

INTENSIFICATION IN ENGLISH: FUNCTIONAL, STYLISTIC AND GRAMMATICAL ASPECTS

Abdullaeva Sevara Makhsudaliyeva
UzSWLU Trainee-Teacher of Department of
Teaching Methods of the English Language 3
sevara_a_98@mail.ru

Abstract

The article touches upon intensification in English regarding functional, stylistic and grammatical aspects. The study of grammatical and functional-stylistic aspects of intensifiers was carried out using both general scientific methods (description, analysis, synthesis, hypothetical-deductive method) and general linguistic methods (method of analysis of lexicographic sources, passive linguistic observation).

Keywords: stylistics, grammar, intensifiers, lexicography, pragmatics, aspect.

Introduction

In recent years, the development of communication tools, global information networks, and the availability of their use have led to a truly unlimited opportunity for communication: almost anyone of any social status, having access to the Internet, can communicate with people in various situations. The life and communication of the broadest segments of the population in the new information and communication environment has a huge impact on the development and change of functional varieties of language. It seems likely that we are currently witnessing the emergence of a stylistic leap (the term S.S. Berkner) [1, p. 94].

Blog, forum, chat – is an incomplete list of new, recently emerged forms of communication which require understanding in terms of language. The study of the intensifying structures presented in blogs allows us to better understand the peculiarity of the functioning of the literary language in certain areas of communication of our contemporaries. Thus, the relevance of the article is determined by socio-economic factors and challenges of linguistic science.

Literature analysis and methodology

The research material was the texts of the Blogs section of the English Guardian newspaper, published in 2014. The study of grammatical and functional-stylistic aspects of intensifiers was carried out using both general scientific methods (description, analysis, synthesis, hypothetical-deductive method) and general linguistic methods (method of analysis of lexicographic sources, passive linguistic observation).

A blog is a notebook of the author's thoughts, or rather, a diary, since entries are automatically kept in chronological order. The word "blog" itself was formed from two words: web (web) and log (event recording). The authors of blogs address their works - notes, arguments,



statements of facts, etc. - to a wide range of readers who have the opportunity to express their thoughts about what they have read. A blog is both an interest club and a discussion club. The author of the blog responds to his readers, enters into a polemic with them, discusses the topics raised. Thus, the main article of the blog is overgrown with comments: remarks, opinions, criticism, emotional expressions of support or disagreement.

The blog is dialogical and interactive: the author and readers maintain constant, direct and feedback. The blog is an example of an interactive text that is still poorly studied in linguistics. The social nature of the blog is manifested, firstly, in its appeal to a random addressee, i.e. to representatives of any social groups, strata, classes. Secondly, the blog itself is created by people of a certain social background, who have a certain level of education, culture, and have certain interests in a particular field. Thus, bloggers' speech and blogging style are socially conditioned.

From a linguistic point of view, the blog style is not a separate functional style in its purest form, it is a combination of various functional styles interacting with each other, closely intertwined, interpenetrating. The main article of the blog and its comments, considered as a single text, do not have strict stylistic unity. If the main article can be designed in one style, then the style of comments on it may differ greatly from the register set by the author of the article.

Discussion

The number and, accordingly, the content of functional styles in linguistics has not yet been precisely determined. Questions about the conversational style remain controversial. Conversational style is often contrasted with written style [2, p. 207]. It seems that the spoken style is understood as an oral variety of the language of everyday communication. Communication through modern technical means proves the validity of the idea that functional styles are manifested in both written and oral forms of language [3, p. 567]. At the same time, it should be borne in mind that the transmission of everyday spoken language of the characters of literary works does not relate to the actual spoken style, but is a means of creating an image of the characters of the work, while technically conditioned communication in real time is precisely a conversation, a conversation in writing.

Intensifiers are language tools that serve to enhance an utterance or part of it. Intensity in linguistics has not yet acquired a clear status: it is attributed to a particular manifestation of the categories of quantity, evaluation, expressivity [4, p. 115]. The most diverse definitions of nouns and verbs are called intensifiers [5, p. 5]. However, all researchers agree that intensity manifests itself at different language levels: phonetic (intonation), lexical, grammatical (morphological and syntactic).

Intensifier words in English are formed in an affixal way and by adding two bases. The prefixes forming the intensifier words are: super-, over-, sub-, sur-, under- (over-hyped and over-simplistic, underpaid, surpass, subconscious, superman). The reinforcing or weakening value is contained in the prefixes themselves.

The whole projection is overlaid by the risk that the economic effects of climate change begin to destroy capital, coastal land and agriculture in the first half of the century. Combining the



two bases - addition - is also a productive way to replenish the vocabulary with intensifier words. The intensified part of the word is expressed by nouns, adjectives, adverbs, and the intensifiers are adjectives and adverbs: near-stagnation, best-qualified, high-skilled, half-smiling in recognition, widely-read.

Results

The intensification of the action is expressed by the specific form of the verb, in particular by the use of Continuous to express an ordinary action in the present: "I'm dying to get a device to open the front door" (I'm dying without a device that opens the front door. Or: I'll just die if I don't get a device that opens the front door).

The intensifying function is performed by the word order in the sentence. Changing the direct word order leads to the separation of individual sentence members. So, shifting the subject to the end of the sentence, and additions to the beginning helps to strengthen them.

The intensification effect is also achieved by rearranging the predicate or part of the composite predicate into the frontal position: Really serious are the impacts of climate change. The separation of the circumstances of time, degree, and mode of action from the predicate, moving them to a position unusual for the direct order of words, strengthen the meanings contained in them: "Well did they play... in 1990.". Rearranging adverbs and postpositions at the beginning of a sentence strengthens the predicate: "Up are going the prices."

Using special constructions without changing the word order can also intensify individual sentence members. Such constructions include sentences with a formal subject there, combined with a verb, noun and an attributive subordinate following them: There's two curiosities to this piece, which has been pretty widely-read. This example contains the colloquial form there's (singular verb) combined with a plural noun.

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The action or state is enhanced by the analytical form Present Simple or Past Simple (auxiliary verb + infinitive) in the following statements: I did read it. And thoroughly; I just think that GM does solve any of the issues of the current system.

Traditionally, in accordance with the normative grammar of the English language, the verb is reinforced by an adverb. For example: Cyclists very, very rarely kill anyone. In this sentence, the verb kill is enhanced by a combination of two adverbs: the adverb of the frequency of manifestation of the action rarely and the adverb-intensifier very.

The intensification of nominal parts of speech is carried out in various ways. For example, a noun (or a personal pronoun) in the position of the subject is enhanced by pronominal reflection: The issue itself is meaningless (The question itself does not mean anything).

The positive property of a noun with a positive connotation is enhanced by the indefinite pronoun every: I have every sympathy for farmers who are trying to grow food.

Adverbs in combination with adjectives act as noun enhancers: I have absolutely no desire to go back (adverb-degree intensifier + negative adjective); The food described is simply being



produced to perpetuate an incredibly unhealthy (individually and environmentally) existing system (adverb-degree intensifier + negative adjective); That's an entirely different meaning to the one under discussion, though (adverb-degree intensifier + negative adjective); a slightly hysterical view (adverb-degree de-intensifier + adjective); the breathtakingly bad behavior (determinative adverb + adjective).

The effect of strengthening the noun, and in our example, the pronoun, is achieved through a combination of the intensifier adverb and the interrogative adverb how: Just how difficult this has become was shown last week.

Adjectives serve as a means of strengthening nouns: overall total daily calorie, fat, carbohydrate, and protein consumption (a combination of synonymous adjectives with the meaning of degree intensification); They got blamed, collectively, for a small minority's ills (a combination of an adjective and a noun in possessive form, having a diminutive meaning).

Quantitatively, the intensifier words were distributed as follows: the pronoun accounts for 7%, the verb for 8%, and the adjective for 15%. The leading position is occupied by the adverb - 70%.

As part of the intensifier phrases, the most common models are adverb + adjective (25%) and adverb + adverb (75%).

In the sentence structure, intensifiers perform various functions. In the blogs we have reviewed, the most frequent use of intensifiers is found:

- 1) in a compound noun predicate: The statistics are very clear (verb-bundle + adverb-intensifier + adjective); Cyclists are very rarely an actual danger to others, even for example when they weave across red lights (verb-bundle + adverb-intensifier + adverb of frequency + adjective + noun);
- 2) in a compound nominal predicate with homogeneous members of the nominal part: They're just less noticed, even normalized (verb-bundle + adverb-intensifier + adverb to a comparative degree + past participle, adverb-additive + past participle);
- 3) in addition: There is no certainty at all that the information revolution of the past 20 years will cascade down into ever more highly productive and value-creating industries;
- 4) In the circumstances: Exactly. We have the technology to live in a far better world than we do.

The intensifying function is performed by the word order in the sentence. Changing the direct word order leads to the separation of individual sentence members. So, shifting the subject to the end of the sentence, and the additions to the beginning helps to strengthen them: Are quite the spectacle, all those couture shows!; Absolutely no desire to go back I have.

The amplification effect is also achieved by rearranging the predicate or part of the composite predicate into the frontal position: Really serious are the impacts of climate change.

The separation of the circumstances of time, degree, and mode of action from the predicate, moving them to a position unusual for the direct order of words, strengthen the meanings contained in them: Well did they play... in 1990... Rearranging adverbs and postpositions at the beginning of a sentence strengthens the predicate: Up are going the prices.

Using special constructions without changing the word order can also intensify individual sentence members. Such constructions include sentences with a formal subject there, combined



with a verb, noun and an attributive subordinate following them: There's two curiosities to this piece, which has been pretty widely-read. This example contains the colloquial form there's (singular verb) combined with a plural noun.

Sentences with an introductory it reinforces any part of the sentence except the predicate: It is just lazy and unimaginative to use them at all.

The effect of strengthening the sentence and its parts is achieved by repeating the personal form of the verb or the auxiliary do: We eat more, we do.

Conclusion

Thus, the reinforcement of an utterance or part of it is achieved in various ways. Since the texts of blogs are presented in writing, only punctuation marks and graphic design speak about their intonation (phonetic) design, then the intensifiers are considered in grammatical and word-formation perspectives.

Word-formation models of the modern English language allow us to give words an intensifying or de-intensifying meaning using the prefixes super-, over-, sub-, sur-, under-; as well as by adding adjectives and adverbs having an amplifying meaning with the bases of other nouns, adjectives, verbs, adverbs.

Changing the grammatical forms of words makes it possible to enhance the action (modern forms of the verb, the use of an analytical form with do instead of a synthetic one in Simple Present and Past; degrees of comparison of adjectives and adverbs enhance the signs of objects and actions). The intensifiers of action are numerous adverbs, both in individual use and in combination with other adverbs.

The intensifying meaning of the nominal part of the utterance is given by pronouns (reflexive and emphatic, indefinite), various classes of adverbs (degree intensifiers, interrogative, determinative adverbs, adverbs of action, frequency), various classes of adjectives.

In syntactic structures, words with amplifying properties perform various functions: predicate, part of a compound nominal predicate, subject, complement, definition, circumstance. Constructions with a changed word order, introductory it and there give the effect of intensification to individual parts of the utterance.

Numerous examples of the use of intensifiers in blog texts indicate the realization of the emotive, voluntative and phatic functions of language. The study of linguistic indicators leads to the conclusion that the research material - the texts of the blogs of the English newspaper Guardian - are a combination of two functional styles: journalistic and conversational.

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