



University
of Victoria

Graduate Studies

Notice of the Final Oral Examination
for the Degree of Master of Arts

of

REGINA GRISHKO

BA (University of Victoria, 2017)

**“Les figurations de la gallophobie dans l’œuvre comique de Denis
Fonvazine : le cas du *Brigadier* et *Le Choix d’un gouverneur*”**

Department of French

Friday, August 30, 2019
9:00 A.M.
Clearihue Building
Room B007

Supervisory Committee:

Dr. Sara Harvey, Department of French, University of Victoria (Co-Supervisor)
Dr. Catherine Léger, Department of French, UVic (Co-Supervisor)

External Examiner:

Dr. Alexei Evstratov, Faculté des lettres, University of Lausanne

Chair of Oral Examination:

Dr. Frederick Grouzet, Department of Psychology, UVic

Dr. David Capson, Dean, Faculty of Graduate Studies

Abstract

Denis Ivanovitch Fonvizin is considered to be a pioneer in an original Russian satirical comedy. His plays [*Le Brigadier*] *The Brigadier-General* (1769) and [*Le Choix d'un gouverneur*] *The Selection of a Tutor* (1789) mock the obsession with France among Russian nobles of the 18th century. These comedies were published during the peak of the influence that the French civilisation had in Russia and, thus, they constitute a mine to tap into to measure the reaction to this phenomenon. In my study, I explore the sociohistorical context of the close contact between France and Russia that has eventually led to Gallomania under the reign of Catherine the Great. I focus particularly on gallophobic attitudes in two plays by Fonvizin, conveyed both by satirical commentaries and the excessive use of French by some of the characters. My study reveals Fonvizin's views concerning the negative impact of Gallomania on different aspects of Russian life, such as education, language, patriotism. A multitude of studies have touched on different aspects of the Franco-Russian relations; however, none of them have yet carried out a detailed study of the gallophobic attitudes expressed in 18th century plays, which is crucial given the fact that satirical comedies of that era are intimately related to the political and social life.