

WHAT IS STYLISTICS ?



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overview

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- Style in literature
- What is Stylistics ?
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What is Stylistics ?

- “Stylistics is the study of the devices in languages (such as rhetorical figures and syntactical patterns) that are considered to produce expressive or literary style”.

Encyclopedia Britannica

- Stylistics originated in classical rhetoric and developed in recent times in Russian Formalism.

Roots of Stylistics

- Stylistics has its roots in the formalist school of literary criticism that emerged in Russia in the early years of the twentieth century, though the term 'style' goes back to classical rhetoric and poetics. At the heart of Russian formalism was the belief that the purpose of all art was to defamiliarise the familiar in order to generate for the viewer or reader a new perspective on the topic of the piece of work under consideration.

Development of Stylistics

Roots of
Stylistics

classical
~~Rhetoric~~
Rhetoric

Origin in
modern Times (Early 20th
Century)

Russian
Formalism

Modern Stylistics

- Modern stylistics uses the tools of formal linguistic analysis coupled with the methods of literary criticism; its goal is to try to isolate characteristic uses and functions of language and rhetoric rather than advance normative or prescriptive rules and patterns.

The need for stylistics

- Stylistics has a firm place within linguistics, providing theories of language and interpretation which complement context-free theories generated within other areas of language study.

Stylistics combines many disciplines

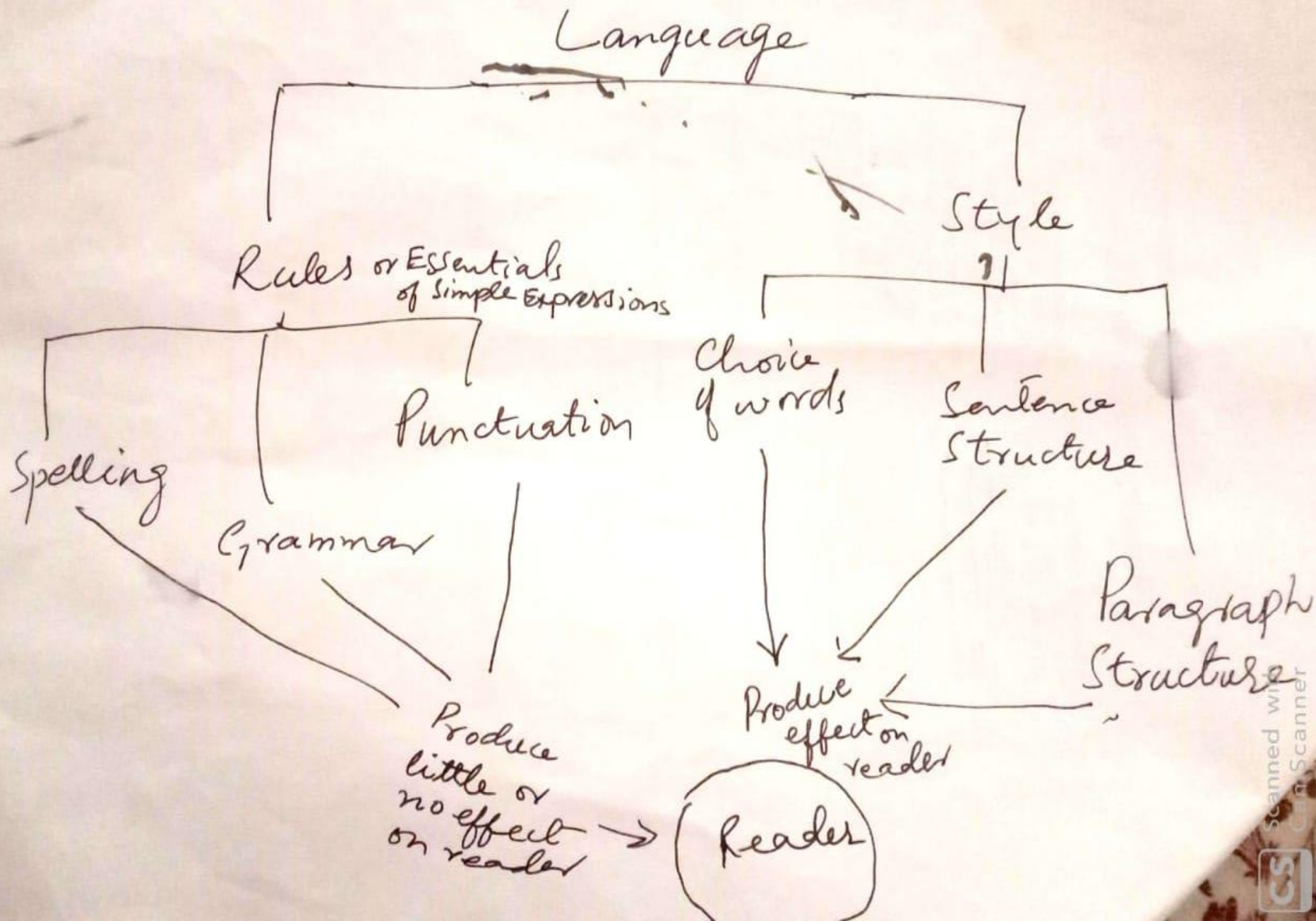
- Stylistics draws upon theories and models from other fields more frequently than it develops its own unique theories. This is because it is at a point of confluence of many sub-disciplines of linguistics, and other disciplines, such as literary studies and psychology,

Connections between Stylistics & Linguistics

- Stylistics is a modern branch of linguistics. The connection between stylistics and linguistics is that stylistics uses models of language, analytical techniques and methodologies from linguistics to facilitate the study of style in its widest sense.

Focus of Stylistics

Style differences or linguistics choices made by language users can arise because a context or a particular situation, nature of participants and their relationship with each other, time and place of conversation, medium or mode of conversation, etc.



Comparing rules and style

- Beyond the essential elements of spelling , grammar, and punctuation , writing style is the choice of words, sentence structure, and paragraph structure, used to convey the meaning effectively.
- The former are referred to as rules, elements, essentials, or mechanics, ; the later are referred to as style, or rhetoric
- While following the rules drawn from established English usage, a writer has great flexibility in how to express a concept. The point of good writing style is to express the message to the reader simply, clearly, and convincingly;
- Keep the reader attentive, engaged, and interested.

The basic idea is 'effect' on the receiver



The basic idea of stylistics

- The basic idea of stylistics is that a stylistic choice has an 'effect' (on the reader), and that it should be possible to understand the casual relation between the stylistic choice and that effect. There is a discipline – Rhetoric- in which the relation between style and effect is prescribed or asserted; this discipline has classical origins and can still be seen operating in self help guides to writing and speaking. Stylistics in terms of the extraction of meaning (and other effects) is that texts need to be examined as an integrated whole. In this way, Stylistic can help bring out meanings which are inaccessible to syntax of formal semantics, which largely focus on individual sentences.

Student of Stylistics

undertake
Study of

Psychological
Process

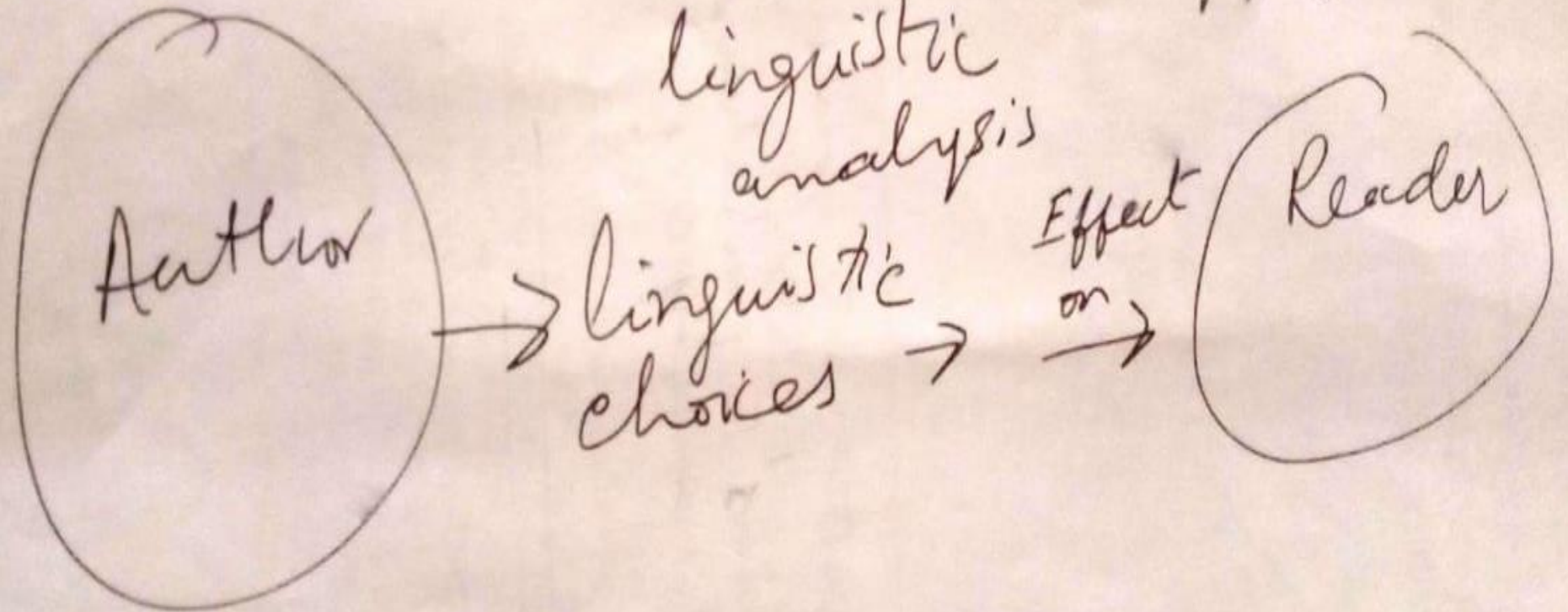
linguistic
analysis

Author

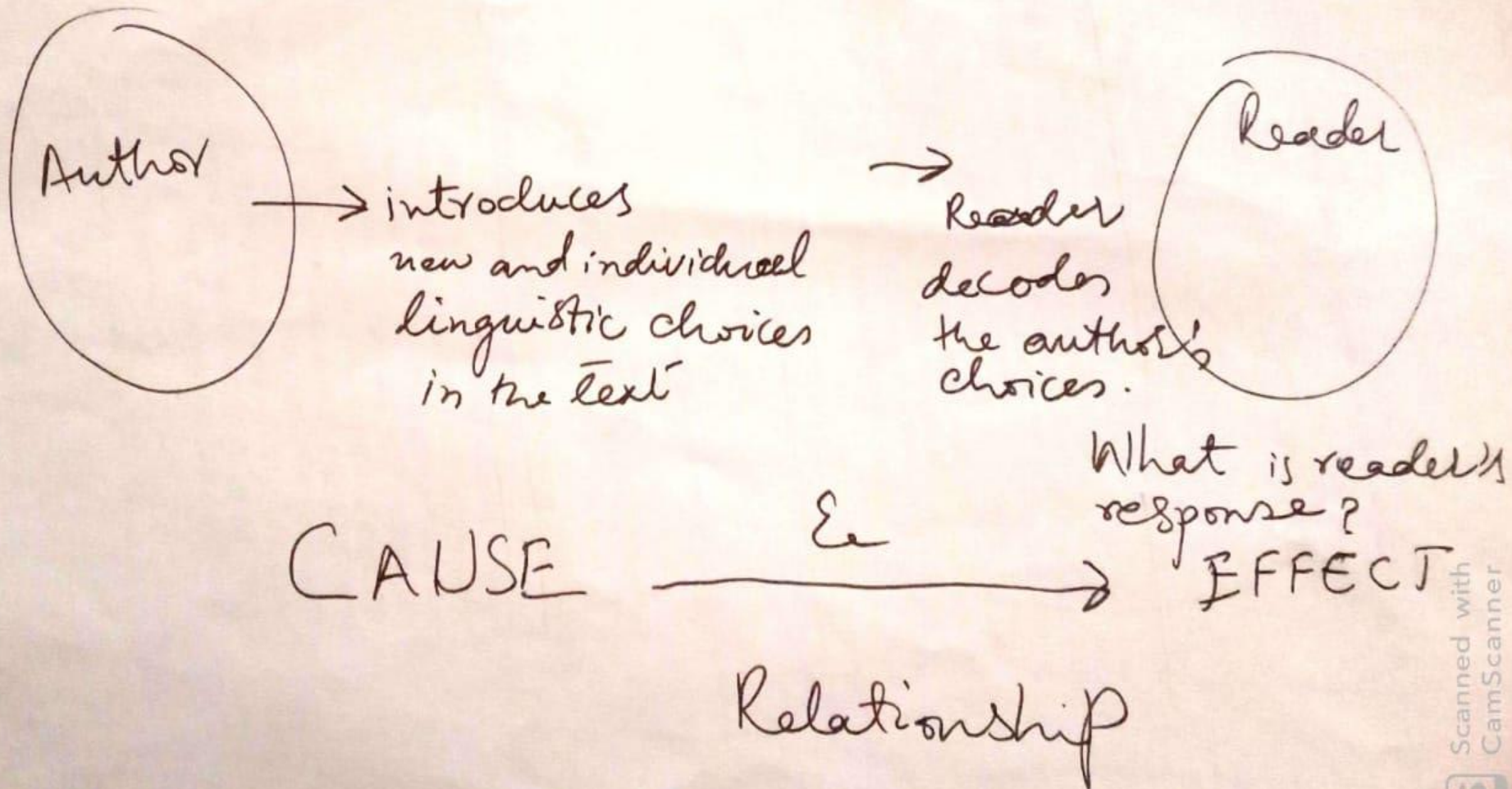
linguistic
choices

Effect
on

Reader



Cause & Effect Relationship



How do we explore effects ?

- We discover effects only by looking inside ourselves, and formulating a description of what we see there. In some situations , this is often reinforced or checked by discussing with others our own introspections, thus clarifying and correcting our own experience. The literary studies seminar with its individual focus becomes the Stylistics 'workshop' where collective discussion helps clarify the effects of a text, and also helps strip away individual variations in response, in order better to establish the precise function of stylistic choices.

Stylistic analysis

- Stylistic analysis of a text can help understand and explain the impact of a literary or nonliterary piece of work on a reader. A stylistic study encompasses linguistic analysis as well as psychological processes involved during reading and understanding of a given work. And in this way, Stylistics acts as a middle ground and connective means between linguistics and literary criticism to demonstrate how the linguistic elements act significantly in a text to convey the author's message.

Analysis in Stylistics (1)

- In The Cambridge Encyclopedia of Language, Crystal observes that, in practice, most stylistic analysis has attempted to deal with the complex and 'valued language within literature, i.e. literary stylistics'. He goes on to say that in such examination the scope is sometimes narrowed to concentrate on the more striking features of literary language, for instance, its 'deviant' and abnormal features, rather than the broader structures that are found in whole texts or discourses.

Analysis in Stylistics

- Stylistic analysis involves examination of grammar, lexis, semantics, syntax, phonological properties and discursive devices in a given work. In this way, Stylistics encompasses discourse analyses. Since a major part of Stylistics has always been focused on studying literary texts, it is also known as literary linguistics or literary Stylistics.

How do we carry out Stylistic analysis?

Stylistic Analysis

↓
~~Dev~~
focuses
or
striking
features

— refers to

Deviant or
Abnormal
features

in terms
of

1.

1- Grammar

2- Lexis

3- Semantics

4- Syntax

5- Phonological
properties

Thank you very much