

Title: The Specifics of the Functional Approach in the Study of Russian Grammar  
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**Abstract:**

This paper examines the specifics of teaching grammar within Bard-Smolny Russian Language Immersion program at St. Petersburg State University, Russia.

The functional approach to the study of grammar is one of the most important and effective methods of selection and organization of educational material. In accordance with this approach, all basic grammatical structures are accompanied by tables and examples of typical and specific contexts, exceptions and stylistic variations. The choice of grammar models depends on the level of students' proficiency. Categories of time, space, subjectivity, objectivity, possessive and conditional constructions exist in all languages and may be studied comparatively. At the Beginner and Intermediate levels we introduce constructions such as place, space, time, purpose, cause, condition and comparison in simple sentences, verbs of motion with and without prefixes, etc. For Upper-Intermediate and Advanced levels we work with extended versions of basic constructions in simple and compound sentences with the addition of concessive, resultative and passive constructions, participles and verbal adverbs, verbs of motion of the ГНАТЬ-ГОНЯТЬ, БРЕСТИ-БРОДИТЬ type, etc.

Extensive experience of working with American students from different programs allowed us to choose relevant material for the English-speaking students and thus prove the effectiveness of the functional approach. In this paper, I will analyze and distinguish some traditionally difficult constructions with the prepositions ЗА – ДЛЯ; time constructions with the prepositions ЗА, НА, К, and the Accusative case constructions without prepositions. Furthermore, I will consider constructions of cause in simple sentences with the prepositions ИЗ, ОТ, ПО, ИЗ-ЗА, БЛАГОДАРЯ, ВВИДУ and others in terms of semantics, connotations and stylistic characteristics. In this paper, I will also present samples of these tables, some practical recommendations and observations on main difficulties encountered by American students in the study of the advanced Russian grammar.