

THE LINGUISTIC AND EXTRA-LINGUISTIC FACTORS OF USING FRENCH ELEMENTS IN THE RUSSIAN LITERATURE

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ABSTRACT:

The present article is devoted to the analysis of the role of the French language in Russian lingual society in the 18th -19th centuries and its influence on the development of the Russian literary language. Here linguistic and extra-linguistic factors of the formation of Russian-French bilingualism are enumerated.

Keywords: Russian-French bilingual situation, extra linguistic factors, literary language, French elements, borrowings, speech formulas.

INTRODUCTION:

The French language is associated with a graceful, beautiful lady who is always beloved. French words and expressions are often met on the pages of world literature including Russian classical literature. The peculiar popularity of French elements in Russian literature is observed in the 18th-19th centuries when French culture influenced on the lingual situation in the whole country.

The aim of the present article is to study French lexical units on the pages of Russian literature and to analyze the influence of the French language on the development of the Russian literary language. To say in other words, we aim to investigate the peculiarities of Russian-French bilingual situation.

Bilingualism was the object of investigation of many scholars, sociologists, psychologists. The term "bilingualism" has various interpretations of different linguists. Some of them use it due to the country or

society which uses two languages at once. Others use it for people who master and use both languages. [A.D. Shveytser, 2018, p.114.].

Looking back to history, we can state that the French language and literature became very popular in the whole Europe during the reign of the King Louis XIV. French noble traditions and royal manners became popular in all European developed countries which adopted much from the French luxurious culture. The active use of the French language in Russian noble society led to formation of the Russian-French bilingualism in the 18th-19th centuries. This was the linguistic factor of using French elements in the Russian language. Another reason – the extra-linguistic one – was the development of close relations between Russian and France in political, scientific-cultural and economical spheres.

Really, The French language differs by the beauty of its words and expressions, by melodic of its sounds. It was and still remains to be the language of intelligent people with high personal culture. Here we should note that the most borrowings in all the Roman and German languages are taken from French. These borrowings relate to various spheres of human activity: architecture, art, painting, music, theatre, fashion, design, cuisine, science and literature.

The formation of Russian-French bilingualism began in the 18th century and ends in the first half of the 19th century when the French language becomes the official language of the royal and noble societies.

The extra-linguistic reason of Russian-French bilingualism was also teaching the French language and literature to young people from

noble families. At that time French was the most popular among European languages and quickly spread throughout the whole Russia, influencing on the development of the Russian literary language.

The French language was used in the Russian prose and poetics as separate words, clichés, expressions and speech formulas. Knowing French was the necessity of educated and intelligent people. The richness of the French lexics and stylistics made this language very popular and fashionable among people. We can't imagine the noble society of Russian people, their parties and meetings without French elements. The French was not only the language of communication of educated aristocrats but was even the language of family communication in noble society. The children of noble families grew on the basis of French literature. They read works by Moliere, Diderot, Russo, Voltaire and others. The French language and literature were included into the curriculum of educational establishments.

V. V. Vinogradov, investigating the linguistic factors of the embedment of French into Russian speech, pointed out two main types of bilingualism: 1) spreading and popularization of the French language in aristocratic society and 2) the formation of speech formulas and literary styles with the traces of influence of the French lingual culture [V.V. Vinogradov, 1934, p. 170.].

In Russian-French bilingual situation the linguist reveals the following linguistic peculiarities:

1. During translation of French speech formulas into Russian there was accustom of Russian expressions to French. This led to mixture of Russian words with the meaning of French lexical units.
2. Many Russian equivalents and analogues of French words and expressions were created by method of calking. In this way Russian

analogues were used with the meaning of French lexical units.

3. Lexical equivalents were followed by phraseological analogues.

4. The French language had shown a significant impact on the syntax of the Russian language and syntactical constructions.

5. In complex speech there was a kind of breaking long structures into smaller parts [V.V. Vinogradov, 1934, p. 178-191].

The French lexics was not only fashionable and popular in the speech of educated European people but it was actively used in literary texts too. French elements are often met in the replicas of literary heroes. One of the Russian writers and poets who actively used French elements in his literary and poetic works was A.S. Pushkin. For special love to French elements and using those on his pages A.S. Pushkin got the nickname «Frenchman». Most of his letters were also written in French.

The French language was accepted by Pushkin not as the official language of France, but as the language of educated intelligence which opened him way to the world literature [5].

The first poems by Pushkin were written in French. These were poems «Stances» and «Mon Portrait», which the poet wrote while studying in lyceum. Unusual beauty, melodic and graceful rhythm of the poem «Mon portrait» made it very popular.

In his famous work «Eugene Onegin» A.S. Pushkin used many French elements. Let's read the extract:

Sperva **Madame** za nim hodila,
Potom **Monsieur** yeyo smenil...
Monsieur l'Abbé, frantsu ubogoy,
Chtob ne izmuchilos' ditya,
Uchil ego vsemu shutya,
Ne dokuchal moralyu strogoy
Slegka za shalosti branil
I v Letniy sad gulyat' vodil.

In these lines the peculiarities of noble upbringing of Eugene Onegin are described. The main heroine of the poem is Tatyana Larina, who knew French as mother tongue. Her hobby was reading French novels.

V.V. Vinogradov devoted his works «The language of Pushkin» and «The style of Pushkin» to the language and style of Pushkin. In these works he investigated the connection of Pushkin's art and French [V.V. Vinogradov, 1935; 1941]. He studied the influence of the French language on the word stock of Pushkin, in particular, he pays attention at his lexis and phraseology. V.V. Vinogradov studied the ways of selection of French borrowings in the language of Pushkin. He also described French clichés and expressions in Pushkin's works paying attention to the accordance with phonetic sounding.

Another reason of using French elements in Russian literature was the formation of the Russian literary language of that period which was full of French words, clichés and speech formulas. The Russian noble society was aware of French classical literature. The French expressions which were used in aristocrats' speech, added originality and specific gracefulness to the ethical communication of the elite.

L.N. Tolstoy also used French expressions in his novels, among which the most popular was «War and Peace». The novel starts with the French expression in the replica of Anna Sherer. The whole text is overloaded with French words and expressions. Of course, for the reader, who doesn't know French they distract and make difficulties? Here we can ask a question: why A.S. Pushkin and L.N. Tolstoy had used so many French elements on their pages? The answer is clear: they used French when described situation of communication of noble people and aristocratic society in order to create the authentic atmosphere of noble Russia of the 18th-19th century. Even French

names of cuisine are used in «War and Peace» by L.N. Tolstoy: **santean madere, a'latortue**.

Some personages of Tolstoy speak only French. One of them is Napoleon himself, Helene and Julie Kuragina. The unusual melody to the novel gives the language of the maid Anna Sherer, whose speech is enriched by French words, phrases and speech formulas.

Tolstoy used French elements so often that Russian critics called his language «mixture of French with Great Russian». In the novel «War and peace» personages-nobles speak only French. Even commander Kutuzov often used French phrases: **«Allez voir, mon cher, si la troisieme division a depasse le village...»**. The only personage who didn't speak French was Bolkonskiy.

L. A. Bulakhovskiy points at the richness of the French language in speech formulas and bright clichés which are suitable to be used in epistolary novels: «The transfer from Russian into French, manner of using French words and phrases in speech were usual for such novels of that epoch» [L.A. Bulakhovskiy, 1934, p.215.]. The linguist reveals such French elements in literary texts.

In this way, the Russian literary language of the 18th-19th centuries had adopted many borrowings from the French language, among which there were clichés, speech formulas and expression. They are met in literary works of Russian writers and poets.

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