

LINGUISTIC AND STYLISTIC MEANS IN CHARLES KENNEDY'S SPEECH "A DRINK PROBLEM"

Charles Kennedy's speech 'A Drink Problem' is dedicated to such a social problem as alcoholism (1). This speech is characterised by a typical compositional structure of a public speech [2, 67]. It begins with an introduction where the author reveals the purpose of his speech:

And I've come to learn through that process that any drink problem is a serious problem indeed - for yourself and for those around you.

The introduction uses complex sentences with insertion constructions that convey the author's personal attitude to the problem of alcoholism, for example:

I have chosen not to acknowledge it publicly in this way before because, if at all possible, I wanted to overcome it privately.

There is no transition to the main part of the speech, the author uses the adverbial consequence therefore, thus continuing his/her thought, stated in the introduction [3, p.34]. The sentences are characterised by rich syntactic constructions, the language is simple and concise. The author does not use stylistic devices [1, p.14]. The lexical stock of the speech is filled with stylistically uncolored words (recent weeks, leader, great). Another feature is the frequent use of infinitive phrases:

It is open to any colleague who believes that they can better represent the long-term interests of the party to stand against me in such a leadership election.

As a conclusion to his speech, the author made an assumption by using a sentence with a complex syntactic construction:

Given my statement today I believe it is only fair now to give our party members their say over the continuing leadership.

This speech is the shortest of the speeches we have selected for analysis. The speech is mainly neutral in colour, and the author does not use stylistic devices to create expressiveness of the material.

REFERENCES

1. Carnegie, D. (2017). The art of public speaking. Simon & Schuster
2. Gallo, C. (2014). Talk like TED: The 9 public-speaking secrets of the world's top minds. St. Martin's Press.
3. Lucas, S. E. (2020). The art of public speaking (13th ed.). McGraw-Hill.

SOURCES

1. Charles Kennedy „A drink problem”
URL: www.famous-speeches-and-speech-topics.info/famous-short-speeches/charles-kennedy-speech-a-drink-problem