

**NATIVE LANGUAGE IMAGES IN THE "FIRST WAVE" RUSSIAN EMIGRATION LITERATURE**

The early twentieth century saw the tragic events in Russia in 1917 and the subsequent civil war, thus, the first wave of "Russian diaspora" started. The people who thought and spoke Russian were forced to leave their motherland and move to the place where they were surrounded by the foreign language and culture. Russian Diaspora was obsessed with the idea of preserving the national identity and had made great efforts to create a cultural and educational infrastructure of the "Russian world" abroad. There were a lot of the Russian publishing houses, newspapers and magazines, schools and universities, professional associations (the most numerous were military, drivers' and writers' ones) in Germany and France, the Czech Republic and Serbia, as well as in China and Turkey where the Russians celebrated memorable anniversaries related to the Russian culture as well.

The Russian refugees had no tendency to use the languages of their new surroundings. The writers intentionally stressed their cultural and linguistic aversion towards "German Berlin" or to "French Paris". Silent movie was considered by the emigrants as a safe island of the western art without any language expansion. Vladimir Nabokov, who had lived in Berlin for 15 years, always highlighted the fact that he did not know the German language and did not want to know it. As to the English and French languages, he mastered them when he lived in Russia.

Literature played a unifying role for the Russian diaspora. The traditional literature-oriented minds constituted even more influential factor in the life of the Russian abroad as it was impossible to preserve the "Russianness" without the Russian literature.