

ANALYSIS OF COMMONLY USED LEXICAL COLLOCATIONS IN
ENGLISH

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Abstract. *Neutral words are the main source of synonymy and polysemy. It is the neutral stock of words that is so prolific in the production of new meanings. The neutral vocabulary may be viewed as the invariant of the standard English vocabulary. The stock of words forming the neutral stratum should in this case be regarded as an abstraction. The words of this stratum are generally deprived of any concrete associations and refer to the concept more or less directly. Synonyms of neutral words, both colloquial and literary, assume a far greater degree of concreteness. They generally present the same notions not abstractly but as a more or less concrete image, that is, in a form perceptible by the senses. This perceptibility by the senses causes subjective evaluations of the notion in question, or a mental image of the concept. Sometimes an impact of a definite kind on the reader or hearer is the aim lying behind the choice of a colloquial or a literary word rather than a neutral one. neutral words, which form the bulk of the English vocabulary, are used in both literary and colloquial language.*

The wealth of the neutral stratum of words is often overlooked. This is due to their inconspicuous character. But their faculty for assuming new meanings and generating new stylistic variants is often quite amazing. This generative power of the neutral words in English language is multiplied by the very nature of the language itself. It has been estimated that most neutral English words are of monosyllabic character, as, in the process of development from Old English to

Modern English, most of the parts of speech lost their distinguish suffixes. This phenomenon has led to the development of conversion as the most productive means of word-building. Word compounding is not so productive as conversion or word shift in the part of speech in the first case and by the addition of an affix in the second. Unlike all other groups, the neutral group of words cannot be considered as having a special stylistic coloring.

Key words: *Fanny's First Play, objective features, Stylistics, Galperin's book, difficult decision, English vocabulary, literature, monosyllabic character, Neutral words, Colloquialisms or common colloquial words.*

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Common literary words are chiefly used in writing and in polished speech. One can always tell a literary word from a colloquial word. The reason from this lies in certain objective features of the literary layer of words. What these objective features are, is difficult to say because as yet no objective criteria have been worked out. But one of the undoubtedly is that literary units stand in opposition to colloquial units. This is especially apparent when pairs of synonyms, literary and colloquial, can be formed which stand in contrasting relation. We can find literary words in authorial speech, descriptions, considerations, while

colloquialisms will be observed in the type of discourse copying everyday oral communication – in the dialogue or interior monologue of a prose work. The primary stylistic function of general literary words which appear in the speech of literary personages is to characterize the person as pompous and verbose.

These synonyms are not only stylistic but ideographic as well, i.e. there is a definite, though slight, semantic difference between the words. But this is almost always the case with synonyms. There are very few absolute synonyms in English just as there are in any language. The main distinction between synonyms remains stylistic. But stylistic difference may be of various kinds: it may lie in the emotional tension connoted in a word, or in the sphere of application, or in the degree of the quality denoted. Colloquial words are always more emotionally coloured than literary ones. The neutral stratum of words, as the term itself implies, has no degree of emotiveness, nor have they any distinctions in the sphere of usage.

In example from «Fanny's First Play» (Shaw), the difference between the common literary and common colloquial vocabulary is clearly seen:

«Dora: Oh, I've let it out. Have I? (contemplating Juggins approvingly as he places a chair for her between the table and the sideboard). But he's the right sort: I can see that (button holing him). You won't let it out downstairs, old man, will you?

Juggins: The family can rely on my absolute discretion».

The words in Jugginses answer are on the border – line between common literary and neutral, whereas the words and expressions used by Dora are clearly common colloquial, not bordering on neutral.

In the diagram, which you could see in Galperin's book «Stylistics» – common colloquial vocabulary is represented as overlapping into the standard English vocabulary and is therefore to be considered part of it. It borders both on the neutral vocabulary and on the special colloquial vocabulary which, as we shall see later, falls out of standard English altogether. Just as common literary words lack homogeneity so do common colloquial words and set expressions. Some of

the lexical items belonging to this stratum are close to the non-standard colloquial groups such as jargonisms, professionalisms, etc. There are on the border line between the common colloquial vocabulary and the special colloquial or non-standard vocabulary. Other words approach the neutral bulk of the English vocabulary. Just as common literary words lack homogeneity so do common colloquial words and set expressions.

Both literary and colloquial words have their upper and lower ranges. The lower range of literary words approaches the neutral layer and has a markedly obvious tendency to pass into that layer. The same may be said of the upper range of the colloquial layer: it can very easily pass into the neutral layer. The lines of demarcation between common colloquial and neutral, on the one hand, and common literary and neutral, on the other, are blurred. It is here that the process of interpenetration of the stylistic strata becomes most apparent.

Common colloquial vocabulary overlaps into the standard English vocabulary and is therefore considered part of it. It borders both on the neutral vocabulary and on the special colloquial vocabulary. Just as common literary words lack homogeneity so do common colloquial words and set expressions.

Some of them are close to the non-standard colloquial groups such as jargonisms, professionalisms, etc. These are on the border-line between the common colloquial vocabulary and the special colloquial or non-standard vocabulary. Other words approach the neutral bulk of the English vocabulary. Thus, the words teenager and hippie are colloquial words passing into the neutral vocabulary. They are gradually losing their non-standard character and becoming widely recognized. However, they have not lost their colloquial association and therefore still remain in the colloquial stratum of the English vocabulary. The spoken language abounds in set expressions which, are colloquial in character, e. g. all sorts of things, just a bit. The stylistic function of the different strata of the English vocabulary depends on their interaction when they are opposed to one another. Anything written assumes a greater degree of significance than what is only spoken. Certain set expressions have been coined within literary English and

their use in ordinary speech will inevitably make the utterance sound bookish. In other words, it will become literary. For example: in accordance with, with regard to, by virtue of, to speak at great length, to lend assistance, to draw a lesson, responsibility rests.

The stylistic function of the different strata of the English vocabulary depends not so much on the inner qualities of each of the groups, as on their interaction when they are opposed to one another. However, the qualities themselves are not unaffected by the function of the words, in as much as these qualities have been acquired in certain environments.

a) Colloquialisms or common colloquial words are the words that occupy an intermediate position between literary and non-literary stylistic layers and are used in conversational type of everyday speech (awfully sorry, a pretty little thing, teenager, flapper etc). They are usually used in private talks. Common colloquial vocabulary overlaps into the Standard English vocabulary and therefore is to be considered part of It borders both on the neutral vocabulary and the special colloquial vocabulary which falls out of Standard English altogether. Such words and expressions as “take” (in «as I take it», i.e. as I understand); to go for (to be attracted, to like very much’, as in You think she still goes for the guy?); guy (young man); to be gone on (to be madly in love with), pro (a professional) are gradually losing their non-standard character and are becoming widely recognized. The spoken language abounds in set phrases which are colloquial in character (all sorts of things, just a bit, How is life treating you? so-so; so much the better, to be sick and tired if to be up to something, etc) However they haven’t lost their colloquial association and still remain in the colloquial layer of the English vocabulary. Most of them are stylistic synonyms to neutral words (a catcall – whistle; an eyestopper – a beauty; havings – property). Among common colloquial words are diminutive forms of neutral words (Granny; piggy, Freddy).

b) Slangisms are the words that have originated in everyday speech and exist on the periphery of the lexical system of the given language: go crackers (go mad); garr (god); belt up (keep silence); big-head (a boaster). It is the most

extended subgroup of the colloquial layer. Most slangy words convey derogatory and contemptuous attitude towards the moral values of the society virtue, morality, decency. Among slangisms there are many words denoting violence, drugs, drunkards (drunken – boozy, cock- eyed, fluffy, plastered, stinking, wal- eyed, etc; money – cabbage, rhino, dough, chink, etc. c) Jargonisms (cantisms). Words used within certain social and professional groups. They fall into 1) social jargonisms and into b) professionalisms. Social jargonisms are used by certain social class to conceal their meaning from the outsider.

Conclusion. Collocation is a predictable combination of words for example we can say heavy rain but not strong rain because it does not sound right' likewise, we can say 'do exercise' but not 'make exercise'. Collocations can be made up of any kinds of words such as verbs, nouns, adverbs and adjectives. There are no rules for collocations in English Language, they are just combinations of words that we can become familiar with and then use correctly.

As your English language level improves, you have mastered several grammar structures and can communicate successfully, you may find that you have reached a point where your progress has slowed down. At this point, it is important to work on your vocabulary, by learning new words and how to use them accurately and more naturally. Collocations can provide a short cut to accuracy as you don't have to learn lots of words and then figure out how to put them together, you just learn one 'piece of language'.

Another thing that can make these things tricky is that many English words have several collocations. For instance, the word "decision" can be used in "difficult decision," "final decision" and many others.

One of the best ways to look for collocations is to read and listen to many things in English. This will help you start to recognize them when you see and hear them.

Using a collocation dictionary can be helpful, but do not attempt to make long lists and memorize them. Instead, note just a few collocations every time and write a sentence or two for each that relates to your own life. For example, for

“free time,” you might write “I wish I had more free time during the week” or “I will finally have free time when I go home for the holiday.”

One way to use them is to observe and note the collocations you find in a few minutes of dialogue on a TV show or movie. Then, just as in the last exercise, write a sentence for each that you might use in real life, and practice using it sometimes in conversation.

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