

# **Lecture 11.**

## **Distinctive features of the functional styles (2)**

**I. The style of official documents**

**II. Scientific style**

# I. The style of official documents

## 1. Morphological features

- Adherence to the norm, outdated or archaic words (in legal documents).

## 2. Syntactical features

- Use of long complex sentences with several types of coordination and subordination (up to 70% of the text).

## Syntactical features (2)

- Use of passive and participial constructions, numerous connectives, objects, attributes and other modifiers **in the explanatory function**.
- Detached constructions and parenthesis.
- Participle I, II as openers in the initial statement.

### 3. Lexical features

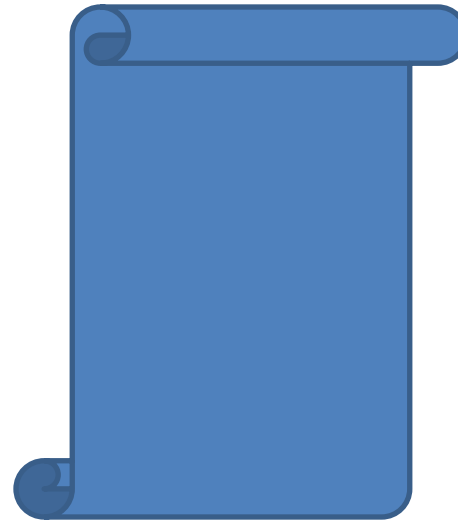
- ❖ Abstraction of persons, official voc.: cliches, opening and conclusive phrases, conventional forms of words: kinsman, hereof, thereto, thereby, ilk.
- ❖ Use of terminology.  
EX.: legal: acquittal, testimony, aggravated larceny; commercial: advance payment, insurance, wholesale.

## Lexical features (2)

- ✓ Stylistically neutral and bookish vocabulary.
- ✓ Foreign words (Latin and French): status quo, force majeure, persona non grata, abbreviations, conventional symbols: M.P., Ltd., \$.
- ✓ Use of words in their primary denotative meaning.
- ✓ Use of proper names and titles.

## 4. Compositional features

- ❑ Use of stereotyped, official phraseology.
- ❑ Accurate use of punctuation.
- ❑ Objective, unemotional, impersonal style of narration.



## Compositional features (2)

- ❑ Conventional composition of treaties, agreements, division into 2 parts  
(a preamble and a main part).
- ❑ Special compositional design: coded graphical layout, clear-cut subdivision of texts into units of information, logical arrangement, order-of-priority organization of content.

## II. Scientific style

### 1. Morphological features

- Terminological word building and word-derivation: neologism formation by affixation and conversion.
- Restricted use of finite verb forms, impersonal constructions.
- “The author’s **we**” instead of “I”.



## 2. Syntactical features

- ❖ Direct word order, use of lengthy sentences with subordinate clauses.
- ❖ Extensive use of participial, gerundial, infinitive complexes, adverbial and prepositional phrases.
- ❖ Preferential use of attributive groups instead of the descriptive 'of phrase'.

## Syntactical features (2)

- ❖ Prevalence of nominal constructions for the sake of **generalization**.
- ❖ Passive and non-finite verb forms – to achieve **impersonality**.
- ❖ Impersonal forms and sentences:

Ex.: assuming that,  
mention should be made.

### 3. Lexical features

- Bookish words: presume, infer, preconception, cognitive; scientific terminology and phraseology.
- Neologisms, proper names, words – in their primary **dictionary meaning**.
- Restricted use of emotive colouring, interjections, expressive phraseology, phrasal verbs and colloquial vocabulary; seldom use of tropes.

## 4. Compositional features

- ✓ Logical and consistent narration, sequential presentation of facts.
- ✓ extensive use of citation, references, foot-notes, -restricted use of expressive means and stylistic devices.
- ✓ Conventional set phrases.

## Compositional features (2)

- ✓ Special set of connective phrases: on the contrary, likewise, consequently, double conjunctions: as...as, either...or, both...and.
- ✓ ***Compositionally arranged*** sentence patterns: postulatory (at the beginning), argumentative (central part), formulative (in the conclusion).

# Compositional features (3)

□ Types of texts compositionally depend on the scientific genre:

monograph,

article,

presentation,

thesis,

dissertation.

# Compositional features (4)

❖ *Proper scientific texts:* (mathimatics\*)

highly formalized,  
with prevalence of  
formulae,  
tables,

diagrams with concise  
commentary phrases.

❖ *Humanitarian texts:*

descriptive narration  
with argumentation  
and interpretation.

