

Title: "'Одно слово правды весь мир перетянет': Proverb Function in Aleksandr Solzhenitsyn's Nobel Lecture"

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As was his practice and belief in his prose fiction, Aleksandr Solzhenitsyn infused a number of Russian proverbs into his 1970 Nobel Lecture. My paper will present some of the conclusions I have reached in analyzing the Nobel laureate's speech based on research conducted during a recent sabbatical leave for a book I am writing on Solzhenitsyn's fictional and publicistic writing. While my book addresses all the major fictional works of the Nobel Prize laureate, I will limit my panel presentation to an analysis of the various publicistic functions filled by Russian proverbs in Solzhenitsyn's Nobel acceptance speech.

As Russian and American literary critics and paremiologists alike have devoted little attention to the literary functions of proverbs in fictional writing, time has come to fill this lacuna in Solzhenitsyn scholarship, especially as we approach the centenary observance of his birth. Prior to devoting specific attention to the 6 Russian proverbs in the Russian author's speech, I will provide an introductory background and analysis of Solzhenitsyn's high regard for Russian proverbs and his penchant for incorporating them into his fictional and publicistic works. I will also incorporate information that his widow, Natalya Dmitrievna, has shared with me in our correspondence about her husband's passion for Russian proverbs.

In my analysis of Russian proverbs with which Solzhenitsyn punctuates his speech, I will make a case for the underlying reciprocal relationship between the didactic vehicle of the proverb function that the author employs in his speech and the prophetic message that he seeks to convey to his audience. The new direction that my research takes me seeks to supplement the customary approach of current scholarship, which has limited itself to consideration of the Russian author's lexical innovativeness in the form of vocabulary.