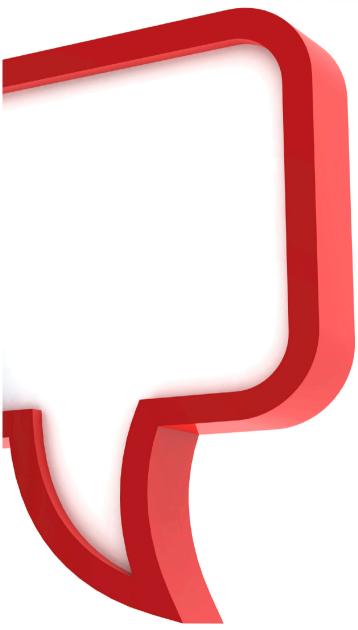
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Meilutė Ramonienė

Vilnius University

Sociolinguistic situation and language policy in contemporary Lithuania

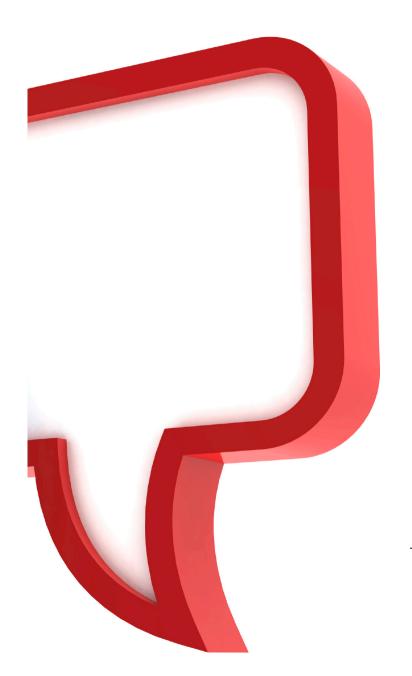
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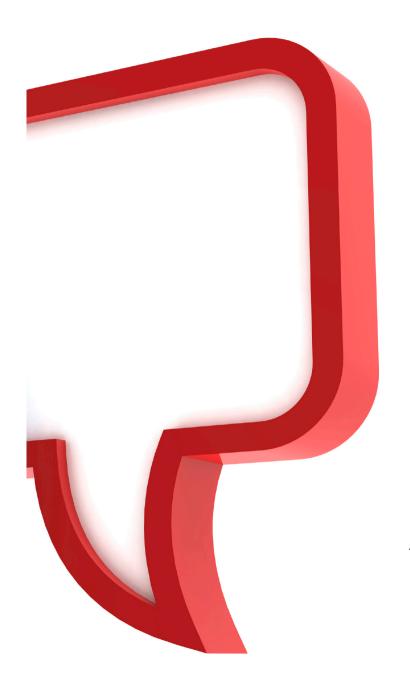
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Abstract: The talk traces the current sociolinguistic situation in Lithuania, changes in linguistic behaviour and language attitudes after regaining independence. The current situation and language policy in Lithuania will be presented in a broader context of the Baltic states. Based on the newly acquired quantitative and qualitative data from several research projects on language use and language attitudes carried out in urban areas of Lithuania my talk will consider the issues of language choice in different domains in big and smaller towns of Lithuania, the changing linguistic repertoires, the value of Lithuanian, English and Russian regarding such characteristics as aesthetics, usefulness, habit and prestige. Correlations between new trends of language use and attitudes, the construction of ethnic identity and different social factors will be analysed.

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Meilute Ramoniene is professor and the head of the Department of Lithuanian Studies at Vilnius University. Her research interests include applied linguistics, sociolinguistics and onomastics. Her published output also includes books, book chapters and papers on language use and language attitudes, language and identity, bilingualism and multilingualism, language policy in Lithuania. She is an author of several textbooks and teacher reference books for teaching Lithuanian as a second language. She has been leading and participating in several international and national projects. Her current projects deal on urban language use and attitudes, language ideologies and the language of emigrants.

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