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### **Victory Day in Putin's Russia: ceremony and discourse**

The victory in The Great Patriotic War is commemorated in Russia every year with a military parade from 1995. The purpose of this paper is to analyse the special commemorations of Victory Day which have occurred every five years in 2000, 2005 and 2015 during Putin's presidency.

Victory Day will be examined from a dual perspective: Firstly, Victory Day will be conceptualised as a ceremony. Ceremonial events, especially those that commemorate past achievements, are at the heart of the construction and perpetuation of any country's national identity by the politicisation of certain traditions, historical events or cultural features. Secondly, the paper explores the actual discursive features of the ceremony through socio-linguistic lens. The presidential speech in the Victory Day endow the ceremony with great gravitas whilst enabling the ceremony to be linked to present time political events. This paper delves into the lexical structure of Putin's speeches using content analysis tools and visualisation techniques. Thanks to the enormous potential of visualisation techniques applied to linguistic corpora, the formal and institutionalised features of the Victory Day speech (sociolect) can be differentiated from the specific discursive features associated to Vladimir Putin (idiolect) and his political strategy.

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