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STYLE



Overview

- Foreword: What does Stylistics do ?
- Focus of Stylistic Analysis
- What is style ?
- Importance of Style
- Style & Stylistics
- Function of Style
- Variations in Style & its Examples
- Dimensions of Style
- Types of Style along with Examples

What is the purpose of stylistics ?

Doing stylistics thereby enriches our ways of thinking about language and, as observed, exploring language offers a substantial purchase on our understanding of (literary) texts. With the full array of language models at our disposal, an inherently illuminating method of analytic inquiry presents itself. This method of inquiry has an important reflexive capacity in so far as it can shed light on the very language system it derives from; it tells us about the 'rules' of language because it often explores texts where those rules are bent and stretched to breaking point.

Text Analysis in Stylistics

- The focus of Stylistics is the text. In analyzing a text, the business of a stylistician is to look at many features of the text. Stylistic features like graphology, syntax, lexis and semantics are looked into.



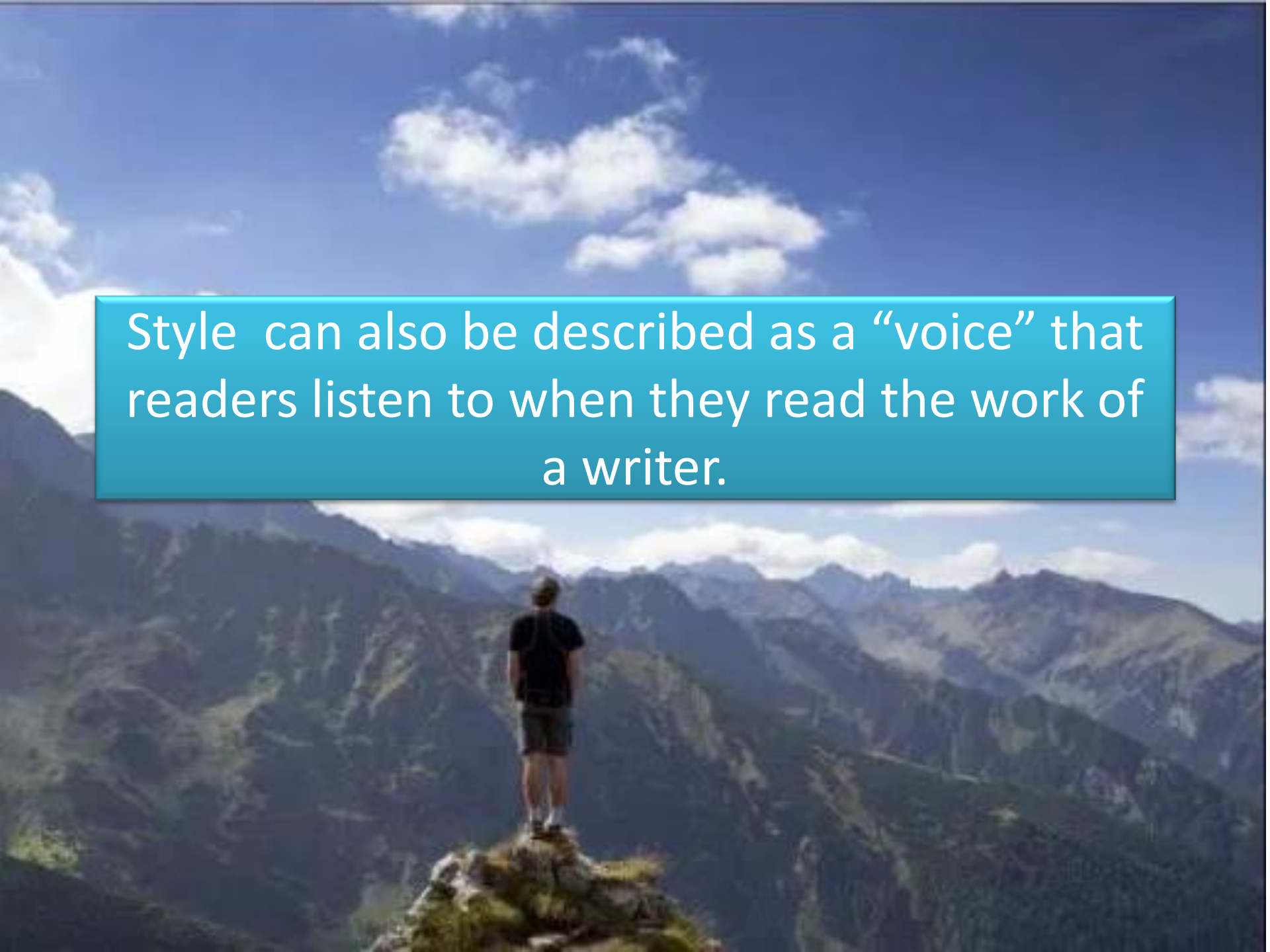
Context-sensitive Analysis of Language

- Moreover, stylistics is interested in language as a function of texts in context, and it acknowledges that utterances (literary or otherwise) are produced in a time, a place, and in a cultural and cognitive context. These 'extra-linguistic' parameters are inextricably tied up with the way a text 'means'. The more complete and context-sensitive is the description of language, the fuller the stylistic analysis is.

Definition of Style

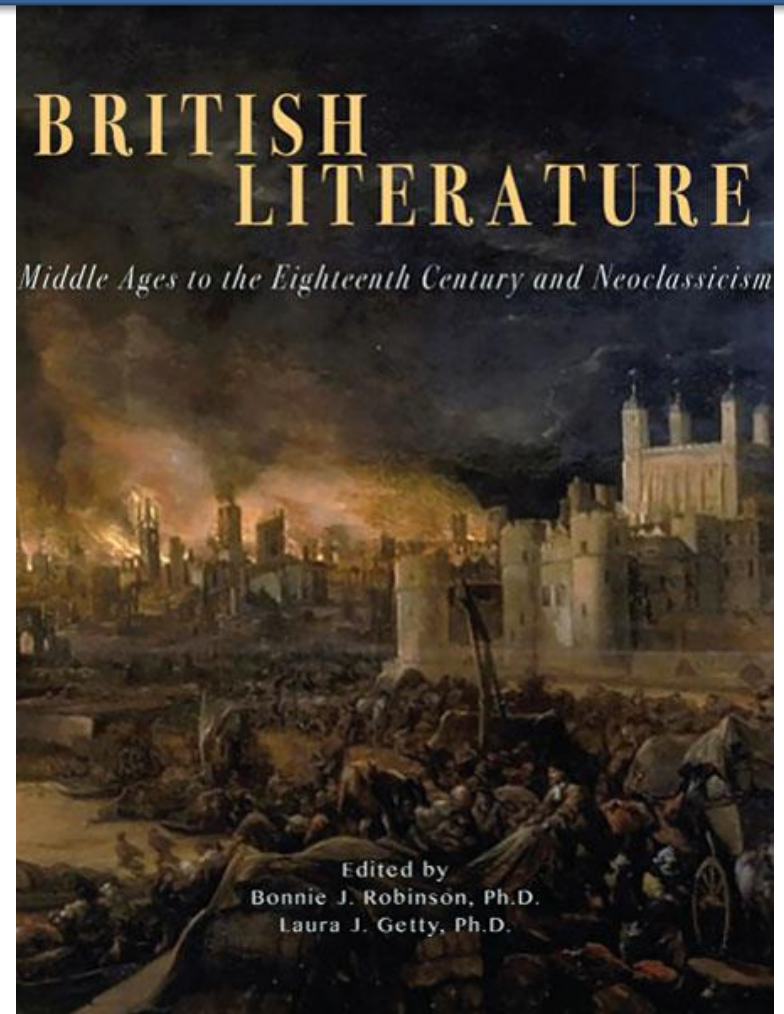
The style in writing can be defined as the way a writer writes and it is the technique which an individual author uses in his writing. It varies from author to author and depends upon one's syntax, word choice, and tone / tenor. It can also be described as a voice that readers listen to when they read the work of a writer.

Style can also be described as a “voice” that readers listen to when they read the work of a writer.



Style

- The term 'style' is used in linguistics to describe the choices which language makes available to a user or author , **above and beyond the choices necessary for the simple expression of a meaning.**



Style & Stylistics

- **‘Style’** is a term used to refer to ‘the personal use an individual makes in speech or writing of the language available to him.’ (Hartmann and Stork ,1972). In other words it refers the linguistic choices a speaker or writer makes from among the phonological grammatical and lexical resources of his language (Beogrande and Dressler,1981:16). The study of style is called stylistics. The concept of stylistics is new but the concept of style is not new. Style has been an object of study from ancient times. Aristotle, Cicero, Demetrius, and Quintilian treated style as the proper adornment of thought.

Importance of Style

Style is what distinguishes one author from the next. If everyone used the same style, it would be impossible for any writer or piece of literature to truly stand out. While style has a role in all types of literature, its role in works of fiction is what's discussed most often. That's because style is an essential, defining thing for fiction authors—so stories have been and will be retold over and over, but it's an author's style that can make a work truly stand out and change the way a reader thinks about what literature is. In fact, it's really impossible to imagine what literature would be like without any style.

Importance of Style

- Style has a central role in every piece of literature, from prose to poetry. It gives both the author and his text a voice, allowing works of all genres and topics to be shared and expressed in ways that are memorable, intriguing, and different. If all authors and genres followed the same style, the world of literature would be a dull, unchanging place!

Function of Style

A unique literary style can have great impact on the piece in which it is used and on the readers. When authors write and put their ideas into words, they meet with a large number of choices which include: words, sounds, logic and sentence structures. However, different authors use different literary styles that depend on their distinct expression and their utilization of these choices. **And their choice creates their niche.**

Parts of Style 1

- There are many important pieces that together make up a writer's style; like tone, word choice, grammar, language, descriptive technique, and so on. Style is also what determines the mood of a piece of literature, so its importance is huge across all genres. Different types of literature need different styles, and different styles need different authors!

Parts of Style 2

Here are some key parts that work together to make up a piece of literature's style:

- Diction: the style of the author's word choice
- Sentence structure: the way words are arranged in a sentence
- Tone: the mood of the story; the feeling or attitude a work creates
- Narrator: the person telling the story and the point-of-view it is told in
- Grammar and the use of punctuation
- Creative devices like symbolism, allegory, metaphor, rhyme, and so on
- Some authors combine these factors to create a distinct style that is found in all of their works. Other authors, however, may choose to write each of their works in a different style.

Variations in Style

- Two authors can write about the exact same thing, and yet the styles of the pieces could be nothing like each other because they would reflect the way each author writes. An author's style might even change with each piece he writes. When it comes to style, what comes easy for one author might not work for another; what fits one genre may not fit for others at all; what thrills one group of readers may bore another. A reader might love a certain genre or subject, but dislike an author's style, and vice versa. In fact, it's not unusual to hear people say about a novel or a movie, "it was a good story, but I didn't like the style."

Examples of Variations in Style

Rather than merely sharing information, style lets an author share his content in the way that he wants. For example, say an author needs to describe a situation where he witnessed a girl picking a flower:

1. She picked a red rose from the ground.
2. Scarlet was the rose that she plucked from the earth.
3. From the ground she delicately plucked the ruby rose, cradling it in her hands as if it were a priceless jewel.

Explanation

- As you can see, there are many ways to share the same basic information. An author can give a short and simple sentence, like #1. Or, he could use more descriptive words and a poetic sentence structure, like in #2, with phrases like “scarlet was the rose” instead of “the rose was red.” Finally, an author could use imagery to paint a picture for the audience and add feeling to the sentence, like in #3.

Dimensions of Style

Stylistics looks at style in such dimension as: •

Style as Choice: •

This considers style as the characteristic choices that a writer/speaker makes in a text at the various levels of language description. •

Style as Deviation •

What is deviant i.e. what does not conform to the 'standard' is said to be stylistically significant. This can also be at any level of language description. •

Style as Situation •

The situation is the context in which a text comes to life. This could be physical, socio-cultural, pragmatic, etc. •

Style as Temporal Phenomenon •

This deals with the time of relevance of style. That is, whether it is still in vogue or not (ancient or modern). A good example is Old English versus Modern English. •

Style as the Individual •

This focuses on the specific features that are associated with particular individuals i.e. writers' or speakers' idiolects. •

Examples of Style in Urdu



IQBAL

دیارِ عشق میں اپنا صفت نام پیدا کر
خدا اگر ولِ فطرت شناس ہے تجھ کو
اٹھارہ شیشہ لہرانِ فرنگ کے احساں
میں شانِ تال ہوں میری نزل ہے میرا ثمر
نیازِ زمانہ نئے صبح و شام پیدا کر
سکوتِ لالہ و گل سے کلام پیدا کر
سفالِ ہند سے میسنارِ سما و جام پیدا کر
مرے ثمر سے مے لالہ و نام پیدا کر

مرا طریقِ مہرِ مہرِ نہیں فقیرِ مہرِ ہے
خودی نہ بیچ عہدِ سیرِ مہرِ میں نام پیدا کر

Anwar Masood

دھواں دار

آکسیجن یہاں نہیں ملتی
پھپھڑوں کو دھوئیں سے بھرتا ہوں
یاد کرتا ہوں گاؤں کو اپنے
”جب ترے شہر سے گزرتا ہوں“

(انور مسعود)

اندازہ کرو

اب تو اُس کو ماسوا لاہور کے
شہر بھی کوئی پسند آتا نہیں
ڈاکٹر بننے کو آیا گاؤں سے
ڈاکٹر بن کر وہاں جاتا نہیں

(انور مسعود)

Compare the Styles of Milton & Wordsworth

John Milton

PARADISE LOST 1-13

- ▶ *Of Mans First Disobedience, and the Fruit*
- ▶ *Of that Forbidden Tree, whose mortal tast*
- ▶ *Brought Death into the World, and all our woe,*
 - ▶ *With loss of Eden, till one greater Man*
 - ▶ *Restore us, and regain the blissful Seat,*
 - ▶ *Sing Heav'nly Muse, that on the secret top*
 - ▶ *Of Oreb, or of Sinai, didst inspire*
- ▶ *That Shepherd, who first taught the chosen Seed,*
 - ▶ *In the Beginning how the Heav'ns and Earth*
 - ▶ *Rose out of Chaos: Or if Sion Hill*
- ▶ *Delight thee more, and Siloa's Brook that flow'd*
 - ▶ *Fast by the Oracle of God; I thence*
 - ▶ *Invoke thy aid to my adventrous Song,*

Daffodils

I wandered lonely as a Cloud
That floats on high o'er Vales and Hills,
When all at once I saw a crowd
A host of dancing Daffodils;
Along the Lake, beneath the trees,
Ten thousand dancing in the breeze.

The waves beside them danced, but they
Outdid the sparkling waves in glee: --
A poet could not but be gay
In such a laughing company:
I gaz'd--and gaz'd--but little thought
What wealth the shew to me had brought:

For oft when on my couch I lie
In vacant or in pensive mood,
They flash upon that inward eye
Which is the bliss of solitude,
And then my heart with pleasure fills,
And dances with the Daffodils.

*William Wordsworth,
Poems in Two Volumes:
Moods of my Mind. 1807*

Thank you

