

THE USE OF PERIPHRASES IN JOURNALISTIC TEXTS

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Abstract. *This article is devoted to the use of periphrasis as a stylistic device in different journalistic texts. The article analyzes typology of periphrases.*

Keywords: *periphrasis, figurative, metaphoric, metonymic, logical, euphemistic, language, journalistic.*

АННОТАЦИЯ. *Данная статья посвящена использованию перифраза как стилистического приема в различных публицистических текстах. В статье анализируется типология перифраз.*

КЛЮЧЕВЫЕ СЛОВА: *перифраз, образный, метафорический, метонимический, логический, эвфемистический, язык, публицистический.*

Periphrasis is a stylistic device that uses longer phrases or words instead of shorter ones to make sentences or speech more expressive. According to A.G.Gurochkina periphrasis is word of thoughts [7, 15]. In other words, it is an expression of what people think or renaming a particular object when it is not an exact name. For example, “**heat-loving bacteria** – known as *thermopiles* – can become dormant spores when they are exposed to cold” or “The proteins that make mucus have evolved in at least 15 independent instances in mammals, possibly by co-opting existing proteins into becoming **mucus-producers**. (New Scientist, September 3-9, 2022). It is clear with these examples that “heat-loving bacteria” means “*thermopiles*” and “mucus-producers” means “*mammals*”.

When it comes to the history of periphrasis it dates back to the 16th century. It borrowed to the English language from Latin, and it consists of two parts: “pre”- “all around” and “phrazein”-“to point out”.

Four types of periphrases are commonly used in English mass media: figurative periphrasis, logical periphrasis, euphemistic and other types [1, 1637].

Figurative periphrasis can be divided into two: metaphor and metonymy. In the English-Russian dictionary of stylistics (terminology and examples), [4, 255] metonymic and metaphoric periphrasis are described as a device made of phrase-metonymies or phrase-metaphors. For example, “The hospital was crowded with **the surgically interesting products of the fighting in Africa**”, which means “wounded”.

I.R. Galperin says that “logical periphrasis based on one of the inherent properties or perhaps a passing feature of the object described, as in **the most pardonable of human weaknesses** (Dickens) — love [3, 54]. Another example: “Next, Gokcumen hopes to investigate how many times **the slimy stuff** has evolved in slugs and snails” (New Scientist, September 3-9, 2022). Here, “the slimy stuff” is used instead of “saliva”.

INTEGRATION OF PRAGMALINGUISTICS, FUNCTIONAL TRANSLATION STUDIES AND LANGUAGE TEACHING PROCESSES

Moreover, a subtype of logical periphrasis named “detaching periphrasis” is also distinguished by D.M. Buzadzhi. A.B.Kobilova explains it as follows: “detaching periphrasis is replacing a more specific concept with a more general one, expressed by two or more words, for example: *“To bard a steak, you cover it with strips of fat from some other animal to protect it while it cooks”*”.

Euphemistic periphrasis is most commonly used in British journalism [5, 162]. Euphemistic periphrasis is the words or phrases that are used instead of unpleasant ones. It is sometimes called “a whitewashing device” for example, *to pass away, to expire, to be gone, to be no more, to join the majority, to go west* in place of *to die* or *to possess a vivid imagination, to tell stories* will replace the unpleasant verb *to lie*, *like a four-letter word* replaces *an obscenity*, *a woman of a certain type* means “a prostitute, a whore”.

According to A.B.Kobilova, there are original and traditional types of periphrasis [2, 15]. Original periphrasis is periphrasis created by writers or poets. Traditional periphrasis is understandable without context. For example, “*After a long wait, we finally got two Indian vaccine manufacturers ready to roll out the jabs for healthcare workers first and later for the rest of the public in phases*”. (The Daily Guardian, 23 January 2023). In this example, “*healthcare workers*” mean “*doctors*”.

During the study of different journalistic sources there is also found a new type of periphrasis named “contextual periphrasis”. Contextual periphrasis can be distinguished by the context only, without context it can have totally different meaning. For instance, “*The fact that we were able to see carbon dioxide in this gas giant’s atmosphere is a good sign for our ability to eventually understand the atmospheres of rocky worlds similar to Earth, one of the main goals of JWST, says Batalha*” or “*The observations also suggest hints of a mystery within the distant world*” (New Scientist, September 3-9, 2022). The examples “*gas giant’s atmosphere*” and “*the distant world*” mean a new “WASP-39” planet which is now being studied by scientists.

V.P. Moskvina distinguishes other types of periphrasis according to how many words the periphrasis consists of:

1. two-conditional
2. three word, etc

It means periphrastic phrases should include at least two words.

To conclude, in this article different kinds of periphrases as figurative, logical, euphemistic, original, and traditional periphrases are identified. Figurative expressions, i.e. periphrases, exist in the form of functional-semantic synonyms of words that arise due to the need of the addressee to rename the reality, the object. Figurative expressions, while avoiding repetition in the text, undoubtedly give aesthetic pleasure to people.

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