

## OCCASIONALISMS AND THEIR FUNCTIONAL-STYLISTIC CHARACTERISTICS

Saliyeva Shakhlo

**Kokand State Pedagogical Institute named after Mukimi,  
Teacher of the Department of Foreign Languages Methodology, Kokand,  
150700, Uzbekistan**

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**Annotation:** This article explores the formation, linguistic nature, and functional characteristics of occasional lexical units. The study analyzes the principles of word-formation, stylistic features, and contextual usage of occasionalisms. Drawing on the works of linguists such as N.I. Feldman, E.I. Khanpira, O.S. Akhmanova, Y.I. Zhabaeva, and others, the paper identifies the main features and functions of occasionalisms.

**Key words:** occasionalisms, functional characteristics, semantic features, inflected languages, agglutinative languages, isolating languages

Modern linguistics pays great attention to the study of occasionalisms, their formation, usage in texts of various genres, as well as their word-building and stylistic features. Researchers explain the growing interest in this phenomenon by the constant emergence of new lexical units in language. One of the main processes observed in the modern vocabulary is the introduction of new words into it due to the changing needs of society.

Occasional words (nonce-words) arise not only to designate new phenomena and events, but also to convey subtle emotional and semantic nuances, and to evaluate the phenomena of surrounding reality. The main reasons for their creation are:

- the desire to express as accurately as possible a complex image conceived by the author;
- the desire to reveal the expressive potential of a word and to create an unexpected, non-standard image;
- adding stylistic coloring;
- avoiding tautology;
- finding the most precise expression of a thought.

One of the most common reasons for the emergence of occasionalisms is the strive for conciseness: a single word often replaces an entire phrase or even a sentence, increasing the capacity and expressiveness of speech. An occasionalism also serves as a means of drawing attention to the meaning of a word and sometimes as a way to create a wordplay (pun).

Their use in fiction is determined not only by the need to create an emotional effect, but also by the desire to convey a certain idea. In addition, occasional words help to designate new realities for which precise names do not yet exist in the language.

In linguistics, the concept of occasionalism is interpreted differently. For instance, G. O. Vinokur associated it with linguistic innovation involving the introduction of new language means. N. I. Feldman first introduced the term "occasional word" and defined it as a lexical unit closely tied to context and incapable of functioning independently outside of it. Other researchers (E. I. Khanpira, A. G. Lykov) emphasized the non-productivity of patterns in which occasionalisms are formed and their unexpected nature within the language system.

The main characteristics of occasionalism include:

- connection with speech practice rather than the language system;
- creative, non-recurrent character;

- derivation from existing language units;
- a certain degree of deviation from the linguistic norm;
- one-time use in a specific context.

Thus, occasional words are dynamic phenomena reflecting the flexibility of language and its capacity to adapt to new realities and communicative needs. They play a significant role in literary and publicist speech, helping to convey semantic and emotional nuances, and also serve as a tool of language experimentation.

Occasionalisms possess a number of specific properties, among which expressiveness, optionality of nomination (the absence of a fixed meaning in the language system), as well as synchronic-diachronic diffusion stand out. The latter implies the simultaneous creation of an occasionalism and its interaction with the canonical words of the language. Furthermore, occasional words have an individual character, as their author is a specific native speaker.

Despite being non-standard, occasionalisms share some characteristics typical of usual words:

- formatting of pronunciation/phonetics;
- semantic valency;
- absence of double stress;
- belonging to a specific lexical and grammatical category.

The following criteria are used to distinguish occasional units:

- Functional sphere: occasionalism manifests itself only in speech.
- Methods of formation: they are formed according to unusual models or with deviations from linguistic norms.
- Relation to the language norm: characterized by intentional deviation from language rules.
- Nominative function: optional.
- Contextual dependence: dependent on a specific speech situation.
- Opposition to usual words: occasionalisms stand out sharply against the background of commonly accepted vocabulary.
- Reproducibility: non-reproducible, created for a specific case.
- Scope of application: unlike common words, limited by authorship.
- Expressiveness: they are expressive means.
- Connection with time: retain a sense of novelty regardless of the moment of creation.
- Purpose of formation: aimed at overcoming stereotypes and searching for non-standard linguistic solutions.

Following the definition of Y. I. Zhabaeva, this study understands occasionalism as an expressive speech unit characterized by non-reproducibility, unusualness, optionality of nomination, and word-formation derivativeness.

The phenomenon of word creation is widespread in fiction. O. G. Revzina points out that occasionalisms perform a special function that has not yet been fully uncovered by linguistics. They allow overcoming the limitations of language by expressing individual authorial meaning and embodying key artistic senses.

According to E. V. Pozdeeva, occasionalisms perform two main functions:

- serving as a means of expressing expressiveness;
- conveying the author's intentions.

Although occasional words can perform a nominative function, it is optional, and some researchers (e.g., E. I. Khanpira) consider it a subfunction of occasionalism. It should be noted that the full realization of the functions of an occasional word is possible if it is accepted by both the author and the recipient.

Thus, occasionalism differs from usual words not only in its specific properties but also in the functions it performs, which makes them an important element of linguistic creativity.

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