



## LINGUISTIC NORM AND THE NORM OF LITERARY LANGUAGE IN MODERN LINGUISTICS

Rabbimkulova Vazira Kamiljanovna

Senior Lecturer

University of Science and Technology, Department of Languages

<https://doi.org/10.5281/zenodo.15641024>

**Abstract.** The article examines the main approaches to the concept of linguistic norm in modern linguistics. Special attention is paid to the difference between the broad and narrow interpretation of the term "linguistic norm," as well as the polysemy of the term "norm of literary language." Theoretical positions regarding the intra-linguistic and extra-linguistic nature of the norm are analyzed, and the importance of a comprehensive approach combining systemic-linguistic and evaluative-functional aspects is emphasized. The author highlights the historical conditioning, variability, and dynamism of the literary norm, as well as its cultural specificity. The article concludes with a discussion of the current state of norms in the Russian literary language in the context of accelerated linguistic evolution and stylistic differentiation.

**Keywords:** linguistic norm, literary norm, literary language, intra-linguistic category, codification, language system, norm variability, national-cultural features, modern linguistics.

In modern linguistics, the term "linguistic norm" is used in two main senses: broad and narrow. In its broad sense, this term denotes the set of stable, traditional realizations of the national language system as a whole or one of its varieties, which have received spontaneous social approval. In this usage, the term can refer to any variety of the national language: both "standard" (codified) and substandard forms. For example, describing the norm in relation to dialects, one may say that the norm in a territorial dialect is formed from specific realizations of the potential of that linguistic system and is, naturally, inherent to that system.

In the narrow sense, the term "linguistic norm" acts as a synonym for "norm of the literary language" and correlates with the concept of the "literary language," referring to the highest, exemplary socio-functional variety of the national language, for which the presence of normative usage is one of the leading characteristics. Thus, the semantic structure of the term "linguistic norm" includes two lexical-semantic variants corresponding to the two meanings of the given terminological unit.

The term "norm of the literary language" (literary norm) in modern scholarly literature and reference sources may be used in three senses. First, it may denote the set of consciously established rules for forming and using language units within a language community. Second, it may refer to the set of the most suitable forms for use, selected by society and accepted as exemplary, whose realizations are not only recognized as correct but also considered mandatory for speakers of the literary language. Third, it may include both the exemplary realizations of the language system and the rules for forming and using language units. Taking into account these meanings, it is possible to say that the conceptual scope of the term "norm of the literary language" in Russian linguistic terminology currently includes three lexical-semantic variants. The three-semantic structure of this terminological unit confirms the view that unambiguity is not a necessary characteristic of modern terminology, as many terms are often polysemous.



The varying interpretations of the concept of the “norm of the literary language” and the differences in the treatment of the term are largely due to the theoretical foundations adopted by researchers, including their positions on whether the norm is an intra-linguistic or extra-linguistic category.

It is evident that the understanding of the literary norm as a set of rules and regulations implies that the norm is an extra-linguistic category, since rules and recommendations do not exist within the language itself but are formulated as a result of conscious evaluations and prescriptions. This view, which disregards the socio-historical nature of the norm, appears scientifically inadequate, although it has its place, especially in educational contexts. A more accurate perspective is to recognize the literary norm as a phenomenon objectively inherent in the language, as seen in interpretations that define it either as a set of exemplary realizations of the language system (following the approach of S.I. Ozhegov and his followers), or both as such realizations and the rules for using language units. This view acknowledges the historical nature of the literary norm, its potential variability, and the fact that sets of “most suitable” linguistic means, formed through social evaluation and accepted as exemplary, not only exist but are formed within the language itself. This is supported by both specialized research and observations of real linguistic usage.

The most valid approach to defining the concept of the “literary norm” today is a comprehensive one, taking into account both essential aspects of the phenomenon: the systemic-linguistic aspect, which regards the norm as an intra-linguistic category defined by the potential of the language system to denote the same concept in multiple ways; and the evaluative-functional aspect, which implies the speakers’ awareness of certain linguistic forms as correct and exemplary, along with their prescription as usage rules.

In light of developments in modern linguistics, it becomes evident that literary norms—including the norms of the Russian literary language—objectively exist in the language as a set of the most suitable and preferred linguistic means, used in various spheres and communication situations. These norms are reflected in speakers’ linguistic consciousness as knowledge and understanding of the language system’s possibilities and the rules for using its elements, including possible constraints on realization in particular historical periods.

Historically formed, literary norms are consciously and purposefully supported through codification in dictionaries, reference books, and grammars. Codification is the reflection, fixation, and description of the norm in specialized academic and reference works, as well as the conscious selection of what is prescribed as correct.

A comprehensive approach to the concept of “literary norm” necessarily involves recognizing its dynamic nature and potential for historical change, acknowledging its national-cultural character, and accepting that it may exist not only in the form of a single correct linguistic expression but also as a set of acceptable, exemplary variants. This allows for the selection of the most appropriate variant in specific contexts and stages of language development.

These theoretical principles are directly related to the current norms of the Russian literary language. The uniqueness of these norms is shaped not only by the historical development of the language in close connection with the cultural evolution of the Russian people but also by its present condition, marked by accelerated linguistic evolution, the relationships and specifics of its typological varieties (including social, functional, temporal, etc.), which significantly affect the nature of variant realizations of Russian literary usage



norms, as well as the stylistic system of the Russian language. This system, like that of any national language, is inherently national-specific and distinct from the stylistic systems of other languages.

### References:

1. Ф.М. Березин, Б.Н. Головин. *Общее языкознание* / – М.: Просвещение, 1979. 216 с.
2. Горбачевич К.С., *Изменение норм русского литературного языка: пособие для учителя* / – СПб.: Просвещение, 1971. 271 с.
3. Виноградов С.И., *Норма языковая/ Энциклопедический словарь-справочник*; М.: Флинта: Наука, 2003. 840 с.
4. Ожегов, С.И. *Очередные вопросы культуры речи/ Лексикология. Лексикография. Культура речи.* – М., 1974. С. 251-276.

