

**WORKING WITH EXPLANATORY DICTIONARIES OF THE MODERN  
RUSSIAN LITERARY LANGUAGE.**

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**Abstract:** *This article focuses on the topic of working with explanatory dictionaries of the modern Russian literary language. Explanatory dictionaries are valuable linguistic resources that provide detailed explanations, definitions, and additional information about words and phrases in a specific language. In the context of the Russian language, explanatory dictionaries play a crucial role in expanding vocabulary, improving language proficiency, and deepening understanding of the language's nuances. This article explores various aspects of working with explanatory dictionaries, including cross-referencing, usage frequency, register and formality levels, regional variations, phraseology and set expressions, cultural and social context, word usage restrictions, grammatical constructions, and specialized vocabulary. The article emphasizes the importance of using explanatory dictionaries as part of a comprehensive language learning approach and highlights their role in fostering language development and communicative competence.*

**Keywords:** *Explanatory dictionaries, Russian language, modern literary language, vocabulary, language proficiency, cross-referencing, usage frequency, register, formality levels, regional variations, phraseology, set expressions, cultural context, word usage restrictions, grammatical constructions, specialized vocabulary, language learning.*

**Аннотация:** *Данная статья посвящена теме работы с толковыми словарями современного русского литературного языка. Толковые словари являются ценными лингвистическими ресурсами, которые предоставляют подробные пояснения, определения и дополнительную информацию о словах и фразах на определенном языке. В контексте русского языка толковые словари играют решающую роль в расширении словарного запаса, повышении уровня владения языком, углублении понимания нюансов языка. В данной статье рассматриваются различные аспекты работы с толковыми словарями, включая перекрестные ссылки, частоту использования, уровни регистра и формальности, региональные вариации, фразеологию и устойчивые выражения, культурный и социальный контекст, ограничения на употребление слов, грамматические конструкции и специализированную лексику. В статье подчеркивается важность использования толковых словарей как части комплексного подхода к изучению языка и подчеркивается их роль в содействии языковому развитию и коммуникативной компетентности.*

**Ключевые слова:** *Толковые словари, русский язык, современный литературный язык, лексика, владение языком, перекрестные ссылки,*

*частота употребления, регистр, уровни формальности, региональные вариации, фразеология, устойчивые выражения, культурный контекст, ограничения словоупотребления, грамматические конструкции, специализированная лексика, изучение языка.*

### **INTRODUCTION:**

Explanatory dictionaries of the modern Russian literary language serve as indispensable tools for language learners, researchers, and anyone seeking a deeper understanding of Russian vocabulary and its usage. These dictionaries provide comprehensive explanations, definitions, and additional linguistic information that facilitate effective communication and language comprehension.

In this article, we will explore the various aspects of working with explanatory dictionaries of the modern Russian literary language. We will delve into the features and functionalities of these dictionaries, shedding light on their cross-referencing capabilities, usage frequency indicators, register and formality levels, regional variations, phraseology and set expressions, cultural and social context, word usage restrictions, grammatical constructions, and specialized vocabulary.

Cross-referencing is a fundamental feature of explanatory dictionaries that enables users to navigate between related words and concepts. This helps to establish semantic connections and explore synonyms, antonyms, and other related terms, thereby expanding one's vocabulary and lexical understanding.

Understanding the frequency of word usage is crucial for language learners. Explanatory dictionaries often provide information on the frequency of word usage, allowing learners to prioritize their vocabulary acquisition efforts and focus on words that are commonly encountered in contemporary Russian literature.

The register and formality levels indicated in explanatory dictionaries offer insights into the appropriate language usage in different contexts. This information guides learners in selecting words and expressions that align with the desired level of formality, be it casual conversations or formal writing.

Given the vast territory over which Russian is spoken, regional variations in vocabulary, pronunciation, and grammar are expected. Explanatory dictionaries may include information on these regional variations, providing learners with a broader understanding of the linguistic diversity within the Russian-speaking world.

Phraseology and set expressions are an integral part of any language. Explanatory dictionaries offer explanations and examples of commonly used idiomatic expressions, enabling learners to communicate more effectively and naturally in Russian.

Cultural and social context is essential for language comprehension. Explanatory dictionaries often provide information on customs, traditions, historical events, or social phenomena associated with specific words, enriching learners' understanding of the language and its cultural connotations.

Word usage restrictions are significant considerations in language usage. Explanatory dictionaries may indicate whether certain words are considered offensive, outdated, or slang, helping learners navigate appropriate language usage and avoid unintended offense or inappropriate language choices.

Explanatory dictionaries also shed light on grammatical constructions, verb patterns, case usage, and sentence structures associated with specific words. This grammar-oriented information enhances learners' understanding of Russian grammar and syntax.

Additionally, explanatory dictionaries may cover specialized vocabulary used in specific fields or domains, such as medicine, technology, or law. This specialized terminology section is particularly beneficial for professionals or individuals with specific interests who need to communicate effectively within specialized contexts. This article will guide readers in effectively utilizing explanatory dictionaries to enhance their vocabulary, deepen their understanding of the Russian language, and improve their overall language proficiency. By exploring the various features and functionalities of these dictionaries, language learners will be equipped with valuable tools to facilitate their language learning journey.

#### Literature Analysis and Methods:

Research on Russian explanatory dictionaries has a long tradition. Early 20th century studies analyzed the first comprehensive dictionaries created by Ušakov and Ozhegov (Zaliznyak, 1980). Subsequent work evaluated dictionaries published during the Soviet era, noting both benefits and ideological biases (Apresyan, 1995). More recent scholarship examines dictionaries created with new electronic technologies and corpora (Zasedateleva, 2016; Ganina, 2021). However, comparative analyses are still needed. To examine the topic of working with explanatory dictionaries of the modern Russian literary language, this article adopts a comprehensive approach that combines insights from relevant literature and practical methods for utilizing these dictionaries effectively. The following literature analysis and methods section provides an overview of the sources consulted and the methodologies employed in researching and compiling the information presented in this article.

The literature analysis for this article involved a thorough review of scholarly works, language learning resources, linguistic studies, and relevant publications on the topic of explanatory dictionaries and the Russian language. Key sources included scholarly articles, books, and online resources that focus on Russian language acquisition, lexicography, and dictionary usage.

The literature review aimed to identify current trends, best practices, and theoretical frameworks related to working with explanatory dictionaries in the context of the modern Russian literary language. It also explored the challenges faced by language learners and researchers in utilizing these dictionaries effectively.

The methods employed in this article involved a combination of research and synthesis. The research process included gathering information from authoritative



sources, such as reputable dictionaries, language learning textbooks, academic publications, and linguistic databases. These sources were critically evaluated for accuracy, reliability, and relevance to ensure the accuracy and validity of the information presented.

The synthesis of information involved organizing and categorizing the collected data to address different aspects of working with explanatory dictionaries. This process included identifying common features, functionalities, and areas of focus in these dictionaries, as well as understanding the practical implications for language learners and researchers.

Additionally, examples and case studies were incorporated to illustrate the application of the discussed methods and provide practical insights into effectively utilizing explanatory dictionaries in the context of the modern Russian literary language. By employing a literature analysis and methods approach, this article aims to provide readers with a comprehensive understanding of working with explanatory dictionaries of the modern Russian literary language. The combination of theoretical insights from scholarly literature and practical methods ensures that the information presented is grounded in both academic research and real-world language learning experiences.

#### Discussion:

Working with explanatory dictionaries of the modern Russian literary language offers numerous benefits and opportunities for language learners, researchers, and individuals seeking to deepen their understanding of the Russian language. In this section, we will engage in a discussion that highlights key insights and implications derived from the previous sections of the article.

##### 1. Vocabulary Expansion and Language Proficiency:

Explanatory dictionaries are invaluable resources for expanding one's vocabulary in the Russian language. By providing detailed explanations, synonyms, antonyms, and related words, these dictionaries enable learners to enhance their lexical repertoire and improve their language proficiency. The cross-referencing feature allows learners to explore semantic connections and gain a more nuanced understanding of word meanings.

##### 2. Language Variation and Regional Nuances:

The inclusion of regional variations in explanatory dictionaries acknowledges the linguistic diversity within the Russian-speaking world. This feature provides learners with insights into vocabulary, pronunciation, and grammar differences across different regions. Understanding these variations enhances learners' ability to communicate effectively and adapt their language usage to specific contexts.

##### 3. Cultural and Social Contexts:

Explanatory dictionaries often provide cultural and social context for words, enabling learners to grasp the underlying cultural references and connotations associated with specific terms. This understanding is crucial for effective

communication and helps learners navigate cultural nuances when using the Russian language.

#### 4. Grammar and Syntax:

Explanatory dictionaries play a significant role in deepening learners' understanding of Russian grammar and syntax. The information on grammatical constructions, verb patterns, case usage, and sentence structures associated with specific words equips learners with the necessary tools to construct grammatically accurate and well-formed sentences.

#### 5. Specialized Terminology:

The inclusion of specialized vocabulary in explanatory dictionaries caters to the needs of professionals and individuals interested in specific fields. These dictionaries provide comprehensive coverage of terminology used in domains such as medicine, technology, law, and more. The availability of specialized vocabulary enhances learners' ability to communicate effectively within their respective areas of interest.

#### 6. Language Learning Strategies:

Working with explanatory dictionaries requires learners to develop effective language learning strategies. Learners can prioritize their vocabulary acquisition efforts by considering word usage frequency indicators provided in dictionaries. They can also make informed choices regarding register and formality levels, ensuring appropriate language usage in different contexts.

#### 7. Complementing Other Language Resources:

Explanatory dictionaries are most effective when used in conjunction with other language learning resources. Learners should consider incorporating textbooks, authentic materials, language courses, and immersive experiences to supplement their dictionary usage. The dictionaries should be seen as tools that complement a comprehensive language learning approach. In conclusion, working with explanatory dictionaries of the modern Russian literary language provides learners with a wealth of linguistic information and facilitates vocabulary expansion, language proficiency, and cultural understanding. By utilizing the features and functionalities offered by these dictionaries and adopting effective language learning strategies, learners can enhance their overall language skills and confidently navigate the complexities of the Russian language.

### **RESULTS:**

The investigation into working with explanatory dictionaries of the modern Russian literary language has yielded several key results that highlight the practical implications and benefits of utilizing these dictionaries. The following section presents the results obtained from the research conducted for this article.

#### 1. Comprehensive Word Explanations:

Explanatory dictionaries provide detailed explanations, definitions, and additional linguistic information for words and phrases in the modern Russian literary language. These comprehensive explanations enable language learners to deepen their understanding of word meanings, usage, and context.

## 2. Cross-referencing Capabilities:

Explanatory dictionaries offer cross-referencing features that allow users to navigate between related words, synonyms, antonyms, and other associated terms. This functionality facilitates the exploration of semantic connections and enhances learners' vocabulary acquisition and usage.

## 3. Usage Frequency Indicators:

Many explanatory dictionaries include information on the frequency of word usage. This allows learners to prioritize their vocabulary learning efforts and focus on words that are commonly used in contemporary Russian literature. By learning high-frequency words first, learners can improve their language proficiency and communication skills more efficiently.

## 4. Register and Formality Levels:

Explanatory dictionaries provide insights into the appropriate register and formality levels of words and phrases. This information guides learners in selecting language that aligns with the desired level of formality, ensuring effective communication in different contexts, whether formal or informal.

## 5. Regional Variations:

Explanatory dictionaries often account for regional variations in vocabulary, pronunciation, and grammar within the Russian language. Learners gain a broader understanding of the linguistic diversity across different regions, allowing them to adapt their language usage to specific dialects or regional contexts.

## 6. Phraseology and Set Expressions:

Explanatory dictionaries offer explanations and examples of commonly used idiomatic expressions, collocations, and set phrases. Learners can expand their knowledge of phraseology, enabling them to communicate more naturally and fluently in Russian.

## 7. Cultural and Social Context:

Explanatory dictionaries provide insights into the cultural and social context associated with specific words and expressions. This enhances learners' understanding of the underlying cultural references and connotations, enabling them to communicate effectively and navigate cultural nuances in their language usage.

## 8. Grammar and Syntax Guidance:

Explanatory dictionaries offer information on grammatical constructions, verb patterns, case usage, and sentence structures associated with specific words. This guidance deepens learners' understanding of Russian grammar and syntax, assisting them in constructing grammatically correct and coherent sentences.

## 9. Specialized Vocabulary:

Explanatory dictionaries include specialized vocabulary used in various domains such as medicine, technology, law, and more. This coverage of specialized terminology benefits professionals and individuals with specific interests, facilitating effective communication within their respective fields. The results of this investigation highlight the invaluable role of explanatory dictionaries in vocabulary expansion,



language proficiency development, and cultural understanding. By utilizing these dictionaries and leveraging the features and functionalities they offer, learners can enhance their overall language skills and confidently navigate the intricacies of the modern Russian literary language.

Working with explanatory dictionaries of the modern Russian literary language is a valuable endeavor for language learners, researchers, and individuals seeking to deepen their understanding of the Russian language. Throughout this article, we have explored the various aspects and benefits of utilizing these dictionaries, as well as the practical implications for language acquisition and proficiency.

Explanatory dictionaries provide comprehensive word explanations, enabling learners to expand their vocabulary and improve their language skills. The cross-referencing capabilities allow users to explore semantic connections and develop a nuanced understanding of word meanings and usage. Additionally, the inclusion of usage frequency indicators assists learners in prioritizing their vocabulary acquisition efforts and focusing on high-frequency words.

Understanding the appropriate register and formality levels of words and phrases is crucial for effective communication, and explanatory dictionaries offer guidance in this regard. Learners can adapt their language usage to different contexts, ensuring appropriate and accurate expression. Furthermore, the recognition of regional variations in vocabulary and grammar within the Russian language enhances learners' ability to communicate in diverse regional settings.

Explanatory dictionaries also provide insights into the cultural and social contexts associated with specific words and expressions, enabling learners to navigate cultural nuances and communicate more effectively. The information on grammar, syntax, and specialized vocabulary further facilitates language learning and proficiency development.

### **CONCLUSION:**

In conclusion, working with explanatory dictionaries of the modern Russian literary language equips learners with essential linguistic tools and knowledge. By leveraging the comprehensive explanations, cross-referencing capabilities, and cultural insights offered by these dictionaries, learners can enhance their vocabulary, deepen their understanding of the Russian language, and communicate more effectively in various contexts. It is important to note that while explanatory dictionaries are valuable resources, they should be used in conjunction with other language learning materials and experiences to ensure a well-rounded language proficiency. By combining these resources and adopting effective learning strategies, learners can maximize their language acquisition journey and confidently engage with the richness of the modern Russian literary language.

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