

STYLISTICALLY COLORED VOCABULARY AND VOCABULARY OF RESTRICTED USAGE: A LINGUISTIC ANALYSIS

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Abstract. This article examines the phenomena of stylistically colored vocabulary and vocabulary of restricted usage within the framework of modern linguistic theory. Stylistically colored vocabulary is understood as lexicon marked by expressive, emotional, or stylistic connotations, whereas vocabulary of restricted usage is delimited by specific professional, regional, or social domains. The study outlines the key types, functions, and characteristics of each lexical category and analyses the interplay between stylistic and social constraints in language use. Attention is also paid to the relevance of these phenomena for lexicology, sociolinguistics, translation studies, and applied linguistics. The article concludes that both categories are essential for the investigation of language variation, functional stylistics, and communicative competence.

Key Words: stylistically colored vocabulary, restricted vocabulary, connotation, functional stylistics, sociolinguistic variation, expressive meaning, emotive vocabulary, colloquial lexicon, literary vocabulary, slang, jargon.

**СТИЛИСТИЧЕСКИ ОКРАШЕННАЯ ЛЕКСИКА И ЛЕКСИКА
ОГРАНИЧЕННОГО УПОТРЕБЛЕНИЯ: ЛИНГВИСТИЧЕСКИЙ АНАЛИЗ**

Аннотация. В статье рассматриваются явления стилистически окрашенной лексики и лексики ограниченного употребления в рамках современной лингвистической теории. Стилистически окрашенная лексика понимается как словарный состав, отмеченный выразительными, эмоциональными или стилистическими коннотациями, тогда как лексика ограниченного употребления определяется специфическими профессиональными, региональными или социальными сферами. В исследовании определяются основные типы, функции и характеристики каждой лексической категории, а также анализируется взаимодействие стилистических и социальных ограничений в языковом употреблении. Особое внимание уделяется значимости этих явлений для лексикологии, социолингвистики, переводоведения и прикладной лингвистики. Делается вывод, что обе категории являются важными для изучения языковой вариативности, функциональной стилистики и коммуникативной компетенции.

Ключевые слова: стилистически окрашенная лексика, лексика ограниченного употребления, коннотация, функциональная стилистика, социолингвистическая вариативность, экспрессивное значение, эмотивная лексика, разговорная лексика, книжная лексика, сленг, жаргон.

Introduction. Language is not only a means of communication but also a tool for expressing social identity, emotional attitudes, cultural norms, and stylistic preferences. Within any language system, lexical units differ not only in their denotational meaning but also in their stylistic value and sphere of use. Two important categories that illustrate this variation are stylistically colored vocabulary and vocabulary of restricted usage. Understanding these categories is essential for linguistic analysis, language teaching, translation, and effective communication across diverse contexts.

Lexical units in natural language differ not only by their denotational value but also by stylistic, expressive, and sociolinguistic properties. The distinction between stylistically colored vocabulary and vocabulary of restricted usage is central to the study of functional stylistics and sociolinguistic variation. These two categories highlight how linguistic choices are influenced by communicative intention, social identity, and the situational context of speech (Galperin, 1981; Crystal, 2008). Understanding such differentiation is crucial for analyzing discourse, teaching language effectively, and ensuring accurate translation and intercultural communication.

Stylistically colored vocabulary includes lexical items that convey an additional expressive or stylistic layer beyond the basic denotational meaning. According to Galperin (1981), such words perform not only a referential function but also an expressive and pragmatic function, signaling the speaker's emotional state, evaluative judgment, or communicative intent. They belong to specific functional styles—colloquial, poetic, elevated, archaic, journalistic, and others.

Types of Stylistic Coloring:

1. **Emotive and Evaluative Vocabulary:** These items carry connotative meaning that expresses emotional or subjective evaluation. *Examples: splendid, awful, wretched.*
2. **Colloquial and Conversational Vocabulary:** Characteristic of informal, everyday communication. *Examples: kid, guy, gonna, wanna.*
3. **Bookish or Literary Vocabulary:** Typical of formal or academic writing, elevated prose, or public speeches. *Examples: commence, therefore, notwithstanding.*
4. **Poetic, Archaic, and Historic Vocabulary:** Often associated with literary tradition, antiquity, or stylistically elevated narratives. *Examples: thee, thy, ere, hath.*
5. **Slang and Substandard Vocabulary:** Stylistically low or highly informal expressions used for stylistic effect or group identity. *Examples: cool, cringe, dude.*

Functions of stylistically colored vocabulary

- Expressive and emotive function enhances the emotional and aesthetic effect of speech (Arnold, 2015).
- Stylistic differentiation helps distinguish genres, registers, and functional styles.
- Pragmatic function indicates communicative intent such as irony, solidarity, politeness, or aggression.

Through stylistic coloring, vocabulary becomes a powerful tool that goes beyond mere information exchange.

Vocabulary of restricted usage encompasses lexemes limited to specific domains, professions, social groups, or geographical regions. These restrictions arise due to specialized communicative needs, cultural traditions, or group identity markers (Crystal, 2010).

Types of Restricted Vocabulary

1. **Professional Terminology:** Terms used by experts in specialized fields such as medicine, law, engineering, or linguistics. *Examples: myocardial infarction, jurisdiction, phoneme, algorithm.* Terminology is characterized by precision, stability, and low stylistic coloration (Grishina, 2011).
2. **Professional and Social Jargon:** Lexicon used informally within professional or social groups, often not widely understood outside them. *Examples: debug, code blue, freshman fifteen.*
3. **Argot:** Secretive or coded vocabulary used historically by criminals or marginalized groups. *Examples: stash, snitch, loot.* Argot serves as a marker of in-group solidarity and secrecy.
4. **Dialectal Vocabulary:** Words belonging to specific regional varieties of a language. *Examples: lass (Scotland), y'all (Southern U.S.).*

5. Slang: Informal vocabulary used predominantly by youth or subcultures; although slang is stylistically colored, it is also socially restricted (Eble, 1996).

Examples: lit, vibe, ghost (v.).

Characteristics of Restricted-Use Vocabulary

- It is often unintelligible to outsiders.
- It may evolve rapidly, with words entering and leaving usage quickly.
- It strengthens group cohesion and identity.
- It may serve as a marker of professional competency (terminology) or social belonging (slang, jargon).

Comparative Analysis: A systematic comparison reveals several distinctions and areas of overlap.

Criterion	Stylistically Colored Vocabulary	Restricted-Usage Vocabulary
Primary Basis	Stylistic or expressive value	Social, professional, or geographical limitations
Function	Expresses attitude, tone, emotion	Serves specialized or group-specific communication
Accessibility	Widely understood but stylistically marked	May be incomprehensible to outsiders
Stability	Varies: poetic forms stable, slang unstable	Terminology stable, slang/argot unstable

Many lexemes fit both categories:

- Slang is both stylistically colored and socially restricted.
- Jargon can be stylistically neutral within the group but stylistically marked outside it.
- Dialect words acquire stylistic coloring when used outside their native region.

Thus, the boundaries between categories are fluid rather than rigid, reflecting the dynamic nature of language.

The study of these lexical categories is important for several domains:

1. Lexicology and Functional Stylistics: They reveal mechanisms of language variation and stylistic stratification.
2. Sociolinguistics: Restricted vocabulary provides insight into group identity, social stratification, and linguistic change.
3. Translation Studies: Accurate rendering of stylistic coloring and restricted vocabulary is essential for preserving cultural nuance.
4. Language Pedagogy: Learners benefit from understanding stylistic distinctions and domain-specific vocabulary.

Conclusion. Stylistically colored vocabulary and vocabulary of restricted usage represent essential dimensions of lexical semantics and language variation. While stylistically colored vocabulary highlights expressive and pragmatic aspects of communication, vocabulary of restricted usage underscores the social, professional, and regional differentiation of language. Their interaction demonstrates the complex interplay between linguistic form, communicative function, and social context. A comprehensive understanding of these categories enriches linguistic research and enhances practical competence in communication, translation, and teaching.

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