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ФИЛОЛОГИЯ

LINGUISTIC FEATURES IN THE SPEECH OF THE CHARACTERS OF THE FILM "PRIDE AND PREJUDICE"

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ABSTRACT

We would like to analyse the film "Pride and prejudice" from the linguistic point of view. We have chosen this film for various reasons. Firstly, we relish the way the characters interact with each other, as each character comes over as a unique person with certain dignities and flaws. Secondly, the costumes make a fabulous impression about the people of the 19th century.

Key words: speech, vocabulary, character, feature, formal and colloquial styles, expressions, phrases

Before we complete the analysis of this film, we should describe the plot. The story tells about the Bennet's family and their five daughters. But the whole story is centered on the eldest daughters - Elizabeth and Jane Bennet. According to the plot, this family possesses limited means and not such a high social status in comparison with others. But only aim of their mother who strives to provide their family with prosperity and well-being is to marry her daughters off, especially the eldest ones. One day, Elizabeth Bennet meets a wealthy man Mr. Darcy at the ball. However, he makes a negative impression on a vast company there, as he despises all of them for their behaviour. Later, we can notice how the characters change, go through their personal growth and come to love and mutual respect.

One of the most remarkable features is the peculiarities of the characters' speech. Speaking about the phonetic features, we can put an emphasis on the British dialect such Received Pronunciation, the representatives of which Mr. Darcy, Mr. Bingley and Lady Catherine de Bourgh can be considered. For example, the consonant "r" at the end of words is not pronounced. As for the Bennet's family, the mixture of RP with their local accent may be reflected in the speech of Elizabeth, Jane, their mother and other family members.

Moreover, there are some grammar structures in the speech of the characters. For instance, Mrs. Bennet uses a great abundance of modal verbs to make her speech more expressive and vivid and show her attitude to particular events and views:

"How can you talk such nonsense? Therefore, you must visit him directly".

"Now you **shall** all dance with Mr. Bingley". – Mrs. Bennet

Modal constructions, such as "had better" and "would rather", can be heard in the film:

"You had better dance!" - Mr. Bingley to Mr. Darcy

"I'd much rather stay here with you". - Elizabeth In addition, conditional sentences that express conditions, under which a certain event may occur in the present, the past or the future, prevail in character's lines:

"If only we'd been able to have sons!"- Mrs. Bennet

"If I could love a man who would love me enough to take me for pounds, I should be very well pleased". – Elizabeth

"If I'd known as much this morning, I should never have called on him". –Mrs. Bennet

We can also find out that vocabulary is imbued with idiomatic expressions and pompous words that were quite spread in the Austen's time:

"Misfortunes, we are told, are sent to test your fortitude and many often reveal themselves as **blessings** in disguise." - Mary Bennet

"I could never love a man who was out of his wits". – Elizabeth

"I'm sick of Mr. Bingley! - Mrs. Bennet

The features of both formal and colloquial styles are noticed in the speech of the characters. It depends on their social status and education. Analysing the speech of Mr. Darcy and Mr. Bingley, we can notice that refined and sophisticated vocabulary is used:

"Sir William, I am very glad to see you. There is nothing that I love better than a country dance". – Mr. Bingley

"Thank you, madam. I rarely dance". – Mr. Darcy "I would be happy if you would dance with me, Miss Bennet". – Mr. Darcy

There are polite phrases for expressing excuse and questions which reveal Mr. Bingley's intelligence:

"Oh, I beg my pardon. Mrs. Bennet, may I present my friend, Mr. Darcy?"

Mr. Darcy strikes people as an arrogant and conceited man who looks down on everyone and neglects them:

"You have been dancing with the only handsome girl in the room." – Mr. Darcy to Mr. Bingley.

"She's tolerable, I suppose, but not handsome enough to tempt me." – Mr. Darcy about Elizabeth Bennet.

"You don't find the society somewhat confined and unvarying?" – Mr. Darcy about the company at the ball

"I dare not vouch for my temper". – Mr. Darcy about his disposition

Elizabeth Bennet implements a mixture of both formal and colloquial speech in communication with people. She addresses Mr. Darcy with a formal language to set a certain distance between each other:

"I beg you would excuse. Would you be so kind as to take me to her?"

However, she strikes the conversation with her family members, using a colloquial, informal speech to show her affection, consideration und unity with them:

"One of us at least will have to marry very well". - Elizabeth

"And since you're five times as pretty as the rest of us". – Elizabeth to Jane

Elizabeth also shows her wit and a sense of humour towards interlocutors:

"And now you shall all dance with Mr. Bingley!" - Mrs. Bennet

"I hope he has a strong constitution". – Elizabeth Even her father Mr. Bennet points out her wit and mindfulness:

"They're all silly and ignorant, like other girls. Well, Lizzy has more wit than the rest".

Elizabeth's words are always well-balanced which show her intelligence and very good manners. She can give a temperate reply even when she is about being annoyed with somebody's comments.

"Miss Bennet despises cards. She is a great reader and has no pleasure in anything else". – Miss Bingley

"I deserve neither such praise nor such censure. I am not a great reader and take pleasure in many things". – Elizabeth As far as Mrs. Bennet is concerned, a lot of exclamatory sentences are peculiar to her, as she seems to be an emotional and sensitive woman:

"You have no compassion on my poor nerves!"

"We will never know Mr. Bingley and it pains me to hear of him!"

"Oh, Lizzy! They are coming over! Smile, girls!"
In addition to it, she adheres to a formal language when she talks with Mr. Bingley to make a pleasant impression on him with her cautious manners:

"You do us great honour, sir. Thank the gentleman, Jane".

As for Mr. Bennet, he appears to be an assertive, straightforward and fair man. He reveals his authority with the help of direct sentences giving his orders and commands to others:

"Go yourself with the girls. Still better, send them by themselves".

To draw the conclusion, we would like to share our impressions and emotions about the film. The film "Pride and prejudice" has struck our chord because the plot resonates with our feelings. It evokes an emotional tumult beginning from indignation to a deep affection to each character, even to Mr. Darcy who is genuinely a kind-hearted, affable and merciful gentleman, despite the fact that he is perceived by the society as a haughty and vain person. Additionally, I adore the couple of Mr. Darcy and Elizabeth Bennet, they overcome hurdles and persuasions to realise that after getting acquainted with one in person, communicating face-to-face and spending a lot of time together you can judge about a person.

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