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Changes in the Process of Assimilation of Galician Jews in 80's and 90's of 19th Century. The Case of Jewish Intelligence of Lviv.

The main purpose of this presentation is to describe the changes, which took place in thinking about Jewish identity in the last two decades of 19th century in Lvov. The paper intends to explain three basic issues:

First, I briefly describe how the idea of changing of the direction of assimilation came up and how the Polish culture and Polish language started to be favored. Then I discuss the methods, which were used to strengthen the assimilation toward Polishness. And the last issue to talk over, which is connected with the previous two, is an answer to the question how a shift in the direction of assimilation (based mainly on language criterion) influenced the perception of the Jewish identity in that time and how it brought a new concept of the self-identification.

The paper is based on Polish-Jewish periodicals, which were issued in Lviv in the last two decades of the 19th century: *Zgoda* (1876), *Ojczyzna* (1881-1892), *Izraelita* (Polish addition to *Der Israelit*, 1884-1886), *Przyszłość* (1892-1899). The periodicals were also a mouthpieces of different associations (Dorshe Shalom, Agudat Achim, Shomer Israel) and they contained the leading articles which were analysed, especially the parts connected with the language declaration. I also examined the articles, which referred to a role of language in social and cultural life of the city.

This kind of sources presents the issues in a one-sided manner and generally are not objective. But they also give the opportunity to observe the changes in attitude toward Polish language, which were appearing during the last twenty years of 19th century, in the assimilationists' circle.

A shift in the direction of the assimilation (from German to Polish) also demonstrated aspects other than linguistic and cultural. The assimilators saw this process as a change in the attitude towards the society, the country and the creation of the modern idea of fatherland. Germanization was described as an obstacle to the social development of Jews (the same like uneducated Jewish masses, which used Yiddish in their daily communication). After first years of enthusiasm to Polishness and Polish language, some critical voices appeared and the main question: *how to shape Jewish identity in Polish language?* came back. Nevertheless, it gained a new meaning in the discussion with new-born Zionist movement.

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