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STYLISTIC DEVICES IN POLITICAL SPEECHES BY WINSTON CHURCHILL

Summary. *The article has identified a political speech in the theory of discourse as a type of political communication. The aim of the article has dealt with establishing the linguistic and stylistic features of the political speeches by Winston Churchill, the Prime Minister of the United Kingdom, on the lexical, grammatical and syntactic layers of language and determining their role in shaping of public opinion. The theoretical significance of the article has been determined by studying the problems of communication theory, stylistics of English language and applying scientific notions about the structure of political speech. The practical significance of the results has concerned the possibility to use basic principles and conclusions of the article in further research on the problems of text linguistics, as well as the awareness of how speech has affected the consciousness and world view of the listener.*

Key words: *lexical and stylistic devices, political discourse, political speech, Winston Churchill.*

Introduction. Speeches are a crucial vehicle for forging a delicate, emotional bond between the political leader and the people [2, p. 323]. Political speech is an oral political text, which is pronounced by a politician in front of a mass audience, sets goals in one or another sphere of public life, gives recommendations for the accomplishment of the tasks. It performs the functions of persuasion, agitation, greetings, has a pre-prepared script, which depends on the communicative situation [8, p. 221].

Statement of the problem. Society as an integral system is a social organism that performs various functions. These functions are realised through the diverse social life of societies, that is, through the system of relations between society, nations, people, social groups and individuals. One of these social forms of people's lives is their political activity. Political activity plays a significant role in the life of society. It decides many things and with those decisions, the consequences are felt as a ride down the line for many generations, not just the one where the law was introduced [6, p. 331]. The importance of politics is enormous and it continues to grow as politics slowly gets itself involved in all aspects of human lives especially on the international scene [9, p. 130].

Materials and research methods. The material for the study has included the texts of the speeches "House of Many Mansions", "Blood, Toil, Tears and Sweat", "Their finest hour" by the Prime Minister of the United Kingdom Winston Churchill which were delivered by him in London, 1940.

To achieve the aim and to solve specific tasks of the article, the following methods have been used: linguistic and stylistic analysis based on the observation of the studied phenomena. In addition, method of pragmatic interpretation of texts has been applied in the study. The conclusions about the typology of lexical and

stylistic devices used in the texts of political speeches have been based on quantitative data analysis.

Exposition of results. It is known that linguists characterise political speeches in different ways, depending on the chosen approach to the definition of the concept itself. Considering political speech as a genre of institutional political discourse [3, p. 8] and taking into account the view that political communication is a special communicative process that has a national and spiritual character [5, p. 144], it is expedient to consider the verbal means of actualising political communication (i.e. lexical and syntactic layers of speech).

Since political speech has a persuasive function, that is, one that is aimed at manipulating the society and its direction in the desired direction, it must be distinguished by a special vocabulary and corresponding syntactic features in order to influence a wide range of people. W. Churchill's political speeches are characterised by the variability of lexical units and metaphorical images, which he embodied in his statements. Analysis of his speeches ("House of Many Mansions", "Blood, Toil, Tears and Sweat", "Their finest hour") have showed that they have a significant amount of *political* and *military vocabulary*.

The prevailing *vocabulary of military topics* is due to the fact that, at the time of W. Churchill's tenure as British Prime Minister, the Second World War began: ***British and French convoys minesweeping, U-boats, Air Force, troops, rifles, artillery, Navy, Admiralty, air reconnaissance, seaborne soldier*** (House of Many Mansions, 1940). The *political vocabulary* of speeches consists mainly of those units that designate the posts and authorities: ***His Majesty's Commission, the Opposition Liberals, the Ministers, the Speaker, the high executive office, the Parliament, the three party Leaders, the House*** (Blood, Toil, Tears and Sweat, 1940). In his speeches the *economic vocabulary* is used in the context of wartime: ***commerce, financial resource*** (House of Many Mansions, 1940), ***business of munitions production, masses of supplies*** (Their finest hour, 1940).

In addition, because of his clear position in the political world, W. Churchill often used **ideologisms** – words that in their sense have an ideological component [7, p. 92]. Such lexemes immediately outlined the attitude of politics to one or another ideological trend or policy, for example: *"Everyone can see how Communism rots the soul of a nation"* (House of Many Mansions, 1940)*; "All Scandinavia dwells in brooding under Nazi and Bolshevik threats"* (House of Many Mansions, 1940).

Drawing attention to the **metaphors** used by W. Churchill, it is evident that most of them either addressed to Nazi Germany and / or the Soviet Union or aimed at calling on the people to act. This makes it possible to divide the metaphors used by Winston Churchill into two groups:

1. **Metaphors** *indicating a critical situation and a tense period*. Such metaphors are often encountered in all the speeches discussed and reflect the extra-linguistic reality with which the author had to deal. Such metaphors often become hyperbolic, for example:

*"It was necessary that this should be done in one single day, on account of the **extreme urgency** and **rigour of events**"* (Blood, Toil, Tears and Sweat, 1940).

*"But so far it is the small neutral States that are **bearing the brunt** of German **malice and cruelty**"* (House of Many Mansions, 1940).

*"**In the bitter and increasingly exacting conflict** which lies before us we are resolved to keep nothing back"* (House of Many Mansions, 1940).

*"I told to the House of Commons – as you may remember almost exactly a fortnight ago – that **the worst possibilities were open**"* (Their finest hour, 1940).

*"**The whole fury and might of the enemy** must very soon be turned on us"* (Their finest hour, 1940).

2. **Metaphors** *indicating the call to action and the manifestation of support*. Despite the large number of metaphors with negative connotations, W.

Churchill's speeches are aimed at raising the spirit of the people. Therefore, most expressions in the figurative sense have a positive shade and influence on the audience with their imagery, for example:

*"I feel sure that our **cause will not be suffered to fail** among men"* (Blood, Toil, Tears and Sweat, 1940).

*"The Dutch – whose services to European freedom **will be remembered long after the smear of Hitler has been wiped from the human path** – stand along their dykes, as they did against the tyrants of bygone days"* (House of Many Mansions, 1940).

*"**The day will come when the joybells will ring again throughout Europe**"* (House of Many Mansions, 1940).

*"We have fully informed and consulted all the self-governing Dominions, these great communities far beyond the oceans who have been built up on our laws and on our civilization, and who are absolutely free to choose their course, but are absolutely devoted to the ancient Motherland, and who feel themselves inspired by the same emotions which **lead me to stake our all upon duty and honour**"* (Their finest hour, 1940).

*"We abate nothing of our just demands; **not one jot or tittle do we recede**"* (Their finest hour, 1940).

The prime minister assessed the situation and added emotionality to his speeches by such stylistic device as **epithet**. Based on the classification of epithets by V. Moskvin, it has been determined that Winston Churchill used newspaper (journalistic) and book epithets according to stylistic colouring [4, p. 31].

The newspaper epithets have a clear military tone: ***extreme urgency, united strength*** (Blood, Toil, Tears and Sweat, 1940)*, **strengthened solidarity, decisive factors, remarkable signs, victorious nations*** (House of Many Mansions, 1940)*, **despotic control*** (Their finest hour, 1940). The book epithets, on the contrary, are characterised by fancy and fabulousness:

ferocious threats, very grievous losses, bygone days, rough dark waters, waves of anarchy (House of Many Mansions, 1940)*,* ***frightful dangers*** (Their finest hour, 1940).

Often the adjectives acting as epithets are used in the superlative degree of comparison in order to attract particular attention to the problem: ***the earliest opportunity, the most grievous kind, the greatest battles*** (Blood, Toil, Tears and Sweat, 1940)*,* ***the worst possibilities, the finest troops, the highest service, the most moving terms*** (Their finest hour, 1940). It is worth noting that, speaking about enemies or the achievement of the British Army or its allies, the language of Winston Churchill acquires the certain pathos: ***waves of anarchy, shameful peace, superb / sublime Finland*** (House of Many Mansions, 1940)*,* ***disastrous military events, magnificent service*** (Their finest hour, 1940).

To describe his enemies, W. Churchill used numerous **periphrases** that described them as monsters and killers: ***monstrous tyranny*** (Blood, Toil, Tears and Sweat, 1940)*,* ***criminal adventurers of Berlin, jaws of peril, aggression and wrong*** (House of Many Mansions, 1940). These periphrases specifically refer to the country and its ruler (***Germany*** (Their finest hour, 1940)*,* ***the Deutschland, Hitler, the Nazis*** (House of Many Mansions, 1940)) or even give them a humiliating title (***gentry*** — a small nobility (Their finest hour, 1940)). One of the most striking images of the enemy is the image of the crocodile and hurricane in the "House of Many Mansions": *"Each one hopes that if he feeds the crocodile enough, the crocodile will eat him last. All of them hope that the storm will pass before their turn comes to be devoured"* (House of Many Mansions, 1940). Pariphrases in political speech "Their finest hour" (1940) refers to the United Kingdom: ***British Empire, Mother Country, native land, island home, ancient Motherland***.

In these political speeches ("House of Many Mansions", "Blood, Toil, Tears and Sweat", "Their finest hour") such stylistic devices are also used:

- **simile**: *"It is true that the Deutschland escaped the clutches of our cruisers by the skin of her teeth, but the Spee still sticks up in the harbor of Montevideo __as a grisly monument__ and as a measure of the fate in store for any Nazi warship which dabbles in piracy on the broad waters"* (House of Many Mansions, 1940);

- **personification:** *"__Our faithful Asdic detector__ smells them out in the depths of the sea and, with the potent aid of the Royal Air Force, I do not doubt that we shall break their strength and break their purpose"* (House of Many Mansions, 1940);

- **metonymy:** *"I do not see how any of these factors can operate to our detriment on balance before the winter comes; and the winter will impose a strain upon the Nazi regime, __with almost all Europe__ writhing and starving under its cruel heel, which, for all their ruthlessness, will run them very hard"* (Their finest hour, 1940).

W. Churchill followed the tendency of using various types of **repetition**:

- **anaphora:** *"__We have before us__ an ordeal of the most grievous kind. __We have before us__ many, many long months of struggle and of suffering"* (Blood, Toil, Tears and Sweat, 1940);

- **epanaphora:** *"And you must remember that at that time the Germans had a magnificent battle __fleet__. A __fleet__ in the proportion of 10 ships of theirs to 16 of ours"* (Their finest hour, 1940);

- **parallel structures** within the sentence: *"There, controlling forces are at work which are __steadily keeping__ the seas open, __steadily keeping__ the traffic going"* (House of Many Mansions, 1940).

Lexical and grammatical layer. The speeches of Winston Churchill are full of ***modal verbs***, most of which indicate the obligation: *"that we __have to__ be prepared in the Mediterranean"* (Blood, Toil, Tears and Sweat, 1940) and the persistent advice: *"It __must__ be remembered that in the last war we suffered very grave losses from mines"* (House of Many Mansions, 1940).

In addition, he used ***gradation***, i.e. the intensity of modal verbs, using the first weak *should*, and then *must*. Such an approach enhances the emotionality of the speech and emphasises the criticality of the situation: *"There **should** be no difficulty in this, owing to our great superiority at sea /...that untiring vigilance and untiring searching of the mind is being, and **must** be, devoted to the subject"* (Their finest hour, 1940).

Although the speaker did not conceal the horror of the war and the cruelty of hostile action, he nevertheless promoted hope, faith and, sometimes, confidence in victory. This idea was embodied by W. Churchill in such lexical units as ***to hope, to trust, to feel sure, to have no doubt*** (House of Many Mansions, 1940)***, to feel oneself more confident, to have no reason to doubt, to expect, undoubtedly, to look forward confidently to, to believe*** (Their finest hour, 1940) .

Syntactic layer. The next characteristic feature of political speeches is the use of ***parenthentical clauses or expressions***. They help the speaker to make logical transitions from one subject to another, emphasise the consequences or causes of a problem, and create a coherent speech. In the speeches of W. Churchill, they are expressed by modal words and adverbs (***indeed, however, therefore, certainly, perhaps** (*House of Many Mansions, 1940; Their finest hour, 1940), and the combination of words with prepositions (***in addition, above all, at the worst***) (House of Many Mansions, 1940; Their finest hour, 1940) or with the infinitive (***to put it mildly***) (Their finest hour, 1940).

At the same time, his political speeches are full of various ***parenthentical clauses***, which specify and supplement the content of the sentences:

*"**We, <u>the aggrieved and belligerent Powers who are waging war against Germany</u>**, have no need to ask for respite"* (House of Many Mansions, 1940).

*"During the great battle in France, we gave very powerful and continuous aid to the French Army, **both by fighters and bombers**"* (Their finest hour, 1940).

The peculiarity of completing his speeches is the application of the imperative: ***"Let us therefore brace ourselves to our duties"*** (Their finest hour, 1940).

To sum it up, Winston Churchill's speeches are rich in lexical and stylistic devices which he used to infuence society and achieve his goals. In addition to this, W. Churchill believed, unsurprisingly, in the romantic power of speeches. He wrote that if a man's oratory was powerful enough he would become an "independent force". He said a speech should be brought to a climax through a "rapid succession of waves of sound and vivid pictures" [1, p. 220].

Conclusion. The work has described how Winston Churchill's speeches influenced society and what lexical and stylistic devices were used by the speaker to achieve his goals. Winston Churchill used a significant amount of political, economic and military vocabulary; two types of metaphors indicating a critical situation and a tense period or indicating the call to action and the manifestation of support; numerous periphrases to describe his enemies; simile; personification; metonymy; parallel structures within the sentence; epanaphora; anaphora; modal verbs, most of which indicate the obligation; parenthentical clauses or expressions; complex sentences and imperatives.

During the hard times of the Battle of Britain, Winston Churchill's speeches showed their staying power by holding British morale together. They knew what they were fighting for and that the hope of much of the world laid on their shoulders. Using that strength, they managed to outlast the Germans repeated bombardments and, ultimately, won the skies over their home. Five years later, the British and their allies had won the war. Europe was free again and the darkness that had threatened the world was pushed back into the breach from

which it came. Winston Churchill's words had a powerful effect on its audience and he delivered them when they needed them most.

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