Lecture 2.
Stylistic Classification of the English Vocabulary

I. Correlation of style, norm and function in the language

1. Stylistic neutrality and stylistic colouring

2. The notion of stylistic function

II. The Varieties of the language

LITERARY GENRES

FICTION
- Myths
- Tales
- Legends
- Short Stories
- Novels

NON FICTION
- Diaries
- Biographies
- Essays
- Speeches
- Autobiographies

POETRY
- Sonnets
- Poems
- Ballads
- Pastorals
- Lyrics
- Songs

DRAMA
- Comedies
- Tragedies
- Tragicomedies
- Farce
- Melodrama
- Pantomime

I. Correlation of style, norm and function in the language

1. Stylistic neutrality and stylistic colouring

- Norm \ Neutrality :: Stylistic colouring

"Style – is deviation from Norm".

Thus: stylistically coloured is a departure from the Norm of a given national language (G.Leech, M.Riffaterre, M.Halliday, R.Jacobson).

BUT:

<u>Y.M.Skrebnev</u>: "As we acknowledge the existence of a variety of sublanguages within the national language we should also acknowledge that <u>each of them has a norm</u> of its own".

EX. 1.

I haven't ever done anything.

I don't know anything.

(conforms to the literary norm)

EX. 2.

I ain't never done anything.

I don't know nothing.

(uncultivated English)

Y.M.Skrebnev: "There are many Norms as there are sublanguages. Thus, in terms of stylistics it would be more appropriate to call it "Neutrality".

Stylistically coloured specific elements

bookish, solemn, poetic, official, rustic, dialectal, vulgar

Stylistically neutral non-specific elements

- majority of the words

<u>Stylistically coloured specific elements</u>

Formal vocabulary   : :   Informal vocabulary

Bookish   : :   Colloquial

Correct   : : Common

Casual   : :   Non-casual

<u>Roman Jacobson</u>

EX.	Neutral	Colloquial	Bookish
	clothes	rags (togs)	attire
	refuse	turn down	decline
	to continue	go on, carry on	proceed
	to leave, go away	be off, get lost	retire,

Specific distribution may also create unexpected additional colouring of a generally neutral word. Such stylistic connotation is called "Occasional" (T.A.Znamenskaya).

Connotation – is a notion, denoting "additional components of meaning which express some emotional colouring or evaluation of the object named" (V.V.Gurevich).

Inherent

Stylistically coloured
words

Adherent

stylistically neutral
words

EX. A luxury hotel for dogs is to be open in London, a city of 30. 000 dogs. The furry guests will have top medical care and high standard <u>cuisine</u>, including the best <u>bones</u>.

- <u>Cuisine</u> - inherently formal

     - adherent connotation– lowered \ humorous

- <u>Bones</u> - stylistically neutral

     - adherent connotation–elevated \ humorous

2. The notion of stylistic function

Connotative meaning consists of 4 components: **emotive, evaluative, expressive, stylistic**.

The 4 components may be all present at once, or in different combinations or they may not be found in the word at all.

The emotive component of connotation

- Express various feelings (love, respect,) and emotions (pleasure, anger).

- Words with emotive connotations differ from the words, <u>describing</u> or <u>naming emotions</u> and feelings (denotative meanings are emotions).

- EX. You should be able to control feelings of <u>anger</u> and <u>impatience</u>… (no emotive power).

- He is a <u>BIG </u>boy already.(emotive connotation).

The evaluative component of connotation

- Charges the word with positive, ironic or other types of connotation conveying the <u>speaker's attitude</u> in relation to the object of speech.

EX. "to sneak" = "to move silently or secretly for <u>a bad purpose</u>". (the evaluative component).

- "a sneak", "sneaky"(derogatory evaluative connotation).

- Though "sneakers"= "shoes with a soft sole" = (<u>no connotation</u>).

The expressive component of connotation

- **increases or decreases** the expressiveness of the message. "**intensifiers**": absolutely, frightfully, really, quite.

Prof. I.A.Arnold "emotive connotation always entails expressiveness and not vice versa" (A.Hornby, R.Fowler).

- EX.   She was a sweet little thing (about a girl) (emotive connotation).

- She was a small thin delicate thing. (expressive connotation).

The stylistic component of connotation

- A word possesses stylistic connotation if it <u>belongs to a certain functional style</u> or a specific layer of vocabulary (archaisms, barbarisms, slang, etc).

- EX*.   Price index, negotiate assets* (business language).

Other approaches to the types of connotation

- Galperin operates 3 types of **lexical meaning –** logical, emotive, nominal.

- Skrebnev : connotations only show to what part of the national language a word belongs (**functional styles**) or the **neutral bulk.**

II. The Varieties of the language

- **Territorial varieties 1.**

English Language : : **National Language**

National Language

Standard English : : **Non-standard English**

Written (Functional Styles)

Oral (mimics, gestures, prosody)

: : **NO written**

Oral

(Social and regional dialects)

Territorial varieties 2.

English Language

American,

    African,

        British,

            Irish,

                Canadian,

   **Australian,**

       New Zeland

Territorial varieties 3.

- Standard English - is "the variant that is fixed in the written language, works of fiction, in radio and TV speech". V.V.Gurevich
- Non-standard English - is represented by dialects and variants of the language found in the different geographical areas where English is used.

Territorial varieties 4.

- **Dialects** are the non-standard varieties of English used <u>on the territory of Great Britain</u>,

- **Variants** (varieties) refer to the use of English <u>outside the territory </u>(USA, Canada, Australia etc.)

2. Vocabulary in the aspect of time 1.

Common colloq.

Special literary voc.

Neutral

Special colloq. Voc.

Common literary
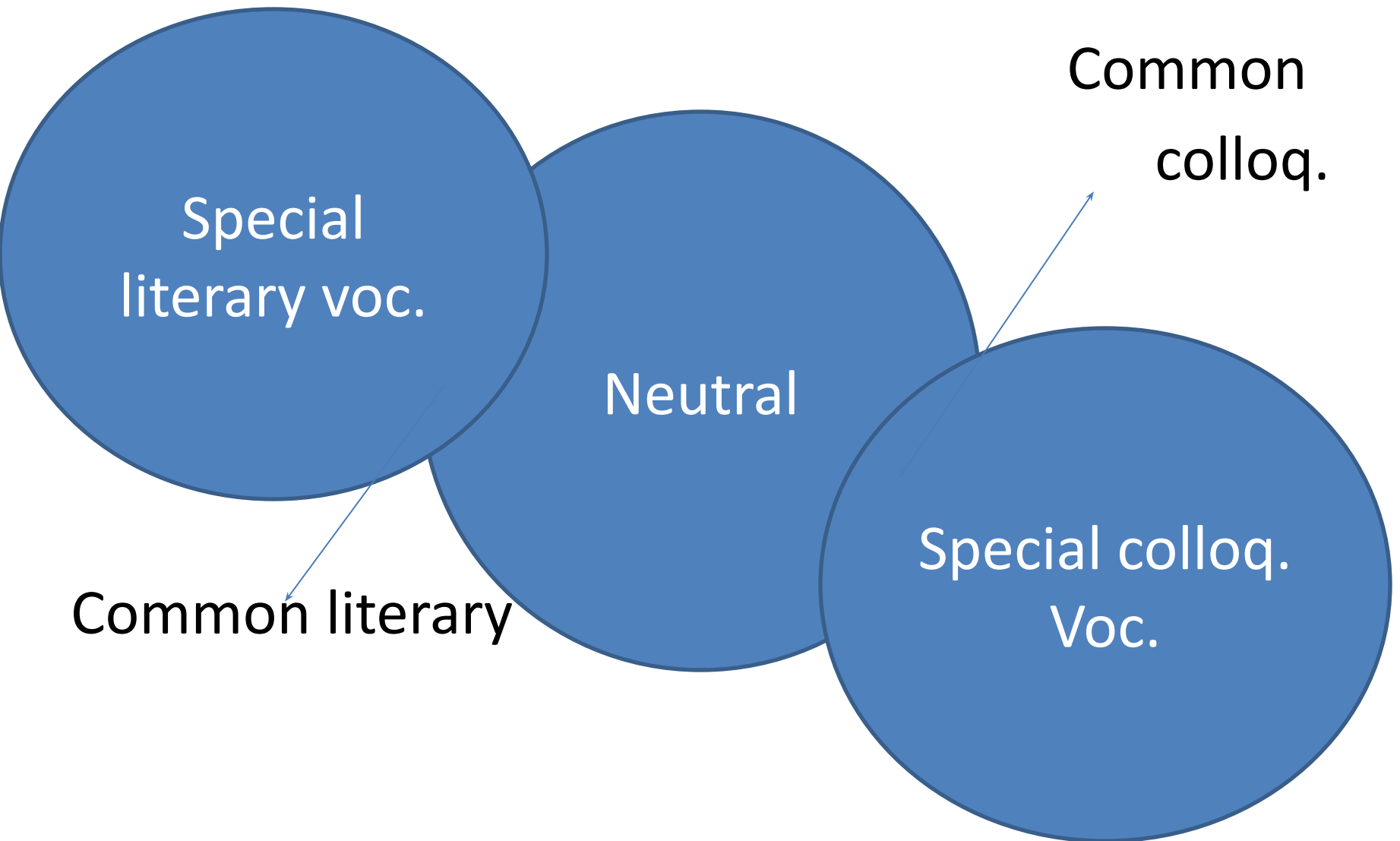
Vocabulary in the aspect of time 2.

archaic or **obsolete** **words** that belong to some previous of language development but can still be found in the works of fiction.

EX.	Behold (= Look!), Hark (=Listen!)

Hither and thither (= here and there)

Whilst (=while), methinks (=I think)

Vocabulary in the aspect of time 2.

- "**Historisms**" - words that reflect some phenomena belonging to the past times

(EX. Knight, sling, ram; Russian historisms like городничий, городовой, бояре).

- **Neologisms** – are the words that have recently come into the language and are still felt as rather new

(EX. Computer, isotope, aliens, quasar).

Vocabulary in the aspect of time 2.

- Comparatively <u>new borrowings</u> from other languages, which are not yet completely assimilated in the language (phonetically or grammatically), are stylistically marked as **foreign words** (barbarisms) <u>V.V.Gurevich</u>.

- EX. Alter ego (one's second self), de facto (in point of fact), ibid \ ibidem (by the same author).