Functional styles

Lecture 7

Points for discussion

- Functional style. Definition
- An overview of classifications of functional styles
- Distinctive linguistic features of the major functional styles in English

Functional styles

- The notion of style has to do with how we use the language under specific circumstances for a specific purpose.

- Placed in specific circumstances people choose different kinds of words and structures to express their thoughts.

- The registers of speech used in some socially identifiable spheres of life are referred to as the **functional styles**

FUNCTIONAL STYLE (FS): DEFINITIONS

- **<u>Galperin:</u>** *Functional style of language is a system of interrelated language means which serves a definite aim in communication.*

- **<u>Arnold:</u>** *Functional style is a subsystem of language which possesses specific lexical, syntactical, sometimes phonetic features characteristic of a particular sphere of communication.*

Varieties of language

The spoken variety	The written variety
• Primary • Characterized by the presence of an interlocutor • Usually maintained in the form of a dialogue • Voice, intonation, gestures carry additional information	• Secondary • Absence of an interlocutor • Monologue • Characterized by a more careful organization and deliberate choice of words

The study of functional styles

- Lomonosov (lofty, medium and low styles)
- V.V. Vinogradov

1) the colloquial style, which has the function of communicating (функция общения);

2) the official and scientific styles, which have the function of informing (функция сообщения);

3) the publicist (публицистический) and belle-letres (художественно-беллетристический) styles, which have the function of producing an emotional impact (функция эмоционального воздействия) on the listeners.

- The phenomenon was thoroughly studied by Russian scholars I.R. Galperin, I.V. Arnold, M.D. Kuznets,Y.A. Skrebnev and others.

CLASSIFICATION OF FSs (Galperin):

- Galperin's classification only deals with the ***written variety*** of the language. In Galperin's opinion, style is the result of creative activity of a writer who consciously and deliberately chooses language means that create style. Colloquial speech does not allow such careful selection of linguistic means.

- ***Each style is characterized by a number of individual features*** which can be leading or subordinate, constant or changing, obligatory or optional.

- ***Each style can be subdivided into substyles***. Substyles retain the most characteristic features of the root style, although they can differ dramatically from it.

- ***FS is a historical category*** as it changes with time, but at the given stage it represents a relatively stable system.

Galperin's Classification of FSs

I. Belles-Letres [ˌbelˈletrə] **Style (стиль художественной литературы).**

1. The language of poetry; 2. Emotive prose; 3. Drama.

II. Publicistic Style (публицистический стиль).

1. Oratory and Speeches; 2. The Essay; 3. Articles in magazines and newspapers.

III. Newspaper Style (газетный стиль).

1. Brief News Items; 2. Headlines; 3. Advertisements and Announcements; 4. The Editorial.

IV. Scientific Prose (стиль научной прозы).

V. Official Documents (стиль официальных документов).

The language of business, legal, diplomatic and military documents.

The problem of colloquial style

- Informal speech of everyday conversation

- The problem of classification – should it be regarded as a functional style?

(According to Galperin, functional styles belong only to <u>the written variety</u> of the literary language)

- I.V. Arnold, Y. M. Skrebnev and others disagree

The Problem of Colloquial Style

Y.M. Skrebnev divides the styles into bookish and colloquial.

- The bookish style is a style of a highly polished nature that reflects the norm of the national literary language (used not only in writing and official oral talk)
- Colloquial style is the type of speech which is used in a situation that allows certain deviations from the rigid pattern of literary speech (used not only in a private conversation, but also in private correspondence)

So the term "style" is applicable both to the written and oral varieties of the language. The terms "colloquial" and "bookish" don't exactly correspond to the oral and written forms of speech.

The Problem of Belles-Lettres Style

- Many scholars refuse to recognize the existence of belles-lettres style (V. Vinogradov, A. Fyodorov, Y. Stepanov, I. Arnold, Y. Skrebnev).

- **Arnold:** Literary norm, which is stylistically neutral, is used in fiction in combination with elements of different FSs. The clash of different styles results in achieving the aesthetic effect.

- **Skrebnev:** The diversity of what is met within books of fiction turns the notion of a belles-lettres style into something very vague, possessing no features of its own.

  Realistic writers quote extracts from legal documents, texts of telegrams, slogans, headlines of daily papers, ads, private letters.

(Fowles *The Collector*)

In one of Sunday papers I saw an advert in capitals in a page of houses for sale. I wasn't looking for them, this just seemed to catch my eye as I was turning the page. "FAR FROM THE MADDING CROWD?" it said. Just like that. Then it went on –

    Old cottage, charming secluded situation, large garden, I hr by car London, two miles from nearest village…

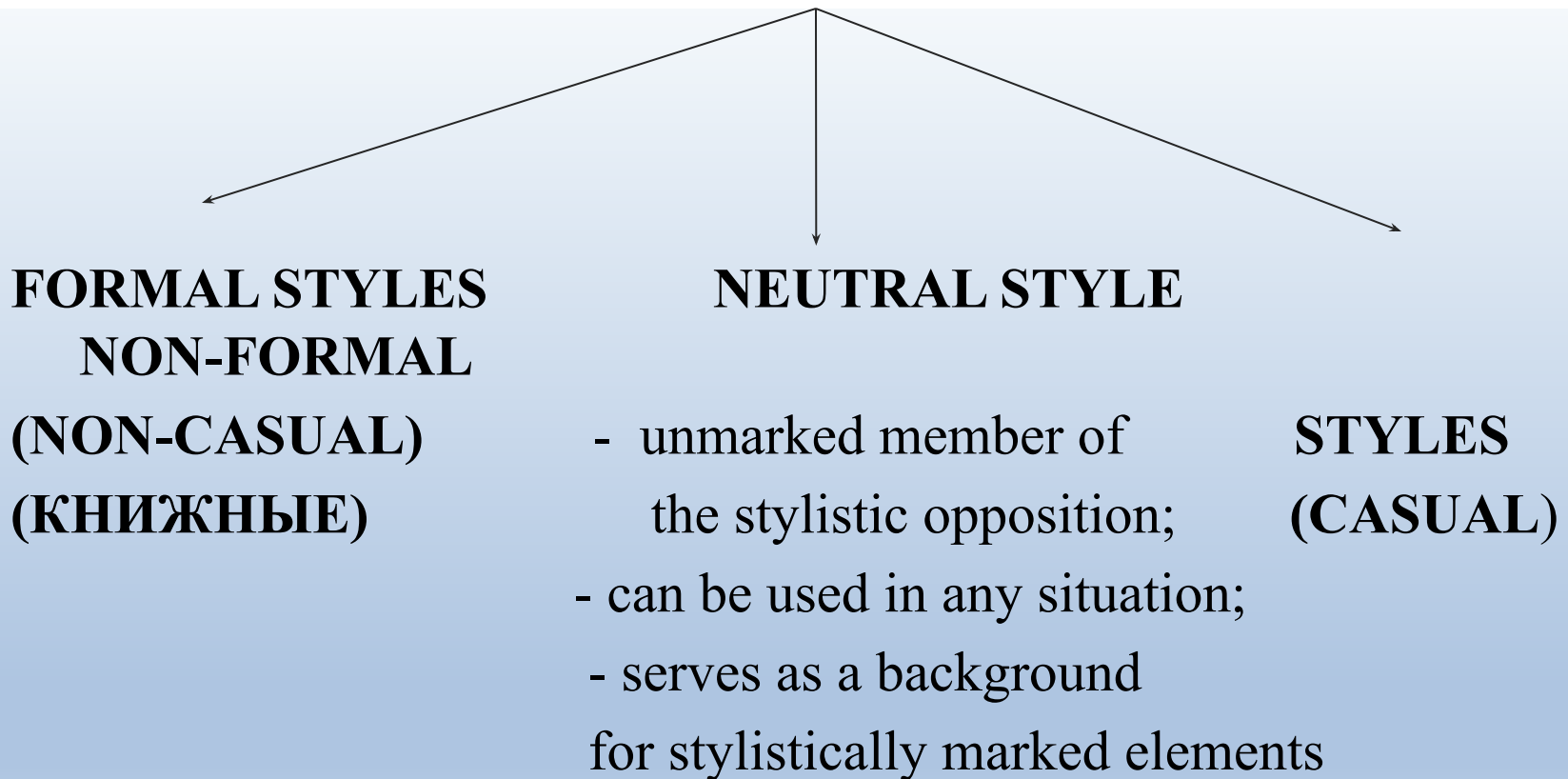and so on. The next morning I was driving down to see it.

Classification of Functional Styles (Arnold): introduction

- **Borderlines between FSs are not clear-cut**

Individual speech comprises a number of functional styles

- **The number of functional styles and their peculiarities can vary depending on the historical period**

Classification of Functional Styles (Arnold)

FORMAL STYLES
NON-FORMAL

(NON-CASUAL)

(КНИЖНЫЕ)

NEUTRAL STYLE

- unmarked member of

the stylistic opposition;

- can be used in any situation;

- serves as a background

for stylistically marked elements

STYLES

(CASUAL)

Classification of Functional Styles (Arnold)

FORMAL STYLES
- Poetic diction (esp. in the 18-19th centuries)
- Scientific style
- Official documentation
- Publicist (Newspaper) style
- Oratory style

NON-FORMAL STYLES
- Literary colloquial
- Familiar colloquial (фамильярно-разговорный)
- Low colloquial (просторечие)

Peculiarities of Formal Styles (Arnold)

- Prepared, mostly written speech;
- The moments of encoding and decoding can stand apart in time;
- No territorial (dialectal) distinctions;
- Form of a monologue, which presupposes addressing the audience;
- Absence of direct feedback → Use of varied and precise vocabulary and syntax.

Peculiarities of Non-Formal (Colloquial) Styles (Arnold)

- Spontaneous, mostly oral speech;
- Mostly in dialogue form;
- Feedback available;
- Use of body language;
- Situation as context
- Territorial (dialectal) distinctions;

Functions of styles (according to Arnold)

Styles Functions	Commu-nicative	Volun-tative	Emotive	Phatic	Aesthetic
1. Oratory	+	+	+	+	+
2. Colloquial	+	+	+	+	-
3. Poetic	+	-	+	-	+
4. Publicist and newspaper	+	+	+	-	-
5. Official	+	+	-	-	-
6. Scientific	+	-	-	-	-

Sublanguage: definition (Skrebnev)

- The term "sublanguage" ("подъязык") was originally introduced by N.D. Andreyev. In his conception, a *sublanguage* is predetermined by *the contents of the text*. *Style* is defined by emotional aims and refers to *the form of expression*.

- **Skrebnev:** *Sublanguage is a subsystem of language which fully conforms with the aims of communication in a particular sphere of speech. It embraces:*

   - CONTENT (thematic aspect);

   - FORM (linguistic peculiarities);

       - EXTERNAL CHARACTERISTICS OF THE COMMUNICATIVE SITUATION.

Sublanguage and Style (Skrebnev)

- Style is what differentiates a given sublanguage from all other sublanguages, a text of one group from texts of other groups.

- **Style is specificity of sublanguage** as it is formed by absolutely specific units.

E.g. Scientific prose style – use of terminology, specific sentence patterns, abundance of passive constructions, etc.

Classification of Sublanguages (Skrebnev)

The Official Sphere
- Private correspondence with a
  stranger
- Business correspondence
- Diplomatic correspondence
- Legal documents
- Science and technology
- Newspaper texts
- Poetry and fiction
- Church service ……………….

The Colloquial Sphere
- Colloquial SL
- Low-Colloquial SL(slang, jargons)
- Dialects

Sublanguages: theoretical aspects

- We can single out as many sublanguages as we think fit to attain our objectives of linguistic research.

  The number of SLs and styles is infinite.

E.g. telegraphic style, telephone conversation style, Shakespearean style, the style of the novel, etc.

  These styles characterize their respective sublanguages.

- There are as many norms as there are sublanguages. Each sublanguage is subject to its own norm.

- The borderlines between SLs are not strict. There exist 'borderlands' ('tolerance zones') between SLs which include units tolerable in both neighbouring spheres.

Comparative Overview of Classifications

GALPERIN	ARNOLD	SKREBNEV
- Functional style as basic unit	- Functional style	- Sublanguage (Style-specificity of SL)
- Limited number of FSs	- Limited number of FSs	- Unlimited number of SLs and styles
- Written FSs	- Written + Colloq.	- Written + Colloq.
- Belles-Lettres FS	- No Belles-Lettres	- No Belles-Lettres
- Newspaper FS	- Newspaper FS	- Newspaper style – problematic

Colloquial styles

- Colloquial style is our everyday means of communication.

✔ **Literary colloquial**
✔ **Unceremonious** (фамильярно-разговорный)
✔ **Popular speech/ common parlance** (просторечье)

✔ **Literary colloquial**
✔ **Familiar colloquial**

Literary colloquial

❑ <u>Compositional forms:</u>

⬜ Used both in the written (letters, diaries, etc.) and oral variety (in dialogue and monologue form)

⬜ Prepared: more logical and more or less determined by conventional compositional forms (letters, interviews)

⬜ Spontaneous: loose structure, relative coherence.

Familiar colloquial

- No special compositional patterns
- Loose syntactical organization
- No necessary adherence to the topic

Combination of compression and redundancy

❑ [Compression](#) is realized in

✔ Shortened forms of auxiliary and modal verbs;

✔ Omission of words (elliptical sentences)

✔ Simplicity of syntactic constructions

✔ Monosyllabic words

❑ [Redundancy](#)

✔ Time fillers and hesitation devices ("Well", "you know", "Er");

✔ Repetition of words and phrases;

✔ Double negation

✔ Pleonastic use of pronouns ("Don't you forget")

Phonetic features

Major tendencies (Skrebnev):

o General carelessness and indistinctness of pronunciation

o Explication: loud voice, emphatic intonation (shown in writing by italics, capitals, etc.)

✔ phonetic compression: *it's, don't, I've*

✔ omission of unaccented elements due to rapid speech: *you know him?*

✔ casual and often careless pronunciation (especially in familiar colloquial)

✔ Use of deviant forms: *gonna, whatcha, dunno* (in familiar colloquial)

✔ Emphasis on intonation as a semantic and stylistic instrument.

✔ Use of onomatopoeic words: *whoosh, hush, stop yodelling, yum*.

Morphological features

- Dropping of morphemes (*real good)*
- The use of emphatic forms

e.g. Continuous ("I'm loving it"); "Do come!"

- The use of pleonastic forms ("I'll kill you dead")
- Use of evaluative suffixes: deary, duckie.
- prevalence of active and finite verb forms
- nonce words: *baldish*, *helter-skelter, okeydoke*

Vocabulary

- The vocabulary of colloquial style is usually **lower** than that of the formal or neutral styles, it is often **emotionally coloured** and characterized by **connotations**

- Colloquial speech is characterized by the frequent use of words with a ***broad meaning*** (something close to polysemy): speakers tend to use **a small group** of words in quite different meanings

Lexical features

- Combination of neutral, familiar and low colloquial vocabulary.
- Use of socially accepted contracted forms and abbreviations: fridge, ice, TV, CD
- Use of conversational formulas: nice to see you, my pleasure, etc.
- Extensive use of intensifiers and gap-fillers: *absolutely, definitely, kind of*, etc.
- Use of interjections and exclamations: *Dear me, My God, well, why, now, oh*. (in familiar colloquial - specific colloquial interjections: *boy, wow, hey, there*)
- Extensive use of phrasal verbs: *let sb down, put up with, stand sb up*.
- Use of words of indefinite or general meaning like *thing, stuff*, *guy, job, get, do, fix*.
- Use of phraseological expressions, idioms and figures of speech
   hyperbole, epithets, evaluative epithets, trite metaphors and simile:
if you say it once more I'll kill you, as old as the hills
- Tautological substitution: *you-baby, Johnny-boy*.

Informal syntax

The syntax of colloquial speech is characterized by the preferable use of simple sentences with asyndetic connection

<u>Neutral</u>

When I saw him there, I asked him, "Where are you going?", and he started running away from me, but I ran after him. When he turned round the corner, I turned round it after him, but then noticed that he was not there. I could not imagine where he was…

<u>Colloquial</u>

I saw him there, I say "Where'ye going?" He runs off, I run after him. He turns the corner, me too. He isn't there. Where's he now? I can't think…

Informal syntax

✔ Syntactical compression, simplicity of syntactical connection

✔ Use of echo questions, parallel structures, repetitions of various kinds.

✔ Coordination is used more often than subordination, repeated use of conjunction *and*.

✔ Extensive use of ellipsis, including the subject of the sentence.

✔ Extensive use of syntactic tautology: *That girl, she was something else!*

✔ Abundance of parenthetical elements: *sure, indeed, to be more exact*.

The newspaper style (NS)

- Is it a functional style?

- Newspapers carry extremely diverse printed matter and samples of different styles are to be found (official documents; articles on science)
- Newspaper carry articles of different genres that perform different functions
- Therefore newspaper style is conglomerate of different styles

- However,
- Original pieces are always rewritten by a journalist; original information is adapted to the needs of newspaper readers, so that it conforms to the norms of the NS

Newspaper Styles

- Headlines
- Brief news items
- Editorials
- Advertisements and announcements

Definition

Newspaper style can be recognized as a <u>socially recognized</u> and <u>functionally conditioned</u> *system of interrelated language means* that serves the purpose of <u>informing</u> the reader of the events of the day and <u>instructing</u> him as to the <u>evaluation</u> of such events.

(N.M. Naer)

There are 2 interrelated functions of NS:

☐ the informative

☐ and the evaluative.

All genres are evaluative, but in different degrees.

Features of NS

❑ <u>In vocabulary</u>

- <u>the use of special political or economic terminology</u> (*constitutional, election, General Asswembly of the UN, gross output, per capita production*);

- <u>the use of lofty, bookish vocabulary, including certain clichés</u> (*public opinion, a nation-wide crisis, pressing problems*), which may be based on metaphors and thus emotionally coloured: *war hysteria, escalation of war, overwhelming majority, a storm of applause, captains of industry, the bulwark of civilization* ;

- <u>frequent use of abbreviations – names of organizations, political movements,</u> etc.: *UN, NATO, EEC, FO (Foreign Office), PM, MP, etc.*

- <u>the use of neologisms</u>, since newspapers quickly react to any new trends in the development of society, technology, science and so on: *a teach-in (the form of campaigning through heated political discussions),Latin Americans (emigrants from South America), front-lash (a vigorous anti-racist movement), stop-go politics (indecisive policies), stagflation, to black (to boycott)*

Features of NS

- emotive vocabulary: words with emotive meaning and connotation, colloquialisms and slang units (esp. - in headlines);
- periphrases and metonymy (*White House demands… the Kremlin refuses…*);
- allusions to current facts, historical events;
- assimilated terms of other special fields:
✔ <u>sport</u>: *a dark horse, to win a race, to hit below the belt*;
✔ <u>military</u>: *to attack, to be under fire*,
- foreign words and barbarisms: *status quo, per capita, persona non grata*;
- graphic means (esp. in popular press);

Features of NS

❑ **In grammar**

complex syntactical structures (esp. in brief news items);
the use of complete simple sentences
the use of complex and compound sentences, often extended by a number of clauses
In headlines – the use of elliptical sentences, with the finite verb and articles omitted

specific word order (esp. in brief news items);
violation of the sequence of tenses rules (in news stories);
the most common syntactical stylistic devices are
repetition, periphrasis, simile, decomposition of phraseological units

Examples

✔ *The national political football season has [begun…]*

✔ *Mr. X doesn't strike the public just now as a natural Santa Claus. More like Scrooge.*

✔ *'Pie in the sky' is too colourless a phrase to describe Mr. N's closing speech to the Tory party conference. It was more like caviar in the stratosphere.*

✔ *He set a new record for the gap between promises and performance.*

✔ *Where there is a bill, there is a way.*

Newspaper headlines

❑ <u>Aims</u>
- ▪ To attract attention (hence – the use of graphical means)
- ▪ To give a hint about the contents
- ▪ But not to disclose it, preserve the mystery

e.g. Queen Elizabeth Holed.

❑ <u>Structure</u>
- Elliptical sentences
- Interrogative sentences
- Noun + noun constructions
- Set expressions

Brief news items

- The principle vehicle of information
- Usually range from 1 to 5 sentences
- As a rule are anonymous

❑ Features
- The use of Present verb forms
- The use of cliché
- Complex syntactical structure with verbals.

Other substyles of NS

- Feature articles (*diverse in subject matter. Use elements of different style*)
- Editorials (*logical structure and emotive vocabulary*)
- Advertisements: classified (*neutral vocabulary, clichés, abbreviations, clipped words*)

non-classified: *show a high degree of variation both in graphical forms and linguistic means*;

Official style (the style of official documents)

Represented in all kinds of official documents and papers

   a) The language style of business documents

   b) The language style of diplomatic documents

   c) The language style of legal documents

   d) The language style of military documents

The aim of the official style

The aim of the official style is to achieve agreement between two contracting parties:

✔ The state and the citizen
✔ Society and its members
✔ Two or more enterprises or business partners
✔ Two or more governments (international treaties; pacts)
✔ A person in authority and a subordinate, etc.
✔ A board of directors and employees

PECULIARITIES OF THE OFFICIAL STYLE

 Extremely formal style

 Use of special clichés, formulae and set expressions

(*I beg to inform you; I second the motion; on behalf of; private advisory; provisional agenda; the above-mentioned; hereinafter named; hereby; etc.)*

Use of abbreviations; contractions and conventional symbols

TC (till cancelled); oc (over-the counter)

PECULIARITIES OF THE OFFICIAL STYLE

- Fixed compositional patterns
- Almost every official document has its own compositional design

Pacts, statutes (устав), contracts; minutes (протокол собрания); memoranda (memos); orders (заказы) – all have a definite form

FIXED COMPOSITIONAL PATTERNS

Business letters

- the heading (*the address of the writer; the date; the name and the address of the addressee*)

- Introduction (*Dear Sir/ Ma*dam)

- Text

- Closing formula (*Sincerely/ Faithfully yours*)

- Signature (*name and work po*sition)

SYNTACTICAL FEATURES
of the official style

- Use of long complex sentences with several types of coordination and subordination (up to 70% of the text).
- Use of passive and participial constructions, numerous connectives.
- Use of objects, attributes and all sorts of modifiers.
- Extensive use of detached constructions and parenthesis.
- Use of participle I and participle II as openers in the initial expository statement.
- Combining several pronouncements into one sentence.

LEXICAL FEATURES
of the official style

- Prevalence of bookish and stylistically neutral vocabulary. Officialese
- Use of terminology, *e. g.* <u>*legal:*</u> *acquittal, testimony;* <u>*commercial*</u>*: advance payment, insurance, wholesale, etc.*
- Use of proper names (names of enterprises, companies, etc.) and titles.
- Abstraction of persons, e. g. use of party instead of the name. cliches, opening and conclusive phrases.
- Conventional and archaic forms and words: hereof, thereto, thereby.

- Foreign words, especially Latin and French: status quo, force majeure, persona non grata.
- Abbreviations, contractions, conventional symbols: M. P. , Ltd, $, etc.
- Use of words in their primary denotative meaning.
- Absence of tropes, no evaluative and emotive colouring of vocabulary.
- Seldom use of substitute words: it, one, that.

Peculiarities of the Belles-Lettres Style (Galperin)

1. ***The common function of the substyles is aesthetico-cognitive.***

   Texts of this FS engender a cognitive process which is accompanied by a feeling of aesthetic pleasure, the pleasure of evaluating the lingual FORM of the text in harmony with its CONTENT.

   The pleasure is also caused by the fact that we, readers, are led to make our own conclusions about the purport of the author.

2. The purpose of the belles-lettres FS is to suggest a possible interpretation of the phenomena of life through the viewpoint of the writer.

Peculiarities of the Belles-Lettres Style (Galperin)

3. The use of genuine imagery achieved by purely linguistic devices.

4. The use of words in contextual and often in more than one dictionary meaning.

5. The use of vocabulary which will reflect the author's personal evaluation of the phenomena.

E.g. *England is already a thing in a museum, a dying animal in a Zoo. No pride left… and so all intent on dying nice and quietly.* (Fowles *Daniel Martin*)

Peculiarities of the Belles-Lettres Style (Galperin)

6. The introduction of the typical features of colloquial language to a full degree (in plays), or a lesser one (in emotive prose) or a slight degree, if any (in poems).

E.g. MAGGY: *I can't hardly believe you came! Can you stay five minutes? I'm a singer now, see? In fact I am in the top three. And for a long time I been wanting to tell you…* (A. Miller *After the Fall*)

E.g. Many windows   Many whistles

    Many floors   Many clangings

    Many people   Many, many, many, many –

    Many stores   Many of everything, many of any.

    Many streets   (D.J. Bisset)

    And many hangings   *(colloquial language in modern poetry)*

Peculiarities of the Belles-Lettres Style (Galperin)

7. Individual selection of vocabulary and syntax, individual style (ideostyle).

E.g. *Cannon, muskets, fire and smoke; but, still the deep ditch, the single drawbridge, the massive stone walls, and the eight towers. Slight displacements of the raging sea, made by the falling wounded. Flashing weapons, blazing torches, smoking waggon-loads of wet straw, hard work at neighbouring barricades in all directions, shrieks, volleys, execrations, bravery without stint, boom, smash and rattle, and the furious sounding of the living sea; but, still the deep ditch, and the single drawbridge, and the massive stone walls, and the eight great towers…(Dickens A Tale of Two Cities)*