume 6. Food.

Volume 7. Garments and Footwear. Spinning and Weaving.

Volume 8. Man and Family. Hygiene and Diseases. Household and Appliances.

Tom 9. Village Space and Terrain. Social, Professional, and Religious Life.

Tom 10. Rites and Folk Customs.

Tom 11. Meteorology and Astronomy. Time, Weights, Measures, Activities, Colours.

Tom 12. Supplement to Volumes 1-11. Index Entries. Dialectal Texts.

A separate part of the study will be a summary report, titled *The Lexical Heritage of the Lublin Region As a Sign of Its Identity*.

Dialect dictionaries are one of the basic means through which dialect material can be presented and interpreted. Based on this assumption, *A Dialect Dictionary of the Lublin Region* documents and interprets the dialectal vocabulary words of the borderline area of the region, involving their multicultural character: intra- and extra-linguistic and cultural Polish-Ukrainian, Polish-Bielorussian and Polish-Ukrainian-Bielorussian influences. The thematic organization of the *Dictionary* combines the dictionary's documentary character with a lexicographic and dialectal-ethnolinguistic interpretation of the material, using the methodology of linguistic geography: maps, photographic images and broad contexts of villagers' comments. The latter show how a particular word functions in the linguistic system, how it is valued, what its cultural, customs-related context and social status are, and how it

describes the designatum. What is new in the lexicographic system employed is the use of atlas techniques and iconography associated with dictionary entries.

The entries consist of the following elements:

- (i) the entry and its meaning;
- (ii) an illustration – a colour picture of the designatum;
- (iii) contexts associated with the word use;
- (iv) sources;
- (v) geography and the linguistic word map;
- (vi) inflectional phenomena and phonetic variants;
- (vii) references to synonyms and heteronyms.

All entries are provided with standard spelling information; they contain contexts with uniform standardized spelling forms which display phonetic, morphological and syntactic properties of the dialects of the Lublin region. The *Dictionary* has a non-differential character: it embraces all traditional Polish village-related vocabulary words including both their dialectal variants and their typical meanings. The *Dictionary* also contains general Poland-wide vocabulary. This vocabulary helps to portray a fuller image of the Polish village of the past and present; it reveals the nature of a particular designatum, thereby enhancing the credibility of the worldview associated with it.

A Dialect Dictionary of the Lublin Region is an innovative research project launched for the protection and preservation of the regional dialects. Designed to preserve, promote and transmit the cultural and linguistic tradition from one generation to the next, the Project fits well into the preservation policy of the non-material cultural heritage of the Lublin region. It accords with the emphasis UNESCO lays on the importance of tradition and the preservation of oral texts, in which the language as a carrier of cultural heritage plays a fundamental role (Introduction, 2003 UNESCO Convention, Article 1.4).

The *Dictionary* combines documentary value with scholarly and axiological qualities, enriching and systematizing our knowledge about the dialects of the Lublin region. The *Dictionary* should be seen as a heritage of special educational value for young people inhabiting the region. It is, and it will continue to be, an important meaningful instrument designed to create “the regional brand” and thus promote the Lublin region. It has already generated a vivid interest in schools and in regional educational centres; it is also in the centre of interest of the local government and the media. The need for further work on the *Dictionary* is motivated by the great social demand coming not only from specialists-

dialectologists, but also from ethnologists, ethnographers, sociologists, sociolinguists, linguists, folk artisans and ordinary language users. It is hoped that the comprehensive lexicographic documentation will help preserve the vanishing linguistic heritage of the Lublin region; it can strengthen the linguistic awareness of its inhabitants by fulfilling not only academic, but also educational and axiological functions. It can be an effective means for teaching tolerance and developing sensitivity to the invaluable resources residing in variety and otherness. Being a “Museum of the Word” and a “bridge between the generations,” the *Dictionary* can thus promote a better understanding of the region’s forefathers’ legacy and the region’s folk culture.

The Lublin region is a borderline area exhibiting both cross-linguistic vernacular and Polish-East-Slavic influences. The vocabulary of the region reflects the East-West interpenetration of cultures, religions and customs; it also shows the specific character of the borderline area: it is a testimony of the past and of the complicated histories of individuals and groups inscribed into the local, temporal and social spatial structure. The publication of the regional lexical resources of the area has not only a meaningful regional sentimental value but also a utilitarian one – it can perform didactic, awareness-awakening and identificational functions, with their possible extensions to other disciplines of science. The entries and the contexts in which the words appear can gain new life; they can be used to promote further studies on the language-culture relationship. For specialists such as ethnolinguists and ethnographers, they can be an important source of methodological knowledge in helping them to build lexicographic entries based on the atlas-related research methods used in lexicographic description.

The *Dictionary* champions the protection of vanishing languages and their varieties; it can help preserve for future scholarship an important field of research pertaining to the language and culture of the natives inhabiting the region, including themes considered “exotic and *passé*” by the young generation. The *Dictionary* offers a scholarly documentation of the vanishing landscape of the old Polish village, which fades away together with the cultural tradition of the region. The spoken records of the village inhabitants are an original ancient testimony of the past and a vast diagnostic material for the broadly understood material and non-material cultural heritage of the region; they tell the story of the generations and describe the metamorphosis of the village identity.

Owing to the Grant support, the multicultural diversity and richness of the borderline area of the Lublin region can now come to the fore. The Grant makes it possible fully document lexicographic, iconographic, cartographic and sound file-related material; it can

spur future field-work, encourage translation of the material into English and East European languages and last but not least ensure the publication of the subsequent volumes of *A Dialect Dictionary of the Lublin Region* in both its paper and digital forms.

Translated by Henryk Kardela