

Title: Political and Administrative Vocabulary of Modern Russian

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Since the end of the Soviet era, almost every aspect of the Russian language has been affected by social and political change, from grammar to lexicon, from syntax to speech etiquette. In this paper, we will focus on radical changes in the vocabulary of the modern Russian political and administrative system (names of administrative and political institutions and positions). We will also mention some other fields such as education, film and television and forms of address and titles.

Political and administrative vocabulary of the Russian Federation is extremely heterogeneous. It is a mixture of words derived from different political systems and different historic periods. The names of political and administrative institutions and positions can be divided into five groups according to their origin:

- (1) common Russian words which do not have any special connotation (*predsedatel', glava*);
- (2) restored words of the Russian Empire (*gubernator, дума, управа, волост'*);
- (3) Soviet words (*sel'sovet, Sovet narodnykh deputatov*);
- (4) words borrowed from political and administrative systems of the West (*prezident, prefekt, mer, spiker*);
- (5) local names borrowed from languages of minorities living in the Russian Federation (*khural, kozhuun, kurultai*).

The co-existence of words of different origin (typical for modern Russian as a whole) is a result of competition of different ideological paradigms in Russian society. The sources of new words differ for different lexical fields. For example, the educational system “prefers” restored words of the Russian Empire (*gimnaziia, licei, kadetskii korpus*) and film and television, which is greatly influenced by Hollywood, use many words borrowed from English (*triller, blokbaster, m'juzikl*). Young people tend to replace loan words by slang words of Russian origin (*uzhastik* instead of *triller*, etc.).

Shmelev, Vladimir. 2004. “Kazenny khaos i neoficial'naia sistema v naimenovanii rossiiskikh organov vlasti.” *Otechestvennye zapiski* 2 (17): 240-246.