

THE CONCEPT OF LITERARY LANGUAGE

Р. Н. Исамутдинова,

преподаватель Факультета теории и практики перевода Ташкентского государственного университета имени Алишера Навои, город Ташкент, Республика Узбекистан

Isamutdinova71@gmail.com

Abstract:

This article examines the concept of literary language, its historical development and key features. It analyzes the main stages of the formation of the literary language, starting from the Old Russian period and ending with modern trends. The views of linguists and writers on the role of the literary language in culture and society are considered.

Keywords: Literary language, language norms, culture, society, national identity, spelling, stylistics, language of writers, language development, language of fiction.

Introduction

A literary language is a normative form of the national language used in written and oral speech. It has strict rules, styles and cultural traditions. Its development goes through many stages, reflecting changes in society, politics and science.

The history of the literary language is closely related to the development of writing and literary traditions. From the first chronicles to modern digital formats, the language has undergone significant changes. For example, in the XVIII century, Mikhail Lomonosov developed the theory of three styles, laying the foundations of the modern Russian literary language¹. In the 20th century, the language has become more complex due to new scientific and technical terms, and in the 21st century, it is actively influenced by Internet culture.

The literary language during this period was based on Church Slavonic, which was used in chronicles, religious texts and official documents. For example, "The Tale of Bygone Years" is one of the first works created in this language². Despite the influence of the spoken language, the norms remained quite strict. During this period, monuments of Old Russian literature appeared, such as the "Discourse on Law and Grace" by Metropolitan Hilarion and the "Instruction" by Vladimir Monomakh, which contributed to the formation of the literary norm.

Moscow period (XVI–XVII вв.) At this time, the official style of the Russian language began to take shape. The influence of folk speech increased, new words and constructions appeared. A classic example is "Domostroi" – a monument of Russian literature of the 16th century, where a more lively language can be traced than in chronicle texts³. Also at this time, works written in a more colloquial, but at the same time literary language appeared, such as "The Life of Archpriest Avvakum", reflecting the living speech of that time.

¹ Lomonosov M. V. On the Use of Church Books in the Russian Language. St. Petersburg: Academy of Sciences, 1758. – 132 p.

² Leskov N. S. Essays on the Russian Word. St. Petersburg: Wolf Printing House, 1895. – 245 p.

³ Vinogradov V. V. Istoriya russkogo literaturnogo yazyka [History of the Russian literary language]. Moscow, Vysshaya shkola Publ., 1986. – 432 p.



In addition, during this period, journalism was actively developing, the first samples of political and historical works appeared, written in a language accessible to a wide range of readers. An important place is occupied by correspondence, chronicles and petitions, in which the official business style begins to acquire clearer forms. For example, in "Stoglav" (1551) there is a noticeable desire to unify church and secular speech.

In the 17th century, the language continued to evolve: it became more dynamic, the number of borrowed words increased, in particular from Polish and German. This is especially noticeable in the military, administrative and craft spheres. Examples of such borrowings are "town hall", "uniform", "chancellor". These processes prepared the basis for further reforms, which were fully implemented already in the era of Peter the Great.

Петровские reforms (XVIII century). The era of Peter the Great was a turning point for the Russian literary language. During this period, foreign words were actively borrowed, new grammatical constructions were introduced. Mikhail Lomonosov developed a theory of three styles: high (solemn speech, odes), medium (everyday written speech) and low (colloquial style, everyday texts). This made it possible to structure the language and lay the foundation for its further development. An important phenomenon was the emergence of the first scientific style, which was especially noticeable in the works of Lomonosov and Karamzin.

The reforms of Peter I influenced the language not only at the level of style, but also on its lexical composition. Numerous terms were borrowed from Dutch, German, and French, especially in the fields of military affairs, navigation, art, and science. For example, during this period, the words "fleet", "route", "passenger", "engineer", "headquarters" entered the Russian language. Many of these borrowings have become entrenched in the language over time.

It is also important to note the development of secular literature. In the XVIII century, new genres appeared - satire, journalism, philosophical treatises. Famous figures such as V.K. Trediakovsky, A.P. Sumarokov and D.I. Fonvizin actively contribute to the reform of the language, making it more flexible and expressive. Their works become examples of the literary language of that era. Thus, Peter's reforms led to significant changes in the Russian language, laying the foundation for its further development and the formation of a modern literary norm.

The XIX century is the golden age of Russian literature. Writers such as Alexander Pushkin⁴, Nikolai Gogol, Ivan Turgenev and Leo Tolstoy⁵ formed its richness and expressiveness. They used colloquial vocabulary, folk expressions and authorial stylistic devices, making the language more alive and understandable. Pushkin was especially important in this process, as his works became a model of literary language. folk word, creating a language that remains relevant to this day.

XX century – new challenges. At the beginning of the 20th century, significant changes took place in the language. Revolutions, political reforms, and scientific and technological progress contributed to the emergence of new terms and the simplification of grammar⁶. In Soviet times, the language was standardized, official speech constructions appeared, and some old words fell out of use. At the same time, there is a development of journalistic and official-business style, elements of agitational rhetoric are actively introduced.

⁴ Pushkin A. S. Polnoe sobranie sochinenii [Complete works]. Moscow, Nauka Publ., 2009. – 540 p.

⁵ Толстой Л. Н. О языке и слове. – М.: Искусство, 1952. – 150 с.

⁶ Krysin L. P. Russkii yazyk na rubezhe XX–XXI vekov: izmeneniya v leksike [Russian language at the turn of the XX–XXI centuries: changes in vocabulary]. Moscow, Znack Publ., 2005. 304 p.



XXI century – Digital era. Today, the literary language continues to develop⁷. The internet, social media, and meme culture bring new elements to speech. For example, abbreviations ("IMHO" – "in my opinion"), anglicisms ("fake", "content") and emojis are becoming part of digital communication. However, classical norms continue to be preserved in literature and academia. Modern literature is also influenced by multimedia technologies, expanding the boundaries of the literary language⁸.

Conclusion

Literary language is not just a means of communication, but also an important element of culture, reflecting the history, thinking and values of the people⁹. Its development shows how society is changing and what trends affect language. Despite modern challenges, the literary language remains the basis of national identity, uniting generations through the works of great writers and cultural traditions¹⁰.

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⁷ Krysin L. P. Russkii yazyk v sovremennom mire [Russian language in the modern world]. Moscow, Akademiya Publ., 2004. – 289 p.

⁸ Krongauz M. A. Russkii yazyk na grani nervogo sryva [Russian language on the verge of nervous breakdown]. Moscow, Languages of Slavic Cultures Publ., 2008. 296 p.

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