

INTERDISCIPLINARY CHARACTER OF COGNITIVE STYLISTICS

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Abstract. This study explores the interdisciplinary character of cognitive stylistics, emphasizing its deep integration with various cognitive sciences. Cognitive stylistics, a subfield of cognitive linguistics, draws upon multiple disciplines including psychology, neuroscience, computer science, linguaculturology, and pragmatics to analyze how readers comprehend, interpret, and derive meaning from literary texts. The paper highlights the principles of cognitive psychology, such as perception, memory, and schema theory, as foundational to understanding the cognitive processes involved in reading. It also discusses the contributions of neuroscience to the empirical validation of stylistic theories, and the role of computer linguistics in offering quantitative tools for text analysis. The interdisciplinary nature of cognitive stylistics not only enhances its theoretical depth but also aligns it with the anthropocentric paradigm prevailing across modern linguistics and cognitive sciences.

Key words: Cognitive Stylistics, Interdisciplinarity, Cognitive Linguistics, Cognitive Psychology, Neuroscience, Computer Linguistics, Linguoculturology, Schema Theory, Situation Models, Anthropocentrism, Text Comprehension, Literary Interpretation, Cognitive Science, Pragmatics, Mental Representation

One of the key assumptions of cognitive stylistics is its interdisciplinary character. Before scrutinizing an interdisciplinary character of cognitive stylistics let us touch upon the term “interdisciplinarity”. The term interdisciplinarity refers to a method which combines two or more fields/subject areas of knowledge to arrive at a new approach or solutions to the problem of a specific science. Interdisciplinarity became one of the prominent research practices in recent decades as it was put forward as a part of solution most of the time. One of the good examples in Interdisciplinarity is cognitive science which studies human and his mind. Cognitive science in its turn combines mind related fields such as philosophy, linguistics, psychology, anthropology, Artificial Intelligence, neuroscience, etc. All these disciplines are based on a single methodological basis - the principle of anthropocentrism which put the human in center. Cognitive linguistics as a part of cognitive sciences was formed by the intersection of cognitive science and linguistics. It also has an interdisciplinarity character, which interact with the number of scientific disciplines encompassing philosophy, computer science, psychology, neuroscience, etc. (Brief Dictionary of Cognitive Terms 1996:58) As for stylistics, according to Ashurova, it is originally interdisciplinary science which is impossible not to be interconnected

with sciences as literary criticism, philosophy, psychology, and cultural studies. She stated that “the main methodological principles of modern linguistics, such as anthropocentrism and interdisciplinarity, initially originated in stylistics, in connection with which the linguistic status of this science has significantly increased and become established by now. This is evidenced by the fact that within the framework of cognitive linguistics a new direction is intensively developing – cognitive stylistics” (Ashurova, 2021)

Thus, it is essential to pinpoint that the principle of interdisciplinarity is basis not only for cognitive sciences or cognitive stylistics, but all research areas of anthropocentric paradigm such as pragmalinguistics, psycholinguistics, communicative linguistics, sociolinguistics, ethno linguistics, linguacultural studies, and cognitive stylistics is no exception. Considering the assumptions presented by Ashurova, we can emphasize that stylistics or cognitive stylistics stands in the center of intersections of multiple cognitive subjects. Interdisciplinary approach to cognitive stylistics is determined by internal connection with all language aspects such as phonetics, word-formation, etc. and external overlapping with all anthropocentric directions of modern linguistics and science. For instance, cognitive stylistics is too multifaceted science related to several cognitive disciplines including cognitive linguistics, cognitive grammar, cognitive semantics, cognitive psychology, computer science encompass artificial intelligence, neuroscience, neurolinguistics, pragmatics, linguaculturology and others.

Among these sciences, a special focus should be placed to the interdisciplinary of cognitive stylistics with linguaculturology. However, before discussing interaction of cognitive stylistics with linguaculturology, we will briefly discuss about some of the cognitive sciences intersect with cognitive stylistics.

Cognitive stylistics is thoroughly interconnected with cognitive psychology with the analysis of literary text. The main principles of cognitive psychology are perception, language, memory and reasoning. Cognitive stylistics helps to guideline the scientific process to understand the way of conveying the human experience via the language and how the information influence on human mind and behavior. In other words, by emphasizing cognitive process involved in reading and interpretation, this approach studies how readers comprehend, interpret, and derive meaning from the text. There are some key aspects of interdisciplinary character of cognitive stylistics incorporate with cognitive psychology concepts. First, cognitive stylistics focus on how the cognitive process such as perception, memory and inference affect reading comprehension. For example, Zwaan and Rodansky (1998) discuss how readers structure mental representation, i.e. “situation models” based on the textual information and how it influences their comprehension and memorization of the narration. Another essential cognitive psychology concept overlaps with cognitive stylistics is “Schema Theory”. The term “schema” was initially introduced by Barlett as “an

active organization of past reaction or experiences” (1932, p 201). However, this term was presented in reading and literature by several scholars such as Rumelhalt (1980), Carell (1981), and Hudson (1982). The primary assumptions of schema theory considers that the text itself does not carry any meaning itself. It only provides directions for readers to how construct meaning from their background knowledge and experience that they acquired previously. According to Barlett, et al. reader’s own previously knowledge is called reader’s background knowledge and previously acquired knowledge structure is called schemata. In terms of contents there are different types of schemata scholars proposed, such as: formal schemata, content schemata, cultural schemata and linguistics schemata. Hence, according to schema theory, understanding a text requires interactions of reader’s background knowledge and a text. Anderson (1977. p. 369) stated that “every act of comprehension involves one’s knowledge of the world as well”. as a cognitive structure the concept of schema help individuals organizes and interpret knowledge based on their prior knowledge.

Cognitive stylistics is also intersected with the field of Neuroscience. Recent development in neuroscience have provided empirical evidence into how the brain process language and narration. This interdisciplinary approach can define how different styles, and narrative techniques activate different parts of the brain. These empirical insights enhance theoretical discussions within cognitive stylistics by grounding them into biological realities. Some of the main concepts of neurosciences which involves in the process of representing, comprehending and producing cognitive stylistics are language, intelligence and life experience i.e. knowledge and the brain including nerves system. In this multifaced approach, cognitive stylistics studies how language, knowledge acquired by life experiences and the brain reflect into the representation of author’s cognitive style.

Computer linguistics contributes to cognitive stylistics by sharing common features of study such as: - cognitive stylistics examines how language choices affect interpretation while computer linguistics offers quantitative methods of analyzing these choices; - the study of word meaning and their relationship is crucial in both fields. – the usage of language in context (discourse) is concerned in both linguistics; - both cognitive stylistics and computer linguistics concern the study of language in context in other words, pragmatics. Corpora can be a good example to the study of language in context through the computer science; - tools developed in computer linguistics can be useful for cognitive stylisticians in their research to analyze the literary text automatically.

In conclusion, cognitive stylistics stands as a distinctly interdisciplinary field, situated at the intersection of multiple cognitive sciences and linguistic disciplines. Its development has been shaped by the methodological principles of anthropocentrism and interdisciplinarity, both of which have elevated its linguistic status and research potential. Cognitive stylistics integrates concepts from cognitive psychology, neuroscience, computer linguistics, and

linguaculturology to provide a comprehensive understanding of how language conveys human experience and affects mental processes. The convergence of these disciplines enriches cognitive stylistic analysis, offering profound insights into the mechanisms of textual interpretation, memory construction, and stylistic representation. As cognitive sciences continue to evolve, the interdisciplinary scope of cognitive stylistics will likely expand further, solidifying its role in modern linguistic and literary research.

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