



Types of Stylistics

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Overview

1. Literary Stylistics
2. Linguistic Stylistics
3. Pedagogical Stylistics
4. Forensic Stylistics
5. Pragmatic Stylistics
6. Cognitive Stylistics
7. Discourse Stylistics

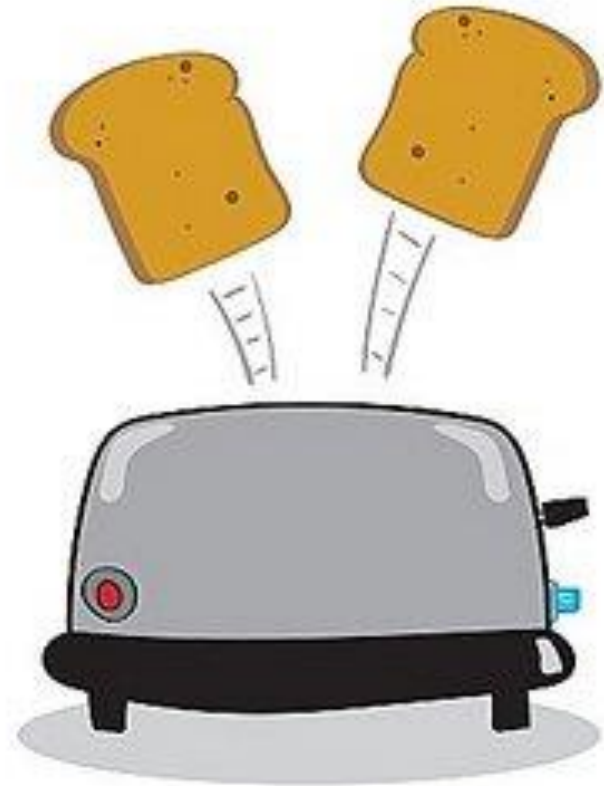


1. Literary Stylistics

The task of literary stylistics is to decipher a message encoded in an unfamiliar way, to express its meaning in familiar and communal terms and thereby to provide the private message with a public relevance. This activity is not essentially different from the criticism of other art forms. The literary stylistician is obviously sensitive to language, but his/her concern is not principally with the way the signals of the artist are constructed but with the underlying message which an interpretation of the signals reveal.

Literary Stylistics & Evocative Language

Furthermore, the literary stylistician is concerned with figurative and evocative, (bringing strong images, memories, or feelings to mind) uses of language which characterize the message being interpreted.



*The toast jumped out
of the toaster.*

The Focal Concern of Literary Stylistics

The beauty of language and how it is used to capture reality is also the focal concern of literary stylistics. Literary stylistics takes interpretation as its aim. It is interested in finding out what aesthetic experience or perception of reality a poem, for example, is attempting to convey. Its observation of how language system is used will serve only as a means to this end.



2. Literary Stylistics

- Literary stylistics undertakes the interpretation of a text as the ultimate objective of analysis. It is based on the consideration of the stylistically significant features of the text (including clause and sentence structure, paragraphing and cohesion) and of lexis. It is however the stylistic effects and functions produced by these features rather than the objective description of them that is more important here (i.e. in literary stylistics). To the literary stylistician, the description of language and style is not important in itself; instead, the primary task is to provide an account of his intuitions concerning the effect and functions produced by the text. This is expected to provide a sure basis for the interpretation of texts and for teaching interpretation.

Linguistic Stylistics

- Linguistic stylistics is broader in scope than literary stylistics as it studies all forms of language styles except literary style. Osoba (2001) attempts to define linguistic stylistics as 'a linguistically oriented stylistic approach which studies as much details as possible, the varieties of languages, showing the formal linguistic features which characterise them.' He goes ahead to say that 'literary stylistics is only an aspect of stylistics.' Linguistic stylistics, simply put, is the linguistic study of style including speeches, written texts used in literature and beyond literature .

4. Pedagogical Stylistics

Pedagogical stylistics concerns itself with the • practice of teaching stylistics in the classroom. This type of stylistics shows the instructional use into which stylistics is put. Wales (1997: 438) explains that stylistics has been, unarguably, considered a teacher's ready tool of teaching language and literature to both native and foreign speakers of English .

Pedagogical Stylistics

- For long, pedagogical stylistics has been intrinsically linked with the teaching of the linguistic features of written texts as a means of enhancing students' understanding of literature and language. It is based on the premise that stylisticians who are involved with teaching should be aware of the pedagogical orientation and reading paradigms which inform their practice. It is also a theoretical dimension to research undertaken into practice in the stylistics classroom.

Pedagogical Stylistics & Contexts

- Pedagogical stylistics emphasizes that the process of improving students' linguistic sensibilities must include greater emphasis upon the text as action; that is, upon the mental processing which is such as proactive part of reading and interpretation; and how all of these elements – pragmatic and cognitive as well as linguistic – function within quite specific social and cultural contexts.

Pedagogical stylistics & Knowledge about how Language Works

The knowledge gained from the study of pedagogical stylistics will help students in understanding how language, grammar and rhetoric function in texts. It will follow these steps: firstly, students will acquire the knowledge that leads them to comprehend the basic grammatical and rhetoric concepts. Secondly, it will boost their practical knowledge, whereby students are able to analyse texts with the tool they have acquired at the first stage. The third stage is when students go into a mode of synthesizing all they have learned, which, in turn, allows them to move on to the production stage. Such a process is valuable, for example, in the contemporary creative writing classroom. It is important to note that the process described here is not simply literary stylistics, but fundamentally pedagogical stylistics. The fact that a close, stylistic analysis of texts, literary or otherwise, for formative ends is pedagogically valuable is amply demonstrated by pedagogical stylistics.

Pedagogical Stylistics & Discourse Analysis

In order to achieve his goal of teaching with ease, a teacher is guided by certain strategies or objectives. Often times, a teacher cannot but be flexible in his or her course of achieving his or her teaching objectives. In this context, a close ally to pedagogical stylistics is classroom discourse analysis.

5. Forensic Stylistics

Forensic stylistics is the examination of style in language for the purpose of resolving litigated questions relating to disputed authorship or meaning. **Forensic stylistics** has been presented as evidence in a wide range of legal cases, mostly concerning the identity of the author of a document. Forensic stylistics is a part of forensic linguistics.



Forensic Stylistics

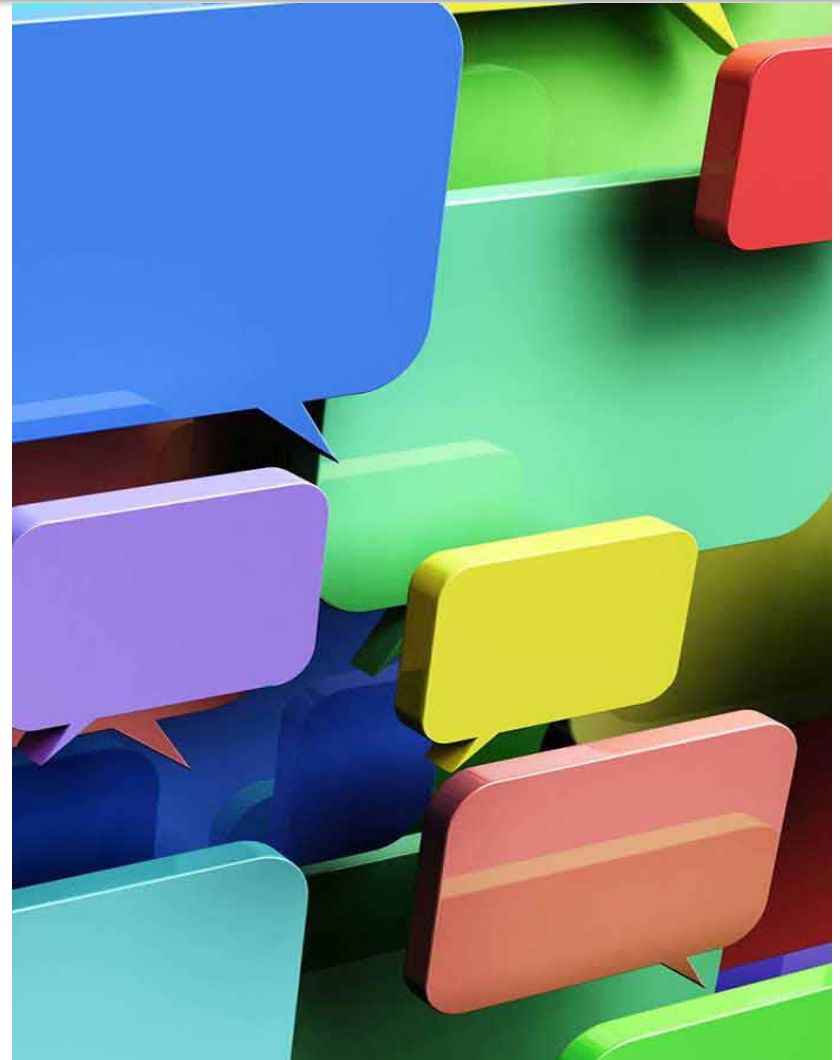
In general, forensic stylistics is the application of stylistics to crime detection. Through the stylistic analysis of language use at the different levels of language description, it is possible to determine the author of a text. This may be applied to confessional statements to the police. Issues like voice recognition, identification of regional accents are often studied to arrive at useful conclusions in terms of crime detection .



6. Pragmatic stylistics

Pragmatics is an aspect of •
the study of language in use.
It is concerned with how
language users interact,
communicate and interpret
linguistic behavior.

Pragmatic stylistics is •
interested with what people
do with language, its uses
and users. Examples: Can
you pass me the salt ?
Did you talk to the head ? •



7. Cognitive Stylistics

cognitive stylistics

investigates the way we transfer mental constructs, especially the way we map one mental representation onto another when we read texts – conceptual transfer.



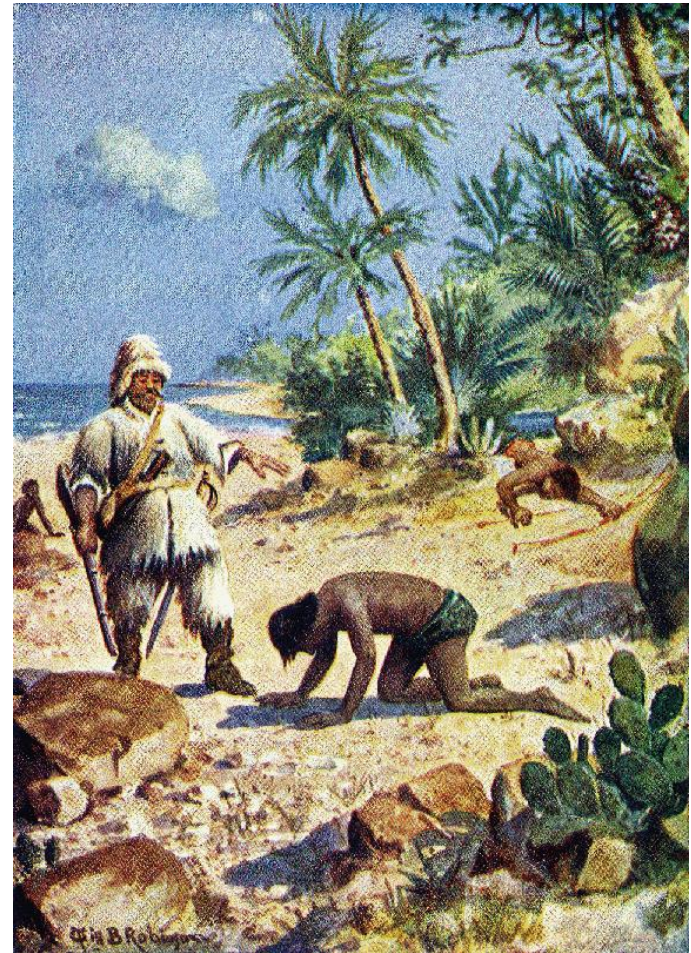
Examples of language reflecting worldview

‘Colonialism was an effort to educate
the brutes in Asia & Africa’



Literature as an expression of Discourse of Colonization

- Although the British did not invent the term, the notion of a "Civilizing mission" was equally important for them to justify colonialism.
- Robinson Crusoe is an example of this Worldview
- The idea that the English were bringing civilization to the "uncivilized" areas of the world is famously expressed in Rudyard Kipling's poem The White Man's Burden.



"civilizing mission" was a rationale for intervention or colonization

- It was notably the underlying principle of French and Portuguese colonial rule in the late 15th, 16th, 17th, 18th, 19th and early and mid 20th centuries. It was influential in the French colonies of Algeria, French West Africa, and Indochina, and in the Portuguese colonies of Angola, Guinea, Mozambique, and Timor. Similar ideas were widespread also in England, Germany and other European countries. The European colonial powers felt it was their duty to bring Western civilization to what they perceived as backward peoples. Rather than merely govern colonial peoples, the Europeans would attempt to Westernize them in accordance with a colonial ideology known as "assimilation".

Cognitive Stylistics 2

- Cognitive stylistics is an advanced field on the crossroads of linguistics, cognitive science and literary studies that presupposes the integration of linguistic analysis with cognitive theories . Cognitive stylistics approach is suitable to explain the linguistic construction of world-view in texts.



8. Discourse Stylistics

- Discourse stylistics deals with discourse analysis. Discourse analysis can be carried out on spoken and written texts, and can include matters like textual coherence and cohesion, and the inferencing of meaning by readers or listeners. In this case, it includes pragmatics and much of stylistics within its bounds. Similarly, stylistics can apply just to literary texts or not, and be restricted to the study of style or, on the other hand, include the study of meaning. Thus, stylistics and discourse analysis come close in their search for meaning. Thus, discourse stylistics applies insights from the fields of discourse analysis and stylistics.



Thank you very much