

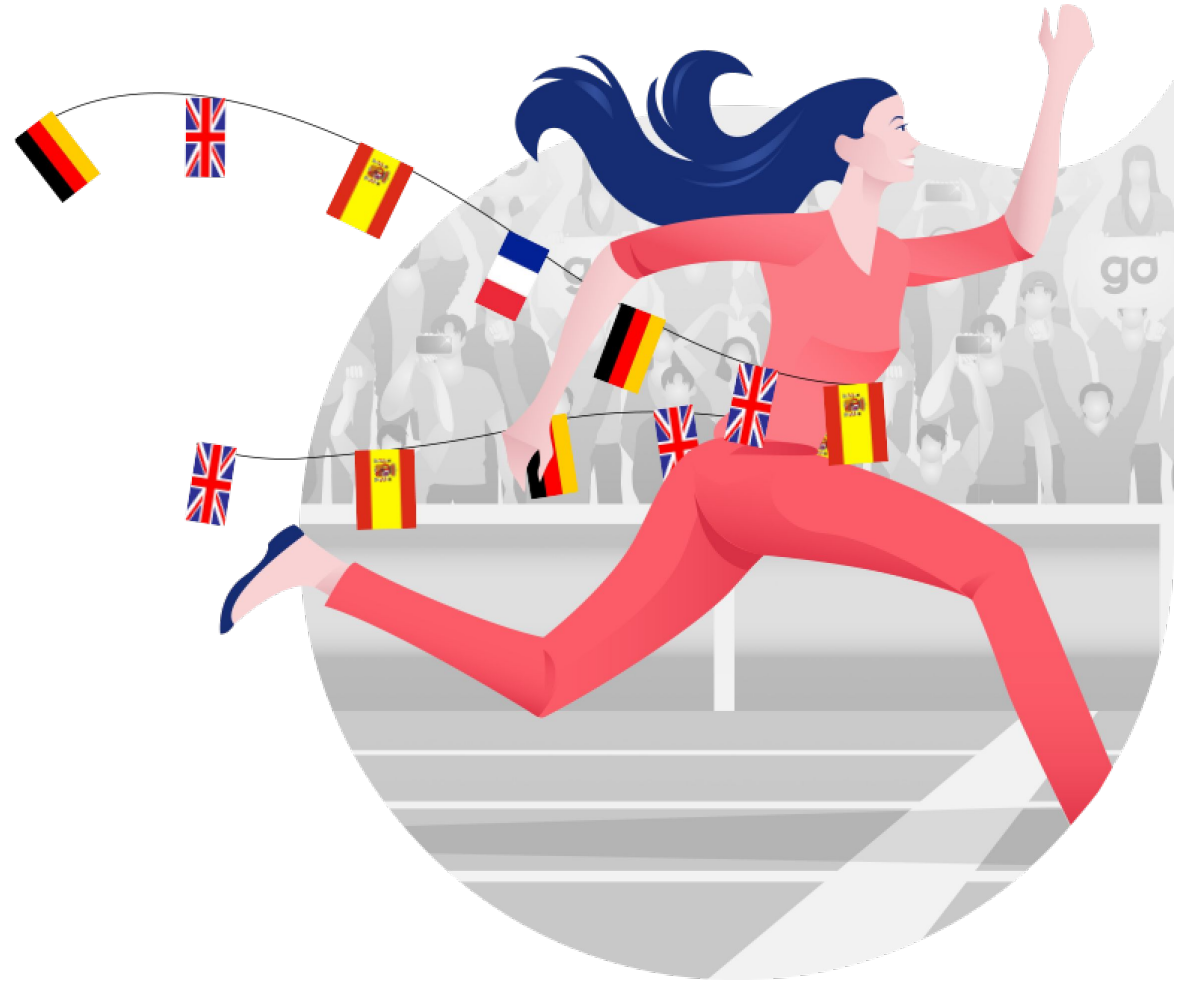
**Functional styles. Types of
functional styles in English
and their style-forming
linguistic features.**

What is a functional style?

- **Functional Style** is a system of interrelated language means serving a definite aim in communication.
- It is the coordination of the language means and stylistic devices which shapes the distinctive features of each style and not the language means or stylistic devices themselves.



- ❖ Each style, however, can be recognized by one or more leading features which are especially conspicuous.
- ❖ For instance, the use of special terminology is a lexical characteristic of the style of scientific prose, and one by which it can easily be recognized.
- ❖ A style of language can be defined as a system of coordinated, interrelated and inter-coordinated language means intended to fulfill a specific function of communication and aiming at a defined effect. Style of language is a historical category.



- The English literary system has evolved a number of styles easily distinguishable one from another.
- They are not homogeneous and fall into several variants of having some central point of resemblance or better to say.
- All integrated by the invariant – i.e. the abstract ideal system.



They are:

- 1) Official (documents and papers);**
- 2) Scientific (brochures, articles, other scientific publications);**
- 3) Publicistic (essay, public speech);**
- 4) Newspaper style (mass media);**
- 5) Belles-lettres style (genre of creative writing);**

Each of mentioned here styles can be expressed in two forms: written and oral.



Stylistics is a sides that examines the complex of stylistically marked *elements* of any language level.

1)**Scientific style** is employed in professional communication to convey some information. It's most conspicuous feature is the abundance of terms denoting objects, phenomena and processes characteristics of some particular field of science and technique. Also precision clarity logical cohesion.

2)**Official style** is the most conservative one. It uses syntactical constructions and archaic words. Emotiveness is banned out of this style.

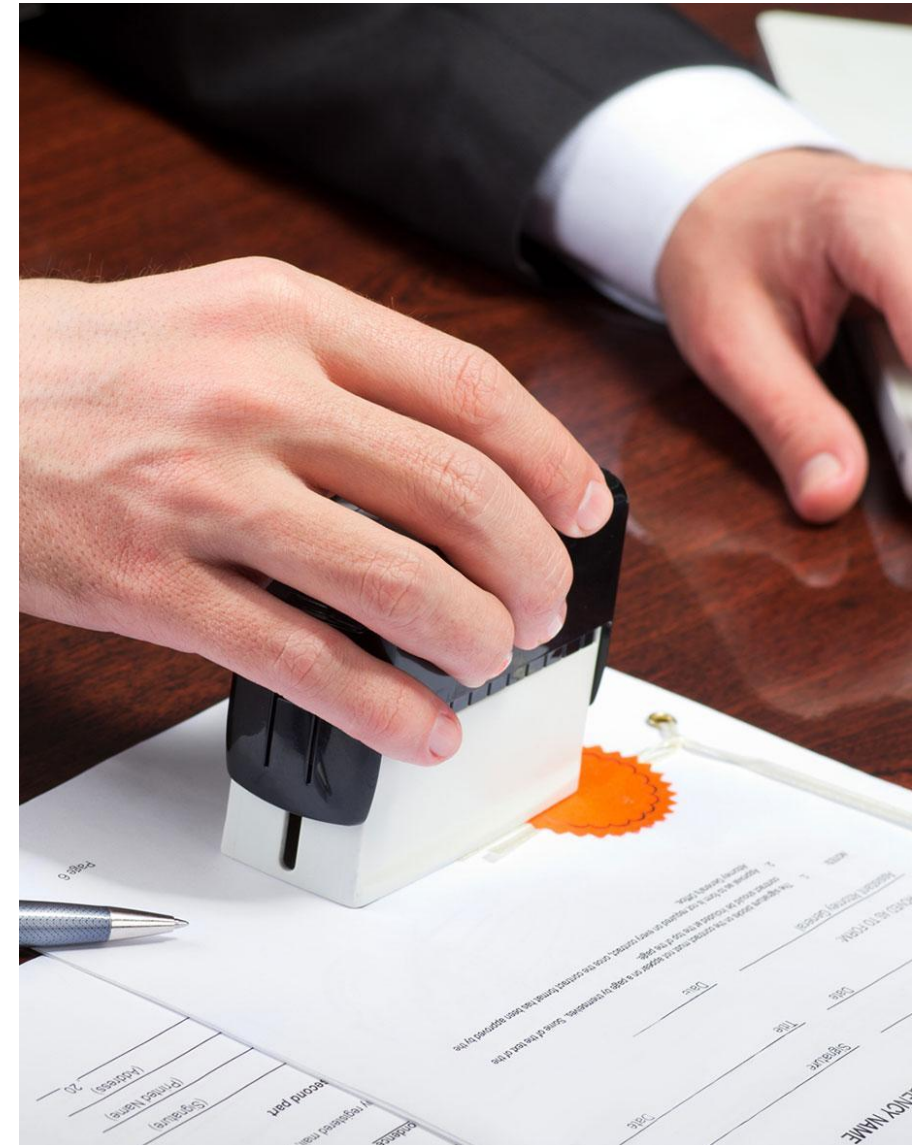
3)**Publicistic style** is famous for its explicit pragmatic function of persuasion directed at influencing the reader in accordance with the argumentation of the author.

4)**Newspaper style** – special graphical means are used to attract the readers attention.

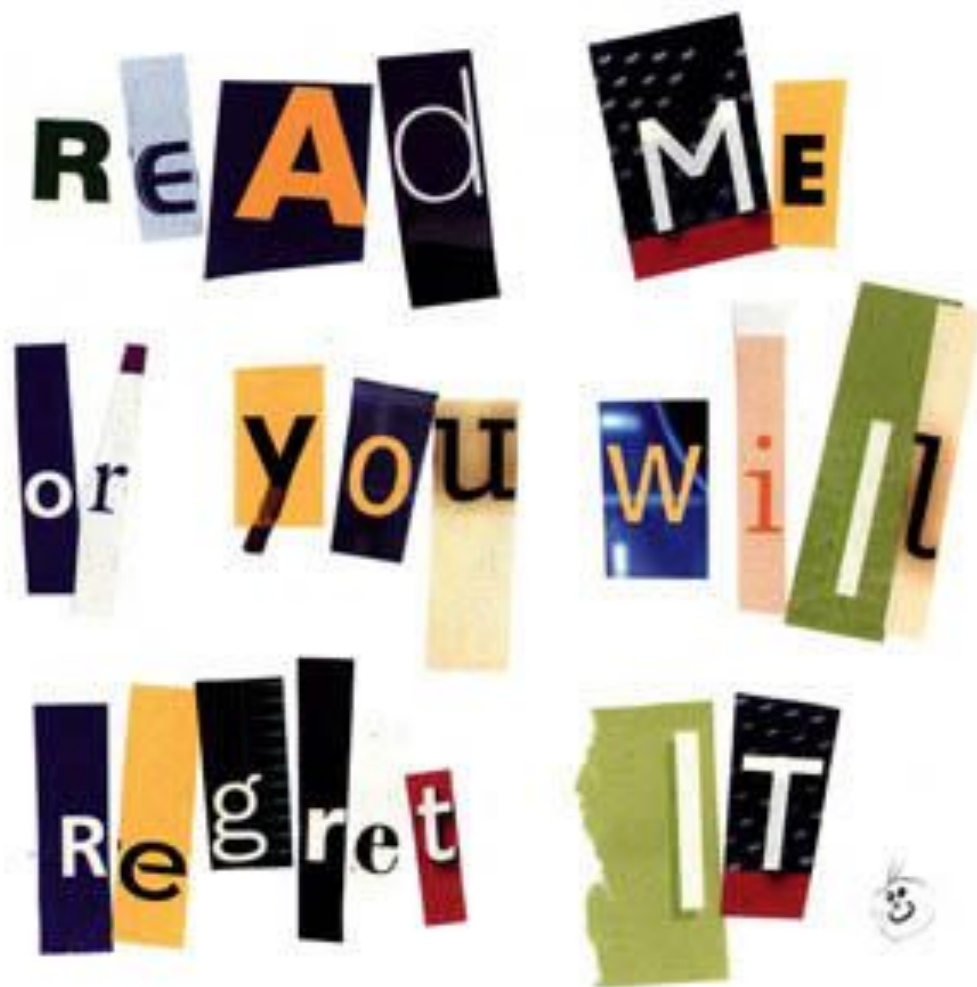
5)**Belles-lettres style** – the richest register of communication besides its own language means, other styles can be used besides informative and persuasive functions, belles-lettres style has a unique task to impress the reader are aesthetically.

The style of official documents.

This style aims at establishing, developing and controlling business relations between individuals and organizations. Being devoid of expressiveness, it is fully impersonal, rational and pragmatic. Its special language forms are rather peculiar. The graphical level of this style is distinguished by specific rules of making inscriptions, using capital letters and abbreviations. The lexical level is characterized by domination of bookish, borrowed, archaic and obsolescent words, professional terms and clichés, such as "aviso" (авизо), "interest-free" (беспроцентный), "fidejussor" (поручитель), "flagrante delicto" (на месте преступления), "status quo" (существующее положение), "квартиросъемщик", "подрядчик", "повестка дня", "довожу до вашего сведения ...", "справка выдана для предъявления ...", "прошу предоставить мне...", "выписка верна". The morphological features of the style are such: the usage of obsolescent mood forms (Subjunctive I and the Suppositional), wide use of non-finite forms of the verb, impersonal, anticipatory and indefinite pronouns. The syntactic level is distinguished by long and super-long sentences of all structural types, always two-member and non-elliptical, complicated by complexes of secondary predication, detachments, parenthetical insertions and passive constructions.



The style of scientific prose.



This style serves as an instrument for promoting scientific ideas and exchanging scientific information among people. It is as bookish and formal as the style of official documents, that is why both styles have much in common. To graphical peculiarities of the style of scientific prose belong number- or letter-indexed paragraphing, a developed system of headlines, titles and subtitles, footnotes, pictures, tables, schemes and formulae. A great part of the vocabulary is constituted by special terms of international origin. The sphere of computer technologies alone enlarges the word-stock of different language vocabularies by thousands of new terms, such as "modem", "monitor", "interface", "hard disk", "floppy disk", "scanner", "CD-rom drive", "driver", "fragmentation", "formatting", "software", "hardware", etc. Most of such terms are borrowed from English into other languages with preservation of their original form and sounding (модем, монитор, интерфейс, сканнер, драйвер, фрагментация, форматирование). The rest are translated by way of loan-translation (жесткий диск, гибкий диск) and in other ways (software - компьютерные программы, hardware - компоненты ЭВМ). Adopted foreign terms submit to the grammar rules of the Russian and Ukrainian languages while forming their derivatives and compounds (модемный, сканирование, переформатирование). The scientific vocabulary also abounds in set-phrases and cliches which introduce specific flavour of book-ishness and scientific character into the text (We proceed from assumption that..., One can observe that..., As a matter of fact, ..., As is generally accepted, ... ,).

The newspaper style.

The basic communicative function of this style is to inform people about all kinds of events and occurrences which may be of some interest to them. Newspaper materials may be classified into three groups: brief news reviews, informational articles and advertisements. The vocabulary of the newspaper style consists mostly of neutral common literary words, though it also contains many political, social and economic terms (*gross output, per capita production, gross revenue, apartheid, single European currency, political summit, commodity exchange, tactical nuclear missile, nuclear nonproliferation treaty*). There are lots of abbreviations (*GDP - gross domestic product, EU - European Union, WTO - World Trade Organization, UN - United Nations Organization, NATO - North Atlantic Treaty Organization, HIV - human immunodeficiency virus, AIDS - acquired immune deficiency syndrome, IMF - International Monetary Fund, W. W. W. - World Wide Web*). The newspaper vocabularies of the Russian and Ukrainian languages are overloaded with borrowings and international words (*інтерв'ю, кореспонденція, інформація, репортаж, соціал-демократ, імітатор*), that is why the abundance of foreign suffixes (*-ція, -ація, -изація, -изм, etc.*) is a conspicuous morphological feature of the Russian and Ukrainian newspaper style. One of unattractive features of the newspaper style is the overabundance of cliches. A cliché is a hackneyed phrase or expression. The phrase may once have been fresh or striking, but it has become tired through overuse. Cliches usually suggest mental laziness or the lack of original thought.



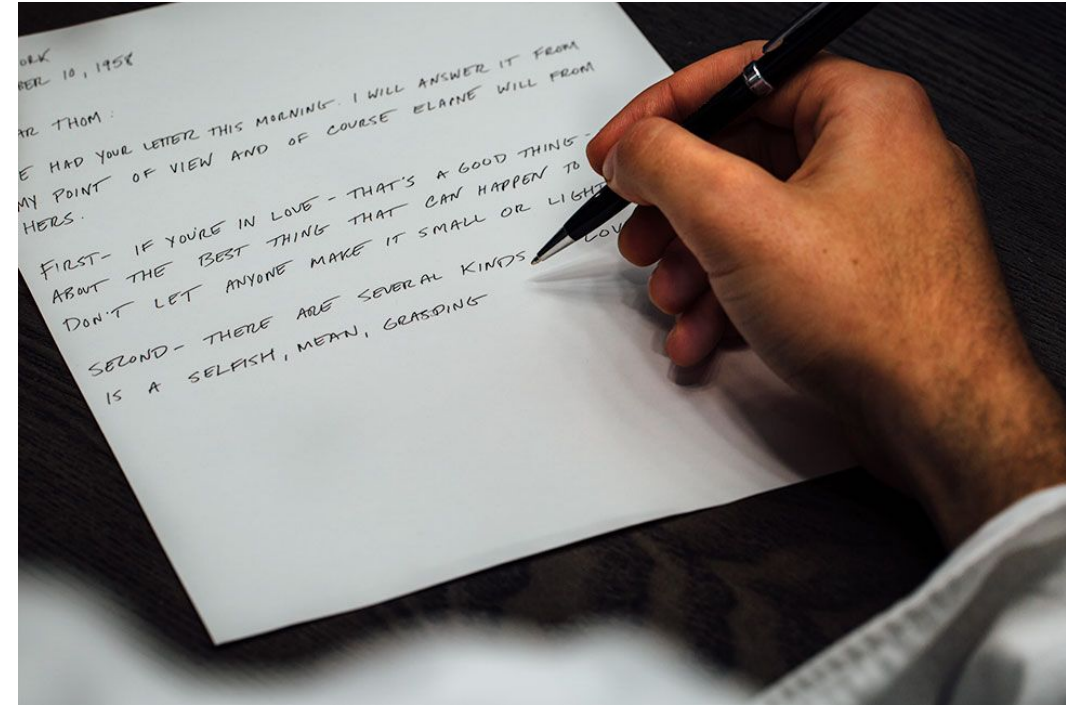
The publicist style.



This style falls into the following variants: the oratory style (speeches, lectures and reports), the style of radio and TV programs, the style of essays and journalistic articles. The most essential feature of the oratory style is the direct contact of the speaker with the audience. To establish and maintain this contact, the speaker continuously resorts to various language means of address: ladies and gentlemen, honourable guests, dear colleagues, dear friends, etc. Public speeches, radio and TV commentaries are crammed with syntactic stylistic devices of repetitions (direct, synonymic, anaphoric, epiphoric, framing, linking), polysyndeton, and parallelisms. These devices aim at making information persuasive. Journalistic articles and essays deal with political, social, economic, moral, ethical, philosophical, religious, educational, cultural and popular-scientific problems. The choice of language means depends on the subject described. Scientific articles and essays contain more neutral words and constructions and less expressive means than articles and essays on humanitarian problems.

The belletristic style.

This style attracts linguists most of all because the authors of books use the whole gamma of expressive means and stylistic devices while creating their images. The function of this style is cognitive-aesthetic. The belletristic style embraces prose, drama and poetry. The language of emotive prose is extremely diverse. Most of the books contain the authors' speech and the speech of protagonists. The authors' speech embodies all stylistic embellishments which the system of language tolerates. The speech of protagonists is just the reflection of people's natural communication which they carry out by means of the colloquial style. The language of drama is also a stylization of the colloquial style when colloquial speech is not only an instrument for rendering information but an effective tool for the description of personages. The most distinctive feature of the language of poetry is its elevation. The imagery of poems and verses is profound, implicit and very touching. It is created by elevated words (highly literary, poetic, barbaric, obsolete or obsolescent), fresh and original tropes, inversions, repetitions and parallel constructions. The pragmatic effect of poetic works may be enhanced by perfected rhymes, metres, rhymes and stanzas.



Thank you for your attention!

