



THE MODEL OF SPACE IN RUSSIAN CHASTUSHKA

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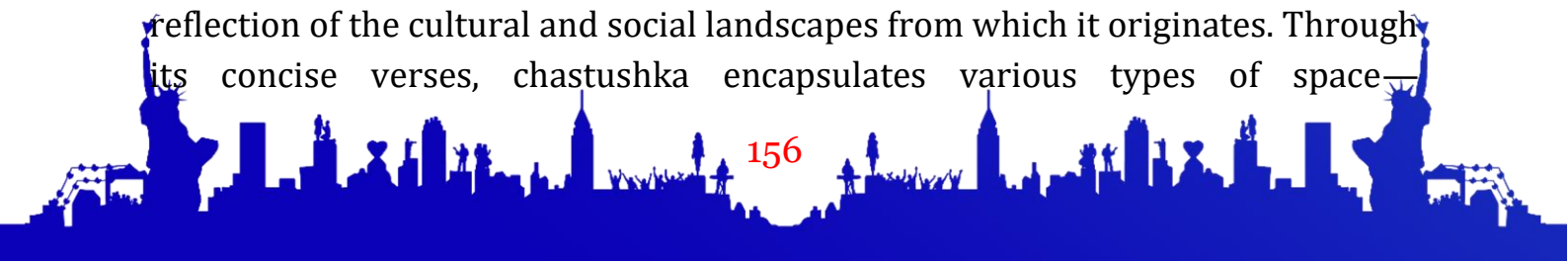
Abstract. This article explores the representation of space in Russian chastushka, a traditional form of folk poetry known for its concise and witty verses. Chastushka often reflects various aspects of Russian life, including its spatial dimensions. This study examines how space is depicted in chastushka, focusing on physical, social, and personal spaces. By analyzing the use of geographical landmarks, social interactions, and emotional landscapes, the article reveals how chastushka mirrors the complexities of Russian culture and society. Through a detailed examination of spatial language and thematic content, the study highlights the significance of spatial models in shaping the narrative and cultural identity within this folkloric genre. The findings provide insight into the interplay between space and folklore, contributing to a deeper understanding of Russian folk traditions.

Keywords: Russian chastushka, space representation, folklore, geographical space, social space, emotional space, spatial language, Russian culture, folk poetry.

Space in folklore refers to the physical, social, and symbolic environments depicted in traditional narratives. Understanding space in folklore involves analyzing how cultural and social contexts shape the representation and significance of different spatial elements. This includes the physical landscapes and locations described in folk narratives. It helps contextualize the events and characters within specific geographic settings. This pertains to the relationships and social structures portrayed in folklore. It reflects the social interactions, hierarchies, and communal settings that influence the narrative. Symbolic or abstract space involves the use of spatial metaphors and symbols to convey deeper meanings, emotions, and cultural values [3, 223-240].

Chastushka, a form of Russian folk poetry, is known for its brief, rhythmic verses often addressing contemporary events or social issues. It has evolved from its roots in oral tradition to a more established literary form. Unlike longer forms of folk literature, chastushka's spatial representation is often condensed and focused. The depiction of space in chastushka is characterized by its brevity and directness, reflecting a snapshot of the physical and social environments.

Chastushka, a traditional form of Russian folk poetry, serves as a vibrant reflection of the cultural and social landscapes from which it originates. Through its concise verses, chastushka encapsulates various types of space—





physical/geographical, social, and personal/emotional—each contributing to the richness of its narrative. This essay explores these dimensions of space within chastushka, highlighting how they enhance the storytelling and cultural significance of this folk art. The physical and geographical space in chastushka is often rooted in the everyday realities of rural and urban life. These verses frequently depict specific settings such as villages, towns, and cityscapes, mirroring the environments inhabited by the people who create and perform them. Rural landscapes are particularly prominent, with references to fields, rivers, and forests that not only provide a backdrop for the narratives but also evoke a sense of nostalgia and familiarity [1, 485-501]. Local landmarks play a crucial role in grounding the narratives in recognizable contexts. References to well-known bridges, churches, or other geographic features create a shared sense of place among the audience, fostering a connection to their own experiences and memories. Additionally, nature itself becomes a significant element in these poems. Rivers may symbolize boundaries or obstacles, while forests can represent mystery or isolation, enriching the narrative with layers of meaning that resonate with listeners. Beyond the physical realm, chastushka delves into social spaces that reflect community interactions and the dynamics of everyday life. These verses often capture the essence of communal life, illustrating relationships between characters and depicting social gatherings or public events. Such portrayals reveal the norms and values that govern these interactions, providing insight into the cultural fabric of the time. Social hierarchies and roles are frequently highlighted in chastushki, showcasing interactions between different classes, gender roles, and generational dynamics. This aspect serves not only to reflect but also to critique prevailing social structures, offering a lens through which listeners can examine their own societal norms. The depiction of daily activities, celebrations, and local customs further enriches this social space, revealing how individuals navigate their environments and relationships within their communities.

Conclusion. In examining the model of space in Russian chastushka, this article has illuminated how this traditional form of folk poetry uniquely represents and utilizes spatial elements. Chastushki provide a condensed yet vivid portrayal of physical, social, and emotional spaces, reflecting the complex interplay between environment and narrative. Chastushki often depict specific geographic locations, both rural and urban, creating a sense of place that grounds the narrative in a tangible context. These depictions enhance the authenticity of the verses and connect them to the lived experiences of the audience. The social





interactions and community settings portrayed in chastushka reflect societal norms and roles. By capturing everyday life and social hierarchies, chastushki offer insights into the cultural and social dynamics of Russian society. The use of personal and emotional space in chastushka highlights individual experiences and internal states. Through metaphorical and symbolic language, chastushki convey complex emotional landscapes and personal reflections.

References:

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