

Title: Trans-rational Russian: The Use of “Model Poems” of Russian Avant-Gardists in the Russian Heritage Classroom

Author: Svetlana Korshunova, University of Pennsylvania

As Neil Bermel and Olga Kagan write, “[w]hile the challenge for non-native speakers in our Russian classes is at first simply to become aware of an unfamiliar culture and customs, heritage speakers face a personally more meaningful and more complex task: to forge their own relationship to a language and culture that is part theirs, part foreign.” The authors recommend that a language class for heritage speakers should be text- and culture-based “to help learners contextualize their newly gained (or regained) linguistic skills” (2000, p. 434). This paper suggests that the usage of Russian avant-garde texts of the 1910-20s, with its programmatic reliance on linguistic experiment, provides heritage learners with patterns that expose various language “mechanisms” they are already intuitively aware of (in phonetics, word-creation, morphology, and syntax) and familiarizes them with the cultural context of one of the most vivid and intellectually rich periods of Russian culture. I will focus on the ways in which Alexei Kruchyonykh’s (1886-1968) trans-rational experiments (model’nye stikhi) and phonetic insights may be used in the heritage learners’ classroom. My approach is based on methodological principles introduced by the prominent Russian phono-linguist M.V. Panov (1920-2001), in his textbooks and works on Russian phonetics and phonetic errors of students of the “national” schools (1979, 1993, 1989).

Bermel, N., & Kagan, O. (2000). “The Maintenance of Written Russian in Heritage Speakers”. In O. Kagan & B. Rifkin (Eds.), *The Learning and Teaching of Slavic Languages and Cultures*. Bloomington, IN: Slavica.

Panov, M. V. (1979). *Sovremenniy russkii iazyk: fonetika: Uchebnik dlia filologicheskikh spetsialistov universitetov i pedagogicheskikh institutov*. Moskva: Vysschaia shkola.

Panov, M. V. (1989). *Kh.Kh. Sukunov, N.B. Ekba, Foneticheskie, morfologicheskie i sintaksicheskie oshibki v russkoi rechi uchashchikhsia natsional’nykh shkol: Uchebnoe posobie*. Moscow: NII natsional’nykh shkol.

Panov, M. V. (1993). “Fonetika poezii,” *Problemy fonetiki 1. Issues in Phonetics*. Moscow. Pp. 135-151.