

# **Beyond the Limit**

**New model of curriculum development**

**LEARN 2017**

**Columbia, MD**

**Presenters:**

**Ludmila K. Robinson, M.A.**

**Tojiniso Raupova, Ph.D.**

# How to move to higher proficiency level?

## New model to go beyond level 3/3

The elements to consider:

- To go beyond the borders of your own culture
- To allow foreign culture to merge with yours
- To have a dialogue with the person who has a different picture of the world and mentality of foreign culture



# “The Cultural Code”

## Material Selection

**TYPICAL**  
Religion  
State  
Society  
General Views

**SPECIFIC  
FEATURES**  
Linguistic  
Picture of the  
World

**ANALYSIS**  
Russia  
Project work

# Examples of the “cultural code”

Russian	English
Гром не грянет, пока мужик не перекрестится.	As long the thunder does not roar, the peasant does not cross himself.
“Закон и порядок” “Закон и правопорядок” “Право и справедливость”	“Law and Order”
Суть → essence Суть речи → essence of speech	Idea Main idea of speech

# “The Cultural Code”

## Material Selection

**TYPICAL**  
Religion  
State  
Society  
General Views

**SPECIFIC  
FEATURES**  
Linguistic  
Picture of the  
World

**ANALYSIS**  
Russia  
Project work

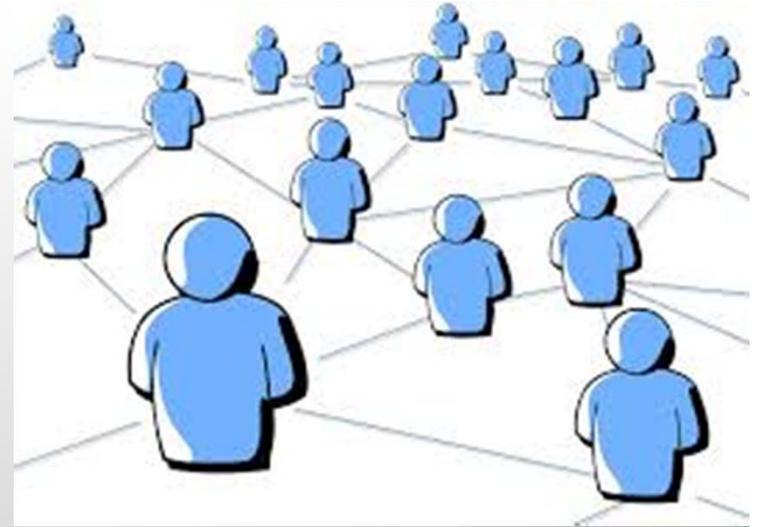
# The structure of the typical day of the new curriculum

- The cross-cutting theme of the day
- Listening:
  - Series of news clips representing different points of view
  - Analytical shows and humor programs
- Reading:
  - A series of all styles and forms of texts with immersion in Russian life and sociolinguistics.
  - Reading between the lines, recognizing humor, irony and overtones
  - Grasping sophisticated, idiomatic and unusual sentence constructions found in literary works

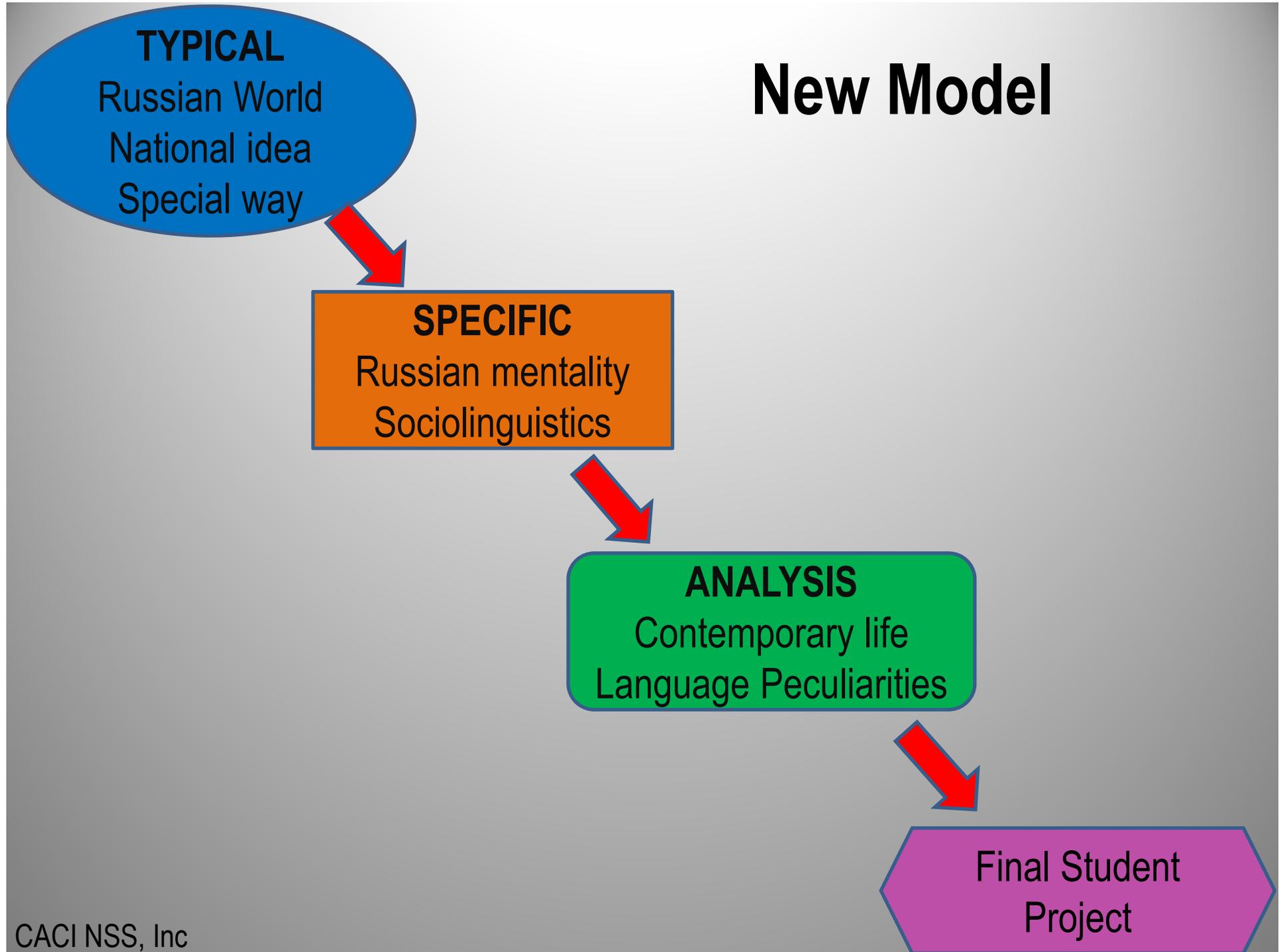
## The structure of the typical day of the new curriculum, cont.

### Speaking:

- Samples of speech structures
- Use of formal and informal language
- Writing essays/analytical reports/articles
- Working with blogs. Defend personal opinions on controversial subjects
- Conversation (with/out the use of video sequences)
- Roundtables, court proceedings, virtual conferences
- Independent Internet research



# New Model



# Students' final project

- Topic - significant to contemporary Russia
- Internet research for materials
- Brief presentation on the chosen topic → day 16 of 25-day program followed by feedback from instructors and fellow students
- Two-hour lesson plan with objectives, listening and reading materials and activities
- **Learner → facilitator**

**Similar but Not Identical:  
Speakers, Trainers  
and Facilitators**

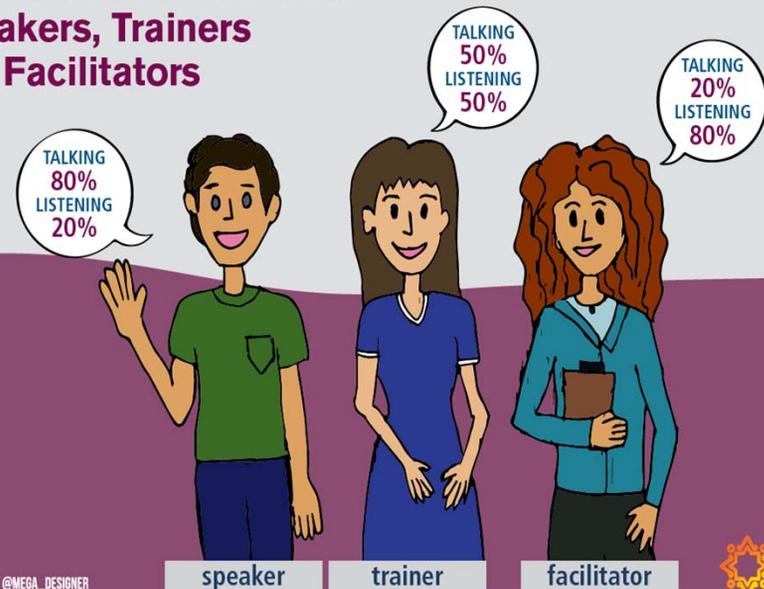


ILLUSTRATION: @MEGA\_DESIGNER

# Students' Feedback

Awesome!!   
EXCELLENT   
GOOD   
AVERAGE   
POOR



- I am so glad this class finally exists-the materials are so well-organized and flow logically from day to day. The level is perfect (not too easy, but not impossible). Thank you for creating this class-it took a while, but you did it right.
- This course touched upon many aspects of the Russian language and culture. I really enjoyed the analysis of lengthy passages and explanations of Russian realities. These are invaluable skills.
- The range of styles presented in the material was very good. Having some informal and idiosyncratic language alongside more official language was helpful. There were many texts that were not particularly edifying in themselves, or even challenging, but were good examples of a particular sort of Russian logic.
- Writing of essay, preparation for and delivering of presentation, debates, and final project-I used as a forcing functions to get better and more knowledgeable in target language. Just the right amount of challenging where it kept my interest the whole time and I learned a lot.

**THANK YOU FOR  
LISTENING**



**ANY QUESTIONS?**