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Research Article

THE STYLISTIC CLASSIFICATION OF VOCABULARY

Norova Mavluda Fayzulloyevna
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, Phd, Uzbekistan

ABSTRACT

The article discusses the criteria for stylistic classifications of the vocabulary of a language used by native and foreign linguists. The reasons for the ambiguity and inconsistency of the results obtained are analyzed, which are explained by the use of several criteria in one classification at once. The author delimits and systematizes the criteria for the classification of vocabulary and shows that such an approach can resolve some controversial classification issues.

KEYWORDS

Language means, communication goals, neutral vocabulary, functional-stylistic classification, oral colloquial speech, official relations, connotative meanings, stylistically marked words.

INTRODUCTION

The problem of classifying the vocabulary of a language is, to one degree or another, of concern to any language discipline and is decided in accordance with the objectives and specifics of the study. The relevance of solving the problem of vocabulary differentiation for such disciplines as stylistics and sociolinguistics is explained by the need to justify the choice of language means adequate to various situations and communication goals.

The diversity and multiplicity of native and foreign classifications of vocabulary in the absence of unified approaches led to the setting of the goal of this work - to streamline the criteria for classifying the vocabulary

of a language, which involves solving the following tasks: to analyze the existing classifications of vocabulary for their logical correctness, to identify shortcomings and suggest ways to overcome them.

Most linguists, classifying the lexical composition of the language in terms of stylistic affiliation, distinguish three groups: literary (bookish, formal), neutral and colloquial (informal) vocabulary.

Such a tripartite approach to the stylistic classification of the vocabulary of the language is supported by Russian Anglistics. For example, I.V. Arnold, depending on the use in certain areas of human communication, distinguishes stylistically neutral English vocabulary, which is used in any context, and stylistically limited vocabulary - bookish and colloquial [1, 3].

I.V. Arnold at the same time distinguishes between the concepts of "bookish" and "colloquial" vocabulary, on the one hand, and "written" and "oral" speech, on the other hand: "The division into colloquial and bookish vocabulary does not at all imply that the first can used only in oral speech, and the second only in writing. On the contrary, in a dramatic or some other work of art, colloquial speech can be recorded in written, and a lecture, report, etc. forms of public, and not everyday communication are made in the styles of scientific or oratory, related to the varieties of bookish speech" [2, 4].

I.R. Galperin, on the contrary, assigns the form of speech (written or oral) to groups of vocabulary of a certain style, and for the functional-stylistic classification of the English dictionary, he uses the criterion of the type of speech - written literary and oral colloquial speech [3, 2].

The opposition of groups of bookish and colloquial vocabulary in the presence of a neutral group is also preserved by many researchers of the vocabulary of the Russian language. So, N.A. Kupina and T.V. Matveeva, from a functional-stylistic point of view, subdivide all the means of the Russian language, including lexical ones, into interstyle means and means that have a functional-stylistic mark (bookish and colloquial means). N.A. Kupina and T.V. Matveeva take the connection of a linguistic means fixed in the language with one or another sphere of its use as the basis for the classification: "Bookish style coloring indicates the use of this means in those styles of speech that are realized mainly in written or printed form (hence the term bookish styles) in the form of a monologue and imply official relations between the communicants" [4, 3]. Thus, N.A. Kupina and T.V. Matveeva understand three criteria at once as the sphere of use of language means: the form of speech (written - oral), the type of speech (monologue - dialogue) and the type of relations of communicants. Based on these characteristics, colloquial means are also determined: "Colloquial stylistic coloring is

opposed to bookish, since it is associated with opposite conditions for implementation: predominantly oral form, dialogic type of communication and informal relations of communicants" [5, 3].

This point of view intersects with the position of I. R. Galperin, who singles out written literary and oral colloquial vocabulary. However, the clause "mainly" indicates the ambiguity of attaching vocabulary to a certain form of speech – written or oral [6, 4]. We believe that the form of speech could serve as a criterion for the classification of vocabulary in the past, when there was a big difference between written and oral genres and the boundary was clearer. In the modern age of information technology, there is a mixture and interweaving of the genres of oral and written speech. New written genres such as text messages, emails and social media correspondence prioritize colloquial vocabulary in all its diversity. The choice of vocabulary is determined not by the form of speech, but by its other parameters, for example, the nature of the relationship of communicants and the purpose of communication. Thus, we consider the use of the form of speech as a criterion for classifying the vocabulary of a modern language inappropriate.

Another criterion - the connotative coloring of vocabulary is used by the vast majority of linguists, but it is applied in different ways.

G.B. Antrushina, O.V. Afanasyeva, N.N. Morozova, speaking about the classification of the vocabulary of the English language, put the presence of connotation in a word and its belonging to a functional style into direct dependence. Therefore, the basic vocabulary - the vocabulary core of the language is, on the one hand, stylistically neutral vocabulary used in all situations of communication, and on the other hand, vocabulary devoid of any connotative meanings [7, 5]. The basic vocabulary is opposed by two groups of stylistically marked words - informal and formal vocabulary [8, 3].

It seems that the only group that does not cause controversy is colloquial vocabulary. However, the list of subgroups classified as colloquial vocabulary convinces us of the opposite. Groups are offered in various combinations with each other: familiar, colloquial words, slang, jargon, slang, professionalisms, vulgarisms, dialectisms. The same group can be distinguished by different authors according to different criteria. For example, P.A. Lekant and his co-authors apply the criterion of social usage, characterizing jargon as a vocabulary of limited use [9, 3], and V.G.Kostomarov and V.I. Maksimov, as we noted above, refer jargon to reduced vocabulary in accordance with stylistic connotation [10, 4].

Thus, the existing disagreements in the classifications of the lexical stock of the language are explained by the incorrect choice and application of criteria. To

resolve the identified classification contradictions and streamline the criteria, we propose to apply the following provisions.

1. The criteria for the form of speech (written - oral) and the form of speech implementation (bookish - colloquial) are inappropriate for classifying the vocabulary of a modern language.

2. The main qualifying criterion is the type of relationship between communicants (formal - informal). This criterion largely determines, but does not make completely dependent on it, other characteristics of the word, which are the object of independent classifications according to the relevant criteria.

3. Such independent criteria are social prevalence (general use - limited use) and the connotation of the word, which, in accordance with its structure, provides criteria for expressiveness and evaluativeness.

4. The new qualification criterion of ethical permissibility reflects the observance of the communicative norm and allows to eliminate the inconsistency of dictionary labels with the general meaning of "rough".

In addition, the correct classification of vocabulary depends on the application of a number of logical principles: the use of one criterion for one classification, the observance of the unity of the criterion when selecting groups within the classification, the volume of which should not intersect, but generally constitute the volume of the object being classified.

Compliance with these proposals makes it possible to obtain several independent classifications of vocabulary, reflecting the complex multidimensional nature of the lexical system of the language.

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