

LEARNED WORDS

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In addition to terms, a text on some special problem usually contains a considerable proportion of so-called learned words, such as approximate a, commence v, compute v, exclude v, feasible a, heterogeneous a, homogeneous a, indicate v, initial a, internal a, miscellaneous a, multiplicity n, respectively adv. This layer is especially rich in adjectives.

The main factor at the bottom of all problems concerning style is the concept of choice and synonymy in the widest sense of the word. All learned words have their everyday synonyms, which may seem either not dignified enough for scientific usage or less precise. The layer also has some other purely linguistic peculiarities. It has been noted, for instance, that the learned layer of vocabulary is characterized by a phenomenon which may be appropriately called lexical supplying. This term is used for pairs like father a :: paternal a, home a :: domestic a, lip n :: labial a, mind n :: mental a, son n :: filial a, sun n :: solar a, etc. In all these cases a stylistically neutral noun of native origin is correlated with a borrowed relative adjective. The semantic relationship between them is quite regular. All these adjectives can characterize something through their relation to the object named by the noun. There are also adjectives of the same root produced by derivation.

The learned vocabulary comprises some archaic connectives not used elsewhere: hereby, thereby, whereby, hereafter, whereafter, thereafter, hereupon, whereupon, thereupon, herein, wherein, therein, herewith, therewith. It also contains double conjunctions, like moreover, furthermore, however, such as, and group conjunction: in consequence, inasmuch as, etc. There may be an abundance of obsolete connectives elsewhere, but in this type of speech they are especially frequent because English tradition for business correspondence requires in many cases the whole message to be compressed into one sentence, no matter how many clauses this might involve.

There are some set expressions used in scientific and other special texts: as follows, as early as, in terms of, etc.

When the occasion is formal, in official documents and business correspondence some words may be used which in ordinary conversation would have a pretentious or jocular ring.