

APPENDIX

The list of the utterances below shows the reader of figurative expressions
used by Yakov Smirnoff:

NO.	UTTERANCE	KINDS OF FIGURATIVE EXPRESSIONS
1.	<i>“You’re gonna learn Pidgin English first and you’ll be fine.” and I learned “perr” (pigeon sound),</i>	Soundalike pun (Homophone)
2.	<i>We have comedians ... they’re there. They’re dead...</i>	Lookalike pun (Polysemy)
3.	<i>They’re there. It’s very hard to do comedy in the Soviet Union.</i>	Satire
4.	<i>You have to write out all your material, and you send it to the Department of Jokes.</i>	Hyperbole
5.	<i>Good thing about doing comedy in Russia: You have a captured audience.</i>	Satire
6.	<i>“We guarantee your furniture and we stand behind it for six months!” (the term “stand”)</i>	Lookalike pun (Polysemy) And Satire
7.	<i>America loves SMIRNOFF! I said to my self: What a country!</i>	Satire
8.	<i>You gotta be very selective, very careful with what jokes you say.</i>	Satire by using one-

	<i>If you say, like “Take my wife, please!” You get home-she’s gone.</i>	liners joke
9.	<i>It’s not easy to get out, because you apply for a visa, but they give you Mastercard.</i>	Satire and Lookalike pun (Polysemy)
10.	<i>There no things like American Express. (joke 9)</i>	Simile
11.	<i>They give you Russian Express: “Don’t Leave home!” (joke 9)</i>	Satire
12.	<i>A friend of mine said “I quit smoking cold turkey.”</i>	Lookalike pun (Polysemy)
13.	<i>The ad in the paper said: BIG SALE – LAST WEEK</i>	Lookalike pun (Polysemy)
14.	<i>I saw this box: says NEW FREEDOM.</i>	Satire and Lookalike pun (Polysemy)
15.	<i>Today he speaks tall words...</i>	Satire and Lookalike pun (Polysemy) and use switch trigger
16.	<i>I figured that should give me as much freedom as possible. “and I would write letter to my friends in Russia, I would put those things in the envelope”</i>	Simile Hyperbole and Satire
17.	<i>they were expensive!</i>	Lookalike pun (Polysemy)

18.	<i>Then I thought they're, like, headbands.</i>	Simile and Hyperbole
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Biography of Yakov Smirnoff

Yakov Naumovich Pokhis was born on January 24th 1951. He is better known as Yakov Smirnoff, is a Ukrainian-born American comedian, painter and teacher. He was a corporal in the Strategic Comedy Corps of the Soviet Army who fled to America in the 1980s to avoid being sent to Afganistan, where he had heard the crowds were “tough”. He was a famous member of The order of the Communist Pear, before he left them and joined a similar communist group, the Mindless drooling corpses Contents.

After the fall of the Berlin Wall and the replacement of the Iron Curtain with an adorable set of chintz curtains, he got a prescription for anti-psychotic medicine following an incident at a comedy club in Branson, Missouri when Smirnoff suffered a nervous breakdown after heckling from the remaining members of the audience on May 28, 1992.

The Iron Curtain was a gigantically-long iron wall erected along the borders of the former Soviet Union following “The Great War” (World War II). In all it is surrounded an area of 22.4 million square kilometers, which included one-sixth of the Earth’s land surface. Compared to the Iron Curtain, China’s “Great Wall” looks like the fence around George Bush’s ranch. It was eventually brought down in 2002 thanks to the mysterious superhuman powers of illusionist and channeler of dark forces, David Blaine. Prior to that President Ronald Reagan hired magician David Copperfield to make the Iron Curtain disappear-but , alas, it was only an illusion.

Reagan, while simultaneously rattling his “Star Wars” sabre, saved up enough money and finally anaged to purchase the entire wall for cash. He then tasked Blaine with the curtains removal. During its time the Iron Curtain came to symbolize the divide between the fortunate and the unfortunate. By the year 1964 the Iron Curtain reached the height of its unpopularity, but it took over four decades before the abomination was finally gone.

Yakov Smirnoff is also well-know as his reversal joke trick. It is called as Russian Reversal. It is a debating and argumentative tactic developed by the USSR during the twentieth century. A tool described as being able to end and subsequently win any discussion, its original intent was to stupefy capitalist dogs by inverting the sentence and introducing a new prepositional phrase, thus obfuscating the topic and allowing the debater to take control and bury his opponent. Its execution is as simple as it is lethal; the subject and direct object of the sentences are shifted into the second person. This is because Soviet Russia is a wondrous land of complete automation and bizarre reversal of ordinary American events and situations.

http://uncyclopedia.wikia.com/wiki/Yakov_Smirnoff (2012)

Transcript Yakov Smirnoff: *What a country*

Presenter : Alright... what a night
So I tell you.. comedy.. comedy, huh?
Comedy is in my blood.
I wish it in act...

Audience : ((laugher))

Presenter : Our next comedian is from Russia.
How do you like that, huh?
This guy came here seven years ago, couldn't speak a word of English,
Today he speaks tall words...

Audience : ((laugher))

Presenter : all Spanish.

Audience : ((laugher))

Presenter : Say hello to Yakov Smirnoff! OK, here we are.

Audience : ((applause))

Y. S. : Hi!

Audience : Hi

Y. S. : My name is Yakov Smirnoff. I am a comedian from Russia...

Audience : Hmm..

Y. S. : Thank you very much...

Audience : ((laugher))
((applause))

Y. S. : I wanna explain to you what happened to that aeroplane.

Audience : ((laugher))

Y. S. : I am actually from Russia. I was born there, grew up there, worked as
a comedian out there.

Russia. What surprises me – American people don't know we have comedy in

 We have comedians ... they're there.
 They're dead...

Audience : ((laughter))

Y. S. : They're there. It's very hard to do comedy in the Soviet Union.
 You have to write out all your material, and you send it to the
Department of Jokes.

Audience : ((laughter))

Y. S. : I'm not making this up.
 They send it back to you censored.
 You have to stay with the script, you cannot improvise.
 If someone hackles you from the audience...
 You can't say, like, "*your mother wears army boots*,"

Audience : ((laughter))

Y. S. : Because she probably does...

Audience : ((laughter))

Y. S. : And she will hurt you.

Audience : ((laughter))

Y. S. : Good thing about doing comedy in Russia:
 You have a captured audience.

Audience : ((laughter))

Y. S. : They're not going anywhere.

Audience : ((laughter))

Y. S. : You gotta be very selective, very careful with what jokes you say.
 If you say, like "*Take my wife, please!*" You get home-she's gone.

Audience : ((laughter))

Y. S. : I realized that I wanted to get out of Russia.

It's not easy to get out, because you apply for a visa, but they give you Mastercard.

Audience : ((laughter))

Y. S. : There no things like American Express.
They give you Russian Express:
"Don't Leave home!"

Audience : ((laughter))

Y. S. : Finally I got an answer and got out.
And ... my...
My first stop in America is Cleveland, Ohio.
Anybody from Cleveland by chance? Anybody?

Audience : ((perhaps, one of the audiences raises his/her hand))

Y. S. : They made me feel home in Cleveland, so I had to escape again.

Audience : ((laughter))

Y. S. : Now, I make fun of Cleveland because everybody makes fun of Cleveland, is that correct?
I mean every country has one city people make fun of.
In Russia we used to make fun of Cleveland.

Audience : ((laughter))

Y. S. : Then I got to New York was great.
I walked out of the aeroplane.
I saw my name written
big letters: SMIRNOFF

Audience : ((laughter))
((applause))

Y. S. : America loves SMIRNOFF!
I said to my self: What a country!

Audience : ((laughter))

Y. S. : I didn't speak English. It was hard, you know.
Everybody was telling me different things to do, you know

be fine.” people would say: “*You’re gonna learn Pidgin English first and you’ll*

So I used to go to parks.

Audience : ((laugh))

Y. S. : and I learned “perr” (pigeon sound),

Audience : ((laugh))

Y. S. : (his head moves as a pigeon)

Audience : ((laugh))

Y. S. : Then I learned how to crap on windshields.

Audience : ((strong laugh))

Y. S. : A friend of mine said “*I quit smoking cold turkey.*”

Audience : ((weak laugh))

Y. S. : Whatever makes you happy...

Audience : ((laugh))

Y. S. : What do you smoke now, ham?

Audience : ((laugh))

Y. S. : I was reading a newspaper.
The ad in the paper said: BIG SALE – LAST WEEK

Audience : ((weak laugh))

Y. S. : Now, why advertise?
I already miss it!

Audience : ((laugh))

Y. S. : They’re just rubbing it in!

Audience : ((laugh))
((applause))

Y. S. : another ad in the paper said:
"We guarantee your furniture and we stand behind it for six months!"

Audience : ((laugh))

Y. S. : That's the reason I left the Soviet Union.

Audience : ((laugh))

Y. S. : I don't want people behind my furniture!

Audience : ((weak laugh))

Y. S. : I was in Nashville, Tennessee.
That screwed me up completely.
Those people check your hearing constantly.
"You come back, you hear!"

Audience : ((laugh))

Y. S. : (Look backward)
I heard it!

Audience : ((laugh))

Y. S. : I was working there in Nashville and...
and the club owner was a very nice guy,
kind of... a little weird, showed me around Nashville.
showed me his farm.
And he played a practical joke on me: he let me milk his bull.

Audience : ((laugh))

Y. S. : Now, I learned something:
You milk the Sonoma once; you have a friend for a life!

Audience : ((laugh))
((applause))

Y. S. : He was following me around, going *"You come back, you hear!"*

Audience : ((laugh))

Y. S. : It's amazing... certain things, I mean.. but...
But it's great to be in this country.

You have freedoms, you know, you can say anything you want,
You can do whatever you want...
Certain freedoms I had no idea about.
I walked in the store, first time.
I saw this box: says NEW FREEDOM.

Audience : ((laughter))

Y. S. : and I said to myself: What a country!

Audience : ((laughter))

Y. S. : Freedom in a box!

Audience : ((laughter))

Y. S. : I bought 15 of them.

Audience : ((laughter))

Y. S. : If any of you need some. I still have.
I had no idea what that thing was so I bought *super maxi*.

Audience : ((laughter))

Y. S. : I figured that should give me as much freedom as possible.

Audience : ((laughter))

Y. S. : and I would write letter to my friends in Russia,
I would put those things in the envelope.

Audience : ((weak laughter))

Y. S. : I figured they should enjoy some freedom too!

Audience : ((strong laughter))

Y. S. : Then I read its sanitary napkins.
I would put those things on the tables.
I thought those are good napkins, they were expensive!
And people would go “*Yuuuuuuck!*”

Audience : ((laughter))

Y. S. : Then I thought they're, like, headbands.
Here I am wearing this stuff... in the gym.

Audience : ((laugher))
((imagine))

Y. S. : People coming over, going: "*You look good!*"

Audience : ((laugher))

Y. S. : "*What the hell are you wearing?*"

Audience : ((laugher))

Y. S. : I don't do it anymore.
I buy a StayFree.

Audience : ((strong laugher))
((applause))

Y. S. : Thank you very much! You were wonderful!
Thank you! Good night!

Audience : ((applause))

Presenter : Yakov Smirnoff!

Audience : ((applause))

Presenter : How was he? Pretty good, huh?

Audience : ((applause))