Introduction

Liudmila Klimanova PhD

Editor, Russian Language Journal, klimanova@arizona.edu

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Introduction

On behalf of the editorial team of the Russian Language Journal, it is with great pleasure that we present Volume 73, Number 1. This issue, available exclusively online, features six articles and two book reviews that span a broad spectrum of topics within Russian language studies. The issue opens with Nadezhda Braun’s exploration of how Russian minority languages are minimized through Russian educational policies. Sofya Yunusova investigates the educational potential of literary texts in eliciting affective responses in the language-literature classroom. Joan A. Chevalier’s study explores the semantic value of connecting phrases and conjunctions, providing insights into the linguistic characteristics of Russian “vvodnye slova” through a systematic corpora study and its implications for Russian (L2) pedagogy. Further contributions by Marina Tsylina, José Luis Carrido Rivera & Hadis Gaedi, and by Natalia Sletova, present empirical research on the acquisition of Russian as a second language: the former article focuses on Russian (L2) teachers’ and learners’ perceptions of learning affordances, and the latter on the impact of writing tasks on grammatical accuracy in oral production in Russian (L2) learners. The issue concludes with Ksenia Turkova’s sociolinguistic analysis of euphemistic expressions and propaganda language in media discourse regarding Russia’s invasion of Ukraine. Turkova uncovers the dual role of euphemisms in media discourse used by authorities for control and by dissenting citizens for safe expression of opposition during the ongoing war and repression. This article also introduces the theme of the forthcoming 2023 special issue on teaching media literacy in the Russian language classroom (Volume 73, Issue 2), guest-edited by Karen Evans-Romaine and Liudmila Klimanova. Collectively, the articles in this issue address the diverse interests of the RLJ readership, covering pedagogy, linguistics, second language acquisition, and discourse studies.

We extend our gratitude to everyone who submitted and reviewed articles this year for the Russian Language Journal, as these contributions and our reviewers’ careful reading make the publication possible.
The *Russian Language Journal* plays a vital role in our field, serving a diverse audience and providing a publication venue for serious scholarship which might not otherwise fit into the other fine journals in our field. We owe special thanks to Jennifer Bown, the previous editor-in-chief of the *Russian Language Journal*, for her unwavering dedication to RLJ readers and for her efforts to modernize the journal by transitioning it to an online platform. In 2024 we expect our journal to transition entirely online and become an open-access publication venue for researchers and Russian language teaching practitioners. The editorial board looks forward to new developments in the journal’s operations and distribution, and we invite our readers to consider contributing articles to the *Russian Language Journal*.

Liudmila Klimanova, Ph.D.
Editor, Russian Language Journal
rlj@americancouncils.org