

Changes in the Russian Language in the Modern Period and Language Policy

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Abstract. The article discusses the changes that are taking place in the Russian language at the present time.

In recent years, the Russian language has changed our lives and the person, just as decisively. It is natural, because the connection between the concepts of «language» and «society» is organic and inseparable. At the same time, there is no doubt that not all the innovations that characterize the modern language contribute to its development and enrichment. The article aims to identify the main lines that are changing in the Russian language and assess them.

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External changes (occurring) in the Russian language are the result of the influence of other languages and other cultures, for example, a significant influx of borrowings into the Russian language, primarily from the English language, or a fixed spelling in Russian texts of some loanwords or parts of them using Latin letters. Such and similar innovations should be regarded as unacceptable, because they affect the identity and identity of the Russian language. Here, an active language policy is important, the purpose of which is to influence the proper functioning of the Russian language and regulate the process of its changes.

The opinions of linguists and specialists in speech culture are given, calling for preserving the purity, beauty and originality of our language.

Keywords: Russian language; changes in the language; democratization of the language; borrowings; speech culture; language norm; identity of the Russian language; language policy.

Modern linguistics is characterized by a transition from the study of language as a system to the study of language in action, in functioning, in communication. This is due to the idea of anthropocentrism of language, which places man at the center of language as its creator and user. In linguistics, problems of interaction between language and society, and vice versa, between society and language, problems of the generation of speech and its functioning in various spheres of human activity are actively studied.

In terms of these problems, it is appropriate to consider the changes that are observed in the language in one or another period of its existence. However, issues of change and development of language have always attracted researchers, linguists, and Russian specialists, and this is not accidental. Language is social. It functions in a social environment. The life of a language is influenced by various social factors. According to W. Humboldt [Humboldt, 1985, p. 381], “the origin and transformation of language never belongs to one person, but only to a community of people; the linguistic ability rests in the depths of the soul of each individual person, but is brought into action only through communication.”

Now, in the last two to three decades, these issues have become especially relevant, because during the period of the rapidly changing geopolitical and cultural situation in the world, during the period of so-called globalization, the Russian language has undergone and is undergoing significant changes. There is a lot of new things in it, and here we can highlight several main lines and directions where these changes are manifested.

Let us stipulate that it is not by chance that we use the designation “language is changing” (and not “developing”, “enriching”), since the nature of these changes is very different, and it is important to evaluate them. It is very important to adhere to certain criteria that allow us to qualify new linguistic phenomena, based on the provisions of the science of speech culture.

The culture of speech as a theoretical and practical discipline includes three stages, three aspects of analysis, closely interconnected, constituting its triune goal: 1) fixation, ordering of new phenomena, elements of language, 2) their assessment, qualification in the light of compliance with the norm and 3) language policy, those activities of linguists and the general public related to the impact on the functioning of the literary language and its evolution.

As for the current state of the Russian language, it seems that linguists are dominated by the desire to record new facts penetrating the language and to describe them; At the same time, linguists and speech culture specialists do not seek to qualify, evaluate them, much less reject or regulate their functioning in speech.

Such a passive position in this situation seems unjustified. The work of researchers should not be a simple mirror, reflecting what is fixed in the language, what has come into it. V. Humboldt noted that the study of language “does not at all contain the final goal, but, together with all other areas, serves the highest common goal of the joint aspirations of the human spirit, the goal of humanity’s knowledge of itself and its relationship to everything visible and hidden around itself” [Humboldt, 1985, p. 383].

There is no doubt that not all innovations that characterize the modern Russian language contribute to its development, i.e. transition from one state to another, more perfect, movement to a higher one. Therefore, now the most important are the last two stages of analysis of new linguistic phenomena - their qualification from the point of view of compliance with the norm and language policy, i.e. regulation of their functioning in language, speech, and communication. Changes in the language must occur within strictly defined boundaries and frameworks and must not violate the originality and identity of the Russian language.

The article aims to highlight the main lines along which changes are taking place in the modern Russian language and to assess linguistic innovations. This will allow us to imagine the state of the Russian language in the current period and determine the prospects for its movement.

Based on the fact that changes in language are extremely diverse, it seems necessary to approach their qualification in a differentiated manner. First of all, internal and external changes should be distinguished.

Internal changes and innovations are socially determined changes that occur within the boundaries of the lexicogrammatical system of a language, directly related to changes in the life of the national community itself, in the self-awareness and culture of native speakers. These are changes that are correlated with the lexical and grammatical patterns of the Russian language, and do not affect or violate the established foundations of the lexico-grammatical system of the language. Let us give a number of examples of such internal changes.

The lexical system is the most mobile level of language. The lexical composition of a language is always open to new means, words, open to change, and promptly responds to novelty. A person constantly expands his knowledge of the world, deepens his understanding, the consciousness and thinking of a person develops, and he has a need to identify new objects, to express his thoughts and relationships with the greatest depth. However, the law of economy inherent in any language restrains the inclusion of new units into the language for this purpose, so more rational mechanisms are used. A. Martinet, analyzing the natural tendency to expand the means of language and the principle of economy, writes: “Expanding the range of units can lead to a greater expenditure of effort than that which the team considers justified in a given situation. This expansion is uneconomical and will definitely be stopped. On the other hand, the manifestation of excessive inertia that is detrimental to the legitimate interests of the team will be sharply suppressed” [Martine, 2006, p. 126].

It is precisely this rational mechanism that is used in the Russian language: this refers to the emerging expansion of the semantics of some words, an increase in their semantic and content volume. The word gains the ability to be used in other communication situations or to name other objects that were previously unusual for this word. Thus, the word platform is used in the meaning of “an improvised stage, a place used, adapted for a performance.” Comparisons: *This popular ensemble performs at a variety of venues, for example, in rural clubs and even at the stadium.*

The word video is used in the sense of “a short film for a special purpose”, for example: *commercial, to star in a video dedicated to a new song; The artist gained popularity after starring in several videos.* Let us also recall the word rollers, which was included a little earlier in the meaning of “skates”.

The word space is used not in the sense of territory, but in a virtual sense (*space of language, cultural space, semantic space, informative space, exhibition space*).

Nowadays the word project is widely used in the meaning of “plan, idea, idea, program of activity”: *the “Active Longevity” project; museum project, new television project; project of Metropolitan Hilarion.*

The word complex correlates and is associated not only with the quantity, but also with the new quality of objects, cf.: residential complex, building complex, sports complex. The word factor has expanded the semantic scope of its functioning, being used in the meaning of “circumstance, condition, reason”: an important factor, an obligatory factor; With the advent of the Internet, the word platform has recently been used in a new meaning: “system, method, method of communication, contact”, which has nothing to do with the railway, cf. distance learning platform; collections are posted on the e-Library platform.

Words with a semantic shift also include map (*Muscovite social card, Perekrestok store map, road map*) and salon (*bus salon, beauty salon, car showroom*). Let us also note the word practice, comparisons.: *She is now in Tibet, they have health practices there; This was a common practice at that time.*

Such a change in lexical semantics is logical and natural. This does not shake the language system, does not contradict its grammatical and semantic laws, but indicates the development and enrichment of the language and is, obviously, characteristic of every language in the process of its existence. V.V. Vinogradov notes: “Regardless of its given use, the word is present in consciousness with all its meanings, with hidden and possible ones, ready to surface at the first moment” [Vinogradov, 1972, p. 17].

This process reveals another important property of language and man as the creator of the language and its user. A person is capable of appropriating a language in the process of using it. E. Benveniste wrote about this: “Language is structured in such a way that it allows each speaker, when he designates himself as I, to appropriate the entire language for himself” [Benveniste, 2002, p.296]. By appropriating a language, a person is able to subordinate it to his needs and goals, change it, adapting it to his capabilities, and sometimes to his tastes. For example, if there is a need to nominate new objects or situations, a language can use the lexical units already present in it for this purpose, complicating them semantically.

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