

The Function of Linguistic Means in Literary Text

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ABSTRACT: This article considers the linguistic means used by the author, to give the text a special expressiveness and semantic depth, special attention is paid to the text as a product of the speech-thought activity of the subject.

KEYWORD: linguistic personality, the content of the narration, linguistic means, expressive content.

Individual-author reflection of the general linguistic picture in the author's fiction text represents aspects of the linguistic personality of the writer. A work of fiction attracts the attention of researchers in the aspect of its anthropocentric essence, allowing us to see the writer as a linguistic personality and the artist, reflecting in his works the creative personality, the individual perception of the world through the prism of language [3,12]. Our study focuses on the linguistic means used by the author, special attention is paid to the text as a product of the speech and thinking activity of the subject.

Linguistic means of expression are used to give the text special expressiveness and semantic depth. The author expresses his attitude to the content of the narrative, paying attention to those expressive details, events or phenomena that need to be highlighted [3,16]. The linguistic means used by the writer make the text not only expressive, but also formalize it, reveal the level of skill of the author, his manner of writing, culture of speech, style [2, 9]. Linguistic means of imagery, emotionality and expressiveness can be divided into the following groups:

- phonetic: sounds do not contain ideological content, but create a certain mood and emotion in readers, for example: sounds V, L, N, I, E are "light, soft", G, X, J, Y are "heavy, sad";
- derivational: nouns with suffixes -less, mis-, dis- create a negative effect, they complicate the perception of speech, a number of related words in a sentence often leads to speech errors, and can be used for expressiveness.
- Morphological: for emotional expressiveness it is desirable to use adjectives, since participles, verbs non-verbal parts of speech make speech to sound heavier;

Let us consider examples of the use of various linguistic means, stylistic devices on the example of the story "Beauty of the dead" by Herbert Bates. The author uses various expressive means and stylistic devices, such as epithets, metaphor, resemblance, oxymoron, irony, hyperbole, understatement, etc., to show the reader the idea of the story. The main character in this story is Mr. Grimshaw. He is a complex character, a little wordy, gloomy. His last name is quite significant. This technique is called stylistic antonomasia, that is, the use of a proper name to characterize a character who has one or more of the characteristics of the bearer of the name. The adjective "grim" means harsh, merciless, vile, joyless, sinister (there is a grim truth in this name);

unpleasant, unattractive. The name of the main character here creates precisely the impression he gives the reader. We see his ruthlessness in the following author-antonymic phrase:

...he turned with satisfaction to look at his wife, who lay dying on the bed [1,20].

A special effect is achieved by the combination of words chosen by the author to describe this situation - *with satisfaction, lay dying*. Through the context of the description the image of the main character, his actions, way of life, manner of communication, behavior is revealed. The character trait, reflected in the name, is constantly manifested in the actions of the hero. A secondary character in this work is his wife. We do not know her name and the author does not let us know, and this is important because her name does not matter, because she is presented as a weak-willed, boring and feeble character. This is probably why Grimshaw does not care about the inner world of his wife, does not interpret her as a person.

The usage of epithets and personifications in the following passage is aimed to describe the Grimshaw couple's everyday life, their hoarding and poverty, loneliness and at the same time complete mutual understanding in short phrases. The author reveals the stingy nature of the characters not only in the brief remarks the couple exchanges occasionally, but also in the description of Grimshaw's admiration for the furniture around him, while his wife dies silently in a cold room:

Grimshaw went out of the bedroom....between the rows of pictures and furniture and the many pieces of china suspended by wires from the frieze-rail. His eyes, greyish-yellow, protuberant and almost lidless, were the focal point of his scraggy face.... the snow was beating in thick white flakes at the windows. It was sitting untouched on the roofs and the street-trees...[1,25].

Understatement is a stylistic device that minimizes the significance of something. In this extract, understatement is used in the dialogue of the characters to emphasize the mutual understanding of the characters, Grimshaw's stinginess toward his dying wife, and at the same time, her cowardice and lowliness:

'Doctor said I'd gottagit a fire,' Grimshaw said, 'but you don't want a fire, do you? Have one if you want one,' he added quickly [1,16].

The next part of the text also describes beauty, in particular female beauty and the inner world of the heroine. The story "How vainly men themselves amaze" is set in a French resort, where the protagonist Franklin meets a very beautiful middle-aged woman, Mrs. Palgrave. The young man falls in love, which is very flattering to Mrs. Palgrave. When Mrs. Palgrave leaves the resort, Franklin notices a beautiful nanny, a girl named Heidi, who looks after the Palgrave children and meets her. At first glance, Mrs. Palgrave seems to be a real beauty, which is shown by Bates through the usage of vivid epithets and metaphors.

Here are some examples from the text:

She was a beautifully boned woman, about forty, evenly tanned to a deep gold, her stomach flat, her navel a delicate shadow shell[1,30].

The author emphasizes her hands and lips by using the alliteration of the -S- sound so that it is obvious that she takes great care of herself:

For the third time too she waved her orange-pink nails in the air in protest, smiling with lips of the same colour at the same time [1,30].

From this description the reader understands that her beauty is not natural, but created artificially by cosmetics. Bates also uses vivid colorism in describing her hair and clothing. It is very popular with writers to use the concept of color as a symbol in order to help the reader to understand better the images, characters, places, events, and ideas of the author. Color symbolism gives deeper meaning to the content to create

something more memorable for the reader by attaching an emotional state, event, or even a character to the color:

... Franklin raced after it and took it back to the auburn-haired woman in the two-piece emerald swim-suit sitting at the foot of the dunes [1,29].

The author depicts her eyes using the symbolism of color:

...the pupils of them were like bright bird`s eggs, mottled and stenciled green and orange-brown. ... she held him in a gaze without the flicker of an eyelid [1,36].

Writer particularly emphasizes her eyes as everyone knows that eyes are the mirror of the soul. This great use of epithets and comparisons reveals secret nature of the heroine: her eyes are "peculiar" because they tend to look more like the pupils of an animal. Therefore, the author alludes to her wild nature: she is dressed to "kill," and uses Franklin as a vampire.

In another work of the writer, "A Christmas Carol," special attention is paid to the sincerity of young people's relationships, the different spiritual values of representatives of the same generation, the dreams of a young girl and the harsh reality surrounding her. The young and talented music teacher Clara-or "Good Old Clara," as the bumbling Freddie Williamson calls her-is the story's protagonist, who is delicately contrasted with the lighthearted and outgoing sister Effie and the

Williamson's wealthy family. Bates uses various artistic techniques to describe the events of the story, such as contrasting the personalities of the characters in the story:

- Clara (*won many exams*), who is the full antipode of her sister Effie (*had never passed an examination*),
- A shy young man (*a young man was very nervous, kept rolling the ferrule, batting his lips... People were too shy to hum the notes, too shy, nervously he fumbled with umbrella*)– to the noisy, clumsy Freddie Williamson.. [1,54].

Thus, by using various linguistic means, the author manages to influence his reader, to form images of characters, a certain kind of attitude towards them. The study of any writer's language allows not only to reveal and describe the specific linguistic techniques peculiar to a given author and creating an individual author's style, but also provides an opportunity to reconstruct extralinguistics, i.e. through the author's word to come to the author's vision of the world.

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