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# **THE ALL-UNION CENSUSES 1959, 1970 AND 1979 AS A SOURCE OF STUDYING POPULATION TITULAR NATION OF UKRAINIAN DURING THE 60'S–70'S OF THE TWENTIETH CENTURY**

## **ABSTRACT**

The article analyses the All-Union censuses in 1959, 1970 and 1979 as a primary source for a comprehensive studying the population dynamics and the settlement of Ukrainians in different regions of the Ukrainian SSR during the 60's – 70's of the XXth century. The author has studied a state of preservation of their native language, has defined the factors which under the totalitarian regime negatively influenced the change of demographic processes, especially the ethnic composition of Ukrainian society at the outlined period. The article also describes the national policy of Soviet authorities which guided by the national priority of state and nationwide community of «the Soviet people» and ignored the value of an ethnic nation. The author also finds out that Ukrainians were the dominant nation almost throughout the USSR in the outlined period. The number of Ukrainian grew exclusively by natural population growth, while the number of representatives of the Russian nation increased as a result of internal republican migration. The article brings the idea that Ukraine was one of the centers of accumulation of immigration flows in the Soviet Union, and because of this fact the multicultural Ukrainian SSR society, which constituted basically of the Ukrainians, gradually turned into bi-national, where Ukrainian majority coexisted along with continuously growing Russian minority. Such resettlements were carried out primarily for political reasons and were aimed at the loss by native people their national characteristics – language, culture and the like. The main task of migration, which was run by the Soviet government

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was the assimilation, denationalization and the russification of the Ukrainian people which was hidden by slogans of rapprochement of nations.

**Keywords:** All-Union census, demography, the titular nation, Ukrainians, the Ukrainian language, a national question, totalitarian regime, migration, assimilation

## FORMULATION OF SCIENTIFIC PROBLEM AND ITS SIGNIFICANCE

The titular Ukrainian nation with the Ukrainian state language, customs, traditions, centuries-old culture, indestructible spirit and powerful unity have always been consolidating force in our country. The idea of national unity has been always present among our people – this, after all, was the key to the creation of Ukrainian democratic, sovereign, independent state. However, during the Soviet period the systematic destruction of the Ukrainian nation and its ethnic unity has taken place, Ukrainians were absorbed into «new historical community» – «Soviet people», the territory of Ukrainian SSR was being settled by alien ethnic elements for radical, artificial changes in the composition of the indigenous population.

When Ukraine obtained independence favorable conditions were created for the free study of the Soviet past of the Ukrainian people, rethinking their history. Therefore, a comprehensive study of the results of the All-Union census in 1959, 1970 and 1979 as a source of studying the population of the representatives of the titular nation of Ukraine during the 60's – 70's of the twentieth century is extremely important and requires a special approach in the study, since the current ethnic composition of the population is the result of a long historical process of formation of ethnic communities and today the most complete and objective ethnic history of Ukraine is of great importance, the same as the restoration of National Memory, the gene pool of the Ukrainian nation destroyed by the communist regime, education of patriotism among the younger generation, promotion of the growth of national identity and consciousness of the Ukrainian people, with the help of which urgent problems of state building are successfully solved.

## RESEARCH ANALYSIS

The question of the dynamics of the Ukrainian SSR population in the second half of the twentieth century, ethnosocial formation of its structure partially covered in the works of such authors as O. Voronko (2002), J. Hyrych (1968), V. Yevtuh (2004), V. Krysachenko (2005), V. Sklyar (2008), G. Stetsenko (2005), I. Subotina (2008), S. Chornyy (2001), A. Rafalskyy (2000) and others. The scientists viewed only some aspects of the outlined topics, including the formation of social and professional sector in the employment of different ethnic groups in Ukraine and its regions, especially the geographic distribution of different ethnic groups, defining features of their ethno-cultural development, the dynamics of gender and age structure of the Ukrainian SSR, demographic consequences of urbanization and more. However, the topic remains understudied in the scientific literature. This enables us to continue working in this promising area.

## THE AIM OF THE ARTICLE

Consequently, the focus of this article – research of the All Union census in 1959, 1970 and 1979 as a source of study of the population representatives of the titular nation of Ukraine in the USSR during the 60's–70's of the twentieth century, of determining factors which negatively influenced the changing of the ethnic composition of the Ukrainian society during this period.

## THE MAIN MATERIAL AND JUSTIFICATION OF STUDY RESULTS

Immediately after the Second World War, most European countries held censuses. In the USSR the first post-war census took place only in 14 years, namely in 1959. The main reasons for such a long break since the census of 1939 were financial difficulties, and the reluctance of the Soviet leadership to show the true extent of human losses, since pre-war population was restored only by 1955 due to the relatively high level of birth rate (Union of Soviet Socialist Republics, 2016). The decision to hold the general census in 1959 was approved by the Council of Ministers No 480 of May, 5, 1958 «On the All-Union census in 1959» and according to the Council of Ministers of USSR No 755 from June 6, 1958 (Legal committee of the USSR Council of Ministers, 1958, p. 34). This census first covered the territory of Ukraine in its present borders, because the previous record of total population, which took place twenty years before, covered the Ukrainian SSR even without Western regions, but with Moldavian ASRR.

The main document of the census in 1959 was the program – approved by the government census letter, which consisted of 15 questions and, according to Soviet demographers had to characterize society fully. Statistical indicators defined gender, age, marital status, nationality, native language, citizenship, education, employment and others. Ethnic identity was determined by the interviewee, nationality children cited their parents.

According to this census Ukraine was a multi-ethnic state and its territory lived 41 869 046 people (Orehov, 1963, p. 168). The representatives of the titular nation Ukraine dominated in all regions of the republic, especially in the central and western regions, the only exception was the Crimean peninsula, where mainly share of Crimean Tatars was growing in number. Ethnic Ukrainians in 1959 accounted for 32158,5 thousand people, and it is accordingly 76,81 % of the population of the republic (Sklar, 2008, p. 339). The second largest ethnic group was the Russians, whose share in this period amounted to 16,94% of population (Orehov, 1963, p. 168). The Russians were the majority in the Crimean region (71,43%), in almost all other regions they were in the second place, in Zhytomyr and Zakarpattia in the third in Chernivtsi region in the 4<sup>th</sup> (Orehov, 1963, p. 171).

Over the 60's of the XXth century the number of representatives of the titular nation of Ukraine has increased by more than 3 million people, but over the next decade growth has been much lower – 1,2 million people (Subotina, 2008, p. 82). This is due primarily to the aggravation of the demographic situation in the USSR and a sharp decrease in natural population growth in general. Another significant reason for this rapid growth is the number of representatives of other nationalities, especially the Russians and Belorussians. From 1959 to 1970 a share of the Ukrainians has increased by 9,7%, while the Russians and the Belorussians – by 28,7 % and 32,6% (Subotina, 2008, p. 84). It should be noted that in the Russian

Federation itself the proportion of Russians among the entire population of the republic steadily declined for their natural growth was much lower than the increase in the non-Russian people. In addition there was mass migration of the Russians to other Soviet republics.

In the researched period in all regions of the USSR and the Eastern region in the south of the republic absolute and relative number of Russians grew at a huge pace, but still inferior in this to the Ukrainians. This trend was the result of the Soviet migration policy, which was based on the movement of labor within the republic (Correspondence of the Communist Party of Ukraine, 1961, s. 104). The certificates of the Central Committee of the Communist Party clearly defined the main direction of rural workers – from the West to the South (Subotina, 2008, p. 84). Considering the fact that the majority of rural residents of Western Ukraine, more than 90%, were the Ukrainians, we can assume that they dominated among the newly arrived farmers in the southern region of the republic. Thus, according to official figures of the Union census the proportion of the population of the Ukrainians in Odessa region in 1959 was 55,82% and in 1970 – 54,99% in Donetsk – 55,58% and 53,08%, Dnipropetrovsk – 77,74% and 74,84%, Luhansk – 57,75% and 54,77%, Kherson – 81,06% and 78,33%, Mykolaiv – 81,16% and 78,87%, respectively (Orehov, 1963, pp. 168–178; Central state Management at the council, 1972, pp. 152–190).

During 1972 – 1974 they officially announced the results of the next general census, held January 15, 1970. At first it was planned for 1969, but the unavailability of means of the results processing of the census was the main reason for its delay in 1970. In fact, it had hardly differed from Census in 1959 both in organizational and methodological provisions and in its program. However, unlike the census of 1959, when the final reports and tables were published for each Union republic in a separate volume, this time the subject was published in seven volumes for all republics. In a separate volume they contained the information on the absolute and relative number of nationalities, their sex, composition, prevalence by region, in particular in urban and rural areas. The scope of interest of the statistics included and other matters: fertility, distribution by languages, education, family size, sex, age and marriage patterns, the distribution of sources of livelihood, occupation, housing, migration and movement of others.

As of 1970 among the total population of Ukraine – 47126,5 thousand people (Central state Management at the council, 1972, p. 152), the Ukrainians remained dominant – 35283,9 thousand people, that is 74,87% of the total population of the republic (Sklar, 2008, p. 339). The peculiarity was an increase almost twice in the number of the Ukrainian population in the Crimean region – from 267,7 to 480,7 thousand people (Central state Management at the council, 1972, p. 153) (details are summarized in Table 1).

In absolute calculating the number of Ukrainians increased by 3,125 million and their share decreased from 76,8% to 74,87%, while the number of the Russians increased by 2,1 million. And their share in the population of the republic also increased from 16,94% to 19,37% (Central state Management at the council, 1972, p. 153). Based on the above data, persons of the Russian nationality were not one-sixth, but almost one-fifth of the population. It should be noted that the growing number of the Ukrainians has risen solely by natural increase, while the number of the Russians – as a result of positive net migration from other republics of the Soviet Union. The essence of contemporary national policy of the Soviet leadership was forming a «new historical community» – «Soviet people», which in practice was reduced to the growth of the non-indigenous population in Ukraine and the formation

Tab. 1. The number of representatives of the titular nation of Ukraine (thous. people) and their proportion among the population of the Ukrainian SSR (in%) during the 60's of the XXth century

| No                            | Region          | 1959 p.       |       | 1970 p.       |       |
|-------------------------------|-----------------|---------------|-------|---------------|-------|
|                               |                 | Thous. people | %     | Thous. people | %     |
| <i>Western area</i>           |                 |               |       |               |       |
| 1                             | Zakarpattia     | 686,5         | 74,56 | 808,1         | 76,46 |
| 2                             | Ivano-Frankivsk | 1037,7        | 94,80 | 1186,8        | 94,99 |
| 3                             | Lviv            | 1818,3        | 86,26 | 2134,4        | 87,46 |
| 4                             | Ternopil        | 1030,2        | 94,89 | 1107,0        | 96,60 |
| 5                             | Hmel'nitsk      | 1452,9        | 90,16 | 1466,9        | 90,87 |
| 6                             | Chernivtsi      | 518,2         | 94,46 | 581,1         | 93,14 |
| <i>North-western area</i>     |                 |               |       |               |       |
| 7                             | Volyn           | 842,0         | 94,55 | 924,9         | 94,89 |
| 8                             | Rivne           | 864,8         | 93,37 | 979,6         | 93,50 |
| <i>Central area</i>           |                 |               |       |               |       |
| 9                             | Vinnitsia       | 1966,4        | 91,80 | 1960,8        | 91,97 |
| 10                            | Kyiv            | 1602,2        | 93,18 | 1689,1        | 92,09 |
| 11                            | Kirovograd      | 1079,8        | 88,66 | 1110,0        | 88,13 |
| 12                            | Cherkasy        | 1413,1        | 93,99 | 1425,1        | 92,84 |
| <i>Eastern area</i>           |                 |               |       |               |       |
| 13                            | Dnipropetrovsk  | 2102,9        | 77,74 | 2492,1        | 74,84 |
| 14                            | Donetsk         | 2368,1        | 55,58 | 2596,9        | 53,08 |
| 15                            | Luhansk         | 1416,3        | 57,75 | 1506,6        | 54,77 |
| 16                            | Kharkiv         | 1734,1        | 68,81 | 1869,4        | 66,14 |
| <i>North-eastern area</i>     |                 |               |       |               |       |
| 17                            | Poltava         | 1524,7        | 93,44 | 1557,6        | 91,23 |
| 18                            | Sumy            | 1330,8        | 87,91 | 1312,1        | 87,20 |
| 19                            | Chernihiv       | 1468,2        | 94,46 | 1462,9        | 93,14 |
| <i>Northern area</i>          |                 |               |       |               |       |
| 20                            | Zhytomyr        | 1355,2        | 84,50 | 1383,9        | 85,07 |
| <i>Southern area</i>          |                 |               |       |               |       |
| 21                            | Crimea          | 267,7         | 22,28 | 480,7         | 26,45 |
| 22                            | Mykolaiv        | 822,8         | 81,16 | 905,6         | 78,87 |
| 23                            | Odesa           | 1124,4        | 55,82 | 1313,8        | 54,99 |
| 24                            | Kherson         | 668,1         | 81,06 | 806,8         | 78,33 |
| <i>South-northern area</i>    |                 |               |       |               |       |
| 25                            | Zaporizhia      | 999,4         | 68,28 | 1164,8        | 66,64 |
| <i>Totally across Ukraine</i> |                 | 32158,5       | 76,81 | 35283,9       | 74,87 |

of large industrial centers and small and medium-sized cities of Russian-speaking majorities (Orekhov, 1974, p. 79). Thus, during 1968 and 1969 589 922 people (22,67% of the total value of national migrations) came to the USSR, including 419 660 people with the RSFSR, representing 71,1% of newcomers from other Soviet republics (Orekhov, 1974, p. 79). Such

developments led to an increase in non-Ukrainian population in the USSR. In fact, there was a gradual deukrainization of Ukraine, favorable to the Russians but unfavorable for the Ukrainians.

It should be also noted that because of the centralized, controlled from the city of Moscow division of personnel in all Soviet republics, many Ukrainian experts were forced to work outside the country. Great Ukrainian movement contributed to the Resolution CM USSR and the CPSU «On the increase of grain production at the expense of the development of virgin and fallow lands» of March 27, 1954 and other decisions that led to organized recruitment and sending them to the arid zones of eastern USSR (The directive of CPSU, 1958, p. 210). Such resettlement conducted primarily for political reasons and were aimed at making the people lose their national characteristics – language, culture and so on.

To solve the issues of labor migration the state created a special department – the Department of organized recruitment of workers and migrations in the Republic of Moldova SSR, local – regional departments of employment of workers and relocation in the Executive Committee. Supporting institutions in this process were different companies, institutions and Komsomol organizations. Ukrainian labor emigration, mainly set off to pioneering and industrial construction. This was contributed by a large-scale propaganda campaign launched by the media, including radio, TV, press (Raising the virgin lands, 1954, p. 2). Migrants were encouraged by privileges and the ability to earn more. Such prospect, especially interested young families that had insufficient or unreliable means of obtaining the family income. However, Ukrainian migration in underdeveloped and industrial regions outside the Ukrainian SSR was associated not only with material needs and the difficult economic situation in the country, but also the party of patriotism, faith in ideals and appeals CPSU – CPU to meet the needs of the Soviet people in food, provide animal with food.

Due to the absence of any foreign land of opportunities for preserving the national identity and satisfaction of national and cultural needs (national schools, the press, professional cultural institutions) all newcomers generation of Ukrainian workers constantly russified and their children who were born outside the homeland, mostly became «Russians», and Ukrainian identity was preserved, usually among persons born in Ukraine. Large scale labor migration flows contributed to an artificial Ukrainian leadership of Russians in the ethnic composition of the Ukrainian SSR and reducing the number of Ukrainians and this in its turn suppressed and led to the loss of national identity and belonging, spirituality, rapidly accelerating linguistic and ethnic assimilation Ukrainian.

In the first half of 1960's the planned relocation of workers to Kazakh SSR dominated, and since the late 1960's. – organizational recruitments to the RSFSR, which lasted until the end of 1980 (Correspondence with the Central Committee, 1980, s. 39; Consolidated statistic Hoskomtrud report, 1985, ss. 3–4). According to plans of organizational recruitments it was expected to relocate both individuals and entire families. The outflow of SSR of young, healthy people caused the reduction in fertility, which accelerates aging. In addition, the increase in migratory movements of the population (both external and internal) initiated a fertility decrease as a result of natality postponement (Steshenko & Chuyko, 1977, pp. 204–207).

Nine years after the census of 1970 there was carried out another census of the USSR, namely the 17<sup>th</sup> in January, 1979. During this census firstly in practice the recordings were made with the help of special reading devices, the records then were placed into a computer

and recorded on magnetic media. Development of census materials in 1979, thanks to the use of computers, has been fully completed in two years, but their results were published only in the 80's of the XXth century.

According to the All-Union census in 1979 the ethnic Ukrainians constituted 36488,9 thousand people, and it is accordingly 73,55% of the total population of the republic which accounted at that time to 49 609 333 people (Population of the USSR, 1980, p. 373). In absolute calculating the number of the Ukrainians in the past nine years (since the All-Union referendum in 1970) increased by 1205,0 thousand people, and their share decreased by 1,3% (from 74,87% in 1970 to 73,55% in 1979). Thus, if the 60's of the XXth century reducing the number of titular nation of Ukraine occurred only in three areas, namely in Vinnitsa, Sumy and Chernihiv then in the 70's there were already eight of them – Khmelnytsky, Vinnytsia Kirovograd, Cherkasy and Luhansk, Sumy, Chernihiv, Zhytomyr (details summarized in Table 2).

Tab. 2. The number of representatives of the titular nation of Ukraine (thous. people) and their proportion among the population of the Ukrainian SSR (in%) during the 60's – 70's of the XXth century

| No                        | Region          | 1959 p.       |       | 1970 p.       |       | 1979 p.       |       |
|---------------------------|-----------------|---------------|-------|---------------|-------|---------------|-------|
|                           |                 | Thous. people | %     | Thous. people | %     | Thous. people | %     |
| <i>Western area</i>       |                 |               |       |               |       |               |       |
| 1                         | Zakarpattia     | 686,5         | 74,56 | 808,1         | 76,46 | 898,6         | 77,73 |
| 2                         | Ivano-Frankivsk | 1037,7        | 94,80 | 1186,8        | 94,99 | 1263,7        | 95,02 |
| 3                         | Lviv            | 1818,3        | 86,26 | 2134,4        | 87,46 | 2298,6        | 89,85 |
| 4                         | Ternopil        | 1030,2        | 94,89 | 1107,0        | 96,60 | 1123,1        | 96,64 |
| 5                         | Hmelnytsk       | 1452,9        | 90,16 | 1466,9        | 90,87 | 1413,1        | 90,81 |
| 6                         | Chernivtsi      | 518,2         | 94,46 | 581,1         | 93,14 | 629,1         | 70,17 |
| <i>North-western area</i> |                 |               |       |               |       |               |       |
| 7                         | Volyn           | 842,0         | 94,55 | 924,9         | 94,89 | 962,1         | 94,63 |
| 8                         | Rivne           | 864,8         | 93,37 | 979,6         | 93,50 | 1041,2        | 93,14 |
| <i>Central area</i>       |                 |               |       |               |       |               |       |
| 9                         | Vinnytsia       | 1966,4        | 91,80 | 1960,8        | 91,97 | 1872,7        | 91,83 |
| 10                        | Kyiv            | 1602,2        | 93,18 | 1689,1        | 92,09 | 1743,8        | 90,57 |
| 11                        | Kirovograd      | 1079,8        | 88,66 | 1110,0        | 88,13 | 1078,8        | 86,90 |
| 12                        | Cherkasy        | 1413,1        | 93,99 | 1425,1        | 92,84 | 1417,6        | 91,74 |
| <i>Eastern area</i>       |                 |               |       |               |       |               |       |
| 13                        | Dnipropetrovsk  | 2102,9        | 77,74 | 2492,1        | 74,84 | 2647,5        | 72,75 |
| 14                        | Donetsk         | 2368,1        | 55,58 | 2596,9        | 53,08 | 2622,5        | 50,92 |
| 15                        | Luhansk         | 1416,3        | 57,75 | 1506,6        | 54,77 | 1472,7        | 52,86 |
| 16                        | Kharkiv         | 1734,1        | 68,81 | 1869,4        | 66,14 | 1953,0        | 64,24 |
| <i>North-eastern area</i> |                 |               |       |               |       |               |       |
| 17                        | Poltava         | 1524,7        | 93,44 | 1557,6        | 91,23 | 1557,0        | 89,41 |
| 18                        | Sumy            | 1330,8        | 87,91 | 1312,1        | 87,20 | 1267,2        | 86,50 |
| 19                        | Chernihiv       | 1468,2        | 94,46 | 1462,9        | 93,14 | 1387,6        | 92,58 |

| No                            | Region     | 1959 p.       |       | 1970 p.       |       | 1979 p.       |       |
|-------------------------------|------------|---------------|-------|---------------|-------|---------------|-------|
|                               |            | Thous. people | %     | Thous. people | %     | Thous. people | %     |
| <i>Northern area</i>          |            |               |       |               |       |               |       |
| 20                            | Zhytomyr   | 1355,2        | 84,50 | 1383,9        | 85,07 | 1353,0        | 84,90 |
| <i>Southern area</i>          |            |               |       |               |       |               |       |
| 21                            | Crimea     | 267,7         | 22,28 | 480,7         | 26,45 | 547,3         | 25,62 |
| 22                            | Mykolaiv   | 822,8         | 81,16 | 905,6         | 78,87 | 962,5         | 77,48 |
| 23                            | Odesa      | 1124,4        | 55,82 | 1313,8        | 54,99 | 1382,1        | 54,67 |
| 24                            | Kherson    | 668,1         | 81,06 | 806,8         | 78,33 | 894,6         | 76,70 |
| <i>South-northern area</i>    |            |               |       |               |       |               |       |
| 25                            | Zaporizhia | 999,4         | 68,28 | 1164,8        | 66,64 | 1243,8        | 63,39 |
| <i>Totally across Ukraine</i> |            | 32158,5       | 76,81 | 35283,9       | 74,87 | 36488,9       | 73,55 |

The reasons for reducing the proportion of the Ukrainian SSR population should include not only reducing their natural population growth, but also ethnic assimilation, russification and migration which were a direct consequence of artificially created by the Soviet leadership ethnic and demographic policies. Such an adverse situation for indigenous nation of Ukraine created for the Ukrainians a real threat to become a minority on their own land (Sklar, 2008, p. 153).

In the study of the population of the titular nation of Ukraine during the 60's–70's of the twentieth century you need to pay attention to the language issue that was included in the All-Union census questionnaires. According to the official census in 1959 the Russian language was called a native language by 10,3 million people (including 6,9 million Russians, 2 million Ukrainians), and in 1970 this figure reached 13,4 million people (8,9 million Russians and 3 million Ukrainians) (Romantsov, 2008, p. 38). Unfortunately, the Ukrainian language was native only to the Poles, because during both censuses 68% of the nation called their native the Ukrainian language, the other nationalities tended to russification (Romantsov, 2008, p. 38). This is not surprising, because the Russian language for many centuries was the state, not subjected to harassment and was considered «promising», that is why it has not been the object of denationalization. The wish to speak Russian primarily was caused by its priority position: the most books, journals, newspapers and scientific literature were published in Russian. Learning Russian was more profitable and promising, it was easier to enter higher education institutions, perform military service, work in office, make a career. This led to the spread of using Russian language in everyday life and increasing the number of Russian-speaking Ukrainians. Ukrainian language dominated in Vinnytsia, Zhytomyr, Kirovohrad, Poltava, Sumy, Chernihiv, Khmelnytsky regions, it was spoken by 80% of the population (mainly in rural regions) (Tyevikova, 2010, p. 148). The Western Ukraine was the mostly Ukrainian-speaking part of the country. However, it is difficult to make accurate conclusions about the Ukrainian national identity of this period. In Census of 1959 citizens of the USSR determined a native language by the questions formulated as follows: «What language do you think is your mother language?» but not, for example, «Which language you know better?» or «What language do you use in everyday life?», that is, those who call Ukrainian their native language, in real life could use a little or not to use it (Tyevikova, 2010, p. 148).



In the Eastern and Southern regions of the Ukrainian SSR the proportion of the Russian-speaking Ukrainians prevailed the share of the Ukrainian-speaking Ukrainians, and in the Western and Central ratio of these groups was in favor of the Ukrainians who kept their own national language. The highest (90%) among all regions in the period under study was the proportion of the Ukrainian population in Ternopil, Ivano-Frankivsk, Volyn, Vinnytsia, Rivne regions, and the lowest – in Crimea, Donetsk, Odessa and Lugansk (Orehov, 1963, pp. 168–178; Central state Management at the council, 1972, pp. 152–190). Overall, in the 60's of the XXth century only in eight regions of Ukraine, namely in Zakarpattia, Lviv, Ternopil, Chernivtsi, Volyn, Rivne, Chernihiv, number of the Ukrainians in Crimean population has grown, and the rest declined. The worsening of the situation occurred during the 70's of the XXth century. Since the number of Ukrainian population increased only in five regions of Ukraine – Zakarpattia, Ivano-Frankivsk, Lviv, Ternopil, Chernivtsi, and respectively in twenty others there was reducing in the number of the Ukrainian-population (information summarized in Table 3).

Tab. 3. Number of the Ukrainian-speaking population (thous. persons) and their proportion among the population of the Ukrainian SSR (in%) during the 60's–70's of the XXth century

| No                        | Region          | 1959 p.       |       | 1970 p.       |       | 1979 p.       |       |
|---------------------------|-----------------|---------------|-------|---------------|-------|---------------|-------|
|                           |                 | Thous. people | %     | Thous. people | %     | Thous. people | %     |
| <i>Western area</i>       |                 |               |       |               |       |               |       |
| 1                         | Zakarpattia     | 681,5         | 74,06 | 804,1         | 76,08 | 896,0         | 77,52 |
| 2                         | Ivano-Frankivsk | 1042,0        | 95,19 | 1187,7        | 95,06 | 1262,5        | 95,16 |
| 3                         | Lviv            | 1818,3        | 86,25 | 2134,4        | 87,18 | 2298,6        | 89,03 |
| 4                         | Ternopil        | 1049,7        | 96,69 | 1119,2        | 97,09 | 1129,8        | 97,22 |
| 5                         | Hmel'nitsk      | 1502,3        | 93,22 | 1504,0        | 93,10 | 1435,7        | 92,26 |
| 6                         | Chernivtsi      | 527,0         | 68,20 | 584,7         | 69,20 | 632,5         | 70,55 |
| <i>North-western area</i> |                 |               |       |               |       |               |       |
| 7                         | Volyn           | 841,7         | 94,52 | 923,8         | 94,79 | 960,4         | 94,56 |
| 8                         | Rivne           | 869,2         | 93,84 | 988,1         | 94,32 | 1049,5        | 93,89 |
| <i>Central area</i>       |                 |               |       |               |       |               |       |
| 9                         | Vinnytsia       | 1979,5        | 92,49 | 1961,5        | 92,0  | 1862,1        | 91,31 |
| 10                        | Kyiv            | 1601,5        | 93,15 | 1685,6        | 91,90 | 1728,9        | 89,80 |
| 11                        | Kirovograd      | 1070,3        | 87,79 | 1100,6        | 87,31 | 1062,3        | 85,57 |
| 12                        | Cherkasy        | 1405,7        | 93,53 | 1416,7        | 92,29 | 1401,7        | 90,71 |
| <i>Eastern area</i>       |                 |               |       |               |       |               |       |
| 13                        | Dnipropetrovsk  | 1974,5        | 73,0  | 2271,1        | 67,33 | 2341,1        | 64,36 |
| 14                        | Donetsk         | 1893,2        | 44,41 | 1853,8        | 37,89 | 1656,6        | 32,16 |
| 15                        | Luhansk         | 1253,8        | 51,13 | 1193,2        | 43,38 | 1066,4        | 38,15 |
| 16                        | Kharkiv         | 1558,5        | 61,84 | 1596,5        | 56,84 | 1589,4        | 52,25 |
| <i>North-eastern area</i> |                 |               |       |               |       |               |       |
| 17                        | Poltava         | 1513,0        | 92,72 | 1541,4        | 90,34 | 1528,6        | 87,78 |
| 18                        | Sumy            | 1247,6        | 82,43 | 1213,8        | 80,67 | 1175,1        | 80,21 |
| 19                        | Chernihiv       | 1373,2        | 88,37 | 1385,9        | 88,71 | 1297,6        | 86,57 |

| <i>Northern area</i>          |            |         |       |         |       |         |       |
|-------------------------------|------------|---------|-------|---------|-------|---------|-------|
| 20                            | Zhytomyr   | 1438,5  | 89,70 | 1456,9  | 89,55 | 1401,4  | 87,94 |
| <i>Southern area</i>          |            |         |       |         |       |         |       |
| 21                            | Crimea     | 143,1   | 11,91 | 285,0   | 15,71 | 290,7   | 13,61 |
| 22                            | Mykolaiv   | 755,2   | 74,49 | 796,7   | 69,38 | 829,8   | 65,13 |
| 23                            | Odesa      | 1001,6  | 49,42 | 1116,5  | 46,72 | 1089,9  | 43,11 |
| 24                            | Kherson    | 635,2   | 77,06 | 746,8   | 72,50 | 807,6   | 69,24 |
| <i>South-northern area</i>    |            |         |       |         |       |         |       |
| 25                            | Zaporizhia | 905,2   | 61,84 | 1013,1  | 57,96 | 1001,4  | 51,36 |
| <i>Totally across Ukraine</i> |            | 30562,3 | 73,0  | 32702,0 | 69,39 | 32917,5 | 66,35 |

## CONCLUSION

Thus, examining the all-union censuses of 1959, 1970 and 1979 may conclude that during the 60's – 70's of the twentieth century a quantitative predominance in the Ukrainian SSR was indisputable. The representatives of the titular nation of Ukraine dominated in all regions of the republic, especially in the central and western regions, with the exception of the Crimean peninsula. The Ukrainian share in the Southern region was the lowest. The absolute number of representatives of the titular nation of Ukraine has steadily increased, namely from 32158,5 thousand people in 1959 to 35283,9 thousand people in 1970 and to 36488,9 thousand people in 1979, however, their share in the population of the republic was constantly declining, the number of the Ukrainians 76,81% of the total population of the USSR in 1959 dropped to 74,87% in 1970 and to 73,55% in 1979. Thus, the growth rate of the Ukrainian population was constantly declining from 9,72% in the 60's to 3,42% 70's of the XXth century, that is over the 60's their number increased by more than 3 million people, and over the 70's – only 1,2 million people.

Overall, in the 60's of the XXth century in 22 of 25 regions of Ukraine, namely in Zakarpattia, Ivano-Frankivsk, Lviv, Ternopil, Khmelnytsky, Chernivtsi, Volyn, Rivne, Vinnytsia, Kyiv, Kirovohrad, Cherkasy, Dnipropetrovsk, Donetsk, Luhansk, Kharkiv, Poltava, Zhytomyr, Crimea, Mykolaiv, Odesa, Kherson, the Ukrainian share of the total population of the republic increased, but it decreased only in three – Vinnitsa, Sumy and Chernihiv, however during the 70's of the XXth century reducing the number of representatives of the titular nation of Ukraine has already occurred in eight areas – Khmelnytsky, Vinnytsia Kirovograd, Cherkasy and Luhansk, Sumy, Chernihiv, Zhytomyr.

The Ukrainians growth rates were much lower than the growth rate of the total population growth rate of Ukraine and the Russians growth rate in particular. The number of representatives of the titular nation of Ukraine grew only by natural reproduction, while the number of representatives of the Russian nation as a result of increased inner republican migration planned in national policies of the Soviet ruling elite. The share of Russians in 1959 amounted to 16,94% of the total population of the Ukrainian SSR, while in 1970 increased to 19,37% and in 1979 to 21,11%. Compared to other nations, the Russians were a significant factor of assimilation and russification of Ukraine's indigenous population and artificial formation of national and ethnic composition. In fact, there was a gradual and relentless denationalization of Ukraine under which national traditional foundations of the Ukrainian people were disappearing.

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