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## **Hate Speech In The Internet Discourse**

### **Summary**

The article discusses the use of language of hostility in the modern Internet space. The scientific interpretations of the notion of „hate speech” are systematized. During the period under research, an array of materials that uses the language of hatred is singled out. The emphasis is on international legal instruments and legislation in Ukraine that define the criteria for recognizing the language of hostility. The classification of types of rhetoric of hatred is given. Conducted content analysis of materials for the presence of a language of hostility in all-Ukrainian and regional online editions.

Concept of the hate speech, which in Ukraine actively came into use since 2006-2007, originate from English “hate speech”. Specialists of state governance, law, social communication, linguists were seeking to outline its semantics. This problem became an object of a science analysis of Ukrainian and foreign researchers, in particular A. Boyko, T. Bondarenko, A. Weber, O. Verkhovsky, O. Gorbacheva, D. Dutsyk, N. Illyuk, T. Isakova, G. Kozhevnikova, V. Savonchak, O. Chernyh etc. Problems of functionalizing of the hate speech in society were articulated in scientific works of S. Zhabotynska, K. Ruskevych, V. Klemperer, O. Gladylin, O. Karpyak, G. Pocheptsov. In linguistic aspect hate speech were researched by M. Grechyhin, O. Korobkova, E. Ponarin, N. Sydorenko, L. Stavytka, O. Taranenko, G. Chernenko, O. Shelyuch etc.

*The purpose of the article* – to research specifics of using hate speech in the internet discourse (based on the materials of online edition “Ukrainian Truth”, “The Mirror of the Week”, “Free Life Plus”, “About All”, “City”, “20 minutes”, “View”).

The purpose of the scientific research suggests realization of the following objectives: to outline definition of the concept of the hate speech; to select an array of materials for the period under study in which hate speech is being produced; to highlight species of the hostility rhetoric; to analyze examples of using the hate speech in online editions.

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The term "hate speech" does not have unambiguous definition neither in the normative legal acts, nor in the academic science. According to law's specialists – J. B. Jacobs and K. Potter, – "hate speech is a term which belongs to a number of negative statements, from incitement to hatred, misuse, discredit, offensive words and epithets, and, conceivably, enormously examples of preconception [7, c. 178].

N. Illyuk actualizes question of the influence of media on the society and accents that language tools are modeling social behavior, way of thinking and linguistic culture of the citizens. A. Boyko observes that the language of hatred in media helps "to differentiate society and identify its representatives by principle "we – they", "ours – foreign", which leads to dehumanization [7, c. 178]. O. Gorbachova states that the term of the hate speech used for "marking of any public "linguistic" action, which, directly or indirectly, is based on xenophobia and the one that transforms, distort social relations, serves as the cause of the aggression, violence, hostility and conflicts by principle of the national, religious, social or other discrimination..." [1, c. 36].

Oleksandr Burmagin, media lawyer and executive director of the Human Rights Platform, noted that there is no term „language of hostility” in Ukrainian legislation, so there is no counteraction [9]. However, we find the interpretation of this notion in the Recommendations of the Committee of Ministers of the Council of Europe No. 97 (20) [9]: „The language of hostility (hate speech) is all kinds of expressions that spread, incite, support or justify racial hatred, xenophobia, anti-Semitism, and other forms of hate caused by intolerance, including intolerance, manifested in the form of aggressive nationalism and ethnocentrism, discrimination against minorities and hostile attitudes towards them, as well as to immigrants and persons that by their genesis belongs to immigrants”.

Many definitions of language of hostility are based on the establishment of the fact of incitement to hatred, humiliation or discrimination on certain grounds in the statements. Guided by numerous definitions of this concept, we decided to form a generalized one, which, in our opinion, best describes this phenomenon. Consequently, the hate speech – it is any form and content of the statement with the elements of denial of the principle of equality of all people in the rights.

It should be noted, that there are international legal documents and a number of legislative acts in Ukraine that determine the criteria for recognizing the language of hate:

1. Framework Convention for the Protection of National Minorities.
2. Additional Protocol to the Convention on Cybercrime, which deals with the prosecution of racist and xenophobic activities in the network.
3. Council of Europe Hate speech recommendation 97 (20), Recommendation 97 (21) on media and promotion of a culture of tolerance.
4. Article 161 of the Criminal Code of Ukraine provides for punishment for „deliberate acts aimed at incitement to national, racial or religious hatred ...”.
5. Article 6 of the Law of Ukraine „On Television and Radio Broadcasting”, which imposes „a ban on the promotion of exclusiveness, superiority or inferiority of persons on the basis of their religious beliefs, ideology, membership of a particular nation, physical or property status, social origin”.

In modern scientific discourse there are three forms of the hate speech that are being actualized by the researchers (G. Kozhevnikova, O. Verhovsky, V. Malkova): tough, medium and soft. M. Kroz and N. Ratynova proposing the following classification: false identification (forming and enforcement of the negative ethnic stereotype, an image of the nation, religion, a certain group); false attribution (ascription of the hostile actions and risky intentions to representatives of the certain native, religion etc.); "imaginary defense" (pushing to some actions against certain native, religion etc.).

We can outline this specific species of the hate speech, which is being broadcasted by media [10]:

1. Calls to violence (indicating the object of violence; the declaration of violence as an admissible means in its materials).
2. Direct incitement to discrimination, in particular in the form of common slogans.
3. Veiled appeals for violence and discrimination (propaganda of „positive”, historical or contemporary examples of violence; expressions like „it would be good to do with ...”, „it should have been a long time ago ...”, etc.).
4. Creating a negative image of an ethnic, religious or social group.
5. Justifying historical incidents of violence and discrimination.
6. Publications and statements that cast doubt on universally accepted historical facts of violence and discrimination.
7. Allegations of inferiority (lack of culture, intellectual abilities, inability to work) of ethnic, religious or social groups (like „they are suitable only for sweeping the streets”).
8. Allegations of historical crimes of ethnic, religious or social groups (like „they always resorted to violence”, „they always conspired against us”).
9. Allegations of criminalization of certain groups (for example, „they are all thieves”).
10. Statements about moral disadvantages of ethnic, religious or social groups („Jews are covetous”, „Gypsies are liars”).
11. Reflections on the disproportionate advantage of a group in material wealth, representation in power structures, media.
12. Prosecution of the negative influence of one or another ethnic, religious or certain social group on society, the state („blurring of national identity”, „blasting of traditional values,” etc.).
13. A mention of a certain group or its representatives in a humiliating or offensive context.
14. Appeals to prevent the attachment of representatives of a particular ethnic or religious group in the region (district, city) (for example, thinking about the inadmissibility of building a mosque in the „Orthodox city”).
15. Citing xenophobic statements and texts without comment, defining the distinction between interviewed and journalist positions; providing a place in the newspaper for xenophobic propaganda without editorial comment or other controversy.
16. An accusation of a group in attempts to seize power or in territorial expansion.
17. Denial of citizenship (mention of citizens as foreigners or „non-citizens” because of their ethnic identity).

Over the past few years, the use of language of hostility towards representatives of national minorities, political opponents and people with disabilities has become alarming in Ukraine. Widespread use of the public hate speech, in particular, by the media, is the dangerous trend.

We focus on online publications such as “Ukrainian Truth”, “The Mirror of the Week”, “Free Life Plus”, “About All”, “City”, “20 minutes” and “View”. For the formation of a selective totality of online publications, a sample has been used by the most recognizable categories in the Internet media navigation. The chronological period is October 2018 – February 2019.

To detect the tendencies of the hate speech in internet publications, we chose a method of content analysis, which illustrates the transfer of quantitative indicators of mass digital information with subsequent statistical processing. Content analysis is one of the ways of determining the substantive merits of materials that are relevant to information platforms.

Materials were investigated for the purpose of the availability of sixty-six keywords that belongs to six categories of analysis that correspond to the types of language of hostility.

The results of the conducted content analysis are reflected in the table, which specifies the number of keywords used (hate speech), in the materials of each of the publications under study (Table 1):

Table 1. The number of words of the hate speech, taken in online editions for October 2018 – February 2019

Category	Keywords	Online editions							In all
		About All	Ukrainian truth	City	20 minutes	The mirror of the week	View	Free life plus	
By nationality	Niger; arabs; african; muscovite; judes, gypsies	1		7	1		1	-	10
By age category	Little	-		-	1		-	-	1
For health reasons	Convulsively shuddered ; cripple; short-sighted; children with special needs; special children; tucked into a cart	-		1	2		-	1	4
Humiliation of human dignity	Cattle; beggar; alcoholic	1		1	-		-	-	2
By material situation	Homeless; needy	1		2	-		-	-	3
By political orientation	Knopkodav, knopkopdavstvo; truant; sow; buckwheat-sow; matrosyty; the fuzz; grey horses; grey cardinals; ukrainian lame justice; inoslavny; latent agents; secular lion; new «goloborod'ko»; facebook hero/space; political violence; slave status; «net» named after Tymoshenko; leader of the «Batktivshchyna»; grabber; a little bit of Zelenskiy; bourgeois nationalists; servant in the skull cap; army of the resurrection; black penguins; false veil; babbler; exile-nardep; sovietish; panamian patriot; primitive svobodivets; ignorants with parliamentary mandate; Zastavniy's chicken coop; criminal government; showman; a very general prosecutor; hyenas; vainglorious hetmanchyk; oaken komsomolets; vozhdyka; separatists; savky; traitors;	10	50	1		46	7	20	134
	In all	13	50	12	4	46	8	21	154

Źródło: [https://www.hbrp.pl/b/droga-do-ai-czym-jest-dzis-i-czym-moze-stac-sie-sztuczna-inteligencja/PJzlpXnpV?NO\\_COOKIES=1](https://www.hbrp.pl/b/droga-do-ai-czym-jest-dzis-i-czym-moze-stac-sie-sztuczna-inteligencja/PJzlpXnpV?NO_COOKIES=1)[04.2019]

According to the results of content analysis of materials of Internet publications, availability of the words with emotionally negative context, which insult and humiliate the honor and dignity of other people: by nationality – 10, for health reasons – 4, by material situation – 3. Category “by the political orientation” is the most filled with the hate speech (134). We believe that large amount of category units is connected with the fact that since January election propaganda began in Ukraine, so the number of publications on political issues has increased. In the “Ukrainian Truth” we find 50 expressive words with negative connotation. For example: “It will be much harder to buy electorate, sow them with the buckwheat or apply the administrative resource”, “... caught in the Verkhovna Rada pressing on buttons during the vote”; “Sovky (soviet people), slaves, the fifth column of the Kraml, traitors, zombies, titushky (people with sporty appearance that snatch off political meetings by using violence) etc. This text is about them. About those who stand on the way of Ukraine to the heated European Heaven”. On the second place by using the hate speech there is the edition “The Mirror of the Week” (46 cases). For example: “Interesting that in the delegation there is no “profile” minister – Eygen Nyshchuk”. Significantly fewer (20 units) are found in Ternopil online edition “Free Life Plus”. Eloquent title “A little bit of Zelenskiy” of such material: “Former “regional” (member of the “Partiya Regioniv”) Oleksandr Vilkul went to Berdyansk to show himself before the presidential election. There activists decided to meet him in original way. One of them poured on him brilliant green”. In this very edition period of the election compared to the Vertep (national Christmas masquerade): “That – national president with the fork, the other – servant of the people in the skull cap, and that – the most national gazivnychka (women that specializes on gas questions). They treat themselves as if they are here on the parade or beauty contest. And this entire massacre is gaining momentum, rapid acceleration and caustic obsession”.

## Conclusions

The danger of hate speech in journalism is well known. As you can see, information platforms contain different types of language of hostility: rigid (calls for discrimination, veiled calls for violence and discrimination), secondary (justification for cases of violence or discrimination, statements about the criminalization of a socially vulnerable group, representatives, allegations of their negative impact on the society) and soft (creating a negative image of the representatives of these groups, assertions about inferiority, in particular lack of culture, intellectual and creative abilities, the statement of moral flaws, the mention of them in a humiliating context, the quoting of xenophobic statements and texts without comment). Its use may incite hate crimes. Therefore, the media should refrain from broadcasting the language of hostility. The regulation of this problem primarily depends on the observance of professional standards and journalistic ethics in the media environment.