

Language & Style



Topics

- Language Structure
- Language Component
- Style
- Factors affecting style

Language structure.

Considering the structure, language is used in two related but different ways:

- a) A specific language: French, Portuguese, Farsi, Urdu etc.
- b) Much broader sense: The general design plan that is common to all languages. **All human languages are built on the same underlying design plan**, but differ in many details.

Example: if we consider dog analogy.

- Many differences in detail across breeds and individual dogs.

Language structure:

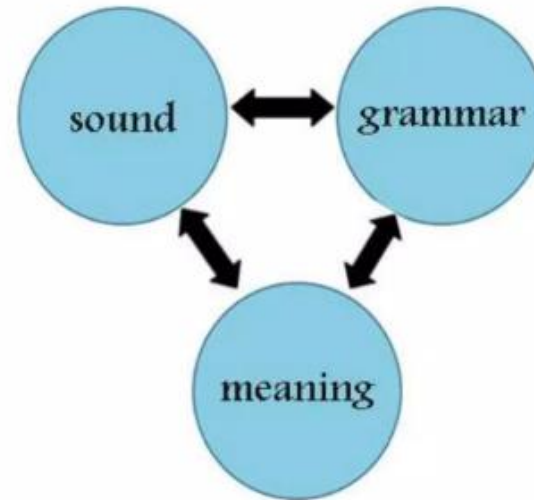
- But the deeper truth is that they are all built on the same body plan and have far more in common than the superficial differences suggest.
- Language works this way as well. All human languages are built on the same basic design plan. The broad design features that all languages have in common run deeper and are far more important than the differences in details.



Language components:

All languages are equal from a linguistic point of view:

- a) They all have sound and sound systems
- b) They all have words and word meanings
- c) All have grammar



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Components of language structure:

- In order to analyze or describe any language we need these three components to work together (not independently) to arrive at an adequate analysis or description.
- Each component has further subdivisions (or levels) which work as complementary for one another

sound

phonetics

phonology

grammar

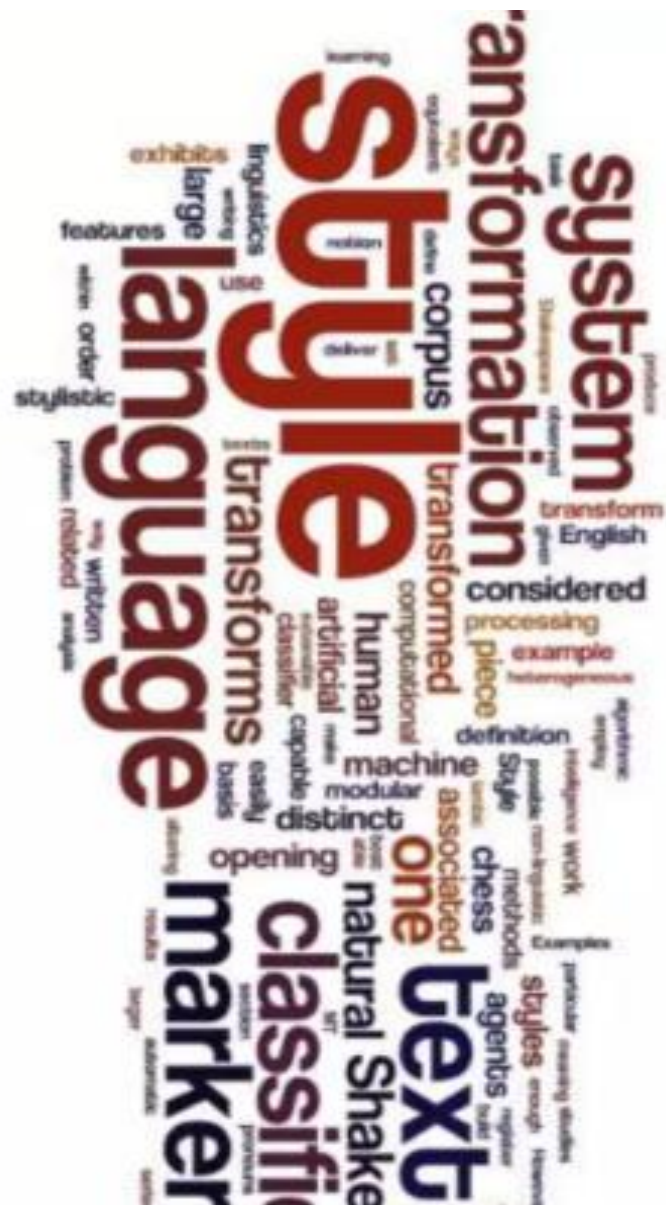
syntax

morphology

meaning

semantics

Factors affecting style



- A social identity
- Variation in language
- The choice of words used by a specific group of people when they speak.
- **style** is a set of linguistic variants with specific social meanings. In this context, social meanings can include group membership, personal attributes or beliefs.



Style:

when analyzing an style, we need to consider:

- point-of-view
- formal or informal way
- organization/structure of language
- level of complexity
- Overall tone



Classification of style:

Style can be classified on two bases:

a) On the media of communication

- Spoken
 - Written
-

b) On the basis of register:

- business style
- scientific style

Classification of style:

Style can be of two types:

a) **Formal**

It is often associated with the conventions expected of standard English. At its most extreme, formal language is signaled by complex, complete sentences, impersonality, avoidance of colloquial or slang vocabulary, and a consistent preference for learned words.

Example.

Prior to the discovery of America, potatoes were not consumed in Europe.

Classification of style:

2. Informal:

is characterized by a simpler grammatical structure i.e. loosely-connected sentences and phrases, personal evaluation, and a colloquial or slang vocabulary.

Example:

Before they discovered America, Europeans didn't eat potatoes.

Levels of style.

Martin Joos in his book "The Five Clocks" classified both spoken and written style into five levels of formality. They are such as follow:

- a) Frozen style
- b) Formal style
- c) Consultative style
- d) Casual style
- e) Intimate style

Levels of style:

a) Frozen style :

- The most formal style that usually used in respectful situation or formal ceremony
- It is also called oratorical style which characterized by the very careful, has fixed form, and has symbolic or historical nature.

- Example:

certain fixed expressions as:

“Yes your honor”

“Yes my lord”

“I object”

Levels of style:

b) Formal style:

- it is used in the formal events, talks about the serious problem such as in the formal speeches and official meeting.
- The characteristics are careful and standard speech, low tempo speech, technical vocabulary, avoidance of main word repetition and its use of synonyms.
- Example:
“Those taking part should sit during the proceedings.”

Levels of style:

c) Consultative:

- the most operational among the other styles.
- The sentence tend to be shorter and less well planned
- Since it is spontaneous, people tend to repeat some unnecessary words, choose the wrong word choice or use many slang.
- It is used in some group discussion, regular conversation at school, companies, trade speech conversation, etc.

Levels of style:

d) Casual:

- Casual style is also simply defined as a style that is used for the conversation in our relaxed or normal situation
- casual speech is the omissions of unstressed words, particularly at the beginning of sentences.
- It is often used in the conversation between friends or family. It is usually applied in
- daily conversation, in relaxed time such as when they picnic or sport, etc.

Levels of style.

e) Intimate:

- It is a style among intimate members of a family or friends that do not need a complete language with clear articulation.
- The example for this style is: "Hey darling, how are you?"

Factors affecting style:

Factors affecting style may be as follows:

a) kind of occasion:

It depends on physical settings around us.

For example in a party with friends we behave differently as compare to classroom.



Factors affecting style:

b) Social class and education:

Social class and education are important to determine the language style.

For example lower class and less educated people tend to simplify the way of speaking while upper class and higher educated people tend to use complicated forms.



Factors affecting style.

c) Age and gender.

Age and gender are also important factors that determine language style.

For example considering the factor of age elders may speak a bit different from youngers.

And considering gender females language style shows nurturance and concern for others whereas males have authoritative and impersonal style.



Factors affecting style:

d) Ethnicity:

Different ethnic backgrounds can provoke differences in language styles.

For example AFRICAN-AMERICANS have a dialect called Black English Vernacular. They use double negative forms such as “I don’t know nothing.”