

THE PLACE AND ROLE OF COLLOQUIAL SPEECH IN THE FUNCTIONAL SYSTEM OF LANGUAGE.

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Annotation: This article discusses the main features of the colloquial style, including its phonetic, lexical, grammatical, and syntactic aspects. Based on examples, it is shown that colloquial speech is characterized by relative freedom of word order, brevity and conciseness of expressions, and a dialogical form. Special attention is given to the use of dialectal forms, word-sentences, as well as expressive and emotional units typical of everyday spoken language. The article highlights the distinctive features of the colloquial style in comparison with other functional styles of the literary language.

Keywords: Colloquial style, functional style, phonetic features, grammatical flexibility, lexical means, dialogical speech, expressive-emotional units, dialectisms, word-sentences, everyday communication.

In modern linguistics, the exploration of functional styles occupies a central position, as it provides insight into how language adapts to diverse spheres of human life and activity. Functional stylistics examines the ways in which speakers select and employ phonetic, lexical, grammatical, and phraseological resources to meet specific communicative needs. According to the National Encyclopedia of Uzbekistan, style is defined as the differentiation of language in accordance with its functions within various domains of human activity. This means that the national language, while unified in essence, generates multiple stylistic layers, each shaped by the demands of communication in a particular social or cultural context. Thus, styles are not arbitrary formations; rather, they are natural outcomes of the interaction between language and human practice.

Within this broad system, the colloquial style holds a particularly important place. It represents the most natural, spontaneous, and immediate form of communication among people. Unlike scientific, official, or artistic styles, which are governed by strict literary norms, colloquial speech allows for greater freedom and creativity, reflecting the everyday reality of human interaction. It is marked by clarity, directness, emotional coloring, and simplicity, all of which contribute to its accessibility and effectiveness in conveying meaning. The colloquial style also embodies a rich cultural dimension, as it incorporates dialectal words, idiomatic expressions, and forms of speech that are often excluded from formal registers but remain essential in daily conversation.

Furthermore, colloquial speech serves as the foundation of oral dialogue, enabling individuals to exchange ideas in a relaxed, personal, and dynamic manner. Its flexibility and adaptability demonstrate the vitality of the language and highlight its close relationship with cultural traditions, social behavior, and psychological expression. The study of colloquial style, therefore, is not limited to analyzing linguistic structures alone. It also reveals the deeper connections between language, society, and communication practices, offering valuable insights into how language functions as a living and evolving system.

The colloquial style, as a functional variety of language, is primarily defined by its informality, simplicity, expressiveness, and dialogical nature. It operates in two main forms: literary colloquial style, which partially adheres to established literary norms, and ordinary colloquial style, which develops in spontaneous, everyday communication without restrictions. Both forms highlight the adaptability of language to different communicative environments, but

the ordinary colloquial style, in particular, reflects the most natural and flexible use of language. Unlike literary language, colloquial speech is not bound by strict grammatical rules or rigid word order; instead, it allows speakers to prioritize meaning, intention, and emotional nuance in communication [1].

From a phonetic perspective, colloquial speech demonstrates a range of simplifications that differentiate it from standard literary pronunciation. Words frequently undergo processes such as assimilation, substitution, transposition, addition, or omission of sounds. Examples include na'lat → la'nat, opti → olibdi, shipirgi → supurgi, soxot → soat, moshna → mashina. These phonetic variants, while seemingly "incorrect" from the standpoint of literary norms, are entirely intelligible to speakers and often more efficient in fast-paced, casual conversation. In many cases, such changes represent a natural tendency of speakers to economize linguistic effort while maintaining communicative clarity [2].

In terms of grammar, colloquial speech is marked by flexibility and economy of expression. Unlike literary or scientific styles, it does not require fixed syntactic structures. Word order, for instance, can be altered without changing meaning: "Ishga borasizmi?" may be rendered as "Borasizmi ishga?", or "Ular kecha darsga qatnashdimi?" may appear as "Kecha ular qatnashdimi darsga?". This phenomenon reflects the principle of inversion, where the position of elements is determined not by grammatical rules but by the speaker's emphasis or pragmatic priorities. Such variation allows interlocutors to highlight the most relevant information and achieve greater communicative efficiency [3].

Lexical characteristics of colloquial style reveal its tendency toward simplification and accessibility. Instead of elevated, literary expressions, speakers prefer everyday words that are shorter, clearer, and more relatable. For example, *suhbat qurdi* (had a conversation) is replaced with *gaplashdi* (talked); *sobiq* (former) with *oldingi* (previous); *tark etdi* (departed) with *ketdi* (left). These substitutions show how colloquial vocabulary prioritizes convenience and naturalness. Moreover, colloquial discourse frequently employs slang, dialectal forms, and expressive vocabulary that create immediacy and emotional resonance in communication.

The dialogical nature of colloquial style is one of its most defining features. Unlike the monologic character of academic or official discourse, colloquial speech emerges through direct interaction. Dialogues are usually concise, fragmented, and context-dependent:

- Qayerga bording? (Where did you go?) – Hiyobonga (To the park).
- Kim bilan bording? (With whom did you go?) – Oshnam (With my buddy).
- Qayerdasan? (Where are you?) – Sho'tta (Over there).

Such exchanges highlight the reliance on shared knowledge and context, which makes it possible to use incomplete sentences, single words, or even non-verbal cues to convey meaning effectively.

Another important feature of colloquial style is the frequent use of figurative expressions such as metaphors, idioms, and phraseological units, which enrich speech with imagery and emotional color. In addition, colloquial communication often incorporates dialectisms, vulgarisms, and slang, which not only diversify vocabulary but also reflect social identity, group belonging, or regional background.

From a morphological standpoint, colloquial speech often makes use of diminutive and augmentative forms (*toychoq*, *kelinchak*, *qizcha*, *qizgish*), which serve to express emotional evaluation, affection, or intensity. Furthermore, speakers tend to reduce or simplify affixes, as in *maktab o'qiydi* instead of *maktabda o'qiydi*, which again reflects the principle of linguistic economy.

On the syntactic level, colloquial discourse differs markedly from written styles. It is dominated by incomplete sentences (– Aytaman. – Kimga?), word-sentences (– Ha. – Yo'q. – Nahot.), and emotional exclamations (Ha, barakalla! Voy, rahmat!). Such constructions, while fragmentary, remain highly effective due to their reliance on context and situational clues. Rhetorical

questions, overlapping speech, and conjunctionless compound sentences are also typical of this style, as they mirror the spontaneity and dynamics of natural conversation [4].

Finally, colloquial speech is not limited to verbal elements alone; it is enriched by extralinguistic factors such as gestures, facial expressions, body language, and intonation, all of which play a vital role in meaning-making. These non-verbal components demonstrate that communication is a holistic process, where language interacts with broader human behavior.

In conclusion, the colloquial style holds a crucial position within the system of functional styles, as it represents the most immediate and authentic form of human communication. Its distinctive features—phonetic simplification, lexical diversity, grammatical flexibility, and syntactic spontaneity—are not signs of linguistic imperfection, but rather indicators of its adaptability and vitality. By reflecting the natural rhythm of everyday interaction, colloquial speech enables people to exchange not only information but also emotions, attitudes, and cultural values.

Moreover, the study of colloquial style is essential for understanding how language operates in real-life contexts. Unlike scientific or official registers that prioritize accuracy and formality, colloquial speech demonstrates the role of language as a social instrument, deeply tied to human psychology and cultural traditions. It is through this style that language remains alive, dynamic, and responsive to the constant changes of society.

Finally, the colloquial style should not be viewed as secondary or inferior to literary or formal styles. On the contrary, it is an indispensable component of the linguistic system, providing richness, flexibility, and expressiveness. Its role as a bridge between formal and informal communication highlights its significance in both linguistic theory and practical communication. Therefore, ongoing research into colloquial style not only contributes to linguistics as a discipline but also deepens our understanding of the interplay between language, culture, and human interaction.

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