

Natalia M. Usenko

(Rostov State University of Economics, Rostov-on-Don, Russian Federation)

Functional illiteracy as a sociolinguistic problem

The article considers communicative, or functional, illiteracy, which manifests itself in the inability to adequately understand and form texts (with the ability to read and write), is rightly recognized as the most dangerous kind of incompetence that undermines the foundations of social interaction. The sociolinguistic parameters of this phenomenon are analyzed: its causes and consequences are established and ways to solve the problem are proposed. Literacy/illiteracy issues are, in principle, of a strategic nature, because they are associated with the possibility of sustainable development of society. It is noted that the experience of classical rhetoric as a social practice providing adequate communication can be useful in solving the main problem of the 21st century – the problem of functional illiteracy. The material for the analysis was the works where this problem is analyzed.

Keywords: communication, literacy, sociolinguistics, functional competence, linguistic pragmatics, sociolinguistic interpretation, functional illiteracy.

February 21, 2024