

# Semantic Characteristics in regards to Concept of the “Soul” in Modern Russian Linguistic Culture

Material is Drawn from Internet-Statuses

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**Abstract**—In this article the notional, figurative and evaluative components of the concept of the "soul" in relation to how Internet statuses are composed in contemporary Russian culture is delved into. The analysis of the statuses about the soul show that the concept under consideration, being basic in contemporary Russian linguistic culture, has strong notional, figurative and evaluative components, which are closely intertwined.

**Keywords**—concept; internet status; notional component; figurative component; evaluative component

## I. INTRODUCTION

The online status is a relatively new phenomena in terms of modern life and, in our opinion, it can be defined as a new form of literary genre.

Online statuses arise from an internet user projecting a momentary emotional or mental state onto a social network platform or group.

A person that sets a specific online status, accordingly, waits for a response to his/her emotional state. Furthermore, in the case of him/her having a negative emotional state, they will expect some form of psychological assistance from other users of the Internet.

As online statuses characterize the psychological state of the individual, in our opinion, it is appropriate to refer to the definition of the word "status" in psychology.

The encyclopedic dictionary "Psychological lexicon" provides the following definition of the word "status": lat. status — a state or condition (in social psychology) — the position of the subject in the system of interpersonal relations, of which, determines his/her rights, responsibilities and privileges. When communicating with different groups the same individual may offer different statuses. In addition to this, when there are significant differences in the statuses presented, groups with differing levels of development, content and communication, often see a bubbling over of frustration and conflict, etc. A status is analyzed from an experimental perspective by applying different socio-psychological methods. Important characteristics of a status are prestige and authority

associated with them. Of which, recognition by others, dictates the merits of the individual [1].

From the above definition it is clear that the status of a man in society is a more or less steady and long-lasting position of the subject in different social groups. The status determines the rights, duties, privileges of the individual and the level of his/her prestige and authority within certain social groups.

The online status of the individual, in contrast to his/her real social and psychological status, is to a large extent modeled on idea that is far from reality. Moreover, this idea can be changed relatively quickly depending on the mood of the individual.

An individual may express his/her mood in the verbal form with the help of phrases that are easy to access from the Internet.

We view the Internet status as one of those spheres where a variety of sayings exist and can be categorized into the genres such as aphorism, maxim, apothegm and gnome. Internet statuses, being a popular phenomenon in modern life, have a number of characteristics that to some extent distinguish them from the given above types of genres:

- beauty, brightness of the form;
- rhythmic and syntactic completeness;
- originality of judgment;
- presence of worldly wisdom based on experience;
- laconism.

Very often online statuses contain humor and elements of paradox.

In our opinion, the difference between the online status from the aphorism is the absence of the author. There is less instructiveness, more earthiness in online statuses in comparison to aphorisms.

Some popular aphorisms, quotes or sayings can, also become Internet statuses.

Internet statuses thematically cover different areas of modern life: education, work, family, and relationships between people (friendship, love), attitudes to life in general.

A. Vezhbitskaya highlights that in Russian culture the keywords “destiny”, “soul” and “longing” play an important role. Furthermore, being able to understand the importance of these concepts when it comes to Russian culture is essential [2].

The concept of the "soul", being one of the basic concepts of Russian linguistic culture, has repeatedly been subject to scientific study.

A. K. Perevoznikova systematizes the material about the concept of the "soul" in the Russian culture. With this, the author looks at the data of lexicology and phraseology, Slavic mythology, ethno linguistics, studies on Russian folklore and stylistic analysis of the works of individual writers and poets.

The author proves that the concept of the "soul" is a key concept in regards to the Russian language and is a very valuable asset when wanting to understand more about what inspires the people of Russia.

A. K. Perevoznikova in analyzing folklore texts, spiritual poems and paroemia comes to the conclusion that the Russian consciousness acts as the criterion of spiritual and moral assessment of human behavior. Similarly, this reaffirms the priority of spiritual values in comparison to other values [3].

V. V. Kolesnikova analyses the concept under consideration on the basis of work done by B. Pasternak. This work looks to prove that the concept of the "soul" occupies an important place in the linguistic world and that it is a key idea in relation to Russian culture [4].

O. N. Kondratyeva considers the concept of the "soul" in regards to old Russian literature, from metaphorical point of view. According to the researcher's opinion, during the period under consideration, the soul of a man was associated with living beings, animals, birds, plants, nature, substance, heavenly bodies, a house, etc. [5].

We agree with V. I. Karasik's opinion that the concept has notional, figurative and evaluative components [6]. In various, online statuses about the soul the notional, figurative and evaluative components of this concept are revealed. Let us, consider the notional, figurative and evaluative components of the concept of the "soul", with reference to material from Internet statuses.

## II. THE NOTIONAL COMPONENT OF THE CONCEPT "SOUL" IN MODERN RUSSIAN ONLINE STATUSES

The notional component of the concept of the "soul" in modern Russian online statuses has the following content.

The soul is life itself.

No soul, no life and without man, there is neither you nor life itself [7].

The soul is a vast unknown world.

Someone else's soul — darkness, however, your own is a dark forest... [8].

The soul and man's inner world, is a mystery, no matter how much you want to understand it. In itself, it can sometimes take a lifetime [8].

The soul is directly connected to God and eternity.

The soul is God, who has come find shelter in the body [8].

Nothing, lasts forever. Only, the soul is eternal. Take care of it... [8].

The soul is connected with love and the heart.

If you're trying to warm someone's cold heart, conquer his/her soul first [8].

I'll give you my soul, present you with my heart, you will love me, just, love me [8].

The soul is given to us, so, that we could love and forgive! [7].

The body and the soul of the man are inseparably related, but, they, often stand opposite each other too.

Yesterday, I gave my soul a rest. Now, my whole body hurts [8].

When, all your body aches, see, if everything is alright with your soul [8].

In pursuit of the soul, the body becomes a pleasant bonus. In pursuit of the body, the soul is just an annoying obstacle [8].

A body and a soul often look different to each other.

It would be very nice and fair, if all men looked externally the same as they look on the inside! [8].

Good-bye, forever. We will never see each other. What a pity that a mean soul, is in such a beautiful man... [8].

Some people have a soul worth 3 pennies, but, try to look like a million dollars [8].

The beauty of the soul is measured by a set of positive inner qualities of man such as purity, sincerity, simplicity, etc.

My soul is the soul of a child... Vulnerable, heartfelt and, yet, at the same time simple... my soul is laughing loudly... it is like a white sheet... [8].

The beauty of the soul is created out of humility, purity, patience and good deeds for love [8].

The soul is the result of a bad experience, from suffering.

The soul... is formed when a person is fired [8].

Every loss leaves a scar on the soul, but, makes you stronger [7].

Alcohol, reveals the soul.

The only positive thing about alcohol is that when it affects a person, the person is not able to maintain their mask. The soul starts talking [8].

The eyes are the mirror of the soul.

The eyes are the mirror of the soul... They, always tell the truth [8].

Do not rush to break the silence, blurting out words that are unnecessary. If you want to hear the soul – take a good look into the eyes [7].

The soul is connected to our dreams.

When, you see somebody in your dreams, it means that the soul of this man, wants to see you. The soul leaves their body and comes into your dreams [8].

The soul has different states:

1) The soul may be sad.

A slightly sad soul with the help of an air brush, draws a leaf, slowly, falling over the landscape, in a thoughtful motion [8].

2) There may be emptiness in the soul.

I'm here, I exist or I do not, does that matter? , if there is an emptiness in the soul, and, as a result, I am unable to breathe without you [8].

3) The soul can feel like a Queen.

The Queen is determined not by her clothes! The Queen is a representation of the soul ... [8].

4) The soul can be lonely.

Loneliness is a state of the soul... forever... [8].

5) The soul can be calm.

When all is well, there is peace in the soul [8].

6) Success is a state of the soul. A person must be successful for healthiness of his/her soul.

If you want success, start thinking of yourself as a successful person [8].

7) The soul can experience a crisis.

The crisis in the soul is when you already do not want the things to be as they are. At the same, however, you do not know, yet, how you want things to be [7].

The soul does not die, it has the ability to reincarnate itself.

Cut fingers do not grow again — Regeneration of the body is not good... If the world has played a bad trick on you, the soul can revive you again like the Phoenix! [7].

The soul does not die. Only, the souls of bad people grow more embittered. In turn, they are not called to heaven. They do not reincarnate. Only, the kindest and best souls return to earth [8].

### III. THE FIGURATIVE COMPONENT OF THE CONCEPT OF THE "SOUL" IN MODERN RUSSIAN ONLINE STATUSES

The figurative component behind the idea of the "soul" in modern Russian online statuses is represented mainly by the description of the soul as a living being that can undergo different states.

In the soul, there can be cold and even, frost. The soul can petrify, congeal and become rough.

Everything before, as usual, is all too familiar and sad, because there is no sense of the heart, in life. Furthermore, the autumn chill in the weather, makes the soul become colder [8].

The soul was scared a long time ago, if, it is not already important to you, well, I do not care... [7].

The soul was frozen... With, there being nothing available to warm it up [8].

The soul became rough, love sobered up, dreams vanished in the wind... [8].

The soul can go into the heels (my heart sank – the English variant) and it can be unburdened (to unburden one's heart – the English variant).

If the soul has went into the heels, then, it is better to walk on your tiptoes for some time to come [8].

He unburdened his heart, so, that, in turn, other people's hearts would sink [8].

It is possible to spit into the soul and it is possible to trample on top of it.

I did not trample your soul. I danced lezginka on it (a famous Caucasian dance)!! [8].

The broadest thing in man is his soul. When, people spit into it, they never miss [8].

The soul can cry, sing and shout.

It is not difficult to see someone's tears. It's hard to see when somebody's soul is crying [8].

My soul is singing, cover your ears... [8].

A soul screams, no one hears... [8].

It is possible to give, sell or mortgage the soul.

The price of a soul that has been sold before, it is low... [7].

There are no guarantees in love and everything is random! You give your soul to a man – in return, he will never give me his soul, what an awful individual! [7].

I said I am ready to give my soul to you... However, I never signed anything [7].

Now the demons, catch my soul and tear it to pieces! [7].

Soul can be hurt, it can bleed.

If our soul wounds could turn into body wounds – we would be like cheese... [8].

Depression is a feeling of internal bleeding of the soul... [8].

The soul can suffer, but, it must learn to recover and it should be treated.

Our souls, like leaves of the cactus have dried up and turned into needles [8].

I pour out my soul like buckets of slop, it is no longer clear and transparent like water... [8].

All is very scary and hard only the first time, then, the soul attains the ability to cope with it [8].

The best healers of souls are those ones who have experienced the pain of soul wounds!!! [8].

Cure the soul by feelings... [7].

The soul is difficult to heal.

The soul is not knees... it cannot be cured by green antiseptic [8].

That is a pity, that the soul, along, with our memory does not have the option to "Delete contact" [8].

The soul can be influenced by the meanings of words.

Words are like keys. Properly chosen, they can open any soul and close any mouth... [8].

The soul can die and the person can still continue to live.

Man has two deaths — the first one is when his soul dies and, yet, he continues to live... [8].

The figurative component behind the idea of the "soul" in contemporary Russian linguistic culture has a large number of metaphorical meanings. The soul of the man is compared to a star, a vessel, a source of healing, a Holy temple, a faithful dog, a deep well.

Every person is born like a star! He lives and goes off! However, bright his star will be and how much light it will leave at the last moment, depends, only, on the purity of the soul. When it will silently flash, falling from the sky... [8].

The soul is a vessel. You are what you have accumulated... [8].

The soul radiating love and kindness is like a healing spring, from which, you do not want to go too far... [8].

In the temple of his soul, a person is lonely. Let the temple of every person remain intact and not desecrated. Let every person reach out his hand to another person when he wants to, but not crossing the Holy threshold [8].

You are sitting on a chair with a straight back and your soul is near like a ball, hugging its knees, like a wounded, but, faithful dog [8].

The soul of a person, especially of a child, is like a deep well with clean water. When, certain thoughts are not very pleasant, he hides them in a box and throws them into very bottom of the well. He hears a splash – and, the unpleasant thoughts disappear. However, the thoughts do remain. Even

the deepest well has a bottom and if something disappears from the sight, it doesn't mean it has actually disappeared. The boxes, which contain bad thoughts and feelings, rot, and this rottenness can poison all the water and make a go mad [8].

The soul of a man can be different. The soul is compared to a sea, a pool, the square of Malevich.

A human soul is the universe. Every person has a different soul. One person's soul is a foam sea and another person's soul is a dirty pool [7].

There are people, whose soul is like the square of Malevich. It seems it has the form. However, the content is missing [7].

The soul can have the sun, a rainbow, spring, rain, a sea and the sky etc.

Six years ago, a rainbow crossed my soul. It is still there, like a flame burning inside me [8].

Don't let the sun out of the soul - it will spread warmth in life. Let a little love into the heart and the drop will become the ocean! [8].

Spring gives so much power to the soul, that contacts become very simple [8].

On your face — life appears to be good and when, it comes to the soul it is raining [8].

Each person in his soul has his own sky... sun... sea and lifesaver... [7].

#### IV. THE EVALUATIVE COMPONENT OF THE CONCEPT OF THE "SOUL" IN MODERN RUSSIAN ONLINE STATUSES

The evaluative component of the concept "soul" in modern Russian online statuses has the following content.

The soul of man is of supreme value, it is responsible for everything that happens on Earth.

The soul is the greatest miracle in the world [8].

Man, you have nothing, except for your soul [8].

You can insure all your earthly possessions — though, who will insure your soul from responsibility for everything committed on Earth? [8].

The state of mind of a person depends on himself/herself.

The landscape that a person sees is usually the reflection of the world, which is hidden in his/her soul [8].

Regarding the weather — I gave up on it a long time ago. I have my own weather, in my heart... and, there, it's always sunny [8].

People should be able to see good things.

The soul is in everything and in everybody. Look carefully, and you will find a fairy tale everywhere. Everyone is needed and important [8].

We must do good and not do evil.

Usually, those who bad-mouth others, get dust in their soul. Although, there is a paradox: their soul does not become purer because of this and the dirt in it does not decrease [7].

Peace in the soul is the most important thing in life, if the soul feels well - the person feels the full flow of the forces.

Everything you need in life is peace, all, other things will derive from it [8].

The most important thing is to restore order in the soul [7].

May you find peace in your soul, all other things will find you [7].

The most severe retribution – is soul retribution.

It only seems that for everything in life people pay with money. The really important things are paid by the particles of the soul [8].

Each person is responsible for his/her body and soul.

Every man needs to save his/her body and soul. Those who hope that others will save them will be disappointed [8].

People should care about the beauty of the soul first, not focus on physical beauty purely.

People conclude about the beauty of a person, looking at his face. On the other hand, God judges people by looking into their soul [8].

If a person is beautiful in his soul, he will be beautiful on the outside too.

Beauty tends to spread, a beautiful dress will make the soul beautiful and a beautiful soul will make any dress splendid [8].

No external beauty can be complete if it is not enhanced by inner beauty. The beauty of the soul spreads like a mysterious light on corporal beauty... [8].

The soul must not be lazy.

The soul must not sleep. It needs to live. To live, she needs... to eat. Feed it... with feelings! Only fresh and delicious ones! [8].

People can be strangers in terms of their souls, it is very difficult to find a native soul.

People can be relatives by blood, but, be strangers in regards to their souls [8].

If you have found a soulmate, make sure to appreciate him/her. Take care of him/her. Do not let him/her go [8].

The evaluative component of the concept of the "soul" contains a set of rules to be observed in the respect of one's own soul and the souls of other people.

It is necessary to try to understand other people's souls and to listen to one's own soul.

To understand another person, you need to have a soul [8].

You have to listen to your soul. Finally, hear it... It knows the answers to all your questions [8].

Souls of other people must be handled carefully.

It is necessary to walk on feelings, carefully, not leaving a nasty trail. Torn photos can be glued, torn souls never!!! [8].

You cannot go into other person's soul using rubbers. It does not matter that you have wiped your feet [8].

You cannot disrespect the soul of another person, it may cause harm to that person's soul.

Before you drench the soul, check the wind direction... [8].

Soulless people are very dangerous.

A person who has no soul, but, has a stub instead, is more dangerous than a parasite — not able to forgive you for your mistakes, he will never forgive you his own mistakes [7].

People and events, which we let into our soul, always leave a trace.

Our fingerprints will never fade from the souls that we have touched [7].

Someone, once, let into the soul, can no longer be chased away, easily. His empty chair always remains there [7].

We must not open our soul to everybody, with age, people understand this.

I will put a lock on my soul. Do not enter! I am tired of suffering from betrayals. Do not judge! I am tired of forgiving... so many losses... it is better to stay alone, having locked the door to the soul [7].

The older you get, the better the filter at the entrance to your soul becomes [7].

A man tries to protect his soul.

Fearing for our vulnerable soul – we put on the armor of rudeness, contempt and lack of access. All of these are just words and we are simple people, with our fears of failures and errors on which we do not learn, but, instead, blame others...[8].

It is important that the soul remains young.

Years are not important, when the soul is young [7].

Old age is scratching at my door: "Open up! I know you're waiting for my arrival". I will not open the door, I will keep my soul young till the last days, till the bitter end... [7].

It is important to choose an occupation, which is accepted by your soul.

The occupation which is chosen by your soul is not tiring [8].

A person who has a golden soul is really rich.

The person who has jewels is not rich, instead, it is the one who will not dare to hurt another person. A man's wealth — the gold of the soul, comes from his ability to be kind [7].

Sometimes, material things can fill the emptiness of the soul.

A material world, its external well-being and the benefits, help to fill the emptiness of the soul world [8].

In terms of music a person listens to, it is possible to determine the state of his soul. Music heals the soul.

Do you want to know what a person has in his soul? Just listen to his last recordings [8].

Nobody, has ever invented a better medicine for the soul than music [8].

Beloved people hurt the soul particularly badly.

Only beloved people tear our souls... without asking us... With, their ability to sneer, they look at the corpses of our broken dreams... This bursts into our heart without fear or questions asked... Also, it hits where it hurts, the final frontier... [8].

It is terrible when the soul is torn, by those people who once sewed up its wounds [7].

The evaluative component of the concept of the "soul", also, contains generalized observations about people's souls.

The higher the soul of a man, the humbler he is.

His nose stretches from where the soul has not grown [8].

People with narrow souls — like bottles with narrow necks: the less it contains, the noisier the contents are when poured out [8].

The life of a good person is hard.

The better soul you have, the harder your destiny!!! [8].

The wider your embrace, the easier it is to crucify you. The purer your soul, the easier it is to spit into [7].

Sometimes people hide their real state of soul.

Smile... it makes people think about what you have in mind [8].

For you – I paint a positive image, whilst, for myself – I allow the pain in my soul to come out [8].

Alcohol can not cure the soul but many people try to do it.

Alcohol will not heal the soul, because, it only allows the body grows older and destroys the mind [8].

The soul hurts. If you start to cure it, you will hurt the liver [8].

To win the heart of women a man needs to win her soul.

Put, in a woman your soul and live the rest of your life, on the rate of interest... [8].

They say women love with their ears... You are a stupid person, REAL women love with soul [8].

It is impossible to keep a man attached to a body.

If the soul is not caught, the body will not keep long... [8].

Men, often do not pay attention to the woman's soul and look at her appearance, instead.

If a woman has a properly decorated neckline... men are quick to notice how deep and diverse her inner world is... [8].

## V. CONCLUSION

The analysis of the statuses about the soul, show that the concept, all be it, a basic one in terms of contemporary Russian linguistic culture, has a strong conceptual, figurative and evaluative components, which are closely intertwined. The notional component of the concept of the "soul" in modern Russian Internet statuses includes the idea of a soul as a supreme value, divine essence, a reflecting love. The soul is associated with the body and is able to endure various states and to transform. The figurative component of the concept of the "soul" in modern Russian online statuses expresses the idea of a soul as a living thing. Furthermore, it is characterized by different states and it has a vivid metaphoric aspect. The evaluative component of the concept of the "soul" in modern Russian online statuses is represented mainly by a set of experience-based rules that define the attitude of man to his soul and to the souls of other people.

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