

Stylistics of the English Language

Lectures

Definitions

- **Stylistics** can be defined as a *branch of modern linguistics* devoted to the detailed analysis of literary style, or of the linguistic *choices* made by speakers and writers in *non-literary contexts*. (Chris Baldick *Oxford Concise Dictionary of Literary Terms*, 1996)
- **Стилистика** – раздел науки о языке, изучающий широкий класс случаев варьирования языковых выражений, обусловленного их принадлежностью к тому или иному языковому стилю.

Definitions

- **Stylistics** is a *branch of general linguistics*, which deals with the investigation of two independent tasks:

Stylistics studies the special media of language which are called stylistic devices and expressive means.

Stylistics studies the types of texts which are distinguished by the *pragmatic aspect* of the *communication* and are called functional styles of language. (Iliya Galperin)

Definitions

- “**Stylistics** is a *branch of linguistics*, which studies the principles and results of *the choice and usage* of lexical, grammatical, phonetic and other language means with *the aim of transmitting of ideas and emotions in different communication settings*.”
(«Стилистикой называется отрасль лингвистики, исследующая принципы и эффект выбора и использования лексических, грамматических, фонетических и вообще языковых средств для передачи мысли и эмоции в разных условиях общения.») Irina Arnold



The Structure of Stylistics

- **Linguistic stylistics**
- **Literary stylistics**

Linguistic stylistics deals with

Functional styles of a language and the elements of language from the point of view of their ability to express and cause emotions, associations, etc.

- **Stylistic phonetics**
- **Stylistic morphology**
- **Stylistic lexicology**
- **Stylistic syntax**



Literary stylistics deals with

expressive means and stylistic devices
characteristic for a definite work of art, man of
letters, literary movement, trend or epoch, and
factors influencing the expressiveness of
language.

Stylistic devices and Expressive Means

- **A stylistic device (SD)** is a conscious and intentional intensification of some typical structural and/or semantic property of a language unit (neutral or expressive) promoted to a generalized status and thus becoming a generative model.
- **Expressive means** of a language are those phonetic, morphological, word-building, lexical, phraseological and syntactical forms which exist in language-as-a system for the purpose of logical and/or emotional intensification of the utterance. (I. Galperin)

Stylistic devices and Expressive Means

SDs and EMs can be

- **Lexical**
- **Lexical-syntactical**
- **Syntactical**
- **Phonetic**
- **Graphic**



Functional styles of language

A functional style of language is a system of interrelated language means which serves a definite aim in communication. (Galperin)

It appears mainly in the **literary standard of language**.



Functional styles of language

According to I. Galperin:

- ❑ **Belles-letres style**
- ❑ **Publicistic style**
- ❑ **Newspaper style**
- ❑ **Scientific prose style**
- ❑ **Official documents style**



Functional styles of language

According to I. Arnold

- ❑ Poetic style
- ❑ Scientific style
- ❑ Newspaper style
- ❑ Colloquial style



Functional styles of language

According to Yu.Skrebnev,

style is a specificity of sublanguage.

The number of sublanguages and styles is infinite.