Vol. 5 Issue 4, April - 2021, Pages: 211-212

Types of Stylistic Meaning

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Abstract— In linguistics there are different terms to denote particular means by which utterances are foregrounded, for instance, made more conspicuous, more effective and therefore imparting some additional information. They are called expressive means, stylistic means, stylistic markers, stylistic devices, tropes, figures of speech and other names. All these terms are used indiscriminately and are set against those means which we shall conventionally call neutral. Most linguists distinguish ordinary (substantial, referential) semantic and stylistic differences in meaning.

Keywords— linguistics, conspicuous, more effective, descriptive linguistics, meaning and concept, meaning and sign, meaning and referent.

1. Introduction

In speaking about EMs and SDs we have to resort to the notion of meaning so it is necessary to give a clear definition for this concept. As many linguistic terms meaning has been defined in quite a number of ways. At some period in the development of descriptive linguistics meaning was excluded from the domain of language science – it was considered an extra-linguistic category. But later on this tendency has been justly ruled out. Instead came investigation of the interrelations between meaning and concept, meaning and sign, meaning and referent. The general tendency is to regard meaning as something stable at a given period of time. In stylistics meaning is a category capable of acquiring new aspects imposed on the words by the context. Such meanings are called contextual. It also deals with meaning that have fallen out of use. In stylistics it is important to discriminate shades of meaning, its components called semes (the smallest units of meaning).

2. MAIN PART

Meaning can also be viewed in terms of information theory. A word renders primary (denotative) and additional (connotative) information that is ascribed to it in different contexts. The first kind of information only denotes a realia existing in an objective plane while the second kind reflects the emotive plane of the word usage. If a word has only connotative meaning it is stylistically neutral: e.g. a child may be called tenderly or teasingly monkey- face, honey bum, sugar plum, cookie while taken in isolation or in another context the same words have absolutely different meaning.

Connotative meaning may be of **4 types:**

- 1. functional (reflecting the sphere of usage of the word)
- **2.** evaluative (positive, negative or neutral)
- **3.** emotive (rendering the attitude of the speaker)
- **4.** expressive (containing an image of pragmatic value)

Most of the words contain a combination of different meanings. The ability of a word to comprise several meanings, that is to be polysemantic, becomes of crucial value for stylistic studies. The multitude of meanings is not limited by those already fixed in the dictionaries. Some meanings are in the process of becoming legitimate.

Summing up all that was said above we can state that **stylistic meaning** as distinguished from lexical one, which is representing primary information, is based on the secondary (additional) information. It denotes the features which are adherent (ascribed) to the object while lexical meaning renders inherent features that cling to a word as a permanent part of it. Lexical meaning is given explicitly while stylistic meaning is always implied. Lexical meaning is relatively stable, and stylistic meaning is liable to change as it is affected by extralinguistic factors.

In principle, as Leech says in the quotation above, there are seven types of meaning, among those: (1) logical meaning, often referred to as conceptual meaning, (2) connotative meaning, (3) stylistic meaning, often referred to as social meaning (4) affective meaning, (5) reflected meaning, (6) collocative meaning, and thematic meaning. The concepts of each of the types of the meaning are described below.

Stylistic meanings as well as affective meaning are two aspects of communication which have something to do with the situation in which an utterance takes places. Leech (1974:20) states that stylistic meaning is that which a piece of languages conveys about the social circumstances of its use. Here, Leech adopts the theory of English style by Crystal and Davy in their book Interpreting English Style, and adds some examples of the categories of usage that one might distinguish on each dimension. Those included as stylistic meaning are, first, "relatively permanent features of style". The stylistic meaning which are included as the relatively permanent features of style are style of individuality, for example the language of Mr. X, of Mrs. Y, of Miss Z, or the syle of the other individualities. The stylistic meaning of language is also influenced by some factors used in uttering from the style Language.

ISSN: 2643-640X

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The factors influencing the stylistic 15 meanings of the language are, first: the style of the discourse. The discourses of the people are categorized into two kinds. The first is a medium discourse. The medium discourse of the people can be in the oral or written forms. The medium discourse is influenced by the speech and the writing. The second discourse which can influence the stylistic meaning of language is "participation". The participation of the discourse which can effect upon the stylistic meaning of the language is people. This discourse can be in a monologue and dialogue.

The second factor that influences the stylistic meaning of language is "relatively temporary features of style". Relatively temporary features of style use the style of language wearied at a province, status, modality, and singularity. The style of language wearied at a province which is categorized as relatively temporary features of style is, for example, language of law, science, or of advertising. Furter the style of language wearied at status which is categorized as relatively temporary features of style is, for instance polite, colloquial, slang language.

Then the style of language at a modality which is categorized as relatively temporary features of style is, for example the language of memoranda, lectures, and jokes. On the other hand, the examples of the relatively temporary features of style wearied at the singulrity are the style of Dicknes, of Hemingway.

The third factor which is an influence upon the stylistic meaning of the language is the "style dimension of status". This style is particularly important in 16 distinguishing synonymous expressions. The examples of style dimension of status which distinguish the synonymous expressins are: 1. The chucked a stone at the cops, and then did a bunk with the loot (Leech, 1974:17) 2. After casting a stone at the police they absconded with the money (Leech, 1974:17) It can be explained that the sentence (1) is used by two criminals, talking usually about the crime after wards; the sentence (2) may be used by the chief inspector in making his official report. From the example above, the difference of status is maintained through a whole sentence and is reflected in syntax as well as in vocabulary.

3. CONCLUSION

Language can also reflect the personal feeling of the speaker, including his attitude to the listener, or his attitude to something he is talking about. This is called affective meaning. Affective meaning his often explicitly conveyed through conceptual or connotative content of the words used. It is largely a parasitic category in the sense that to express or emotions we reply upon the meditation of other categories of meaning – conceptual, connotative, or stylistic.

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