

Phraseology and Literacy as Reflections of Intellectual Level: Analyzing Literary and Conversational Examples

Iskhakova Aliya Ildarovna¹

¹1st year master degree student of linguistic department at Andijan State Institute of Foreign Languages

Annotation:

This article delves into the significance of phraseology and literacy in speech, exploring how these elements influence the perception of an individual as educated or lacking in communication skills. Drawing on examples from English literature, we illustrate the power of language's expressive tools. Furthermore, we examine examples of everyday informal speech, offering refined alternatives that elevate communication. The article also reflects on the opinions of renowned writers and scholars about the importance of literacy and concludes with strategies to enhance modern speech culture.

Keywords: Literacy, phraseology, speech culture, English literature, conversational speech, language, communication skills, speech improvement.

Introduction:

Language is one of the most powerful tools we possess. Literate speech, characterized by the skillful use of phraseology, idiomatic expressions, and precise wording, has long been seen as a marker of education and intellect. The ability to articulate thoughts clearly and effectively not only sets individuals apart in social and professional contexts but also allows for deeper connections and mutual understanding. On the other hand, poorly structured speech—often peppered with fillers, vague expressions, and slang—can undermine the message and make a person appear less informed.

This article aims to explore the role of phraseology and literacy in distinguishing a cultured individual. By analyzing examples from English literature, we can see how masterful language use

elevates communication, making it richer and more impactful. Additionally, we will examine examples of everyday informal speech, identifying areas where improvement can lead to a more refined and articulate style. Finally, we'll consider the views of prominent writers and scholars on the importance of literacy and reflect on how we can improve the quality of modern speech.

Phraseology in English Literature: 5 Examples

The rich tradition of English literature provides numerous examples of how skillful language use can enhance communication and convey complex ideas with elegance. Writers like Jane Austen, William Shakespeare, and Charles Dickens have left behind a legacy of beautifully crafted phrases that continue to resonate with readers today. Let's explore a few notable examples from their works and others:

1. "Pride and Prejudice" (Jane Austen)

Example: "It is a truth universally acknowledged that a single man in possession of a good fortune must be in want of a wife."

Commentary: Austen opens her novel with this famous line, using irony to critique societal expectations. The structured phrasing and satirical tone immediately set the stage for a narrative that examines the complexities of human relationships and social norms.

2. "Hamlet" (William Shakespeare)

Example: "Brevity is the soul of wit."

Commentary: Shakespeare's ability to condense wisdom into a single, pithy statement is unparalleled. In this line, he encapsulates the value of concise expression, showing that true wit lies in the ability to convey much with few words. The phrase itself embodies the principle it advocates, making it memorable and profound.

3. "Moby-Dick" (Herman Melville)

Example: "Call me Ishmael."

Commentary: Melville's iconic opening line from "Moby-Dick" is a masterclass in simplicity and directness. With just three words, he invites readers into the narrative, establishing an immediate connection between the narrator and the audience. This direct address is both engaging and intriguing, setting the tone for the epic journey that follows.

4. "Great Expectations" (Charles Dickens)

Example: "Take nothing on its looks; take everything on evidence. There's no better rule."

Commentary: Dickens frequently uses moral lessons in his narratives, often delivered through concise and impactful phrases. This line emphasizes the importance of judging based on evidence rather than appearances, a theme that resonates throughout the novel. The clarity and directness of the language make the message both accessible and compelling.

5. "Wuthering Heights" (Emily Brontë)

Example: "Whatever our souls are made of, his and mine are the same."

Commentary: Brontë's use of poetic language in this line captures the deep emotional connection between the characters. The phrase is not only evocative but also reflects the intense, almost supernatural bond at the heart of the story. The beauty of the language elevates the expression of love, making it timeless.

These examples from literature highlight the power of phraseology in enriching language and making ideas more impactful. Writers use carefully chosen words and structures to create lasting impressions, demonstrating the value of literacy in communication.

Transitioning from Literature to Everyday Speech:

While literature often represents the pinnacle of refined language, everyday speech can sometimes fall short. In casual conversations, we may rely on fillers, vague language, and colloquialisms that weaken our communication. However, with a little effort, we can elevate our daily interactions by adopting clearer, more precise language. Let's explore some common examples of informal speech and see how they can be improved for greater clarity and impact.

Examples of Illiterate Speech and Its Improvement

Informal or illiterate speech is often characterized by filler words, vague language, and casual expressions that detract from the message. While these habits may be common in everyday conversation, they can create a perception of carelessness or lack of sophistication. Let's examine a few examples of such speech and explore how they can be refined to convey a more polished and articulate message:

1. Illiterate Speech:

"I was like, thinking maybe we could, you know, go there and do that."

Analysis: The overuse of fillers ("like," "you know") and vague language weakens the message, making it sound hesitant and unconfident.

Improved Speech:

"I was considering the possibility of going there and completing that task."

Commentary: By removing fillers and vague language, this version is clearer and more direct, conveying confidence and purpose.

2. Illiterate Speech:

"I don't think it really matters, and we could just skip it."

Analysis: Casual language and an informal tone make the statement sound dismissive and unprofessional.

Improved Speech:

"I believe it isn't particularly important, and we could perhaps omit it."

Commentary: The revised version uses more formal language and a polite tone, making the statement sound more thoughtful and considered.

3. Illiterate Speech: "This problem is really hard to figure out."

Analysis: The use of casual terms like "really hard" makes the speech sound simplistic and unrefined.

Improved Speech:

"This issue is quite complex and difficult to resolve."

Commentary: The improved version uses more precise language, elevating the tone and demonstrating a better grasp of the subject matter.

4. Illiterate Speech:

"I did it, and it's fine."

Analysis: The simplicity and lack of detail make the statement sound overly casual and incomplete.

Improved Speech:

"I completed the task successfully, and everything went smoothly."

Commentary: This version provides more detail and conveys a sense of accomplishment, making the statement more professional and polished.

5. Illiterate Speech:

"He didn't get it at all."

Analysis: The informal structure weakens the impact of the message, making it sound less serious.

Improved Speech:

"It appears that he completely misunderstood the point."

Commentary: By using more formal language and a clearer structure, this version communicates the message with greater precision and authority.

Transitioning to Broader Reflections on Literacy:

The refinement of everyday speech is not merely a matter of formality—it is also a reflection of one's engagement with language and communication. Literacy and phraseology, therefore, play a critical role in shaping how we express ourselves and how we are perceived by others. Many influential writers and scholars have emphasized the importance of these elements in both personal and societal contexts.

Opinions of Writers and Scholars on Literacy and Speech

Throughout history, writers and scholars have recognized the power of language in shaping thought, culture, and society. Their insights remind us that literacy is not just about the ability to read and write—it is about the ability to think critically and communicate effectively. Let's explore the perspectives of some prominent figures on the importance of literacy and speech:

- Jane Austen emphasized the importance of wit and irony in communication. She believed that language should be used to reveal the truths of society and human nature, and her novels are filled with sharp observations on the social dynamics of her time.
- William Shakespeare saw language as a tool for both entertainment and education. His works are celebrated for their eloquence, wordplay, and depth, demonstrating the power of language to move and inspire audiences across generations.
- George Orwell argued that clear and precise language is essential for honest communication, especially in political discourse. He warned against the dangers of vague and manipulative speech, which can be used to obscure the truth and control thought.
- Virginia Woolf believed that language is central to the human experience. For Woolf, the nuances of language were crucial for expressing the complexities of life and emotion, and she explored these themes in her stream-of-consciousness writing style.
- Noam Chomsky highlights the role of language in shaping thought and worldview. He emphasizes that literacy is key to understanding and engaging with the world, arguing that clear, precise language is essential for knowledge and interaction.

Transitioning to Modern Speech Culture:

These reflections from literary and intellectual giants remind us of the importance of nurturing our language skills. In today's fast-paced, digital world, it is easy to fall into patterns of informal speech

that prioritize convenience over clarity. However, by making a conscious effort to refine our communication, we can elevate the quality of our interactions and contribute to a more thoughtful and articulate society.

The Situation with Literacy and Speech Culture among Today's Youth

The current state of speech culture among young people reflects both the opportunities and challenges of the digital age. On the one hand, social media and instant messaging have made communication more accessible and widespread than ever before. On the other hand, these platforms often encourage brevity and informality, leading to the widespread use of slang, abbreviations, and shorthand. This trend has raised concerns about declining literacy levels, particularly in terms of grammar and vocabulary.

However, it's important to recognize that many young people are also making efforts to improve their language skills. Educational initiatives, reading programs, and a growing interest in literature are helping to counterbalance the more informal aspects of digital communication. By fostering a love of reading and encouraging thoughtful communication, we can help young people develop the literacy skills they need to succeed in both personal and professional contexts.

How to Improve Modern Speech

Improving modern speech culture requires a multifaceted approach that addresses both individual habits and broader societal trends. Here are some strategies that can help elevate the quality of communication in today's world:

1. **Reading Classic English Literature:** Engaging with works by renowned authors not only expands vocabulary but also teaches readers how to express their thoughts clearly and elegantly. Classic literature offers timeless examples of refined language that can serve as models for effective communication.
2. **Practicing Thoughtful Communication:** Reducing the use of fillers, slang, and vague language in daily conversations helps develop a more polished communication style. By being mindful of our word choices and striving for clarity, we can make our speech more impactful.
3. **Exploring the Arts:** Attending plays, poetry readings, and high-quality films can enhance one's understanding of language and improve speech culture. The arts offer rich examples of expressive language that can inspire more creative and thoughtful communication.
4. **Engaging with Mentors:** Participating in public speaking clubs, writing workshops, and other language-focused activities provides opportunities to learn from experienced communicators. Mentorship can significantly boost confidence and eloquence, helping individuals refine their language skills.
5. **Using Educational Resources:** Leveraging online courses, language apps, and podcasts can help individuals improve their literacy and communication skills. These resources make it easier to access high-quality language education, regardless of one's background or location.

Conclusion:

Phraseology and literacy are foundational to effective communication and serve as reflections of an individual's intellectual level. In a world where language is often simplified for convenience, maintaining and developing these skills is crucial for preserving cultural and educational standards. By studying literary examples, reflecting on the insights of great writers, and working to improve our everyday speech, we can enhance our ability to communicate clearly, thoughtfully, and with greater impact.

REFERENCES

1. Crystal, D. (2003). A dictionary of linguistics & Phonetics. 5ed, Oxford: Blackwell press.
2. Baker, M, (1992). In Other Words. A Course Book on Translation. London: Routledge
3. Belinsky, Natalya. (2003). English - Russian Idioms, Expressions. Англо русский краткий словарь идиом и устойчивых выражений. Fluent English <http://www.fluent-english.ru>
4. Broukal, Milad., (1994). Idioms for Everyday Use. National Textbook Company. A Division of NTC/ CONTEMPORARY PUBLISHING GROUP. Lincolnwood, Illinois USA.
5. Gerasimova, S. S. (2020). The analysis of animal idioms in different languages by translating strategies. Актуальные проблемы гуманитарных и естественных наук, (6), 59-61.
6. Jane Austen, (1813). Pride and Prejudice, 1.
7. William Shakespeare, (1600). Hamlet, 117.
8. Herman Melville, (1851). Moby-Dick, 1.
9. Emily Brontë, (1847). Wuthering Heights, (9), 73.
10. Charles Dickens, (1861). Great Expectations, (40), 272.