Cultural system of ideas about language relations in Vojvodina

The aim of the paper is to show how parents living in mixed marriages decide to choose the majority (Serbian) language as the language of instruction or the minority (Hungarian) for their children. Linguistic ideology, as a theoretical approach, was used in the paper in order to shed light on the cultural system of ideas about social and linguistic relations in Vojvodina, both at the family and social level, along with their loading of moral and political interests. Qualitative research using interviews was conducted with spouses/partners of members of the Hungarian national minority living in a marriage/partnership with a member of the majority community in Vojvodina. The results of the qualitative data analysis show that when it comes to the choice of the majority language, there is an objective reason (absence of schooling in the minority language in the place where the parents live) and subjective reasons when it comes to the choice of the majority or minority teaching language. When it comes to choosing the majority language, the reasons are: (1) there is less competition in classes in the minority language; (2) better integration into the majority/dominant culture through schooling in the majority language; (3) otherwise, the parent from the majority community would be excluded from the child's education. The choice of the minority language is predominantly for strategic reasons, so that the children know another language, which may be useful to them in the future. Namely, in Hungarian-Serbian mixed marriages, the choice of the language of the instruction for children depends on the environment in which they live (dominantly Hungarian or Serbian) and on the mutual agreement of the parents. The choice of schooling in the majority language accelerates the acculturation of children born in mixed marriages, and in this way mixed marriages break down the ethnic diversity of the population in Vojvodina in a very unique way, within the private sphere, i.e. families and without any external influence of state structures.

*Key words*: intermarriages, language of instruction, language ideology, national minorities, Vojvodina