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The Subject of Stylistics as a Linguistic Discipline

Abstract

Style in all its meanings is the subject of stylistics — a section of linguistics that studies a) the expressive means and possibilities of language and b) the patterns of functioning (use) of the latter in various spheres of public life.

The active development of stylistics in the 20th century, particularly in its second half, was determined by a number of factors, the most important of which was the global reorientation of the humanities. The human being, or more precisely their behavior, particularly their speech behavior in specific communicative situations, became the primary object of comprehensive study and research. It was during this period that scholars developed the theory of speech activity, leading their research interests to extend beyond the structure of language and its units. Linguists, psychologists and methodologists increasingly turned not only to issues of situational language use but also to the psychological, cognitive, sociocultural and mental — that is, extralinguistic (relating to non-linguistic reality) — foundations of speech activity.

Keywords: *stylistics, linguistic science, written style, functional style, literary language*

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Stilistikanın predmeti dilçilik bölməsi kimi

Xülasə

Üslub bütün mənaları ilə stilistikanın mövzudur — a) dilin ifadə vasitələrini və imkanlarını və b) ictimai həyatın müxtəlif sahələrində sonuncunun fəaliyyət (istifadə) nümunələrini öyrənən dilçiliyin bölməsidir.

XX əsrdə, xüsusən də onun ikinci yarısında stilistikanın fəal inkişafı bir sıra amillərlə müəyyən edilmişdir ki, bunlardan da ən mühümü humanitar elmlərin qlobal istiqamətləndirilməsi idi. İnsan, daha dəqiq desək, onun davranışı, xüsusən də konkret kommunikativ situasiyalarda nitq davranışı hərtərəfli tədqiqatın əsas obyektinə çevrilmişdir. Məhz bu dövrdə alimlər nitq fəaliyyəti nəzəriyyəsini inkişaf etdirərək tədqiqat maraqlarını dilin və onun vahidlərinin strukturundan kənara çıxarmışlar. Dilçilər, psixoloqlar və metodoloqlar getdikcə yalnız situasiya dilinin istifadəsi məsələlərinə deyil, həm də nitq fəaliyyətinin psixoloji, koqnitiv, sosial-mədəni və mental, yəni ekstralingvistik (qeyri-lingvistik realıqla əlaqəli) əsaslarına müraciət edirlər.

Açar sözlər: *stilistika, dilçilik elmi, yazı üslubu, funksional üslub, ədəbi dil*

Introduction

Stylistics is the linguistic science of expressive means and the patterns of language functioning, determined by the most appropriate use of linguistic units depending on the content, utterance, purpose, situation, and sphere of communication (legal, scientific, public, or, according to other classifications, business, scientific, artistic, journalistic, or everyday). The two main issues raised in stylistics are:

- 1) the distinction between language and speech,
- 2) the definition of literary language and its norms.

That stylistics is an independent science is evidenced by the fact that it has its own subject matter, concepts and categories, research methods, and its own range of problems.

Main part

Style is a set of morphological, lexical, or syntactic features of the linguistic units you select in a specific speech situation for a specific pragmatic purpose.

Written style – book style. This pair is used to denote four functional styles. They are contrasted with a fifth, colloquial style, the recording of which on paper does not make it written but merely serves as a written record of a colloquial, unwritten style. "Written style" is a term; "book style" is its less terminologically strict synonym (Prasannata, 2017).

Functional style is a style designed to serve a particular sphere of human activity, a "function" (scientific, legal, public, aesthetic, etc. – there are several classifications). Five styles are generally distinguished: (official) business, scientific, (newspaper) journalistic, literary style, and, in contrast, colloquial style.

High style, neutral style, low style. This group originates from M.V. Lomonosov's "theory of three styles" and is no longer concerned with serving a specific sphere of human activity, but with characterizing the lexical composition of the national, universally understood, and accessible Russian language. Functional styles draw the resources they need from here (and from other sources).

Thus, to characterize the style in which a scientific article is written, we will say that it is a written style, it is a functional scientific style, for a functional scientific style it is typical (normatively) to use neutral vocabulary, i.e. vocabulary related to a neutral style, not emotionally expressive (Arnol'd, 2002, p. 384).

The subject of stylistics can be defined in accordance with the main directions of stylistic research:

1) The field that studies the stylistic resources of language is descriptive stylistics, which examines the stylistic means of language, the expressive potential, and the semantic and functional nuances of words, forms, and constructions. Its primary focus is the stylistic synonymy of language, which manifests itself at all levels of linguistic structure: phraseological, word-formation, phonetic, lexical, morphological, and syntactic. Therefore, it can be said that descriptive stylistics is the science of synonyms or synonymous resources, the expressive means of language. It is here that high, middle, and low (reduced) styles are found (Bradford, 1997). Thus, every native Russian speaker understands all the words in the chain *lik-litso-morda, rogya, kharya*; everyone will correlate them with the chain *high-neutral-rough* and use them correctly depending on the situation and their own intentions. (Anyone who doubts themselves can turn to a dictionary containing the following notations: *rude, simple, etc.*) The words given are stylistic synonyms. They denote the same part of the human body, but contain (or do not contain) an emotionally expressive assessment of this particular part (Axundov, 1988; Hornby, 2000).

2) Functional stylistics studies the specificity and stylistic consistency of functional styles, as well as their genre, situational, and other variations. It is a linguistic science that studies the patterns of language functioning in accordance with various spheres of human activity, as well as the norms for the selection and use of linguistic units.

3) The science of literary styles studies the interaction of literary language and various styles of fiction.

4) Practical stylistics is an applied, normative discipline whose goal is to promote the implementation of theoretical stylistic principles through teaching and publication, as well as the development of a stylistic speech culture. The state standard prescribes the study of primarily functional stylistics as an independent area for your specialty (Əliyev, 2001). Descriptive stylistics is included within practical stylistics. The stylistics of individual media genres should be considered from the perspective of literary styles. Thus, you will become familiar (to a greater or lesser extent) with all four of these areas of stylistics as a linguistic discipline. Please note: the study of stylistics is not an end in itself. The theoretical knowledge and practical skills acquired will facilitate your adequate self-expression (Desyayeva, 2008, p. 272; Həsənov, 2017).

This approach forms the basis for the active development of the following areas of stylistics: (Bazhenova, 2014, pp. 9–17).

- Functional stylistics, whose primary focus is the patterns of linguistic resource use in typical speech situations;

- Textual stylistics, which, while being an integral part of functional stylistics, still has its own focus—the patterns of speech organization. Naturally, this primarily takes into account the methods of organizing the text to best realize the author's intentions;

- Historical stylistics, which studies the formation of functional styles in relation to the history of the development of the Russian literary language;

- Stylistics of artistic speech, which examines the unique functioning of language in literary texts, as well as individual authorial styles.

Overall, stylistics is a young and promising science. Its interconnection with other studies and their mutual influence can serve as the basis for the development of both other areas of stylistics and new scientific disciplines (Bakhtin, 2013; Verdonk, 2002).

Conclusion

In linguistic literature, stylistics is defined as "the study of styles, a linguistic science that describes the functional aspect of the language system in its current state and diachrony", which explains the patterns of language use in the speech process. Functional stylistics is a branch of linguistics that most fully and consistently studies language in action.

The subject of functional stylistics is the means of language from the point of view of their selection and organization into a speech production within the framework of a particular functional style, as well as the functional styles themselves as typified varieties of language used in a certain sphere of human life.

At the current stage of language development, stylistics is recognized as a distinct field of linguistic theory. As a discipline, stylistics continues to evolve, as its object (language recorded in texts) is a living organism. Stylistics and the very essence of style are closely linked to the communicative aspect of language, to the problem of its use and functioning.

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