

## To the readers

The second volume of our academic journal for 2025 offers a wide range of topics, primarily focused on the philological aspects of studying Ukraine's past and present. This time, we have retained the traditional division into two sections – *Linguistics* and *Literary Studies*. As before, the authors of “*Studia Ukrainica Posnaniensia*” respond to the challenges of our time, that is why the part of this volume's articles are devoted to issues arising from Russia's aggression against Ukraine. As is well known, this war is being waged not only on the battlefield – it also has a symbolic dimension, reflected in public discourse, everyday life, and the experiences of recent emigration. Importantly, even in wartime, Ukrainian culture continues to function fully: new books and periodicals are being published, theatre performances are staged, films are produced, and literary, musical, and film festivals are held. The same vitality can be observed in the scholarly sphere, where research is conducted across a wide variety of fields. Our contributors demonstrate this through their publications, addressing questions of sociolinguistics, speech culture, the history of the Ukrainian language, the reassessment of the Soviet legacy in philology, and other related topics.

The *Linguistics* section presents seven articles. **Alla Bondarenko** examines linguistic communication, which has undergone radical changes during the Russian-Ukrainian war. Her study focuses on the humorous mode in wartime communication. According to the author, humor not only defines the specificity of war-related discourse but also reflects traits of the Ukrainian national character. Krakow-based scholar **Anna Budziak**, whose work has appeared in our journal before, offers a comparative analysis of adverbs in Ukrainian and Polish. Drawing on extensive empirical material, she concludes that Ukrainian derivatives display greater diversity and serve primarily pragmatic functions. Another Krakow researcher, **Wiktorija Hojsak**, turns her attention to “repressed” terminological vocabulary in Ukrainian. Using the example of mathematical terminology, she investigates the processes of unification and linguistic discrimination that occurred in the Soviet era. The author convincingly argues that the changes imposed on Ukrainian terminology were irreversible and significantly hindered the language's development – a fact worth remembering today in discussions about reforming scientific language. Similar factors, she notes, should also be considered in glottodidactics, particularly in specialized translation courses for Polish students. **Vitalii Maksymchuk's** article keeps

the reader within the terminological field, analyzing the popular website *Slovotvir* for the presence of football-related neologisms. The platform serves as a convenient space for testing numerous football terms and their Ukrainian equivalents. These neologisms are typically derived by suffixation from verbal bases. Some can be regarded as successful counterparts to foreign terms, although they are unlikely to replace the generally accepted football vocabulary.

The interesting contribution by **Mariia Redkva** forms part of a larger study on ethnonyms used in Ukrainian to denote populations deported in the 1940s–50s. The author not only presents various dictionary-recorded forms of these ethnonyms but also discusses how they reflect the “us vs. them” relationship. Working within a sociolinguistic framework, Redkva combines lexicographic sources with field research, interviewing individuals from deported regions or their descendants. **Julia Rysicz-Szafraniec** turns to the history of the Ukrainian language in the 20th century, tracing significant developments in the strengthening of its status as a state language. The most dynamic period, she notes, was during the late 1920s and early 1930s – the era of the Executed Renaissance. The current stage of linguistic reform is no less important, but the ongoing war continues to hinder its completion. Young researcher **Alan Tulach** analyzes a very recent phenomenon – the youth protests in Ukraine in July of this year, provoked by the Verkhovna Rada’s attempt to pass legislation that would have obstructed the work of anti-corruption agencies. The author collected and examined the interrogative constructions featured on protest banners, offering fascinating insights into both the content of the demonstrations and the creativity of their participants.

The *Literary Studies* section contains five articles. **Lesia Demska-Budzuliak** explores the reassessment of Soviet literary scholarship in contemporary academic discourse. This legacy clearly embodies an imperial-colonial perspective on Ukrainian issues, fostering the abandonment of national identity in favor of imperial assimilation. Today, Ukrainian studies face the task of telling their own story in their own voice – a goal that requires rejecting Soviet-era frameworks. **Albert Nowacki** analyzes the roles of Ukrainian women in the current armed conflict. In his view, women’s war narratives form a new, authoritative discourse that will shape future representations of the war. Women have moved beyond traditional roles, and their voices assert collective identity, resilience, and spiritual mobilization in the face of existential threat.

**Ryszard Kupidura** focuses on Oleksandr Irvanets’ novel *Kharkiv 1938*. Written in the vein of alternative history, the novel has provoked mixed critical responses. Kupidura interprets it through the ironic poetics of the Bu-Ba-Bu movement, reading it as an “anti-dystopia,” as defined by the writer himself. The poetry of young author Yaryna Chornohuz is the subject of **Hanna Ovsianytska’s** study. The title of her article includes a quotation from Chornohuz’s verse – “We have learned to live in peace with war” – which aptly conveys the spirit of her work. Serving in

the Armed Forces of Ukraine, the poet experiences the war directly. Ovsyanytska focuses on the existential motifs in her poetry, emphasizing the strength and originality of Chornohuz's talent. The section concludes with an article by the young Lviv-based scholar **Olena Syroid**, who revisits the genre of Ukrainian spiritual song from a contemporary perspective. She recalls the key works on the subject by prominent predecessors such as Ivan Franko, Filaret Kolessa, Mykhailo Hrushevs'kyi, and Mykola Sumtsov, concluding that their valuable insights deserve further development and verification today.

The materials published in this volume represent the breadth of current research in modern Ukrainian studies. Characteristically, most of the contributions engage with the problems of our present day. When the authors turn to the past – to the historical processes of the nineteenth and twentieth centuries or to revisiting earlier interpretations – they consistently relate these to contemporary realities, thereby testing the validity of their scholarly methods.

The contents of this issue expand the thematic and conceptual horizons of current Ukrainian studies. This is especially relevant at a time when Ukraine continues to face brutal Russian aggression, an assault aimed not only at territorial occupation but also at the destruction of the fundamental humanist values of Ukrainian society. Educational and cultural institutions – universities, schools, museums, and libraries – are under direct threat. Thus, Ukrainian scholarship itself becomes a crucial argument in the intellectual struggle against those who deny the legitimacy of national culture. The materials we present in this volume reaffirm this conviction.

*Yaroslav Polishchuk, Anna Horniatko-Szumilowicz*