

LINGUOPOEETICS AS AN INTERDISCIPLINARY FIELD : LANGUAGE, MEANING AND AESTHETIC FUNCTION

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Abstract

Linguopoetics is an interdisciplinary field situated at the intersection of linguistics and literary studies. It explores how linguistic structures function as artistic devices in literary texts and how language creates aesthetic, emotional, and cognitive effects. This paper examines the theoretical foundations of linguopoetics, its methodological approaches, and its role in analyzing literary discourse. Drawing on the works of scholars such as Roman Jakobson, Jan Mukarovsky, Geoffrey Leech, and M. A. K. Halliday, the study discusses key concepts including foregrounding, poetic function, stylistic deviation, parallelism, and discourse structure. The paper also considers linguopoetics within modern approaches such as cognitive linguistics and functional stylistics. The findings demonstrate that linguopoetic analysis provides a systematic framework for understanding how linguistic form generates artistic meaning, thus contributing significantly to contemporary literary interpretation.

Keywords

linguopoetics, poetic function, foregrounding, stylistics, literary discourse, deviation, parallelism, functional linguistics, aesthetic function

Language is not only a means of communication but also a medium of artistic expression. In literary texts, linguistic units acquire additional aesthetic and symbolic meanings beyond their communicative function. Linguopoetics studies this transformation of language into art.

The term “linguopoetics” reflects the integration of linguistic methodology with poetic and literary analysis. Unlike traditional literary criticism, which focuses primarily on themes and imagery, linguopoetics emphasizes the structural and functional aspects of language. It seeks to answer how specific linguistic choices contribute to artistic impact.

The roots of linguopoetics can be traced to structuralism and the Prague Linguistic Circle, particularly the works of Roman Jakobson and Jan Mukarovsky, who emphasized the poetic function of language and foregrounding as central concepts in literary communication.

One of the key theoretical pillars of linguopoetics is Jakobson’s theory of language functions. According to Roman Jakobson, the poetic function focuses on the message for its own sake. In literary texts, attention is drawn to the form of the message, making linguistic structure aesthetically significant.

The poetic function operates through sound patterns, rhythm, repetition, syntactic symmetry, and lexical selection. These elements transform ordinary language into poetic language. Foregrounding, developed by Jan Mukarovsky, refers to the use of linguistic deviation or parallelism to make certain elements of a text more prominent. Foregrounded elements attract the reader’s attention and create aesthetic effect.

Deviation may occur at various levels:

- Phonological (alliteration, rhyme)
- Morphological (neologisms)
- Syntactic (inverted word order)
- Semantic (metaphor, irony)



Parallelism, on the other hand, involves repetition of similar structures, enhancing rhythm and emphasis.

Linguopoetics is closely related to stylistics, particularly functional stylistics. Scholars such as Geoffrey Leech contributed significantly to stylistic analysis by proposing systematic approaches to literary language.

Leech distinguishes between deviation and parallelism as primary stylistic devices. His framework provides tools for analyzing figurative language, tone, and expressive meaning.

Similarly, systemic functional linguistics, developed by M. A. K. Halliday, emphasizes language as a social semiotic system. Halliday's model identifies three metafunctions of language:

1. Ideational
2. Interpersonal
3. Textual

In literary discourse, these metafunctions interact to construct complex layers of meaning. Contemporary linguopoetics integrates cognitive linguistics. Scholars such as George Lakoff argue that metaphor is not merely a stylistic ornament but a cognitive mechanism shaping thought.

Cognitive linguopoetics studies conceptual metaphors, mental imagery, and reader interpretation. It explores how linguistic patterns activate schemas and cultural knowledge.

Modern discourse analysis also contributes to linguopoetics by examining narrative voice, focalization, and intertextuality.

Linguopoetic research typically involves:

- Close textual analysis
- Structural linguistic examination
- Functional interpretation
- Comparative stylistic analysis

Researchers analyze linguistic markers quantitatively and qualitatively to determine their aesthetic function.

Linguopoetics provides a scientific basis for literary interpretation. It bridges the gap between linguistics and literary criticism by offering objective analytical tools.

Its significance includes:

- Enhancing interpretative precision
- Revealing hidden textual structures
- Understanding authorial style
- Supporting translation studies

In translation, linguopoetic analysis helps preserve aesthetic effects across languages. Linguopoetics represents a dynamic and evolving field that unites linguistic theory with literary aesthetics. By examining how language functions artistically, linguopoetics deepens our understanding of literary texts.

From structuralist foundations to cognitive approaches, the discipline continues to expand its theoretical and methodological scope. Ultimately, linguopoetics demonstrates that artistic meaning is inseparable from linguistic form.

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