Translation played a constitutive role in the formation and further existence of the Soviet Union. From the very beginning up to the decline in 1991, they pervaded every aspect of life. Due to the language policy a huge amount of books, brochures and other publications were translated not only from capitalist languages but also between the many languages of the Soviet Union. To a certain degree, this holds true also for the Socialist camp. Nevertheless, up to now, translation studies showed only a superficial interest in translation history of communist reigned countries. The focus in research laid around the question how and up to which extend censorship influenced translations. By that, the systemic character of translation was neglected. In my presentation I would like to highlight some systemic features of communist translation methods in Soviet Ukraine with regard to non-fictional literature.

The „Istorija mist i sil URSR“ (The history of the cities and villages of the Soviet Ukraine), which got published between 1967 and 1974 was an impressive contribution to the history of the Ukraine from a local point of view. Even today these 26 volumes, which comprise more than 20,000 pages, are a valuable source for scientists as well as interested readers. Beyond that it was one of the rare cases, in which a scientific text got translated from Ukrainian into Russian (1976-1983).

In my presentation I would like to highlight the most important changes in the translation, encompassing not only textual but also graphic/pictoral modifications, as well as the overall situation of scientific transfers from a language of minor significance within the Soviet Union into Russian.