

Phonostylistics, its aims, subjects and methods of investigation

By Rakhimova Yulduz,
Zinatullina Viktoriya,
Khasanova Diana

Phonostylistics is a branch of phonetics that studies the way phonetic means are used in this or that particular situation which exercises the conditioning influence of a set of factors which are referred to as **extralinguistic**.

The aim of phonostylistics is to analyse all possible kinds of spoken utterances with the main purpose of identifying the phonetic features which are restricted to certain kinds of contexts, to explain why such features have been used and to classify them into categories based upon a view of their function.

Extralinguistic factors are factors that lie outside the language system and influence on stylistic variations.

The bundle of extralinguistic factors forms the **extralinguistic situation**.

Extralinguistic situation

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graph TD; A[Extralinguistic situation] --> B[Purpose]; A --> C[Participant]; A --> D[Setting, or scene];
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Purpose

Participant

Setting, or
scene

Purpose can be defined as the motor which sets the chassis of setting and participants going. The purpose directs the activities of the participants throughout a situation to complete a task.

Participants are people who are involved in communication.

Setting, or scene is a physical orientation of participants. This is to some extent determined by the activity they are engaged in.

