

THE INFLUENCE OF RUSSIAN LITERATURE ON WORLD LITERATURE

University of Economics and Pedagogy
Teacher of the Department of Russian Language and Literature
Safarova Zulfiya Karimovna
University of Economics and Pedagogy
Faculty of Foreign Languages,
Russian language department XTA-R-194-23
2nd year student
Saidov Botir Mukhtor ogli

Annotation: Throughout history, some of the most significant cultural movements have been centered around the Russian language. Particularly Russian literature has had a lasting impression on the world literary canon, yielding works regarded as classics. Russian was a language that writers like Fyodor Dostoevsky, Leo Tolstoy, and Anton Chekhov utilized to delve into difficult philosophical topics, societal problems, and the human condition. Numerous languages have translated their works, but the expressiveness and subtleties of the original Russian can add layers of meaning that are challenging to properly convey in translation. In the article role of Russian literature on world literature was discussed.

Key words: *notable history, complex emotions, linguistic boundaries, ethnic groups, myriad divergent, modernism literary, Stalin's ideologies, rigid class structure.*

Beginning in the tenth century, Russian literature has a lengthy and distinguished history. Numerous renowned writers and literary works have surfaced over the ages, including as Fyodor Dostoevsky, Leo Tolstoy, and Alexander Pushkin. The emotional intensity of Russian writing, frequently combined with psychological depth, is one of its main features. Authors delve deeply into the human psyche and explore complex emotions that resonate with readers across generations. Perhaps the most well-known and beloved works of Russian literature are Tolstoy's War and Peace and Anna Karenina and Dostoevsky's Crime and Punishment and The Brothers Karamazov. These tales of love, tragedy, and human nature continue to captivate readers worldwide. But Russian literature is not only limited to these famous works, and there are many lesser-known authors and works that also showcase the richness of the genre[1]. Russian has been used extensively in theater, ballet, and film, among other artistic mediums. The language is well-suited for artistic pursuits because of its vast vocabulary and expressive capacity, which enable the creation of emotionally charged works that reflect both the grandeur and the hardships of Russian culture. Russian is an essential component of identity for millions of people in Russia, Eastern Europe, and Central Asia, and not merely a language for communication. This is especially true in nations like Kazakhstan, the Baltic republics, and Ukraine that have sizable populations of people who speak Russian. Russian acts as a lingua franca in these areas, facilitating communication between people of different language and ethnic backgrounds. However, the role of Russian as a marker of identity is complex. In some post-Soviet states, the Russian language is associated with the legacy of Soviet control, leading to efforts to promote national languages and reduce Russian influence. In other regions, Russian continues to be a vital part of everyday life, serving as a bridge

between different ethnic groups and a connection to Russian culture. For the Russian diaspora, language plays a crucial role in maintaining cultural ties and a sense of belonging. Russian-speaking communities around the world use the language to pass on traditions, maintain cultural practices, and stay connected to their heritage[2].

The Russian literature developed as a major way to learn about the Russian culture and worldview coupled with ways of loving, fighting, and expression. This period ranks as the Silver Age of the Russian literature and it served the urgent mission to provide the Russian citizens with a kind of truth, which could only be conveyed through literature in a censored society. The Silver Age developed the most prominent individual writers including Doctor Zhivago, Vladimir Maykovsky, Vladimir Makanin, Sasha Sokolov, and Vladimir Sorokin among others. This paper will evaluate the Russian literature with close reference to the works of the aforementioned authors and show that their ideological perspectives offered the most promising directions for understanding the 20th Century Russia. These authors aimed at interpreting the evidence about events that were experienced through the 20th Century. However, this paper will show that suffering was the main theme, which was greatly highlighted by the myriad divergent individual interests and addressing this issue was the central focus in the Russian literature. The Russian 20th Century literature has been widespread and highly utilized for good reasons, simply because one can learn about gender issues coupled with tracing the literary themes like death, love, war, revolution and punishment. Following the rapid revolutions of the 20th Century, realism was no longer the driving factor of the Russian literature[3]. The rejection of the ancient literary models and change of values by many writers enhanced the development of modernism literary. Modernism was viewed as a response to socio-economic, political, and scientific changes within a certain period.

Modernism “emphasized the issue of gender, class, and pursuit for knowledge” (Platt and Brandenberger 86)[4]. In the early 20th Century, a sense of hopelessness was developing amongst many people and it was becoming evident that nothing was reliable to respond to the rising issues. Modernism embraced scientific innovation and viewed the progress as a rapid break from the past traditions of the previous centuries. Brown defines this period as an era characterized by the pursuit for uniqueness through art and poetry. Nevertheless, some authors regarded the radical leftist ideals as necessary to end the violence that characterized almost all aspects of the Russian society. This perspective was popular because people knew that literature would have a widespread impact on a huge audience and realism was seen as a style that the public had well known and could easily appreciate. However, this aspect did not alter the efforts to adopt and appreciate the impacts of the modernizing world.

Following the effects of the unrest of revolutions and the Stalin’s regime, the 20th Century authors sought to address the suffering that the public experienced as well as the social ills fueled by the Communist regimes. For instance, Vladimir Makanin is a Soviet writer whose writing style assumes a realist form. He uses novels and short stories to demonstrate the psychological

implications that Russian citizens encounter in their lives. In his 1980 novel, the *Antileader*, Makanin depicted the kind of suffering that Russians were undergoing due to poor political and economic ideologies of the Communist leaders[4]. Although, Stalin's ideologies had been abandoned following his death, the resulting economic impacts prolonged and were greatly magnified during the economic depression of the 1960s. Literature was one of the influential channels via which anti-communist leaders could enlighten the public since the regimes were hostile to public meetings.

Despite the rigid class structure of the Russian Society, the country has produced many great aesthetic philosophers, illustrious novelists, economists, and literary scholars from all sections of the society. Russia, more than any other country, has made significant contributions to classic literature; Russia has a very rich cultural past, from its colorful folk dances to ornate religious symbols. The country is replete with ancient, magnificent palaces and capital, ornate churches. Up until the early twentieth century, Russia thrived on a glorious monarchical system of governance, till it was crushed by the Stalin Revolution in the 1917ce. A 19th-century British poet and critic Matthew Arnold once said that Russian novels are not a work of art but a piece of life. Though, Russian Novels are really long and complicated, with most of them being over 1000 pages long, divided and published in multiple parts, instead of being compiled together and published as one giant novel. Although, readers nowadays read all the parts compiled together in one novel. Russian literature has had a significant impact on the development and shaping of the global literary canon. The works of Dostoevsky and Tolstoy, for example, have had a profound influence on the development of the realist tradition. Dostoevsky's exploration of existential themes has also influenced the development of existentialism as a philosophical movement. The impact of Russian literature can also be seen in literary traditions beyond Russia, as many authors have been influenced by Russian writers and have incorporated their works into their own writing styles.

Moreover, many authors also see Russian literature as a challenge to current literary conventions. The works of Chekhov, for example, are often regarded as revolutionary as they broke away from traditional storytelling structures and focused on creating realistic characterizations while exploring deeper psychological themes[3]. There are many benefits and joys to exploring new and different literary traditions such as Russian literature. Reading outside of one's own cultural background can broaden understanding and empathy towards other cultures. Russian literature, in particular, is an excellent choice for those seeking a different literary experience that still tackles universal themes and emotions. Moreover, Russian literature also has played an important role in shaping not only Russian national identity but also global literature. The works of Pushkin, for example, played a significant role in creating a sense of national identity among Russians, while also influencing other literary traditions worldwide[5]. For centuries, readers across the world have been drawn to the captivating and enduring stories that make up Russian literature. From the emotional intensity of Tolstoy's *War and Peace* to the psychological depth of Dostoevsky's *Crime and Punishment*, Russian literature has a unique appeal that transcends time and place. This article seeks to examine what sets Russian literature apart from other forms of literature and explore its rich history and legacy. Through tracing its development and examining recurring themes, we can gain a deeper appreciation for the universality and appeal of Russian literature.

While Russian literature has a rich history, the genre is not confined to the past, and there are many exciting developments and emerging authors in contemporary Russian literature. Olga Tokarczuk's recent Nobel Prize win is a testament to the continuing relevance and impact of Russian literature in the contemporary literary world. Additionally, many contemporary Russian authors are breaking new ground within the genre, exploring new themes and breaking away from traditional narrative structures. One exciting development in Russian literature is the emergence of feminist themes and perspectives. Contemporary authors such as Elena Chizhova and Alisa Ganieva are exploring the experiences of women in modern Russia and challenging traditional literary norms and conventions. Russia's output of outstanding literature during the 20th Century inspired the major changes that shaped the country's history. Having experienced totalitarianism under the Stalin's regime and extreme suffering within the course of the two World Wars, it was very hard to find time and space to write. The Russian 20th Century was characterized by Communism ideals that constantly repelled the organized efforts by authors who led the fight against social injustices. The Soviet regime misused its powers to hold the pressure from the organized positivists. This pressure made the government lose track of the social and economic planning in a bid to concentrate on warding off the detractors of the regime. Despite the changes associated with postmodernism, the Russian era at this time found it hard to achieve objectives outside the Soviet context. Largely, the Russian literature serves as the guide to transformational healing and it provides the public with facts that it could not source elsewhere in a controlled society.

Summing up all given facts above Russian literature has significantly impacted world literature through various avenues. From the socialist perspective, Socialist Realism emerged as a genre that challenged Western cultural hegemony, influencing anti-colonial movements and liberation struggles globally. Russian literature is known for its exploration of recurring themes and motifs that explore the human experience in unique ways. Love, death, and nature are some of the most common themes that permeate through many works. However, Russian authors approach these themes in a unique and often subversive way, delving into the complexities of human emotions and motivations. One example of this is evident in Anton Chekhov's play, *The Seagull*, which explores the complexities of human relationships, unrequited love, and the futility of artistic ambitions. Another example is Pushkin's *Eugene Onegin*, which delves into themes of love, pain, and social constraints. The exploration of these themes in unique ways is just one of the many reasons why Russian literature is so engrossing and universally relevant.

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