

Abstract
Graduation Level of Proficiency Paper
(Master Degree)

Title: Punctuation in English and Russian communication of the XXI-st century: colon and dash

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Topical importance: As time goes by punctuation marks modify their functions alongside other language means of communication. Some of the changes are important, others are less so. One language is more active to accept them, another is slower in the process. So the linguists must keep their eyes open to see, systematize and give relevant recommendations to those who use written language in their professional communication.

Goals: To analyze and compare the usage of English and Russian colons and dashes in written publicistic discourse.

Tasks: To consider the peculiarities of the punctuation system as a means of graphic organization of English and Russian speech, to specify the semantics and usage of colons and dashes in English and Russian, to reveal their typological and language-oriented features.

Theoretical value and practical application: The research contributes to the study and usage of dashes and colons in the texts of English and Russian business communication.

Theoretical observations worked out in the paper can be applied in the studies of other functional varieties of English and Russian texts.

Results: The research showed that dashes and colons in modern English and Russian business communication have acquired new functional meanings.

Colons in both formal and informal English and Russian business discourse are becoming less recurrent as compared to dashes.

Implementation advice: The results of the research can be of some help to Russian students studying business English, to authors who write various manuals on written English.