Globalization affects separate spheres of the language system, one of them being popular culture (popular music). Musical discourse, and song lyrics discourse in particular, is explored in terms of the role of English as a semiotic resource in globalized Russian. The aim of this research is to analyze the specific language contacts in Russian song lyrics discourse. The peculiar forms of language contacts, expressed in contemporary song lyrics in different musical genres, largely reflect the conflicting situation of the interaction between the two languages (Russian and English) caused by globalization: a desire to go outside Russia and enter the international (musical) arena forces to write English lyrics, while it is impossible to be understood within the country without the use of the Russian language. Switching to English as a contact language of popular music indexes affiliation with global and local musical communities. On the other hand, English-language lyrics introduce a new variant of English (‘russified’ English or ‘Russian English’), which is characterized by distinctive structural and functional features. In the context of globalizing popular music and virtual society, this new variant is widely spread (‘travels’ across different cultures) and massively applied. The most recent pop, rock, heavy metal and rap lyrics are examined as a linguistic response and reaction to globalization. A critical analysis of song lyrics is supported by ethnographic interviews with 10 members of local rock, heavy metal and hip-hop bands to identify the social and other factors determining the use of different language resources in song lyrics.

Keywords: Russian English, code-switching, song lyrics discourse.