

SLL 512: The History of the Russian Language

Class info:

2-5 pm, Monday, Spring 2005
THH 221

Instructor:

Prof. Roumyana Pancheva
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Office hours: by appointment
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Manuscript in Russian Church Slavonic on paper, Russia, 1550-1560

Goals:

This course is an overview of the historical development of the Russian language, from its origins in Proto-Slavic, to the 19th C. You will develop working knowledge of the grammars of Old Church Slavonic and the various stages of East Slavic; you will become proficient in the old Cyrillic alphabet; you will be able to distinguish stylistic elements in Modern Russian based on the historical developments in the language, and you will learn about the movements and reforms that have shaped the literary language. The course also introduces a theoretical framework for understanding language change. You will become familiar with key concepts and issues in historical linguistics, and with their interpretation from a generative perspective.

Requirements:

• Class participation (10%)

You will be expected to complete the assigned readings on time and to participate actively in class discussion.

• Presentation of readings (50%):

You will present selected readings (schedule to be decided in class) and lead the class discussion. Presentations have to be accompanied by a detailed handout, distributed to all participants.

• Corpus creation (40%):

You will be responsible for the translation and linguistic analysis of primary texts from different periods in the history of Russian. (Individual texts will be assigned in class.) Work on the corpus is to be done continuously throughout the semester, and will be checked periodically.

Students with Disabilities:

Students requesting academic accommodations based on a disability need to register with Disability Services and Programs (DSP) each semester. A letter of accommodation should be obtained from DSP and delivered to me as early in the semester as possible. DSP is located in STU; tel. (213) 740-0776. <http://www.usc.edu/student-affairs/asn/DSP/>.

Readings:

(A copy of the readings will be made available in class or put on reserve in the Slavic Department.)

Campbell, L. 2004. *Historical Linguistics: An Introduction*. MIT Press

Cubberley, P. 1993. "Alphabets and Transliteration" in B. Comrie and G. Corbett (eds.) *The Slavonic Languages*. 20-59. Routledge. London and New York.

Huntley, D. 1993. "Old Church Slavonic" in B. Comrie and G. Corbett (eds.) *The Slavonic Languages*. 125-187. Routledge. London and New York.

Lightfoot, D. 1999. *The Development of Language: Acquisition, Change, and Evolution*. Blackwell.

Schenker, A.M. 1995. *The Dawn of Slavic: An Introduction to Slavic Philology*. Yale University Press. New Haven and London.

Vinogradov, V.V. 1969. *The History of the Russian Literary Language from the Seventeenth Century to the Nineteenth*. (A condensed adaptation into English with an introduction by Lawrence L. Thomas). The University of Wisconsin Press. Madison, Milwaukee, and London.

Vlasto, A.P. 1988. *A Linguistic History of Russia to the End of the 18th Century*. Clarendon Press. Oxford.

Reference works:

De Bray, R.G.A. 1980. *Guide to the Slavonic Languages. Part 3: Guide to the East Slavonic Languages*. 3rd ed. Slavica Publishers.

Lysaght, T.A. 1995. *Old Church Slavonic-English dictionary*. Victoria University Press. Wellington.

Lunt, H.G., 1970. *Kratkii slovar' drevnerusskogo iazyka (XI-XVII vekov)*. W. Fink. München.

Lunt, H.G. 1968. *Old Church Slavonic Grammar*. Mouton. The Hague.

Matthews, W.K. 1967. *Russian Historical Grammar*. The Athlone Press, University of London. London.

Riasanovsky, N. V. 2000. *A History of Russia*. 6th ed. Oxford University Press.

Shevelov, G. and F. Holling. 1958. *A Reader in the History of the East Slavic Languages*. Columbia University Press, NY.

Срезневский, И.И. 1958 (1893). *Материалы для словаря древнерусского языка*. т. I, II, III. Государственное издательство иностранных и национальных словарей. Москва.

Townsend, C. and L. Janda. (1996). *Common and Comparative Slavic: Phonology and Inflection*. Slavica Publishers.

Fonts:

Old Church Slavonic fonts can be downloaded at <http://chslav.hypermart.net/fonts.html>.

Course Outline:

(This will likely undergo some changes, which will be announced in class. Level of difficulty of each reading is marked by a 😊 😐 😞.)

Jan 10	INTRODUCTION <ol style="list-style-type: none">Goals, contents, and structure of the courseBrief introduction to theoretical and methodological considerations of diachronic linguisticsOverview of the history of Russian<ol style="list-style-type: none">The Slavic language familyPeriodization of RussianDiglossia in the history of Russian
Jan 17	University Holiday - Martin Luther King day; no class
Jan 24	STUDYING LANGUAGE CHANGE. THE ORIGINS OF SLAVIC. HISTORICAL BACKGROUND <ol style="list-style-type: none">Language change – theoretical explanations, methods of investigation<ol style="list-style-type: none">why and how do languages change?the historical comparative methodreconstructionworking with historical textsBrief characterization of Proto-Indo-EuropeanHistorical setting prior to the christianization of the Eastern Slavs <p><u>Required reading:</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">Lightfoot 1999, ch. 1 “Introduction”, 😊 ch. 2 “The Nineteenth: Century of History” 😊Schenker 1995, ch. 2 “Language”: 2.1 to 2.15 😊Schenker 1995, ch. 1 “Historical Setting” 😊
Jan 31	PROTO-SLAVIC <ol style="list-style-type: none">From Proto-Indo-European to early Proto-SlavicMajor phonological changes in Proto-SlavicMorphology and syntax of Proto-Slavic <p><u>Required reading:</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">Schenker 1995, ch. 2 “Language”: 2.16-2.69 😞

<p>Feb 7</p>	<p>ALPHABETS. EARLY TEXTS. ORTHOGRAPHIC REFORMS</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. The beginnings of literacy 2. Alphabets <ol style="list-style-type: none"> a) Glagolitic b) Cyrillic 3. Recensions of (Old) Church Slavonic 4. Major East Slavic documents 5. Orthographic reforms <p><u>Required reading:</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Cubberley 1993 “Alphabets and Transliteration” ☺ • Schenker 1995, ch. 3 “Early Writing” ☺ • Vlasto 1988, ch. 1: section II “Early East Slav Documents” ☺ • Vlasto 1988, ch. 1: III “Alphabet and Orthography” \$41-44 ☺
<p>Feb 14</p>	<p>OLD CHURCH SLAVONIC. MODELS OF LANGUAGE CHANGE</p> <p><u>Required reading:</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Huntley 1993 “Old Church Slavonic” ☺ • Campbell 2004, ch. 7 “Models of Linguistic Change” ☺
<p>Feb 21</p>	<p>University Holiday - President’s day; no class</p>
<p>Feb 28</p>	<p>CHURCH SLAVONIC AND EAST SLAVIC. THE ROLE OF ACQUISITION IN LANGUAGE CHANGE</p> <p><u>Required reading:</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Vlasto 1988, ch. 1: section I “Prehistory of Russian: East Slav in Relation to Common Slavonic and Old Church Slavonic” I. §1-13 and §14-32 ☺ • Vlasto 1988, ch. 1: section II. §38 “Periodization” ☺ • Lightfoot 1999, ch. 3 “Grammars and Language Acquisition” ☺
<p>March 7</p>	<p>PHONOLOGY AND MORPHOLOGY IN THE HISTORY OF RUSSIAN</p> <p><u>Required reading:</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Vlasto 1988, ch. 2 “Phonology” ☺ • Vlasto 1988, ch. 3 “Morphology” ☺

March 14	Spring recess; no class
March 21	<p>SYNTAX IN THE HISTORY OF RUSSIAN</p> <p><u>Required reading:</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Vlasto 1988, ch. 4 “Syntax” ☺ • Campbell 2004, ch. 10 “Syntactic Change” ☺
March 28	<p>VOCABULARY IN THE HISTORY OF RUSSIAN.</p> <p><u>Required reading:</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Vlasto 1988, ch. 5 “Vocabulary” ☺ • Campbell 2004, ch. 11 “Explaining Linguistic Change” ☺
April 4	<p>THE DEVELOPMENT OF THE RUSSIAN LITERARY LANGUAGE UP TO THE 17TH C THE PROBLEM OF GRADUALISM IN LINGUISTIC CHANGE</p> <p><u>Required reading:</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Vlasto 1988, ch. 7 “Spoken Language and Written Languages” ☺ • Vinogradov 1969, ch. 1 “The Seventeenth Century: the Old and the New” ☺ • Lightfoot 1999, ch. 4 “Gradualism and Catastrophes”, ☺
April 11	<p>RUSSIAN LITERARY LANGUAGE IN THE 18TH C. A GENERATIVE MODEL OF LANGUAGE CHANGE</p> <p><u>Required reading:</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Vinogradov 1969, ch. 2 “The First Half of the 18th C: The Mixing of Styles”; ☺ ch. 3 “The mid-18th C: Normalization and Disintegration of the Three Styles”, ☺ ch. 4 “The Second Half of the 18th C: The Salon Literary Styles” ☺ • Lightfoot 1999, ch. 6 “Cue-Based Acquisition and Change in Grammars” ☺
April 18	<p>RUSSIAN LITERARY LANGUAGE IN THE EARLY 19TH C CONCLUDING REMARKS ON THE THEORY OF LANGUAGE CHANGE.</p> <p><u>Required reading:</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Vinogradov 1969, ch. 5 “The Early 19th Century: Stylistic Contradictions”, ☺ ch. 6 “The Language of Pushkin”, ☺ ch. 7 “The Language of Lermontov”, ☺ • Lightfoot 1999, ch. 8 “Historicism: The Use and Abuse of Clío”, ☺ ch. 10 “A Science of History” ☺

April 25

RUSSIAN LITERARY LANGUAGE LATER IN THE 20TH C

Required reading:

- Vinogradov 1969, ch. 8 “Mid 19th Century Literary Styles”, ☺
ch. 9 “The Language of Gogol’”, ☺
ch. 10 “Expansion of the Bases of the Literary Language” ☺

Talk by Charles Yang on language change