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**STRATEGIC FRAMING AND LANGUAGE-SPECIFIC FEATURES OF
THE AUTOBIOGRAPHICAL DISCOURSE (BASED ON
AUTOBIOGRAPHIES OF NOBEL PRIZE LAUREATES IN
LITERATURE)**

Yemelyanova Olena, Novitchenko Valeriia. Strategic framing and language-specific features of the autobiographical discourse (based on autobiographies of Nobel Prize laureates in literature)

The article focuses on the study of strategic framing and language-specific features of the autobiographical discourse (based on autobiographies of Nobel Prize laureates in literature). The main approaches to the understanding of linguistic personality in the process of creating the autobiographic discourse have been distinguished. The article analyses the characteristic features of the creative personality and the level of its linguistic creativity. The high level of linguistic excellence proves the great creative potential of the authors of the studied autobiographies. High frequency of use of stylistically marked expressive means and figures of speech, such as: stylistic convergences, epithets, metaphors and similes has been observed. The concept of the autobiographical discourse and consideration of its features have been disclosed. Linguopragmatic features of tactical and strategic organization of autobiographical discourse have been analyzed. Special attention is paid to the description of the usage of multi-component stylistic convergences. The autobiographical discourse of Nobel Prize laureates gives an opportunity to comprehend the degree of creative individuality of the author, to find out the components of the linguistic personality, elements of worldview, their relation to reality, surroundings and themselves. Autobiographical texts fully disclose the linguistic personality, as they present a real picture of a person's views of the world, their conceptualization and categorization of the world around. Each text is a reflection of the external conditions of communication and the inner world of man. Different types of autobiographies and manifestations of the autobiographical in language and speech form the autobiographical discourse.

Key words: *autobiographical discourse, linguistic personality, expressive means, linguopragmatic features, tactic, strategy.*

Ємельянова Олена, Новітченко Валерія. Стратегічна організація та мовні особливості автобіографічного дискурсу (на матеріалі автобіографії лауреатів Нобелівської премії з літератури).

Статтю присвячено вивченню стратегічної організації, мовних і мовленнєвих особливостей автобіографічного дискурсу (на матеріалі автобіографій лауреатів Нобелівської премії з літератури). Увага фокусується на розкритті поняття *автобіографічний дискурс* та розгляді його особливостей, аналізі лексико-стилістичних засобів, представлених в

автобіографічному дискурсі, дослідженні лінгвопрагматичних особливостей тактико-стратегічної організації автобіографічного дискурсу.

Ключові слова: автобіографічний дискурс, мовна особистість, лексико-стилістичні засоби, лінгвопрагматичні особливості, тактика, стратегія.

Емельянова Елена, Новитченко Валерия. Стратегическая организация и языковые особенности автобиографического дискурса (на материале автобиографии лауреатов Нобелевской премии по литературе).

Статья посвящена изучению стратегической организации языковых и речевых особенностей автобиографического дискурса (на материале автобиографий лауреатов Нобелевской премии по литературе). Внимание фокусируется на раскрытии понятия *автобиографический дискурс* и рассмотрении его особенностей, анализе лексико-стилистических средств, представленных в автобиографическом дискурсе, исследовании лингвопрагматических особенностей тактико-стратегической организации автобиографического дискурса.

Ключевые слова: автобиографический дискурс, языковая личность, лексико-стилистические средства, лингвопрагматическое особенности, тактика, стратегия.

Target setting. Description of an individual's life has always attracted attention of people, especially this phenomenon has become popular in the XXI century. In recent years, biographies have gained particular recognition.

The topicality of the research is stipulated by the anthropocentric paradigm in linguistics and by the lack of thorough studies of the autobiographical discourse that reflects the author's unique view of the world. **The object** of the research is the autobiographical discourse of Nobel Prize laureates in literature. **The subject** of this study is strategic framing and language-specific peculiarities of the autobiographical discourse.

The purpose of this article is to study the lexical-stylistic and linguopragmatic features of the autobiographical discourse, its tactics and strategies. In accordance with this goal, the following **main tasks** are fulfilled: (1) study of the phenomenon of the autobiographical discourse and its peculiar features; (2) analysis of lexical-stylistic means presented in the autobiographical discourse; (3) study of linguopragmatic features of tactical and strategic framing of the autobiographical discourse. Complex research methods are used in the course of research, among them are inductive, contextual, pragmatic methods of analyses.

Analysis of recent research and publications.

The autobiographical discourse has been of scientific interest for both foreign and Ukrainian scholars. The researchers focus their attention on the relations constructing between self and experience in autobiographical narratives (M. Pasupathi, E. Mansour, J. Brubaker), they investigate the peculiarities of

self-invention (P. Eakin), creativity (Y. Zhao), narrative features (M. Freeman), linguistic personality foregrounding (L.P. Serdiychuk) in the autobiographical discourse.

Results of the research. Studies in the field of linguistics in recent years, with a common focus on moving beyond the syntax of sentences, looking at a language as a social phenomenon, focusing on interaction with humanitarian disciplines, have been reflected in the doctrine of discourse that has given impulse to the development of a new discipline – discourse analysis. Explanation of the term underwent different configurations.

The autobiographical discourse as a special type of discourse that is convenient for self-expression, self-esteem, self-presentation of the author, carries a great rhetorical load. The autobiographical discourse has a number of functions among which we differentiate didactic, ascertaining, expressive, reflexive, appellative, accusatory, exculpatory, advertising, entertaining, protective, grateful, and cultural.

Autobiography is an interdisciplinary object of study. Researchers seek to develop and systematize theoretical and practical knowledge about the phenomenon of autobiography, which ultimately expands the image of the person [5, p. 92].

The autobiographical discourse as an object of linguistic analysis requires description according to the following parameters: purpose, function, situations of appeal to discourse, participants of discursive activity, genre forms of discourse realization, chronotope, relation of subjective and objective, concepts that form discourse, communicative strategies and tactics, means of linguistic and speech implementation, gender specificity.

An array of autobiographical texts is diverse. These are not only autobiographies in their pure form, but also diaries, memoirs, letters, questionnaires, interviews, summaries, confessions and so on.

For a linguist, an autobiography is interesting in terms of the language personality of the author. Linguistic studies of life descriptions can be conducted from the point of view of the author – its subject, the producer of the text, its object – the view of the world being modeled in the text, and from the point of view of the person who perceives the text (the addressee).

All types of autobiographical prose are texts in which the authors demonstrate their language skills, create their own self-portraits. Behind each autobiographical text is a language personality – its creator. Each such text is determined by the identity of its author and thus needs to be understood and described in a personal aspect. An autobiography is a specific form of authorial existence in a word.

A linguistic study of the autobiographies of Nobel Prize laureates allows us to identify a number of peculiarities. The text material shows that the subject matter of the story is the personality itself, the family, educational institutions, friends, certain stages of professional, scientific activity and more. Assessment, emotionality and expressiveness can be conveyed in the text by the use of certain lexical units and their special arrangement in the sentence, that is,

through the use of various means of speech expressiveness, which in turn allows achieving a number of pragmatic effects. The author achieves a pragmatic influence on the recipient through the use of various stylistically marked means, first of all, epithet, metaphor, allusion, hyperbole, alliteration and more.

An important feature of the analyzed autobiographical discourses is the peculiarities of their stylistic coloring, such as the high frequency of stylistic convergences usage of different configurations, the pragmatic effect of which is the increase of expressiveness, the brightness of the created images, the mastery in the disclosure of expressed ideas and thoughts. By stylistic convergence we understand accumulation and combination of different stylistic means, which gives an utterance a particular expressiveness.

Accumulation of stylistic means in certain fragments of the text, their variety is a signal to the reader about the importance of the author's thought. The components of stylistic convergence are often such tropes as alliteration, metaphor, metonymy; comparison, personification, hyperbole, grotesque.

Expressing ideas with ultimate clarity, drawing attention to them with maximum expressiveness – this is the main task of any trope. The writer Joseph Brodsky, was masterful while making his speech at the Swedish Royal Academy during the Nobel Prize Award, filling it with eloquent stylistic devices. Among them we differentiate alliteration:

We eat the same fish, soaking under one – sometimes radioactive- rain, swimming in a sea, and we grew weary of a conifer [8];

Depending on the wind, clouds, which I saw in the window, and you have already seen, and vice versa... [8].

Alliteration foresees the repetition of the same consonant sound or sounds that are at a relatively close distance from each other. This stylistic device is sure to reinforce emotional impact on the addressee.

Metaphors and repetition are also widely used and so elegantly combined in the autobiographical discourse. For example:

This flight is the flight in the direction of “uncommon visage”, in the direction of the numerator, in the direction of autonomy, in the direction of privacy [8].

Pragmatic influence on the addressee is enhanced immensely via intense saturation of the text with various stylistic devices, namely: metaphor, epithet, repetition. The text is sure to produce great emotional impact on the addressee.

The make their speech memorable and outstanding the authors often resort to comparison. For example:

To be sure, it is natural for a person to perceive himself not as an instrument of culture, but, on the contrary, as its creator and custodian [9].

Comparison is a figure of a speech in which an object or phenomenon is likened to another one by some common feature. The purpose of comparison is to discover in the object of comparison a new, important for the author of the utterance property.

Being unrivaled masters of the word Nobel Prize laureates in literature turn their speeches into the elaborate intertwine of tropes. For example:

I have no wish to enlarge upon the subject, no wish to darken this evening with thoughts of the tens of millions of human lives destroyed by other millions [9].

In this statement we observe successful combination of such stylistic devices as: repetition (*no wish... no wish*), hyperbole (*tens of millions*), metaphors (*to enlarge upon the subject, to darken this evening, human lives destroyed*), metonymy (*millions*). Hyperbole and metonymy in this case are used for the explicit and deliberate exaggeration, with the purpose of enhancing expressiveness and emphasizing the stated opinion.

The analyzed texts revealed the use of stylistic convergences of different configurations, the pragmatic effect of which is the increase of expressiveness, the brightness of the created images, the unique skill in disclosing the expressed ideas and thoughts.

One of the central problems in modern linguistics nowadays is the study of communicative strategies and tactics. An important direction in the study of this complex phenomenon is the analysis of strategies and tactics used in particular types of discourse, and in the autobiographical discourse in particular [1, p. 405]. The autobiographical discourse can be analysed as a form of interaction, based on certain strategies and tactics for implementing the communicative intentions of the addresser. Communicative intentions generate communicative goals, which determine the choice of communicative strategies and tactics by the discourse producer. The main communicative goal of any autobiography is to describe the author's life, highlighting the milestones of their professional growth and development. Exploring communication strategies in the autobiographies of Nobel Prize laureates in literature, we differentiate the following key ones: 1) self-disclosure; 2) self-presentation; 3) self-expression; 4) self-affirmation. The use of communication strategies by Nobel Prize laureates is determined by the primary purpose of autobiographies – to present themselves and their lives. The self-affirmation strategy is implemented in the autobiographies of the Nobel Prize laureates in literature through two local strategies – positive self-presentation and self-identification.

Self-affirmation is a natural necessity of every person in the world, and it is crucial for Nobel Prize laureates in all spheres of activity. The analysed material shows that this strategy is characteristic and fundamental for the autobiographical discourse. A special feature of the strategy is its focus on the recipient of the information, since self-affirmation takes place only in relation to a certain group, in the case of Nobel Prize laureates in literature – certain social and professional groups, as well as the general public.

The strategy of self-affirmation is seen as the realization of a person's need for self-actualization, recognition of their own value and significance, and is implemented through local tactics, such as: 1) tactics of creating a positive image, 2) tactics of positive self-esteem, 3) tactics of accentuating the positive evaluation of the author by a third party, 4) tactics to minimize own shortcomings.

Let us take a look at the tactic of creating a positive image. It is used for the purpose of presenting certain positive personality traits and is based on numerous examples of their own life that confirm these qualities. This tactic is realized when describing such characteristic traits as honesty, hard working, perseverance in achieving a goal, curiosity, patience, unpretentiousness, modesty, independence from others' thoughts etc. An autobiographer wants to make a positive impression on addressees and please them.

The tactics of creating a positive image is implemented by:

1) frequent use of verbs to indicate positive traits. For example: *I have learned in my country to speak openly almost everything that I think* [9];

The verbs *learn, speak (openly), think* have positive connotation. They imply persistence, strength of character and independence of mind.

2) mentioning other outstanding people as role models for them. For example: *And Buddy Hall wrote songs – those that had beautiful melodies and inventive words. He was an archetype. He was bewitching* [10];

3) use of the superlative degree of comparison of adjectives to indicate the qualities of character, which strengthen the positive image of the author. For example: *My tendency to intensely pursue a particular activity to exclude everything else was and is one of my most notable strengths and weaknesses* [10].

The autobiographical discourse is characterized by active employment of the tactics of accentuating a positive evaluation of the author by a third party. This tactic creates the effect that the author is not involved in the evaluation and its objectivity. A certain character trait is described, a positive picture of the author's image as a whole is created, and for the sake of greater persuasiveness, the assessment is made by people holding a prominent position in a society. The author offers a quotation or gives an assessment using indirect speech. The characteristics attributed to the autobiographer by others confirm the author's self-esteem. This tactic is implemented by the use of lexemes with the meaning of approval, positive assessment of abilities, among them are:

- verbs such as: *appreciate, excite, support, encourage*, etc. For example: *My voice and ear for music were sufficiently highly affected that I was encouraged by the chorus leader to take lessons with a well-known voice coach* [10];

- nouns such as: *leader, appreciation, encouragement, representative, potential, ability, talent*, etc. For example: *"How many times I have thought of you and wondered how you were enjoying high school. ...You seem to have a talent for writing"* [9].

An effective tactic that constitutes the self-affirmation strategy is the tactic of minimizing one's weaknesses, which involves a special way of presenting information – by shifting the emphasis from negative to positive. The authors are deliberately trying to reduce their own failures. The tactic is implemented not through the avoidance of talking about their own shortcomings or failures at work, but rather emphasizing that those ones did not stop them, but forced to work even more persistently and, as a result, led to new achievements. For

example: *Being awarded the Nobel Prize for Literature is something I could never have imagined or seen coming* [10]. The laureate highlights that he could never have thought of becoming the Nobel Prize in Literature as he was a musician, but his work was considered worthy and rewarded for creating new poetic expressions in the great American song tradition.

Conclusions. The autobiographical discourse that discloses some common topics related to the description of an author's personal life, experiences, thoughts, etc. is *I*-focused, revealing their peculiar mental, psychic and emotional traits. Lexical and stylistic devices analysis on the material of the speeches and texts of the Nobel Prize laureates in literature suggests that an important feature of the autobiographical discourse is the peculiarity of its stylistic colouring, as various types of tropes, although different in function, all together serve one important goal – to attract attention, emphasize the significance of what is said and enhance emotional impact on the addressee.

A comprehensive description of a linguistic personality as the creator of the autobiographical discourse allows one to delve into the understanding of the problem of synthesis of an image of a particular linguistic personality, which consists in the construction of a characteristic system of preferences, strategies of language use and the problem of identifying linguistic patterns – whether the linguistic personality, constructing their own self-portrait, can facilitate the creation of generalized image of a native speaker as an object of verbal influence.

In the course of the study the following main communication strategies are distinguished: self-disclosure, self-presentation, self-expression, self-affirmation, self-identification. They are actively used by the authors of the autobiographical discourse.

The future prospect of the research we see in thorough study of the *I*-concept representation in the autobiographical discourse.

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