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# Language and National Identity

## Rusyns South of the Carpathians

by Anna Plishkova

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A person's native language—"mother tongue"—has long been considered one of the most important components of a national identity. This is particularly true for Carpatho-Rusyns, who have never had their own state and, therefore, have had to depend on cultural attributes, such as language, to help preserve their existence as distinct people. This well-written volume explores the relationship between language and identity among Carpatho-Rusyns in the twentieth century and, in particular, the status of the Rusyn language in present-day Slovakia.

*Language and National Identity* features:

- a survey of the language debates among the Carpatho-Rusyns in the 19th and 20th centuries
- a description of how the Revolutions of 1989 profoundly changed the fate of Carpatho-Rusyns in Europe
- a discussion of the various ways the Rusyn language functions in Slovakia today
- a comprehensive bibliography
- 66 illustrations depicting the use of the Rusyn language from the 16th century to the present

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