



Features of Syntactic Stylistics

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Abstract:

Syntactic stylistics examines the stylistic potential of sentences, including their structure, word order, and expressive functions. Syntax plays a crucial role in shaping functional styles, though certain syntactic phenomena are more characteristic of specific styles. For instance, bookish speech often includes participial phrases and auxiliary words, while colloquial speech frequently employs elliptical and incomplete sentences. The study of syntactic stylistics involves analyzing stylistic features of various styles, the expressive capacity of syntactic units, and their role in communication. This paper discusses key aspects of syntactic stylistics, including the role of syntactic figures such as rhetorical questions, ellipses, and anaphora, and highlights the contributions of linguists in this field.

Keywords: syntactic stylistics, functional styles, sentence structure, expressive means, syntactic figures, stylistic syntax.

INTRODUCTION

Syntactic stylistics is a branch of linguistics that examines the stylistic potential of sentence structures, their components, and the arrangement of these components to achieve specific expressive purposes. It explores how syntax—the rules governing sentence construction—contributes to the formation of functional styles, such as scientific, journalistic, artistic, and colloquial speech. Syntax is not merely a tool for organizing words into sentences; it is a powerful mechanism for conveying meaning, tone, and emotional impact.

The stylistic possibilities of syntax are vast. For instance, the placement of adjectives, participial phrases, and auxiliary words can significantly alter the tone and formality of a sentence. In bookish or formal speech, complex syntactic structures like participial phrases are prevalent, while colloquial speech often relies on elliptical or incomplete sentences for brevity and immediacy. These variations highlight the adaptability of syntax to different communicative contexts.

The significance of syntax for stylistics was notably emphasized by A.N. Gvozdev, who argued that syntax serves as the foundation of speech, enabling both thought and communication. According to

Gvozdev, the stylistic function of syntax lies in its ability to shape the expressive and communicative qualities of language [1]. For example, a simple change in word order can create emphasis, evoke emotion, or alter the perceived formality of a sentence.

While syntactic units are not exclusively tied to specific functional styles, they play a crucial role in defining the characteristics of each style. For instance, scientific writing often employs complex sentences to convey precision and logic, whereas artistic writing may use fragmented or rhythmic structures to evoke imagery and emotion. This flexibility makes syntax a key element in the study of stylistic variation across different forms of speech.

METHODS

The study of syntactic stylistics involves analyzing the stylistic potential of syntactic units and their relationship to functional styles. To achieve this, researchers focus on two primary aspects: the normative use of syntactic structures and their stylistic connotations. Syntactic means, such as sentence types, word order, and rhetorical devices, offer a rich array of stylistic possibilities that vary across languages and contexts.

In the context of the Uzbek literary language, the synonymy of syntactic phenomena—where different structures convey similar meanings—serves as a foundation for functional style. For example, a declarative sentence and a rhetorical question may express the same idea but differ in their emotional and stylistic impact. This synonymy allows speakers and writers to choose structures that best align with their communicative goals.

To identify the syntactic features of different styles, researchers often compare texts from various genres. For instance, the syntax of scientific writing, characterized by logical coherence and precision, contrasts sharply with the syntax of colloquial speech, which tends to be more fragmented and expressive. Such comparisons reveal how syntactic choices reflect the speaker's attitude toward the subject matter and the audience.

In scientific writing, for example, the primary focus is on clarity and logical progression. Sentences are often carefully structured, with subordinate clauses and participial phrases used to convey complex ideas systematically. In contrast, artistic writing employs syntactic devices like repetition, ellipsis, and inversion to create rhythm, emphasis, and emotional resonance.

RESULTS

The analysis of syntactic stylistics reveals that each functional style is characterized by distinct syntactic patterns. For example, scientific texts frequently use passive constructions and complex sentences to emphasize objectivity and precision, while literary texts favor varied sentence lengths and rhetorical devices to enhance expressiveness and engagement.

Comparative studies of texts from different genres further illuminate these patterns. For instance, examining multiple editions of a literary work can reveal how syntactic choices evolve to reflect changing stylistic preferences. Similarly, comparing scientific articles with journalistic pieces highlights the role of syntax in shaping tone and formality.

One key finding is that certain syntactic structures are more prevalent in specific styles. For example, rhetorical questions and exclamatory sentences are common in journalistic and artistic texts, where emotional impact is prioritized. In contrast, imperative sentences and conditional clauses are more typical of instructional or technical writing, where clarity and directness are essential.

DISCUSSION

The study of syntactic stylistics underscores the importance of syntax as a tool for achieving stylistic and expressive goals. Syntactic figures, such as rhetorical questions, ellipsis, gradation, and

antithesis, are central to this field. These devices are not merely decorative; they serve specific communicative functions, such as emphasizing key points, creating rhythm, or evoking emotional responses.

For example, a rhetorical question can engage the audience by prompting them to reflect on an issue, while ellipsis can create a sense of immediacy or informality. Similarly, antithesis—the juxtaposition of contrasting ideas—can highlight differences and provoke thought. These devices are particularly prominent in artistic, journalistic, and rhetorical styles, where expressiveness and emotional impact are paramount.

The versatility of syntactic means allows them to adapt to various communicative contexts. In scientific writing, syntax is used to convey precision and objectivity, while in artistic writing, it serves to evoke imagery and emotion. This adaptability highlights the dynamic relationship between syntax and style.

Prominent linguists, including M. Verdi, I.R. Galperin, and A.N. Gvozdev, have emphasized the significance of syntactic categories in stylistic analysis. Their work has laid the groundwork for understanding how syntactic structures contribute to the expressive and communicative qualities of language. In the Uzbek linguistic tradition, scholars like A. Shomaksudov and A. Mamajonov have further explored the stylistic potential of syntactic phenomena, highlighting their role in shaping the aesthetic and functional aspects of speech [2].

In conclusion, syntactic stylistics offers valuable insights into the interplay between syntax and style. By examining the expressive and functional potential of syntactic structures, researchers can better understand how language shapes meaning and communication across different contexts.

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