



THE FUNCTIONAL AND STYLISTIC ANALYSIS OF SYNTACTIC STYLISTIC DEVICES IN OSCAR WILDE'S THE PICTURE OF DORIAN GRAY

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Abstract

This study examines the functional and stylistic potential of syntactic stylistic devices in Oscar Wilde's *The Picture of Dorian Gray* within the framework of I. R. Galperin's stylistic theory. The research focuses on key devices such as chiasmus, enumeration, antithesis, asyndeton, polysyndeton, and ellipsis, aiming to determine their role in constructing textual expressiveness and semantic complexity.

The methodological approach combines stylistic and contextual analysis, allowing for the identification of syntactic patterns and their interaction with the thematic and psychological dimensions of the novel. The findings reveal that syntactic stylistic devices serve not merely as formal structural elements but as integral mechanisms of meaning-making. They organise narrative rhythm, foreground key conceptual oppositions, intensify emotional impact, and contribute to the representation of characters' inner states.

Particular attention is given to the way Wilde's syntactic constructions reinforce the novel's central themes, including the tension between aestheticism and morality, as well as the interplay between appearance and reality. The study demonstrates that the deliberate manipulation of syntactic structures significantly enhances both the rhetorical force and the artistic coherence of the text.

Keywords: Syntactic stylistic devices, functional stylistics, chiasmus, enumeration, antithesis, ellipsis, Oscar Wilde, *The Picture of Dorian Gray*.

Annotatsiya

Ushbu tadqiqot *The Picture of Dorian Gray* asarida sintaktik stilistik vositalarning funksional va uslubiy imkoniyatlarini I. R. Galperin stilistika nazariyasi doirasida tahlil qiladi. Tadqiqot chiazmus, enumeratsiya, antitezis, asindeton, polisindeton va ellipsis kabi asosiy vositalarga qaratilgan bo'lib, ularning matn ifodaviyligi va semantik murakkablikni shakllantirishdagi rolini aniqlashni maqsad qiladi.





Metodologik yondashuv stilistik va kontekstual tahlilni birlashtiradi, bu esa sintaktik modellarning aniqlanishi hamda ularning asarning tematik va psixologik jihatlari bilan o'zaro aloqasini ochib berishga imkon beradi. Tadqiqot natijalari shuni ko'rsatadiki, sintaktik stilistik vositalar faqat formal tuzilma elementlari bo'lib qolmay, balki ma'no hosil qilishning muhim mexanizmlari sifatida xizmat qiladi. Ular narrativ ritmni tashkil etadi, asosiy konseptual qarama-qarshiliklarni ajratib ko'rsatadi, emotsional ta'sirni kuchaytiradi hamda personajlarning ichki holatini ifodalashga xizmat qiladi.

Alohida e'tibor Wilde'ning sintaktik konstruksiyalari asarning markaziy g'oyalarini — estetizm va axloq o'rtasidagi ziddiyatni, shuningdek tashqi ko'rinish va haqiqat o'rtasidagi o'zaro munosabatni qanday mustahkamlashiga qaratiladi. Tadqiqot shuni ko'rsatadiki, sintaktik tuzilmalarning ongli ravishda qo'llanishi matnning nafaqat ritorik kuchini, balki badiiy yaxlitligini ham sezilarli darajada oshiradi.

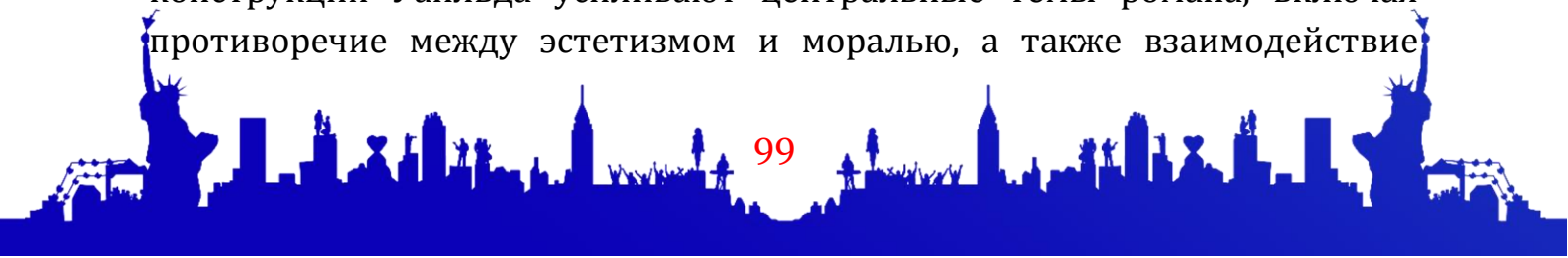
Kalit so'zlar: Sintaktik stilistik vositalar, funksional stilistika, chiazmus, enumeratsiya, antitezis, ellipsis, Oskar Uayld, Dorian Grey Portreti.

Аннотация

Данное исследование посвящено анализу функционального и стилистического потенциала синтаксических стилистических средств в романе The Picture of Dorian Gray в рамках стилистической теории I. R. Galperin. В центре внимания находятся такие средства, как хиазм, перечисление, антитеза, асиндетон, полисиндетон и эллипсис, с целью определения их роли в формировании выразительности текста и его семантической сложности.

Методологическая основа исследования включает стилистический и контекстуальный анализ, что позволяет выявить синтаксические модели и определить их взаимодействие с тематическими и психологическими аспектами произведения. Результаты исследования показывают, что синтаксические стилистические средства выступают не только как формальные структурные элементы, но и как важные механизмы порождения смысла. Они организуют ритм повествования, актуализируют ключевые концептуальные оппозиции, усиливают эмоциональное воздействие и способствуют раскрытию внутреннего состояния персонажей.

Особое внимание уделяется тому, каким образом синтаксические конструкции Уайльда усиливают центральные темы романа, включая противоречие между эстетизмом и моралью, а также взаимодействие





между внешностью и реальностью. Исследование демонстрирует, что целенаправленное использование синтаксических структур существенно повышает как риторическую выразительность, так и художественную целостность текста.

Ключевые слова: синтаксические стилистические средства, функциональная стилистика, хиазм, перечисление, антитеза, эллипсис, Оскар Уайльд, Портрет Дориана Грея.

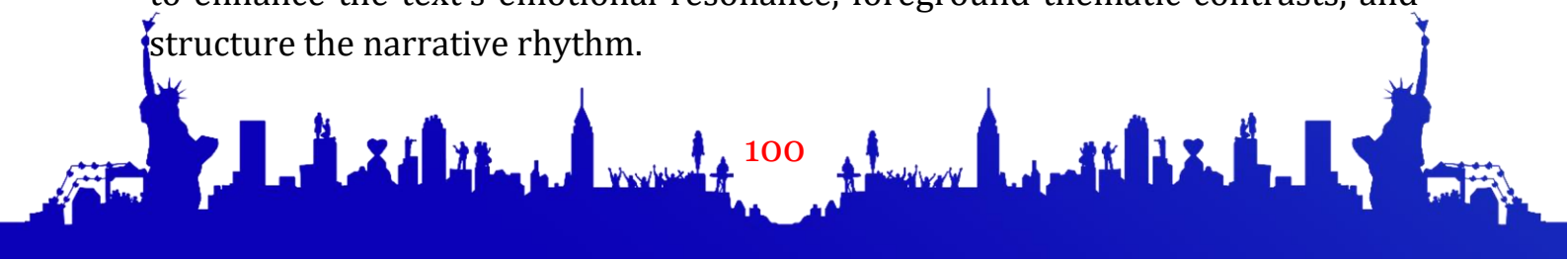
Introduction

The study of syntactic stylistic devices remains a central concern in contemporary stylistics and literary analysis, as it reveals the intricate ways in which sentence structures contribute to the expressive and aesthetic qualities of literary texts. Unlike lexical or phonetic devices, syntactic means operate at the level of sentence organisation, shaping rhythm, emphasis, and narrative flow, while simultaneously reflecting thematic and psychological dimensions.

Oscar Wilde's *The Picture of Dorian Gray* provides a particularly rich corpus for examining syntactic stylistic devices. Wilde's prose demonstrates a deliberate manipulation of sentence structures, employing devices such as chiasmus, enumeration, antithesis, asyndeton, polysyndeton, and ellipsis to intensify emotional impact, foreground contrasts, and highlight key philosophical and moral ideas. These syntactic patterns function not only to enhance rhetorical elegance but also to engage the reader cognitively and emotionally, making the narrative more vivid and psychologically nuanced.

The relevance of this study lies in its focus on the functional and stylistic role of these devices in English literature, particularly in the context of Wilde's aesthetic and philosophical concerns. By analysing specific examples from the novel, this research aims to demonstrate how Wilde's syntactic constructions contribute to the expressiveness, thematic depth, and overall coherence of the text.

Syntactic stylistic devices play a crucial role in shaping the expressive and aesthetic qualities of literary texts. Unlike lexical or phonetic devices, they operate at the level of sentence organisation, influencing rhythm, emphasis, and overall narrative flow. According to I. R. Galperin, key syntactic stylistic devices include chiasmus, enumeration, antithesis, asyndeton, polysyndeton, and ellipsis. In Oscar Wilde's *The Picture of Dorian Gray*, these devices are deliberately employed to enhance the text's emotional resonance, foreground thematic contrasts, and structure the narrative rhythm.

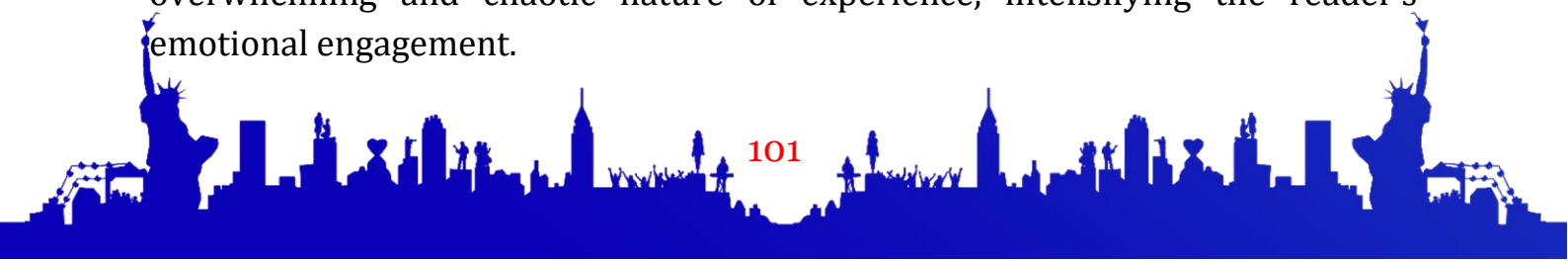




The first device, **chiasmus**, involves the reversal or mirroring of sentence structures in successive clauses, forming an ABBA pattern. Galperin explains that chiasmus belongs to stylistic devices based on the repetition of syntactic patterns, but with a cross order of words and phrases. In Wilde's preface, the sentence "*No artist has ethical sympathies. An ethical sympathy in an artist is an unpardonable mannerism of style*" exemplifies this device. Here, the phrase "*ethical sympathy in an artist*" mirrors "*No artist has ethical sympathies*," creating a syntactic inversion that emphasizes the paradox in Wilde's statement. Similarly, the sentence "*From the point of view of form, the type of all the arts is the art of the musician. From the point of view of feeling, the actor's craft is the type*" highlights the contrast between form and feeling, illustrating how Wilde uses chiasmus to make conceptual oppositions memorable while maintaining stylistic elegance. In both examples, chiasmus reinforces key thematic ideas and enhances rhetorical clarity.

Following chiasmus, **enumeration** is another fundamental syntactic device in Wilde's prose. Enumeration involves sequentially listing elements to create cumulative meaning and intensify descriptive impact. Galperin defines it as naming objects, phenomena, or properties one by one, producing syntactically homogeneous chains. In the novel, Wilde describes a mysterious substance: "*Inside was a green paste, waxy in lustre, the odour curiously heavy and persistent.*" Here, visual, tactile, and olfactory attributes are arranged in a parallel structure, forming a stylistic enumeration that intensifies sensory imagery and creates a vivid, almost oppressive atmosphere. Another example occurs in the description of contrasting realms: "*The coarse brawl, the loathsome den, the crude violence of disordered life, the very vileness of thief and outcast, were more vivid... than all the gracious shapes of Art, the dreamy shadows of Song.*" In this sentence, six elements are enumerated to depict the harshness of real life and contrast it with aesthetic refinement, demonstrating how enumeration contributes to thematic emphasis and emotional intensity.

Often, enumeration is accompanied by **antithesis**, which juxtaposes contrasting ideas to accentuate meaning. In the previous example, the brutality of life is contrasted with the refinement of art, highlighting Wilde's skill in using oppositions to structure narrative tension and enhance semantic clarity. Complementing antithesis, Wilde frequently employs **asyndeton**, the omission of conjunctions, which accelerates sentence rhythm and produces urgency. For instance, the repeated listing of harsh realities without conjunctions conveys the overwhelming and chaotic nature of experience, intensifying the reader's emotional engagement.





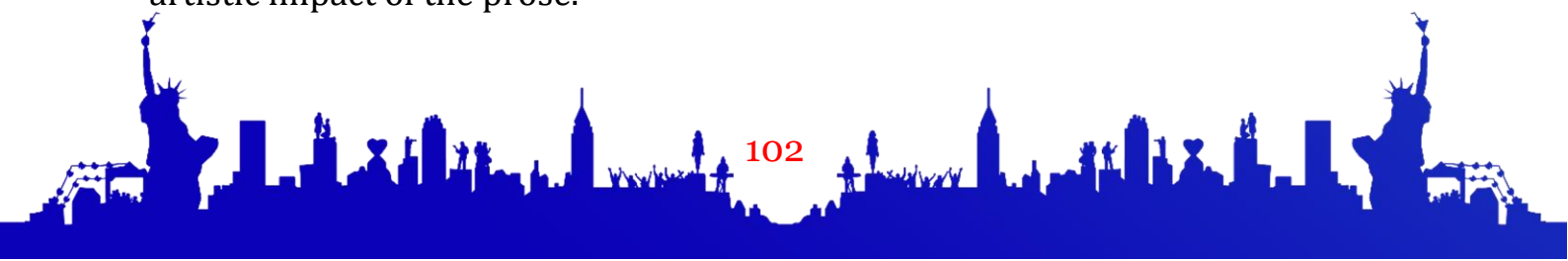
In contrast, **polysyndeton** involves the deliberate repetition of conjunctions, which slows sentence rhythm and creates cumulative emphasis. A vivid example is found in Lord Henry's extended monologue: *"Some day, when you are old and wrinkled and ugly, when thought has seared your forehead with its lines, and passion branded your lips with its hideous fires, you will feel it, you will feel it terribly."* Here, the repeated use of "and" and "when" prolongs the sentence, emphasizing the inexorable consequences of ageing and passion while heightening the rhetorical intensity. Polysyndeton thereby contributes to emotional resonance, mirrors the accumulation of experiences, and reinforces the novel's thematic concerns.

Finally, **ellipsis** functions by omitting sentence elements, compelling the reader to infer meaning and often producing a staccato rhythm. Wilde uses ellipsis to heighten tension and focus attention on key words. In the sentence *"Words! Mere words! How terrible they were! How clear, and vivid, and cruel!"*, the predicate is omitted after "words," producing a fragmented rhythm that reflects the speaker's emotional agitation. This device not only emphasizes the qualities of the words themselves but also conveys psychological intensity in a compact, stylistically effective manner.

Overall, Wilde's manipulation of these syntactic stylistic devices demonstrates their multifaceted functions. They organise narrative rhythm, foreground conceptual and thematic contrasts, intensify emotional and psychological effects, and enhance rhetorical and aesthetic elegance. By deliberately structuring sentences through chiasmus, enumeration, antithesis, asyndeton, polysyndeton, and ellipsis, Wilde transforms syntactic patterns into powerful instruments of stylistic and thematic expression, ensuring that the text engages readers both cognitively and emotionally while maintaining coherence and artistic sophistication.

Conclusion

The analysis of syntactic stylistic devices in Oscar Wilde's *The Picture of Dorian Gray* demonstrates that sentence structures play a central role in shaping the expressive and aesthetic qualities of literary texts. Devices such as chiasmus, enumeration, antithesis, asyndeton, polysyndeton, and ellipsis are not merely formal or ornamental elements; rather, they function as integral mechanisms for meaning-making. They organise narrative rhythm, emphasise thematic contrasts, intensify emotional and psychological effects, and enhance the rhetorical and artistic impact of the prose.





Through the deliberate manipulation of syntactic patterns, Wilde is able to highlight the tension between aestheticism and morality, contrast appearance with reality, and represent the inner states of his characters. For instance, chiasmus foregrounds conceptual oppositions, enumeration accumulates descriptive detail, antithesis and asyndeton structure contrasts and urgency, while polysyndeton and ellipsis regulate rhythm and emotional intensity. Collectively, these devices contribute to the coherence, memorability, and stylistic elegance of the novel.

This study confirms that syntactic stylistic devices are essential tools for literary expression, allowing authors to convey complex ideas, evoke nuanced emotional responses, and shape the reader's interpretive experience. Understanding their functions not only enriches the analysis of Wilde's prose but also provides broader insights into the interaction between syntactic form, semantic meaning, and aesthetic effect in literary texts

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