



FACULTY
OF PHILOLOGY



LANGUAGE THEORY

MASTER'S PROGRAMME DEGREE



PROGRAM ADVANTAGES

- ✓ The combination of the general theory of language and the practice of studying the Russian language.
- ✓ Thanks to the international composition of the study group, you can build your own network of professional international contacts already at the university.
- ✓ A feature of training is the comparison of the Russian language with foreign languages, focusing on the needs of the countries of students' origins.
- ✓ Lectures and master classes of invited specialists, including foreign ones, are regularly held.
- ✓ The opportunity to participate in student exchange programs with partner universities.
- ✓ A significant proportion of the research work, the opportunity to participate in the scientific projects of the department, the ability to prepare for training and research in graduate school.
- ✓ A number of lectures and master classes are conducted by invited experts from the Institute of Linguistics of the Russian Academy of Sciences, the French National Center for Scientific Research, and the University of Bordeaux-3.
- ✓ For practical exercises, the possibilities of the cabinet of philological sciences and the educational and scientific laboratory of experimental linguistics and phonetics are used.



STUDYING PROCESS

120 credits.

Lectures, practical classes and independent work, pedagogical and undergraduate practice, research work.



PHILOLOGY IN THE SYSTEM OF MODERN HUMANITARIAN KNOWLEDGE

- The origins of the formation and contemporary problems of hermeneutics, the philosophy of language. The essence and application of logical analysis of language. Associative methods in linguistics, psycholinguistics, psychology. The evolution of language and the evolution of artistic means: poetics and linguistics, Russian formalism: basic principles, the history of the school.
- Methodological achievements of structuralism.
- Neurolinguistics.
- Culture as an invaluable concept, the concept of secondary modeling systems.
- The development of speech ability.
- Linguistic pragmatics.
- Semantics as represented by linguists and psychologists. Sociolinguistics and language policy.



THEORY AND HISTORY OF LINGUISTICS

- This course is a presentation of linguistic methodology in the aspect of the theory and history of linguistics and theory of language (general linguistics), taking into account the time retrospective and perspective. The linguistic methodology is based on the philosophical-empirical and system-typological principles of the characteristics of an object – a language and aspects of its study. This discipline suggests an integrative approach based on the consideration of philosophical and linguistic paradigms of the formation and development of language theory. If language, according to F. de Saussure, is commonly understood as a “system of systems,” then linguistic methodology requires representation as a complex of paradigms or as a complex paradigm of knowledge of a language, its forms of existence, its development, methods of describing and studying the language, its connections with other sciences.



- The main trend is presented, on the one hand, as the development of the interaction of philosophy and logic and, on the other hand, as the theory of language. If a long period of linguistics developed within the framework of philosophy as a comprehensive knowledge, then, having acquired its subject and method, it became an independent science, and, subsequently, at the turn of the XIX–XX centuries, it even served as the basis for individual philosophical schools and directions.



HISTORY OF RUSSIAN LITERARY LANGUAGE

- The introductory part of the course gives an idea of the history of the Russian literary language as a science. The object and subject of the history of the Russian literary language are determined. A conceptual apparatus is formed (the concept of text, the concept of a literary language — a literary language as a historical category, the concept of a language situation, types of language situations, principles of text typology). An idea of the structure of the course is given.
- The main part of the course is divided into two sections: “The Medieval Period of the Development of the Russian Literary Language” and “The Secular Period of the Development of the Russian Literary Language”.



SEMIOTICS

- Subject and tasks of semiotics; semiotics as an interdisciplinary science; basic concepts and terms. Concept of sign. The two-sided nature of the sign (F. de Saussure). The meaning and sense of the language sign (G. Frege). Classification of signs (G.E. Kreidlin, M.A. Krongauz, Ch. S. Peirce). Special attention is paid to the classification of signs of Ch. Pearce. Semiosis (C. Morris). Semiosphere (Yu. M. Lotman). Three dimensions of semiotics (Ch. Morris).
- The main directions and schools of semiotics: Russian formal school. V.B. Shklovsky, R. Jakobson, Yu. N. Tynyanov. Moscow-Tartu Semiotic School. Yu.M. Lotman. Poststructuralism in semiotics. Modern directions of semiotic research. The evolution of basic semiotic concepts: from utterance to intertext, hypertext, conceptology and the infosphere.



RHETORIC

- The rhetoric of an ancient period; Antique rhetoric; Sophists and dialecticians; Mayevtika (meevitika) and rhetoric; Hellenistic rhetoric and Asianism; Atticism, Roman rhetoric, Caesar, Cicero, Quintilian; Early medieval scholasticism: trivium and quadrivium, logicism; Russian rhetorical tradition, rhetoric of M.V. Lomonosov; Anglo-American practical rhetoric; Liege structural rhetoric; Theory of argumentation; Rhetoric and political discourse; Language as a tool of manipulation (“black” rhetoric); The non-rhetorical paradigm.



PHILOSOPHICAL AND METHODOLOGICAL PROBLEMS OF LINGUISTICS

- Techniques and methods of linguistic research: levels of dependence, formation conditions, connection with the object, with the model of the object, phenomenologization of knowledge.
- How the object of linguistic research is singled out and how the methods are formed.
- The principles of abstraction.
- Interaction of techniques and methods.
- Sustainable consolidation of methods.
- Violation of the hierarchy “methodology – method” in modern linguistic research.
- Linguistic modeling, model evaluation criteria: connection of model evaluation criteria with the general idea of language as a special semiotic system.
- Secondary Modeling: the emergence of model as a natural consequence of a methodological shift due to the postulation of constructs.
- Linguistic hypothesis, the principle of introspection.
- Philosophy of language and methodology of linguistics, logical analysis of the language: sources, methodological base, circle of models.



LINGUISTIC PRAGMATICS

- The phenomena of speech activity in the context of communication as a semiotic component of the language.
Each of them has its own structure and components, which are discovered and specified in the process of communication.
- Criteria and principles of linguistic pragmatics are based on the linguistic competence of language users as its active users, they are closely related to the problem of understanding / misunderstanding and an adequate interpretation of language content.
- The discipline “Linguistic Pragmatics” is organically included in the general scientific cycle and is intended for MA students of philological specialties.
- This course lays the theoretical basis of linguistic knowledge in the field of formation of communication skills, the most adequate conditions for the implementation of language contacts and involves the development of criteria and principles of the applied aspect of the theory.



MODERN LANGUAGE PROCESSES

- Active language processes in the aspect of synchrony and diachrony; variability of language units; language processes in modern media discourse, speech processes in phonetics, morphology, syntax and vocabulary.



STUDENTS FEEDBACK



NENAKHOVA MARGARITA VLADIMIROVNA, RUSSIA

“ I’m thankful to the Master program in Philology “Language Theory” During the studying, every subject has been full of practical advices and exercises, so that we could practice in researches and training. I recommend students who already have Bachelor’s Degree to apply for this course definitely. Be sure that you will receive fundamental knowledge in a wide field of philological sciences: semantics, pragmatics, psycholinguistics, theory and history of language. The program opens a straight way to postgraduate study and professional teaching of Russian language and philological courses in any educational organization. ”

ANVAR SHAIKA, AFGHANISTAN

“ I was a master’s student at the program in Philology “Language Theory” Studying this program gave me a chance to talk with competent professors, to get a realize my ambitions and be ready for independent work. Our classes were closely connected with practical experience, and all the students had an opportunity to make own research in comparison of Russian and their native language. We got to know about scientific interests of our professors and publications of the faculty, visited lectures of international scientists from France, Italy, Poland. I surely recommend this program. ”



HEAD OF THE PROGRAMME

DENISENKO VLADIMIR NIKIFOROVICH



Head of the Department of General and Russian Linguistics, Faculty of Philology, RUDN University, Doctor of Philology, Professor.

RESEARCH INTERESTS:

theoretical and comparative semantics, the study of the concepts of the modern Russian language, the creation of a base for a functional interpretation of the semantic space of linguistic units, general and comparative linguistics, studies aimed at studying the functions of morphological alternations and the degree of their use in the system of word formation and inflection of diverse system languages.

The author of monographs and textbooks, as well as scientific articles in peer-reviewed Russian and foreign scientific journals (SCOPUS, Web of Science), regularly makes presentations at international congresses and conferences on the Russian language, semantics, and comparative linguistics.

Editor-in-chief of the scientific journal “Vestnik RUDN. **Series:** Language Theory. Semiotics. Semantics”, member of the editorial board of the journal “Bulletin of Yerevan State University. Series: Philology”. Member of the expert council on philology and art history of the Higher Attestation Commission of Russia. Member of dissertation councils of RUDN University. Expert of the Russian Academy of Sciences, scientific foundations of the RFBR and RSF. The head of several scientific grants of the Russian State Humanitarian Foundation and the Russian Fundamental Researches Fund for basic research and international scientific events.

Under the leadership of V. N. Denisenko, the department regularly hosts international scientific conferences “Novikov Readings. Functional semantics and semiotics”.