

The Modern Russian Language and Its Teaching To Foreign Learners: Challenges, Trends, And Innovations

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Abstract: The article studies how the Russian language evolves through current trends which result from global influences and digital progress and expanding online communication methods. The study examines foreign language educators who face challenges because modern linguistic changes produce a gap between official language rules and actual spoken language usage. The study examines modern teaching methods which include authentic materials and digital platforms and contemporary media that boost educational success while aligning learning activities with present requirements. The research seeks to establish an equilibrium between preserving traditional linguistic standards and teaching modern language developments in educational programs.

Keywords: Modern linguistic dynamics; linguistic variability; language norm; Russian as a foreign language (RFL); lexical innovations; sociolinguistic transformations; digital communication environment; authenticity of language materials; teaching methodology; cognitive-communicative competencies.

Introduction: The Russian language exists at its current developmental stage through fast-moving transformations which result from both natural linguistic evolution and outside cultural and technological influences. The complete digital transformation of all life domains together with worldwide language exchange particularly English and fast internet communication development has produced major changes in vocabulary growth and language use methods and linguistic norm boundaries. People today use new words Anglicisms and youth and online slang in their daily communication because they want to express themselves quickly and creatively while making their language more practical.

These changes are of particular interest not only to linguists but also to teachers of Russian as a foreign language (RFL), since they directly affect the content, methods, and forms of instruction. Students who study Russian in foreign countries or through academic programs will discover that the material in their textbooks does not match the way people actually speak in everyday life. The process demands extra mental effort which makes it harder to grasp authentic texts and decreases students' enthusiasm for language

learning.

RFL teachers must learn to uphold academic standards while using present-day language elements during their teaching activities because the linguistic environment keeps changing at a fast pace. Teachers need to develop innovative educational methods through the application of digital tools and authentic materials which demonstrate actual language usage in contemporary society.

This article aims to examine the main trends in the development of the modern Russian language and to analyze the challenges and prospects related to teaching Russian as a foreign language in a changing linguistic reality.

CONTEMPORARY TRENDS IN THE RUSSIAN LANGUAGE

The Russian language has experienced major transformations since the last few decades because of natural language development and outside influences. The modern changes to language focus on updating the vocabulary system by creating new words and adopting foreign terms into the language. The process of globalization and close contact with English-speaking culture has brought about a massive influx of

Anglicisms which extends vocabulary while functioning as social and professional identification markers.

The way people use language today owes a major part to internet communication methods which continue to develop. The development of social networks together with messengers and online platforms has created new vocabulary which includes online slang and abbreviations and memes and phraseological expressions that carry strong emotional meaning[2]. The modern speaker requires fast and emotionally powerful communication which leads to shorter sentence structures and more frequent use of informal and emotional language.

Furthermore, contemporary Russian exhibits processes of relaxation of traditional grammatical and orthographic norms, giving rise to debates about the boundaries of what is acceptable in spoken and written discourse. Linguists and educators face ongoing debates about normative language standards because these standards continue to evolve which affects how schools should teach language.

The modern Russian language exists as a dynamic system which produces new challenges for researchers who study its structural characteristics and social usage patterns[6]. The educational methods and learning experiences undergo changes because of these transformations which forces teachers to maintain their expertise and teaching methods.

ISSUES IN TEACHING RUSSIAN AS A FOREIGN LANGUAGE IN THE CONTEXT OF CONTEMPORARY LINGUISTIC TRANSFORMATION

The educational process for Russian as a Foreign Language teachers encounters multiple difficulties because of the continuing alterations in Russian language development that requires instructional material and teaching method revision. The main difficulty comes from the difference between the standard language found in educational materials and the actual speech patterns of native speakers who use modern words and digital communication terms.

The educational content in Russian language textbooks does not match the evolving language patterns of contemporary Russian which creates obstacles for students who want to learn both real-world language understanding and practical communication skills[4]. The learning process becomes less effective for students because of their cognitive barriers which also reduce their desire to study.

Additional difficulties arise from the cultural and sociolinguistic aspects of speech, which are an integral part of studying a language as a means of intercultural communication. The educational system faces the risk

of becoming an abstract formal system when it fails to incorporate these essential elements into its instruction methods.

The research focuses on how learners understand and use borrowed words and slang terms which lack direct translations into their native languages so they need extra cultural background information. Educators and linguists have mixed opinions about these elements because they actively discuss what language standards should be applied during educational activities[7].

Therefore, RFL teachers must strike a balance between upholding language standards and demonstrating actual language usage through innovative teaching methods and continuous curriculum updates.

INNOVATIVE APPROACHES TO TEACHING RUSSIAN AS A FOREIGN LANGUAGE

The fast evolution of Russian language in current times creates an urgent need to develop new teaching methods which should align with modern linguistic patterns for foreign language learners of Russian. Traditional educational materials and methods fail to provide students with the necessary skills for full communication development because the language environment continues to evolve at a rapid pace.

One of the most effective directions in this regard is the integration of authentic materials—texts and media created by native speakers in natural communicative contexts[1]. Social networks, blogs, video content, and digital platforms provide a rich resource for familiarizing students with the contemporary lexical and phraseological inventory as well as the stylistic features of living speech. The use of such materials promotes the development of skills in understanding and interpreting real linguistic contexts, significantly enhancing student motivation and contributing to deeper language acquisition. Furthermore, digital technologies and mobile applications open new possibilities for interactive and individualized learning. The use of online platforms adapted for learning Russian makes it possible to account for students' individual needs and levels of proficiency, thereby ensuring greater flexibility in the educational process. In particular, these tools contribute to the development of listening and speaking skills, which are often underrepresented in traditional language courses.

An important component of innovative methodology is the use of modern media—video lessons, podcasts, thematic YouTube channels, and even TikTok—which not only provide diverse linguistic material but also introduce learners to cultural contexts and current trends in the Russian-speaking world.

Communicative and project-based approaches also play a key role by creating conditions for the practical use of language in authentic situations. Implementing learning projects that involve creating original texts, presentations, and media content fosters the development of creative and critical thinking skills while also cultivating a sustained interest in language study[5].

Thus, innovative teaching methods that are responsive to contemporary linguistic and cultural changes represent an important resource for improving the quality of Russian language instruction and facilitating the successful integration of learners into the modern Russian-speaking communicative space.

CONCLUSION

The modern Russian language, influenced by globalization and digital technologies, is becoming increasingly dynamic and variable. These changes present new challenges for teaching Russian as a foreign language, requiring the adaptation of curricula and teaching methods. The gap between the normative language and the living speech filled with neologisms and internet slang calls for a balanced approach that preserves linguistic norms while incorporating relevant contemporary language phenomena. The implementation of innovative approaches—including the use of authentic materials, digital technologies, and communicative methodologies—enhances the effectiveness of instruction and fosters the development of genuine communicative competence among students. In the future, it is essential to systematize emerging linguistic phenomena and continuously update teaching resources, ensuring the quality of instruction and an adequate response to the ongoing changes in language and society.

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