

## FUNCTIONS OF SYNONYMS IN THE PUBLICISTIC TEXTS OF PENITENTIARY SUBJECT

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**Abstract.** *The article is devoted to analysis of functional and synonyms' stylistic coloring in the publicistic penitentiary texts in the English language. The study identified the publicist style which makes it stand out as a separate style, and its general aim- to react a constant and deep influence on public opinion, to convince the reader or the listener that the interpretation given by the writer or the speaker is the only correct one. The use of synonyms in the publicistic style is actualized, they perform not only an informative function, detailing and concretizing statement, but also actively used as a basis for constructing various means of speech exert. Synonyms in one synonymic group may differ from each other in their stylistic tint and in emotional evaluative nuances. Publicistic texts differ in a sufficient variety of synonymous means, however, certain well-known genres dictate their clauses, define their canons and postulata.*

**Keywords:** *publicistic style, synonym, text, informative, lexicology, vocabulary, feuilleton, newspaper article, criminal chronicle*

**Introduction.** Informative technologies that determine the development of modern society are used in all spheres, including politics, science and culture, production and business. The increased role of information puts advanced media on the new stage of development, which are engaged in its collection, processing and transmission.

**Research results.** Publicistic style is a historically developed functional variety of the literary language that serves a wide range of social relations: political, economic, cultural, sports, etc. Selection and organization of language means of publicistic style determine its basic functions - informative and influencing [2;62].

The message function (informative) is that the authors of the publicistic texts inform a wide range of readers, viewers, listeners about important problems for society. Its specificity in the publicistic style lies in the subject and nature of information, in its sources and receivers. The information presenting way in the publicistic style also has its own distinctive features. The information in the publicistic texts not only describes the facts, but also reflects the assessment, opinions, moods of the authors, contains their comments and reflections. This distinguishes it, for example, from official and business information [2; 73].

Informing citizens about the state of affairs in socially significant spheres is accompanied in publicistic texts by the implementation of the second most important function of this style - the function of influence (expressive) [5; 27].

Publicistic style is also characterized by brevity of expression. In some varieties of this style it becomes a leading feature, an important linguistic means. In essays brevity sometimes becomes epigrammatic. The goal of the publicist is not only to tell about the state of affairs in society, but also to convince the audience of the need for a certain attitude to the facts and the need for desired behavior. Therefore, the publicist style is characterized by open tendentiousness, controversy, emotionality, which is caused by the desire of the publicist to prove the correctness of his/her position.

The publicistic text is often constructed as a scientific reasoning: an important social problem is raised, possible ways of solving it are analyzed, generalizations and conclusions are made, the material is placed in a strict logical sequence using general scientific terminology. These features relevant it closer to the scientific style [3; 193].

For the publicistic style, the alternations of standard and expression, logical and figurative, evaluation and proof, linguistic savings, lucidity, conciseness, sequence of presentation at informative saturation [2, 74].

In the light of this, it becomes clear that the use of synonyms in the publicistic style is actualized, which perform not only an informative function, detailing and concretizing statement, but

also actively used as a basis for constructing various means of speech influence, since they possess elements of imagery, emotionality and appraisal [3;195].

Synonymy refers to quite complex linguistic phenomena (in which the essence of something is revealed), having different interpretations. Most scholars understand synonymy as such a kind of semantic relations that develop between words, in which words that are in synonymous relations express one and the same meaning (the coincidence may be complete or partial), but they have a different subject of designation. An extensive scope of literature focuses on synonyms, which shows a high degree of research of this lexical category in the most diverse aspects. First of all, in the theoretical works of lexicologists an attempt is made to give a different definition of synonyms. Based on the analysis of linguists' researches (A.A. Reformatzky, I.R. Galperin, V.A. Zvegintsev, Y.D. Apresyan, O.S. Akhmanova, V.V. Vinogradov, V. Humboldt, J. Lyons, L.G. Jakob, S. Ullman), we can say that the essence of synonyms as lexical units with the same or similar meaning and usage is differently determined by different researchers and applied to various phenomena of the language. It should be noted and the existence of several approaches to the examination of the types of synonyms and the definition of their functions.

There are usually three main functions of synonyms:

1. the substitution function, associated primarily with the desire to avoid undesirable repetitions of the same lexical units;
2. the clarification function associated with the wish of the reader or listener to convey the thought more clearly;
3. the expressive-stylistic function, associated with the expression of a variety of evaluations.

V.D. Bondaletov believes that the most important functions of these are the second and third [5; 241]. All other functions that are mentioned in the scientific literature he considers as derivatives: "All other functions of synonyms, which are often indicated as their characteristic features (for example, interchangeability, opposition, etc.), are derived from these two, evolved on their basis and represent different types of implementation, the implementation of "clarifying", i.e. evaluation, semantic, and stylistic function "[ibid].

We believe that the problem of "operational" synonyms should be approached somewhat differently. The functions of synonyms can not be considered outside of different segments of discourse, different texts, since each functional style has its own specifics, including in terms of updating the means of synonymy.

This functional-stylistic approach allows us to talk about functional-active and functional-passive zones and their elements. This means that some groups of synonyms in certain speech conditions behave sufficiently or even extremely actively, other groups of words SR remain unclaimed in specific conditions of communication.

Let us consider in more detail the conditions for the actualization of elements, these synonymic chain (SC) zones in various types of text, and also the specific functions of the means of synonymy in various functional styles.

In publicistic the study of synonyms is most often limited to a separate examination of them as means of implicit and explicit evaluation, as receptions and means of expressive and figurative speech, as lexical units with a certain functional-style coloring (neologisms, foreign borrowings, terms, jargon, etc.). Meanwhile, publicistic as a special functional style allows us to present this most important lexical category more broadly and voluminously [4; 245].

Among the most topical issues in this area are the following: determining the patterns of joint use of synonyms, different in style and normative status; study of the synonyms' role in the implementation of the functions of communication and impact on readers; identification of the semantic and stylistic functions peculiar to synonyms in newspaper texts, the establishment of the interrelationships of the revealed functions and the extent of their prevalence; the analysis of synonyms as a means of creating various stylistic devices that serve to emotional or logical amplification of the speech of the author of a newspaper article; consideration of extra linguistic factors influencing the specifics of the language of the newspaper and determining the features of the functioning of synonyms as standard and expressive means [4; 246].

The nature of synonyms is ambivalent: on the one hand, they are words that mean the same thing, and on the other hand are words that differ in something. This duality of the synonyms' nature underlies their use in speech. In some cases, their semantic identity (or very similar similarity) is used, in others, attention is focused on the difference. And, finally, in a number of cases, both sides are taken: both the semantic closeness and the difference.

This functional-stylistic approach allows us to talk about functional-active and functional-passive zones and their elements. This means that some groups of synonyms in certain speech conditions behave fairly or even extremely actively, other groups of words of the (SC) remain unclaimed in specific conditions of communication.

Let us consider in more detail the conditions for the actualization of elements, these SS zones in various types of the text, and also the specific functions of the means of synonymy in various functional styles.

Unlike business and scientific texts, publicistic materials differ in a sufficient variety of synonymous means, however, certain well-known genres dictate their clauses, define their canons and requirements.

In the criminal chronicle, it is customary to use neutral colloquial elements of synonymous series, - taboo and rough slang vocabulary in the author's part are not allowed. However, if the words of the participants in the events are quoted, in this case, as a rule, the authentic speakers' vocabulary is preserved. Therefore, there is a high probability of appearance and reduced slang elements of SC. Since not all such jargon, especially prison ones, are understandable to the ordinary reader, appropriate explanations are introduced into the text using synonyms - neutral well-known words.

Thus, the author of the essay on women sentenced to death in the US quotes the words of one of the prisoners: *"As a woman on death row, waiting for the Yellow Mamma [the electric chair], I am considered a traitor to my gender"* [8; 53].

A woman sentenced to death in an electric chair, when communicating with a journalist, had used the slang name of the execution tool, the electric chair-the Yellow Mamma. Since the magazine is addressed to the widest range of readers, the journalist explains the meaning of this expression with the help of the synonym for the electric chair. It is interesting to note that the expression "The Yellow Mamma" is not fixed by any of jargon and slang dictionaries that we had used during the research, although this expression is widely used in the US prisoners' speech. Obviously, the time has come for this occasional synonym to be translated into the number of system elements and fixed in the corresponding dictionaries.

As can be seen from the above example, the means of synonymy participate in publicistic writing along with other means and techniques in creating the veracity effect, authenticity of the original speech, and at the same time fulfill the function of specification and clarification.

In feuilletons and strictly author's materials, the authors freely use the words of different stylistic registers depending on specific tasks. Some journalists, prone to shocking, can include even such elements of the synonymic chain in their article, they are classified as taboo. Thus, synonymy can be used here as a means of a special emotional-expressive influence on the reader.

In general, preference in newspaper articles and in the criminal chronicle is given to neutral vocabulary. Book vocabulary in these texts is used quite rarely. Consider the following examples: *"Overcrowding and restrictions in prisons have worsened in spite of a 400 per cent rise in prison building spending since 1979. After a new prison is built, it costs over £ 12,000 per year per prisoner to run at 1983/84 prices"* [9; 5].

As you can see, from the whole synonymic chain the synonym *"prison"* was chosen. The same is observed in the case of prisoners. They are also designated in the text as *"prisoners"*, i.e. with the help of the synonymic dominant of the corresponding SC. Contrary to expectations, the reduced elements of the SC are not very often used here.

Even in such a rather playful magazine, as "Elle" description of the detention conditions of convicted sentenced to death, is presented in a neutral vein. Synonymy, although is present, but the selected elements of the chain refer to the same stylistic zone – the neutral one: *"Turn right off the main corridor where the other is housed and you come to an unmarked entrance. The solid steel door swings inwards and a pair of broad female guards in blue uniforms sign in the visitor. At intervals the silence is penetrated by high-pitched screams emanating from a cell fitted with a micromesh to prevent the inmate of hurling her faces at the guards."* [8; 53]

In this small abstract, the synonymous pair *prisoner (s) - inmate* attracts attention. Both words are neutral units. It is difficult to say which of them should be considered the chain dominant, since both words are used in a wide variety of contexts and serve as identifiers in the interpretation of other chain terms.

**Conclusions.** The desire for originality makes the authors of such genres of journalism, as an essay and feuilleton, seek new opportunities for synonymy with the goal of destroying monotonous screen repeats. The expressive-affecting function, one of the most important functions of synonymy in

this functional style, is largely provided by the use of occasional synonyms. Their function in speech is revealing different aspects, shades and variations of the same phenomenon.

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