

LINGUISTIC CHARACTERISTICS OF POLITICAL DISCOURSE

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Abstract: The article deals with the linguistic characteristics of political discourse. It analyzes the dialogues and monologues presented in the political fable "Animal Farm" written by George Orwell. The author of the article argues that the linguistic characteristics of this work are: various forms of vocative expressions, rhetorical questions, interrogative, imperative and exclamatory sentences. The latter is often presented in the form of slogan. These linguistic characteristics are frequently used in the novel and make the work emotionally charged. The author says that vocative expressions are usually presented with the words: comrade, friend, fountain, lord, gentlemen, etc. In some cases we see personal names as well. Repetition of words is also characteristic for these expressions. What concerns to interrogative sentences, they are usually answered by the speakers themselves.

Key words: linguistic characteristics, political discourse, vocative expressions, rhetorical questions, interrogative sentences, imperative sentences, exclamatory sentences.

Introduction

Politics has always played an important role in humans' life. "Within all types of political system, from autocratic, through oligarchic to democratic; leaders have relied on the spoken word to convince others of the benefits that arise from their leadership" (Charteris-black, 2005). Politicians often enrich their discourse with various linguistic strategies which help them persuade people "to take specified actions, to make crucial political decisions or, as for political campaigns, to convince the potential electorate" (Pieniazek-niemczuk, 2016).

"Animal farm" is a well-known, anti-utopian satire novel written by George Orwell. It describes the story of the farm where animals arranged the revolution, ousted Mr. Jones, the owner of the farm, and started running the farm themselves. In the political novel, pigs became the rulers and controlled the rest of the animals. Pigs made laws and came out with a speech. In general, "Animal Farm" is an allegorical work, which represents the ruling circles of the Soviet Union and society (Britannica, 2020; Orwell, n.d.).

Aim and Methodology of the study

The objective of the study was to analyse the characteristic features of the political discourse. In order to study the linguistic characteristics of political speech we have examined the language of the well-known novel "Animal Farm" by George Orwell. For study purposes we focused on the dialogues and monologues presented in the novel.

By studying the linguistic feature of the political speech of the novel "Animal Farm", we focus on the language the author have used. In addition, we study the devices that political leaders use to persuade others.

Results of the study

Vocative expressions:

The study of the novel revealed several features of the political discourse. The samples of vocative expressions used in the work are interesting. We often find word "Comrade" in the vocatives. For example:

1. "Comrade Napoleon!" (Orwell, n.d.).
2. "Courage, comrades!" (Orwell, n.d.).
3. "Comrades, comrades!" (Orwell, n.d.).
4. "Forward, comrades!" (Orwell, n.d.).

Besides, we have found other forms of vocatives which use words like: friend, fountain, lord, gentlemen, etc. It is obvious that different forms of vocatives play an important role in the speech of the governing party. For example:

1. Friend of fatherless! (Orwell, n.d.).
2. Fountain of happiness! (Orwell, n.d.).
3. Lord of the swill-bucket! (Orwell, n.d.).
4. "Gentlemen," concluded Napoleon, "I will give you the same toast as before, but in a different form" (Orwell, n.d.).
5. "[...] Gentlemen, here is my toast: To the prosperity of The Manor Farm!" (Orwell, n.d.).

We rarely come across samples of vocatives formed with the personal names. For example:

1. "Boxer!" she cried, "how are you?" (Orwell, n.d.).

In some cases we encounter triple repetition of vocatives in order to gain more emotion. For example:

1. "Fools! Fools!" shouted Benjamin, prancing round them and stamping the earth with his small hoofs. "Fools!" (Orwell, n.d.).
2. "Boxer! Boxer! Boxer!" (Orwell, n.d.).

Imperative sentences:

The dialogues as well as monologues are full with imperative sentences. They are used for commands, warnings or instructions. Repetition of words, phrases can be found here as well. For example:

1. "Come at once!" (Orwell, n.d.).
2. "Get out! Get out quickly!" (Orwell, n.d.).
3. "Get out, Boxer, get out!" (Orwell, n.d.).
4. "Don't take your own brother to his death!" (Orwell, n.d.).
5. "Forward in the name of the Rebellion" (Orwell, n.d.).
6. "Fill your glasses to the brim" (Orwell, n.d.).

Exclamatory sentences:

Strong emotions are also revealed through exclamatory sentences. They are often presented in the form of slogans. For example:

1. "Impossible! cried Napoleon" (Orwell, n.d.).
2. "Boxer has fallen!" (Orwell, n.d.).
3. "Long live Comrade Napoleon!" (Orwell, n.d.).
4. "Four legs good, two legs bad!" (Orwell, n.d.).
5. "Long live Humanity!" (Orwell, n.d.).
6. "Long live Animal Farm!" (Orwell, n.d.).
7. "Long live Comrade Napoleon!" (Orwell, n.d.).

Rhetorical questions:

Rhetorical questions are also typical for pigs' political speech. Rulers often ask them for effect or for emphasis on some point being discussed. For example:

1. "Do you not see what they are doing?" (Orwell, n.d.).
2. "You cows that I see before me, how many thousands of gallons of milk have you given during this last year?" (Orwell, n.d.).
3. "And you hens, how many eggs have you laid in this last year, and how many of those eggs ever hatched into chickens?" (Orwell, n.d.).
4. "In return for your four confinements and all your labour in the fields, what have you ever had except your bare rations and a stall?" (Orwell, n.d.).
5. "Is it not crystal clear, then, comrades, that all the evils of this life of ours spring from the tyranny of human beings?" (Orwell, n.d.).

Interrogative sentences:

Pigs also use interrogative sentences in their speech. In this way they try to make their listener think about certain issues. In most cases the questions are answered by the pigs themselves. For example:

1. "What is that gun firing for?" said Boxer.
"To celebrate our victory!" cried Squealer" (Orwell, n.d.).
2. "Now, comrades, what is the nature of this life of ours? Let us face it: our lives are miserable, laborious, and short" (Orwell, n.d.).

3. “But is this simply part of the order of nature? Is it because this land of ours is so poor that it cannot afford a decent life to those who dwell upon it? No, comrades, a thousand times no!” (Orwell, n.d.).

4. “Why then do we continue in this miserable condition? Because nearly the whole of the produce of our labour is stolen from us by human beings” (Orwell, n.d.).

5.” And what has happened to that milk which should have been breeding up sturdy calves? Every drop of it has gone down the throats of our enemies” (Orwell, n.d.).

6.” And you, Clover, where are those four foals you bore, who should have been the support and pleasure of your old age? Each was sold at a year old — you will never see one of them again” (Orwell, n.d.).

Conclusion

In conclusion, the novel “Animal farm” is a political fable, which describes the dictatorship of pigs. The work is rich in political dialogues or monologues, which allows us to study, analyze and draw conclusions about the characteristics of political discourse. Research has shown that different types of vocative expressions, rhetorical questions, imperative, exclamatory and interrogative sentences are abundant in the work. These linguistic features make the work full with emotionally charged conversations. Emotions are also revealed through repetition of words or phrases. These features trigger reader's attention.

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