

Abstract

Ukrainian spelling reform: main changes and substantial critical issues.

It is symptomatic that in the independent Ukraine the question of a new orthography has assumed a prominent role compared to other aspects of the language. Unlike other European languages, in addition to simplification and harmonization, this reform aims to restore the orthographic rules most closely related to the Ukrainian language, after a long period of linguistic homologations during the Soviet period. My paper points out some substantial changes made by the spelling reform, its improvement aspects and the most critical issues determined, in particular, by the introduction of numerous parallel forms of use, especially in loan words. One of the most important changes is the restoration of the exaphonemic vocalic system of the Ukrainian language, with the reintroduction of the phoneme /и/ at the beginning of some properly Ukrainian words and few loans. In the field of derivation the new rules for the formation of female forms in professional names and job titles are introduced.

Keywords: spelling reform, phonetic and phonemic transcription, orthographic variants, feminine forms in professional names.