

LANGUAGES IN THE EASTERN PART OF LATVIA (LATGALE): DATA AND RESULTS

Sanita Lazdiņa
Rēzeknes Augstskola, Latvija

Vilnius
Conference “Language, Space and Identity”

2012 m. lapkričio 16 d.

Overview

1. Latvia, the Region of Latgale and its Languages
2. The Ethnolinguistic Survey of Latgale (ES)
 - 2.1. Methodology
 - 2.2. Participants, Respondents
 - 2.3. Content of Questions
3. Language Skills, Functions, Hierarchies
4. Latgalian at School: Acquisition Planning
5. Motivation of Learning Latgalian
6. Latgalian in Media
7. LL as a Marker of Individual and Collective Identity
8. Economic Value of Regional Language

1. Latvia: Languages

- **Latvian** - the official State language (**Indo-European** family, **Baltic** branch).
- **Livonian** (**Finno-Ugric** family, **Baltic-Finnic** group), gradually becoming non-existent, mentioned by law as a traditional autochthonous language
- **Latgalian** – a **Baltic** language; traditionally considered a dialect of Latvian, mentioned by law as a „historical variety of Latvian“
- **Minority languages** with support in education, culture etc. (largely Soviet times migrants, but autochthonous speakers too): Russian, Byelorussian, Polish, Ukrainian, Lithuanian
- **Foreign languages**: Traditionally mostly German, today more English, increasingly also French, Spanish

2. The Ethnolinguistic Survey (ES) of Latgale

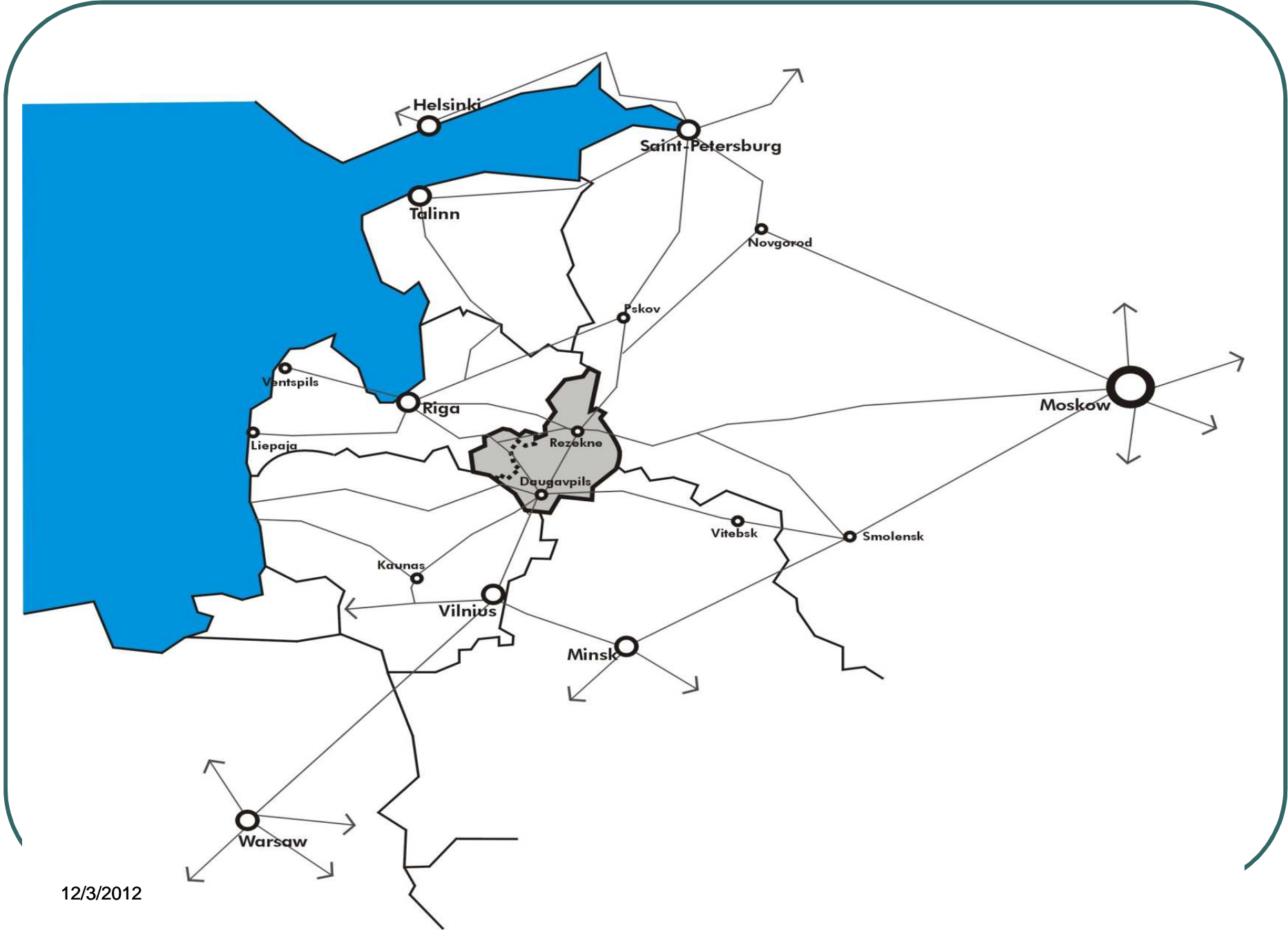


- Common project (2006–2009/2010)

Geographical area of survey:

6 cities (Balvi, Daugavpils, Krāslava, Ludza, Rēzekne, Preiļi)
almost 100 parishes in their districts





12/3/2012

Survey Latgale

- Municipality
- District
- Historical
- International
- Studied area



Latgale



57°

26°

27°

28°

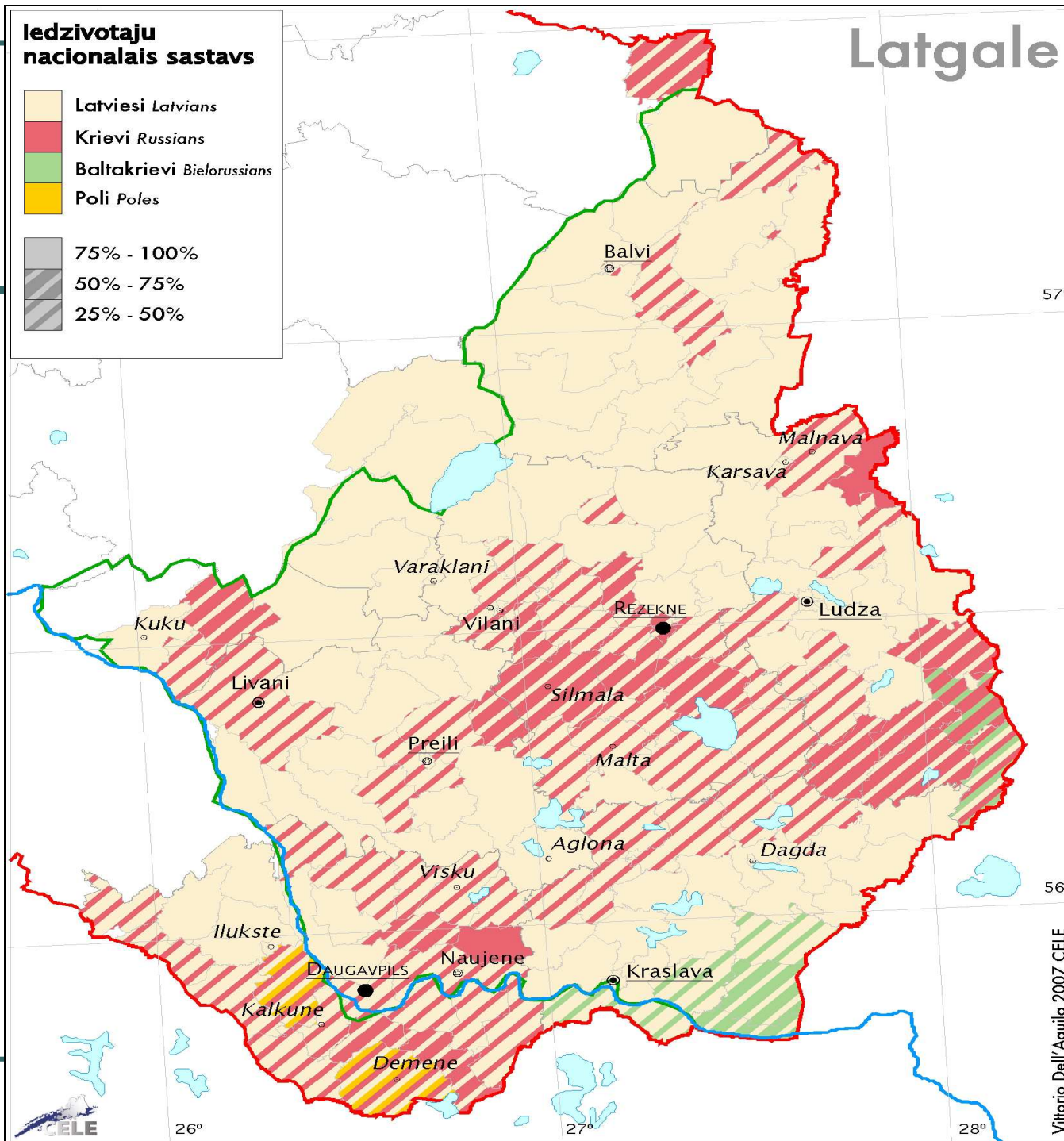
Vittorio Dell'Aquila 2007/2008 CELE

ledzivotaju nacionalais sastavs

- Latviesi *Latvians*
- Krievi *Russians*
- Baltakrievi *Belorussians*
- Poli *Poles*

- 75% - 100%
- 50% - 75%
- 25% - 50%

Latgale



57°

56°

26°

27°

28°

Vittorio Dell'Aquila 2007 CELE



2.1. Methodology

- Research on the ethnolinguistic situation of Latgale
- Creating **74** territorial units (parishes, cities) of Latgale, polling **9 139** respondents)
- Individual research (summer excursions with students), through schools, public bodies etc.
- Data processing (*FileMaker*), analysis for scientific purposes AND for working out recommendations for language and education policy makers

Rēzeknes rajona 16 teritoriālās vienības (izpētes apgabali)

Teritoriālās vienības numurs	Pagasts/ pilsēta	Rajons
20	Dekšāres, Dricānu, Gaigalavas, Nagļu, Nautrēnu	Rēzeknes
21	Strūžānu	Rēzeknes
22	Viļāni (pilsēta)	Rēzeknes
23	Rēzekne (pilsēta)	Rēzeknes
24	Ozolmuižas, Rikavas, Sakstagala, Viļānu	Rēzeknes
25	Kantinieku	Rēzeknes
26	Audriņu	Rēzeknes
27	Ilzeskalna, Verēmu	Rēzeknes
28	Bērzgales, Lendžu	Rēzeknes
29	Griškānu	Rēzeknes
30	Silmalas, Sokolku	Rēzeknes
31	Čornajas, Ozolaines	Rēzeknes
32	Kaunatas, Stoļerovas	Rēzeknes
33	Maltas	Rēzeknes
34	Lūznavas, Mākoņkalna	Rēzeknes
35	Feimaņu, Pušas	Rēzeknes

2.2. Participants and Respondents

Total: 145 participants in data collecting process

- 73 – students (curricula “Practical work in ethnolinguistics”, 1.5 ECTS),
- 14 – specialists from local cultural centres,
- 9 – lecturers,
- 7 – librarians,
- 3 – teachers of Latvian language and literature
 - In one territorial area – 39 students of secondary schools from all Latgale



Savāktas pirmās 300 anketas (Nautrēnu pagasts)



Rēzeknes Augstskola
Centre d'études linguistiques pour l'Europe
VOLŪDU LĪTUOJUMS
AUSTRUMLATVEJĀ

Aptauja

- **Pogosts/piļsāta**
- **Interviejamais**
- **Intervātuojs**
- **Datums**

M 1 O

F 2 O

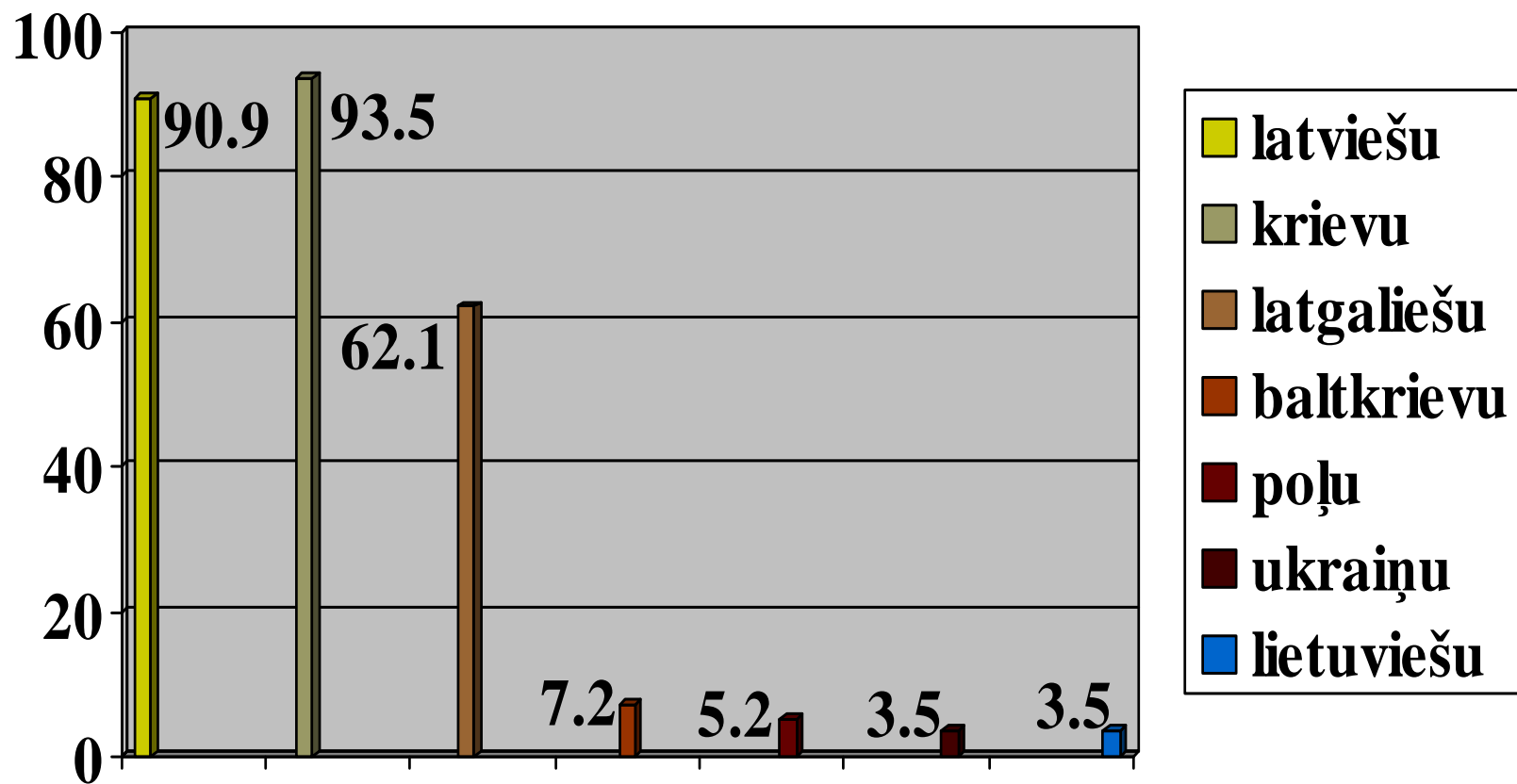
- **Vacuma grupys**
 - 12 – 17 O**
 - 18 – 29 O**
 - 30 – 44 O**
 - 45 – 59 O**
 - 60 – 80 O**

2.3. Content of Questions

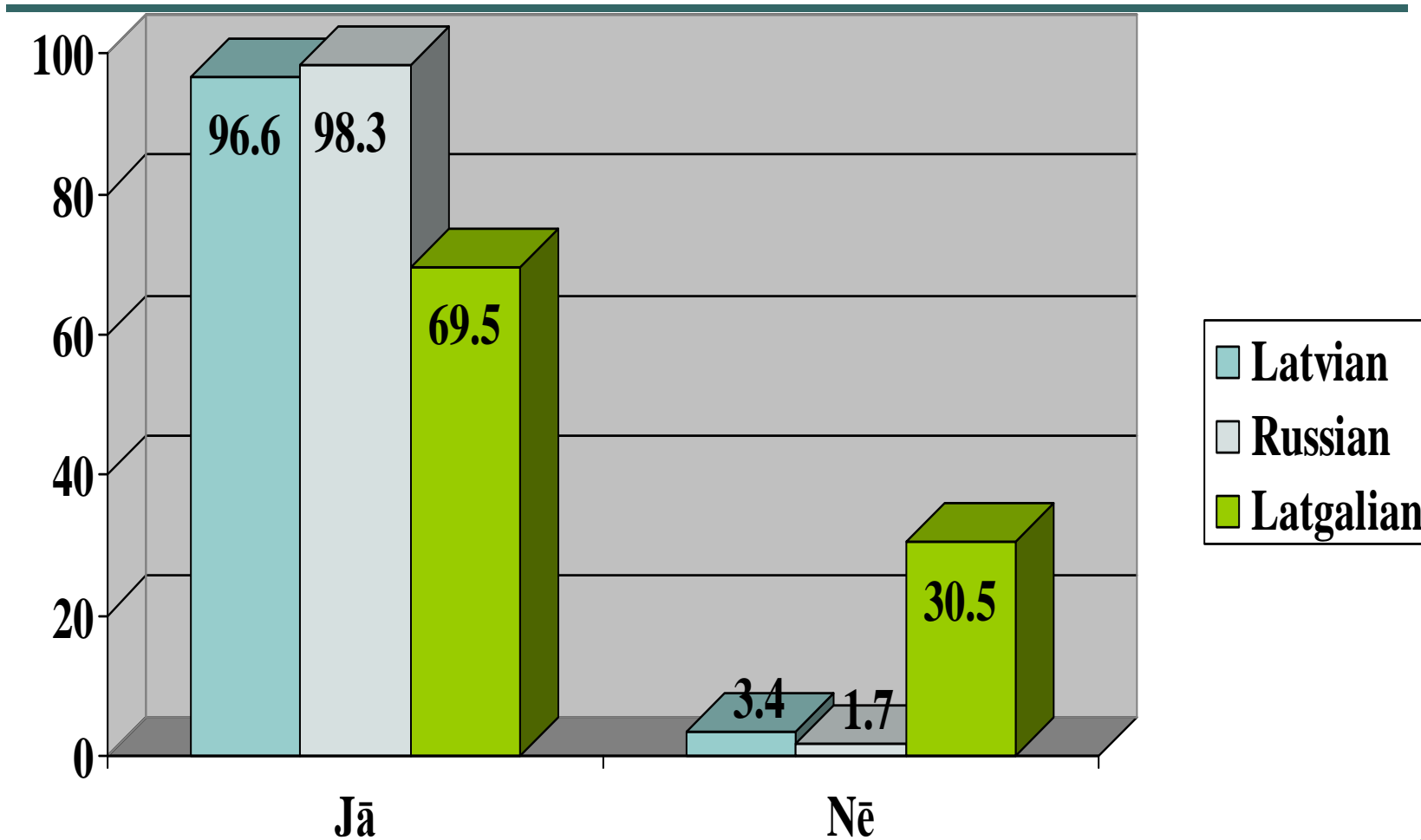
Data of questionnaires gives answers to questions such as

- Language skills of the people**
- Language functions (usage domains)**
- Their attitude towards languages used in Latgale**
- Future prospects of these languages.**

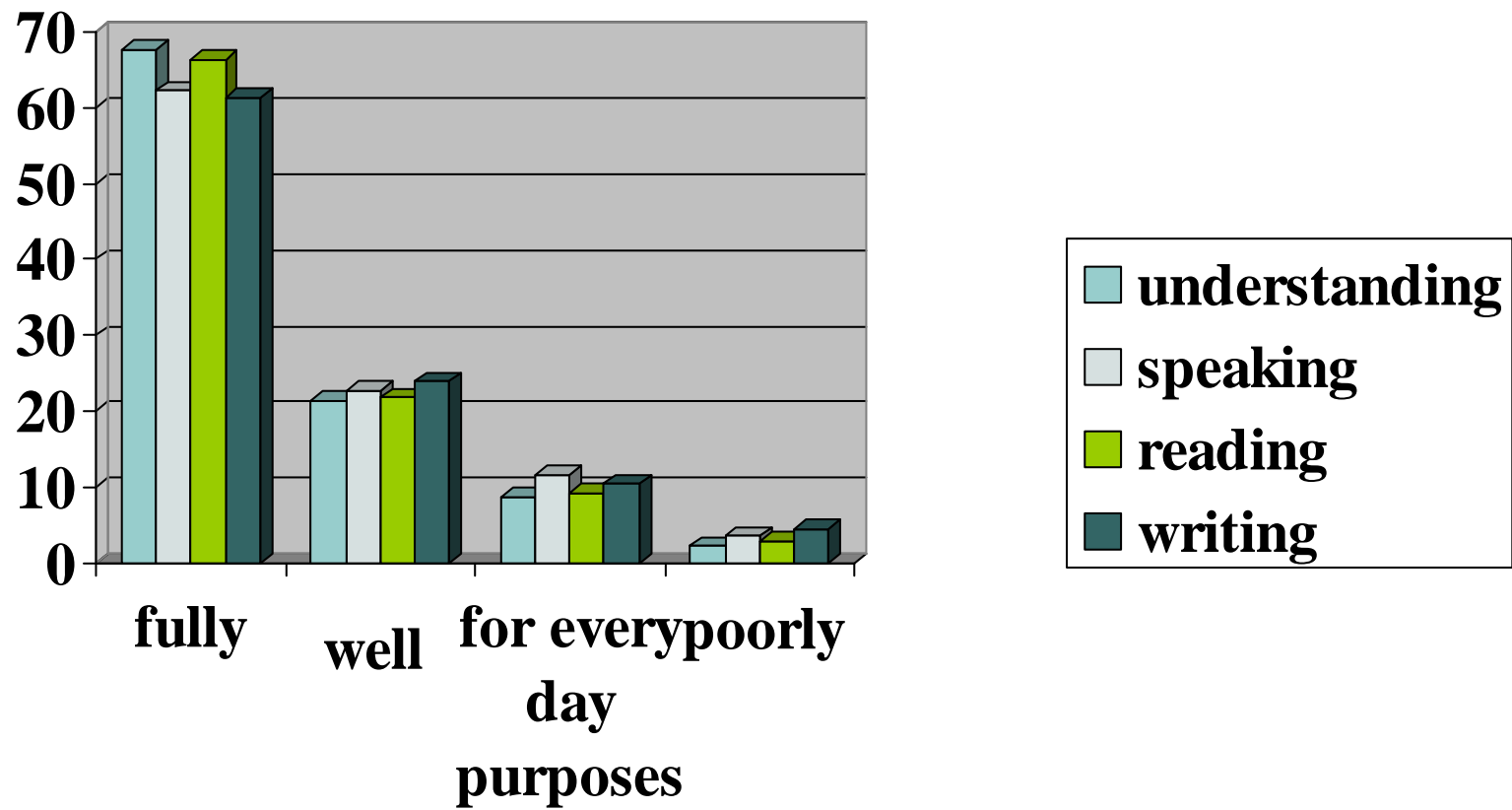
Which of those languages/dialects do you know?



Do you know Latvian/Russian/Latgalian?



Latvian language skills, levels



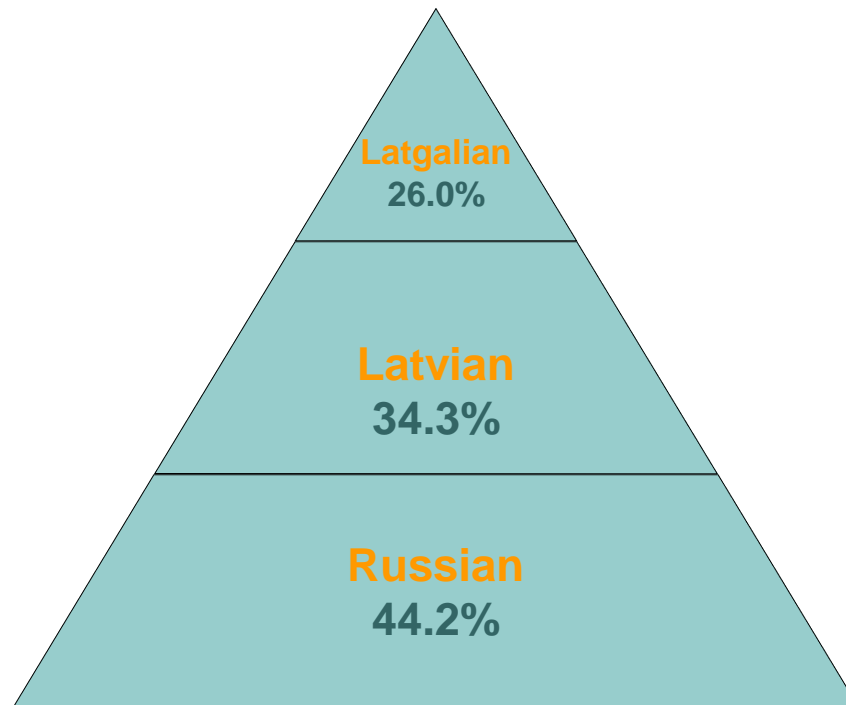
Which of those languages do you know?

Known Languages (in general)

- Byelorussian 7.2%
- Polish 5.2%
- Ukrainian 3.5%
- Lithuanian 3.5%

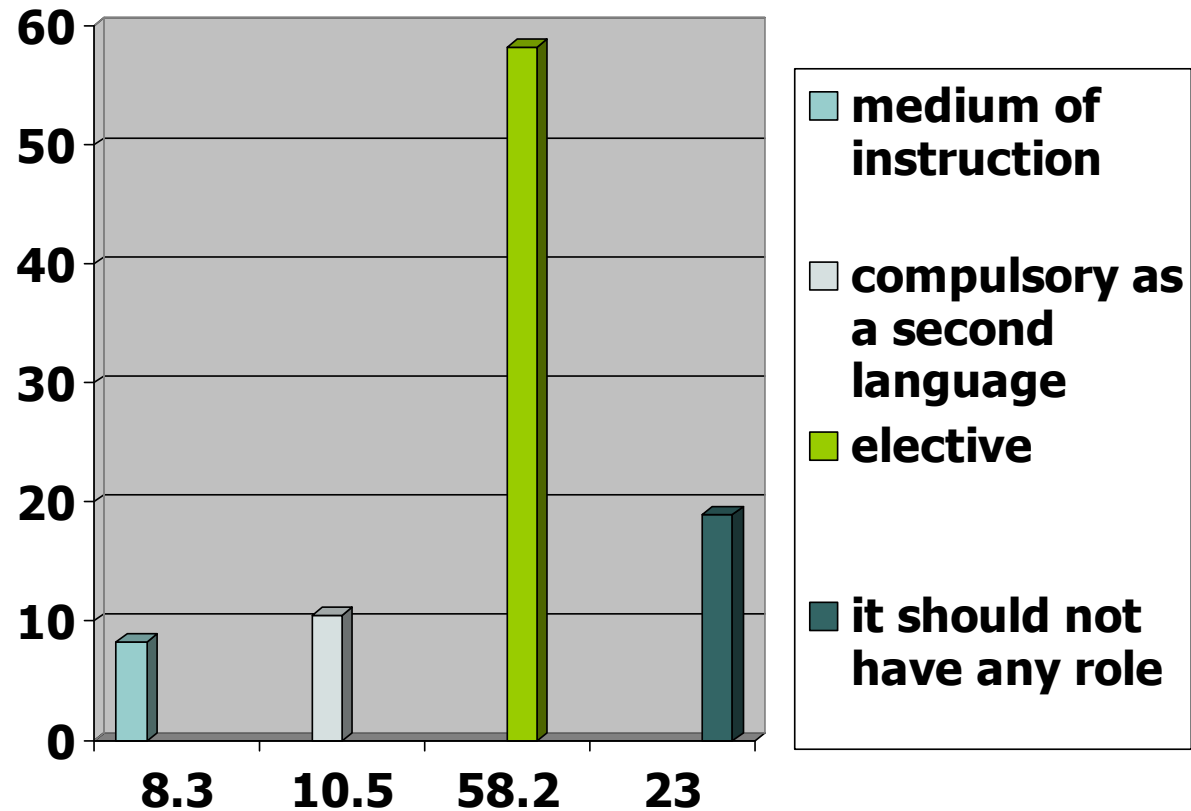
- German 15.0%
- English 30.9%
- French 0.8%

Which language/dialect dominates in your city/parish?



4. Latgalian at School

Which role, in your opinion, should the Latgalian language have at school?

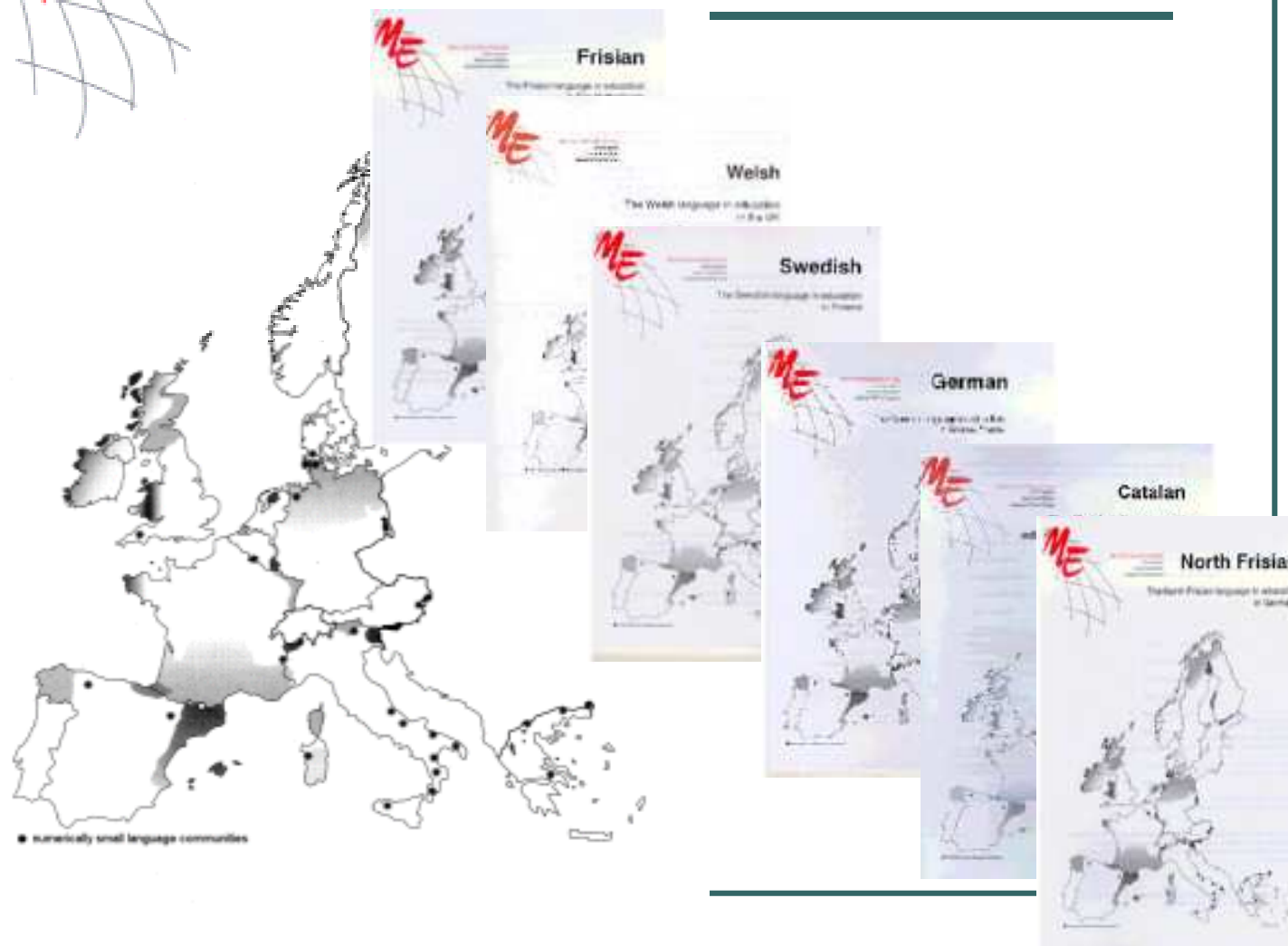




REGIONAL DOSSIERS

MERCATOR-EDUCATION
information
documentation
research/recherche

Frisian
Welsh
Swedish (Fin)
German (F)
Catalan
Northfrisian
Sami (Swe)
Meänkieli
and
Sweden
Finnish
etc



Latgalian in Education

- **Mercator** (<http://www.mercator-research.eu>)

European Research Centre on Multilingualism and
Language Learning

Regional dossiers:

[Latgalian](#) in Latvia (June 2009)

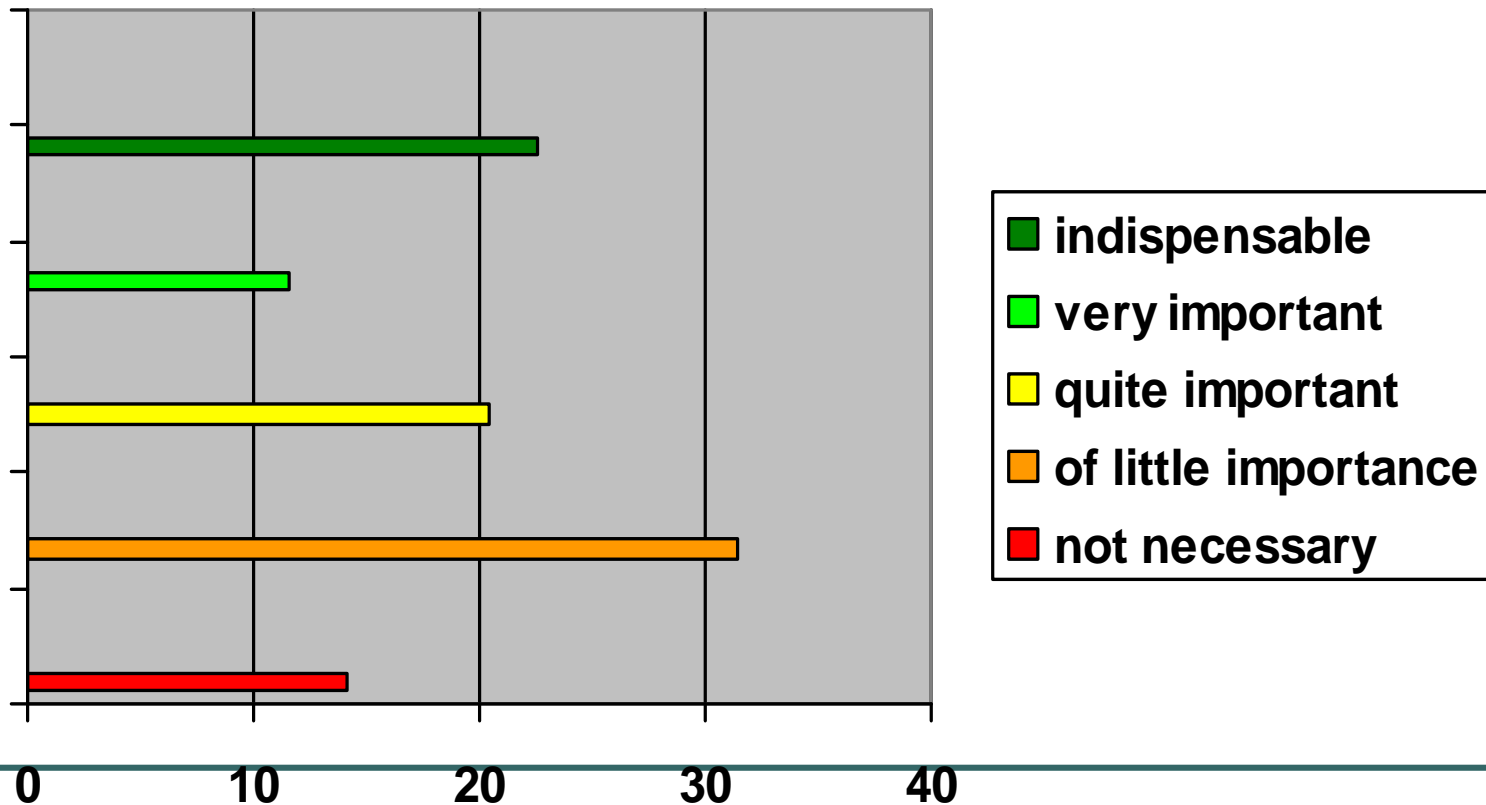
5. Motivation of Learning Latgalian

„Is it possible to live successfully in your town/parish, without knowing

- **Latvian** **No – 58.9 %**
- **Russian** **No – 54,8 %**
- **Latgalian?”** **No – 21,9 %**

5. Latgalian: Integrative Motivation

In order to feel as a fully respected member of your local community, knowledge of Latgalian is...



5. MOTIVATION

- Responses of questionnaires point to the fact that **integrative motivation** to learn Latgalian **is stronger** than instrumental motivation.
- It means knowledge of Latgalian is more important in order to belong to some community, to feel you are not a stranger – but not for using this language for getting a better position in the labour market or in education.
- **but since 2009 situation has changed**

6. Latgalian in Media (national level)

- Since 2007, there has been an online journal “Latgalīšu Kultūrys Gazeta” (Latgalian Cultural Newspaper), www.lakuga.lv
- On Latvian State radio since October 2012 there is a weekly broadcast in Latgalian.
- Weekly magazin „Irs” (once per month there is a one article in Latgalian), since April 2012.
- From 2013 – weekly TV programm in Latgalian



Constitution



7. Language, Identity and LL

Linguistic Landscape reflects not only

- **language policy**
- **bilingual/ multilingual society,**

but it can be as a

marker of individual or collective identity as well.





MOKSLA PASTOV ARI
ORPUS MUZEJA
SINOM!

8. The non-market value of Latgalian within the LL

Direct/ indirect use value (Cenoz, Gorter 2009)	Examples
Direct use value (to communicate)	Using Latgalian because inhabitants know it (names of shops, services, advertisements, posters, etc.) <i>Until now – more in memorial plaques and individual graffiti</i>
Indirect use value (marketing for tourism)	Using Latgalian in order to attract tourists (giving an image of a diverse, culturally rich, tolerant city) <i>Until now – more in the cultural industry (T-shirts, badges, CD etc.)</i>

Indirect use value (marketing, tourism)

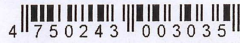
bez
konservantiem

A/S "Balvu maiznieks", Liepu iela 3, Balvi, LV-4501, tālr.:
64521797, fakss: 64521776

Baltmaize "LATGALEITE"

Sastāvdaļas: kviešu milti, ūdens, augu eļļa, cukurs, presētai
raugs, pārtikas sāls.

Izlietot līdz:
skat. uz
iepakojuma



Svars – 300 g



Līvāni
Latgales mākslas un amatniecības centrs
Ludza
Ludzas amatnieku centrs

IEPAZĪSTI
LATGALI
CAUR AMATU
TRADĪCIJĀM!

*Get acquainted with Latgale
through its craft traditions!*

tūrisma maršruts
„Zalta rūku ceļš Latgalī”

Byusim cīši
kai
zuodža zūbi!

Kas pard,
tys dzeivuos!

Instead of Conclusions

Applied folk linguistics:

Mainstream linguistics continued to keep to the traditional .. view of anything a non-linguist has to say about language as uninteresting, unqualified, uninformed or even dangerous. Even if this might be true in some cases, in many others the views of non-linguists can be a source of valuable and important information.

(Wilton, Stegu 2011)

Instead of Conclusions

- *Всем очень нравится латгальский язык, и латышам и русским. Это наверно единственное, которое объединяет всех мгновенно.*
- *Вот всем нравится и второе, но это дело вкуса, а сам язык... он настолько своеобразный, что нравится и латышам и русским, потому что там **такие** слова...*

