

Functional Styles

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The definition of Functional Style

A functional style is a system of interrelated language means peculiar to a specific sphere of communication.



Modern linguists often use a new notion "register" instead of a "functional style".

The classification of Functional Styles

formal styles

1. Scientific (learned) style

- *Humanitarian sciences*
- *Exact sciences*

2. Business or official style

- *Commercial*
- *Legal*
- *Military*
- *Diplomatic*

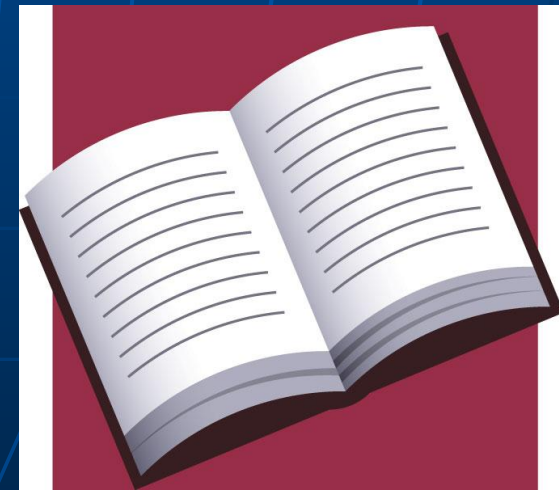
3. Poetic style

- *Publicistic Style*

informal styles

1. Literary colloquial style

2. Familiar colloquial style



Scientific (learned) style



The aim of this style is to prove a hypothesis, to formulate the laws of existence, to define new concepts, to show the relations between phenomena. Scientific style is logical. This style is impersonal and objective.

Peculiarities of Scientific (learned) style

1. Borrowed affixes of Greek, Latin, French origin
2. Strings of attributive nouns
3. The writers often use special verbs (often in the Passive voice)
4. Bookish words
5. Subordination prevails over coordination
6. Compound conjunctions are used in this style

Business or official style

The aim of communication in Business style is to reach agreement between two contracting parties. This style is presented by the following forms: business letters, legal documents, military documents, and the language of diplomacy.



Peculiarities of Business style:

- The sentences are very long.
- Traditional usage of archaic words of foreign origin
- Frequent use of clichés or hackneyed phrases, or set expressions Use of abbreviations Complete enumeration.
- A definite fixed compositional pattern of business letters and other documents.

Poetic style

Poetic style may not obligatorily be called a functional style, because it is limited historically. It is the style of the 18th-19th century's poetry



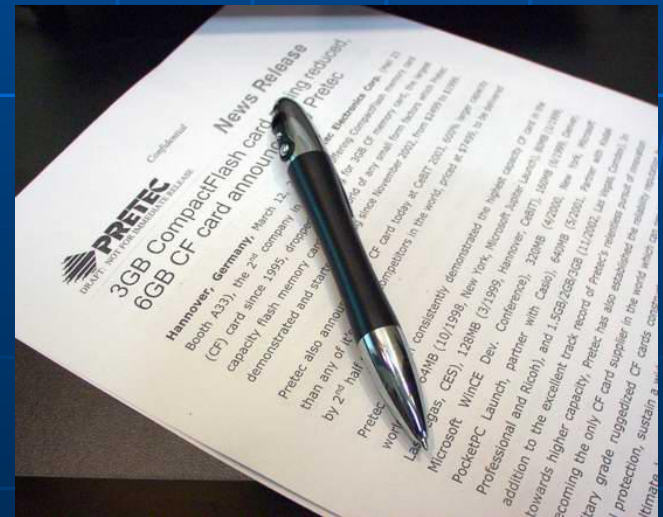
Peculiarities of Poetic style

There are a great number of Poetic elements may be found in grammar and vocabulary:

1. Pronouns: thou, thee (you), thy (your).
2. Verbs: he maketh, thou makest, behold (to see), to dwell (to live).
3. Nouns: Albion (England), woe (sorrow), array (clothes), mirth (merriment).
4. Adjectives: fair (beautiful).
5. Adverbs: ne (never), save (except).
6. Interjections: Ah! Oh! Alas!

Publicistic Style

The primary function of this style is to inform and to instruct, to convince the reader that the interpretation given by the writer or the speaker is the only correct one



Peculiarities of Publicistic Style

- Appeals to emotions
- Is most effective in oratory
- Has features in common with the style of scientific prose, on the one hand, and that of emotive prose, on the other.

Newspaper style

Newspaper must carry any information in the most concise form and affect the reader.



Peculiarities of the Newspaper Style:

- Newspaper clichés are used
- Special political and economic terms are used: *tension, president.*
- Abbreviations
- Headlines
- Neologisms.
- Verbals.
- Syntactical complexes.

Oratorical style

The aim of this style is to attract people's attention and persuade the audience in what is said by the speaker.

This style is evident in speeches on political and social problems of the day, on solemn occasions (public weddings, funerals, etc.)

Peculiarity of Oratorical style:

A great number of repetitions

Essays

The essay is a literary composition of moderate length on philosophical, social, aesthetic or literary subjects. An essay is rather a series of personal and witty comments than a finished argument or a conclusive examination of any matter.

Peculiarities of *Essays*

- brevity of expression;
- the use of the first person singular, which justifies a personal approach to the problems treated;
- a rather expanded use of connectives;
- the abundant use of emotive words;
- the use of similes and sustained (prolonged) metaphors.

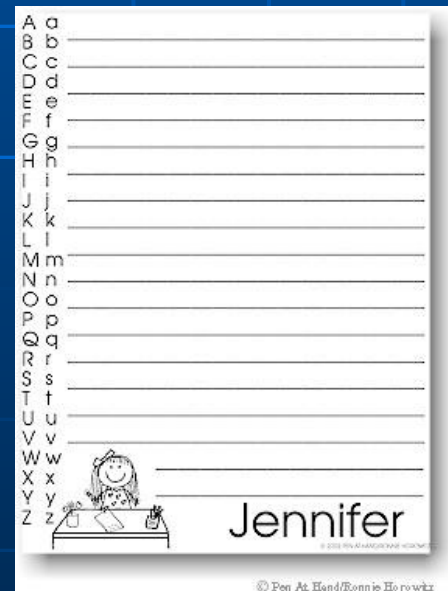
Literary colloquial style



Literary colloquial style is used by educated people in formal situations. It's characterized by polite, conversational formulas, by neutral vocabulary; it doesn't contain slang, vulgarisms, or colloquialisms.

Familiar colloquial style

Familiar style is used in intimate conversations especially by younger generation. It's expressive and emotional



Lexical peculiarities of Colloquial Style:

1. Ready-made lexical formulas of everyday usage. With familiar colloquial style these formulas are emotional and categoric (*sure, rubbish*), but in literary colloquial they are more polite, more reserved (*I tend to agree with you*)
2. Intensifiers – words which increase expressiveness. The use of emotional words.
3. Empty words (time fillers).
4. Nonce-words

Grammatical peculiarities of Colloquial Styles

- The abundance of elliptical sentences
- Exclamatory, interrogative, abrupt disconnected sentences
- Asyndetic connection
- Parenthesis
- Tautology
- Composite verbs (verb-adverb compositions)
- Pronouns