

Lecture 10.
Distinctive features
of the functional styles

- I. Literary colloquial style
- II. Familiar colloquial style
- III. Publicist style

I. Literary colloquial style

1. Phonetic features


- Standard pronunciation in compliance with the national norm, enunciation.

• Phonetic compression of frequently used forms. **Ex.: It's, don't, I've.**

- Omission of unaccented elements due to the quick tempo. **Ex.: you know him?**

1. Literary colloquial style (2)

2. Morphological features



Use of regular morphological features, with interception of evaluative suffixes. Ex.: deary, doggie, duckie.

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- Prevalence of active and finite verb forms.

I. Literary colloquial style (3)

3. Syntactical features

- Use of simple sentences with a number of participial and infinitive constructions and numerous parentheses.
- Use of various types of syntactical compression,
➤ simplicity of syntactical connection.
- Use of grammar forms of emphatic purposes. Ex.:
➤ **progressive verb forms = emotions of irritation, anger.**
- Decomposition and ellipsis of sentences in a dialogue
➤ (easily reconstructed from the context).
- Use of special colloquial phrases. Ex.: **that friend of yours.**

Literary colloquial style (4)

4. Lexical features

- ★ Vocabulary strata in accordance with the register of communication and participants. Ex.: formal and informal, neutral and bookish, terms and foreign words.
- ★ Basic stock of communicative vocabulary - stylistically neutral.
- ★ - Use of socially accepted contracted forms and abbreviations. Ex.: fridge for refrigerator, ice for ice-cream, TV, CD.
- ★ - Use of etiquette language formulas. Ex.: nice to see you, my pleasure, on behalf of.

Literary colloquial style (4)

Lexical features (2)

- ◆ Extensive use of intensifiers and gap-fillers. Ex.: I mean, so to speak, kind of, absolutely, awfully.
- ◆ Use of interjections and exclamations. Ex.: Dear me, My God, well, now, oh.
- ◆ Extensive use of phrasal verbs: let smb down, put up with.
- ◆ - Use of words of indefinite meaning: thing, stuff.
- ◆ - Avoidance of slang, vulgarisms, dialect words, jargon.
- ◆ - Use of phraseological expressions, idioms, figures of speech.

Literary colloquial style (5)

5. Compositional features

- ★ written and spoken varieties: dialogue, monologue, personal letters, diaries, essays, articles.
- ★ Spontaneous types have a loose structure, relative coherence, uniformity of form and content.

II. Familiar colloquial style

(spoken variety!)

1. Phonetic features

- ★ Casual and careless pronunciation, use of deviant forms: gonna, whatcha, dunno.
- ★ Use of reduced and contracted forms: you're, they've, I'd.
- ★ Omission of unaccented elements: you hear me?
- ★ Use of onomatopoetic words: whoosh, hush, stop yodelling, yum, yak.

II. Familiar colloquial style (2)

★ - Emphasis on intonation as a semantic and stylistic instrument capable to render subtle tones of thought and feeling.

2. Morphological features

★ Use of evaluative suffixes, nonce-words formed on morphological and phonetic analogy with other nominal words: baldish, mawkish, moody, hanky-panky, okeydoke.

II. Familiar colloquial style (3)

3. Syntactical features

- ★ Use of simple short sentences.
- ★ Question-answer type of dialogues.
- ★ Use of echo questions, parallel structures, repetitions of various kinds.
- ★ Asyndetic coordination in complex sentences is the norm.
- ★ - Coordination is more frequent than subordination, (repeated use of conjunction **AND** is a sign of spontaneity NOT a device).

Familiar colloquial style (4)

Syntactical features (2)

- ✦ Extensive use of ellipsis : Can't say anything, syntactic tautology: That girl, she was something else.
- ✦ Abundance of gap-fillers and parenthetical elements: sure, indeed, okay, well.

Familiar colloquial style (5)

4. Lexical features

- == Combination of neutral, familiar and low colloquial vocabulary, including slang, vulgar and taboo words.
- == Extensive use of words with general meaning, specified by the situation: job, get, do, fix, affair.
- == Abundance of specific colloquial interjections: wow, hey, there, ahoy.
- == Limited vocabulary resources – the use of one word in different contexts: “some” meaning “good”: some guy! Some game!

Familiar colloquial style (5)

4. Lexical features (2)

- == Tautological substitution of personal pronouns and names by other nouns: you-baby, Johnny-boy.
- == Extensive use of collocations and phrasal verbs: to turn in = to go to bed; mixture of curse words and euphemisms: damn, dash, darned, shoot; hyperbole, epithets, evaluative vocabulary, trite metaphors and simile: as old as the hills, horrid, awesome, if you say it once more I'll kill you!

Familiar colloquial style (6)

5. Compositional features

- == Use of deviant language on all levels.
- == Strong emotional coloring.
- == Loose syntactical organization of an utterance.
 - == No special compositional patterns.

III. Publicist style

1. Phonetic features

(in oratory)

- ❖ Standard pronunciation, wide use of **prosody** as a means of conveying the subtle shades of meaning, overtones and emotions.
- ❖ Phonetic compression.

III. Publicist style (2)

2. Morphological features

- Frequent use of non-finite verb forms: gerund, participle, infinitive, non-perfect verb forms.
- Omission of articles, link verbs, auxiliaries, pronouns.

III. Publicist style (3)

3. Syntactical features

- ✓ Frequent use of rhetorical questions and interrogatives in oratory speech.
- ✓ **In headlines:** use of impersonal sentences, elliptical constructions, interrogative sentences, infinitive complexes and attributive groups.

Publicist style (4)

3. Syntactical features (2)

- ❖ **News items and articles**: usually comprise 1-3 sentences.
- ❖ Absence of complex coordination with chain of subordinate clauses, of exclamatory sentences, break-in-the narrative.
- ❖ Precise syntactical organization and logical arrangement.

Publicist style (5)

4. Lexical features

- ❑ Newspaper clichés and set phrases, abbreviations and acronyms.
- ❑ Proper names, toponyms, anthroponyms, names of enterprises, institutions, international words, dates and figures.

Publicist style (6)

4. Lexical features

- **In headlines:** frequent use of **pun**, violated phraseology, vivid stylistic devices.
- **In oratory speech:** elevated and bookish words, colloquial phrases, metaphor, alliteration, allusion, irony.
- Terminological variety: **scientific, sports, political, technical**.

Publicist style (7)

5. Compositional features

- ❖ Text arrangement is marked by precision, logic and expressive power.
- ❖ Carefully selected vocabulary, variety of topics, wide use of quotations.
- ❖ In oratory: simplicity of structural expression, clarity, argumentative power.

Publicist style (8)

- In headlines: use of devices to arrest attention: rhyme, pun, puzzle, high degree of compression, graphical means.
- Articles: strict arrangement of titles and subtitles, emphasis on the headline.
- Careful subdivision into paragraphs, clearly defined position of the sections of the article: most important information – in the opening paragraph.