January, 30th, 2014.

**Exam of Stylistics( 2nd-year)**

Answer the following questions:

Linguistics language

**Stylistics**

Literary criticism (English) Literature

1. Complete the graph and give a definition of the field of stylistics.

-It is the study of literary texts from a linguistic orientation

-it is an area of mediation between literary criticism and linguistics

- it is the study of how linguistic signs are foregrounded to produce a specific effect on the meaning of a literary text.

-it is how pattern and meaning form one.

Points: 3 for anyone of these answers or for all.

1. What is the position of the linguist and the literary critic in relation to the text? 3pts

-The first deals with literature as ‘TEXT’ (i.e how language is constructed within a piece of writing)( 1,5 pt); the second deals with literature as a message(i.e the interpretation)(1,5)

OR

-The linguist studies the nature of the deviation ( 1,5 pt) in a literary text whereas the literary critic is mainly concerned with the interpretation of the text.(1,5 pt)

OR

-a) The linguist is concerned with the codes, and his interest in messages lies in how they explain how the codes are constructed(1,5 pt)

a) The linguist wants to explain curiosities of usage, and how they can be explained in grammatical terms.

-b) The literary critic is interested in messages and his concern with codes lies in the meanings they convey in particular instances of use.(1,5)

1. How do stylisticians approach literary texts? 3pts

– Through a linguistic description of a literary text (this is of course at different levels of language) (1pt) in order to show the contribution of linguistic signs in the making of the total meaning of a given piece of writing. (1pt)

They relate linguistic facts to meaning.(1pt)

OR

–To understand a piece of literary writing, you have to understand its language, and the language of literary texts is special due to the writers’ use of deviations, parallelisms, repetitions which contribute to a suggestive and communicative effect of the message. A writer is like a painter or a sculptor who relies on the moulding of his raw material, so for stylisticians, you cannot understand literary texts without referring to its language. 3pts.

1. What is the ultimate purpose of literary criticism? 2pts

The ultimate purpose of literary criticism is interpretation( 1 pt) to make unfamiliar messages familiar.(1pt)

1. Foregrounding: can you give a definition of foregrounding? 4 pts

Foregroundings are all highlighted elements (put into relief) (1 point) that can occur as repetition, parallelism or deviation(1pt) from linguistic norms (1pt)within a literary text.(1pt)

1. Extract which foregrounding is used in the following extract, be precise and tell why it is used: 5pts

*Wind*

*The woods crashing through darkness, the booming hills,*

*Winds stampeding the fields under the window*

Ted Hughes

We can notice the use of linguistic deviations through a violation of selection restriction rules: there are three of them: ‘the woods crashing’, ‘the booming hills’, ‘winds stampeding the fields’. The subject’ wood’ cannot be associated with the verb ‘to crash’ which means to cause damage making a loud sound; it is as if supernatural phenomena were upsetting the whole natural landscape creating a turmoil; another idea in agreement with the first through again a violation of selection restriction rules is ‘the booming hills’, here the verb ’to boom’ in the ing-form is an adjective which cannot be written with the noun ‘hills’, ‘to boom’ evokes the sound of thunder on the hills, but here it is as if the hills themselves were booming creating an upheaval and disturbing the natural landscape. Finally, the 3rd violation of SRRules is the ‘the wind stampeding the fields under the window: the verb ‘to stampede’ is normally

used with four-footed animals forming herds and moving together, and cannot normally be written with the subject ‘field’: this is again to express the violence and animacy of the wind, notice how all the nouns are inanimate elements(hills, the woods, the wind), but are purposefully made animate through his linguistic deviation called a violation of SRR.

Types of answers:

Linguistic deviation 1pt

Violation of Selection Restriction Rules 2pts.

If they indicate the nature of one or two foregroundings, it is 2pts, if they mention the three, it is 2,5 pts.

Justification, interpretation for one of the 3 answers or foregroundings 2 pts

For the three interpretations: 2,5 pts.

If the students mention one or two examples, it is 2pts. If they mention the three, it is 2,5pts.