

THE HISTORY AND LITERATURE OF THE RUSSIAN LANGUAGE

G.N. Khalmatova,

Lecturer, Urgench State Pedagogical Institute

Abstract:

This paper explores the historical development of the Russian language, tracing its evolution from its Old East Slavic roots to its modern form. It examines key linguistic influences, including Old Church Slavonic, and the impact of various historical, social, and political factors on its development. The study also analyzes significant periods in the history of Russian literature, highlighting the relationship between linguistic change and literary styles. By examining major linguistic shifts and their reflection in written works, the paper aims to provide a comprehensive overview of the intricate relationship between the Russian language and its rich literary tradition.

Keywords: Russian Language, History of Russian Language, Old East Slavic, Old Church Slavonic, Linguistic Change, Russian Literature, Literary History, Language and Literature, Linguistic Influences, Sociolinguistics.

Introduction

The Russian language, with its rich history and vast literary tradition, stands as a testament to the dynamic interplay between language evolution and cultural expression. Its development, spanning centuries, reflects a complex tapestry of linguistic influences, historical events, and socio-political transformations. This paper embarks on an exploration of this intricate relationship, tracing the historical trajectory of the Russian language and examining its profound impact on the development of Russian literature.

The Russian language's origins lie in the Old East Slavic dialects spoken in the eastern Slavic territories during the first millennium AD. These dialects, influenced by various external factors, gradually evolved, giving rise to a distinct literary language that served as the foundation for modern Russian. The adoption of Old Church Slavonic, the liturgical language of the Eastern Orthodox Church, played a pivotal role in shaping the early development of the written Russian language, introducing numerous lexical and grammatical features that persist to this day. However, the influence of Old Church Slavonic was not uniform across all regions,

resulting in significant regional variations in pronunciation, vocabulary, and grammar.

Over the centuries, the Russian language underwent a series of significant changes, driven by a variety of factors, including the rise and fall of different political and social systems, contact with other languages, and the influence of prominent literary figures. The period of Kievan Rus' saw the development of early forms of written Russian, influenced by both Old Church Slavonic and the vernacular dialects. The subsequent Mongol invasion and the ensuing period of fragmentation had a profound effect on the language, resulting in the diversification of dialects and the emergence of distinct regional variations. The rise of Moscow as the center of political power led to the standardization of the Russian language, culminating in the establishment of a literary norm during the 18th century, largely thanks to the efforts of Mikhail Lomonosov.

The development of the Russian language is inextricably linked to the evolution of its literature. Major literary periods, from the early chronicles to the works of Pushkin, Tolstoy, and Dostoevsky, reflect not only changing literary styles and themes but also significant transformations in the language itself. This paper explores this dynamic relationship, examining how linguistic changes influenced the development of literary styles and how prominent writers contributed to the evolution of the language. By focusing on these intertwined developments, we will gain a deeper appreciation for the richness and complexity of the Russian linguistic and literary heritage.

Materials and Methods

This study employs a historical-comparative approach, drawing on a range of scholarly sources to examine the historical development of the Russian language and its relationship to Russian literature. The primary materials include:

- **Linguistic texts:** This encompasses a wide array of sources, starting with ancient chronicles and moving through significant literary works from various historical periods. These texts will be analyzed to trace the evolution of vocabulary, grammar, and syntax over time.

- **Historical accounts:** Examination of historical records, including chronicles, letters, and other documents, provides essential contextual information for understanding the social and political factors that influenced linguistic change. This includes analyzing the impact of major historical events like the Mongol invasion and the rise of Moscow on language evolution.
- **Linguistic scholarship:** Extensive engagement with secondary sources, including linguistic studies, historical grammars, and literary analyses, is essential for establishing a solid theoretical framework and interpreting the primary source material. This will entail analyzing scholarly research on topics such as the influence of Old Church Slavonic, the development of literary norms, and the relationship between language and literary style in different historical periods.
- **Literary criticism:** Analysis of literary critical works will provide insight into how literary scholars have interpreted the use of language in major works of Russian literature and how this has influenced their understanding of the evolution of the Russian language.

The methodology involves a systematic analysis of the selected materials, focusing on identifying key linguistic changes and examining their reflection in written works from different periods. Comparisons between language use across various literary movements and authors will be undertaken to highlight the interplay between linguistic evolution and literary style. This integrated approach aims to provide a nuanced understanding of the dynamic relationship between the Russian language and its rich literary tradition.

CONCLUSION

The journey through the history of the Russian language and its interwoven relationship with Russian literature reveals a dynamic and multifaceted evolution. From its Old East Slavic origins, shaped by the influence of Old Church Slavonic and regional dialects, the Russian language has undergone profound transformations reflecting major historical events, socio-political shifts, and the stylistic choices of influential writers. This intricate interplay between language and literature is not merely a chronological sequence but a complex feedback loop, where linguistic

changes shaped literary styles, and, conversely, prominent literary figures contributed significantly to the standardization and evolution of the language itself.

The adoption of Old Church Slavonic, while crucial in establishing a written tradition, also highlights the tension between a codified, religious language and the evolving vernacular. This tension continued throughout history, shaping the debates surrounding language reform and the standardization efforts of figures like Lomonosov. The analysis of key linguistic changes, such as the simplification of grammar and the incorporation of foreign loanwords, underscores the adaptive nature of language, constantly responding to societal needs and external influences.

The examination of major literary periods showcases how these linguistic shifts were reflected in literary styles. The distinct characteristics of Old Russian literature, the flourishing of classicism, the rise of realism, and the experimentation of modernism all bear the imprint of the evolving language. The stylistic choices of individual authors—from the archaic language of early chronicles to the innovative prose of Pushkin and the psychologically charged narratives of Dostoevsky—further underscore the inherent dynamism of the relationship between language and literary expression.

In conclusion, the history of the Russian language is not merely a chronicle of linguistic changes but a reflection of the broader cultural and historical development of Russia itself. The interwoven relationship between language and literature offers a rich tapestry of insights into the evolution of Russian society, its values, and its artistic expression. Further research could explore specific aspects of this relationship in greater detail, focusing on individual authors, literary movements, or specific linguistic features and their impact on literary style.

REFERENCES

- 1.Yuldashev A. G. Metaphtonymy as the main cognitive mechanism in the formation of idiomatic compound words //ANGLISTICUM. Journal of the Association-Institute for English Language and American Studies. – 2016. – T. 5. – №. 7. – С. 30-35.
- 2.Юлдашев А. Г. Идиоматичность узбекской языковой картины мира //Вопросы когнитивной лингвистики. – 2020. – №. 1. – С. 130.



3.ЮЛДАШЕВ А. Г. The role of cognitive mechanisms in the words with transferred meanings //Иностранные языки в Узбекистане. – 2019. – №. 3. – С. 49-54.

4.Юлдашев А. Г. Культурная коннотация в семантике идиоматичных сложных слов в разносистемных языках //Вестник Московского государственного лингвистического университета. Гуманитарные науки. – 2015. – №. 25 (736). – С. 76-84.