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LECTURES ON THE
ENGLISH
STYLISTICS

Educational manual

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The educational manual “Lectures on the English Stylistics” provides material on the English stylistics for the Bachelor’s and Master’s Degree students of the Philology, Literature Studies and World Languages faculty. The educational manual offers lectures that cover general categories of stylistics, main stylistic devices and functional styles of the English language. The educational manual provides practical material for seminars on the basic themes of the stylistics.

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INTRODUCTION

The book is concerned with introduction of the most central concepts and analytical frameworks in stylistics.

The description of stylistics as a branch of general linguistics and the main notions of stylistics are specified in Part 1.

Stylistics studies the principles and the effect of choice and usage of different language elements in rendering thought and emotion under different conditions of communication. Stylistics is closely connected with such disciplines as phonetics, lexicology and grammar due to the common source of study.

According to the type of stylistic research scholars distinguish several branches of stylistics.

The most important division is the differentiation between *literary stylistics* and *lingua-stylistics*.

Both of them study the common ground of:

- a) the literary language from the point of view of variability,
- b) the idiolect (individual speech) of a writer,
- c) poetic speech that has its own specific laws.

Comparative stylistics is connected with the contrastive and/or comparative study of stylistic characteristics of more than one language (e.g., English and French, English and Russian, English and Kazakh, etc.).

Decoding stylistics is the trend in stylistics that employs the knowledge of such sciences as information theory, psychology, linguistics, literary studies, history of art, etc.

Functional stylistics investigates functional styles, i.e. special sublanguages or varieties of the national language. In the English literary standard linguists distinguish the following major functional styles: belles-lettres style, publicist style, newspaper style, scientific style, official style.

Stylistic classification of the English vocabulary is specified in Lecture 3 of Part 1.

In accordance with the division of language into literary and colloquial, the whole vocabulary of the English language linguists divide it into three main layers:

- 1) the literary layer;
- 2) the neutral layer;
- 3) the colloquial layer.

Part 2 deals with expressive means (EM) and stylistic devices (SD).

EMs and SDs have a lot in common. But they are not completely synonymous. All SDs belong to EMs but not all EMs are SDs. Phonetic phenomena such as vocal pitch, pauses, logical stress, drawling, etc. are EMs without being SDs.

In comparison with the expressive means of the language, stylistic devices carry a greater amount of information as they show the attitude of the speaker or author toward he is speaking about. Stylistic devices are always emotionally charged.

Expressive means are registered in dictionaries, manuals on grammar and lexicology. Stylistic devices belong to stylistics only. Sound combinations, intonation, pitch are phonetic expressive means; they are facts of the language, but there are also certain sound arrangements which produce a desired effect. For example, such phonetic stylistic devices as alliteration and onomatopoeia are used for euphony.

Words, phraseological units are facts of the language, but when used in the contextual meanings they become lexical SDs.

In syntax (the paragraph, sentence patterns and other syntactical expressive means) can serve to build syntactical SDs: e.g. parallel constructions, rhetoric questions, litotes and many other stylistic devices.

There are different classifications of expressive means and stylistic devices. The classification suggested by I. R. Galperin is simply organized and detailed. He suggests the following subdivision of expressive means and stylistic devices based on the level-oriented approach:

1. Phonetic EMs and SDs.
2. Lexical EMs and SDs
3. Syntactical EMs and SDs.

Part 3 provides material on functional styles. A functional style of language is a system of interrelated language means, which serve a definite aim in communication. A functional style is regarded as the product of a certain concrete task set by the sender of the message. Functional styles appear mainly in the literary standard of a language.

The literary standard of the English language is not homogenous. In the course of its development the Standard English Literary Language has fallen into several subsystems each of which has acquired its own peculiarities which are typical of a given functional style. The members of the language community recognized these styles as independent wholes.

There are useful practical exercises on the use of stylistic devices, the analysis of functional styles. The stylistic analysis that help students advance and master how to examine texts from a linguistic perspective. They also help to understand the ways and means writers opt for in the process of producing the text and expressing it in the way they deem to best serve their purpose.