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STYLISTIC FUNCTIONS OF DIALECT IN ENGLISH LITERARY DISCOURSE

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Annotation: Dialect is an important element of language variation that reflects social, regional, and cultural identity. In English literary discourse, dialect is not only used for realism but also serves important stylistic functions. Writers often use dialect forms to shape characters, express emotions, and create a specific atmosphere in the text. The aim of this article is to explore the stylistic functions of dialect in English literary discourse. The study focuses on how dialect contributes to character development, narrative voice, and the overall meaning of literary texts. A qualitative approach is used, based on the analysis of linguistic and literary examples. The results show that dialect performs several stylistic roles. It helps create authentic characters, reflects social identity, and adds emotional depth to the narrative. At the same time, dialect can be used to highlight contrast between characters or social groups. These functions make literary discourse more expressive and meaningful.

In conclusion, dialect is not only a linguistic feature but also a powerful stylistic tool in English literature. It enriches the text and allows authors to represent social reality in a more vivid and natural way.

Keywords: dialect, stylistics, literary discourse, language variation, characterisation, narrative style, English literature

INTRODUCTION: Language in literature is always used with a purpose. Writers do not choose words randomly; they select specific forms of language to create meaning, express ideas, and shape characters. One of the most expressive elements of language in literary discourse is dialect. Dialect refers to a variety of language that is connected with a particular region, social group, or cultural background. It includes differences in pronunciation, vocabulary, and grammar. In English literary works, dialect is often used to make speech more natural and closer to real-life communication. However, its role is not limited to realism. Dialect also performs important stylistic functions. It helps authors create individual character voices, show social differences, and reflect cultural identity. Through dialect, readers can better understand who the characters are, where they come from, and what kind of social environment they belong to. From a stylistic point of view, dialect is a powerful tool that adds depth and expressiveness to a text. It allows writers to go beyond standard language and represent real communication more effectively. For example, when a character speaks in dialect, it immediately gives information about their personality, education, or social status. This makes the narrative more vivid and engaging.

In my opinion, the use of dialect in literary discourse is not only a linguistic choice but also a creative strategy. It helps writers build a stronger connection between language and meaning. Therefore, studying the stylistic functions of dialect is important for understanding how literary texts create social and emotional impact.

The purpose of this article is to analyze how dialect functions stylistically in English literary discourse and how it contributes to characterisation, meaning, and narrative expression.

LITERATURE REVIEW: According to P. Simpson, stylistics studies how language is used in literary texts to create meaning and effect. The author explains that linguistic choices, including dialect, play an important role in shaping the reader's interpretation of a text. Dialect is not only a reflection of spoken language but also a stylistic device that helps create character identity and narrative voice. Simpson also notes that variation in language can influence how readers perceive social and cultural differences in literature. This shows that dialect has both linguistic and artistic value in literary discourse.1

According to P. Trudgill, dialect is closely connected with social and regional identity. The author explains that language variation reflects differences between social groups and communities. In literature, these differences are often represented through dialect forms. Trudgill emphasizes that dialect can signal a character's background, social class, and level of education. At the same time, dialect usage can create contrast between characters and highlight social inequalities. This demonstrates that dialect has an important sociolinguistic function in literary texts.2

In my opinion, these ideas clearly show that dialect is more than just a form of language variation. It is a powerful stylistic tool that helps writers express deeper meanings. Through dialect, authors can make their texts more realistic and emotionally rich. It also allows readers to better understand the social context of the story.

METHODOLOGY: This study uses a qualitative approach to analyze the stylistic functions of dialect in English literary discourse. The aim is to understand how dialect is used in literary texts to create meaning, develop characters, and reflect social identity. The research is based on the analysis of selected literary examples and relevant linguistic theories.

First, theoretical sources related to stylistics and linguistics were reviewed in order to establish the main concepts of dialect and its functions in discourse. Special attention was given to how language variation is interpreted in literary studies. According to N. Mahmudov, language units in a text are not used randomly but serve specific communicative and stylistic purposes, which is especially visible in the use of dialect forms.3

Second, examples from English literary texts were analyzed descriptively. The focus was on identifying how dialect reflects character identity, social background, and emotional expression. The analysis also examined how dialect creates contrast and adds depth to the narrative. In my opinion, this method allows a clear connection between linguistic theory and literary analysis. It helps explain not only how dialect is used, but also why it is important in shaping the meaning of literary discourse.

ANALYSIS AND RESULTS: The analysis of English literary texts shows that dialect performs several important stylistic functions, which go beyond simple imitation of spoken language. One of the main functions of dialect is characterisation. When authors use dialect forms in dialogue, they create a clear and recognizable identity for their characters. For example, in many novels by Charles Dickens, characters from lower social classes speak in non-standard forms of English. Their speech includes grammatical simplifications, informal vocabulary, and phonetic spelling. This immediately signals to the reader the character's social position, level of education, and background. As a result, dialect becomes a powerful tool for building realistic

1 Simpson, P. *Stylistics: A Resource Book for Students.* – London: Routledge, 2004. – 65–67 p.

2 Trudgill, P. *Sociolinguistics: An Introduction to Language and Society.* – London: Penguin Books, 2000. – 78–80 p.

3 Mahmudov, N., Nurmonov, A. *Tilshunoslik nazariyasi asoslari.* – Toshkent: Fan, 2010. – 95–97 b.

and memorable characters. Another important function of dialect is the representation of social and cultural identity. Dialect allows writers to reflect the diversity of society within a literary text. In works such as Mark Twain's *The Adventures of Huckleberry Finn*, different characters speak in different dialects, representing regional and social differences in American society. Through these variations, the author shows how language is connected with culture and social experience. The use of dialect in this way helps readers better understand the cultural environment in which the story takes place. Dialect also plays a significant role in shaping the narrative voice and atmosphere of a literary work. When dialect is used not only in dialogue but also in narration, it creates a stronger sense of authenticity. The text begins to reflect the perspective of a particular community or character. For instance, in some modern literary works, authors use dialect in narration to give the story a more personal and emotional tone. This makes the narrative more engaging and closer to real-life communication. Another stylistic function of dialect is the creation of contrast and emphasis. Writers often use dialect to highlight differences between characters or social groups. For example, when one character speaks standard English and another uses a strong regional dialect, the contrast between them becomes more noticeable. This contrast can be used to show differences in social class, education, or worldview. It can also create tension or conflict within the story.

From my perspective, one of the most important findings is that dialect adds emotional depth and expressiveness to literary discourse. Standard language may sometimes appear neutral or distant, while dialect brings a sense of immediacy and authenticity. When readers encounter dialect speech, they can "hear" the voice of the character more clearly. This creates a stronger emotional connection between the reader and the text. Overall, the results of the analysis demonstrate that dialect is not simply a linguistic variation, but a meaningful stylistic device. It contributes to characterisation, reflects social identity, shapes narrative voice, and enhances emotional impact. These functions show that dialect plays a central role in making literary discourse more vivid, realistic, and socially meaningful.

DISCUSSION: The analysis shows that dialect plays an important role in English literary discourse. It helps create realistic characters and reflects their social and cultural background. Through dialect, writers can show differences between social groups and make the text more expressive. In my opinion, dialect also creates a stronger emotional connection between the reader and the characters. It makes dialogue more natural and lively. However, it should be used carefully so that the text remains clear and understandable.

CONCLUSION: In conclusion, dialect plays an important stylistic role in English literary discourse. It is not only used to reflect spoken language but also to develop characters and show their social and cultural identity. Dialect makes literary texts more realistic and expressive. It helps readers better understand the background of characters and the context of the story. In my opinion, the use of dialect strengthens the connection between language and meaning. Therefore, it is an effective stylistic device that enriches literary works and makes them more engaging for readers

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