

# **THE CRITICAL READING COURSE: A STYLISTIC PERSPECTIVE**

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# L.1: LANGUAGE & STYLE:

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## Scope

- Main Trends in Style Study.
- Functional Stylistics and Functional Styles. Forms and Types of the Language.
- Stylistics of Artistic Speech. Individual Style Study. Decoding Stylistics.
- Practical Stylistics. Levels of Linguistic Analysis. Foregrounding. Aims of Stylistic Analysis.

# 1

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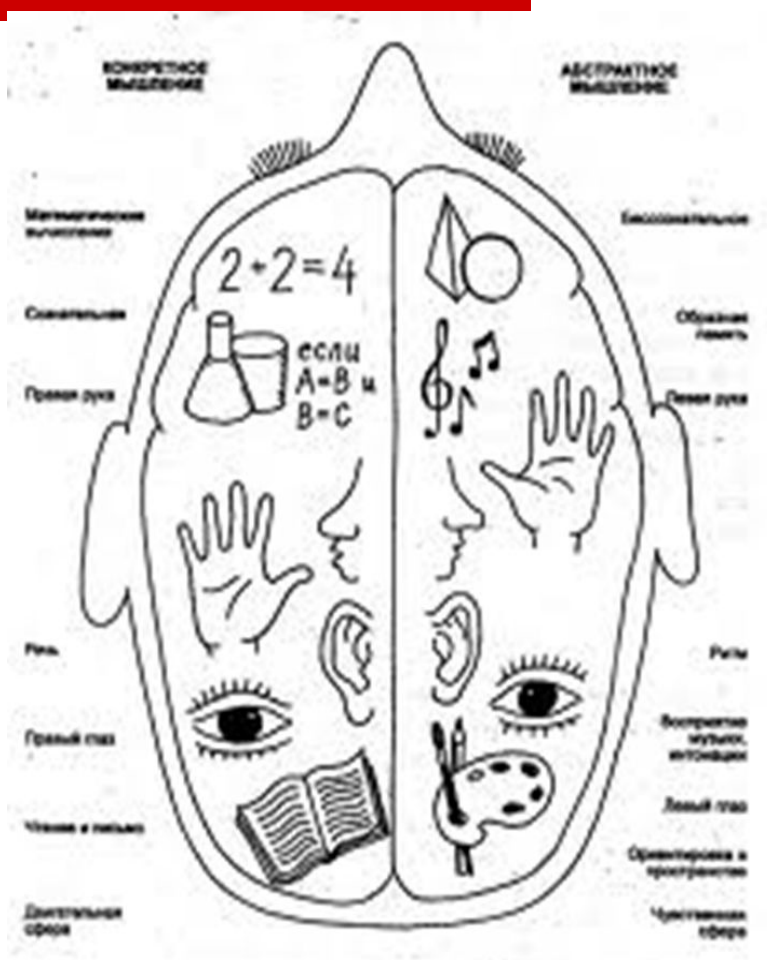
## Immerse Yourself

L-ge is...

- Museum inside our heads
- The armory of the human mind
- An art

# 1

# Museum Inside Our Heads



# 1

## Museum Inside Our Heads

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"Language tethers us to the world; without it we spin like atoms. . . . We are walking lexicons. In a single sentence of idle chatter we preserve Latin, Anglo-Saxon, Norse; we carry a museum inside our heads, each day we commemorate peoples of whom we have never heard."

(Penelope Lively, *Moon Tiger*, 1987)

# 1

## The Armory of the Human Mind

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"Language is the armory of the human mind, and at once contains the trophies of its past and the weapons of its future conquests."

(Samuel Taylor Coleridge)

### An Art

"Language is an anonymous, collective and unconscious art; the result of the creativity of thousands of generations."

(Edward Sapir)

# 1

## English is ...

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**There** is no egg in  
eggplant or ham in  
hamburger, neither  
apple nor pine in  
pineapple.

# 1

**Boxing** rings are square, and a guinea pig is neither from Guinea nor is it a pig. And why is it that writers write, but fingers don't fing, grocers don't groce, and hammers don't ham?



# 1

**If** the plural of tooth is teeth, why isn't the plural of booth beeth? One goose, 2 geese. So, one moose, 2 meese? One index, two indices? Is cheese the plural of choose?

# 1

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If a vegetarian eats vegetables, what does a humanitarian eat?

English is a crazy language.

<http://ojohaven.com/fun/crazy.htm>

# 2

## The Term "Stylistics"

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- originated from the Greek "stylos", which means, "a pen". In the course of time it developed several meanings, each one applied to a specific study of language elements and their use in speech.
- It is no news that any propositional content - any "idea" - can be verbalized in several different ways.

## 2

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So, *"May I offer you a chair?"*, *"Take a seat, please"*, *"Sit down"* - have the same proposition (subject matter) but differ in the manner of expression, which, in its turn, depends upon the situational conditions of the communication act.

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# 2

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various forms of communication activities - oral (speaking, listening) or written (reading, writing), so it is self-evident how important it is for a philologist to know the mechanics of relations between the non-verbal, extralinguistic, cognitive essence of the communicative act and its verbal, linguistic presentation.

# 2

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Attention, focused on the priority of the situational appropriateness in the choice of language varieties for their adequate functioning (Prague school -V.Mathesius, T.Vachek, J.Havranek ).

# 2

## Functional Stylistics

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Thus, ***functional stylistics*** deals with sets, "paradigms" of language units of all levels of language hierarchy serving to accommodate the needs of certain typified communicative situations.

# 2

## Functional Styles

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- *official style* (official documents and papers);
- *scientific style* (in articles, brochures, monographs, other scientific and academic publications);
- *publicist style* (genres as essay, feature article, journalism, public speeches);



# 2

## Functional Styles

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- *newspaper* style, observed in the majority of information materials printed in newspapers;
- *belles-lettres* style, embracing numerous and versatile genres of imaginative writing.

# 2

## Controversy

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It is only the first three that are invariably recognized in all stylistic treatises

- Newspaper style – publicist domain
- Poetic style
- Oratoric style
- Colloquial style
- etc.

# 2

## Controversy

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*stylistic use of language resources*, i.e. with such a handling of language elements that enables them to carry not only the basic, logical, but also additional information of various types. So the stylistics of *artistic speech*, or belles-lettres style study, was shaped.

# 2

## Individual Author's Style

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Problems, concerning the choice of the most appropriate language means and their organization into a message, from the viewpoint of the addresser, are the centre of attention of the individual style study, which puts particular emphasis on the study of an *individual author's style*.

## The message in its correlation with the communicative situation

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The message is an indispensable element in the exchange of information between two participants of the communicative act - the *addresser* (the supplier of information, the speaker, the writer) and the *addressee* (the receiver of the information, the listener, the reader).

## Stylistics of the Encoder

The author's stylistics may be named the stylistics of the encoder: the language being viewed as the code to shape the information into the message, and the supplier of the information, respectively, as the encoder.

## Decoding Stylistics

The problems connected with adequate reception of the message without any informational losses or deformations, i.e., with adequate decoding, are the concern of *decoding stylistics*.

And finally,

# 3

## PRACTICAL STYLISTICS

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the stylistics, proceeding from the norms of language usage at a given period and teaching these norms to language speakers, especially the ones, dealing with the language professionally (editors, publishers, writers, journalists, teachers, etc.) is called practical stylistics.

# OBJECTIVES

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- **A Sophisticated Reader:** well-informed, thoughtful, active, being able to identify the stylistic peculiarities of the language
- **A Sophisticated User:** being able to use the language potential to produce certain effect in order to achieve a pragmatic aim



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## The structural hierarchy of language levels

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The best way to find answers to most of these and similar questions is to... follow E. Benveniste's scheme of analysis proceeding from the level of the phoneme - through the levels of the morpheme and the word to that of the sentence.

# 3

## FD: FOREGROUNDING

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The ability of a verbal element to obtain extra significance, to say more in a definite context was called by Prague *linguists foregrounding*: indeed, when a word (affix, sentence), automatized by the long use in speech, through context developments, obtains some new, additional features, the act resembles a background phenomenon moving into the front line – foregrounding.

# 3

## Stylistic Analysis

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Stylistic analysis involves rather subtle procedures of finding the foregrounded element and indicating the chemistry of its contextual changes, brought about by the intentional, planned operations of the addresser, i.e. effected by the conscious stylistic use of the language.

# Case Study

- **T1:** Trafficking in Human Beings in South Eastern Europe UNICEF Report (177 words)

The position of women in the family, in the labour market and in migration processes is directly related to the vulnerability of women to trafficking. Paradoxically, this knowledge is rarely translated into policies, prevention strategies or programmes. There are also other issues, not directly related to the discrimination of women, which could be better understood and benefit from the use of a “gender lens” for their assessment, such as the relationship and differences between male and female migration patterns, the vulnerability of girls and the gender dimension of trafficking for labour exploitation.”

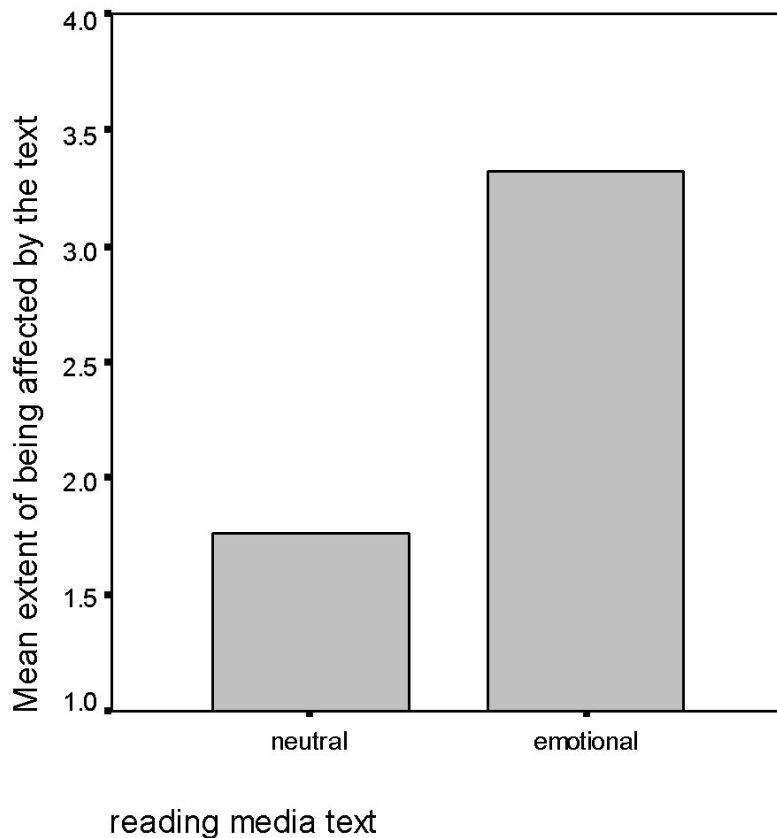
**T2:** Who can expect a young woman trafficked into the U.S., trapped in a foreign culture, perhaps unable to speak English, physically and emotionally abused and perhaps drug-addicted, to ask for help from a police officer, who more likely than not will look at her as a criminal and an illegal alien? We had customers who were police, so you were not going to go talk to a cop. We had this customer from Nevada who was a child psychologist, so you're not going to go talk to a social worker. So who are you going to talk to?" ... "We have that cancer, corruption," he told me with a shrug. "But it exists in every country. In every house there is a devil." The police are not seen as a solution for anything. You don't run to the police; you run from the police."

...Her account reminded me -- painfully -- of the legend of the Pied Piper of Hamelin. In the story, a piper shows up and asks for 1,000 guilders for ridding the town of a plague of rats. Playing his pipe, he lures all the rats into the River Weser, where they drown. But Hamelin's mayor refuses to pay him. The piper goes back into the streets and again starts to play his music. This time "all the little boys and girls, with rosy cheeks and flaxen curls, and sparkling eyes and teeth like pearls" follow him out of town and into the hills. The piper leads the children to a mountainside, where a portal opens. The children follow him in, the cave closes and Hamelin's children -- all but one, too lame to keep up -- are never seen again.

- **After having read the article, to what extent has your opinion about trafficked people changed?**
- Not at all  very much
- **To what extent were you affected by the text?**
- Not at all  very much

# NFD: MEDIA & OTHERS.

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- The degree of being affected by the text.

Explanation: The most powerful ideas are the ones you absorb indirectly. They are digested emotionally at psychological depths that we still little know about. In media discourse the majority of material is chosen or designed to produce a predetermined response.



# CONCLUSION

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Stylistic analysis not only broadens the theoretical horizons of a language learner but it also teaches the latter the skill of competent reading, on one hand, and proprieties of situational language usage, on the other.



# DISCUSSION

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- What is foregrounding and how does it operate in the text?
- What levels of linguistic analysis do you know?
- What is the main concern of practical stylistics?
- What is the ultimate goal of stylistic analysis of a speech product?

# ASSIGNMENT

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**Кухаренко В.А.** Практикум з стилістики англійської мови: Підручник. – Вінниця. «Нова книга», 2000 - 160 с.

## PRELIMINARY REMARKS

Sound Instrumenting. Graphon. Graphical Means

Morphemic Repetition. Extension of Morphemic Valency

**THANX!**

