Subject matter: Socio-stylistic, Functional and Gender Peculiarities of English Speech (Based on Male and Female Speech in J. Fowles’ Novels).

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ABSTRACT

The language as a social phenomenon reflects various relevant social characteristics of the human being viewed in the context of his or her discourse performance. Along these lines, the works by the prominent English writer J. Fowles present valuable material for analyzing the stylistic variability of linguistic units in gender-sensitive discourse. The characters that Fowles has succeeded in creating, especially their communicative behavior, can be viewed as representing the socially marked patterns of using the English language.

The presented research project is aimed at studying the stylistic variability of linguistic units with regard to the social and gender position of this or that literary personage. The research has shown that the stylistic variability of the English language is largely conditioned by the social status of the speaker. By the notion of the social status we understand the combination of the biological characteristics determining the person’s trajectory along the social ladder, in combination with the social roles he or she is required to fulfill within the structure of society.

The complex gender-social factor influences the use of stylistically and emotionally marked linguistic units in the discourse process. The linguistic units under discussion here include vocatives, addressatives, evaluative nominations and other expressive lexis.

The aforementioned vocabulary strata display variability that is gender sensitive. Vocatives and addressatives possessing a distinctive emotive content are more frequent in the male discourse where they appear as regular markers of the gender component of discourse. In the female speech, on the other hand, such vocatives and addressatives are much less frequent and situation-dependent, and their use can be interpreted as socio-linguistically significant.

Therefore, the status and the roles of the communicants heavily influence the stylistically relevant use of several lexical strata of the English language.