By interference we understand any linguistic phenomenon resulting from interaction of two languages, two communication systems. Each phenomenon of this kind should be treated not in isolation, but in system. Thus the notion of interference includes not only the given linguistic fact, as, for example, a new quality of an allophone, but also the totality of system relations, either modified or qualitatively new, emerging from a breach of structure.

According to Soviet and foreign authors two types of interference are realized in morphology and syntax-latent and overt, but only the latter is represented on the phonetic level. This phenomenon is based on the specific features of the phonetic level: rigid interrelation of all the elements of the structure, their strict hierarchy, practical absence of synonymy and variation which make exclusion from speech of any unit, even more so a group of units impossible.

The present linguistic situation in the Ukraine is characterized by active Russian-Ukrainian bilingualism, which means that the overwhelming majority of Slavic population in the Ukraine uses both systems of communication - the Ukrainian and Russian languages. The measure and character of their use are undoubtedly different and the range of difference is wide enough: from genuine command of both languages in their codified form to the use of a peculiar intermediate variant that differs from both systems.

The genetic community, which brings about structural, articulation and acoustic proximity of the related languages, Russian and Ukrainian, creates especially favourable conditions for their transposition and interference in the process of interaction.

Phonetic interference which is registered in the Russian speech in the Ukraine is characterized by exceptional stability. Even in the cases when the system of the Russian language is mastered sufficiently enough and is practically identical in functioning with the native language, the Ukrainian influence in pronunciation is quite strong.

It is necessary to emphasize that the quality of the Russian speech in the Ukraine is noticeably varied, depending not only upon age, education and profession of speakers, but also upon the district and region, i.e. there are a few local variants of Russian in the Ukraine. However, alongside with local peculiarities there exist common features resulting from interaction of the two related languages.

The results of active bilingualism are evident in practically all the sections of the phonetic structure: the set of phonemes, phonological correlations and oppositions, quality and quantity of an allophone, articulation and acoustic characteristics of separate sound units, accentual and rhythmic organization of words, sentence intonation etc.

The system of vowels. The allophones /o/ and /a/ are characterised by a more backward articulation, and the phoneme /e/ by a more open and backward articulation. There is a considerable range of deviations from the norm in the pronunciation of the phoneme /u/. According to the majority of authors, the Russian phoneme /u/ is a central high vowel (in some cases its articulation may be somewhat backward). Instrumental analysis shows that in the Ukrainian language this is a front high-mid vowel. According to palatographic analysis the most typical for Russian speech in the Ukraine is the central /u/, but noticeably lower, than the normative sound.

The universal peculiarity of the Russian speech in the Ukraine is the different principle of changes of unaccented
vowels. In the overwhelming majority of cases the long sound instead of /o/ and /u/ in the first pretonic syllable is pronounced instead of /a/. So the difference between the system of the first and other than the first pretonic syllables, as noted in the Russian orthoepy, is less noticeable in the Ukrainian speech than in Russian.

In modern Russian the degree of reduction of vowels in posttonic and pretonic syllables in the Ukrainian speech is noticeably different from the Russian speech in the Ukraine. In the first pretonic syllable the degree of vowel reduction is also the most frequent. In the Russian speech in the Ukraine phonemes /l/, /l/, /s/, /s/ pronounced in a posttonic syllable are normally the same. This reduction is mainly quantitative.

Of special interest are the data characterizing the principles of accentual and rhythmic organization of the word. The comparison of accentual and rhythmic structure of the word in Russian, Ukrainian and Byelorussian, originally related but now functioning as separate languages, makes it possible to show common and specific typologic tendencies inAccentual and rhythmic structure. Observations show that in the general tendency of vowel reduction is enrichment of the basis of articulation and acoustic characteristics of the vowel. The system of accentual and rhythmic organization of the Russian speech of the Ukrainian population does not fully coincide with any modern normative East-Slavic language. It is interesting to note that after /l/, /l/, /s/, /s/ in modern Russian the degree of reduction of vowels in stressed syllables of different degree of stress, which is one of the reasons of strengthening and unstressed vowels differs. Observations show that in stressed syllables in the absolute position and in the end of the syllable, in the Russian speech of the Ukrainian population is close to the norm with the exception of the backlabial consonants. Thus the consonant /l/ becomes phonemes /l/, /l/, /s/, /s/, /s/.

In the conditions of the active related bilingualism the interference is realized not only in the system of sounds but also in their distribution. The specific result of such interaction is enrichment of the basis of articulation. We assume that the main reason of this phenomenon, its certain precondition, is the genetic community of the languages, creating the community of the articulation basis. There are other deviations from the Russian orthoepy in unstressed syllables in the Russian speech in the Ukraine. In modern Russian the second pretonic syllable allows considerably (though not maximum) reduction of a vowel. The system of vocalism in this position is represented by only five vowels: /a/, /a/, /u/, /u/, /u/.

Thus, the sounds /l/, /l/, /s/, /s/ pronounced instead of /o/ and /u/ in the first pretonic syllable are not the same in Russian and Ukrainian. Oscillographic analysis shows that the vowels /o/ and /u/ in stressed syllables differ considerably from other vowels in the word-final positions. The vowels /o/ and /u/ in the word-final positions are pronounced in the Ukrainian speech as /l/, /l/, /s/, /s/. It is known that of all labial consonants in Russian and in some Russian dialects only the phoneme /l/ is valerized. In the other dialects and also in the Ukrainian and Byelorussian the process received further development, and all labial consonants in the absolute word-final position were velarized. The tendency is not new, what we see in this case is a somewhat specific development of the long-standing Russian (East-Slavic) tendency.

In word-final positions the labial consonants are as a rule velarized: /l/, /l/, /s/, /s/, /s/. It is known that of all labial consonants in Russian and in some Russian dialects only the phoneme /l/ is valerized. In the other dialects and also in the Ukrainian and Byelorussian the process received further development, and all labial consonants in the absolute word-final position were velarized. The tendency is not new, what we see in this case is a somewhat specific development of the long-standing Russian (East-Slavic) tendency.

Experimental phonetic investigation of the Ukrainian speech in the Russian speech in the Ukraine testifies to the fact that in the conditions of the related bilingualism the interference is not towards the minute of any kind but towards their genuine interaction resulting in emergence of a qualitatively new linguistic phenomenon, which has no absolute analogu.