



STYLISTIC FUNCTIONS AND CHARACTERISTICS OF LITERARY DIALOGUE

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Article history:	Abstract:
<p>Received: 8th March 2026 Accepted: 7th April, 2026</p>	<p>This article provides a comprehensive analysis of the stylistic significance of dialogue in literary texts, as well as its communicative and cognitive functions and linguistic features. As an essential component of literary discourse, dialogue not only represents interaction between characters but also serves to reveal their inner world, psychological state, and socio-cultural characteristics. The study highlights the role of dialogue in enhancing expressiveness, creating a sense of realism, and ensuring the development of events within the narrative. Furthermore, the individual and typical features of dialogic speech are examined, along with its lexical, syntactic, and pragmatic aspects, supported by relevant examples. The article substantiates the role of literary dialogue as a distinctive stylistic device based on modern linguistic approaches.</p>

Keywords: Literary text, dialogue, stylistics, character speech, expressiveness, communicativeness, individual speech, pragmatics.

INTRODUCTION. In modern linguistics, dialogue is considered one of the important objects of research in the process of literary text analysis. This is because dialogue is not only a form of speech, but also a direct expression of human thinking, social relations, and communicative activity. Through dialogue in literary works, the author vividly and naturally reflects reality, reveals the relationships between characters, and produces a strong emotional impact on the reader. The study of dialogue is carried out at the intersection of such fields as stylistics, pragmatics, and cognitive linguistics. In particular, the cognitive approach makes it possible to interpret dialogue as a product of human thought. From this perspective, dialogue is not merely a linguistic unit, but also the result of processes of cognition and perception. The specificity of literary dialogue lies in the fact that, although it resembles real speech, it is intentionally selected and stylistically processed by the author. Therefore, it appears as an intermediate phenomenon between natural speech and an artistic means of expression. The purpose of this article is to systematically highlight the stylistic functions of literary dialogue and its main linguistic characteristics.

Dialogue is the principal form of human communication, reflecting the natural functions of language in the fullest way. In a literary work, however, dialogue possesses a dual nature: on the one hand, it reflects real speech, and on the other hand, it is stylistically and aesthetically transformed by the author. For this reason, literary dialogue is regarded as an intermediate phenomenon between natural speech and artistic representation.

The main purpose of this article is to provide a systematic analysis of the stylistic functions and linguistic features of literary dialogue. To achieve this aim, the communicative, expressive, and pragmatic functions of dialogue, as well as its lexical and syntactic characteristics, are examined.

The term "dialogue" originates from the Greek word *dialogos*, meaning "a conversation between two or more people." In linguistics, dialogue is interpreted as an interactive form of speech. In a literary text, however, it becomes a means of expressing the author's aesthetic intention.

Several scientific approaches exist for the study of dialogue: the stylistic approach examines the role of dialogue as a means of expression; the pragmatic approach analyzes the purpose and impact of speech; and the cognitive approach interprets dialogue as a product of thought. The combination of these approaches helps to understand the complex nature of dialogue.

Let us consider the main stylistic functions of literary dialogue:

1. Revealing the character's personality.

First and foremost, dialogue reveals the individual characteristics of a character. Through speech, it becomes possible to identify the character's age, social status, educational background, and worldview. For example, simple sentences often express emotional states or simplicity, whereas complex sentences demonstrate intellectual depth and sophisticated thinking.

2. Ensuring the development of the plot.

In many literary works, events unfold precisely through dialogue. Conflicts emerge and develop through conversations between characters. As a result, dialogue provides the work with dramatic dynamics and narrative movement.

3. Enhancing expressiveness.

Dialogue makes it possible to express emotions directly. Through exclamations, repetitions, pauses, and intonation, speech becomes more vivid and emotionally impactful.

4. Creating realism.

Dialogue is distinguished by its closeness to real-life speech. For this reason, it gives the text a sense of naturalness and helps immerse the reader in the events of the story.

5. Indirectly expressing the author's position.

Authors often convey their own views and ideas through the speech of characters. This creates a natural form of expression rather than a direct didactic statement.

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Lexical Characteristics. In dialogue, elements of everyday speech, dialectisms, jargon, and expressive units are widely used. This makes the characters' speech more vivid and realistic.

Syntactic Characteristics. Dialogic speech often consists of short and incomplete sentences. The phenomenon of ellipsis is especially common:

- "Are you coming?"
- "Yes."

Such structures make speech faster and more dynamic.

Pragmatic Characteristics. Implicit meaning (implicature) plays an important role in dialogue. Characters often do not express their thoughts directly or completely, but rather convey them through hints and indirect expressions.

From the perspective of cognitive linguistics, dialogue is a direct expression of human thought. Through dialogue, a person:

- processes information,
- evaluates situations,
- makes decisions.

Therefore, dialogue is not only a means of communication, but also a reflection of the thinking process itself.

CONCLUSION

In conclusion, literary dialogue is not only an integral part of a literary text, but also an important stylistic device that ensures its semantic and aesthetic integrity. It directly influences the development of events in a literary work, enlivens the plot, reveals the relationships between characters, and serves to express their inner world, emotional experiences, and individual characteristics in a natural and convincing manner. Through dialogue, the author brings the reader into the center of events, placing them "face to face" with the characters and thereby creating a strong emotional impact.

The main features of literary dialogue — such as naturalness, brevity, expressiveness, and individuality — ensure its closeness to real speech. These characteristics prevent dialogue from seeming artificial and provide the literary work with vitality and realism. Moreover, the uniqueness of each character's speech reflects, through linguistic means, their social status, cultural level, psychological condition, and even worldview. Therefore, dialogue represents a complex and multifaceted phenomenon situated at the intersection of linguistics and literary studies.

Modern linguistic approaches, particularly cognitive and pragmatic methods of analysis, provide opportunities for a deeper study of literary dialogue. The cognitive approach reveals how human thought and knowledge structures are expressed through dialogue, while pragmatic analysis helps identify communicative intentions, implicit meanings, and contextual factors within speech interaction. This makes it possible to interpret dialogue not merely as a linguistic unit, but as a complex communicative process.

Thus, the study of literary dialogue is significant not only from a theoretical perspective, but also from a practical one. It serves as an important resource in translation studies, text analysis, language teaching methodology, and the development of speech culture. In the future, broader interdisciplinary research on literary dialogue, the discovery of its new dimensions, and its practical application will remain one of the most relevant and promising directions in linguistics.

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