

In 2009, a reorganization of the Faculty of Philology took place, as a result of which linguists, literary scholars, and methodology specialists – just as in the early years of KazPI's foundation – were united into a single Department of Linguistics and Literary Studies. The department was headed by one of Kazakhstan's renowned literary scholars, Doctor of Philological Sciences, Professor Saule Dzhunusovna Abisheva, a graduate of Abai KazPI in 1976.

In 2011, the Department of Linguistics and Literary Studies was renamed and now operates as the Department of Russian Language and Literature under the leadership of Doctor of Philological Sciences, Professor S.D. Abisheva.

The history of this department is rooted in the histories of several departments of the Faculty of Philology.

In the 1950s–1960s, the Department of Russian Language was headed by Candidate of Pedagogical Sciences, Associate Professor Valentina Fyodorovna Belousova, a highly respected figure at the institute and among students, to whom she lectured on Modern Russian Language. During her tenure, Eustafiy Ivanovich Golovenko, Elizaveta Nikolaevna Strepkova, and Maria Petrovna Skibina defended their candidate dissertations. Under her scientific supervision, Galina Fyodorovna Gurevich and Khalima Adamovna Bektukhamedova defended candidate dissertations in linguodidactics.

In the 1970s, three linguistic departments operated at the Faculty of Philology: Russian Language in the National School (serving the Russian-Kazakh section) under Professor Darigul Tursunovich Tursunov; the Department of Practical Russian Language under Associate Professor Katima Shavkatovna Gubasheva, responsible for teaching Russian to non-philology students; and the Department of Modern Russian Language, which now taught only the Russian section of the philology faculty, led at that time by Professor Gayan Sufiyanovich Amirov.

For more than twenty years, from 1976 to 1996 and again from 1998 to 2000, the Department of Modern Russian Language was headed by Vera Pavlovna Bredikhina, a graduate of Abai KazPI in 1953. During her leadership, V.P. Bredikhina formed a team of highly qualified specialists. Over the years, linguists and methodology experts, professors and associate professors worked side by side in this department, contributing significantly to the development of modern linguistic and methodological sciences: M.A. Glazman, E.N. Strepkova, L.A. Shelyakhovskaya, E.A. Plakhin, Z.I. Manyakina, L.M. Loseva, G.I. Belousova, G.F. Gurevich, F.G. Brulyova, A.N. Makarova, V.G. Salagaev, E.F. Rubilina, T.I. Blagochinnova, F.Kh. Zhubueva, O.V. Zhigalova, L.V. Eglit, S.A. Nikitina, Zh.G. Amirova, L.T. Kilevaya, M.G. Kamennykh, Z.K. Sabitova, G.M. Badagulova, T.V. Shevyakova, T.V. Yegorova, M.A. Orlova, M.N. Kalashnikova, O.S. Peselnik, M.G. Aldamzharova, among others.

From 1975 to 1997, until her untimely passing at the age of 52, the department employed the former dean of the Faculty of Philology and Vice-Rector for Academic Affairs (1987–1997), Corresponding Member of the International Academy of Higher Education Sciences, Honored Worker of Higher Education, Professor Elena Feofanovna Rubilina (Teryokhina) – one of the world's leading linguists, whose name was included in the Dictionary of International Biography (Cambridge, 1996).

The Department of Russian and General Linguistics was established in 1996 and operated alongside the Department of Modern Russian Language until the two were later merged. The department was headed by the prominent theoretical linguist known in Kazakhstan and beyond, Doctor of Philological Sciences, Professor Lazzat Kabyldashevna Zhanalina. Under her leadership, the department's educational, methodological, and research activities flourished, and all faculty members held academic degrees and titles. Faculty participation in international, national, and inter-university conferences increased significantly. During this period, doctoral dissertations were defended by Associate Professors G.A. Kazhigalieva, L.T. Kilevaya, and T.V. Shevyakova.

From 2008 to 2009, the Department of Russian and General Linguistics at Abai Kazakh National Pedagogical University was headed by Doctor of Philological Sciences, Professor Manat Shayakhmetovna Mussatayeva, who, like her predecessors, preserved and enriched the

department's traditions. Her experience as the first dean of the faculty (2002–2008) helped Professor Mussatayeva successfully organize the department's educational, methodological, and research work.

The literary scholars working in the department today continue the legacy of the Department of Russian and Foreign Literature, one of the oldest departments of the university – established at Abai KazPI in 1934 and initially headed by N.N. Strakhov. During World War II, it was reorganized as the Department of Russian and World Literature under Associate Professor M.I. Ritman-Fetisov. Over the years, the department was headed by Academician M.S. Silchenko (1953–1959), Professor E.I. Rivlin (1959–1964), Corresponding Member N.S. Smirnova (1965–1978), Associate Professor V.V. Badikov (1984–1989), Professor L.L. Belskaya (1989–1990), Professor A.A. Shaikin (1982–1984, 1991–1993), Professor Kh.A. Adibaev (1978–1982, 1993–2001), Professor T.P. Chaplyshkina (2001–2002), and Professor B.A. Zhetpisbayeva (2002–2006).

In 1998, the Department of Russian and Foreign Literature was renamed the Department of Russian and World Literature. In 2000, the Department of Uighur Language and Literature – which for many years had been headed by Professor M.Kh. Abdrakhmanov – was merged with it.

Since 2006, the department has been headed by Doctor of Philological Sciences, Professor S.D. Abisheva. Notable scholars of Kazakhstan have worked here: the versification theorist and translator, Doctor of Philological Sciences, Professor A.L. Zhovtis; folklorist, Doctor of Philological Sciences, Professor E.A. Kostyukhin; versification specialist, Doctor of Philological Sciences, Professor L.L. Belskaya; literary theorists, Doctor of Philological Sciences, Professors V.V. Badikov and V.V. Saveleva; Uighur literary historian, Doctor of Philological Sciences, Professor M.Kh. Abdrakhmanov; “Best Teacher of the Year 2007,” Doctor of Philological Sciences, Professor L.V. Safronova; and laureate of the independent national Ilkham Prize, Candidate of Philological Sciences, Associate Professor R.U. Arziev.

A significant contribution to the development of literary creativity in Kazakhstan has been made by the department's faculty, who are members of the Union of Writers of the USSR and the Republic of Kazakhstan: A.L. Zhovtis, Kh.A. Adibaev, M.Kh. Abdrakhmanov, V.V. Badikov. For many years, the department has benefited from the dedicated work of Associate Professors G.L. Fedorova, R.I. Usvyatsova, E.I. Landau, A.V. Galuzo, Z.N. Palgova, R.I. Sverchkova, I.V. Drozdetskaya, L.S. Ryazanova, V.V. Merlin, B.S. Sadullaev, R.O. Batyrbekova, I.Yu. Khlyzova, Senior Lecturers S.M. Goncharenko, G.N. Skvortsova, A.I. Ishanov, G.N. Tokarev, G.A. Tyurin, N.V. Madigozhina, O.B. Markova, Doctor of Philological Sciences A.T. Khamraev, Professors T.P. Chaplyshkina, G.M. Kamabarbayeva, and L.S. Rygalova.

For 50 years, the Department of Russian and World Literature operated a postgraduate program. During this time, over 70 postgraduate students defended their candidate dissertations, and 15 later became Doctors of Sciences. Many graduates now work in universities in Kazakhstan, Russia, and Israel. Faculty members defended their degrees in Almaty, Moscow, Leningrad, Sverdlovsk, and Tomsk. In 1993, a dissertation council for the defense of candidate dissertations in Literary Theory and Textology (specialty 10.01.08) was established at Abai KazPI. From 1993 to 1999, the council was chaired by Doctor of Philological Sciences, Professor A.L. Zhovtis; from 2002 to 2005 – by Doctor of Philological Sciences, Professor V.V. Badikov.

Today, the department houses memorial study rooms named after Professor A.L. Zhovtis and Professor L.A. Shelyakhovskaya.