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ABSTRACT

of the dissertation for the degree of Doctor of Philosophy

THE PRAGMATICS OF ZEUGMA IN ENGLISH

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Applicant: **Laye Abdurahim Mustafayeva**

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The work was performed at the Department of English Grammar of Azerbaijan University of Languages.

Scientific supervisor Doctor of Philological Sciences,
Associate Professor
Leyla Mirhasan Jafarova

Official opponents: Doctor of Philological Sciences, Professor
Fikret Fatish Jahangirov

Doctor of Philological Sciences,
Associate Professor
Lale Gadir Gurbanova

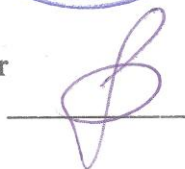
Doctor of Philosophy on Philology
Milana Yunis Abbasova

Dissertation council ED 2.12 of Supreme Attestation Commission under the President of the Republic of Azerbaijan operating at Azerbaijan University of Languages.

Chairman of the Doctor of Philological Sciences,
Dissertation council Professor
Azad Yahya Mammadov

Scientific secretary of the Doctor of Philosophy on Philology,
Dissertation council Associate Professor
Irada Nadir Sardarova

Chairman of the
scientific seminar



Doctor of Philological Sciences,
Professor
Fakhraddin Yadigar Veysalli

GENERAL CHARACTERISTICS

Actuality of the theme and the degree of research. It has long been known in modern linguistics that the text is studied as a communicative basis. Studying the text as a communicative basis began in the middle of the XX century and continues up today. The main focus related to the text started with the fact that it is a large unit, then continued with the concepts of “syntactic unit”, “micro text”, “macro text” with the claims put forward by certain linguists. A large number of studies involving various areas of the text linguistics have been carried out over the years. The names of some of the linguists such as I.R.Galperin, M.P.Brandes, M.A.K.Halliday, Z.S.Harris, N.S.Valgina, V.A.Kukharenko, K.M.Abdullayev, A.A.Abdullayev, A.Y.Mammadov, F.Y.Veysalli and the names of some others can be given as examples. There are many linguists whose researches are related to the different fields of complex syntactic unit, text, actual linking, and text linguistics.

Despite the study of the cognitive, pragmatic and communicative aspects of the text, some of its issues have not yet found its solution fully. Especially the study of the pragmatic aspect of the text within different stylistic devices remains relevant even today. Stylistic devices are of special importance in accelerating and expanding the information exchange of the text, studying the typology and functional aspects of the text. Stylistic devices have crucial roles in determining the intertextuality, cognitive and pragmatic aspects of the text.

Stylistic devices refer to any of a variety of means of giving additional meaning, thought, or feeling to a text. Also known as figures of speech or stylistic devices, the goal of these techniques is to create imagery, emphasis, or clarity in the text in order to attract a reader. Stylistic figures can be found in different types of the text.

Speaking on a stylistic figure, one cannot go on without giving an example from W. Shakespeare. As the theme of our research work is one of the stylistic devices is zeugma, let's look at the use of it in the play named as “The Merchant of Venice” by W. Shakespeare: *“How oddly he is suited! I think he bought his doublet in Italy, his*

round hose in France, his bonnet in Germany, and his behavior everywhere.”¹ The verb *buy* (here – *bought*) is used as the main controlling word, and it is combined with other words like “*his doublet, his round hose, his bonnet, his behavior*” to form a zeugmatic construction in the example.

There are different stylistic devices which are possible to be observed in the structures of texts such as *zeugma, metaphor, metonymy, hyperbole*, etc. These metaphorical elements have important connecting functions within the text and their connecting functions are very important in shaping it (the text).

Rhetoric is the main means that is used to determine the basis of the organization of the text. Rhetorical elements are considered to be isomorphic units that ensure the structural and semantic integrity of the text. They are united within the text from bottom to top, that is, in a hierarchical structure, forming a whole that makes up the completeness of the text. Hierarchical relations within the text, the formation of the integrity of the text, the deliberate unity of the units within it, are among the main issues of the theory of rhetorical structure.

The connecting of elements within the text is closely related to pragmatics.

Pragmatics, in linguistics as well as in philosophy is meant to be the study of the use of natural language in communication, and the study of the relationship among languages and their users. It should be noted that pragmatics is sometimes defined in contrast to linguistic semantics, which is understood as the study of systems of rules that determine the literal meanings of linguistic expressions in linguistics. Furthermore, pragmatics studies how both literal and non-literal aspects of spoken (expressed) linguistic meaning are determined by principles that refer to the physical or social context (broadly interpreted) in which language is used. Among these aspects are conversational and conditional “implications”. Other aspects include zeugma, metaphor, and some speech acts.

¹ Shakespeare, W. The Merchant of Venice [Electronic resource]. – June 5, – 2010. URL:https://folger-main-site-assets.s3.amazonaws.com/uploads/2022/11/the-merchant-of-venice_PDF_FolgerShakespeare.pdf

Zeugma is a stylistic device in which a number of elements are connected by a common word in a sentence. In other words, zeugma is a combination of a verb with two nouns with different semantic meanings. The semantic connection is literal on the one hand and metaphorical on the other. Zeugma includes subjects that connect each other not only with verbs, but also different parts of speech - pronouns with nouns, indirect objects with verbs, or adjectives with verbs or nouns as well. Zeugma is one of the most common stylistic devices that is used to eliminate verb repetition.

It is noteworthy to highlight that different stylistic devices were studied in English though the study of zeugma from a pragmatic point of view is a new research work.

Pragmatics and its usage in linguistic means require the study of issues such as presupposition and logical inference, reference, inference in pragmatics, which are currently widely used, and distinguishing zeugma from other stylistic devices from a new point of view, and it emphasizes the relevance of this research work.

Determining the pragmatics of zeugma in English can be considered as a manifestation of the logical result of the development of the linguistic approach to the text, and it means the actuality of the theme and the degree of research.

The study of zeugma as a stylistic device can be found in some research works. For example, in foreign linguistics D.Freeman, J.Watson, G.Leach, S.Thomas, J.Katz, P.Kroeger, A.Lascarides, A.Quinn, N.Norrick, J.Rooryck and some others. Russian linguists have also been known to show special interest in the study of stylistic devices, including zeugma such as I.Arnold, O.Akhmanova, E.Beregovskaya, I.Galperin, S.Lukyanov, A.Smolina, T.Matveeva and others. It should be emphasized that a few linguists of Azerbaijan, for example F.Veysalli, M.Adilov and some others gave a brief explanation of the term “zeugma”. This topic has been dealt with to some extent under the name of stylistic devices, but not broadly.

Although researches in this field have been carried out in various ways, the detailed study of the pragmatic features of zeugma in English in Azerbaijan Germanic studies was initially involved in

the research in this dissertation work. The research of this topic is sure to meet the necessary demand from a pragmatic aspect in this field.

The object and subject of the research. *The object of the research* is the pragmatics of zeugma, which is manifested as a stylistic device in sentences with different syntactic forms, texts and discourses in English. Although we mainly used literary texts some poems (classical, etc.) and some certain types of discourse were used as well. Selected text types and sentences with different syntactic forms related to zeugma and other stylistic devices that we compare with it (zeugma) were selected as the object of the research. In addition, text types from various Internet resources were also used in the research work.

The subject of the research is the generalization and systematization of the results obtained from the pragmatic features of zeugma.

The goal and objectives of the research work. The main goal of the study is to reveal the pragmatic features of zeugma as a stylistic device in English. To achieve this goal, the following tasks are expected to be carried out:

- To give an overview of the manifestation and development of linguistic pragmatics;
- To identify the various aspects of general and special pragmatics;
- To reveal the role of presupposition and logical inference in pragmatics;
- To clarify the importance of reference and inference in pragmatics;
- To define the content of the concept of zeugma;
- To determine the pragmatic features of zeugma;
- To find out the place of the types of zeugma in pragmatics;
- To explore the different aspects of zeugma and some other stylistic devices.

The research methods. Descriptive, stylistic and contextual methods were used as research methods.

The main provisions for defense are:

- Texts differ from one another according to their pragmatic features.
- Pragmatics refers to the relationship between language signs and their users in terms of their content.
- Pragmatic language considers the participants from the point of view of understanding each other in the communication process.
- Pragma linguistics examines the norms and principles that regulate speech behavior in the process of communication.
- Presupposition and logical inference have a special role in pragmatics.
- Reference and inference are important in determining the pragmatics of zeugma.
- In addition to stylistic features, zeugma has also grammatical (syntactic) structures.
- The pragmatics of zeugma has been defined in English.
- There are certain types of zeugma and each of them are certain to have pragmatic features.
- Zeugma differs from other stylistic devices (such as ellipsis, syllepsis, pun etc.).

Scientific novelty of the research. A detailed study of the pragmatic features of zeugma is carried out in this research work in English. Despite the research being conducted in various ways in this field, this topic has been explored from a pragmatic aspect for the first time in Azerbaijani German studies. Pragmatics of zeugma, development ways of linguistic pragmatics has been studied. Important issues such as presupposition, logical inference, reference, and inference observed in pragmatics are reviewed, and they are defined as means that have a necessary role in determining the pragmatics of zeugma. This research work examines the pragmatics of zeugma in English from a linguistic point of view for the first time. The facts and conditions for distinguishing zeugma from other stylistic devices are revealed.

The theoretical and the practical significance of the research. New theoretical issues related to the definition of the pragmatics of zeugma from stylistic means have been put up for

discussion in the dissertation. The pragmatic features of zeugma in various texts have been included in the analysis for the first time.

The research work can be applied in conducting various seminars, lectures, special courses on Germanic linguistics, as well as teaching communicative grammar. The obtained results can be used in writing manuals for students of various specialties.

Approbation and application. The main provisions of the research work are reflected in articles and theses published in scientific journals of various universities of our Republic, as well as in collections published in foreign countries. In addition, the results of the research can be used in lectures and practical courses related to stylistics and grammar in university faculties.

Name of the organization where the dissertation is performed. The research work was carried out at the Department of English Grammar of the Azerbaijan University of Languages.

The total volume of the dissertation with a sign including a separate volume of the structural units of the dissertation. The dissertation work consists of Introduction, two chapters, conclusion and list of used literature. Introduction part of the dissertation – 6 pages, 10556 characters, Chapter I – 68 pages, 123403 characters, Chapter II – 61 pages, 107311 characters, Conclusion – 2 pages, 3062 characters, the total volume of the dissertation is 244333 characters, excluding the list of used literature.

THE MAIN CONTENTS OF THE WORK

The actuality of the theme, the object and the subject of the research, aims and the objectives are identified, the research methods, main provisions raised for defense, scientific novelty of the research, theoretical and practical significance, approbation and structure of the dissertation are postulated in the **Introduction**.

The first chapter of the research work entitled “**Pragmatics and its reflection in stylistic means**” gives some information on the formation of linguistic pragmatics. The chapter consists of three paragraphs.

“The formation of linguistic pragmatics” is the name of the first paragraph of Chapter I. Some detailed information on pragmatics is given in this paragraph. The questions like “What is pragmatics?”, “How was linguistic pragmatics formed?”, “What are the points of use of the term pragmatics?” etc. are fully answered in this paragraph.

Pragmatics, in linguistics as well as in philosophy is meant to be the study of the use of natural language in communication, and the study of the relationship among languages and their users. It should be noted that pragmatics is sometimes defined in contrast to linguistic semantics, which is understood as the study of systems of rules that determine the literal meanings of linguistic expressions in linguistics. Furthermore, pragmatics studies how both literal and non-literal aspects of spoken (expressed) linguistic meaning are determined by principles that refer to the physical or social context (broadly interpreted) in which language is used. Among these aspects are conversational and conditional “implications”. Other aspects include zeugma, metaphor, and some speech acts.

Pragmatics is considered to be an important branch of linguistics. It makes us aware with the meanings of words and phrases beyond their literal meaning and also enables us to understand (perceive) how meaning is expressed in particular contexts. When communicating with people, there is a constant negotiation of meaning in the conversation (dialogue, discourse, etc.) between the listener and the speaker. Pragmatics reflects this negotiation and includes what people mean when they communicate with each other. In this case, let’s try to answer the question “What is Pragmatics?”

Pragmatics studies the difference between the literal meaning of words and their intended meaning in a social context, and it can include stylistic figures such as irony, metaphor and metonymy, zeugma, etc.

T.Honderich in *The Oxford Companion to Philosophy* (1995) defines pragmatics as following: *“Pragmatics is the field whose focus is not on reference, truth, or grammar, but on information and*

the context of language use.”²

Pragmatics has different aspects such as intended meaning and speech acts. All these aspects are important for understanding pragmatics as a whole.

Examine the origin of pragmatics, this term (Pragmatics) turns out to have been firstly used by a philosopher and psychologist Charles W. Morris in the 1930s, and this term was further developed as a branch of linguistics in the 1970s. Pragmatics is a linguistic term as well³.

Ch.Morris used the terms like pragmatism and philosophy, sociology, and anthropology to develop pragmatic theory in his book “Signs, Language, and Behavior” in 1947. Ch.Morris wrote that pragmatics “*deals with the origin, use, and effects of signs in speech.*”⁴

Signs refer to the actions, gestures, the body language, and tone of the voice that accompany speech rather than physical signs such as road signs in pragmatics⁵.

It should be noted that pragmatics is the fastest developing field in modern linguistics. In recent times, as pragmatics has developed in linguistics, cognitive linguistics, anthropology, sociology, language pathology, psycholinguistics and other fields are also developing widely and rapidly. Examining various books on pragmatics, we saw that modern linguists and specialists from different countries express their opinions about this field and do not hesitate to express it. Y. Huang is one of these linguists who attracted our attention. He explains pragmatics like this: “*Pragmatics can be considered as the study of language which is widely used.*”⁶

Noting that the emergence of the term pragmatics is not accidental, it is rather a result of the historical turn of language

² Honderich, T. *The Oxford Companion to Philosophy*. New Edition. / T.Honderich. – Oxford: Oxford University Press, – 2005. –p.100.

³ Morris, Ch. *Signs, Language And Behavior*. / Ch.Morris. Literary Licensing, LLC, – October 15, – 2011. – p.180.

⁴ *Ibid*, – p.188.

⁵ Chapman, S. *Pragmatics*. / S.Charpman. – Cambridge: Cambridge University Press, – 2011. – p.11.

⁶ Huang, Y. *Pragmatics*. / Y.Huang. – Oxford: OUP, – 2014. – p.1.

philosophy, that is, the “language turn” of the XIX century. This issue begins with the study of the linguistic turn from the field of psychology, including thoughts and concepts, to the field of language, which deals with sentences and meanings. At those times, philosophers such as L.Wittgenstein (1889-1951), J.L.Austin (1911-1960), J.R.Searle (1932–), H.P.Grice (1913-1988) and H.Paul (1913-1988) used language analysis to solve philosophical problems. The second turn occurred in the first half of the 20th century and is known as the “pragmatic turn”. The emergence of this turn is considered to be a result of the philosophy of language. During that period, linguists established the first real dialogue between language and philosophy using the concepts of L.Wittgenstein, J.Austin, J.Searle, P.Grice, Ch. Peirce and Ch. Morris (1901-1979) to solve language problems. When cognitive science and cognitive psychology were used to deal with pragmatic challenges, pragmatists began to discuss the so-called “cognitive turn”, regarded as a third type of philosophy of language.

The second paragraph of Chapter I is entitled “***Presupposition and logical inference in pragmatics***”. A closer look at the paragraph shows that pragmatics focuses not directly on the phonetic or grammatical form of the speaker’s utterance, but on what the speaker intends and believes, and that it includes presupposition and logical inference (implicature). That covers *pragmatics + presupposition + logical conclusion*. It is important to highlight that speaking on pragmatic meaning without presupposition and conclusion is completely meaningless.

To study the history of presupposition, it is more appropriate to first of all refer to its definitions that were given by linguists. The definitions given in the dictionaries allow to determine not the content of the term “presupposition”, but rather the main approaches in the rather broad and multifaceted direction of modern linguistics. This situation, first of all, is related to the practical development of any terminological interpretation of the event in the relevant field of science.

The history of pragmatics dates back to the late 30s of the 20th century, when Ch.S.Morris defined this term as one of the sections of

semiotics that studies the attitude of speakers to signs⁷. In this original work, which took an important place in the formation of semiotics as a science, pragmatics was first defined as the study (aspect) of the relationship of signs to their interpreters, that is, those who use sign systems. It (pragmatics) studies the behavior of language signs, more precisely, the behavior of those who use them in real communication processes. *“Since the interpreters of most (and perhaps all) signs are living beings (humans), a rather characteristic aspect of pragmatics is that it deals with the biotic aspects of semiosis, in other words, with all the psychological, biological and sociological phenomena observed in the processing of signs.”*⁸ This idea was later continued by R.S.Stolneyker, who interpreted *“pragmatics as a science that studies language in relation to those who use it.”*⁹

The third paragraph of Chapter I of the dissertation deals with the **“*Problem of Reference and Inference*”**.

The explanation of the term reference and inference is explained clearly and in detail in this paragraph.

Reference includes the relationship between language and the world. In other words, it (reference) is the relationship among words and the things, actions, events and qualities they represent. For example: My son → refers to a person; a dog → refers to an animal, etc.

In semantics, reference is taken as in linguistics; that is, reference is defined as the relationship between a linguistic expression and the entity in the real world to which it refers though the words themselves do not really mean anything except the people who use them.

R.Carston writes that a successful reference depends not only on the speaker, but also on the listener. That being the case, we must include the notion of inference, which opens up the pragmatic

⁷ Morris, Ch. Writings on the General Theory of Signs. / Ch.Morris. – Den Haag: Mouton, – 1983. – p.186.

⁸ Ibid, – p. 63.

⁹ Stolneyker, P. C. Pragmatics / General editor E.V.Paducheva. // – M.: Progress, New in Foreign Linguistics, Linguistic Pragmatics, – 1985. – Issue XVI, – p. 419.

meaning of speech. At this time, the listener uses additional knowledge to make sense of what is clearly reported¹⁰.

Let's look at the following three sentences and understand the differences among the relative clauses:

- 1) *There is a woman waiting for you.*
- 2) *She wants to marry a man with lots of money.*
- 3) *I would like to see a friend.*

The nouns *a woman, a man, a friend* used in these examples are referred words.

At any moment, the speaker (the writer) allows the listener (the reader) to identify something (reference) with linguistic forms. These linguistic forms are expressions of referents. For example: Name: Farukh – a definite nominal phrase; a good doctor – an indefinite nominal phrase; pronoun: he, him, etc.

Their choice is a reality outside of communication, known in advance to both the speaker and the listener in the surrounding world. In order to make the reference successful, it is called *inference* when we choose the object or thing that we name and denote at the moment of communication. Inference is not a direct connection of words with the external world, the listener is not able to touch it, the speaker simply enters into communication and identifies with it. Consider this situation: A person comes and asks for the head of the department and does not know his name. The secretary tells him (her) that Mr.Salman will not be here today. This shows that the manager's name is Salman, etc.¹¹

A reference indicates something that has already been said or will be said in a previous or subsequent sentence. Every language has certain elements that are referential. Reference in English can take three forms: personal, demonstrative, and comparative.

In linguistics, inference can be generally explained like this: *“The inference is defined as information that is not explicitly expressed in the text, but is obtained based on the knowledge of the*

¹⁰ Carston, R. *Thoughts and Utterances: The Pragmatics of Explicit Communication.* / R.Carston. – Oxford: Blackwell Publishing, – 2002. – p.132

¹¹ Veysalli, F.Y. *Basics of Linguistics.* / – F.Y.Veysalli. – Baku: Translator, – 2011. – p.317

understander and is encoded in the mental representation of the text. The result is considered as a central component in the understanding of speech”.

Being known, text is meant to be a complex information created both in written and oral form. The text is also distinguished by its multi-level connections. In addition, the text is a dynamic unit that is realized in existing communication. Each text is made up of sentences. The sentences that make up the texts are the main language forms of expressing the ideas conveyed. The construction and meaning of the sentence is opened to logical analysis, and then the inference is observed. The obtained result is achieved by the interaction and relations between thinking and language, speech and their units. As a result, syntactic units act as logical-grammatical and stylistic means. Let's look at an example: *“War in city X makes for a daily struggle to survive.”*

According to the logical conclusion of this sentence, the war in the city X is at such a limit that it has reached such a limit that in order to survive there, it is absolutely necessary to fight daily, ever.

Presuppositions in this sentence can be defined like this:

- 1) There is a city named X;
- 2) A deadly war is going on in that area;
- 3) The war has been going on for a certain period of time, that is, the war has already started;
- 4) It is necessary to fight in order to live in war,
- 5) The main issue that is brought to attention is that if you do not fight, you have no chance to survive;
- 6) The struggle should be carried out every day, every moment;
- 7) There is no one to help.

Obviously, each of these presuppositions forms a certain inference. Informativeness, according to the meaning and elements in the sentence, leads to the formation of the result (inference) of the sentence.

The formation of the inference of a sentence is weighed by the degree of its comprehension by the reader. In inference, the speech activity of a person who formed it finds its expression.

Determination of inference is also related to the intention of the

author who accepted it. This includes acceptance of inference and interpretation of the author.

The ancient Greek philosophers defined a series of inferences for any complex presuppositions¹².

Let's look at a famous example:

- 1) *All humans are deadly.*
- 2) *All Romans are humans.*
- 3) *All Romans are mortal.*

The reader can check the truth of the presuppositions and the inferences, but also think about making a logical conclusion. In this case, such a question arises: "Does the truth of the inference follow from the presuppositions?"

The validity of the inference depends on the form of the result. The word "reliable" we use here does not refer to the accuracy of the result, but rather to the norm of the result. An inference can be valid even if it is false, and it can be invalid even if some parts are true.

The examples may express our point of view:

- 1) *All wool comes from animals.*
- 2) *All wool is material.*
- 3) *Therefore, all materials come from animals.*

If the presuppositions are true, the inference is necessarily true.

When listeners or readers understand a conversation, they understand more than what is clearly expressed in the sentences. Based on their knowledge of the language and the world, they can understand what is hidden in the text. Let us analyze the following text: "*Yesterday there were municipal elections. As the majority of the city voted for the local party, there was a shift to the left in the city council. But the right-wing party was not completely disappointed. It expected to lose more.*"¹³

Readers may conclude that the local party is a left-wing party; one can also see many people voting for a certain party and a stronger representation of that party in the text. Furthermore, this text also suggests that the contrast between the drift to the left and not

¹² Ancient Greek philosophy: [Electronic resource]. URL: https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Ancient_Greek_philosophy

¹³ Huang, Y. Pragmatics. / Y.Huang. – Oxford: OUP, – 2014. – p.267

being completely disappointed by it and the resulting shift is a reason to be disappointed, and that there are other reasons (worse expectations) why the right party is not so disappointed; and it is concluded that “this issue” belongs to the right party, not the city council. All this information is not clearly expressed in the text, but the readers can understand them. This is named as “inference”. Inference is defined as information that is not explicitly expressed in the text, but can be derived from the text based on the knowledge of the listener (reader) and encoded into the description of the text’s constructions.

Two types of inference can be identified. The first type is the result of acquiring new information. This type is observed in ordinary language. Let’s analyze the sentence:

Alex chose his stranston shoes because there was much mud.

The reader may infer that *stranston* is a preferred material or brand to wear when there is a lot of mud. If the reader is not familiar with *stranston*, the reader may not understand the correct use of the conjunction “because”. However, if we think that the sentence conveys a meaning, the reader can gain some new information from it.

The second type of inference is the activation of existing knowledge. From the text above, for example, “this issue” refers to the right party, and given the contrasting relationship shown with “but”, it is clear that the shift towards the opposition is generally a cause for disappointment.

In general, this kind of inference is not very common in everyday language, but most psycholinguistic researchers recommend paying attention to this kind of inference.

Chapter II of the research work is titled “**Zeugma and its pragmatic features**”. This chapter contains 3 paragraphs.

“*The concept of zeugma in stylistics*” is dealt with in the first paragraph of Chapter II.

The style is reflected by the principle of selection and combination of different language means (expression resources) that serve the communicative goals of language users with certain goals. The content of stylistics cannot be limited to the study of style. It

also includes the study of means of expression and stylistic devices used in various areas of speech that aim to create an impression. The main concepts of style are imagery, expressiveness, evaluation, emotionality, expressive means and stylistic means. So, stylistics makes the style of text and discourse more expressive and meaningful.

Stylistics does not function as an independent field and can be applied to the understanding of literature and journalism as well as linguistics¹⁴. Research sources in style can range from canonical writings to popular texts and from advertisement texts to news, non-fiction and popular culture as well as political and religious discourse¹⁵.

I.V. Arnold preferred to emphasize figures perceived as lexical and stylistic forms and expressive means that perform a special stylistic function¹⁶.

A.N. Morokhovsky analyzes the means of style from a practical and theoretical point of view. He defines styling means as:

From practical point of view:

- a) Tropes;
- b) Figures of speech;

From theoretical point of view:

- 1) Phonetic means;
- 2) Graphical means;
- 3) Lexical means;
- 4) Syntactic means;
- 5) Lexical-syntactic means¹⁷.

Words in context can express additional lexical meanings that are not found in dictionaries, which are called *context meanings*. The

¹⁴ Widdowson, H.G. Stylistics and the teaching of literature. / H.G. Widdowson. – Longman: London, – 1975. – p.6.

¹⁵ Simpson, P. Stylistics: A resource book for students. / P. Simpson. – Psychology Press, – 2004. – p.145.

¹⁶ Arnold, I.V. Semantics. Stylistics. Intertextuality. / I.V. Arnold. – Moscow: Book House "LIBROKOM", – 2010. – p.148.

¹⁷ Morokhovsky, A.N. Stylistics of the English language. / A.N. Morokhovsky. – Kiev: Head Publishing House of the Publishing Association "Vishcha Shkola", – 1984. – p.54.

latter can sometimes deviate from its literal meaning to such an extent that the new meaning even becomes the opposite of the original meaning.

This is the interaction between two types of lexical meaning: literal and figurative.

The figurative meaning of a word can be fixed in dictionaries as a result of long and frequent use of the word in contrast to its original meaning. In this case, we mean the figurative meaning of the word. When we take two meanings of a word at the same time, we mean a stylistic form in which the two meanings interact.

Stylistic means are usually divided into:

1. Stylistic means based on the interaction of different types of lexical meaning:

- a) lexical and contextual (metaphor, metonymy, irony);
- b) primary and derivative (zeugma and pun);
- c) logical and emotional (epithet, oxymoron);
- d) logical and nominative (autonomy);

2. Stylistic means based on intensification: (simile, hyperbole, paraphrase).

3. Stylistic means based on the unique use of plural expressions: (clichés, proverbs, epigram, quotations).

The following goals emerge in the use of lexical stylistic means:

- a) Interaction of different lexical meanings;
- b) Intensification of the characteristic signs of the described events;
- c) Deliberate mixing of words with different stylistic aspects for certain purposes¹⁸.

There are various stylistic devices used from ancient times to the present day. One of them is zeugma.

Zeugma comes from the Greek word “yoking” or “bonding”. The verb or the adjective refers to a noun that grammatically and

¹⁸ Morokhovsky, A.N. Stylistics of the English language. / A.N.Morokhovsky. – Kiev: Head Publishing House of the Publishing Association "Vishcha Shkola", – 1984. – p.60.

logically combines different ideas¹⁹. For example: *John lost his coat and his temper.*

The verb /lost/ refers to two nouns /coat/ and /temper/ in this example. The verb /lost/ used in this sentence “to lose the coat and to lose the patience” has different meanings both logically and grammatically.

Although zeugma is explained differently in various sources, in general there is a lot of similarity in explaining its meaning. It is noteworthy to look through some of them:

Zeugma is explained like this in “The Cambridge Grammar of English”: “*A word with more than one meaning is used in one part of the sentence in one sense and in another part it is considered to be zeugma.*”²⁰

Zeugma is sometimes used to create a strong effect in a sentence. Let’s look at an example: “*She filed her nails, and then she filed a complaint against her boss.*”

Two claims create some strong influence in the sentence in this example.

M.Webster’s dictionary writes about zeugma: “*The use of one word to change or control two or more words is called zeugma. Words are used in different senses and only one word can have a meaning in relation to one another.*”²¹ The example can explain our point of view:

“*He opened the door and her heart to the homeless boy.*”

Collins’ English dictionary describes *zeugma* like this: “*A figure of speech in which one word is used to modify or control two or more words*”²². For example: “*Mr. Pickwick took his hat and his leave.*”²³

We think that *zeugma* can be considered to be a figure of

¹⁹ Cambridge Dictionary. Meaning of zeugma in English: [Electronic resource]. URL: <https://dictionary.cambridge.org/dictionary/english/zeugma>

²⁰ Ibid.

²¹ Zeugma: Definition and meaning: [Electronic resource]. URL: <https://www.merriam-webster.com/dictionary/Zaugma>

²² Collins English dictionary. Definition and meaning of Zeugma: [Electronic resource]. URL: <https://www.collinsdictionary.com/dictionary/english/Zaugma>

²³ Dickens, Ch. The Pickwick Papers. / Ch.Dickens. – Clarendon Press, – 1986. – p.90.

significant change of syntactic relation or semantic agreement in a phrase or between sentences. It can also be meant to be a syntactic figure that causes a word to be used in several meanings at the same time in a sentence or the combination of several grammatically different words in a construction to be reconciled with another word. For example: “*He lost everything there: his friend, his purse, his head and finally his reputation.*”

Zeugma can also be considered as a literary term used to use one word to change two other words in two different ways: “*She broke his car and his heart.*”

We think that in revealing the meaning of zeugma, it is necessary to pay attention to the difference between the real meaning and the figurative meaning. The role of pragmatics in revealing the meaning should also be considered. F.Veysalli also supports the importance of pragmatics, especially linguistic pragmatics, in revealing the meanings of words within the text²⁴.

The study of the pragmatics of zeugma has existed since ancient times. Aristotle wrote about figures of speech in his work “Rhetoric” in ancient Greece²⁵. As it is known, the importance of rhetoric in conveying the meaning of texts to the listener or the reader is very important. Writers use zeugma to increase some interest in fiction. The use of zeugma simplifies the sentence and aims to make some strong impact on the reader (or the listener).

The second paragraph of Chapter II is titled “***Zeugma and its expressive forms***”. Zeugma and its forms, more precisely expressive forms of zeugma, are discussed in detail in this paragraph.

Every word in the language has a meaning of its own. The relationship between word form and meaning is considered to be arbitrary. On that account, F.Veysalli writes that there is no direct connection between the signifier and the signified²⁶. So, the same realities in the language sound different.

²⁴ Veysalli, F.Y. Encyclopedia of Linguistics. / F.Y.Veysalli. – Baku: Translator, – 2006. – p.90.

²⁵ Aristotle. Rhetoric. / Aristotle. – Cosimo, Inc., – 2010. – p.5.

²⁶ Veysalli, F.Y. Introduction to German linguistics. / F.Y.Veysalli. – Baku: Translator, – 2011. – p. 233.

Polysemy is a general term whose use is not limited to lexicology as an aspect of language. In actual speech, ambiguity disappears unless it is deliberately maintained for certain stylistic purposes. A context that does not try to create any particular stylistic effect generally realizes a certain meaning. Therefore, we state that polysemy can manifest itself in speech or language with different meanings.

S.Ullman is one of the researchers who wrote about polysemy. According to the author, *“Polysemy is a phenomenon that describes the existence of a set of different meanings related to each other for some words, and it is the main element of semantic analysis”*²⁷. Polysemy remained an unsolvable problem for structuralists, especially researchers whose theory of language was based on the axiom that language is an autonomous system independent of cognitive processes, emotions, and physical influence. In their attempts to solve it, structuralists fought to preserve the principle of “one form one meaning”²⁸.

The following examples can be analyzed to reveal two or more meanings of words: *“Then hate me if thou wilt, if ever now”*.²⁹

The verb “hate” has several meanings in this example. This becomes clear when you read sonnet 90 to the end and compare the meaning of this word with other verbs used as synonyms. The main meanings of the word are: “dislike”, “stop loving”, “become indifferent”, “feel aversion”, etc.

Another example: *“Massachusetts was hostile to the American flag, and she would not allow it to be hoisted on her State House.”*³⁰

²⁷ Ullmann, S. *Semantics: An Introduction to the Science of Meaning* / S.Ullmann. – Oxford: Blackwell, 1962. –p.117.

²⁸ Lyons, J. *Semantics* [2 vols.] / J. Lyons. – Cambridge: Cambridge University Press, – Vol. 1. – 1977. –p.50-79.

²⁹ Shakespeare, W. *Sonnet 90: Then Hate me when thou wilt; if ever now:* [Electronic resource]. – July 8, – 2011. URL: <https://nosweatshakespeare.com/sonnets/90/>

³⁰ Kitjaroenpaiboon, W., Getkham, K. *Stylistic Patterns in Language Teaching Research Articles: A Multidimensional Analysis:* [Electronic resource] // PASAA, – July – December, – 2016. Volume 52,– p.1-40. URL: <http://lecture-stylistics-as-a-science-problems-of-stylistic-research.html?page=30> -

The word “flag” is used in its original meaning when combined with the verb “to raise” and in its contextual meaning in the combination “became the enemy”.

The words have special stylistic devices that form two (several) different lexical meanings. We can cite means such as zeugma and pun as examples.

The following can be given as an example of zeugma:

*“Dora, plunging at once **into privileged intimacy** and **into the middle of the room.**”³¹*

The verb *to plunge* means *to rush into* or *to enter impetuously*. While the phrase *into the middle of the room* is used in its literal sense, the word *to plunge* in the phrase *to plunge into privileged intimacy* is used in a transferred (derivative) sense. Another example:

“...Whether the Nymph Shall stain her Honor or her new Brocade or lose her heart or necklace at a Ball.”³²

The use of the verbs *to stain* and *to lose* can also create ambiguity in this example.

The example may be given from the media:

*“You are free **to execute** your laws, and your citizens, as you see fit.”³³*

The verb *to execute* is a great example of zeugma in this example.

Here is an example from the Bible:

*“And all the people saw the thunderings, and the lightnings, and the **noise of the trumpet**, and the mountain smoking: and when the people saw it, they removed, and stood afar off”³⁴.*

³¹ Sachkova, E.L. Lectures on English Stylistics. Tutorial: [Electronic resource]/ E.L.Sachkova. – M.: MIIT, – 2012. – 94 p. URL: <https://znaniya.com/task/51492853>.

³² Pope, A. The rape of the lock. Canto 2: [Electronic resource]/ A.Pope. Oxford: Oxford University Press, – 1990. – 132 p. URL: <https://www.poetryfoundation.org/poems/44907/the-rape-of-the-lock-canto-2>.

³³ Star Trek: The Next Generation (TV Series 1987–1994): [Electronic resource]. URL: <https://www.imdb.com/title/tt0092455/episodes?season=1>

³⁴ Exodus 20:18 KJV – And all the people saw the thunderings: [Electronic resource]. URL: <https://www.biblegateway.com/passage/?search=Exodus%2020%318&Version=KJV>

The expressions used in this example such as “saw the thunderings” and “the noise of the trumpet” denote a zeugmatic meaning: The use of two expressions with the verb *to see* attracts attention. For people to observe that event is impossible. It is only possible to hear the roar and the sound of the trumpet. Therefore, the combinations *saw the thunderings* and *the lightnings, and the noise of the trumpet*, used here, come out of their true meaning and express a different meaning, creating zeugma.

This can be considered an interesting example of the use of zeugma. The use of zeugma in the Bible increases the impact of sentences and expands their expressive possibilities.

Considering zeugma as a means of creating some various feelings J. Du-Mo writes about its consisting of four structures for use³⁵:

1) One verb + two or more objects: *Kill the woman and the luggage.*

[verb + object (objects)];

2) Preposition + two or more objects: “*She went straight home, in the flood of tears, and a sedan-chair.*”³⁶

[preposition + object (or objects)];

3) Two subjects + a predicate: *Ten minutes later, the coffee and commander of naval intelligence arrived at once.*

[subject (subjects)+verb]

4) Adjective + two or more nouns or noun phrases: “*She was having a grey coat and a heart that day*”.

[adjective+noun(s) or noun phrases]

Zeugma is created by omitting the second and third forms of the same word. The omission of words can still be perceived from the context of the remaining words. Linguists do not require that the governing word should always be a verb. Context plays a crucial role in determining the meaning of the intended sentence and what the individual words refer to in the sentence. The context in which words

³⁵ Du-Mo, J. The Difference between Zeugma and syllepsis. // US-China Foreign Language, – 2006. No. 4(11), – p.28.

³⁶ Dickens, Ch. The Pickwick Papers. / Ch.Dickens. – USA: Wordsworth edition, – 1993. – p.137

are used determines and limits their meanings in various ways. The linguistic and pragmatic context determines the features of the word. P.Kroeger explains that *the context includes the meanings which contain a lexically confusing word.*³⁷ Thus, in some genres, the use of zeugma dramatizes or tragicizes the story, thereby giving the work a new lease of life. Because zeugma usually involves an unexpected, logically unfounded transition to a new object, a new subject of speech (the effect of defeated expectancy)³⁸.The speaker asks the listener to select only the intended meaning depending on the context. This context demonstrates zeugma as a figure of speech.

The main categories of zeugma are constructions that contain two types: 1) those classified according to the position of the governing (main verb) verb; 2) those on which the governing word is another part of speech (usually *the noun*).³⁹

The third paragraph of Chapter II of the research work is titled **“Zeugma – ellipsis, syllepsis and pun”**. All these three units are detailed and their distinguishing features are demonstrated concretely and with examples in this paragraph.

As a stylistic device the origin of zeugma dates back to the ancient times of Greek rhetoric. On the one hand, these centuries and old history gave zeugma a crucial place in modern language sciences. On the other hand, the collected ideas about the structure, formation and understanding of the mechanisms of zeugma are so diverse that in some cases they are not only different, but even directly contradict each other. In addition, the lack of some regular terminology can lead to confusion between zeugma and some other stylistic devices.

Zeugma is a figure of compactness because it is formed by abbreviations: the nuclear word is used only once, but in relation to dependents in different senses, which allows to avoid repetition in the utterance and greatly reduces the volume of the construction. One

³⁷ Kroeger, P. An Introduction to Semantics and Pragmatics. //– Berlin: Language science press, – 2018. – p.33-40.

³⁸ Beregovskaya, E.M. Problems of studying zeugma as a rhetorical figure. / Voprosy jazykoznanija,– 1985. No 5, – p.59-67.

³⁹ Foreyth, M. The Elements of Eloquence. / M.Foreyth. – New York: Penguin, – 2004. – p.231.

of the tasks of zeugma is to ensure the brevity of utterances, which is characteristic of natural languages.

Being known, ellipsis can be used both in a sentence and in the composition of language units larger than a sentence. Expression and suppression are common in ellipsis. O.Jespersen explains it in the following way: the means expressed by the speaker is expression, and the information he (she) does not want to give is expressed by suppression⁴⁰.

Ellipsis used in language or writing is associated with suppression. The main issue with the case of suppression is that the suppression can be re-established at any time depending on the intention of the speaker. At any moment, ellipsis can be used as a stylistic device⁴¹. G.Cook also connects the essence of ellipsis with suppressiveness⁴². In this matter his opinion is identical to the opinion of K.Abdullayev.

Ellipsis recovery can also be fulfilled through text structure. In this case, the omission of words and sentences goes beyond the boundaries of the sentence, and this is also considered to be important.

Zeugma can be confused with other stylistic devices in some cases. One of such stylistic devices is syllepsis.

There are various opinions on the distinction between syllepsis and zeugma. In our opinion, the most appropriate differentiation was presented by A.Seagal: "*Syllepsis has the same grammatical structure as zeugma, only unlike it, all the words controlled here are given in the literal sense.*"⁴³. The example can demonstrate our point of view: *My sister prefers English fiction, my brother French fiction.*

The word *prefer* may be used in the second part of the sentence in this example: *My brother prefers French books.* The verb is literal

⁴⁰ Jespersen, O. Language, its nature, development, and origin. / O.Jespersen. – Publisher: H. Holt, – 1922. – p.63.

⁴¹ Abdullayev, K.M. Theoretical problems of Azerbaijan language syntax. / K.M.Abdullayev. – Baku: Maarif, – 1998. – p.92.

⁴² Cook, G. Discourse and Literature. / G.Cook. – Oxford: Oxford University Press, – 1994. – 245 p.

⁴³ Seagal, A. Syllepsis: An Unfought Wars. Advances in Language and Battle. // Language Studies, – 2015. No 6(2), – p.137-147.

and has no figurative meaning in the sentence. Depending on the intention of the speaker, it is preferred not to use it. We consider the example as syllepsis.

As the first type of syllepsis, *a noun phrase syllepsis* was identified. Here, a single predicate refers to two or more parts of a sentence though grammatical precision is not observed here. One form of the main verb ungrammatically combines with various noun phrases or auxiliary verbs. According to this structure, the verb is used after pronouncing the first noun and is common to all the subjects.

A predicate can refer to two or more members of the sentence in this type, but precision is not observed either. The main verb agrees with the subject and can have different forms (tense forms) depending on the subject, that is, according to this rule, the verb agrees with the subject of the sentence. For example:

He works, and I.

The verb agrees with the first subject, but is followed by the second subject in this example, and then the verb is in agreement with the subject of the second sentence. For example:

The first structure:

I speak English, she French.

Here I is in the first person singular and the verb is in the form of *speak*, while in the second part the verb *speak* is in the form of *speaks* when it is combined with the third person singular: I – speak; she – speaks.

The second structure:

I visit my granny, and you your grandfather (I – speak; you speak).

Thus, the verb comes after these word combinations or two prepositions in the sentence, or comes before both of them in syllepsis.

The next type of syllepsis is called *auxiliary syllepsis*. Here, a single form of a verb, either the main verb or an auxiliary, combines

with more than one auxiliary verb.⁴⁴ For example: “*She has deceived her father and may be you*”.

A. Seagal suggests the name “*free equivalent*” as the third type of syllepsis⁴⁵. It is when a single auxiliary verb (did) combined with two different main verbs. For example:

“*Nor ever did she speak nor raise her head.*”⁴⁶

Pun (word game) is another rhetorical device based on the interplay of two recognized meanings of a word or phrase. It is difficult to draw a strict distinction between zeugma and pun. The only reliable distinguishing feature is their structure. Thus, zeugma is the realization of two meanings with the help of a verb used to refer to different subjects or objects. The pun is more independent. Let us present an example of both types:

Zeugma: “*She took her breakfast and her bath*”.

Pun: “*A bicycle cannot stand on its own because it is two-tired*”.

We explored the research work titled “**The Pragmatics of Zeugma in English**” and have some **conclusions** covering its chapters, paragraphs:

1. Any language unit has its own pragmatics. Pragmatic analysis of the text is performed by determining the relationship between a reader and a writer. It is an approach that focuses on the use of language, the intentions of the writer/speaker or reader/listener, and mainly the contexts in the text.

2. Pragmatic analysis studies the context, the speech in the text and the functions of the language. Socio-psychological factors influence communication, including knowledge about when and where words are pronounced or written. Pragmatic analysis focuses on the meaning of words in a particular time and context. In communication, the meaning of words becomes clear based on the

⁴⁴ Brown, K. The Cambridge Dictionary of Linguistics: [Electronic resource] / K. Brown, and J. Miller. – Cambridge University Press, – 2013. – p.230 URL: <https://doi.org/10.1017/CBO9781139049412>.

⁴⁵ Seagal, A. Syllepsis: An Unfought Wars. *Advances in Language and Battle. // Language Studies*, – 2015. No 6(2), – p.137-147.

⁴⁶ *Ibid*, – p.117

interpretation and contextual understanding of both the speaker and the listener.

3. Pragmatics focuses not on the phonetic or grammatical form of the speaker's speech, but on what the speaker's intentions and beliefs are.

4. Pragmatics includes presupposition and logical conclusion (implicature). Although the implicature is not explicitly stated, it is clear from the context and meaning.

5. Reference is a means of pointing to a concrete object or an abstract concept represented by a linguistic expression. It (reference) is also the relation of one linguistic expression to another, that is, through reference, one gives the information needed to interpret the other one. Reference (linguistic reference) is the systematic denotation of some linguistic expression as part of the language.

6. Inference is an idea or conclusion drawn from evidence and reasoning. Inference can be treated as *logical supposition*. Inference is the process of drawing conclusions based on what is already known.

7. Zeugma is a stylistic device, and it occurs when a word (verb, etc.) is used to connect two thoughts (concepts).

8. The role of types of zeugma in conveying the author's intention to the reader and listener is irreplaceable. He (she) achieves a competent presentation of the intended meaning in different shades with this.

9. Zeugma has an important role in creating effective, intelligent connections between various elements in language units with different syntactic forms; it describes an unexpected element used to create connections between different terms; using zeugma writers increase the complexity of artistic language and can give more subtle and complex description to the oral speech (written language).

10. Zeugma allows writers to convey multiple meanings within sentences of various syntactical forms, creating interesting interpretive situations for readers.

11. Zeugma can sometimes be confused with ellipsis, syllepsis, and pun, but they are different.

12. Ellipsis refers to the omission (removal) of one or more words from any sentence (text, discourse, etc.). The rest of the sentence can be understood through the context, so the omitted words are not essential to the meaning of the sentence. Using ellipsis often reduces the need for repetition; any unnecessary word can be simply omitted in the text (discourse).

13. Syllepsis has the same grammatical structure as zeugma, except that all the words governed here may be given literally.

14. Word game (pun) is a rhetorical figure based on the interaction of two main meanings of words or phrases. Pun has a unique structure; its structure is more independent than that of zeugma, that is, the referent of the word to which pun belongs in the sentence is not necessarily important.

The main provisions of the dissertation are reflected in the following published articles and theses of the author:

1. On types of zeugma in English // Theses of the International Scientific Conference “Actual Problems of Cognitive and Applied Linguistics”. – Baku: AUL, – October 20-21, – 2016, – p.96-98.
2. Meaning: Semantics and Pragmatics // “Actual Problems of Teaching Foreign Languages” Republican scientific-practical conference. Collection of theses. – Baku: AUL, – December 23, – 2022, – p.98-99.
3. Some Facts of the Usages of Rhetorical Devices (Zeugma) In Speech and Writing // International Journal of Social Science and Human Research, – January 2023. Vol. 06, Issue 01, – p.686-689. **Copernicus**. <https://doi.org/10.47191/ijsshr/v6-i1-90>.
4. Implicature and meaning // Hamlet Isakhanli – 75 “Humanities in the context of new paradigms”. International scientific Conference of Young Researchers. – Baku: Khazar University, – March 29, – 2023, – p.86-89.
5. Zeugma as a stylistic figure // – Baku: AUL, Scientific News, – 2023. No. 1, – p.42-48.
6. Zeugma and other lexical-stylistic means // – The Actual Problems of Study of Humanities, Interuniversity collection of

- scientific articles, Baku: BSU – 2023. No. 2, – p. 76-81.
7. Pragmatics as a field of linguistics // – Baku: ANAS, Institute of Manuscripts named after M.Fuzuli, Philological issues, – 2023. No. 7, – p.46-52.
 8. Reference and Implicature in Pragmatics // VII international scientific conference. – Manchester, United Kingdom, – 22-23.08.2023 – p.34-36.
 9. Reference and Implicature in Modern Linguistics // – Baku: University of Azerbaijan, “The Silk Road”, – 2023. No. 3, – p.139-146.
 10. About syntactic structure of zeugma //– Baku: Baku State University, “Language and Literature” International Scientific-Theoretical Journal, – 2024. №2 (125) – p.104-107.

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