

**THE DEVELOPMENT OF THE RUSSIAN LITERARY LANGUAGE IN THE WORKS
OF A. S. PUSHKIN**

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Abstract: Pushkin is universally recognized as the founder of contemporary Russian literature due to his ability to integrate colloquial speech, folklore, and earlier literary traditions into a unified, flexible, and normative language system. The article examines Pushkin's linguistic innovations, lexical and stylistic features, and his contribution to the stabilization and normalization of Russian literary norms. Drawing on the views of prominent linguists and literary scholars, the study demonstrates that Pushkin's works laid the foundation for the further evolution of Russian literary language and significantly influenced subsequent generations of writers.

Keywords: A. S. Pushkin, Russian literary language, language development, linguistic norm, Russian literature, stylistics

The formation of a national literary language represents a fundamental stage in the cultural and intellectual development of any society. In the history of Russian culture, this process reached a critical and decisive phase in the early nineteenth century with the creative activity of Alexander Sergeyevich Pushkin. Scholars widely agree that Pushkin's work marked the transition from the artificial and bookish language of the eighteenth century to a natural, flexible, and expressive literary language capable of reflecting social reality and human individuality. Prior to Pushkin, the Russian literary language was characterized by a strong contrast between the elevated, Church Slavonic-influenced style and the living spoken language of the people. This stylistic dualism limited the expressive possibilities of literature and created a gap between written texts and everyday speech. Pushkin succeeded in overcoming this division by harmonizing various linguistic layers, thereby establishing the foundations of the modern Russian literary language. The aim of this article is to analyze Pushkin's contribution to the development of Russian literary language through an examination of his linguistic innovations and stylistic practices.

Historical Background of the Russian Literary Language. During the eighteenth century, the Russian literary language experienced an active stage of formation and standardization. Scholars such as Mikhail Lomonosov developed theoretical models of stylistic differentiation, while writers like Gavril Derzhavin enriched poetic expression. Nevertheless, the literary language of this period was still heavily influenced by Church Slavonic elements and complex syntactic constructions, which distanced it from everyday spoken Russian (Vinogradov, 1982).

By the beginning of the nineteenth century, Russian society required a literary language capable of reflecting real life, social change, and individual psychology. Pushkin emerged at this critical

historical moment and responded to these needs by transforming literary language into a natural and dynamic medium of artistic expression.

Linguistic Innovations in Pushkin's Works. One of Pushkin's greatest achievements was his ability to synthesize diverse linguistic elements into a coherent system. He combined colloquial speech, folklore, and classical literary traditions, creating a language that was both aesthetically refined and accessible. Jakobson (1987) emphasizes that Pushkin proved poetic language could preserve artistic depth while remaining close to everyday communication.

Pushkin simplified syntax, reduced excessive archaisms, and preferred semantic clarity and stylistic balance. His works demonstrate concise sentence structures, natural word order, and lexical precision. These features contributed to the formation of stable literary norms later adopted by Russian prose and poetry.

Lexical, Stylistic, and Genre Diversity. Pushkin's lexical system is characterized by richness and flexibility. He skillfully used neutral, colloquial, and elevated vocabulary depending on genre, character, and context. This stylistic adaptability allowed him to convey psychological depth and social diversity. Vinogradov (1982) notes that Pushkin's language established a balance between expressiveness and normativity.

Genre diversity also played a crucial role in Pushkin's linguistic contribution. His poetry, drama, and prose demonstrate different functional styles of the Russian language. Works such as Eugene Onegin introduced a new type of literary narration that blended lyrical tone with conversational ease, while *The Captain's Daughter* exemplifies clarity and simplicity in prose narrative.

Dialogue and the Approximation to Spoken Language. Dialogue occupies a central position in Pushkin's works and significantly contributed to bringing literary language closer to spoken Russian. Through dialogue, Pushkin reproduced intonation, rhythm, and communicative patterns of everyday speech without sacrificing artistic quality. This technique enhanced realism and authenticity in literary texts.

According to Lotman (1995), Pushkin's mastery of dialogue allowed him to depict characters from different social backgrounds using linguistically appropriate speech, thereby strengthening the national character of Russian literature.

Pushkin's Role in Establishing Literary Norms. Pushkin's language became a model of correctness and stylistic harmony for later generations of writers. He did not merely enrich vocabulary but also stabilized grammatical, lexical, and stylistic norms. His works functioned as a linguistic standard, influencing authors such as Lermontov, Gogol, Turgenev, Tolstoy, and Dostoevsky.

The long-term influence of Pushkin's linguistic principles confirms his decisive role in shaping the Russian literary language. His approach ensured continuity while allowing flexibility and further development.

Conclusion. Alexander Sergeyevich Pushkin played a decisive and unparalleled role in the development of the Russian literary language. By synthesizing colloquial speech, folklore, and classical literary traditions, he created a unified linguistic system that eliminated the gap between written and spoken language. His innovations transformed Russian literary language into a flexible, expressive, and socially grounded medium. In conclusion, Pushkin's contribution extends far beyond individual literary achievements. It represents a major linguistic and cultural

milestone that defined the future development of Russian literature and language. His works continue to serve as a normative model and remain central to scholarly studies of the Russian literary language.

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