

Institute of Humanities & Arts

Stylistics

Course Code: ENGL-3122

Credit hours: 3

Aims & Objectives

- This course trains and prepares students to tackle the original text of the great masters of English language so that their dependence on prepared notes, critics may be lessened.
- This subject introduces the tools of linguistic analysis and trains the students to handle these tools to be used in literary and linguistic analyses.
- To introduce students to the study of original text
- To provide a ladder to the study of native English Literature
- To introduce the tools of linguistics and literary criticism, to the study of literature

Course Outline

UNIT 1

- What is stylistics? Other methods of literary criticism
- Stylistics as a bridge between linguistics and literary initiation

UNIT 2

- Literature as text and literature as discourse
- The nature of literary communication
- Literature as foregrounded language

UNIT 3

- The theory of deviation and its application to the study of poetry:
- Lexical Deviation
- Grammatical Deviation
- Phonological Deviation
- Semantic Deviation
- Dialectal Deviation
- Deviation of Register
- Deviation of Historical Period

UNIT 4

- Repetition
- Schema
- Trope

UNIT 5

- Patterns of Style
- Verbs

- Nouns
- Adjectives
- Pronouns
- Modals

UNIT 6

- Parallelism
- Scheme as foregrounded repetitions of expressions e.g. Verbal repletion and its poetic effects, Rhythm and Rhyme. New concepts of meter such as measure
- Tropes as foregrounded irregularities of content: Figurative language i.e. metaphor, oxymoron, synecdoche, irony, hyperbole, litotes etc.
- Exercises in the use of poetic devices.

UNIT 7

The appreciation of any short story and a novel with reference to concepts such as conflict, the narrative voice and Irony etc. (Refer to other methods of literary analysis)

- Teaching study skills for English literature: reading strategies, stylistic analysis, interpretation of texts in the class
- Reviewing novels, and writing literary appreciation of short stories and poems. Book reviews assigned as assignments. Seminars discussing literary works from a stylistics point of view.

UNIT 8

- Practice

Recommended Reading

1. Leech, Geoffrey. *English Grammar for Today*. London: MacMillan, 1982.
2. Leech, Geoffrey. *A Linguistic Guide to English Poetry*. London: Longman, 1969.
3. Crystal and Davy. *Investigating English Style*. Bloomington: Indiana University Press, 1969.
4. Cumming & Simmons. *Language of Literature*. Amsterdam & Philadelphia: John Benjamin's Publishing, 1985.
5. Crystal, D. *Stylistics*. London: Longman, 1969.
6. Widdowson, H.G. *Stylistics and the Teaching of Literature*. Essex: Longman, 1975.
7. Carter, Ronald (ed). *The Language of Literature*. Oxford: Oxford University Press, 1986.