

Discourse of Russian-language radio broadcasts of Estonia (on the example of Radio 4)

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- Dictionary (on web-site) and other useful sources „Russian Language in Estonia" has been compiled, available at
- venekeelest.weebly.com;
venekeeleeestis.blogspot.com

Why was this topic selected?

- I had been observing the peculiarities of the Russian language in Estonia for a considerable period, as well as Russian language usage outside of Russia, since 2009. Consequently, several articles have been published on this subject (the latest of which is scheduled for release this year).

- Initially, the observations focused on the vocabulary found in Tallinn city newspapers, commonly referred to as information sheets distributed in city districts. Subsequently, to substantiate the findings, it was essential to seek evidence, which led to the utilization of the Integrum database system. Therefore, subsequent research endeavors were dedicated to examining the instances of word and phrase usage available within this database.

- The Integrum database facilitated the discovery of intriguing information pertaining to the desired language units. A search methodology developed by G. Nikiporets-Takigawa was employed. This method enabled the identification of the earliest occurrences of these units, their prevalence across various text types, and the geographic scope of their distribution. This encompassed understanding whether these language units were exclusive to Estonia or were also used in other countries. For instance, it was found that certain words were prevalent not only in the Russian-language discourse of Latvia and Germany but also in the USA, China, and Israel (e.g., "ID-card").

- Moreover, it was observed that any linguistic nomination originating within Estonian discourse eventually found its way into the discourses of other countries. Text analysis indicated that these nominations often emerged within the context of contacts in Estonia (such as those along the Finno-Ugric line or in business contexts), and subsequently, they appeared in Russian media texts as well, examples being целевое учреждение "the target institution" and инфочас "information hour."

- In September 2022, we organized an international seminar at the university dedicated to addressing the challenge of establishing a corpus of the Russian language in the Baltic countries (Baltic States, Scandinavia, Poland, Germany).

- For increased persuasiveness, a broader range of materials is necessary, including firsthand accounts of spoken language. One approach involves conducting interviews with Russian-speaking Estonians, although this can pose challenges. To some extent, this method can be implemented through student-led initiatives (inishativs) focused on collecting live data from respondents, typically involving schoolchildren, as our students are predominantly future educators.

- Another viable method, which has long been advocated and pursued intensively, is the examination of spontaneous speech in media broadcasts. For instance, analyzing dialogues between hosts and guests, as well as the contributions of listeners calling into the studio, provides valuable material for advancing research in my opinion.

Russian-language radio in Estonia

- There are seven Russian-language radio channels in Estonia, and recently it was discovered that there is also a christian radio channel, with its studio located in Narva:
 - - DFM Эстония
 - - Русское Радио
 - - Радио 4
 - - Sky Радио
 - - Народное радио Эстонии
 - - Юмор FM Эстония
 - - Радио волна
 - - Семейное радио Эли, Нарва (christian radio)

<https://r4.err.ee/>

- We will focus our attention on Radio 4, as it is on the programs of this channel that guests who participate in interviews and conversations are invited. Moreover, the programming on this channel encompasses diverse content.
- The guests' speeches are quite detailed and enable linguistic observations to be made.
- The primary motivation for these observations stems from the interest in the Russian-language discourse of Estonia, as mentioned earlier.

- As the foundation for the observations in this message, we will concentrate on the „Sergeeva“ program (программа «Сергеева»), which regularly hosts a diverse range of individuals.
- The program is publicly presented as follows:

"Sergeeva's show" - a discussion about the significant, the pressing, and the unclear.

Guests invited to the show are either specialists in their respective fields or highly experienced figures within certain domains.

- Looking ahead, it's worth mentioning that within the speech of both guests and occasionally the presenters, one can observe distinctive features of the Russian-language discourse in Estonia.

- For this study, dialogues from three one-hour programs were similarly analyzed, amounting to a total of three hours of focused listening.
- Additionally, the last 15 minutes of the program are typically designated for calls from radio listeners, although this is not always the case. During this time, one can still observe the speech patterns of the callers.
- As the presenter introduces the guests, there is an opportunity to research, for example, via Google, to learn more about these individuals.

- Such additional research also enables us to identify the linguistic characteristics of the speakers' personalities.
- In particular, the guests of these programs included individuals who had previously resided in Russia, or, for instance, another guest of Romanian origin, all of whom currently reside in Estonia.
- The selection of programs was not deliberate; rather, the listening process unfolded sequentially.

- It happened that our attention was drawn to conversations with two different psychologists and a traveler-blogger. Psychologists were both women, while the blogger was a man.
- The programs were titled: "Love Addiction," "Budget Travel," and "Neurographics".

- Conclusions Drawn from Observations of these Broadcasts.
- Thematic coherence was maintained through vocabulary that aligned with corresponding semantic fields.
- For instance, in the case of psychology, the vocabulary used included:

сепарация, индивидуализация, подавлять эмоции, психологическая уязвимость, искаженное «я», треугольник Карпмана, психологическое состояние, зависимые отношения, аффирмация, агрессивная среда (separation, individuation, suppress emotions, psychological vulnerability, distorted self, Karpman triangle, psychological state, codependent relationships, affirmation, aggressive environment)

- During a discussion centered around travel:

заскринить билеты, лоукостер, аэропорт, airbnb, букинг, хайкинг (to screenshot tickets, low-cost carrier, airport, Airbnb, Booking.com, hiking) and also geographical place names and names of nationalities: Bergamo (Tallinn - Milano (Bergamo) regularly flies from Tallinn to Tallinn, operated by Ryanair), Arlanda Airport (Stockholm); турки.

- A significant amount of colloquial vocabulary was observed in all the dialogues listened to, including set phrases:
- Не по карману; всё как-то через одно место; накипело; вы знаете... (as the start of a replica response); обесточивать себя; папа-подкаблучник; позитивчик; нужно понимать; мем: а что, так можно было?; тусить; кайфанул; лезть с лопатой в бессознательное; ужас-ужас; иди и не балуйся; не пойму, что хочу: то ли чаю, то ли замуж; прям; с ножом у горла; весь прикол в том, что.

Other features

- Phonetics: stress
- БергАмо; из аэропортА
- Errors and variable use of forms:
- В аэропорте/в аэропорту; местных турков
- Estonisms:
- билеты edasi-tagasi; семейный врач. Direct translation of Estonian (or may be also English) nominations is also possible: короткий вариант предложения (short offer), балловая система.

- Anglicisms: худи, лайфхак, суши-шопер, мини-гайд, фуд-блогеры, левелап, коучинг,
- Quotes, which in Russian linguistics are called precedent texts:
- Все стало вокруг голубым и зеленым (from the song from old soviet film); the meme that was listed above.

- Positions in the radio transmission format under consideration:
- 1. radio show host
- 2. guest
- 3. listeners

Or the second variant:

- 1. radio show host
- 2. guest
- 3. listeners
- 4. callers

Conclusions

- The peculiarities of the speech of the guests of the programs depended on the peculiarities of their linguistic personalities.
- One conversation, about "Love Addiction," was pretty pure. The other two conversations were with pronounced features of colloquial speech.
- It was also possible to observe what is characteristic of the Russian language as a whole, as well as traces of the influence of other languages.
- For even greater objectivity in the future, it is planned to expand the repertoire of listened programs.

- THANK YOU!