Stylistic differentiation of the English vocabulary

- Neutral, common literary and common colloquial vocabulary.
- Terms.
- Archaic, obsolescent and obsolete words.
- Barbarisms and foreign words.
- Slang.
- Jargonisms.
- Professionalisms.
- Dialect words.
- Vulgarisms.
- Poetic words

Neutral, common literary and common colloquial vocabulary

In accordance with the division of language into literary and colloquial, the whole word-stock of English can be divided into three main layers:

the literary layer

the neutral layer

the colloquial layer

Neutral words

- universal character: they are unrestricted in use and can be employed in all styles of language and in all spheres of human activity.
- the most stable layer
- the main source of synonymy and polysemy
- mostly monosyllabic
- has no specific colouring, whereas both literary and colloquial have a definite stylistic connotation
- mainly used in writing and in polished speech

Colloquial words have a lively spoken character, so they are used in non-official speech, they are very vivid and suggestive in character.

COLLOQUIAL	NEUTRAL	LITERARY
Kid	Child	Infant
Daddy	Father	Parent
Chap	Fellow	Associate
Go on	Continue	Proceed
Teenager	Boy/girl	Youth/maiden
Make a move	Begin	Commence

We shall find literary words in authorial speech, descriptions, considerations, while colloquialisms will be observed in the type of discourse copying everyday oral communication - in the dialogue or interior monologue of a prose work

Terms are directly connected with the concept it denotes

- we can come across them in other styles – newspaper, publicist and others, but it changes it's function
- in a work of creative prose a term may acquire a stylistic function and become a stylistic device.

"What a fool Rawdon Crawley has been," Clump replied, "to go and marry a governess. There was something about the girl too. Green eyes, fair skin, pretty figure, famous frontal development"

Undergoing determination - many words that used to be terms have lost their quality as terms and passed into the common literary or even neutral vocabulary: "radio", "television"

Main groups of terms depending on the character of their etymology

- Terms formed from Greek, Latin, French, German or other foreign sources:
  botany, anatomy, schedule (Greek);
  locomotive, chivalry, march, parliament, estate (Latin);
  facade, retreat, maneuver, squad, coup d'etat, cliché (French);
  cobalt, zinc, quartz, sauerkraut (German)

- Terms formed from the common word stock:
  tank, company (milit.);
  wing (archit);
  fading, jamming (radio)

- Terms formed by means of special suffixes and prefixes:
  ultra-violet, antidote, transplant

Archaic, obsolescent and obsolete words

Obsolescent word - it gradually passes out of general use

- *pronoun thou and its forms - thee, thy and thine;*
- *the corresponding verbal ending -est and the verb-forms art, wilt (thou makest, thou wilt);*
- *the ending -(e)th instead of-(e)s and the pronoun ye*
- *Many French borrowings: a pallet (a straw mattress); a palfrey (a small horse)*

Obsolete words - words that have already gone completely out of use but are still recognized by the speaking community are called obsolete

- *methinks (it seems to me); nay (no)*

Archaic proper - words which are no longer recognizable in Modern English, words that were in use in Old English and which have either dropped out of the language entirely or have changed in their appearance so much that they have become unrecognizable

- *troth (faith); a losel (a worthless, lazy fellow)*

Archaic words vs historical words

Historical words denote historical events, customs, material objects, which are no longer in use

- *thane, yeoman, goblet*
- have no synonyms (archaic words may be replaced by modern synonyms)

Functions of archaic words

- mostly used in the creation of a realistic background to historical novels
- can be used for satirical purposes

"Perfect love casteth off fear"

Casteth off = cast off

- Archaic words, word-forms and word combinations may be used for creating an elevated effect

Barbarisms and foreign words

These are words of foreign origin which have not been completely assimilated by the English language.

- have synonyms in English

chic (stylish); bon mot (a clever witty saying); en passant (in passing); ad infinitum(to infinity)

barbarisms	foreign words
part of the English language	do not belong to the English vocabulary
generally given in the body of the dictionary	they are not registered by English dictionaries
on the contrary, are not made conspicuous in the text	generally italicized to indicate it's alien nature

Foreign words, as well as barbarisms, are widely used in language with various aims

- To supply local colour.

«The little boy, too, we observed, had a famous appetite, and consumed schinken, and braten, and kartoffeln, and cranberry jam with a gallantry that did honour to his nation.»

- To build up the stylistic device of the so-called represented speech.

«And the Cretans were very willing to feed and hide the ***Inglisi****»*

Slang

- The Times newspaper gives the following illustration of slang:
  - *leggo (let go); serge(sergeant);*
  - *"I've got a date with that girl Morris tonight"*
  - *leggo* is a phonetic impropriety caused by careless rapid speaking, ***serge*** is a vulgar equivalent of the full form of the word; *date* is a widely recognized colloquial equivalent of the bookish word ***rendez-vouz***

Slang is nothing but a deviation from the established norm at the level of vocabulary of a language.

Slang is:

- highly emotive and expressive;
- apt to lose its originality;
- easily replaced by new formations;
- substandard in status;
- apt to form long chains of synonyms.

"I can't believe she went and told my father about everything just to get me in trouble, what a hater."

"The kids were ready to bite my arm off just because I promised to take them to the candy store."

Jargonisms.

Jargonisms are generally new words with entirely new meanings imposed on them

- Their main function is to be secretive

grease means "money“

loaf means "head“

a tiger hunter is "a gambler”

a lexer is "a student preparing for a law course”

Jargonism → common jargonism→ slang or colloquial

hummen "a false arrest", man and wife "knife", manany "a sailor who is always putting off a job or work" (from the Spanish manana "tomorrow")

- **slang words or jargonisms are now considered common colloquial:**

kid, fun, bluff, fid, humbug

Professionalisms

Professionalisms are formed according to the existing word-building patterns or present existing words in new meanings.

The main feature of a professionalism is its technicality.

- *tin-fish "submarine"; block-buster "a bomb which can destroy blocks of big buildings"; piper "a specialist who decorates pastry with the help of a cream-pipe"; borer, digger "driller"*

They fulfill a socially useful function in communication, facilitating a quick and adequate grasp of the meaning. The use of professionalisms forms the most conspicuous element of this literary device.

Dialect words

Dialectal words are those which in the process of integration of the English national language remained beyond its literary boundaries, and their use in generally confined to a definite locality

<u>In Great Britain four major groups of dialects are distinguished:</u>

- *Lowland Scotch, Northern, Midland (Central) and Southern*

<u>In the USA three major dialectal varieties are distinguished:</u>

- *New England, Southern and Midwestern (Central, Midland)*

Dialects differ on:

- the phonemic level: one and the same phoneme is differently pronounced in each of them
- the lexical level: they have their own names for locally existing phenomena and supply local synonyms for the words accepted by the language in general
- their nature: *lass "a girl or beloved girl"; lad "a boy or a young man"; fash "trouble, cares"*

Vulgarisms

Such intensifiers as bloody, damned, cursed, formerly not used in literature and conversation, are now widely used in written and in oral speech and, due to their constant repetition, have lost much of their emotive impact and substandard quality

The function of vulgarisms in emotive prose is to express strong emotions, mainly annoyance, anger, vexation and the like.

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