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TONY BLAIR'S INFORMATIVE SPEECH "WAR WITH IRAQ" FROM A LINGUISTIC AND STYLISTIC PERSPECTIVE

Tony Blair's public speech "War with Iraq" of socio-political orientation has a typical structure of a public speech (1). It begins with an introduction, where the speaker introduces the listeners to the essence of the problem being covered, informing the audience about the state of the war:

Tonight, British servicemen and women are engaged from air, land and sea. Their mission: to remove Saddam Hussein from power, and disarm Iraq of its weapons of mass destruction. I know this course of action has produced deep divisions of opinion in our country.

Observation of the vocabulary of the analysed speech allows us to note the speaker's use of nouns of abstract semantics: hatred of war, honour, torture; intensifiers: really, entirely, simply; adjectives characterised by expressive colouring: so important, it's too serious, maximum damage; modal verbs: we cannot simply go back; verbs of mental activity: we understand, people realise that, having agreed.

The above-mentioned vocabulary is used to create a realistic picture of events and convey to the addressee the impression of these events and attitudes towards them, as well as to have a strong impact on the audience and to emphasise the importance of the statement [2, p.34].

In a speech, abbreviations are used to refer to military terms, for example:

UN weapons inspectors say vast quantities of chemical and biological poisons such as anthrax, VX nerve agent, and mustard gas remain unaccounted for in Iraq.

A study of morphological means has shown that expressiveness in speech is expressed by the use of adjectives and adverbs in the highest degree of comparison, for example:

I know it is the most important issue that the British people will now be united in sending our armed forces our thoughts and prayers.

The simplest way of disarming Saddam is to say vast amounts of chemical and biological poisons, such as anthrax, VX nerve agent, and mustard gas remain unaccounted for in Iraq.

Expressiveness is also achieved with the help of hyperbole, which is used when the speaker tries to increase the quantitative or qualitative side of what is being said [1, p.56]. For example:

Well, of course, people have been writing letters for hundreds, thousands of years, but...

The use of comparisons is quite reasonable:

Dictators like Saddam, terrorist groups like Al Qaida threaten the very existence of such a world.

This stylistic device carries an emotional colouring and expresses the author's disapproval.

The analysis of the syntactic structure of the sentences in T. Blair's speech revealed that the most typical is the use of complex subordinate clauses, which include 3-5 subordinate parts. As a rule, he uses complex subordinate cause-and-effect sentences:

So, if the result or peace of an absence of conflict is Saddam's staying in power not disarmed, I simply say there are consequences paid in blood for that decision too.

Less commonly used are the clarifying ones:

If there are five hundred thousand on that march that is still less than the number of people who said that's what Saddam has been responsible for.

Syntactic constructions indicating the speaker's attitude to what is being said are also an important means of creating expressiveness [3, p.60]. For example:

I think this is one of the things that is tragic about the situation...

And I want to say why I think this is so important.

One of the most interesting means of creating expressiveness is inversion. The speaker puts in the first place the component of the expression that seems to him/her the main one for the transmission of information:

Never forget: the true victims they are!

In the main body, interrogative sentences are used, for example:

Should terrorists get hold of these weapons now being manufactured and traded around the world, the carnage they could inflict on our economies, our security, on world peace, would be beyond our most vivid imagination?

The speaker then goes on to answer the question, creating a dialogue during the speech:

My judgement, as Prime Minister, is that this threat is real, growing and of an
entirely different nature to any conventional threat to our security.

Thus, the speech we have analysed is characterised by a large number of means and techniques to create expressiveness of the message.

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SOURCES

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