

UNIT 5

NATURE AND STYLE OF WRITING

Describing Style of Writing

- writing style is the manner of expressing thought in language characteristic of an individual, period, school, or nation.
- Style in language is the literary element that describes the ways that the author uses words — the author's word choice, sentence structure, figurative language, and sentence arrangement all work together to establish mood, images, and meaning in the text.
- Style describes how the author describes events, objects, and ideas.

Describing Style of Writing

- One easy way to understand literary style is to think about fashion styles. Clothes can be formal and dressy, informal and casual, preppy, athletic, and so forth. Language style is like the clothes that a text puts on. By analogy, the information underneath is like the person's body, and the specific words, structures, and arrangements that are used are like the clothes. Just as we can dress one person in several different fashions, we can dress a single message in several different literary styles.

Defining Style of Writing

- The style in writing can be defined as the way a writer writes. It is the technique that an individual author uses in his writing. It varies from author to author, and depends upon one's syntax, word choice, and tone. It can also be described as a “voice” that readers listen to when they read the work of a writer.

A Good Writing style is to:

- express the message to the reader simply, clearly, and convincingly;
- keep the reader attentive, engaged, and interested.

Classifying Styles of Writing

1. **Expository Writing:** It is also called as informative writing, this style of writing attempts to relay facts for the sole purpose of spreading information. The writer does not impart his or her opinion, attempt to make a subjective reflection, or offer a description from a particular point of view. This type of writing is common to textbooks, research papers, news stories, encyclopaedias and instruction manual.

Classifying Styles of Writing

2. **Persuasive Writing:** Also referred to as argumentative writing, persuasive writing attempts to convince a reader of a certain idea or position on an issue. This writing is characterised by its focus on arguments supported through reasoning and facts. Persuasive writing does not include writing that merely states what other people's opinions are without adding their own commentary. For example, news articles that explain presidential candidates opinions on an issue is not persuasive but expository. Persuasive writing is common to editorials, speeches, business ideas, complaints, critiques and reviews.

Classifying Styles of Writing

3. Descriptive Writing: This writing style attempts to describe a particular action, object, person, place, event, or sense. In contrast to expository writing, it's description is often more romantic, extraordinarily detailed, personal, and subjective. However, it's main goal is to allow the reader to sense, see, and feel everything that a particular phenomenon evoked in the writer. To distinguish between an expository and descriptive explanation, evaluate whether the writing is more personal or distant. Distant writing is expository while personal writing is descriptive. An expository description of the moon, for instance, will state it's size, perceived color, consistency, and sound relatively scientific. A descriptive writer will describe all of that but also relate the emotions felt, state the memories summoned, compare it to cheese, ponder at its mysteriousness, assign it unique and arguable characteristics, and perhaps even observe some introspective truth. Descriptive writing truly attempts to captivate the reader. The descriptive type of writing is common to poetry, diaries, parts of larger stories, and love letters.

Classifying Styles of Writing

4. **Narrative Writing:** The author attempts to tell a story in narrative writing complete with characters, actions, dialogue, plot, and setting. It is usually fictional, but can be non-fictional as well if presented correctly. For example, a documentary on the end of the Aztecs may be narrative if it elaborates on relationships, events, mentions impact, subtly speculates, and chooses specific facts to add to the story. In narrative writing, the story is central, not the facts. It will feel more like a story in which the Aztec Empire happened to crumble. An expository writing on the fall of the Aztecs will present all contributing reasons but will not endeavor to tell a story; it will sound like a textbook. A persuasive paper on the fall of the Aztecs will argue a point throughout such as which factor was most important, whether it was inevitable, etc. Narrative writing focuses on telling a story and is often found in novels, screen scripts, plays, stories, and legends.

Nature of Writing

- The nature of writing can be widely defined from several perspectives.
- They are in comparison with speaking, as a physical and mental activity, as a cognitive activity and a means of communication.
- In the process of language learning, there are four language skills that must be learnt by the learners namely listening, speaking, reading and writing. From the four language skills, writing is categorized as one of the productive skills along with speaking since they involve producing language rather than receiving it
- Although both writing and speaking are productive skills, those two skills are basically different in various ways. The differences lie on a number of dimensions including textual features, socio-cultural norm, pattern of use and cognitive process.