

# **RUSSIAN THROUGH LATIN AND FRENCH**

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**HELP OR HINDRANCE?**

**LEARNING**

**&**

**TEACHING**

## Russian

- Started studying on own at 15
- **Majored at Bryn Mawr College**
- **Immersion at Middlebury 3<sup>rd</sup> yr**
  - **Returned to Midd for MA & DML**
- **While teaching 42 yrs at NCS**

# Latin & French made it easier to start Russian



**•Latin & French Romance, not Slavic**

**but**

**•Indo - European**

- **Experience of having already studied language on own**

# LATIN

- Started studying on own at age 9
- After brother taught me to sing *Adeste Fideles* by sound

# **MORE LATIN**

- **Started Latin at Roland Park Country School at age 13**
- **Continued for 5 yrs**
- **Passed AP exam**
- **Abandoned at college**



# CASE SYSTEM

- **No GodDamn Ass Is Perfect**
- **N – nominative (subject)**
- **G – genitive (possession)**
- **A – accusative (direct object)**
- **I – instrumental (means)**
- **P – prepositional (prepositions, location)**

**“ET TU, BRUTE ?”**



# VOCATIVE

- Disappeared from formal Russian
- Fossilized *Боже мой!* (interjection)
- Colloquial *Вань*, from *Ваня*

# **ALL NOUNS HAVE GENDER**

- **MASCULINE**
- **FEMININE**
- **NEUTER**

## **MASCULINE NOUNS ENDING IN -A**

- **ПОЕТА (POET)**
- **AGRICOLA (FARMER)**
- **СТАРШИНА (LEADER), САША**  
**NOT MARTHA AND BELLA**

# CALQUES

- **Loan borrowings of words with Latin or Greek roots**
- **Roots translated into Slavic equivalent**
- **Рук – о – пись**
- **Manu – script (hand – write)**

## **BACKGROUND IN FRENCH**

- Studied in school age 12 – 17 (6 yr)**
- Classes conducted in French**
- Continued in college – lived in French House, studied at Institut d'études françaises d'Avignon**

## **BACKGROUND IN FRENCH CONTINUED**

- TAUGHT FRENCH FOR 4 YRS AT NCS**
- MIDDLEBURY FRENCH SCHOOL  
SUMMERS FOR DML**
- SUMMER IN PARIS WITH NYU FOR  
DML**



# **FRENCH WORDS IN RUSSIAN**

## **RUSSIAN**

**БРАКОНЬЕР**

**СУФЛЕР**

**ЖАЛЮЗИ**

## **FRENCH**

**BRACONNIER**

**SOUFFLEUR**

**JALOUSIE**

# **WHEN AND WHY INFLUX OF**

- **FRENCH WORDS INTO RUSSIAN?**

# **FRENCH IMPARFAIT TENSE = RUSSIAN IMPERFECTIVE ASPECT**

- **Imparfait describes action in progress**
- **Like English progressive , “when I was ... ing”**
- **Quand je regardais la télévision ... =  
когда я смотрел телевизор**

## **TENSE SEQUENCE – “WHEN” CLAUSES**

- **Russian uses future in both “when” & result clause**
- **Когда он приедет, мы будем рады.**

## **TENSE SEQUENCE – “WHEN” CLAUSES**

- **French uses future in both “when” and main clause**
- **Quand il arrivera, nous serons heureux**

# NOT TENSE SEQUENCE IN ENGLISH

- When he comes (PRESENT), we will be (FUTURE) happy.
- Less logic than Russian & French

# LATIN & FRENCH → RUSSIAN



# CONCLUSION