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Dear Joshua,

I would like to take the opportunity of your birthday celebration to express my sincere gratitude for your trust, support and encouragement. When I first wrote you in October 2003 to ask if you could host me on a Fulbright fellowship I was applying for, you were merely a name to me, and one I did not yet know well and could not put into the context of other names or works. Therefore, it came as a surprise to me that you replied so quickly and informally and that although you said you could not formally host visiting scholars because of your emeritus status, you did not sound like you meant to make me leave you alone. So I dared to follow your suggestion that I contact you if I get a Fulbright grant and find myself at Stanford which you advised me to choose. When I did come to Stanford in early 2005, I wrote you and you invited me to have lunch together. You immediately started asking various questions and raising various issues – from my being the first Ukrainian you meet in decades to the (in)effectiveness of my use of Stanford's library resources – revealing your assumed roles of a friendly colleague and a responsible mentor which I was happy to accept. In a few weeks we had another lunch together and it came as no lesser surprise when you offered me to edit a Ukrainian topical issue of your IJSL which seemed to me both tempting and frightful.

By then I had already got some idea of your scholarly prominence but I still had to read and start employing your texts and extend my preoccupation with Ukrainian language politics to include a systematic interest in status and corpus planning in Ukraine and elsewhere. I must confess that sometimes your essentialism looked a bit outdated but I could not but notice how insightful and informed your texts were. Besides, you did not deny the contribution of constructivism but modestly argued, both in your scholarly texts and your letters to me, that other paradigms should be preserved at least for the sake of intellectual diversity. That was a good lesson for me in my roles as an author and an IJSL issue editor. You might find the Ukrainian issue, which I am co-editing together with Dominique Arel, leaning towards constructivism anyway, but I can assure you that we did not intend this as a criterion of the selection. Anyway, at the moment the main problem of that issue is that it is far from ready, which is largely because

of our strictness in the selection of proposals and mildness in urging the selected contributors to submit their drafts as promised. But I never forget that you are waiting for it, so I will soon write another reminder for those lagging behind.

As far as my own work is concerned, you turned out to be the most frequently quoted author in my survey of corpus planning literature which opens a chapter on the orthography reform debate in my book on Ukrainian media discourse. And now I have to add references to your most recent book, *Do Not Leave Your Language Alone*, a copy of which you presented me during our last meeting in New York and which develops so remarkably your ideas of relationship between status and corpus planning. Moreover, I intend to further investigate this relationship in an international project on Ukrainian language policy which I am now participating in. By the way, I consider your book very important to Ukrainian language planners and intellectuals which are bitterly divided over the issue of the orthography reform, so I will try to persuade my favorite publisher to make a Ukrainian translation. I sincerely hope that by the time it is out you will get another book for all of us over the world to enjoy and employ.

I love your prompt replies to my emails letters; I am nearly tempted to write more often to get ever new portion of your advice and encouragement. I appreciate your readiness to come from the Bronx as far as the Grand Central Terminal for our traditional Kosher meetings every time I am in New York. Last time you said half-jokingly that you would come to Kyiv one day, so I hope you will come indeed.

Z dnem narodzhennia, Joshua! Many happy returns!

Yours,
Volodia

Volodymyr Kulyk,
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