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The frequency of the Investigated Units

In linguistics the frequency is viewed as one of the most elementary instruments to watch the process of statistical laws. The sign "frequency" is the main sign for classification of facts; it is the criterion of comparison of investigated units, their combinations or functional styles. Frequency can help to find common or distinctive features in the course of comparison.

Linguists consider the frequency to be one of the functional characteristics of the texts.

In our opinion, the factor of frequency needs investigating for the following reasons:

1. The same lexical units can be used in the different functional styles but, at the same time, they are not the markers of the styles.

These lexical units in the different functional styles are in different proportion, so each style can be described through the number of its statistical characteristics. We can say, that the peculiarity of the functional styles lies not only in selection of stylistically neutral words, but also in the number of the usage and in combinability of the commonly used lexis.

2. The word "frequency" can serve not only as the marker of the functional style, but also as the marker of the individual style, which every author uses. The calculation of different units in the works of one and the same author as well as in the works of different authors gives true information as to the individual author's style.

3. Any linguistic feature is considered to have been studied properly, when its systemic and functional-stylistic characteristics are described.

4. Analyzing frequency, we can get information as to structural, semantic and etymological peculiarities of the word. If the word is high-frequent, it is, usually, monomorphemic, polysemantic, stylistically neutral. From the etymological point of view it is either native or borrowed in early period of borrowing.

We agree that quantitative method plays significant role in the investigations. Nevertheless, any research shouldn't be overfilled with figures. They help to discover the inner peculiarities of the text, which can't be found without statistics. Quantitative methods are used for establishing certain regularities and marking quantitative conclusions about functioning of lexical units.