

FILE PDF ENGLISH VERSIONS OF PUSHKIN S EUGENE ONEGIN

English Versions of Pushkin's Eugene Onegin

- **Charles Johnston's Translation (1881):** Johnston's translation is one of the earliest English versions of Onegin and is known for its faithfulness to the original. However, it is also criticized for its stiff and archaic language.
- **Oliver Elton's Translation (1937):** Elton's translation is known for its elegance and readability. While it is not as literal as Johnston's translation, it captures the spirit and tone of Onegin more effectively.
- **Vladimir Nabokov's Translation (1964):** Nabokov's translation is a masterpiece of literary scholarship. It is highly annotated and includes extensive notes on the Russian text and culture. Nabokov's translation is considered the most definitive English version of Onegin.
- **James E. Falen's Translation (1990):** Falen's translation is a modern and accessible version of Onegin. It is praised for its accuracy and clarity, while still maintaining the poetic beauty of the original.
- **David McDuff's Translation (2011):** McDuff's translation is a recent addition to the English canon of Onegin translations. It is known for its fresh and lively language, which brings the novel to life for contemporary readers.

Key Differences between the English Versions:

- **Accuracy:** Johnston's translation is the most literal, while Falen's translation is the most accessible. Nabokov's translation strikes a balance between accuracy and readability.
- **Style:** Elton's translation is elegant and poetic, while McDuff's translation is more colloquial and conversational.
- **Annotations:** Nabokov's translation includes extensive annotations, making it a valuable resource for students and scholars.

Recommendation:

The choice of which English translation of Eugene Onegin to read depends on the reader's preferences. For a literal and scholarly translation, Johnston's translation is recommended. For a fluent and readable translation, Elton's or Falen's translations are excellent choices. For the most comprehensive and annotated translation, Nabokov's translation is the definitive choice.

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Key Terms:

- **Eugene Onegin** - The protagonist of Pushkin's novel in verse
- **Verse Novel** - A novel written in poetic form
- **Translation** - The act of rendering text from one language into another

Introduction

Alexander Pushkin's **Eugene Onegin** (1833) is a seminal work of Russian literature, a verse novel that follows the romantic and social adventures of its titular protagonist. It has been widely translated into English, with several notable versions available.

Prominent English Versions

1. Charles Johnston (1977)

Johnston's translation is highly praised for its faithfulness to the original text and its elegant use of iambic tetrameter. It is considered the most accurate and scholarly English version.

2. Vladimir Nabokov (1964)

Nabokov's translation is both a masterpiece and a controversial interpretation. He rendered the novel into a more colloquial, modern English style, adding extensive commentary and annotations. While it sacrifices some of the metrical and linguistic nuances of the original, it offers a unique and insightful perspective.

3. Anthony Burgess (1975)

Burgess's translation is characterized by its experimental and playful approach. He used a variety of poetic forms to capture the different moods and themes of the novel. While not as literal as Johnston's version, it is highly creative and engaging.

Conclusion

The English versions of Pushkin's **Eugene Onegin** provide readers with access to this classic work of Russian literature. Each translation offers a unique perspective and interpretation, allowing readers to experience the novel's beauty, complexity, and timeless themes in their own language.

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Sources for Documents

- **Project Gutenberg**
 - [Free eBook of Eugene Onegin translated by Charles Johnston](#)
 - [Free eBook of Eugene Onegin translated by Oliver Elton](#)
- **Archive.org**
 - [Full text of Eugene Onegin translated by Charles Johnston](#)
 - [Full text of Eugene Onegin translated by Oliver Elton](#)
- **Amazon.com**
 - [Eugene Onegin: A Novel in Verse by Alexander Pushkin, translated by Charles Johnston](#)
 - [Eugene Onegin: A Novel in Verse by Alexander Pushkin, translated by Oliver Elton](#)

English Versions of Pushkin's *Eugene Onegin*

Why You Should Read About This:

Pushkin's *Eugene Onegin*, originally published in 1833, is one of the most celebrated works of Russian literature. It is a novel in verse that follows the life and loves of the titular character, a cynical and disillusioned young man.

The novel is a masterpiece of Russian poetry, with Pushkin's lyrical language and insightful observations on society and human nature captivating readers for centuries. Here are several reasons why you should read about English versions of *Eugene Onegin*:

- **Literary Masterpiece:** Pushkin's novel is considered one of the greatest works of world literature, and reading it in English allows non-Russian speakers to appreciate its artistic brilliance.
- **Cultural Significance:** *Eugene Onegin* is a cornerstone of Russian culture, providing a deep understanding of Russian society and its values during the 19th century.
- **Historical Context:** The novel offers a glimpse into the social and political landscape of Russia in the early 19th century, providing valuable historical insights.
- **Character Complexity:** Eugene Onegin is a complex and enigmatic character, whose motivations and actions are explored in depth. The novel provides a fascinating study of human psychology.
- **Themes of Love and Society:** Pushkin explores themes of love, friendship, and the clash between personal desires and social expectations, making the novel relevant to readers of all ages and cultures.