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### **Asymmetrical bilingualism in the Russophone urban areas of Ukraine and its linguistic outcomes**

Asymmetrical bilingualism occurs as a result of the rural-to-urban migration in Ukraine. Ukrainian-speaking rural migrants represent the linguistic minority in the Russophone urban areas and they often find themselves in the situations that require accommodation to the language of the dominant group. It is not rare that rural migrants continue to use their first language on a par with Russian during their life-time after migration, which under certain circumstances may lead to the development of a bilingual Russian-Ukrainian mixed code – a code in which elements from the two languages are incorporated into a structurally distinct pattern.

This study is concerned with the question of whether we can identify such a mixed code in the speech of the bilingual rural migrants who have been living in the Russian-speaking environment for several decades. It is based on the analysis of the intra-sentential code-mixing patterns extracted from the bilingual conversations between the two rural migrants (one male and one female). The paper looks into the choice of the grammatical elements in the production of mixed speech by the bilingual individuals in informal interaction. The results of the analysis indicate that both speakers show a considerable variation with regard to their linguistic preferences. At the same time, we can also observe some recurrent distinct patterns in the choice of the grammatical elements in the corpus which may point to the fact that the formation of a mixed code is on its way.