



Classification of Stylistic Colouring Words in the English Language

Norova Mavluda Fayzulloyevna, Ph.D

Associate professor at the Department of English language at the Bukhara State Medical Institute named after Abu Ali ibn Sino Doctor of Philosophy in Philology

Annotation: *The article reveals the meaning and stylistic difference of words written with stylistic signs (marks) in explanatory dictionaries of the English language. In particular, words with bookish, archaic, historical, slang, vulgar, dialectal, poetic, borrowed and a number of other stylistic features (labels) were carefully analyzed and studied.*

Keywords: *explanatory dictionary, stylistic feature, connotation, colloquial style, archaisms, historical words, dialectics, slang, vulgar, poetic, borrowed words.*

The entire vocabulary of the English language can be represented as a synthesis of its three main components: literary style, neutral words and colloquial vocabulary.

The category of bookish (literary) and colloquial vocabulary includes several lexical groups characterized by certain stylistic qualifications.

The general property, according to which all components of the vocabulary are combined within a given category, is called “species qualification” [1, 72]. Thus, the composition of bookish vocabulary has a literary specific characteristic. It is due to this feature that the composition of the vocabulary fund is distinguished by relative constancy. The composition of colloquial vocabulary is distinguished by a “alive”, constantly changing character. The category of neutral vocabulary has universal properties. This is due to the unlimited use in various areas of vocabulary, as well as in all spheres of human activity. These features define this category as the most permanent of the above vocabulary components.

The category of bookish vocabulary consists of lexical components that are traditional components of the English dictionary and do not have local, dialectal properties.

The lexical group of colloquial style, qualified by most English and American dictionaries, does not have a strictly limited membership in a particular language group and its territorial characteristics.

The composition of bookish vocabulary includes the following elements: 1) common (traditional) literary words; 2) terms; 3) poetic words; 4) archaisms; 5) foreign words and borrowings; 6) neologisms and occasional words.

Colloquial vocabulary is divided into corresponding classes of words: 1) general colloquial vocabulary; 2) slang; 3) jargon; 4) professional words; 5) dialects; 6) vulgarisms; 7) colloquial neologisms.

General book vocabulary, neutral words and general colloquial vocabulary are combined into one concept - the main vocabulary fund. Separate subgroups of words in the book vocabulary belong to special literary words; also, some words in the colloquial vocabulary are considered as special (non-literary) words.



Neutral words are the basic component of the main vocabulary fund of the English language and are used in bookish and colloquial vocabulary. The stylistic features of neutral words in English are explained by the very structure of the language system.

Thus, “most neutral words are monosyllabic constructions, which is explained by the process of development of the English language (from the former to the modern version), when most parts of speech have lost their distinctive affixes. This led to the development of conversion - the most productive way of word formation. Unlike bookish and colloquial vocabulary, which has a certain stylistic coloring, the category of neutral vocabulary as a whole is devoid of a special stylistic characteristic”.

The words of bookish vocabulary are used in written and oral form of speech. However, you can always pick up a literary version of a colloquial word. The reason for this connection is the opposition of similar synonymous groups in the literary and colloquial vocabulary, for example:

Colloquial	Neutral	Literary
kid	child	infant
daddy	father	parent
chap	fellow	associate
get out	go away	retire
go on	continue	proceed
get going	start	commence

Obviously, these synonyms have certain semantic and stylistic distinctive features. Stylistic features are expressed by the emotional coloring of the word, the scope of its use, as well as the existing qualitative characteristics. In comparison with the bookish vocabulary, the words of the colloquial style have a more pronounced emotional coloring. The words of neutral vocabulary are devoid of any emotional characteristics, just as there are no differences in the sphere of their use.

Bookish and colloquial vocabulary is characterized by the presence of two levels: upper and lower. The lower level of bookish vocabulary is close to the neutral layer of words and tends to penetrate into it. The same can be said about the upper level of colloquial vocabulary: it is very mobile, and can also penetrate the neutral layer.

Thus, the boundaries between the layer of general colloquial vocabulary and the layer of neutral words, as well as between bookish vocabulary and the main vocabulary are blurred. The process of interpenetration of stylistic layers of vocabulary becomes obvious, which is reflected in the variable relations between categories. Thus, the vocabulary of the neutral layer can be considered as a variant of the normative English vocabulary. The vocabulary of the neutral layer is abstract, devoid of specific associations and connections.

Colloquial vocabulary penetrates into the normative vocabulary, being considered a part of it, and borders on special (non-literary) colloquial vocabulary that falls out of the category of normative vocabulary. Like the words of the general book vocabulary, the words and expressions of the general colloquial category are also devoid of homogeneity of meanings. Some lexemes of this category are close to words from the so-called non-normative groups: slang, vulgarisms, being on the border between the category of general colloquial vocabulary, reduced and profanity colloquial vocabulary. Separate words, penetrating from the layer of profanity into the group of normative vocabulary, are neutralized in meanings and belong to the general colloquial vocabulary, for example: *teenager*, *hippie (hippy)*; *take (in 'as I take it' = as I understand)*; *to go for (to be attracted by)*.



One of the constituent elements of special bookish vocabulary is terminology or word-terms.

The main characteristic of the term is its direct belonging to the system of terms used in a certain area (science, culture, etc.). Possessing a functional scientific and stylistic characteristic, the terms not only express a certain attitude to this concept (which is the most common), but can also convey two meanings - terminological and stylistic, emphasizing the corresponding direction of the given word. Words like *sort*, *creative*, *species*; the expression *to pass an existence* in a certain pseudobiological and medical aspect can reflect both the stylistic features of the corresponding concepts, and a combination of stylistic and terminological meanings.

In the process of language development, with the advent and ubiquity of information technologies, some terms, having lost their main characteristics, became part of the general book and neutral vocabulary, for example, the concepts of “*portfolio*, *diving*, *to credit*” [4] and others no longer have special terminological features. Other components of this group of vocabulary are poetic words and words with high marks. Mainly, these are obsolete words or archaisms and highly artistic vocabulary, giving the speech a touch of sublimity.

Separating from the category of general bookish vocabulary, poetic words form an insignificant layer of vocabulary, thus being a kind of poetic terms. The tradition of using archaic poetic words and forms became most widespread in the era of classicism and romanticism. The works of Shakespeare, Byron are vivid examples of poetic traditions in which many of these forms are presented, for example: “*steed* or *charger* instead of *horse*; *welkin - sky*; *vale - valley*; *to proceed - to go*; *to clipian - to call, to name*; *to quoth - to speak*” [3].

The vocabulary of any language is subject to constant changes under the influence of the time factor. Separate words, changing their meanings, fall out of the general vocabulary fund; others replace its former variants. This process is reflected in the following constituent element of the special bookish vocabulary: archaisms, obsolete words that are out of use.

This layer of vocabulary intersects with the layer of poetic words; and together they go beyond the category of special bookish vocabulary. This indicates that “some words, being archaisms, are not part of the modern English vocabulary, for example: *broth = bruth*; *loasel = a lazy fellow*; *to emplume = to adorn with feathers*.”

There is also no clear boundary between the groups of obsolete words that are out of use; in fact, they penetrate each other. Their main difference is explained by the stylistic expression of the word.

The stylistic functions of archaic words are based on the temporal perception of the events described. Used in any terminological aspect, this category of words expresses a distant connection with these phenomena, thereby returning the reader to past eras.

Another component in the category of special book vocabulary is borrowings and foreign words. Loanwords are a category of words that are of foreign origin and borrowed from other languages. Throughout the history of the development of the English language, borrowings have formed a significant group of words in the literary version of the English language. Most borrowings, having firmly entered the main vocabulary, are no longer considered as foreign words, for example: *hors d'oeuvres* (noun), *to outmaneuver* (verb).

The main difference between borrowings and foreign words is that the latter, while retaining their “corresponding” features, are not included in the vocabulary of the English language. Their use is explained by the stylistic expression of speech, for example: *au revoir* — *not good-bye*; *at infinitum* — *not to infinity*. Foreign words, like archaisms, go beyond the limits of special bookish vocabulary.



The term “*stylistic labels* are given in English explanatory dictionaries. Behind the word *labels*, there is such content that characterizes the external side of the word, its essence. The following types of labels are presented in dictionaries, which reflect the stylistic differentiation of vocabulary:

1. marks denoting regions, the so-called dialectal labels;
2. marks explaining the origin (etymology) of words;
3. marks indicating a certain area of use of words;
4. marks characterizing situations or certain types of use of words;
5. marks indicating the chronological stratification of vocabulary;
6. marks conveying emotionally expressive coloring;
7. Marks indicating other restrictions in use” [2, 15].

Stylistic marks in the explanatory dictionaries of the English language are distributed between the literary and colloquial norms. Actually, the stylistic attribution of the word - lexeme is built taking into account the historical factor, i.e. stylistically marked are archaisms, territorial-dialect occurrences, and speech related to the native speaker – occasionalisms [6, 84].

Colloquial lexemes determined by usage are stylistically characterized in more detail. However, unlike the Uzbek language, the corpus of stylistic labels differs in content and practically excludes the emotional and expressive component, which is represented by the mark *Connotative labels* [5, 442].

Stylistics in English does not distinguish between the linguistic and speech aspects, but relies on the differences between the norm and the usage, while the norm is represented by the literary language, and the usage is colloquial practice. Therefore, dictionary stylistic marks do not form some meaningful integral complex, but appear as symmetrical reflections of the norm and usage, with the priority of the norm. This approach, of course, results in the study of stylistic synonymy, isosemic means of language and speech.

Thus, it is of great theoretical and practical importance to know the types and meaning of words with stylistic signs (labels) in dictionaries, their stylistic differences and their use in speech.

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