

ABSTRACTS

УДК 81.2

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FREE-INDIRECT QUESTIONS IN MALE VS FEMALE FIS

The article deals with the question constructions in female vs male free-indirect speech (FIS). The novelty of the research lies in the fact that it investigates gender comparative analysis of rhetorical questions as well as exclamations in FIS. Thus, we differentiate basic and imitated gender styles where the first, according to R. G. Potapova, is female FIS whereas the latter – male FIS.

Quantitative analysis of language means expressing free-interrogative constructions in female FIS vs male FIS shows such results: fFIS – 74%, mFIS – 26%. According to our observations, *rhetorical questions* in fFIS are expressed by anaphora, epiphora, chain and distant repetitions, series whereas in mFIS – anaphora and trinomials respectively. *Rhetorical exclamations* in fFIS are verbalized by anaphora, epiphora, exclamation, such structures as what (a) + adjective + noun; how + adjective / adverb and indefinite pronoun one, whereas mFIS we come across only anaphora and such structure as how + adjective / adverb. A significant number of free-interrogative constructions in fFIS demonstrates high level of expressiveness and emotionality of female expressions reflecting modality of uncertainty and internal hesitation.

Consequently, free-interrogative sentences in mFIS and fFIS are indirect expressive means which, on the one hand, by means of character's discourse reproduces author's inner state, conveys his personal views, communicates «author – reader» relationship. But on the other hand – performs communicative and pragmatic function prompting the reader to intellectual reasoning. Gender approach to free-interrogative structures not only manifests quantitative differences in mFIS and fFIS (26% and 74% respectively), but also displays their quantitative heterogeneity. Female FIS is rich in diversity of expressive syntax in free-interrogative structures, while mFIS is characterized by the use of a limited range of expressive means.