

THE SUBJECT MATTER OF STYLISTICS

PROBLEMS FOR DISCUSSION

1. The subject matter of stylistics
2. The definition of the functional style. Style-forming linguistic feature of
 - a) belles-lettres style
 - b) publicistic style
 - c) newspaper style
 - d) scientific style
 - e) the style of official documents
3. The problem of stylistic differentiation of the English vocabulary. The general survey of neutral-literary-bookish-colloquial stratum of the English language.
4. The linguistic peculiarities of written and oral types of speech.

THE SUBJECT MATTER OF STYLISTICS

Stylistics is a branch of General Linguistics. It studies language means on all the language levels from the point of view of their expressiveness, emotiveness, imagery and evaluation. In other words it studies the effects of the message, its impact on the reader or listener. The subject of stylistics can also be outlined as the study of the nature functions and structure of stylistic devices (SD), on the one hand, and, on the other – the study of language styles (functional style), its aim, its characteristic features.

Thus the main problems under consideration in stylistics are as follows.

1. Functional styles.
2. Stylistic Differentiation of the English Vocabulary.
3. Types of Speech.
4. Stylistic Devices (SD) and Expressive Means (EM) of the language.

FUNCTIONAL STYLES

A style of language (functional style) can be defined as a system of language means intended to fulfill a specific function (aim) of communication. We distinguish 5 styles in the English language, each of which is characterized by specific linguistic features.

THE BELLES-LETTRES STYLE

The main function-is aesthetic impact on the reader. It's subdivided into:

1. The language of poetry (verse)
2. Emotive prose (fiction)
3. Drama

The linguistic characteristics of the belles-lettres styles are the following:

1. Genuine, not trite imagery.
2. The use of words in contextual meaning.
3. The use of expressive means of the language and stylistic devices.

Each substyle of the belles-lettres style is also characterized by its typical features. Thus the language of poetry is characterized by rhyme and rhythm.

The distinguishing feature of emotive prose is the combination of literary language with colloquial, because there are always two forms of communication –monologue (the writer's speech) and dialogue (the speech of the characters).

The language of drama is entirely dialogue. The author's speech is almost entirely excluded except for the playwright's remarks and stage directives.

PUBLICISTIC STYLE

The general aim of publicistic style – is to exert a constant and deep influence on public opinion to convince the reader or the listener. It also falls into three varieties: 1. Essay (moral, philosophical, literary). 2. Articles (political, social, economic) in news-papers, journals, magazines. 3. Oratorical style, which is a spoken variety of the publicistic style.

The development of radio and television has brought into being a new spoken variety the radio commentary.

The publicistic style has features in common with the scientific style and emotive prose. The features similar to scientific prose-coherent and logical syntactical structure, an expended system of connectives, careful paragraphing. Features in common with emotive prose – the use of words with emotive meaning , the use of imagery and other SD. But the stylistic devices used in publicistic style are not fresh or genuine, they are trite.

THE NEWSPAPER STYLE

The newspaper style is a system of language means that serves the purpose of informing the reader. It is subdivided into:

1. Brief news items and communiqués
2. Press reports
3. Articles purely informational in character
4. Advertisements and announcements

The style is characterized by the use of

1. Special political and economical terms (president, General Assembly, constitution, market economy, negotiations)
2. Newspaper clichés (danger of war, vital issue, to pay a visit)
3. Abbreviation: UNO, NATO, NIS, P.M.
4. Neologisms – sputnik, lunik

SCIENTIFIC STYLE

Function – proof, creation of new concepts

Features: logical sequence of utterances, the use of terms, the use of words in their primary direct meaning.

THE STYLE OF OFFICIAL DOCUMENTS

Function – to reach agreement between two contracting parties. It is subdivided:

1. The language of business documents
2. The language of local documents
3. That of diplomacy
4. That of military documents

Features:

1. Absence of emotiveness
2. Abbreviations
3. Specific words and expressions

TYPES OF SPEECH

The communication takes place in different forms and situations. According to the situation in which the communication proceeds we distinguish two types of speech: oral and written which are characterized by a number of typical features.

The oral communication proceeds in the presence of interlocutor; the main form of it is a dialogue. The written communication, does not require any interlocutor, its main form is monologue.

The oral type of speech is more expressive and emotional. It involves such powerful means of expressiveness as gestures, mimicry, intonation, pitch, melody, stress and the others, which apart from language means can express much joy or sorrow, hate or love, consent or denial. As Bernard Shaw said: There are 500 ways of saying “no” but only one way to put it down.

The oral types of speech differs from the written language phonetically, morphologically, lexically and syntactically.

1. Of morphological forms the spoken language commonly uses contracted forms: *can't*, *shan't*, *I'll*, *don't*, *won't* and so on, which are dictated by a quick tempo of the oral type of speech.

2. At the lexical there is a number of peculiarities typical of the oral type:

a) a great number of words and phrases which are used in colloquial speech to introduce statements. For example the use of interjection **why**, which can express objection, reflection, impatience, surprise.

Why, his just being in a lab is a prayer.

“Say”, “I say”, “Look here” are also used at the beginning of a sentence to call attention to what is about to follow, sometimes it is used as an exclamation, thus tending to become an interjection.

Say, if you don't like the way study medicine.

Look here! We don't tell you how you ought to work

3. The use of cut words-curtails *phone*, *lab*, *gent*, *prof*, *doc*, *dele*, *bike*, *exam* and so on.

4. There is another characteristic feature of colloquial language, that is, the insertion into the utterance of words without any meaning which are called “fill ups” or empty words. To some extent they give a touch of completing to the sentence if used at the end of it, or if used in the middle, help the speaker to fill the gap when unable to find the proper word. Such words and set expressions as:

well, *so to say*, *you know*, *you understand*, you see belong to the category of “fill ups”.

The syntactical peculiarities of the spoken language are the following:

1) Elliptical sentences i.e. sentences in which one or several parts of a sentence are felt as missing. Elliptical sentences are considered to be the norm of oral intercourse. The missing parts are easily guessed because the situation in which the conversation takes place suggests them.

Many elliptical sentences, being widely used in the language, have become set expressions such as:

See you tomorrow, Happy to meet you, Pity you didn't come, Ready? Most proper and others.

However, when elliptical sentences are used in the written type of speech they become special stylistic devices aimed at making the utterance emphatic.

With such purpose elliptical sentences are frequently used in poetry and are therefore regarded as a peculiarity of poetical syntax.

2) Typical feature of colloquial excited speech is the use of two subjects, a tautological subject.

It is a construction in which two subjects are used, where one is sufficient, one – a noun and the other – a pronoun, for the same verb. Usually the pronoun is placed at the beginning, and the proper noun at the end, thus framing the whole sentence

He is a brute of a man, is John.

She is a queer girl, is Mary

Oh, that man, he is so poor.

It should be noted that tautological subject when used in narrative, in the written type of speech, assumes a new quality that of a stylistic device.

3) The use of unfinished sentences:

if you don't come I'll – the end is understood from the situation.

4) Another characteristic feature of the oral type of speech is the use of questions in the form of a statement:

You have been to school?

You go to the institute?

The question is understood as such only by the intonation which in its turn is implied by the question mark.

As it has been mentioned the spoken language is far more emotional than the written. This emotionless is manifested in:

1. Intonation.

2. Structural design of the utterances, the use of exclamatory sentences, which are a signal of emotional tension, one-member sentences, elliptical sentences.

3. The use of interjections, which are charged with emotive meaning. Any sentence that contains interjections will be marked as emotionally colored.

The peculiarities of the written type of speech are predetermined by the conditions in which this type of communication takes place. The written type of speech is not spontaneous

It is directed to a full and detailed expression of the thought, which is achieved by different lexical and syntactical means.

1) the written type of speech is characterized by logically completed sentences, with all kinds of attribute, and adverbial clauses, by complicated sentence-units, long periods;

2) the words and word combinations of the written language belong to a special layer of the English vocabulary, which is called "space wasters". These are: *despite the fact, in the matter of, a long period of time, on the one hand, and on the other hand, met with the approval* and so on.

THE OBJECT OF LEXICOLOGY.
Problems for discussion.

1. The subject - matter of lexicology.
2. Types of lexicology.
3. Diachronic and synchronic approaches to the study of the vocabulary of the English Language.
4. The relationships existing between words.
5. The connection of lexicology with other aspects of the language.

I. The object of lexicology.

Lexicology (from Gr. Lexis "word" and logos "learning") is a branch of linguistics, which studies the vocabulary of a language. Its basic task is to study the origin, the different properties of the vocabulary of a language. The term vocabulary is used to denote the system formed by the sum total of all the words and word equivalents that the language possesses. Lexicology is concerned with words and set phrases, which function in speech. Lexicology also studies all kinds of semantic relations (synonyms, antonyms etc.) and semantic grouping (semantic fields).

There are 5 types of lexicology: 1) general; 2) special; 3) descriptive; 4) historical; 5) comparative.

General lexicology is a part of general linguistics, which studies the general properties of words, the specific features of words of any particular language. It studies the peculiarities of words common to all the language. General lexicology attempts to find out the universals of vocabulary development and patterns. Linguistic phenomena and properties common to all languages are generally called language universals.

Special lexicology devotes its attention to the description of the characteristic peculiarities in the vocabulary of a given language. Special lexicology¹ deals with the words of a definite language. Ex.: English lexicology¹, Russian lexicology², Uzbek lexicology³ and so on.

The evolution of any vocabulary, as well as of its single element, forms the object of historical lexicology. This branch of linguistics discusses the origin of various words, their change and development, and investigates the linguistic and extralinguistic forces modifying their structure, meaning and usage. In the past historical treatment was always combined with the comparative method.

Ex. In descriptive lexicology the words "to take", "to adopt" are considered as being English not differing from such nature words as "child", "foot" etc. But in historical lexicology they are treated as borrowed words.

Descriptive lexicology, deals with the vocabulary of a given stage of its development. It studies the function of words and their specific structure as a characteristic inherent in the system. The descriptive lexicology of the English language deals with the English word in its morphological and semantically structures, investigating the interdependence between these two aspects. These structures are identified and distinguished by contrasting the nature and arrangement of their elements.

Comparative lexicology deals with the properties of the vocabulary of two or more languages. In comparative lexicology the main characteristic features of the words of two or more languages are compared.

¹ R. G. Ginzburg, S. S. Khidekel, G. Y. Knyazeva, A. A. Sankin. A course in modern English lexicology. M., 1978.

² Н. М. Шанский. Лексикология современного русского языка. М., 1972.

³ Узбек тили лексикологияси Тошкент 1981

Ex. Russian - English lexicology, English-French lexicology and etc.

The distinction between the two basically different ways in which language may be viewed, the historical or diachronistic (Gr., dia 'through' and chronos 'time') and the descriptive or synchronistic (Gr. syn 'together', 'with'), is a methodological distinction, a difference of approach, artificially separating for the purpose of study what is real language is inseparable, because actually every linguistic structure and system exists in a state of constant development. The distinction between a synchronistic and diachronistic approach is due to the Swiss philologist Ferdinand de Saussure (1857-1913).

Linguistic relationships between words are classified into syntagmatic and paradigmatic.

Syntagmatic relationships are based on the linear character of speech, i.e. on the influence of context. The context is the minimum stretch of speech, which is necessary to bring out the meaning of a word. Ex. take tea (чай и чмок- пить чай) take tram (трамвайда юрмок — ехать в трамвае).

Syntagmatic relationships are studied by means of contextual distributional, transformational and some other types of analysis.

The paradigmatic relationship is the relations between words within the vocabulary: polysemy, synonymy, antonymy of words etc. These are two approaches to the study of the vocabulary of language - diachronic and synchronic approach deals with the vocabulary, as it exists at a given time, at the present time. The diachronic approach studies the changes and the development of vocabulary in the course of time. Ex. synchronically the words "help", "accept", "work", "produce" are all of them English words. But diachronically they came from different languages. Such words as "childhood", "friendship", "freedom" were at one time compound words, because the suffixes - dom, -hood, -ship were independent words but synchronically they are derived words because 'dom' and 'hood' became suffixes.

In the 19th century and at the beginning of the 20th century lexicology was mainly based on historical principles. At the present time the following method of linguistic research are widely used by lexicologists, distributional, transformational, analysis into immediate constituents, statistical, componential, comparative etc.

Lexicology has some subdivisions, such as:

Semasiology (deals with the meaning of the word);

Word formation (studies all possible ways of forming new words in English);

Etymology (studies the origin of words);

Phraseology (studies the set-expressions, phraseological units);

Lexicography (studies compiling dictionaries).

Comparative study of different peculiarities of English words with words of other language shows that there are various symptoms of this contrast between English and other languages.

The word formation, the semantic structure of correlated words and their usage in speech are different in different languages. Every language has its own lexical system.

Lexicology is closely connected with other aspects of the language: grammar, phonetics, the history of the language and stylistics. Lexicology is connected with grammar because the word seldom occurs in isolation words alone do not form communication. It is only when words connected and joined by the grammar rules of a language communication becomes possible. On the other hand grammatical form and function of the word affect its lexical meaning. For example. When the verb "go" in the continuous tenses is followed by "to" and on infinitive; it expresses a future action. Ex. He is not going to read this book. Participle II of the verb "be" denotes the negative meaning. Ex. The house is gone.

So the lexical meanings of the words are grammatically conditioned. Lexicology is linked with phonetics because the order and the arrangement of phonemes are related to its meaning. Ex. the words "tip" and "pit" consists of the same phonemes and it is the arrangement of phonemes, alone which determines the meaning of the words. The arrangement of phonemes in the words "increase" and "increase" is the same. Only stress determines the difference in meaning.

Lexicology is also closely linked with the history of the language. In examining the word "information" in terms of its historical development we establish its French origin and study the changes in its semantic and morphological structures. If we don't know the history of the language it will be very difficult to establish different changes in the meaning and form of the words, which have undergone in the course of the historical development of the language.

There is also a close relationship between lexicology and stylistics. The words "to begin" and "to commence" mean one and the same meaning but they can never be used interchangeably because they have different stylistic references.

QUESTIONS:

- 1) What is the subject-matter of lexicology?
- 2) What types of lexicology do you know?
- 3) What is the difference between general and special lexicologies?
- 4) What is the difference between descriptive and historical lexicologies?
- 5) What is the difference between comparative and noncomparative lexicologies?
- 6) What is the difference between the paradigmatic and syntagmatic relationships in words?
- 7) What do you know about diachronic and synchronic approaches to the study of the vocabulary of the language?
- 8) What are the methods of linguistic analysis used in modern lexicology?
- 9) What can you say about the connection of lexicology with other aspects of the language?
- 10) How is lexicology connected with grammar (phonetics, stylistics, history of the language)?

RECOMMENDED LITERATURE.

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