

TEXT UNITS AND THEIR COMMUNICATIVE FUNCTIONS

Rahmonov Husanboy Abjalil ogli

*Teacher (PhD),
Kokand State University*

Abstract: *This article examines text, text units, and the role of the author in literary texts from a scientific-theoretical perspective. It analyzes the linguistic nature of text, its structural units (sentence, complex syntactic unity, paragraph), and their interrelations.*

Keywords: *text, text units, sentence, complex syntactic unity, paragraph, literary text, author, discourse.*

Аннотация: *В данной статье рассматриваются текст, единицы текста и функции автора в художественном тексте с научно-теоретической точки зрения. Анализируется лингвистическая природа текста, его структурные единицы (предложение, сложное синтаксическое целое, абзац) и особенности их взаимосвязи.*

Ключевые слова: *текст, единицы текста, предложение, сложное синтаксическое целое, абзац, художественный текст, автор, дискурс.*

In linguistics, text is recognized as the largest communicative unit of language, playing an important role in human thinking, speech activity, and the process of information exchange. Through text, a person's thoughts, emotions, attitudes, and intentions are expressed within a certain structured system. Therefore, the study of text is considered one of the main research objects of linguistics, stylistics, pragmatics, and text linguistics. Text is not merely a collection of grammatically connected sentences; it is a complex speech structure that possesses semantic integrity, logical coherence, and communicative completeness. It reflects the interrelation of language units, stylistic features, and the communicative intention of the author.

The concept of text is interpreted differently in scientific literature. In the Explanatory Dictionary of the Uzbek Language, the word “matn” (text) is defined as an archaic bookish term borrowed from Arabic and is considered synonymous with the term “text.” In the dictionary, “text” is defined as written, copied, or printed literary, scientific, and official works, speech, and documents, or a certain part of them. It is also noted that the term may refer to the poetic basis of musical works. In addition, in the field of typography, it can denote one of the large font types. Based on these explanations, text is primarily interpreted as a written form of speech. The updated edition of the explanatory dictionary of the Uzbek language preserves this meaning, defining text as the written representation of speech.

The concept of text is interpreted differently in scientific sources. From a lexical point of view, it refers to an authorial work, document, or the main content part of a printed publication created in written or printed form (excluding illustrations, drawings, and comments) [O'TIL.1;23]. However, in modern linguistics, it is emphasized that limiting text only to its written form is not scientifically justified, since communication between people occurs in both written and spoken forms. Therefore, text is regarded not merely as a graphic representation, but as a unified communicative unit that emerges in any form of speech activity.

From a syntactic perspective, the sentence is recognized as the basic unit; however, text is interpreted as a higher-level, supersyntactic whole. It is formed through the semantic and logical connection of several sentences and possesses its own grammatical, semantic, and pragmatic regularities. For this reason, equating text with a phrase or a single sentence is not scientifically valid. It is also highlighted in linguistic literature that the concepts of "text," "speech," and "context" should be clearly distinguished from one another [Matnshunoslik.3;12].

In international linguistic traditions, the term "discourse" is also widely used. Initially, it was used as a synonym of the concept of "text," but later, with the differentiation between written and spoken communication, "text" began to be associated with written speech, while "discourse" came to refer to spoken communication. This term originates from the French *discours*, meaning "speech" or "speaking," and today it has developed into a polysemantic concept widely used across various fields of study.

Text, as a complex communicative structure with a unified system, is composed of specific structural components, namely units. In linguistics, the problem of identifying text-forming units and determining the criteria for their classification has long been a subject of scientific debate. At first glance, identifying text units may seem simple; however, both practical and theoretical analyses demonstrate the complexity of this process.

Some scholars, particularly I. R. Galperin, reject the idea of considering the sentence as a text unit. According to him, the main unit of text is a supra-phrasal unity, which includes several sentences; therefore, an individual sentence cannot be regarded as a text unit [Galperin.1;58]. This approach is based on the interpretation of text as a large structural whole.

Other linguists, however, consider the sentence to be the primary building material of text. This is because the semantic integrity of text, its relation to reality, and its communicative meaning are all realized through sentences. Therefore, denying the role of the sentence in the structure and formation of text is not scientifically justified.

In general linguistic literature, sentence, complex syntactic unity, and paragraph are identified as text units. However, the paragraph cannot be considered a full

linguistic unit of text, since it is primarily a compositional-graphic feature of written speech. A. N. Gvozdev describes the paragraph as a means close to punctuation marks and emphasizes its function in highlighting new ideas and expressing the author's intention [Gvozdev.2;34]. Similarly, I. R. Galperin also views the paragraph as a compositional-graphic device that strengthens the logical and emotional emphasis within a text [Galperin.1;62]. Paragraphs may consist of a single word, a sentence, or several sentences, and their structure is determined by the author's communicative or artistic intention.

Structurally, paragraphs may vary in form: they can consist of simple sentences, complex sentences, periodic speech structures, supra-phrasal syntactic units, or reported speech constructions. In addition, mixed-structure paragraphs are also encountered. In conclusion, the main linguistic units of a text can be identified as the sentence and the complex syntactic whole. A paragraph, however, is not a grammatical unit of text; rather, it is a compositional-graphic device used in written discourse to separate ideas and organize textual composition.

Furthermore, the author plays an important role in the text. In literary texts, the author is considered a central aesthetic and communicative figure. The author is not merely a narrator of events but an active creative subject who constructs literary reality, organizes it, and guides the reader's perception. The author's main task is to express certain ideas, aesthetic views, and human values through the artistic transformation of real-life experience.

In literary texts, the first function of the author is the creation of artistic images. The author selects events, characters, and phenomena from real life and transforms them using artistic devices. As a result, a system of images is formed, through which the aesthetic content of the work is revealed.

The second important function is the organization of composition. The author structures the sequence of events, plot development, and conflict system in a purposeful way. In this way, the logical consistency and artistic integrity of the text are ensured.

The third function is the expression of the artistic idea and aesthetic purpose. Through the work, the author conveys life realities, philosophical views, or social issues not directly, but through images, symbols, and artistic details.

Another significant function of the author is establishing aesthetic communication with the reader. A literary text does not only transmit information; it also influences the reader's emotions, imagination, and thinking. Through language and stylistic devices, the author immerses the reader in a specific emotional and aesthetic state.

In modern literary studies, it is emphasized that the author is not always explicitly visible within the text. The author may appear as a "hidden" or "implicit

author,” who controls the entire artistic system behind the images. This further enhances the multi-layered and complex nature of literary texts. Thus, the author’s role in literary texts is not limited to narration, but includes the creation of artistic reality, its aesthetic organization, and the formation of an ideologically and artistically impactful system for the reader.

Overall, a text is not merely a collection of sentences but a complex communicative unity formed on the basis of the author’s intention, characterized by internal logic and semantic coherence. Each structural element of the text serves to express the overall idea and influence the reader.

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