

Channeling Fluency: YouTube Interviews in the Advanced Russian Classroom

Semyon Leonenko

GSR, Slavic Languages and Literatures

- **Why Interviews?**
- **Needs of Advanced-level students:
Register**
- **Why Perusal?**
- **Sample Activities**
- **How to Select Interviews?**

My Advanced Russian teaching experience

Spring 2018—Russian 120A (Advanced Russian Conversation and Communication)

Spring 2022—Russian 103B (Advanced Russian)

Fall 2022—Russian 103A (Advanced Russian through Film)

Defining register

- Katherine Moskver (2009): “field (social activity) and tenor (the interpersonal relationship between people using language and the social distance between speaker and addressee) constitute register”
- Francis Heylighen and Jean-Marc Dewaele (1999): “a formal style is characterized by detachment, accuracy, rigidity, and heaviness; an informal style is more flexible, direct, implicit, and involved, but less informative”

Yuri Dud'
10.3M
subscribers on
YouTube



Course objectives

- Improve listening comprehension skills
- Expand students' active vocabulary
- Develop ability to analyze/determine the **register** of speech
- Develop ability to control/shift the **register** of their own speech
- Learn how to pose questions in an **idiomatic** way
- Learn to identify and emulate **conversational strategies** employed by speakers
- **Improve/refine students' conversational skills beyond the discussion of basic everyday topics**

Interviewee – Interviewer	Topics
Podcast: Kevin Rothrock – Vladimir Pakhomov, Aleksandr Sadikov (32 min, 2020)	<i>Learning Russian in the US: Why and How?</i>
Podcast: Ksenia Turkova – Vladimir Pakhomov, Aleksandr Sadikov (41 min, 2020)	<i>Teaching (and Speaking) Russian in the US</i>
Konstantin Batygin – Yuri Dud' (1 hr 21 min, 2019)	Shifting Register; Translating Slang
Yekaterina Shul'man – Disembodied Voice (1 hr 6 min, 2022)	Maintaining Formal Register
Anton Lapenko – Yuri Dud' (1 hr 20 min, 2020)	Performing Register
<i>Kolyma: The Birthplace of Our Fear</i> – Yuri Dud' (2 hr 17 min, 2019)	Lower Registers, Formal Register
<i>The Russian Old Believers in Brazil</i> – Alexei Pivovarov (1 hr 21 min, 2020)	Regional Dialect, Formal Register
<i>Kruzhok: How to Bring Change to the Provinces</i> – Yuri Dud' (1 hr 10 min, 2021)	Lower Registers, Youth Slang, Regional Dialect

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<i>Kolyma: The Birthplace of Our Fear</i> – Yuri Dud' (2 hr 17 min, 2019)	Lower Registers, Formal Register, Memory
<i>The Russian Old Believers in Brazil</i> – Alexei Pivovarov (1 hr 21 min, 2020)	Regional Dialect, Formal Register, Displacement
<i>Kruzhok: How to Bring Change to the Provinces</i> – Yuri Dud' (1 hr 10 min, 2021)	Lower Registers, Youth Slang, Regional Dialect

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What is Perusall?

Digital Social Reading platform

Interactive and collaborative social engagement with texts and videos

Used in L1 literature classrooms to teach close reading

In the L2 classroom:

Facilitates language use through social interaction

Why Perusal?

- Provides both a “during watching” activity and a solid basis for subsequent in-class discussions
- Builds on already existing digital literacies
- Emphasizes language use through social interaction
- Relatively easily integrated with bCourses

Advanced Russ... X

- ← My Courses
- 🏠 Course home
- ⚙️ Settings
- 📅 Gradebook
- 📄 Export data
- 👁️ Student view
- 📧 Notifications
- 📝 Notes
- 📅 Add to my calendar

Content

Library >

Chats >

Groups >

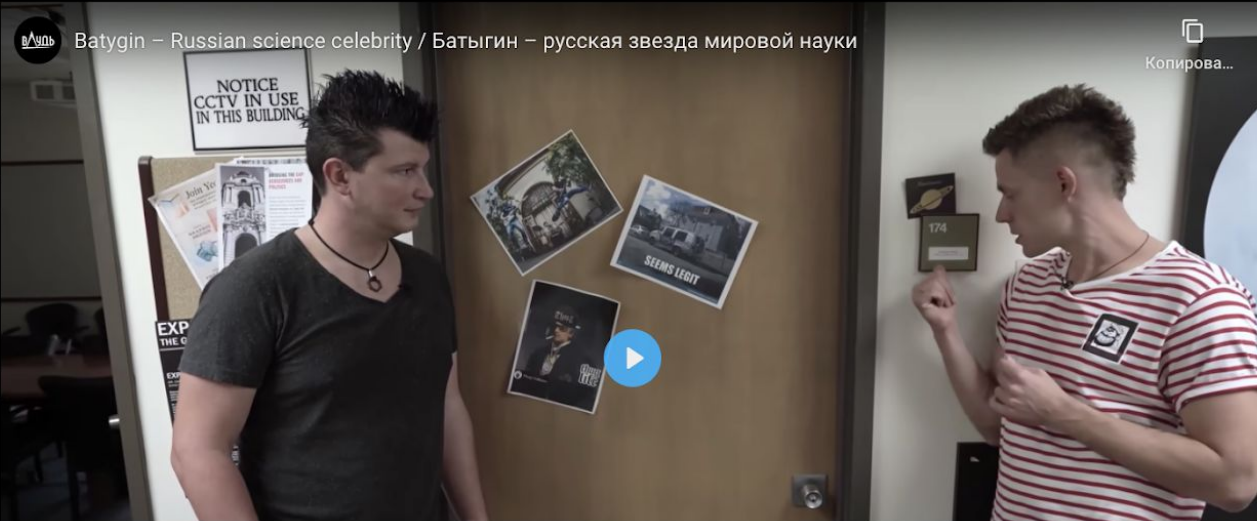
- 📢 Announcements
- 🗣️ General discussion

One-on-One >

Hashtags >

- #grades
- #lecture
- #logistics
- #section

SL + Add comment



03:51 / 1:21:07

Current conversation X

? 2) 3:50 - 7:00

"Something I saw ON the internet" -- Which preposition does he use in Russian? Which one would you use? How does he self-translate "seems legit" into Russian? How would you do it? What is the register of the phrase "seems legit" in English (higher, official vs. lower, colloquial or slang)?

What word does he use for "van"? Look up pictures of the particular model he references!

"This is just a regular CLASS" - which noun does he use for "class" and which noun you would use here?

How do you say "dude" in Russian?

Mar 14 11:34 am

B I A [bulleted list] [numbered list] [quote] [link] [code] [emojis] [video] [image] [table] [text] [insert]

SL Enter your comment or question and press Enter. Mention a friend by typing @. Add hashtags by typing #.

**00-00:30 – Who do you think they are? Where are they?
What are they going to talk about?**



- “Not sure who these two are, but the blackboard in the background suggests that they will be talking about something science/math related. Perhaps the guy on the right will interview the guy on the left (it looks like the guy on the left was just asked a question and he is thinking about how to answer it).”
- “When this frame came on there was enough context for me to think a rock musician with an academic job. Just based on this picture, idk, maybe *because the right person seems younger* I'd assume he was the interviewer...”
- “I recognize the interviewer (the man in the striped shirt) from previous specials. I think the interviewee is an academic of some kind.”
- “They seem like they are two college students sitting in a classroom. I think they might end up talking about a school subject and their

Which Form of Address and Why?

- “They speak using ты, it seems to be a rather informal interview -- not quite as if Russia 1 or PBS Frontline had come to interview him.”
- “They use informal address.”
- “They're informal, it seems like the interviewer is trying to buddy up to him, it's a more personal interview style I guess”
- “They use ты, I'm assuming because the interview is pretty friendly and not very formal.”



«РАФИК»



"Translating" Slang: SEEMS LEGIT

"He uses the phrase "выглядит официально" to self-translate "seems legit". To me, "seems legit" is **much more colloquial**, but I'm not sure exactly how to convey that in Russian. I might say "выглядит настоящий" which isn't precisely the sentiment either but feels closer.

"He translates 'seems legit' Выглядит формально. If I was talking to my friend, I might try to translate it as 'Выглядит правда.'"

"Viglyadet offitsialno, checks out but **doesn't capture the slangyness** ("appears legitimate")."

"He self-translates "seem legit" as выглядит формально. In English, it's **slang**."

"He translates it as "Viglyadit formalno, viglyadit oficialno." I am not exactly sure which word, but I feel like **there is a better word** for legit in Russian. I think it is **slang**."

"ТИПА [kinda] legit"

НА (ON) vs. В (IN) THE INTERNET

- "He says "НА интернете," and I would probably do it the same way (or use я видел его/её по интернету)."
- "НА интернете. I would use the same."
- "I don't recall but I'd use NA internete."
- "He uses the preposition "НА" and I would probably use the same."
- "He uses НА. I would have used В."
- "НА internete. I would use В internete."

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THANK YOU!


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Kevin Rothrock
Managing editor of meauza.io in
English





Ksenia Turkova
Linguist, journalist (Voice of
Russia)

A portrait of Yekaterina Shul'man, a woman with dark hair pulled back, wearing a black ribbed sweater and a pearl earring. She is resting her chin on her hand and looking thoughtfully to the left. The background is a plain, light gray.

Yekaterina Shul'man
Professor of Political Science,
Public Intellectual



Anton Lapenko
3.06M subscribers on
YouTube



КОЛЫМА



СТАРОВЕРЫ



Sergey Prokudin-Gorsky, 19



КРУЖОК

A man wearing a dark hat and a heavy jacket with a fur collar is sitting in a boat on a river. The background shows a cloudy sky and a distant shoreline with green vegetation.

НИКОЛАЙ ИВАНЫЧ

РЫБАЧИТ УЖЕ 50 ЛЕТ