

## MODERN RUSSIAN LITERARY LANGUAGE

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### **Abstract**

*This scientific article deals with the development of the modern Russian literary language, the historical and cultural shifts that have taken place in Russia, and the evolution of Russian writers and scientists' attempts to create a national language that accurately reflects the diverse nature of Russian society.*

### **Key words**

*evolution, historical cultural shift, Russian literature, national language, literary style.*

Introduction. The development of Modern Russian literary language has been greatly influenced by the historical and cultural shifts that occurred in Russia during the 19th and 20th centuries. This evolution can be traced back to the attempts of Russian writers and scholars to create a national language that accurately reflected the diverse nature of the Russian society. Additionally, the influence of Western literary traditions and the introduction of new linguistic concepts played a significant role in shaping the Modern Russian literary language.

The development of the Russian literary language can be traced back to the 10th century when Old Church Slavonic, a language used for liturgical purposes, served as a precursor. Throughout the centuries, numerous changes occurred, influenced by the Mongol- Tatar invasion, which brought Turkic and Persian words into the language. Additionally, the reign of Peter the Great in the 18th century marked a significant shift towards Westernization and the adoption of European vocabulary and grammar rules. These historical factors demonstrate the complex evolution of the Russian literary language.

One crucial aspect of studying modern Russian literary language is its importance in understanding contemporary Russian literature. By investigating the intricacies of this language, scholars can comprehend linguistic phenomena employed by renowned Russian writers. Familiarity with modern Russian literary language allows readers to appreciate the stylistic choices and cultural connotations present in literary works. Moreover, studying this language aids in the analysis of literary themes, the exploration of characters' intricacies, and the overall interpretation of Russian literature.

Main part: One significant feature of Modern Russian literary language is the influence of foreign languages. Over the centuries, Russian literature has been shaped by contact with other cultures and languages, such as French and German. This has resulted in the incorporation of loanwords, idioms, and stylistic elements

from these languages into Russian literature. The Russian literary language has also been enriched by the translation of literary works from other languages, which has contributed to the development of new literary techniques and styles.

In the 19th century, Russia experienced a significant evolution in its literary language. This transformation was largely influenced by the works of prominent authors such as Pushkin, Tolstoy, and Dostoevsky, who utilized a more modern and accessible style of writing. Additionally, the Russian language underwent substantial changes in terms of grammar, vocabulary, and syntax.

The importance of Old Church Slavonic in shaping early Russian literature cannot be overstated. As the liturgical language of the Orthodox Church, Old Church Slavonic provided the linguistic foundation for many renowned literary works. Its influence is evident in the works of prominent authors such as Cyril and Methodius, who translated religious texts into Old Church Slavonic. These translations not only made religious knowledge more accessible but also played a crucial role in the development of a distinct literary language in Russia.

Emergence of a distinct Russian literary language during the 18th century  
During the 18th century, a distinct Russian literary language emerged, marking a significant shift in Russian literature and culture. This development was largely influenced by the reforms initiated by Peter the Great, which aimed to modernize and Europeanize the Russian Empire. As a result, the Russian language underwent various changes, including the adoption of European grammatical rules and vocabulary. This shift not only transformed the Russian literary scene but also played a crucial role in the formation of a national identity among the Russian people.

In the 19th century, Russia witnessed significant reforms and standardization efforts that revolutionized the literary language. Central to this development was the establishment of the Russian Language Committee in 1783, which aimed to purify and modernize the language. The committee, under the guidance of prominent linguists and writers, implemented spelling reforms, standardized grammar rules, and created a unified lexicon. These reforms not only facilitated better communication and understanding but also laid the foundation for the flourishing of Russian literature in the subsequent years.

One influential figure in the development of the Modern Russian literary language is Vladimir Nabokov. Known for his works such as "Lolita" and "Invitation of a Beheading," Nabokov played a crucial role in shaping the language through his innovative use of words his unique writing style and poetic language captivated readers and showcased the potential of the Russian language in the modern era. Nabokov's contributions have had a lasting impact on Russian literature and continue to inspire writers to push the boundaries of linguistic expression.

Modern Russian literary language is characterized by its diverse vocabulary, which incorporates words from a variety of sources. Borrowed from other languages, these words enrich the language and reflect Russia's history of cultural

exchange. Additionally, modern Russian literary language possesses a flexible grammar system that allows for expressive and nuanced writing. This flexibility allows writers to convey complex ideas and emotions effectively. Moreover, there is a preference for simplicity and clarity in modern Russian literary language, ensuring accessibility to a wide range of readers. Overall, the characteristics of modern Russian literary language contribute to its vitality and relevance in contemporary society.

Lexical features another aspect of the modern Russian literary language, have also evolved in response to societal changes. The increasing globalization and technological advancements have led to the introduction of numerous loanwords into the Russian lexicon.

Furthermore, the modern Russian literary language also incorporates borrowings from other languages, primarily from French and German. These borrowings often occur in specialized fields such as science, technology, and academia, where words and phrases are taken directly from their original languages. These borrowings serve to enhance the accuracy and technicality of the Russian language when discussing complex subjects. Additionally, borrowings from English have become increasingly prevalent in recent years, especially in the realm of technology and popular culture, reflecting the influence of global trends on the Russian language.

Neologisms play a significant role in shaping the modern Russian literary language. With the rapid development of science and technology, new words are constantly being created to describe new phenomena and inventions. These neologisms often come from foreign languages, especially English, due to its global dominance. Additionally, changes in vocabulary also occur as the language evolves to reflect societal changes. Old words may acquire new meanings while others may become obsolete. Such dynamics in language showcase the adaptability and flexibility of the Russian literary language.

Modern Russian literary language is characterized by a variety of grammatical features. Despite its Slavic origin, Russian has incorporated a significant number of loanwords from other languages, particularly in the fields of science, technology, and politics. These loanwords often come with their own grammatical structures, leading to a complex mixture of Russian and foreign grammatical elements. Additionally, Russian has a rich system of inflection, with various case endings, verb conjugations, and noun declensions. The use of grammatical cases allows for flexibility in word order, enhancing the expressive potential of the language. Furthermore, Russian employs aspectual pairs, which distinguish between completed and ongoing actions, giving speakers the ability to convey subtle nuances of meaning. Overall, the grammatical features of modern Russian enhance its communicative capabilities and contribute to the dynamic nature of the language.

Furthermore, the modern Russian literary language has also undergone significant changes in terms of the simplification of declension and conjugation. The complex system of noun and adjective declensions, as well as verb conjugations, has been streamlined, resulting in a more straightforward and accessible language for learners. This simplification has not only facilitated communication but has also contributed to the overall development and evolution of the Russian language in the modern era.

In addition to the significant changes in vocabulary and grammar, modern Russian literary language also showcases specific trends in the use of prepositions and word order. Prepositions play a crucial role in determining the meaning and structure of a sentence, and their usage has evolved over time. Additionally, word order in Russian sentences has become more flexible, allowing for greater emphasis on different elements and enhancing the overall expressiveness of the language. These developments reflect the evolving nature of the Russian literary language and its adaptation to contemporary communication needs.

The modern Russian literary language is also characterized by its stylistic features. It employs a range of literary devices and techniques to convey meaning and evoke certain emotions in the reader. These include metaphors, similes, imagery, and irony, among others. Additionally, the use of repetition and parallelism is common in the Russian language, adding rhythm and emphasis to the text. Stylistic features play a vital role in enhancing the overall quality and effectiveness of the language in modern Russian literature.

Furthermore, the influence of Western literary traditions on modern Russian literary language cannot be understated. From the time of Peter the Great's reign, Western literary works started to gain popularity among Russian intellectuals and writers. This exposure to Western literature led to the adoption of various Western literary techniques and styles in Russian literature. Notably, Russian authors like Fyodor Dostoevsky and Leo Tolstoy were heavily influenced by Western literary traditions, and their works showcase a fusion of Russian and Western literary elements, contributing to the development of the modern Russian literary language.

In modern Russian literary language, the use of figurative language and metaphors plays a significant role in enhancing the depth and richness of the texts. Authors often employ these literary devices to convey complex emotions, vivid imagery, and abstract concepts. By incorporating metaphors, such as comparing love to a burning flame, writers are able to create a deeper and more nuanced understanding of human experiences, provoking thoughtful reflection and engaging the reader on a visceral and intellectual level. Furthermore, the modern Russian literary language has experienced a series of changes throughout history, reflecting the dynamic evolution of the country's society and politics. With the emergence of the Soviet Union and the subsequent domination of socialist ideals, the language underwent a period of substantial linguistic simplification and

standardization. This process aimed to make Russian more accessible to the masses while promoting uniformity and clarity in literary texts. As a result, the vocabulary became more rooted in everyday language, relying on colloquial expressions and idioms that resonated with the working class. Additionally, the introduction of new terminology and technical words played a significant role in accommodating the advancing industrial and technological sectors of the nation.

In contemporary literature, the modern Russian literary language plays a crucial role in shaping and expressing the artistic visions and narratives of Russian authors. It serves as a powerful tool for conveying complex emotions, exploring philosophical concepts, and commenting on social and political issues. Moreover, it allows writers to experiment with different linguistic techniques and modes of expression, enriching the literary landscape with innovative forms and styles. As a result, the modern Russian literary language acts as a bridge between the past and the present, connecting tradition with experimentation and contributing to the development and evolution of contemporary Russian literature.

Reflection of political and historical events is another crucial aspect of the modern Russian literary language. Throughout history, Russian literature has served as a mirror of the political and historical events that have shaped the nation. Soviet literature, for example, reflected the communist ideology and the efforts to create a new socialist society. Notable writers like Maxim Gorky and Alexander Solzhenitsyn used their works to criticize the Soviet regime and highlight the human suffering caused by political oppression. Similarly, contemporary Russian literature continues to reflect the political climate, addressing issues of corruption, censorship, and the struggle for freedom of expression. Overall, the reflection of political and historical events in Russian literature provides readers with a deeper understanding of the nation's collective consciousness and the ongoing struggle for societal change.

Additionally, the modern Russian literary language has had a significant impact on the global literary scene. With its rich vocabulary, distinctive linguistic features, and powerful expressions, Russian literature has captivated readers worldwide. The works of iconic Russian writers such as Tolstoy, Dostoevsky, and Chekhov have become essential readings in many literature courses, shaping the canon of world literature. Furthermore, the translation of Russian literary works has allowed non-Russian speakers to experience the depth and beauty of this literary tradition, further cementing its global influence.

One significant aspect of the evolution of modern Russian literary language is the influence of dialects. Dialects are regional variations of a language that develop over time due to geographical and cultural factors. In the case of Russian, the diversification of dialects has led to the incorporation of various linguistic features into the literary language. This incorporation has played a significant role in enriching the vocabulary, grammar, and overall style of modern Russian literature.

Challenges and controversies surrounding modern Russian literary language have emerged due to linguistic policies implemented throughout history. One major challenge is the influence of Western languages on Russian literary language, which has caused mixed reactions among language purists and modernizers. Additionally, the issue of linguistic imperialism has sparked debates on whether the dominance of one language over others threatens linguistic diversity. Furthermore, the evolution of modern technology and internet communication poses novel challenges for the preservation and development of the Russian literary language.

The debate over the preservation of traditional language norms remains a contentious issue in modern Russian literary language. While some argue that adherence to these norms ensures the preservation of cultural heritage, others contend that rigid language rules hinder creative expression and limit linguistic evolution. Critics of traditional language norms advocate for a more flexible approach, arguing that language should adapt to societal changes and reflect the diversity of contemporary Russian culture. Ultimately, this ongoing debate highlights the complex relationship between language norms, cultural identity, and artistic innovation.

#### Conclusion

In conclusion, the evolution of the modern Russian literary language has been a complex process influenced by various historical, social, and linguistic factors. From its origins in the 18th century, it has undergone significant transformations, adapting to the changing needs and norms of society. Despite some controversies and debates surrounding language usage, it remains a key element in expressing Russian cultural identity and plays a crucial role in the contemporary literary landscape. The continued development and preservation of the language will undoubtedly shape the future of Russian literature.

In conclusion, this essay has explored the modern Russian literary language and its significance in contemporary society. The main points discussed include the evolution of the language over time, the influence of various historical events on the language's development, and the role of prominent literary figures in shaping its contemporary form. Additionally, the essay has emphasized the importance of linguistic diversity in fostering cultural identity and preserving literary heritage. Overall, the modern Russian literary language continues to evolve and adapt, reflecting the dynamic and complex nature of Russian society.

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