The Peculiarities of Using Aphorisms in Context

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ABSTRACT

Aphorisms have long been the subject of research. The analysis of aphorisms was carried out based on the work of individual authors, their collections, as well as individual thematic groups of aphorisms. The research was based on material from various languages; aphorisms were examined from the ancient era to the present. Aphorisms as a topic of research represent rich material, the relevance of which for philologists is undeniable. The subject of our research is the analysis of the linguistic-stylistic features of the aphorism genre from the perspective of text theory.

KEYWORDS: language picture of the world, concept, phraseological units, science.

The study of text is, as is known, text linguistics. The focus of this science is on the constituents of the text and the patterns of their functioning, the organization and structure of different types of text. In addition to text linguistics, text stylistics and text semiotics also study text problems. The sphere of interests of text stylistics includes problems of constructive and compositional structure of the text, while text semiotics is aimed at discovering the intentional structures of the text with the help of which the author’s intention is interpreted.

The variety of aspects of text research determines differences in the central question: what content should be included in the concept of “text”, what are its main features. To complete the review of existing definitions of text, we will use the classification of text concepts proposed by Z.Ya. Turaeva.

1. Concepts in which the static aspect is considered leading. The text is understood as information alienated from the sender, as the form in which language is given to us in direct observation. This point of view on the problem is shared by a number of German researchers. Z.I.Schmidt defines text as a phenomenological given primary mode of existence of language, in which select elements from word to phoneme exist in diverse relationships. V.A.Kokh considers as a text any sequence of sentences organized in time and space in such a way that it presupposes a whole. According to H.Weinrich, a text is an ordered sequence of morphemes, all morphemes create a context for each other, and their semantic meanings are mutually determined. Yu.M.Lotman also adheres to a similar point of view on the text as an organized, structured sign material, the indispensable property of which is consistency.

2. Concepts in which the processuality of the text is dominant, i.e. the ability of language to function vividly in speech. The Czech scientist P.Sgall believes that the text is not a manifestation of the language system, but its use and functioning. This aspect is also paid attention to by E.Coseriu, who understands by text “a speech act or a series of related speech acts performed by an individual in a certain situation,” and X.Gausenblas used in speech, which is ensured by their succession to each other and their relationship to the overall meaning.

3. Communication concepts that emphasize the text as a product of an act of communication, in which it has a sender and a recipient. The communicative approach to the text is developed in the works of German linguists M.Pfütze, W.Schmidt, D.Viehweger, H.Isenberg. The French philologist R.Barthes...
defines a text as “any finite segment of speech, representing a certain unity in terms of content, transmitted with secondary communicative purposes and having an internal organization corresponding to these purposes.” Moreover, it is associated with cultural factors other than those related to the language itself.” Many domestic researchers develop a communicative approach to understanding text in their works. D.S.Likhachev writes that “a text is a linguistic expression of the intention of its creator”.

Most researchers agree that the text is a multidimensional phenomenon, a complex system that is different from a simple sequence of sentences. In this regard, the question arises about determining the main categories of the text. Categories of a text reflect its most general and essential features and represent steps in the knowledge of its ontological, epistemological and structural features.

An aphorism, as an autonomous literary form intended to capture thoughts, is distinguished by a variety of forms and content, which provokes discussions among researchers. Some characteristics of the genre, its semantic and structural features, as well as stylistic features are considered controversial. The variety of approaches to the analysis of the genre - literary criticism, linguocultural, functional, linguofunctional, pragmatic, epistemolinguisitc, structural - creates blurriness in defining the genre of an aphorism and its relevant features.

Studying an aphorism from the perspective of text theory allows for a comprehensive analysis of this genre. This takes into account the interaction of the main text categories (coherence, integrity, completeness, autosemantics, articulation, intentionality) in the communication process, which creates the overall meaning of the aphorism, as well as new integral properties and qualities. The approach to an aphorism as a text that represents a unity of content, structural and stylistic features, and performs cognitive, psychological and social functions in communication, allowed us to draw the following conclusions.

Expressiveness, which is a stylistic feature of aphoristic texts, acts as a category that unites all linguistic levels of an aphorism. Expressive means allow, firstly, to express the author’s origin in the text, and, secondly, to influence the addressee. The expressive devices we studied in English aphorisms include: phonological means, figurative means (tropes), as well as figures of expressive syntax.

The English aphorism, which has a long history, has not lost its relevance to this day due to the interaction and complementarity of expressive means of different levels, forming unity due to their existence in an integral text system.

The aspect of aphorisms, being a linguistic refraction of the imagery of the text, is characterized by:

1. the predominance of comparative tropes (metaphors and comparisons), which is reflected in the existence of a special type of aphorism - aphorism-metaphor. The transfer of a feature in aphorisms based on comparative paths occurs in the following directions: from concrete to concrete, from concrete to abstract, from abstract to abstract, from abstract to concrete;

2. quite active use of metonymic transfer (metonymy and synecdoche), using the following models: singular/plural relations, part/whole relations, material/product relations, genus/species relations, place/people working in it relations, person relations /character trait (quality), result/action relationship (processes) necessary to achieve it;

3. updating of the image, reflecting the author's view, and condensation of thought due to the tropical increment of meaning.

Linguistic research at the end of the 20th century was marked by a turn to the anthropological paradigm, which contributed to the spread of the view that all meanings of elements of natural language are “inherently subjective, anthropo- and ethnocentric,” and this directed linguistic issues towards the analysis of the human factor. The ideas of studying personal language were expressed in the works of A.M. Peshkovsky (1959), I.A. Baudouin de Courtenay (1963), W. von Humboldt (1984), E. Sapir (1993), E. Benveniste (2002), F de
Saussure (2004) and others. The concepts of these scientists were developed in the works of G.I. Bogin (1984), Yu.N. Karaulov (1987), E.V. Ivantsova (2002) and others.

Increased attention to the linguistic personality of political figures as producers of political discourse is also directly related to deep social changes in society. With the advent of competition in the political sphere, the individual characteristics of the linguistic personalities of political figures began to acquire particular importance.

Aphorisms differ from proverbs in their bookish stylistic coloring, variety of variations and categoricalness. Models for asserting one-sided qualitative coincidence and models for asserting multi-sided qualitative coincidence are typical for oral folk art, therefore they are unproductive in aphorism. To create aphorisms, the most commonly used models are the negation of identity, a necessary attribute, or a conditioned pattern.

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