



REGISTER IN STYLISTICS: REGISTER AS A FORM OF COMMUNICATION

Anvarova Sabokhat Shonazar qizi

Trainee-Teacher at Urgench State University

ABSTRACT

When discussing the register of a word, we refer to the use of language for a particular purpose or in a particular social setting, that is, its level of formality. When referring to register in language the choices are usually can be formal or informal, casual or academic or even intimate.

KEYWORDS: *stylistics, register, linguistics, syntax, tenor, discourse, communication, context, pragmalinguistics, formality, sociolinguistics, language.*

Register is the linguistic features which are typically associated with configuration of situational features. {1} It is often an indicator of the formality or official nature of occasion or a mark of authority. The term register was first used by the linguist Thomas Bertram Reid in 1956, and brought into general use in the 1960s by a group of linguists who wanted to distinguish between variations in language according to the user (defined by variables such as social background, geography, sex and age), and variations according to use, "in the sense that each speaker has a range of varieties and choices between them at different times" (Halliday et al., 1964). The focus is on the way language is used in particular situations, such as legalese or motherese, the language of a biology research lab, of a news report, or of a cafe.

M.A.K Halliday and R.Hasan (1976) (2) interpret "register" as "the linguistic features which are typically associated with a configuration of situational features – with particular values of the field, mode and tenor...". Field for them is "the total event, in which the text is functioning, together with the purposive activity of the speaker or writer; includes subject-matter as one of the elements". One of the most analyzed areas where the use of language is determined by the situation is the formality scale. Writers (especially in language teaching) have often used the term "register" as shorthand for formal/informal style, although this is an aging definition. Linguistics textbooks may use the term "tenor" instead (Halliday 1978), but increasingly prefer the term "style" – "we characterize styles as varieties of language viewed from the point of view of formality" (Trudgill, 1992) – while defining "registers" more narrowly as specialist language use related to a particular activity, such as academic jargon. There is very little agreement as to how the spectrum of formality should be divided.

In one prominent model, Martin Joos (1961) describes five styles in spoken English:

1. Frozen Register

This style of communications RARELY or NEVER changes. It is "frozen" in time and content. e.g. the Pledge of Allegiance,

the Lord's Prayer, the Preamble to the US Constitution, the Alma Mater, a bibliographic reference, laws.

2. Formal Register

This language is used in formal settings and is one-way in nature. This use of language usually follows a commonly accepted format. It is usually impersonal and formal. The common formats for this register are speeches. e.g. sermons, rhetorical statements and questions, speeches, pronouncements made by judges, announcements.

3. Consultative Register

This is a standard form of communications. Users engage in a mutually accepted structure of communications. It is formal and societal expectations accompany the users of this speech. It is professional discourse. e.g. when strangers meet, communications between a superior and a subordinate, doctor & patient, lawyer & client, lawyer & judge, teacher & student, counselor & client.

4. Casual Register

This is informal language used by peers and friends. Slang, vulgarities and colloquialisms are normal. This is "group" language. One must be member to engage in this register. e.g. buddies, teammates, chats and emails, and blogs, and letters to friends.

5. Intimate Register

This communications is private. It is reserved for close family members or intimate people. e.g. husband & wife, boyfriend & girlfriend, siblings, parent & children.

Register is also identified by non-linguistic markers, such as body language and attire, The term has been used since the 1960s, when linguist Michael Halliday identified three variables or types of factors that affect register: Tenor, Field and Mode

a) Tenor: The relationship between the speakers matters, such as when a student is talking to a teacher, an offender to a police officer, an office worker to a superior, or a parent to an infant (baby talk). Here register is generally a marker of formality or intimacy, and commonly affects phonology, pragmatic rules, and accent.



b) Field: The subject of conversation or discourse matters, as particular situations call for particular kinds of vocabulary, mood etc. These variations are often called jargon, but are sometimes simply the form of a particular profession. For instance, priests use liturgical language, lawyers use “legalese”. Philosophers use the language of subjectivity or rationality, while programmers have their own lexicon.

c) Mode: The medium of communication matters, such as whether it is spoken or written, and if either, on the level of formality or professionalism needed to be conveyed. Instant messaging, for example, is less formal than a handwritten letter, and a professional presentation is different from a coffee shop conversation. Here and in register determined by field, authority and expertise is being conveyed as much as formality.

As with other types of language variation, there tends to be a spectrum of registers rather than a discrete set of obviously distinct varieties – there is a countless number of registers that could be identified, with no clear boundaries. Discourse categorization is a complex problem, and even in the general definition of “register” given above (language variation defined by use not user), there are cases where other kinds of language variation, such as regional or age dialect, overlap. As a result of this complexity, there is far from consensus about the meanings of terms like “register”, “field” or “tenor”; different writers’ definitions of these terms are often in direct contradiction of each other. Additional terms such as diatype, genre, text types, style, acrolect, mesolect and basilect among many others may be used to cover the same or similar ground. Some prefer to restrict the domain of the term “register” to a specific vocabulary (Wardhaugh, 1986) (which one might commonly call jargon), while others argue against the use of the term altogether. These various approaches with their own “register” or set of terms and meanings fall under disciplines such as sociolinguistics, stylistics, pragmatics or systemic functional grammar.

Register is a complex phenomenon. It is a combination of linguistic, sociological and psychological factors. It should be noted that design is not the same as style. Style refers to the general tone and approach we use when communicating, while register refers to the specific choices of vocabulary and grammar appropriate to a particular context.

Languages are collections of registers, and they evolve through registers. Registers appear as adaptations to new contextual pressures in languages (as we saw earlier, registers are strongly influenced by culture and social reality) and can disappear as contextual conditions change. For example, with the development of technology and social networks, we began to talk about “electronic” registries.

The ability to switch between registers is known as “code-switching”, and its use (or misuse) can determine the outcome of a social interaction. Typically, there are no consequences when moving from one language register to another. However, skipping a class or more is generally considered unprofessional, not to say disrespectful.

REFERENCES

1. M.A.K.Halliday, Angus McIntosh, and Peter Stevens “*The Linguistic Sciences and Language Teaching*”. Indiana University Press, Bloomington.1964
2. M.A.K.Halliday & R.Hasan. “*Cohesion in English*. English Language Series, London: Longman.1976
3. M.A.K.Halliday.”*Language as a Social Semiotic*” University of California.1978
4. Peter Trudgill.”*Introducing Language and Society*” Penguin English 1992
5. Martin Joos. “*The Five Clocks*”. Harbinger Book 1961
6. Ronald Wardhaugh. “*An Introduction to Sociolinguistics*” Oxford, Basil Blackwell, 1986