

EGOCENTRIC CHARACTERISTICS OF SCIENTIFIC PROSE

Liudmyla Kotniuk (Zhytomyr, Ukraine)

The aim of scientific prose style is to prove a hypothesis, to create new concepts, to disclose the internal laws of existence, development, relations between different phenomena, etc. The writer's own ideas are shaped in formulae, which represent a doctrine, a theory, an argument or the result of investigation, thus creating the impersonal tone of scientific writings [2]. The writer's individual characteristics are minimum in scientific prose as he speaks on behalf of science.

Scientific prose is made by the writer to transmit some information to the reader. In the process of communication, a speech situation is egocentric as the sender of the information (the writer) performs the role of "ego" and correlates everything with his / her own point of view.

The egocentric orientation of scientific prose can be revealed according to three directions (axes): the subject of speaking (I – you – he); space relations (here – near you – there); time relation (now – at the present – then). The analysis of scientific text egocentricity is restricted in this article to facts associated with the axis of the subject of speaking. Taking into consideration the ideas about the individual and collective senders and receivers of the information as well as their belonging to male or female sex, it is quite reasonable to suggest more detailed variants of key elements of the subject speaking axis: *I / we - you¹ / you² - he, she / they / one*. Each of them is at the head of a certain group of elements: **I** – *me, my, mine, myself*; **we** – *us, our, ours, ourselves*; **you¹** – *your, yours, yourself*; **you²** – *your, yours, yourselves*; **he** – *him, his, himself*; **she** – *her, hers, herself*; **they** – *them, their, theirs, themselves*; **one** – *everyone, everybody*.

"**I**" is used as the subject of a verb when the speaker or writer is referring to himself / herself, "**we**" has the meaning "I and another person or other people; I and you".

The text egocentricity is also revealed when the receiver of the information is addressed: **you¹** refers to a person, **you²** deals with a group of people including the addressee of the information. It is possible to realize yourself only in the

opposition to the person addressed: we can use “I” only referring to someone who is pointed to with the help of “you”: ... *if you don't like double negative constructions, ... then that's your privilege [1]*

Speaking about the third person, the addresser uses “he”, “she”. “They” point to people in general excluding the addresser and the addressee of communication. “One” is used to talk about people in general, including the addresser and the addressee [4].

The writer's presence is expressed in scientific prose through the usage of the words, phrases and certain syntactic structures, which help mitigate (soften) the categorical character of an utterance: “I think”, “I suggest”, “I suppose”, “I hope”, “I believe”, “possible”, “likely”, “unlikely”, “perhaps”, “fortunately”, “unfortunately”, “it is true”, “it is easy”, “it is difficult” etc. For example:

...I believe I am right in saying that most French grammarians would not admit month-names and day-names as proper names [1].

“I believe ” has a softening effect on what is being said as the ideas of the utterance are presented as opinions, which can be doubted or disagreed:

Believe – to think that sth is true or possible, although you are not completely certain[3].

Thus, scientific prose doesn't lack the writer's presence, presenting its egocentric character, which can be revealed by indicating the addresser, the addressee and the third person(s) of the text as well as by using different types of mitigating (softening) words and phrases.

References

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