PRONOUNCIAL AND ACCENTOLOGICAL NORMS OF THE RUSSIAN LITERARY LANGUAGE

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Annotation. The article examines the pronunciation and accentological norms of the Russian literary language as a key component of the language norms system and a crucial indicator of oral speech culture. The research problem lies in the instability of orthoepic and accentological norms in the context of active language changes, the expansion of communicative spheres, and the increasing variability of speech practice, which makes their codification and teaching difficult. The purpose of the article is to comprehensively analyze the pronunciation and accentological norms of the Russian literary language, identify the factors of their dynamics, and define the boundaries of normative variation in modern linguistic consciousness.

Keywords: orthoepy, accentology, pronunciation norms, stress, Russian literary language, speech culture.

Introduction

Pronunciation and accentological norms occupy a special place in the system of Russian literary language norms, as they ensure the unity of spoken language and perform a communicative-regulatory function. Unlike orthographic and punctuation norms fixed in written form and distinguished by relative stability, pronunciation and stress norms exist primarily in spoken language and are therefore subject to more intensive changes.

The relevance of the research is determined by a number of factors. Firstly, in modern society, the role of oral public speech has significantly increased: the space of media communication has expanded, the number of speeches in the digital environment has increased, and audiovisual formats are actively developing. Secondly, the Russian language functions as a means of interethnic communication and as a foreign language, which increases the need for clear and unambiguous regulatory guidelines. Thirdly, there is a weakening of the traditional mechanisms of language norm and an increase in permissible variability, which often leads to a blurring of the boundaries between normative and non-normative pronunciation.

In the scientific tradition, the problems of orthoepy and accentology have been addressed in the works of L. V. Shcherba, R. I. Avanesov, M. V. Panov, L. A. Verbitskaya, V. V. Lopatin, I. L. Kalenchuk, and other researchers. However, the accelerated pace of linguistic changes and the transformation of the communicative environment require clarification of a number of provisions of the classical theory of pronunciation norms.

The purpose of this article is to systematically analyze the pronunciation and accentological norms of the Russian literary language in their current state. To achieve the set goal, the following tasks are addressed: defining the essence and functions of the pronunciation norm; characterizing the main types of orthoepic and accentological norms; identifying the causes of normative fluctuations; considering the role of codifying sources and pedagogical practice in the formation of correct pronunciation.

Research methods

The principles of system-structural, functional, and normative language analysis served as the methodological basis for the research. The following methods were used in the work: descriptive method - to characterize pronunciation and accentological norms; comparative-historical method - to identify stress and pronunciation dynamics; normative-stylistic analysis - to assess the correspondence of linguistic facts to literary norms; contextual analysis - to interpret examples from modern spoken language.

The empirical basis of the research was the data of orthoepic and accentological dictionaries of the Russian language, materials of the National Corpus of the Russian Language, as well as examples from mass media, public speeches, and educational practice. Comparing dictionary data with real language usage allowed for the identification of stable norm zones and normative variation areas.

Results

The pronunciation norm represents a historically established and socially approved system of rules regulating the sound aspect of literary language. According to R. I. Avanesov's definition, the orthoepic norm is mandatory for native speakers of the literary language and serves as a means of maintaining its unity [1].

The functions of the pronunciation norm are diverse. The communicative function ensures mutual understanding between the participants in speech communication; the social-identification function allows for the differentiation of literary and non-literary speech; the cultural function is related to the formation of linguistic taste and speech culture.

In the Russian literary language, the pronunciation norms of vowels and consonants, the norms of their positional changes, and the pronunciation norms of borrowed vocabulary are distinguished. Among the basic orthoepic characteristics are the reduction of vowels in the unstressed position, the assimilation of consonants by voicelessness - voicedness, and softness - firmness.

Violation of these norms is generally perceived as a sign of colloquialism or regional pronunciation. At the same time, in the modern language, there is an expansion of permissible orthoepic variation, which is related to the change in the pace of speech and the influence of colloquial communication.

Accentological norm regulates the placement of verbal stress and is one of the most complex subsystems of language. Russian stress is free and mobile, which means the possibility of its movement within a word and the differentiation of forms and meanings.

According to M. V. Panov, stress performs a crucial morphological and semantic function, and therefore, its violation can lead to a distortion of the meaning of the statement [2]. It is the accentual norm that most often becomes the object of speech errors.

Modern Russian demonstrates a tendency towards accentological variation. In a number of cases, dictionaries record two equal stress variants (dogovor - dogovor, torti - torty), which reflects the process of gradual change of the norm.

However, it is necessary to distinguish between normative variability and erroneous stress arising under the influence of analogy or colloquial speech. The normative status of a variant is determined by its prevalence, functional suitability, and fixation in authoritative sources [3].

Analysis of the material allowed us to identify the following causes of normative deviations: the influence of the dialectal environment, the interference of other languages, the action of analogy, as well as the influence of media speech. Mass media plays a dual role, simultaneously disseminating standard pronunciation patterns and consolidating disputed variants.

Debate

The obtained results confirm the dynamic nature of pronunciation and accentological norms. The norm is not static: it changes under the influence of linguistic and extralinguistic factors, while retaining its regulatory function.

Activities related to the codification of norms are of particular importance. Orthoepic and accentological dictionaries fix permissible variants and thereby guide speech practice. At the same time, excessive rigid codification can conflict with live language usage.

Pedagogical practice plays a significant role in stabilizing pronunciation norms. In the process of teaching Russian, it is necessary to form stable normative pronunciation skills based on authoritative dictionaries and examples of public speech. This is especially important in the context of a multilingual environment and the teaching of Russian as a non-native language.

Conclusion

As a result of the conducted research, it was established that the pronunciation and accentological norms of the Russian literary language represent a complex and dynamic system. Their instability is due to the interaction of tradition and language evolution, as well as socio-cultural factors.

The aim of the research is to comprehensively analyze orthoepic and accentual norms, identify the reasons for their variability, and clarify the role of normative sources and pedagogical practice in maintaining speech culture. The obtained conclusions can be used in scientific research, teaching Russian language, and developing educational and methodological manuals.

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