

Секция 5
ОСОБЕННОСТИ РАЗВИТИЯ
СОВРЕМЕННОЙ ЛИНГВОКУЛЬТУРНОЙ СРЕДЫ

АНГЛИЙСКИЙ ЯЗЫК

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**THE STEREOTYPED CORE OF THE CONCEPTS RUSSIA AND BELARUS
THROUGH THE PRISM OF BELARUSIAN STUDENTS**

**СТЕРЕОТИПНОЕ ЯДРО ПРЕДСТАВЛЕНИЙ О РОССИИ И БЕЛАРУСИ
ЧЕРЕЗ ПРИЗМУ ВОСПРИЯТИЯ МОЛОДЕЖИ БЕЛАРУСИ**

Our research is devoted to the study of the concepts of BELARUS and RUSSIA from the perspective of Belarusian students' linguistic consciousness. The main goal of our research paper is to define the stereotyped core of the concepts BELARUS and RUSSIA through the prism of Belarusian youth. This included the following objectives:

- To process the materials of the Associative Experiment held among BSEU students in the years 2017 and 2018, and to describe the Associative Fields.
- To carry out a comparative analysis of the conceptual core of BELARUS and RUSSIA through the prism of Belarusian students (1).

146 BSEU students aged 17 to 19 took part in the experiment. The task was to write down five associations with the stimulus words **“Belarus”** and **“Russia”**, after gathering of which we formed two Associative Fields “Belarus” and “Russia”.

Associative Field “Belarus” comprises 635 associative responses. We put them in decreasing order and defined the stereotypical core. It consists of 259 associations, which comprises 40.79 % of the whole Association Field.

The core of the Associative Field “Belarus” is represented by the following components (259): *Родина* ‘Homeland’ (69); *дом* ‘home’ (38); *страна* ‘country’ (27); *озера* ‘lakes’ (25); *леса* ‘forests’ (24); *картошка* ‘potato’ (20); *семья* ‘family’ (15); *белорусский язык* ‘the Belarusian language’ (15); *природа* ‘nature’ (14); *Минск* ‘Minsk’ (12).

This points to the fact that for the students Belarus first and utmost is perceived as Motherland, one’s own home and family. An additional point is that students associate Belarus through natural and geographical aspects; for this very reason associates *lakes, forests, potato, nature* and *Minsk* are amongst the principal components of the stereotyped core of the concept BELARUS.

In the group of Belarusian students, the word-stimulus **“Russia”** produced 595 associative reactions. The core of the associative field “Russia” comprises about 31.6% of the entire field. It is represented by the following components (188): *Путин* ‘Putin’ (34); *соседи* ‘neighbours’ (33); *большая* ‘large’ (25); *Москва* ‘Moscow’ (21); *Санкт-Петербург* ‘St. Petersburg’ (16); *друг* ‘friend’ (13); *русский язык* ‘the Russian language’ (13); *страна* ‘country’ (12); *медведь* ‘bear’ (11); *огромная* ‘huge’ (10).

So, the predominant components of the stereotyped core of the concept RUSSIA through Belarusian students are president Vladimir Putin, the size of the country (*big, huge*), its geographic location in relation to Belarus (*neighbouring country*), the capitals (*Moscow* and *St. Petersburg*), as well as the country’s numerous symbols (*the Russian language, bear*). Mostly, Belarusians identify Russia as a friendly country (*friend* (13)).

In conclusion, it should be noted that the stereotypical core of the concepts BELARUS and RUSSIA is formed on the basis of various operations and strategies, used by Belarusian students.