Editorial

Since the journal "Ideas and Ideals" is humanitarian in content, it is primarily focused on those topics that are related to the formation and existence of man and culture as a whole. National culture, in particular. Here we inevitably come across language, which is the core and the most important asset of any national culture. Language is being formed over centuries, and in this process writers and poets, philosophers, politicians, scientists, etc. take part, and as a result, language makes it possible to freely express thought in any sphere of human life. Yet it usually seems so natural that we do not realize how much work our ancestors have done to provide us with this opportunity. As late as the first half of the eighteenth century no great Russian literature could appear in Russia, and science was fluent only in Latin and German. Yet already by the end of this century Derzhavin, Fonvizin and Karamzin present brilliant examples of Russian poetry and prose, and Krasheninnikov, Severgin, Lepekhin – scientific works in the beautiful Russian language. But only by the end of the next century Russian literature becomes a world phenomenon, and Russian scientists are quite free to write scientific works in any field of science in the national language. It is worth noting that the formation of the language of Russian science took at least seven generations of scientists (it took no less time for the emergence of English or French languages of science).

Of course, science is universal and research results can more or less easily be presented in different languages (and it is worth noting that there are not many languages in the world that have a developed scientific functional style), nevertheless, having a national language of science is essential. First, language determines the style of thinking, and scientists whose native language is, for example, German or French, think a little differently from Americans or Chinese. This is especially true in philosophy and the humanities. Fluency in one's native language gives one the freedom of thought that is unattainable when using another language. Secondly, if scientific work is carried out using the national language, educational literature is inevitably pulled up to the level of modern science. Thirdly, popular scientific literature in one's own language gives an opportunity to interest and attract the younger generation to science.

Science is currently experiencing bad times in terms of ways of self-expression. This is due, in particular, to the process of increased standardization of journal articles. This process is particularly hard in the humanitarian sphere, where the standards of natural science publications are transferred. Not only does it look very artificial, but it also constrains thought, turning the genre of scientific articles into the genre of patents, where everything is presented as clearly as possible and structured according to a single pattern. But the usefulness of uniformity in the scientific field is highly questionable.