Features of Expressiveness in Scientific and Formal English

By

Landysh Afraimovna Gizyatova
Kazan Federal University
senior lecturer, Department of foreign languages, Institute of International Relations
Tel: +79172497223
ID Scopus: https://www.scopus.com/authid/detail.uri?authorId=57189321531
ORCID ID: https://orcid.org/0000-0003-3387-4946
Email: klandish@mail.ru

Alina Albertovna Shakirova
candidate of pedagogical science, senior lecturer, Department of European languages and cultures, Institute of International Relations
Tel: +79274943007
ID Scopus: http://www.scopus.com/authid/detail.url?authorId=57191405352
ORCID ID: http://orcid.org/0000-0002-3281-8056
Email: alina-sharafeeva@inbox.ru

Rimma Raisovna Sagitova
candidate of pedagogical science, associate professor, Department of European languages and cultures, Institute of International Relations
Tel: +79172864303
ID Scopus: http://www.scopus.com/authid/detail.url?authorId=57214768467
ORCID ID:
http://orcid.org/0000-0001-7822-3819
Email: sag-rimma@yandex.ru

Nailya Fagimovna Plotnikova
PhD in Pedagogy, associate professor, Department of foreign languages, Institute of International Relations
Tel: 89673645694
ID Scopus: http://www.scopus.com/authid/detail.url?authorId=57205618920
ORCID ID: http://orcid.org/0000-0002-8368-6233
Email: plotnikova.nailya@list.ru

Abstract

The study deals with using of emotional-expressive language means in scientific and formal functional styles of the English language. The aim of the article is to reveal the peculiarities of expressing emotions in styles under consideration. During the study the methods of stylistic and comparative analysis, random sampling method, descriptive and statistical methods were used. The article gives a review of lexical, morphological and syntactical characteristics of the styles as well as expressive vocabulary units. Based on a thorough examination of nearly 14000 lexical units of scientific, diplomatic, legislative and office language presented in factual material the authors make conclusions about the frequency of emotionally charged words and expressions usage in both styles. The field of diplomacy is considered to be the most emotional and the language of science is the least one. It is revealed that the most common ways of transferring expressiveness are modal words, emphatic constructions, intensifying adjectives and adverbs, rhetorical questions, direct addresses, interjections, parenthetical insertions, repetitions, quantative expression, author's emphasizing the importance of information reported, focus on the credibility of material. The formal and

scientific styles of English are similar in terms of providing objective information but not devoid of expressiveness at all. The requirements of the language in these spheres determine the frequency and the way it is implemented.

Keywords: communication, language, expressive language means, emotive vocabulary, English.

1. Introduction

Language as a system is a set of elements realized in speech in various ways in their relations, oppositions and connections. The system of language determines the general possibilities of using its elements, while the norm is what is used and accepted in a given language community, depending on the specific conditions of communication (Arnold, 2002).

Not only the literary standard but also functional styles and dialects are considered to be a norm of language.

Functional style is a subsystem of a language that has its specific features in vocabulary and phraseology, syntax, and sometimes phonetics (Galperin, 1971).

Functional styles are well studied. In the English-speaking literature, the diversity of the language system has been explored by Crystal and Davy (1969), Carol and Gregory (1978), Freeman (2018). Ahmad (2012) and Klimova (2013) researched scientific prose style. Among Russian linguists who devoted their works to the stylistics of the English language Galperin (1971), Skrebnev (1994), Arnold (2002) should be mentioned.

Various authors offer diverging grouping of styles. Our study is based on the classification proposed by Skrebnev Yu.I. that identifies four functional styles: official (or formal), scientific, journalistic and conversational (everyday style) (Skrebnev, 1994; El-Mousawi, Zaraket, & Bou-Assi, 2022; Eniola, Alagah, & Oshi, 2022).

A large number of works have been devoted to the issue of expressiveness in the language. Any language has two main functions, communicative and expressive, and the analysis of this opposition in two functional styles of the English language, namely official and scientific, seems to be relevant.

The aim of the study is to examine the official and scientific styles of the English language for the frequency of functioning of expressive vocabulary and to reveal the prevalent forms of its realization.

In order to achieve the goal, the following objectives were defined:

1. to analyze lexical, morphological and syntactical features of styles under consideration.
2. to review emotional and expressive vocabulary.
3. to explore the official and scientific styles experimentally and to reveal the frequency of expressive vocabulary occurrence in them.

2. Methods

When analyzing the expressive vocabulary use in two functional styles, we rely on the

factual linguistic material such as original legal documents (Acts, Charters, Memorandums, treaties, laws, Conventions, Bills, Declarations, and Constitutions), business correspondence, speeches of public figures, trial speeches, Inaugural Addresses of presidents, scientific articles and texts. In total, 13962 lexical units were examined.

During the study the following techniques were used: methods of stylistic and comparative analysis, random sampling method, descriptive and statistical method.

3. Results and Discussion

The analysis of the formal style of the English language. The formal (official) style is the language of State acts, laws, international documents, statutes, instructions, documentation, business and diplomatic correspondence, etc.

It serves the sphere of official relations and operates in the area of law and politics. These extralinguistic factors are the basis that forms the formal style, as a complex system with equal standards of selection and mix of linguistic means.

The formal language has imperative and normative character and modality of obligation, since the regulatory function of law, approved by State authorities is reflected in the documents (Ushakova, 1967; Richard, 2006; Richard, 2008).

In accordance with the above-mentioned properties, specific stylistic features of this style of the English language are accuracy, brevity, concreteness, objectivity and accessibility. The language is characterized by frequent repetitions and uniformity of speech means which lead to businesslike clichés (e.g., *for the purpose of improving, to serve the purpose, to bring to one's notice, to come into force, to take note,* etc.). These stereotypical generalities are relevant in standard business correspondence and help to express the idea more concisely. So, what is commonly known as «official jargon» is fully appropriate and furthermore a necessary sign of the formal style (Maltzev, 1984).

Depending on the specific area of functioning of formal language and the stylistic differences of documents, the style can be further divided into legislative, office and diplomatic subspheres (or sublanguages).

Lexical features. The vocabulary is abundant in professional terminology and abbreviations. For example, legislative sublanguage except the use of professional terms (e.g. *petitioner, appeal, probation, felony, civil case*) exploits Latin (*de juro, de facto*) (Branaa et al., 2006), archaic (*Head of the Government*) and historic words (*Decree*) as well as words of French origin (*en ventre sa mere, fait accompli, cestui que trust/vie, force majeure, oyez or voir dire*) (Pollock & Maitland, 1968).

The office sublanguage abounds in accounting and trade terms (default, bearer check, counterfoil, lender, commodity markets, interest rates)

For diplomatic vocabulary it's common to use

international law terms, mostly of Latin and French origin (*convention, consul, attaché, demarche, communique*). Sometimes these words and expressions are written in Latin (*persona non grata, status quo, veto*).

"high" words which add solemnity and honor to the documents in accordance with their significance (*Eminent Guest, the High Controuting Parties, courtesy visit*).

etiquette words (*His Highness, His Majesty*).

The diplomatic subsphere is close to the journalistic style insofar as it uses set phrases of non-phraseological nature (*lessening of international tension, principles of peaceful coexistence, sustainable development, primacy of law*), expressive vocabulary, proverbs and sayings. For example, the metonymic use of the names of capitals, buildings to point to the state or its government (*White House* in the meaning of the US government, *Berlin* for the government of Germany).

Formal texts are distinguished by the presence of words and expressions, that as a rule are not used outside the official language (*in due time, in triplicate, to dive smth precedence over, to rebuff, mutual obligations*), stylistic homogeneity, standardization, closeness to the literary language and as a result the absence of dialectic and colloquial words and jargon.

Morphological features. The formal style is characterized by a minimum use of interjections, modal words and names with suffixes of subjective assessment due to the necessity to treat events and facts described in an unbiased and fair way (Dubinko & Pichlak, 1989).

Among other distinctive morphological features, the following can be mentioned: the prevalence of the name over the verb, wide use of verbal nouns, use of numerous noun phrases, the predominance of passive forms of expression overactive ones, the use of connective words and a large number of genitive cases, the absence of finite verb forms and personal pronouns.

Nouns denoting posts in the official style are usually used in the masculine gender: *lawyer, prosecutor, director, manager, chairman, conductor, postman.*

Nouns, denoting the names of people on the basis of an action or condition are generally used: *purchaser, witness, acceptor, consignee*.

Syntax**.** Conditional-infinitive constructions and impersonal sentences with the value of obligation are important in the syntax of formal style of the English language. In order to achieve laconicism and precision parallel syntactic constructions are often used. The prevalence of complex sentences is due to the need to reflect the sequence of facts to be considered, which a simple sentence cannot do.

Another distinctive feature is that the priority is given to the use of indirect speech. Direct speech is only taken if the quoting of the legislative acts and other documents seems to be necessary.

A detailed study of the office sublanguage revealed the extensive use of long-winded sentence structure and sentences with enumeration as well as the descriptive way of information presentation (the modality of obligation is mitigated).   The prevalence of judgement in official language is lower (exception is management letter having the reason needed to be substantiated).

Contrary to the legislative and office subspheres the language of diplomacy is characterized by the use of modal words and subjective assessment.

e.g., *«…Today we **must** once again find the courage to change. We **must** shift our energies from the cold war priorities of the past to the economic priorities of the future…We **must** change our course. In the words of Abraham Lincoln, «We **must** drink anew and act anew…and then we shall save our country».*

Imperative forms of the verb are used in exceptional cases, for example in protest notes or ultimatums, while concessive clauses and more flexible formulations are common.

In addition to the reviewed lexical, morphological and syntactical features, some other characteristics are inherent in the formal style of the English language such as paragraph fragmenting, subsections, headings and requisites.

The ***analysis of the scientific style of the English language.*** The scientific style serves the sphere of science, i.e., human activity which function is the development and theoretical comprehension of objective knowledge about reality. Science strives to as objective and impersonal knowledge as possible. These features of scientific knowledge are embodied in the content and are reflected in the linguistic form of scientific works.

Modern forms of scientific texts are monographs, articles, reports, reviews, essays, abstracts, reports on research work, dissertations. In addition to the scientific texts themselves, there are popular science and scientific and educational works.

Vocabulary of the scientific language is rich in terminology of diverse focus. The author's speech in first person plural is mandatory while first- and second-person singular are absent (*we are coming to realize, we have taken to be, we are beginning to see, we can speak about*).

Scientific texts, in particular those dealing with instruments or equipment, usually have noun groups consisting of whole chains of words (*hydrogen-ion-potential recorders, automatic gyrocompass ship-steering systems, automatically-controlled-oil-cracking stills*) (Arnold, 2002).

Due to the density of the texts complex syntactic constructions are required. Therefore, in the scientific style, more than half of all sentences are compound, and simple sentences are complicated by homogeneous members and introductory constructions (Shansky, 1964). However, sometimes short, simple sentences are used to highlight important thoughts.

Passive voice is the most well-known tool of the scientific language that helps to make the information impersonal (Ahmad, 2012).

The links between elements of the sentence, sentences themselves and paragraphs expressed explicitly result in the abundance of conjunctions and connective words (that, then, if, as, or, nor, thereby, therewith, hereby, both…and, whether…or) (Arnold, 2002).

Paragraphing of the scientific texts is very important and special syntactical constructions like it is necessary to note, it should be mentioned, to sum up, as we have seen can be used to connect the parts of the text.

Emotional and expressive vocabulary. The lexical meaning of a word is a complex unity. The word has denotative and connotative meaning. Denotation is a literal meaning of the word. Usually, it doesn't have any emotional associations or hidden implications. The connotation, on

the contrary, includes emotional, evaluative and stylistic components. Connotative meaning is not mandatory, and its components can be combined or absent at all (Arnold, 2002). Connotation is often described as positive or negative.

The word is said to have an emotional component of meaning, if it expresses an emotion or feeling. It has an expressive component of meaning, if some way emphasizes what is denoted in the same word or other, syntactically related words (Arnold, 2002). e.g., She was a thin, frail little thing, and her hair which was delicate and thin was bobbed

The word thing instead of girl expressively underlines the girl's fragility, expressed by adjectives thin, frail, little.

Representation of senses requires special, expressive colors. So, often instead of the word good we say wonderful, brilliant, delightful, remarkable, splendid; instead of dislike - hate, contempt, disdain, aversion. In all these cases, the lexical meaning of the word is complicated by expression.

It is a common situation when one neutral word has several expressive synonyms that differ in the degree of emotional strain: 1) misfortune-grief-disaster-catastrophe; 2) turbulent-impetuous-indomitable-violent-furious.

Vivid expression singles out the solemn (herald, achievement), rhetorical (sacred, aspirations), poetic (azure, to glorify), humorous (better half, newly fledged), ironic (crochet, to ramble) words.

Thus, combining words that are close in expression into lexical groups, one can distinguish between words expressing a positive evaluation of the concepts and those expressing a negative one.

The frequency of using of emotionally expressive vocabulary in formal and scientific styles. The frequency of the functioning of emotionally expressive vocabulary in formal style varies depending on its subspheres. So, in total we examined 13,962 lexical units, including 4660 pieces of legislative language, 4,350 units of office language and 4953 units of diplomatic subsphere. As a result of the analysis of the factual material, 108 units of expressive vocabulary were identified within the legislative sublanguage which constituted 2.3% of the total.

The language of law is neutral, and any kind of personal assessment is not appropriate. An exception is trial speech as the effectiveness of argumentation is determined by the choice of language means (Palutina & Sabitova, 2019).

e.g., *«…**Friends,** this thing has happened **millions of times** in this world of ours; and it will happen **millions and millions of times** in the days to come…».*

*«…But did he **even** do that? **Never by letter! Never! Oh, no, gentlemen, oh, no!** »*

Of the 4,350 units of office sublanguage, 126 can be categorized as expressive vocabulary, which is 2.9% of the total. The requirements of business correspondence do not allow the use of strong expressions, but it cannot be said that this subsphere is absolutely strict in terms of having emotional coloring (please authorize us…; best regards…; we will greatly appreciate your help in this matter and shall be glad to assist….; we have pleasure in confirming…; in this way, however, you will certainly receive the goods…; I shall be glad if you would note this and honor it on

presentation…).

The field of diplomacy is the most expressive one: 218 emotionally colored lexical units were identified, therefore the frequency of the use of expressive means in this subsphere is 4.4%. The most often emotionality of speech is manifested in the speeches of public figures. The speaker, trying to convince listeners, is forced to use expressive language means (Khismatullina et al., 2021).

e.g., *"…Why stand we here idle? What is it that gentlemen wish? What would they have? Is life so dear, or peace so sweet, as to be purchased at the price of chains and slavery? Forbid it, Almighty God! I know not what course others may take; but as for me, give me liberty, or give me death!"*

Expressive language means primarily used in the formal style of the English language are modal words, parenthetical insertions, interjections, direct addresses and rhetorical questions (Mr.Prezident, it is natural to man to indulge in the illusions of hope. We are apt to shut our eyes against a painful truth – and listen to the sons of that siren, till she transforms us into beasts. Is this the part of wise men, engaged in a great and arduous struggle for liberty?), emphatic "to do" (I do order and declare that all persons held as slaves within said designated States and parts of States…), emphatic constructions and words it is…that, not only…but, at all, even, ever/never, so, such, very, too (..It is this open space between the limits that gives to bow force…; ..It is only when our rights are invaded or seriously menaced that we resent injuries or make preposition…;..I should argue that neither of this situation is at all desirable…;..In democratic state, culture is supported not only by the state but even more by civil society…;..For too long we have drifted without a strong sense of purpose..;…and to defence of our own, which has been achieved by the loss of so much blood…;…I feel so strongly about this – all of our efforts to strengthen the economy will fail), repetitions (Now it is the time to make real the promise of democracy. Now it is the time to rise from…. Now it is the time to lift our nation…Now it is the time to make justice), intensifying adverbs and adjectives (tremendous role, vital role, extremely critical, strict confidence, youthful energy, jealous care, wonderful sensation, increasing role, painful truth).

The information in scientific texts should be given in an objective manner. But the scientific style is certainly not devoid of expressiveness. Among 3100 lexical units examined 17 were defined as containing assessment to the alleged facts. It constitutes 0.5% of total and is the lowest figure compared with the data obtained from other sublanguages. The ways of realizing expression in scientific style include quantative expressiveness (very much, much less limited, very far from conservative, almost all of which, relatively small power), author's emphasizing the importance of information (an interesting problem is that of, one of the most remarkable phenomena is, note that, I wish to emphasize, it is relevant here to remind the reader it is very important observation for us, is of the greatest importance), focus on the credibility of the reported content (it is well known, clearly enough, it becomes evident), intensifying adjectives (perennial explanation, surprising properties, meaningful research, great function, elegant technique).

4. Summary

Both scientific and formal styles of the English language are restricted in wide use of expression due to aim of the styles to present the information in an unbiased and objective manner. The language of the styles can be characterized as concrete and explicit.

Lexical, morphological and syntactical peculiarities of the formal style depend on its

sublanguages (legislative, office and diplomatic). The common features are abundant professional terms and clichés. Among all three subspheres the diplomatic one is turned out to be the most flexible in terms of using expression. The office language is more neutral. The language of law is standardized, and any kind of personal assessment is not appropriate except that in trial speech. For example, emotional coloring of the attorney's arguments is determined by the desire to influence the outcome of the trial.

The balance of elements of influence and informing in scientific texts varies according to the level of reader's awareness in this area. As this level increases, the proportion of elements of influence decreases and the proportion of elements of the informing increases.

In the scientific style, the expressive means of language are local, single and usually not connected with the whole content of the text having only an explanatory function.

5. Conclusions

As a result of theoretical and experimental research inherent lexical, morphological and syntactical features of the formal and scientific styles of the English language were revealed. They allow to conclude that the scientific and formal styles should be considered as separate distinct functional styles.

The formal and scientific styles of English are similar in terms of standardized and objective presentation of information but nevertheless, are not devoid of expressiveness at all. The requirements of the language in these spheres determine the frequency and the way expression is realized. The study found out that the most prevalent forms of implementing expressiveness in the formal and scientific styles of the English language are modal words, emphatic constructions, intensifying adjectives and adverbs, rhetorical questions, direct addresses, interjections, parenthetical insertions, repetitions, quantative expression, author's emphasizing the importance of information reported, focus on the credibility of material.

Acknowledgements

References

I.V. Arnold (2002) Stylistics of modern English, Moscow. 316 p.

I.P.Galperin (1971) Stylistics, Moscow. 230 p.

Crystal, D. & Davy, D. (1969). Investigating English style. London: Longman. 264 p.

Carol, S. & Gregory, M. (1978). Language varieties and their social contexts. London: Routledge & Kegan Paul.

Donald C.Freeman (2018). Essays in modern stylistics. Taylor & Francis Group. 416 p.

J.Ahmad (2012) Stylistic Features of Scientific English: A Study of Scientific Research Articles. English Language and Literature Studies   Vol.2, №1. Pp.47-55

El-Mousawi, H., Zaraket, M., & Bou-Assi, C. (2022). Impact of Online Learning of Economics in Lebanon on Acquiring Essential Skills in Light of the COVID-19 Pandemic. *International Journal of Business, Management and Economics, 3*(1), 95-119. https://doi.org/10.55217/103.v12i1.501

Eniola, S. O., Alagah, D. A., & Oshi, J. E. (2022). Green Employee Involvement and Non-

Financial Corporate Performance in of Deposit Money Banks of in South-West, Nigeria. *International Journal of Business Management and Finance Research, 5*(1), 8-16. https://doi.org/10.53935/26415313.v5i1.205

Klimova B.F. (2013) Scientific prose style and its specifics. Procedia – Social and Behavioral Sciences. Vol.83. Pp.52-55.

Yu.M.Skrebnev (1994) Fundamentals of English Stylistics, Moscow. 190 p.

A.A.Ushakova (1967) Essays on stylistics of legal language, Perm. 73 p.

I. Richard (2006) L'évolution de l'emploi de shall, de must, et du présent simple dans le discours juridique normatif, dans le cadre du Plain Language Movement, ASp, 49-50. Pp.137-153.

I.Richard (2008) L'anglais du droit – Interpréter les modaux en contexte normatif, Aix-enProvence: Presses Universitaires de Provence.

V.A.Maltzev (1984) Essays on English Stylistics, Minsk. 261 p.

J.Branaa et al. (2006) The English of Law: England and Wales, Paris: Belin.

F.Pollock & F.Maitland (1968) The History of English Law, vol.1, Cambridge: Cambridge University Press.

S.A.Dubinko, A.I.Pichlak (1989) Business correspondence in English, Moscow. 185 p.

N.M.Shansky (1964) Modern lexicology, Moscow. 130 p.

O.G. Palutina, V.E. Sabitova (2019) Representation of information sources in judicial discourse. Kazan linguistic journal. Vol. 2. № 3. Pp.86-93.

L. G. Khismatullina, V. N. Khisamova, D. Khuzina (2021) Phraseological Units in Political Communication (Based on Electronic Mass Media Sources). APPLIED LINGUISTICS RESEARCH JOURNAL. Vol.5. Is.1. Pp.125-129.

Scientific biography

My name is Landysh Afraimovna Gizyatova

I am a senior lecturer at the Department of foreign languages, Institute of International Relations, Kazan (Volga region) Federal University, Kazan, Russia. My scientific interests are foreign language learning, drug education. I have 7 articles published in Scopus and Web of Science.

My name is Alina Albertovna Shakirova

candidate of pedagogical science, senior lecturer at the Department of European languages and cultures, Institute of International Relations, Kazan (Volga region) Federal University, Kazan, Russia. My scientific interests are independent foreign languages learning, internationalization, academic mobility. I have more than 20 scientific papers published in Scopus, Web of Science and leading peer-reviewed scientific journals.

My name is Rimma Raisovna Sagitova

I am a candidate of pedagogical science, associate professor at the Department of European languages and cultures, Institute of International Relations, Kazan (Volga region) Federal University, Kazan, Russia. My scientific interests are self-education, independent foreign languages learning, Language Portfolio. I have more than 20 scientific papers published in Scopus, Web of Science and leading peer-reviewed scientific journals.

Experience in teaching of foreign languages is 30 years. The main research topic is development of critical thinking of students. Nailya Fagimovna Plotnikova has 19 articles in Scopus, Web of Science. Most of her published works are devoted to critical thinking and teamwork questions.