

INTRODUCTION TO VOLUME 7 ISSUE 2

Dmitry S. Khramchenko, Editor-in-Chief

Welcome to Volume 7, Issue 2 of “*Professional Discourse & Communication*,” a platform that brings together researchers in different areas of inquiry with a focus on the language and speech of professional and institutional interaction. In any professional communicative situation, language is always more than a medium of exchange, being a precision instrument. Its effective deployment builds understanding and advances knowledge. By the same token, its imprecise or manipulative use can sow division and obstruct progress. The articles gathered in this issue examine the function of language in high-stakes professional areas, demonstrating how communicative success or failure hinges on a command of its structural, functional, pragmatic, and cultural aspects.

Volume 7, Issue 2 features research by authors from Russia and Nigeria, arranged to guide the reader from the foundational elements of communication to their application in specific professional spheres, and finally to the cultural substratum that undergirds all human verbal interactions. The articles cover a broad spectrum of professional discourses, e.g., academic and scientific communication, medical and clinical discourse, political and electoral sphere, as well as intercultural exchange, while exploring an array of problematic areas of study including the syntactic theory, the evolution of specialized terminology, doctor-patient interactions in mental healthcare, deconstruction of rhetorical strategies and political polarization used in American presidential debates, symbolic and cultural meanings embedded in language that can affect professional cooperation between different linguistic communities.

We begin with two studies that explore the very architecture of professional linguistic expression: the grammar of the sentence and the terminology of a discipline.

The opening article “*O.I. Moskalskaya’s Legacy in Complex Sentence Theory: Development and Impact in Russian German Studies*” by Olga Kostrova starts with a return to first principles. The author provides a meticulous examination of Olga Moskalskaya’s foundational work on the German complex sentence, arguing that these theories are not mere historical artifacts but remain essential for achieving clarity in technical and diplomatic communication. The article reminds us that command over syntactic structures is a prerequisite for coherent and unambiguous professional expression.

Moving from the sentence to the lexicon of a discipline, Ekaterina Kuznetsova’s “*The Evolution of Key Terms in Russian and German Personality Research Tradition*” addresses a critical aspect of communication among professionals. Her comparative analysis of the terminology in linguistic personality studies in Russia and Germany exposes the conceptual divergences that can impede scientific dialogue. Together, the first two articles of this issue make a powerful claim: the integrity of professional communication rests on a shared understanding of its fundamental components, from the syntax of an utterance to the terms that define a whole field.

From these foundations, we move to language in action, presenting two case studies of professional discourse with starkly contrasting objectives. In “*Pragmatic Strategies in Medical Encounters with Mental Health Patients in Nigeria*,” Bolanle Idowu Akeredo-

lu-Ale, Ayo Osisanwo, and Emmanuel Chinaguh offer a compelling analysis of doctor-patient communication in a critical, under-resourced situation. Their work identifies specific pragmatic acts, e.g., counseling, interjectory, suggesting, inquiring, re-assessing, and assuring, which are indispensable clinical methods of building rapport, aiding diagnosis, encouraging contact, and reinforcing therapeutic trust. Here, we see language in its healing capacity, where pragmatic sensitivity directly contributes to positive results for patients.

In sharp opposition, Yaroslav Khlopotunov's *"Linguistic Means of Polarization Tactics in American Political Discourse"* examines a specific professional area where language is strategically weaponized to bring about a socio-political divide. Analyzing the electoral debates between Donald Trump and Joseph Biden, the author deconstructs the cognitive-discursive mechanics of political polarization, revealing how deictic markers and axiological language are marshaled to construct an unavoidable "us vs. them" dichotomy. This study serves as a crucial examination of the manipulative side of language in the political sphere, where the professional goal of persuasion can eclipse the ideal of transparent communication, with serious consequences for public discourse and the state of democracy.

Finally, bridging the gap between explicit discourse strategies and implicit cultural knowledge, Natalia Krupnova's *"Polysemy of Coloronyms 'White' and 'Black' in Proverbs and Sayings of the Russian and German Languages"* takes us into the underlying cultural connotations that charge lexemes. By comparing the symbolic meanings of "white" and "black" in Russian and German paremiology, the author demonstrates how divergent cultural frameworks can lead to significant misunderstandings, even when surface-level communication seems clear. This exploration is an important caution for any professional operating on an international scale: technical fluency may very often be insufficient without an appreciation for the cultural "deep structure" that assigns meaning and value.

Collectively, the articles in Volume 7, Issue 2 deal with several key themes central to the linguistics of professional communication. A primary theme is the tension between precision and manipulation. The contributions from Olga Kostrova, Ekaterina Kuznetsova, and Bolanle Idowu Akeredolu-Ale et al. put focus on clarity and shared understanding as a professional ideal. At the same time, Yaroslav Khlopotunov's work illustrates how the same linguistic systems can be deliberately bent toward obfuscation and communicative confrontation. Another central theme is the significance of structure, showing how syntactic forms, terminological systems, pragmatic patterns, and speech tactics are not neutral containers or semantics providers but actively construct meaning and determine social phenomena. Finally, the theme of cultural and contextual specificity runs through each article in this issue, demonstrating that professional communication is never generic but is always situated as part of specific vocational, institutional, national, and cultural frames.

We would like to express our gratitude to the authors who have contributed to this issue, as well as to the reviewers who have generously given their time and expertise to help maintain the high standards of the journal. We hope that readers will find the selected articles to be thought-provoking and engaging, and we look forward to receiving your feedback and suggestions for future issues. Thank you for your continued support of *"Professional Discourse & Communication."*