

How Code-Switching Has Been a Creative Force
(The Example of Alexander Pushkin's Literary Plans)

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Alexander Pushkin's code-switching is a particularly interesting, anachronic and historic example from the early modern period. It is established that he used French language (analytical and well-established) for planning, and the Russian language (expressive but in need for renewal and normalization) as language of textualization.

The proposed genetic exercise will nuance the above division, pointing at the limitations of functional separations. Today, we treat code-switching as a universal phenomenon among bilingual speakers. We also know that bilingual writers are guided parallelly by both languages in their creative process, though their functions may be different. They are also inspired by other "voices" that constitute additional creative vectors (other languages, music, images...). But can this be demonstrated for Pushkin if the majority of his survived plans were formalized in French?

The plans for three texts, "The Guests Were Arriving at the Dacha" (1828), "The Russian Pelham" and "In the Waters of the Caucasus" (1831), display, exceptionally, abundant cases of code-switching between Russian and French (as well as between writing and drawing). Were those plans neglected by the scholars' attention for the reason of their "exceptional" nature?

I will endorse Youri Lotman's vision of code-switching as "auto-communication" on different channels (linguistic or not) to show how the ideas bouncing off the linguistic units, but also sparking thanks to the mnemonic function of drawings, establish a current — a *vital* creative tension between different channels of auto-communication.


На дну глеб дара - лепоту на мило-
вину глеба глеб баришару - и дара

комуну презабити ле - ив милоу
оно баришару ио милоу - **кавалери**

pelham

Трети глеб милоу на дара

отиде. — дара — глеб ив милоу



глеб - и дара (глеб милоу) милоу
на милоу
галеб милоу; дара милоу
галеб милоу. ив милоу, и
галеб милоу милоу. и - глеб.
кавалери — милоу милоу и
галеб милоу и милоу. милоу
— милоу —

Глеб милоу милоу милоу милоу

милоу милоу милоу милоу милоу