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## EDITORIAL PREFACE

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This is a special issue of the journal Sociolinguistics, dedicated to the 75th anniversary of the Institute of Linguistics of the Russian Academy of Sciences (RAS) and the 80th birthday of RAS Academician Vladimir M. Alpatov.

For decades, the Institute of Linguistics of the RAS has been and remains the leading center for linguistic research in Russia. Under its roof, prominent scientific schools of linguistics were formed and developed, fundamental theories were born, and grammars and dictionaries of the languages of Russia and the world were created. Here, meticulous data on endangered languages were collected, complex theoretical models were constructed, ancient texts were deciphered, and new branches of linguistics – such as sociolinguistics, psycholinguistics, and neurolinguistics – were established and continue to flourish.

The Institute of Linguistics of the RAS is, above all, its people. Its scientific authority is linked to the names of outstanding linguists whose work has shaped the face of global linguistics in the 20th and 21st centuries. A prominent representative of this lineage is Academician Vladimir M. Alpatov, editor-in-chief of Sociolinguistics, whose 80th birthday is celebrated in 2025. The opening article of this issue is dedicated to his scientific contributions as a sociolinguist.

This anniversary issue is not merely a tribute to the past. It provides a snapshot of the current state of Russian sociolinguistics. The articles reflect a wide spectrum of research directions, from studies of regional sociolinguistics to new experimental and fieldwork-based investigations involving extensive linguistic data from the languages of the Russian Federation. The pages of this issue vividly demonstrate that Russian sociolinguistics today is a dynamic, polyphonic, and highly relevant discipline.

This issue serves both as a celebration and an invitation to dialogue. Continuity and innovation are the two key words defining the contemporary trajectory of the Institute of Linguistics of the RAS. The editorial board of Sociolinguistics congratulates the Institute and Vladimir M. Alpatov on their anniversaries and wishes continued prosperity and outstanding achievements!

*Aysa N. Bitkeeva*