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CULTURAL EXCHANGE AND INTERACTION BETWEEN UKRAINIANS AND POLES DURING THE WAR IN UKRAINE

Summary: Today, problems related to intercultural communication are actively studied by representatives of various sciences. As a result of this study, many concepts related to intercultural communication have been introduced, which have become the subject of research in both scientific and practical fields. Often, in defining intercultural communication, representatives of cultural studies, sociology, psychology and linguistics emphasize their professional approach to this phenomenon and reflect their unique view of it. This article focuses on the theoretical and practical aspects of intercultural communication and cultural exchange within the framework of Polish-Ukrainian relations in the context of current events, in particular Russia's full-scale invasion of Ukraine. Polish support for Ukraine has become important and has many aspects, including humanitarian aid, political support, and economic cooperation. This support contributes to strengthening mutual understanding and solidarity between the Polish and Ukrainian peoples, as well as promotes the exchange of culture and traditions.

The article presents a study of cultural exchange and interaction between the Ukrainian and Polish communities during the military actions in Ukraine. Focusing on the period after the invasion, the study examines the intense cultural exchange that took place between the two national groups. This exchange included the exchange of art, literary works, musical

performances, and other cultural expressions. It reflects the efforts of both nations to maintain friendly relations and promote mutual understanding in a complex geopolitical context. Cultural exchange contributes to the expansion of knowledge, deepening of understanding and perception of another culture. Art, literature, and other cultural expressions allow people to get acquainted with the world and traditions of other nations, which makes it possible to form common values and opens a dialogue between Ukrainians and Poles. This dialogue helps to increase mutual understanding and improve relations between these communities in the face of historical challenges. It also examines various practical aspects of organizing cultural initiatives and further developing interaction between Ukrainian and Polish cultural heritage after the Russian invasion. These aspects include the organization of joint cultural events, cultural exchange, joint projects in the field of education, and so on. The study opens up new promising horizons for understanding cultural interactions in the context of global change and contributes to deepening interaction between national communities.

Keywords: Intercultural communication, Cultural exchange, Polish-Ukrainian relations, Russia's invasion, Mutual understanding

1. Introduction

Polish-Ukrainian relations are becoming extremely important in the current socio-cultural context, especially because of Russia's invasion of Ukraine. Poland plays a key role in supporting Ukraine in this difficult situation. This support contributes to the strengthening and development of relations between these two countries, which have not previously reached this level of cooperation. The relevance of studying Polish-Ukrainian relations in the cultural sphere lies in the fact that these relations have a complex history and have been tense.

At the same time, Polish and Ukrainian cultures have great potential for mutual enrichment and cooperation. Poland's support includes humanitarian aid, political support, and economic cooperation. These measures contribute to strengthening mutual understanding and solidarity between the Polish and Ukrainian peoples, as well as to the exchange of culture, history and traditions.

Poland acts as an important partner and ally for Ukraine in this important period. This helps Ukrainians feel supported and contributes to creating a new dynamic in relations between the two countries. The unification of the two nations in the fight against a common challenge also contributes to the formation of a positive attitude towards Poland on the part of Ukrainians and increases mutual respect and appreciation.

In addition, in today's world, when globalization leads to changes in the cultural landscape, Polish-Ukrainian cultural relations can serve as an example of cooperation between countries with different cultural traditions, contributing to the preservation of cultural diversity and the development of harmonious intercultural relations.

2. Key publications

In the current scientific discourse, considerable attention is paid to the issues of Euro-Atlantic integration and its impact on political processes in Ukraine and Poland. Many researchers examine the role of NGOs in supporting integration processes and analyze manipulative influence in the political sphere. Important aspects of the media discourse in relations between

Ukraine and Poland are studied by contemporary scholars. Historical, religious, and cultural aspects of relations between the two countries are also studied in the literature along with other aspects.

The overall picture of research shows that the topic of Polish-Ukrainian relations has been studied in some detail. However, a comprehensive cultural analysis of this topic remains open for further research. Our work aims to explore the prospects for the development of cultural relations between Ukraine and Poland, in particular in the context of the war on the territory of Ukraine, which gives it an innovative character in the scientific context. Studying these aspects can open up new horizons and contribute to a deeper understanding of the complexity of relations between the two countries.

F. Baranovsky is conducting a study that focuses on the role of civil society organizations in supporting integration processes. His research examines how NGOs influence integration. This can be seen in the context of relations between Ukraine and Poland.

The author analyzes various aspects of the role of civil society organizations in promoting integration processes. This includes a study of their interaction with governmental structures, examples of successful projects they have implemented, and the impact they have on shaping public opinion and civil society.

F. Baranovsky may also examine the different strategies and approaches of CSOs to integration, and identify the factors that contribute to their success or hinder its achievement. He analyzes the role of CSOs in supporting socio-cultural exchanges, promoting interethnic understanding, and developing joint projects.

As a result of this research, F. Baranowski helps to better understand how NGOs can be key players in promoting integration between countries like Ukraine and Poland and contribute to the development of closer and more productive relations between them (Baranovsky, 2011).

Manipulative influence and its role in the political sphere, the main stages of diagnosing manipulative influences and their impact on political processes are considered by O. Boyko. Political manipulation is a paradoxical phenomenon of our time. As a powerful tool for covertly influencing the human psyche and the behavior of the masses, it is actively used in the struggle for power and attempts to retain it.

However, very little is known about ways to protect against it. This requires a comprehensive understanding of its socio-psychological essence, nature and mechanisms, knowledge of the basic principles of its use, the content and effectiveness of specific technologies, strategies, methods, and techniques. This knowledge is summarized in the proposed textbook. Of particular value are the non-verbal political manipulation, the use of neuro-linguistic programming and neuromarketing in the political sphere, the typology of political manipulators, and protection against manipulative influences. The presented textbook, authored by O. D. Boyko, is devoted to a detailed study of political manipulation in the modern political context. The author considers political manipulation as a complex and paradoxical phenomenon, which is an effective tool for influencing the public consciousness, psyche and behavior of individuals and groups (Boyko, 2010).

Although not directly related to Polish-Ukrainian relations, this textbook can be useful in studying them in several key ways:

- understanding political manipulation. In the context of Polish-Ukrainian relations, it can help to reveal the ways of influencing citizens, shaping public opinion and perception of the neighboring country;
- studying neuro-linguistic programming and neuromarketing: these concepts can be useful for analyzing communication strategies used in Polish-Ukrainian relations. Understanding how to effectively communicate with the audience and influence their views can be useful for politicians, diplomats and public figures working in the field of international relations.
- typology of political manipulators: knowledge of different types of political manipulators can help analyze the activities of political leaders and actors in the context of Polish-Ukrainian relations. Studying their strategies and methods contributes to a better understanding and analysis of political events and processes.
- protection against manipulation: learning to protect against manipulation helps to develop critical thinking and analytical skills, which is useful in researching and analyzing Polish-Ukrainian relations, especially in the context of information warfare and media discourse.

Even though the Political Manipulation textbook specializes in analyzing political processes and manipulations, some of the knowledge and approaches it provides can be useful in the cultural sphere as well.

The monograph «Poland and Ukraine: Problems and Prospects» is a collection of twenty-three chapters written by Polish and Ukrainian researchers from different fields of science. The main aim of this publication is to identify the problems that Poland and Ukraine face today, both in terms of their complex historical and contemporary relations and in terms of the prospects for future coexistence. This is especially important in the post-truth era, when appeals to emotions have more power than facts and reliable information. In addition, this book warns against relativism and personal beliefs, emphasizing the importance of a constructive and professional approach to complex issues, both domestically and in the relationship between our nations. The authors also often present the point of view of neighbors: Polish authors write about Ukrainian issues, and Ukrainian authors write about Polish issues (Polska i Ukraina, 2019).

Even such a small literature review reveals a wide range of studies that explore the political, historical, social, and cultural aspects of relations between Ukraine and Poland. It emphasizes the significance of these relations and their impact on political stability, integration processes, and perceptions of each other. It emphasizes the significance of these relations and their impact on political stability, integration processes, and perceptions of each other. The research conducted by the scholars helps to understand the complexity of relations between Ukraine and Poland, as well as sheds light on the ways of their further development and cooperation.

3. Modern cultural Polish-Ukrainian relations

One important aspect of modern cultural Polish-Ukrainian relations is the exchange of art and cultural expressions. Both countries have a rich cultural heritage, and they actively engage in cultural exchanges. This involves art exhibitions, literary events, music performances, and various cultural programs that showcase the artistic and creative talents of both nations. This includes the following aspects:

1. Cooperation of artists: Artists from both countries have the opportunity to work together on creative projects, exhibitions, performances and other types of artistic expressions. This facilitates the exchange of ideas and cultural influences, which broadens horizons for both sides.

For example, «Distant Tolerable Murders» is a project that was implemented with the support of Polish institutions working in the field of contemporary art and culture. The point is that the works were created by Polish-Ukrainian artistic pairs. This is a series of artworks intended for billboards. Each work tells about the war and supports Ukraine (Lazar, Nakonechna, 2022).

Thus, the artists' collaboration becomes an important tool for cultural exchange and understanding between Ukraine and Poland, as well as a way to express solidarity and support in difficult historical moments.

2. Promoting cultural heritage: Art exchanges help to identify and promote various aspects of the cultural heritage of both countries. Exhibitions, concerts, and other artistic events allow audiences in each country to better understand the creative work of their neighbors.

For example, staging Ukrainian plays on the stages of Polish theaters. This is how the Polish Radio Theater opened the cycle «Contemporary Drama of Ukraine». The director of the radio stage, Janusz Kukuła, says the following: «What could a theater like the Polish Radio Theater do in the face of such tragic events-war, cruelty, everything we thought would never happen again, but did? And the theater opened Ukrainian plays. Because the truth is-and I say this with bitterness, but in the situation that is happening, you can't lie or pretend, because only the truth makes sense-that Ukrainian culture was not very well known, because we were dominated by Russian culture. Therefore, we should use this moment to get to know each other better» (Zavisha I., 2023).

Thus, support and promotion of cultural heritage become a key factor in the development of cultural relations between Ukraine and Poland. This contributes to the deepening of mutual understanding and enrichment of cultural traditions of both countries.

3. Joint projects: artists from Poland and Ukraine often work together on projects that include exhibitions, residencies, musical performances, etc. This contributes to the development of creative talents and cultural exchange.

For example, musicians from different countries met at the POLIN 2023 Music Festival in Warsaw. Ukraine was represented by O. Botvinov, the creator of the Odesa Classics festival.

Such joint projects allow artists from Poland and Ukraine to exchange ideas, inspiration and creative experience, which contributes to the development of creative talents and promotes cultural exchange. These joint efforts can lead to the creation of new artistic works and inspire further cooperation.

4. Understanding and perception: The exchange of art contributes to the improvement of mutual understanding between Polish and Ukrainian citizens. Exhibitions and other artistic events help to deepen acquaintance with the cultural characteristics of others and broaden the horizons of perception.

For example, the exhibition of the Ukrainian-Polish project «POSESTRY - DUCHOWE SIOSTRY». This is the second exhibition within the project by artists - photographer Agnieszka Babinska (Gdansk) and textile artist Dana Yakymchuk (Lviv) - from two countries, Poland and Ukraine (Post Impreza, 2022).

Such artistic initiatives promote harmonious relations between the peoples of Poland and Ukraine, as well as contribute to the enrichment of cultural space and strengthening of friendly ties between them.

5. Strengthening cultural ties: The exchange of art enriches the cultural space of both countries and contributes to the development of relations between Poland and Ukraine. This cultural cooperation contributes to strengthening ties between the two nations and creating a positive perception of each other.

For example, there are many cultural projects that promote cooperation between Poland and Ukraine. Below are some of the most well-known and successful projects:

The OPEN POLAND program at the Adam Mickiewicz Institute, which has been running for several years. Their activities are aimed at broad cultural exchange and strengthening cooperation between Polish institutions, organizations, artists, and curators

with partners from Ukraine (Through these cultural exchanges, the people of Poland and Ukraine have the opportunity to appreciate each other's artistic traditions, share their cultural expressions, and collaborate on creative projects. This not only fosters a deeper understanding of each other's cultures but also promotes cultural diversity and the development of a shared cultural space in Central and Eastern Europe.

The exchange of cultural expressions also serves as a bridge for building stronger cultural ties and developing mutual respect between the two countries. It enhances the cultural landscape and contributes to a richer, more interconnected cultural environment, which is especially vital in today's globalized world.

4. Conclusions

Ukrainian-Polish cultural interaction manifests itself through various processes, such as the exchange of ideas, traditions, and styles between cultures. This leads to the creation of new cultural products and joint creative projects. Cultural adaptation is the mutual influence and transformation of elements of one culture under the influence of another, which leads to the convergence of cultural practices. Cultural assimilation implies that one culture absorbs elements of another culture, which can lead to the formation of a new synthesized cultural identity.

Interaction between cultures is important in the modern world and helps to improve cultural ties between different countries and peoples. Various ways of cultural exchange, such as exhibitions, dialogues and integration, are effective means of promoting intercultural interaction and mutual understanding. In the context of Ukrainian-Polish relations, these processes are manifested through the organization of various cultural events and activities that promote the exchange of cultural values, discussion of common topics and mutual learning of cultural traditions.

Intercultural interaction is not limited to the exchange of cultural artifacts and traditions; it is also a key mechanism of socio-cultural transformation in the modern world. This process promotes mutual understanding, increases the level of cooperation, and fosters constructive relations between different cul-

tural communities. Intercultural interaction creates an opportunity not only to explore and understand other cultures, but also to influence social changes taking place in modern society. It contributes to building an open and diverse society that welcomes cultural diversity and uses it as a force for socio-cultural development.

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