

What is stylistics?

**Stylistics and levels of
language.**

- **Stylistics is a method of textual interpretation in which primacy of place is assigned to language. The reason why language is so important to stylisticians is because the various forms, patterns and levels that constitute linguistic structure are an important index of the function of the text.**

- **The preferred object of study in stylistics is literature, whether that be institutionally sanctioned ‘Literature’ as high art or more popular ‘noncanonical’ forms of writing. The traditional connection between stylistics and literature brings with it two important considerations, though.**

- **The first is that creativity and innovation in language use should not be seen as the exclusive preserve of literary writing. Many forms of discourse (advertising, journalism, popular music – even casual conversation) often display a high degree of stylistic dexterity, such that it would be wrong to view dexterity in language use as exclusive to canonical literature.**

- **The second consideration is that the techniques of stylistic analysis are as much about deriving insights about linguistic structure and function as they are about understanding literary texts. Thus, the question ‘What can stylistics tell us about literature?’ is always paralleled by an equally important question ‘What can stylistics tell us about language?’.**

- **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 the description of language, then the fuller the stylistic analysis is.**

- **The purpose of stylistics**

Why should we do stylistics?

- **To do stylistics is to explore language, and, more specifically, to explore creativity in language use. Doing stylistics thereby enriches our ways of thinking about language and, as observed, exploring language offers a substantial purchase on our understanding of texts.**

STYLISTICS AND LEVELS OF LANGUAGE

- **Basic categories, levels and units of analysis in language that can help organize and shape a stylistic analysis.**

- **Language in its broadest conceptualisation is not a disorganised mass of sounds and symbols, but is instead an intricate web of levels, layers and links. Thus, any utterance or piece of text is organised through several distinct levels of language.**

Levels of language

Level of language

The *sound* of spoken language;
the way words are pronounced.

The patterns of *written* language;
the shape of language on the page.

The way words are constructed;
words and their constituent structures.

The way words combine with other
words to form phrases and sentences.

Branch of language study

phonology; phonetics

graphology

morphology

syntax; grammar

The words we use; the vocabulary
of a language.

lexical analysis; lexicology

The *meaning* of words and sentences.

semantics

The way words and sentences are
used in everyday situations; the
meaning of language in context.

pragmatics; discourse analysis

- **These basic levels of language can be identified and teased out in the stylistic analysis of text, which in turn makes the analysis itself more organised and principled.**

PHONO-GRAPHICAL LEVEL. MORPHOLOGICAL LEVEL.

- **Sound Instrumenting.**
- **Onomatopoeia.**
- **Craphon. Graphical Means.**
- **Morphemic Repetition. Extension of Morphemic Valency.**

LEXICAL LEVEL

- **Word and its Semantic Structure.**
- ***Connotational Meanings of a Word.***
- ***The Role of the Context in the Actualization of Meaning.***
- **Stylistic Differentiation of the Vocabulary.**
- ***Literary Stratum of Words. Colloquial Words.***

Lexical Stylistic Devices

- *Metaphor. Metonymy.*
- *Synecdoche. Play on Words. Irony. Epithet.*
- *Hyperbole. Understatement. Oxymoron.*

- *Synecdoche* /sɪ'nekðəki/
- *Oxymoron* /ˌɒksɪ'mɔːrɒn/

SYNTACTICAL LEVEL

- Main Characteristics of the Sentence.
- Syntactical SDs.

Sentence Length. *One-Word Sentences. Sentence Structure. Punctuation. Arrangement of Sentence Members. Rhetorical Question. Types of Repetition. Parallel Constructions. Chiasmus /kɪ'azməs/. Inversion. Suspense, Detachment. Completeness of Sentence Structure. Ellipsis /ɪ'ɪpsɪs/. One-Member Sentences. Apokoinu Constructions. Break.*

- Types of Connection.

Polysyndeton. Asyndeton /ə'sɪndɪt(ə)n/. Attachment

Lexico-Syntactical Stylistic Devices.

- ***Antithesis. Climax. Anticlimax. Simile. Litotes. Periphrasis.***

- *Simile* /'sɪmɪli/
- *Litotes* /'lɪtətɪːz/

TYPES OF NARRATION

- *Author's Narrative. Dialogue. Interior Speech. Represented.*
- *Speech. Compositional Forms.*

- ***COGNITIVE STYLISTICS.***

Metaphor. Metonymy.

George Lakoff and Mark Johnson (2003)

Metaphors we live by.

London: The university of Chicago press.

Lakoff George, Johnson Mark. Metaphors We Live By. Chocago: The University of Chicago Press, 1981.

- **Metaphor is for most people a device of the poetic imagination and the rhetorical flourish—a matter of extraordinary rather than ordinary language. Moreover, metaphor is typically viewed as characteristic of language alone, a matter of words rather than thought or action.**

- **For this reason, most people think they can get along perfectly well without metaphor. We have found, on the contrary, that metaphor is pervasive in everyday life, not just in language but in thought and action. Our ordinary conceptual system, in terms of which we both think and act, is fundamentally metaphorical in nature.**