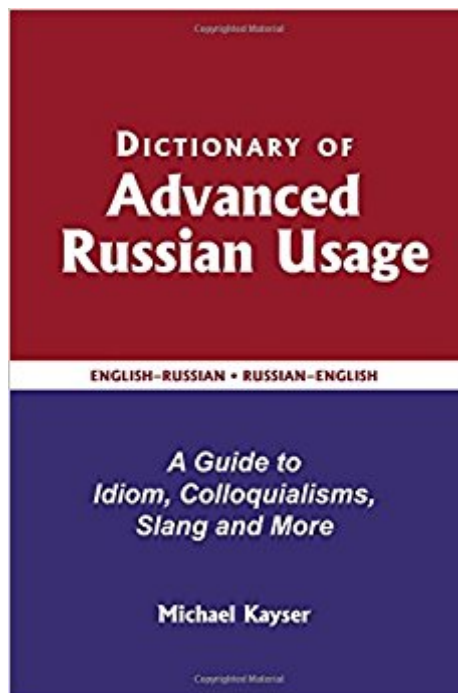




The book was found

Dictionary Of Advanced Russian Usage: A Guide To Idiom, Colloquialisms, Slang And More



Synopsis

This dictionary represents a painstaking, sincere effort to fill in the gaps left by even the most comprehensive English-Russian/Russian-English dictionaries. It is not intended for beginners who are looking for basic word-to-word equivalents such as *stol* → "table" or *okno* → "window". It is intended for those who, upon reading through several possible translations of a specific word, phrase or idiom, often find themselves saying: "None of this is quite right, none of these possibilities hits the bullseye. An inspired translation will satisfy on three levels: 1) precision of meaning; 2) the image which is evoked and 3) the actual sound of the word or phrase. For example, if one is to look up *Boot Hill* in virtually any English-Russian dictionary or on-line, one will invariably find the following:

stol → "stol" or *okno* → "okno". Even a moderately gifted student or translator would scoff at such a translation because it does not begin to render the spirit or impact of the English phrase *Boot Hill*. It is totally inadequate on two of the three levels listed above. How does *stol* → "stol" or *okno* → "okno" sound? It is a thousand times better on all three levels than what one finds ANYWHERE. Where does one find such a phrase? You keep your eyes peeled and your ears wide open and your Russian-English subliminal translation machine constantly in gear because you never know when such a gem will pop up. I ran across this particular expression while reading Boris Shergin, a far-northern writer and teller of tales. Have you had to translate *wow factor*? You won't find much in any dictionary or quite often it is rendered as "wow". Current slang for something awesome is *wow*, so you're just right around the corner from forming the suggested translation. Multiply this by several thousand examples based on decades of study and you have a tool like no other.

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Customer Reviews

Michael Kayser is a former English-Russian translator at the Voice of America, an American Translators Association certified English-Russian/Russian-English translator and a former English-Russian simultaneous contract interpreter for the US Department of State. He has been published both in the U.S. and in Russia.

It is rare when a dictionary is compiled from a person's life.

Kayser's Dictionary of Advanced Russian Usage is such a book. When leafing through this dictionary, it is akin to savoring a finely aged French burgundy wine. First, it is apparent that the author has painstakingly encapsulated his entire professional life as a Russian specialist into 655 pages. In the preface he points out the challenges of translating the essence and nuances of Russian, and strives to impart the most difficult aspects of learning Russian to the reader. The dictionary begins with a feel of Wilson's The Modern Russian Dictionary for English Speakers. Next, one is reminded of Offord's Using Russian and The Russian Language Today by Ryazanova-Clarke and Wade. Finally, there are instances when elements of Chernov's

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