

Лекції до змістового модуля 2
Theme III. Stylistic classification of the English Vocabulary.

1. General Considerations.
2. Neutral, Common Literary and Common Colloquial Vocabulary.
3. Special Literary Vocabulary.
4. Special Colloquial Vocabulary.

Literature:

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2. Бабенко О.В. Практикум з стилістики англійської мови: Навчально-методичний посібник для студентів зі спеціальності 6.020303 "Філологія". URL: <https://inlnk.ru/Pm9568>
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1. Like in any linguistic issue the classification of the vocabulary here suggested is for purely stylistic purposes. This is important for the course inasmuch as some stylistic devices are based on the interplay of different stylistic aspects of words. In accordance with the division of language into literary and colloquial, we may represent the whole of the word-stock of the English language as being divided into three main layers: the literary layer, the neutral layer and the colloquial layer.

2. Neutral words, which form the bulk of the English vocabulary, are used in both literary and colloquial language. Neutral words are the main source of synonymy and polysemy. Common literary words are chiefly used in writing and in polished speech. The literary units stand in opposition to colloquial units. This is especially apparent when pairs of synonyms, literary and colloquial, can be formed which stand in contrasting relation. It goes without saying that synonyms are not only stylistic but idiographic as well, i.e. there is a definite, though slight, semantic difference between the words.

Common colloquial vocabulary borders both on the neutral vocabulary and on the special colloquial vocabulary. Just as literary words lack homogeneity so do common colloquial words and set expressions. Some of the lexical items belonging to this layer are close to the non-standard colloquial groups such as jargonisms, professionalisms. They are on the border-line between the common colloquial vocabulary and special colloquial or non-standard vocabulary.

3. Special Literary vocabulary includes some groups of words. They are the following:

a) Terms.

A term is generally easily coined and easily accepted; and new coinages as easily replace out-dated ones. One of the most characteristic features of a term is its direct relevance to the system or set of terms used in a particular science or discipline.

b) Poetic and Highly Literary words.

Poetic words form a rather insignificant layer of the special literary vocabulary. They have a marked tendency to detach themselves from the common literary word-stock and gradually assume the quality of terms denoting certain definite notions and calling forth poetic diction.

c) Archaic, Obsolescent and Obsolete Words.

In every period in the development of a literary language one can find words which will show more or less apparent changes in their meaning or usage, from full vigor to death, i.e. complete disappearance of the unit from the language. We shall distinguish three stages in the aging process of words:

1) The beginning of the aging process when the word becomes rarely used. Such words are called obsolescent, i.e. they are in the stage of gradually passing out of general use. For example: a palfrey = a small horse; thee, thy, thine.

2) The second group of archaic words are those that have already gone completely out of use but are still recognized by the English-speaking community: e. g. nay = no; methinks = it seems to me. These words are called obsolete.

3) The third group, which may be called archaic proper, are words which are no longer recognizable in modern English, words that were in use in Old English and which have either dropped out of the language entirely or have changed in their appearance so much that they have become unrecognizable, e.g. troth = faith.

There is still another class of words, which is erroneously classed, as archaic: historical words. Words of this type never disappear from the language. They are historical terms and remain as terms referring to definite stages in the development of society. For example: goblet, yeoman.

Historical words have no synonyms, whereas archaic words have been replaced by modern synonyms.

d) Barbarisms and Foreignisms.

In the vocabulary of the English language there is a considerable layer of words called barbarisms.

These are words of foreign origin, which have not entirely been assimilated into the English language.

It is very important for purely stylistic purposes to distinguish between barbarisms and foreign words proper. Barbarisms are words, which have already become facts of the English language. Foreign words, though used for certain stylistic purposes, do not belong to the English vocabulary.

e) Literary Coinages (Including Nonce-Words).

The coining of new words generally arises first of all with the need to designate new concepts resulting from the development of science and also with the need to express shades of meaning called forth by a deeper understanding of the nature of the phenomenon in question.

The first type of newly coined words, i.e. those that designate newborn concepts, may be named terminological coinages. The second type, i.e. words coined

because their creators seek expressive utterance may be named stylistic coinages, another type of neologism is the nonce-word, i.e. a word coined to suit one particular occasion. They are created to designate some insignificant subjunctive idea or evaluation of a thing or phenomenon.

4. Special Colloquial Vocabulary includes the following groups of words:

a) Slang.

There is hardly any other term that is as ambiguous and obscure as the term slang. Slang seems to mean everything that is below the standard of usage of present-day English. In most of the dictionaries slang is used as convenient stylistic notation for a word or a phrase that cannot be specified more exactly.

Slang is nothing but a deviation from the established norm. It is the level of the vocabulary of the language. That is why most of the scholars distinguish between a standard slang and a special slang.

It is suggestive that there is a tendency in some modern dictionaries to replace the label slang by informal or colloquial.

b) Jargonisms.

Jargon is a recognized term for a group of words that exists in almost every language and whose aim is to preserve secrecy within one or another social group.

Jargonisms are generally old words with entirely new meanings imposed on them.

There is a common jargon and there are also special professional jargons.

Jargonisms, like slang and other groups of the non-literary layer do not always remain on the outskirts of the literary language. They entered the standard vocabulary.

c) Professionalisms.

Professionalisms are the words used in a definite trade, profession or calling by people connected by common interests both at work and at home. They should not be mixed up with jargonisms. Like slang words, professionalisms do not aim at secrecy. They fulfill a socially useful function in communication, facilitating a quick and adequate grasp of the message.

d) Dialectal words.

Dialectal words are those, which in the process of integration of the English national language remained beyond its literary boundaries, and their use is generally confined to a definite locality,

e) Vulgar Words.

Vulgarisms are often used in conversation out of habit, without any thought of what they mean, or in imitation of those who use them in order not to seem old-fashioned or prudish.

f) Colloquial Coinages.

Colloquial coinages are spontaneous and elusive. Unlike literary-booking coinages, nonce-words of a colloquial character are not usually built by means of affixes but are based on certain semantic changes in words that are almost imperceptible to the linguistic observer until the word finds its way into print.

Questions for Self-Control

1. What registers of communication are reflected in the stylistic differentiation of the vocabulary?

2. Speak about Neutral, Common Literary and Common Colloquial Vocabulary.
3. Characterize the main subgroups of special Literary vocabulary.
4. Characterize the main subgroups of special Colloquial vocabulary,

Theme IV. Semaseological Expressive Means and Stylistic Devices of the English Language.

1. Semaseological Expressive means of the English Language.
2. Semaseological Stylistic Devices of the English Language.

Literature:

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1. Semaseology is the science about the meaning of the language units of different levels.

Expressive means can be considered to be different means of the secondary nomination, i.e. figures of substitution. Figures of substitution can be divided into: figures of quantity and figures of quality.

To the figures of quantity belong: hyperbole, meiosis, litotes.

To the figures of quality belong: metonymy, synecdoche, periphrasis, euphemism, metaphor, antonomasia, personification, allegory, irony, epithet.

Hyperbole is a deliberate overstatement or exaggeration of a feature essential to the object or phenomenon.

Meiosis is a figure of speech, which is contrary to hyperbole. It is a deliberate understatement of the qualities of the object or phenomenon directed to the expressiveness of the speech.

Litotes is an expressive means consisting of a peculiar use of negative constructions. The negation plus noun or adjective serves to establish a positive feature in a person or a thing.

Metonymy is a relation based on some kind of association connecting the two concepts, which these meanings represent. Many attempts have been made to pinpoint the types of relation which metonymy is based on.

Among them the following are most common:

1. A concrete thing used instead of an abstract notion. In this case the thing becomes a symbol of the notion.
2. The container instead of the thing contained.
3. The relation of proximity.

4. The material instead of the thing made of it.

5. The instrument, which the doer uses in performing the action instead of the action or the doer himself.

Synecdoche is a type of metonymy in which a part represents the whole or the whole represents a part.

Periphrasis denotes the use of a longer phrasing in place of a possible shorter and plainer form of expression. Stylistic periphrasis can also be divided into logical and figurative.

Logical periphrasis is based on one of the inherent properties or perhaps a passing feature of the object described.

Figurative periphrasis is based either on sustained metaphor or on metonymy, the key-word of the collocation being the words used figuratively.

Euphemism is a word or phrase used to replace an unpleasant word or expression by a conventionally more acceptable one.

Metaphor is the transference of a name from one object to another based on the supposed likeness of some feature of the two. Metaphors can be classified according to their degree of unexpectedness into genuine and trite or dead metaphors.

Antonomasia is the usage of a proper name for a common noun, or the usage of a common as a proper name.

Personification is a prescribing to a phenomenon or idea qualities, feelings and thoughts of a human being.

Allegory is the expression of an abstract idea through some concrete image.

Irony is the opposition of the meaning expressed and the meaning meant when the meaning expressed substitutes the meaning meant.

Epithet is a word or word combination used attributively to give not logical but expressive characteristic of a thing or person. Epithets may be classified from different standpoints: semantic and structural.

Semantically, epithets may be divided into two groups: those associated with the noun following and those unassociated with it. Structurally epithets can be viewed from the angle of a) composition and b) distribution.

From the point of view of their compositional structure epithets may be divided into simple, compound, phrase and sentence epithets. From the point of view of the distribution of the epithets in the sentence, they can be classed in two models: 1) string of epithets; 2) transferred epithet.

2. Stylistic devices are figures of contamination, i.e. the stylistically meaningful means of organization in the syntagmatic succession of the meanings of the units of one level, including expressive means, in the frames of the units of another higher level.

Figures of contamination may be classed into: figures of likeness, figures contrasting, figures of unsimilarity.

To the figures likeness, belong simile, synonyms- substitutes, synonyms-detailizers.

To the figures of contrasting belong antithesis, oxymoron.

To the figures of unsimilarity belong climax, anticlimax, zeugma, pun.

Simile is a comparison of two objects belonging to different spheres but presented as having some feature (or features) in common.

Synonyms-substitutes are words, which are used to give the thing or phenomenon named earlier adding characteristic in a. new aspect.

Synonyms-detailizers are used to give more detailed characteristic to a thing or phenomenon, because every synonym expresses some additional shade of meaning.

Antithesis is a presentation of two contrasting ideas in a close succession.

Oxymoron is a presentation of two contrasting ideas expressed by words syntactically dependent upon each other within one syntagma. Oxymoron has one main structural model: adj. + noun.

Climax is a structure in which every successive sentence; phrase or word is emotionally stronger and logically more important than the preceding one.

A gradual increase in significance may be maintained in three ways: logical, emotional and quantitative.

Anticlimax is a counterpart of climax, where emotional or logical importance is accumulated only to be unexpectedly broken and brought to a sudden break.

The pun is a stylistic device, which is based on the interaction of two well-known meanings of a word or phrase.

Zeugma is a usage of semantically different but syntactically similar constructions in close succession.

Questions for Self -Control

1. Give the definition of semaseological expressive means.
2. What groups of semaseological expressive means do you know?
3. Give the definition of semaseological stylistic devices.
4. What groups of semaseological stylistic devices can be distinguished?