

Characteristics of the Non-Verbal Expression of Emotions in Modern English Literature

Language, being one of the main instruments of human communication, provides not only an exchange of information but also transfers the emotional state of speakers. Emotions, probably, are the most important sphere of human existence and activity, as they directly control the process of cognition.

Nowadays the problem of emotions in a language has been and is being studied by many contemporary linguists such as: Shakovsky V., Morochovsky A., Arnold I., Pozdnyakova N., Alexandrova O. But still examining the theoretical and practical values emotions have been considered to play only additional role. We can not agree with such views, it should be mentioned that verbal means give only 35 % of general information to readers, and what is important, non-verbal means carry 65%.

Non-verbal means of communication being a subject of a comparatively young linguistic science - paralinguistics which appeared in the 50-ies of the 20-th century, are considered to give a reader much more information than verbal ones. In the linguistic literature there exist different views on the object of paralinguistic and classification of non-verbal means, using which a writer shows emotional characteristics of his personages. We support the views of Achmatova O., Kochergan M., Hole E., and consider their classification of non-verbal means of communication to be the most suitable. So we define:

- 1) paralinguistics, the object of which is quality of voice, intonation, pauses, etc.
- 2) kinesics, consisting of gestures, miming and pantomiming.
- 3) proxemics, oriented on the space needs of a person.

One of the most important components of paralinguistics is intonation (pitch-rhythm, tempo, intensity-timbre), because the way we speak is not less important than what we say. One of the purposes of our research is to investigate the deviations of intonation from the common one. A quiet voice, for example, suggests an idea that we address to a particular person and only he should hear it or it can carry shyness, warning or threat. It sounds more expressively when the words are pronounced with a gradual decrease of voice.

"She could hardly find her voice." And - it's awfully hard to say, Charlie, it sounds dreadful- if you'll promise to marry me within a week of the decrees being made absolute" (W. S. Maugham). As it can be noticed in this sentence the author resorts to non-verbal means of communication to show the hesitations of the heroin whether she should warn a man or even to threaten and by the way she speaks it becomes clear what she has chosen.

But probably gestures are the most interesting non-verbal means, being closely interrelated with words they are the first to carry information.

"She clenched her hands and she felt herself grow pale." I am rather tired tonight." (W. S. Maugham). In this example we can see the most widely used gesture that shows the readiness of the heroine to defend her opinion and her words and moreover it suggests the idea that she is really tired to protect her point of view tonight.

We can not but notice the face behavior of the characters which is also a powerful means of expressing information.

"His face now was sullen and worried and his hands moved uneasily. Every now and then he gave her a little glance of exasperation." Won't your husband forgive you?" (W. S. Maugham). Non-verbal means used in this sentence reveal the highest peak of anger of the main character because he was not only furious as it can be seen from his face but anxious to take actions.

Nonverbal communication enlarges and intensifies verbal information. Non-verbal means of communication are widely used in modern English literature being the most important bearers of the content.