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THE SUBJECT MATTER OF STYLISTICS

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Annotation: This article discusses the subject matter of stylistics as a branch of linguistics. It examines the aims, objects, functions, and main directions of stylistics, as well as its importance in the analysis of language. Special attention is paid to the study of expressive means, stylistic devices, and functional styles in modern English.

Key words: stylistics, language, expressive means, stylistic devices, functional style, linguistics, speech, text, communication.

Introduction:Language is not only a means of communication but also a way of expressing emotions, ideas, and attitudes. Different situations require different forms of language. People speak differently in scientific reports, newspapers, everyday conversations, and literary works. The branch of linguistics that studies these differences is called stylistics.

Stylistics occupies an important place in modern linguistics because it connects language with its practical use. It studies how words, grammar, and sounds are used to achieve a certain effect. In other words, stylistics explains why the speaker or writer chooses one linguistic form instead of another.

Definition of Stylistics

Stylistics is a branch of linguistics that studies the expressive resources of language and the principles of their use in different communicative situations. It deals with the selection and organization of language units in speech.

The term “style” comes from the Latin word ***stilus***, which originally meant a pointed instrument used for writing. Later, the word began to denote a manner of expression. Therefore, stylistics may be defined as the study of style in language.

The Subject Matter of Stylistics

The subject matter of stylistics is the study of the expressive possibilities of language and the ways they are used in speech and writing. Stylistics investigates:

- the emotional and expressive coloring of words;
- the use of stylistic devices;
- the peculiarities of functional styles;
- the relation between language and context;
- the individual style of a writer or speaker.

The main object of stylistics is language in action. Unlike grammar, which studies the rules of language, stylistics studies how these rules are used in real communication.

For example, the sentences “He died” and “He passed away” have the same meaning, but they differ stylistically. The second expression sounds softer and more formal. Stylistics explains such differences.

Main Branches of Stylistics

There are several branches of stylistics.

a) Linguistic Stylistics

Linguistic stylistics studies the expressive means of the language system. It analyzes phonetic, lexical, and grammatical elements that create a stylistic effect.

b) Literary Stylistics

Literary stylistics examines the language of literary works. It studies how writers use stylistic devices to create characters, atmosphere, and artistic images.

c) Functional Stylistics

Functional stylistics investigates the peculiarities of language in different spheres of communication. It studies the functional styles of language.

d) Comparative Stylistics

Comparative stylistics compares stylistic phenomena in two or more languages. It helps to identify similarities and differences between them.

Expressive Means and Stylistic Devices

One of the central problems of stylistics is the study of expressive means and stylistic devices.

Expressive means are language forms that intensify speech. They may be phonetic, lexical, or grammatical. For example:

- repetition;
- intonation;
- emotionally colored words;
- inversion.

Stylistic devices are special techniques used by the speaker or writer to make speech more vivid and impressive. Among the most common stylistic devices are:

- metaphor;
- simile;
- epithet;
- irony;
- hyperbole;
- personification.

For example, in the expression “the sea of troubles,” the word “sea” is used metaphorically to emphasize the great number of troubles.

Functional Styles of the English Language

Stylistics also studies functional styles. A functional style is a system of language means used in a particular sphere of communication.

The main functional styles of the English language are:

1. The scientific style – used in textbooks, articles, and reports. It is logical, precise, and objective.
2. The official style – used in documents, laws, and business correspondence. It is formal and standardized.
3. The newspaper style – used in newspapers and magazines. It combines information with emotional influence.
4. The publicistic style – used in speeches and essays. Its purpose is to persuade and influence the audience.
5. The belles-lettres style – used in fiction and poetry. It is rich in imagery and expressive means.
6. The colloquial style – used in everyday communication. It is simple, emotional, and informal.

Each style has its own vocabulary, grammar, and syntactic structures.

Importance of Stylistics

Stylistics is important for both theoretical and practical reasons. It helps people understand how language functions in different situations. It also teaches students to speak and write correctly and effectively.

The study of stylistics develops the ability:

- to analyze texts;
- to recognize stylistic devices;
- to choose appropriate language means;
- to understand the author's intention;
- to improve communication skills.

For students of foreign languages, stylistics is especially important because it helps them use the language naturally and appropriately.

Conclusion:Stylistics is an essential branch of linguistics that studies the expressive resources of language and the peculiarities of their use. The subject matter of stylistics includes expressive means, stylistic devices, functional styles, and the individual manner of expression. By studying stylistics, people learn not only the structure of language but also its beauty, flexibility, and communicative power.

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