

# Specific idiomatic phrases in Russian in Estonia

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- It is known that in different languages in addition to individual words there is an array of **stable phrases**, which is necessarily in any language.
- This constitutes a known difficulty in learning a foreign language, in translating texts or messages from one language to another.
- This aspect also constitutes known difficulties when working on a text in the native language (the generation of the text and its style).

- Questions of studying Russian phraseology in comparison to Estonian phraseology require new research, taking into account the active processes that occur in these languages. We can recall in this regard the well-known classical works by A. Reitsak, F. Vakk and others.
- Nowadays, the topic has not only lost its relevance, but requires significant development

- In this case, we will talk about what features stable phrases have in the Russian language that functions in Estonia, how they interact with Estonian discourse.
- It is especially important to consider the analysis of the context.
- It is also important to distinguish stable phrases that have resisted the discursive practice of Estonia, which are not characteristic of the "general" Russian language.

- The focus of this presentation is in set phrases in the Russian-speaking discourse of Estonia.
- 1. Set phrases of the official sphere.
- 2. Some Russian idiomatic phrases, which refer to the discourse of Estonia.

# Study material

- For a long time, a list of words and phrases that function in the Russian language of modern Estonia was compiled and drawn up during two parts of the ELU project.
- *venekeelest.weebly.com* - this is where this list is located
- *venekeelest.wordpress.com* - this version of the site contains a group of phraseologisms of the Russian language with Estonian correspondences.

# Set phrases of the public sphere

- These are phrases that are often all translations from Estonian complex words or phrases that are relevant for the cultural and social sphere.
- There are two types of phrases regularly found in the Russian-language discourse of Estonia:
  - A) similar to Russian, but having a different meaning in Estonia and b) such that do not have "Russian" correspondences. For example:
    - A) *social'nyj rabotnik, pogolovnyie den'gi, osnovnaia shkola*
    - B) *opornoe lico, dorozhnoe strahovanie, semejnyj vrach, kvartirnoe tovarishhestvo, lichnyj kod (isikukood), elektronnoe gosudarstvo, fizicheskoe lico-predprinimatel, razgovornye minuty* etc.

- At first glance, they look "Russian," they are not recognized by native speakers of the Russian language in Estonia as "abnormal." A survey was also conducted among Russians who did not understand the meaning of these phrases.
- Let's take a closer look at the functioning of two phrases: *opornoelico, semejnyj vrach*

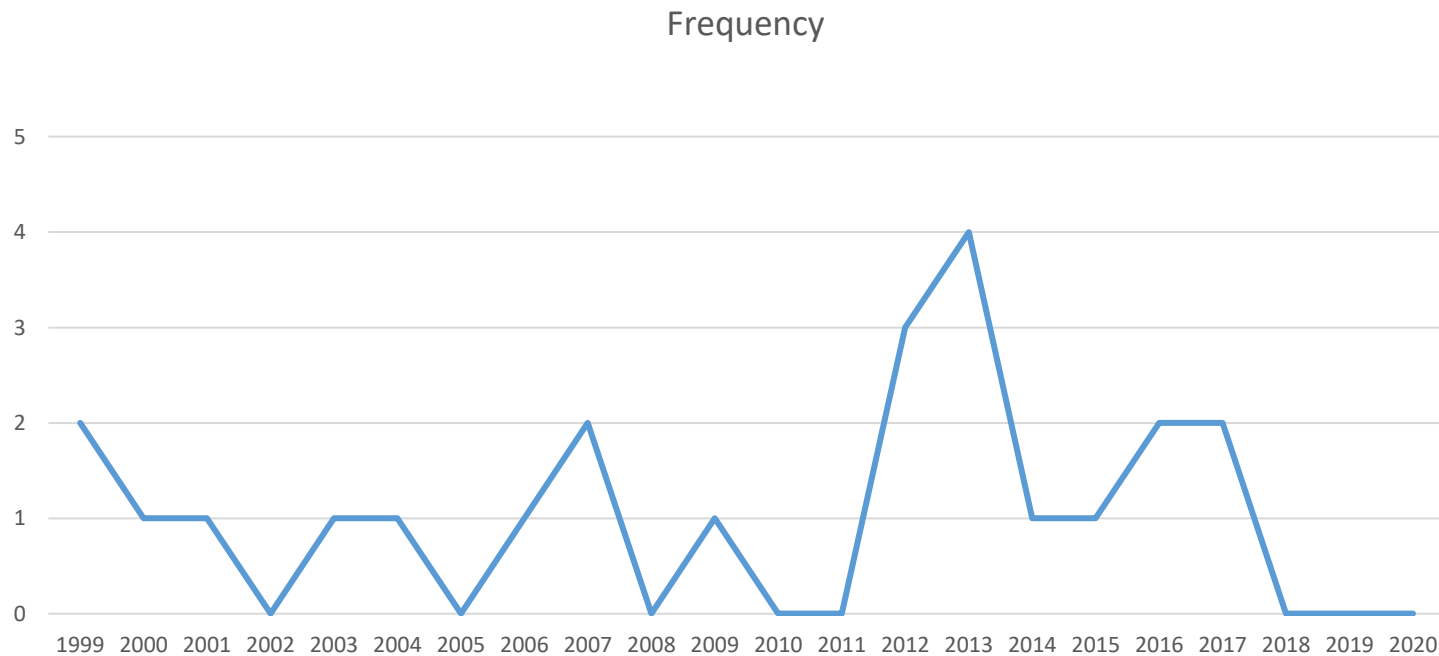


- The original description of this phrase was made by the author of this article in [Adamson 2018: 66–67], which also examined the regularly synonymous nomination of *opornyj specialist*.
- At the new stage of the study, firstly, some residents of Russia were interviewed about how they understand the meaning of this nomination, and, secondly, this phrase was separately investigated according to the Intergrum system.
- This provides more room for interpretation of meaning.

- For this nomination, it is difficult to find an exact match. In the Russian discourse there may be the following correspondences: *social'nyj rabotnik, konsultant, assistent*, which implies another semantic content. This mainly – assistance to a specialist, for example, a seller or lawyer.
- It is noteworthy that quite recently one Russian journalist asked a question about the Russian language in Estonia, and when asked how she understands the phrase „*opornoie lico*," she asked: "What is it?"
- That is, it is possible that for most Russians, even if the nomination is used in the texts (with a low frequency), it will be alien.

- In Estonia, the phrase „opornoie lico" is used in meanings corresponding to the values of "assistant, specialist providing support to a person with limited opportunities, special needs, an elderly person," etc., but including *opornoie lico* call the student's assistant, a student who needs to adapt, navigate, and cope with the educational program.
- On the one hand, we are talking about an analogue of a social worker, or about an assistant to whom you can turn for support and advice
- When communicating with colleagues from Latvia, it turned out that this nomination is consistent with the *assistant*.

- According to the Integrum system, it was possible to determine the year that this nomination came into use since 1999.



- As you can see from the graph, the frequency of use of this unit is extremely low: it fluctuates within the 1–4 of use per year, despite the fact that in the National Corpus of the Russian Language (*ruscorpora.ru*) the occurrence is zero.

## *Семейный врач (perearst)*

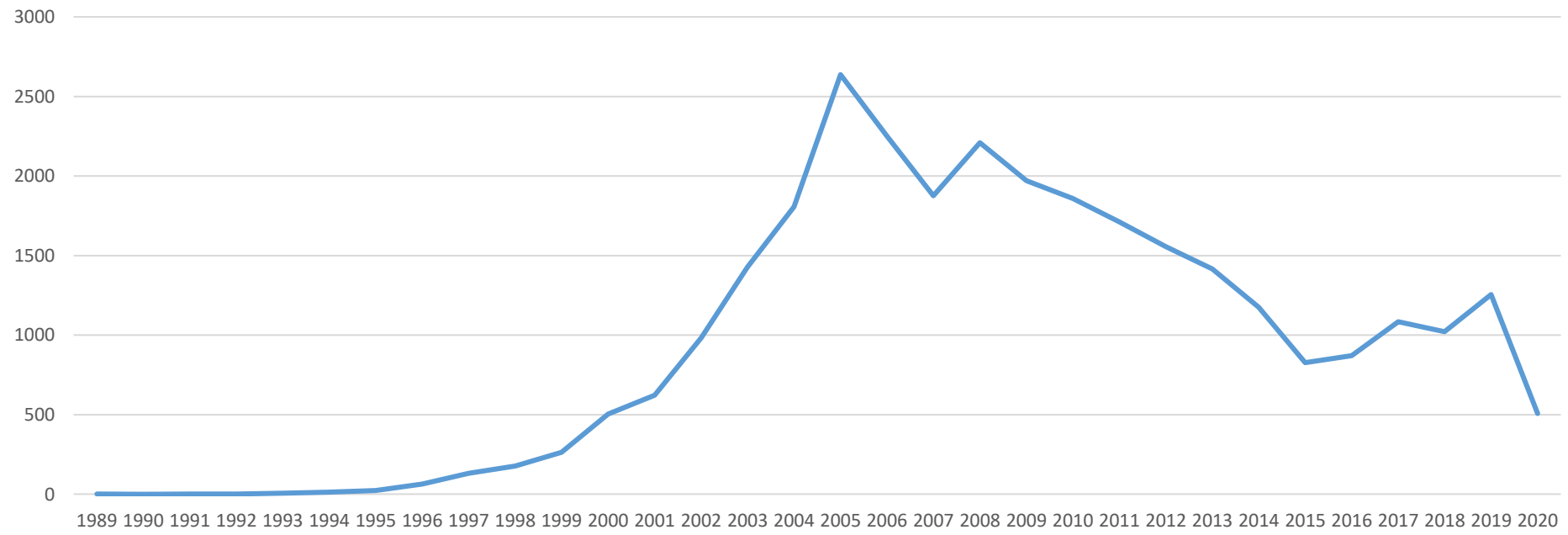
- A conversation with residents of Russia (St. Petersburg, Moscow) showed that the *uchaskovyj vrach* 'district doctor', or *terapevt* ('therapist'), corresponds to the "Estonian" 'family doctor' for the functions performed.
- There is also a *vrach obshhei praktiki (VOP)* who usually works in rural areas or paid care facilities.
- Thus, there is no complete compliance with the Estonian phrase.

- Also, some residents of Russia say that they also have such a concept as *semejnyj vrach* ('family doctor').
- This is confirmed by both *ruscorpor* and the *Integrum* system.
- In *ruscorpor*, this nomination has 31 entries, which does not indicate a high frequency of its use.

- The nomination *semejnyj vrach* has been found in Russian texts since 1989. If you look at the content of the texts, it can be noted that in the late 1980s – early 1990s, the nomination in question was used as a designation of something new that was not related to the daily life of an ordinary person.
- By the mid-2000s, the emergence of a "new medical specialty" – *semejnyj vrach* is already indicated:



'frequency



# Praseologisms

- Another area that deserves some attention is the set phrases of the idiom itself and precedent phenomena (quotes that have passed into idioms), which are used in the context of Estonia.
- On the one hand, their use does not differ from that adopted in the "general" Russian language, on the other hand, there are turns, often transformed, interspersed with images of Estonian realities.
- Here are just a few of them.

- Горячие парни из Эстонии при дверях Европарламента (<https://www.mke.ee/mnenie/vyacheslav-ivanov-goryachie-parni-iz-estonii-pri-dveryakh-evroparlamenta>) - here we are dealing with a stereotype expressed in antifrasis, which refers to a joke. Thus we are dealing with a precedent text.

- Правящая коалиция боится налоговой реформы как чёрт ладана (<https://www.mke.ee/mnenie/rajmond-kalyulajd-pravyashchaya-koalitsiya-boitsya-nalogovoj-reformy-kak-chjort-ladana>) - the use of idiom in its usual form, but is included in the context using the distributors of the offer. Meaning the idiom *afraid as hell of incense*.
- Incense – ладан
- Devil – чёрт

- **Квартирный вопрос здесь и сейчас**
- Булгаков когда-то заметил, что квартирный вопрос испортил москвичей. Сегодня в Таллинне этот же вопрос отравляет жизнь многим горожанам не в меньшей степени. Особенно молодым. (<https://www.mke.ee/mnenie/vladimir-vajngort-kvartirnyj-vopros-zdes-i-sejchas>) - the phrase *kvartirnyj vopros* ('housing issue') in the consciousness of a native speaker of the Russian language is associated with the novel by M. Bulgakov "The Master and Margarita," if it is well read. The author of this article does not hide this, includes it in the lead of his text.

- Thus, we can observe in the media texts in Russian in Estonia a variety of forms of set phrases.
- It also indicates an emotional attitude, a reaction to what is happening in public life.
- If in the first part of the message we dealt with "emotionless," business turnover, then in the second part of it - with emotional.

Thank you for your attention!