

**Urbanová, L. (2008) *Stylistika anglického jazyka*. Brno: Barrister & Principal, Filozofická fakulta Masarykovy univerzity, Katedra anglického jazyka a literatury, 103 pp.**

The study on stylistics of the English language by Ludmila Urbanová is a detailed overview of styles as produced in harmony with the English and Czech traditions and habits. While approaching them from the common functional perspective, the author contrasts British and Czech styles. She draws on her experience and research results in stylistics and pragmatics. Ludmila Urbanová is a linguist who has introduced the pragmatic approach to language within the Czech and Slovak linguistic communities. As a follower of Professor Vachek and Professor Firbas, Urbanová develops traditional approaches and brings new fresh insights into the research of language. She devotes her attention especially to the relations of form, meaning and verbal and non-verbal functions. Meaning which is not stereotyped and used in untypical situational and cultural contexts is another topic of her study.

The book is organized into eleven chapters dealing with stylistic concepts, criteria and relevant features. The first chapter gives definitions of stylistics, text and context, and describes the Czech and British approaches to stylistic research. The style conceptions of Mathesius, Halliday, Crystal and Davy, and Fowler are shown through their common functional approach, which in spite of their common basis, display certain differences and, of course, similarities. The difference between text and discourse is elucidated in the first chapter as well. The second chapter defines the basic stylistic criteria and illustrates the importance of the choice of linguistic tools on excerpts taken from Wilde's dramas.

The third chapter deals with features relevant to stylistic analysis: theme, domain and province, relations among interlocutors and mode of communication. The concepts of discourse as a process and of text as a product are described in the fourth chapter. The next chapter discusses the concept of intertextuality which is classified and described in its two forms: manifest intertextuality and interdiscursivity. Manifest intertextuality shows three configurations: sequential intertextuality, embedded, and mixed types of intertextuality. Interdiscursivity is demonstrated on examples of its manifestations of heteroglossia and dialogism. Shifts of styles and relationships among various types of texts and discourse are the topic of another chapter in the book.

Two chapters are devoted to spoken and written language respectively. The typical features of both language varieties are compared and described in detail. The author draws on her forgoing research in conversational analysis and gives detailed characteristics of the spoken language. It is characterised at

the phonetic, grammatical and lexical levels. The phonetic level is described with focus on intonation. The grammatical level deals with indirectness and conversational implicature. The cultural specificity of English characterised by weak uncertainty avoidance and tentativeness is stressed compared to the Czech practice. Functions of language and speech acts are given a detailed description. The author, as a conversational analyst, concentrates on the transactional function of language, namely on the phatic and attitudinal functions. The types of speech acts preferred in spoken English (tentative assertion and assumption) are demonstrated on examples of acts of conversing. The lexical level of spoken language is characterised by lexical sparsity. This Hallidayan term, as Urbanová explains, is associated with the potential polysemy of the English language, which is specified only by context. The context of situation is connected with the pragmatic interpretation of language which counts of extralinguistic factors that influence meaning.

The author characterises written language approaching it from three levels as its spoken counterpart, the phonetic level being substituted by the lay-out of the text. She depicts differences comparing the tools of written language in contrast with the spoken medium.

The following three chapters deal with the parameters of formality, function and stylistic and pragmatic categories: cohesion and coherence. The relations among interlocutors, the tenor of illocutions are observed from the viewpoint of the category of formality. Its degrees, or continuum and its levels are classified. The author introduces formality levels as features related to the degree of politeness, impersonality, solidarity and social convention. She introduces the Co-operative Principle and Politeness Principle as principles of human behaviour necessary to follow in communication. The successful interpretation of meaning is not dependent only on grammatical rules but, especially, on the acceptable behaviour defined in the two principles.

The behaviour is connected with the locutionary subjectivity used by English speakers as opposed to Czech usage. Another difference between the two languages and their users' behaviour is the notion of epistemic modality, bringing about the feeling of togetherness and sharing. The Politeness Principle and its categorization are presented as one of the typical British stylistic strategies.

The author surveys the functions of language and functional styles in the process of communication as, for example, the style of newspaper reporting, the style of advertising and academic style. In the chapter on functional styles she mentions that expressiveness is dependent on the involvement of the speaker, his/her biasing or point of view. In the section on modification of illocutionary force discursive tactics as negotiation of meaning, negative politeness, uncertainty,

reservations, and lack of specification as attenuation tactic are described. Boosters, as opposite strategies, which strengthen the illocutionary force, are demonstrated, namely empathizers, emphasizers, assurances, expressions of agreement/understanding, expressions of degree of a certain quality, expressions of subjectivity, and topicalization.

The last two chapters are devoted to cohesion and coherence. These are topics under the focus of discourse analysis which reveal the characteristic features of discourse, namely its connectivity. Discourse cannot be interpreted only from the linguistic point of view but also from the point of views of other disciplines, most frequently psycholinguistics and sociolinguistics. Thus two kinds of relations can be defined as coherence which is a semantic connectedness and cohesion defined as syntactic connectedness.

The author introduces types of cohesive tools (lexical and grammatical), and the principle of coherence. She draws the reader's attention on drawbacks of conversing which can display utterances seemingly incoherent.

Finally, the British usage of style is characterized from the viewpoint of the Czech speaker and the rules of appropriate use are stressed in the last chapter. The opinions given by well-known linguists are mentioned and rules for acceptable sentences and appropriate language use are given.

In her study Ludmila Urbanová presents the core of stylistic and pragmastylistic principles in a well-arranged and synoptic way. Her presentation of facts and theories is styled, indeed, in an immaculate way as is appropriate to an experienced stylist. The reader in spite of the sophisticated topics and their complicated interconnectivity is able to follow the author's themes easily. Especially precious, is the author's traditionally revealing and fresh approach to topics described.

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