

Стаття надійшла до редакції 24.04.2024 р.  
Перевірено на плагіат 29.04.2024 р.  
унікальність – 95.27%

<https://doi.org/10.17721/StudLing2024.24.9-16>

УДК 811.111

## WAR IN UKRAINE THROUGH THE EYES OF THE FOREIGN PRESS

*Alla Oleksiivna Varlamova, [allavarlamova11@gmail.com](mailto:allavarlamova11@gmail.com)*

*Senior Lecturer*

*Military Academy (Odessa)*

*This article is devoted to English-language media publications written during the war between Ukraine with the terrorist country Russia. The article used materials from well-known English-language newspapers and Internet resources, such as The Economist, The Times, BBC News, The Sun, Voice of America, The New York Times Magazine, The Guardian, Le Monde and many others. This paper examines syntactic, morphological, lexical and a variety of stylistic features of newspaper articles and wartime headlines, such as passive constructions, ellipsis, impersonal sentences, metonymy, epithet, metaphor, and comparison. How did the authors' style and the linguistic means they use change? How did the war affect the expressiveness, emotionality, richness of the newspaper style vocabulary? Foreign journalists also often use words that appeared in Ukraine during the war as neologisms. For example, the name of the city of Bucha became a symbol of cruelty, violence and atrocities of Russian soldiers. We can meet such words as orcs, denazification, rashism, Bayraktar, "As I read about Irpin, about Bucha, about Trostyanets, of the bodies crushed by tanks, of the bicyclists shot on the street, of the desecrated corpses, there it was, "rashism" again and again, in comments sections, in social media, even in the official pronouncements of the Ukrainian state." zombification and many others. What responses do they evoke in the reader's soul? (From The Times Magazine).*

**Keywords:** *foreign press, language means, war, expressiveness, metaphor, epithet, comparison, metonymy.*

## ВІЙНА В УКРАЇНІ ОЧИМА ЗАРУБІЖНОЇ ПРЕСИ

*Алла Олексіївна Варламова, [allavarlamova11@gmail.com](mailto:allavarlamova11@gmail.com)*

*старший викладач*

*Військова академія (м. Одеса)*

*Ця стаття присвячена англомовним публікаціям у ЗМІ, написаних за час війни України з країною-терористом Росією. У статті використовувалися матеріали відомих англомовних газет та інтернет ресурсів, таких як The Economist, The Times, BBC News, The Sun, Voice of America, The New York Times Magazine, The Guardian, Le Monde та багатьох інших. У цій роботі розглядаються синтаксичні, морфологічні, лексичні та різноманітні стилістичні особливості газетних статей та заголовків воєнного часу, такі як пасивні конструкції, еліпсис, безособові пропозиції, метонімія, епітет, метафора, порівняння. Як змінився стиль авторів та мовні засоби, які вони використовують? Як війна вплинула експресивність, емоційність, багатство лексики газетного стилю? Зарубіжні журналісти також часто використовують слова, які з'явилися в Україні за час війни як неологізми. Наприклад, назва міста Буча стала символом жорстокості, насильства та звірств російських солдатів. Ми можемо зустріти такі слова як орки, денацифікація, рашизм, байрактар, зомбіфікація та багато інших. Які відгуки вони викликають у душі читача? «Коли я читав про Ірпінь, про Бучу, про Тростянець, про розчавлені танками тіла, про розстріляних на вулицях велосипедистів, про осквернені трупи, слово «рашизм» було знову і знову у коментарях, у соціальних мережах, навіть в офіційних заявах української держави». (З журналу The New York Times).*

*Ключові слова: зарубіжна преса, мовні засоби, війна, експресивність, метафора, епітет, порівняння, метонімія.*

“I can't imagine that one day we will live in the ordinary world again. Even though I often say 'after the war', these words seem to me like an air castle that will forever remain a dream.” From the diary of Anne Frank, a Jewish girl from the Netherlands, a prisoner of a Nazi concentration camp [Wikipedia: The Free Encyclopedia].

This is what millions of Ukrainians feel today. The war burst into our homes, destroying our familiar world, crippling the fates of millions of people and bringing real grief to our country.

The entire world press is flooded with articles about war. The world is on the

verge of a third world war, according to some political scientists. How are military events, the lives of civilians, the opinions of world leaders and ordinary soldiers described? What linguistic means are used? Modern newspaper discourse of the war period of Ukraine gravitates towards emotionality, expression, plain speech, evaluation, expressiveness and constant search for various ways of its reservation because to implement their ideas journalists focus the readers' attention on the facts and events of the war, the problems of this crisis period, modelling an atmosphere of interest, complicity, syncretizing logical and emotional perception to feed their assessment into the minds of readers, to form in them a certain attitude to the problem that is raised in the newspaper text, stimulating the respondents' response [Maslova 2023, p. 227]. Journalists use a variety of language tools when writing articles, especially on such hot topics as war. Therefore, such articles can be quite emotional and expressive.

V. Chabanenko investigates the concept of expressiveness in detail, saying that it is “the most intensified expressiveness, such a socially and psychologically motivated property of a linguistic sign, which sharpens attention, activates thinking, causes sensual tension of the reader”. Authors use many brightly coloured linguistic means, such as epithets, metaphors, idioms, periphrasis, comparisons, metonymy and abbreviations, as well as syntactic means of expression, such as exclamation or punctuation. Not all articles can be written perfectly, the labour of a journalist is often connected with time constraints and stress, but in newspaper texts, we find a wealth of vocabulary, phraseology, a variety of stylistic means, display of the colloquial variant of the language. [Semyon 2015, p. 143]

This paper aimed to analyse the types of expressive means that are found nowadays in the English-language press.

The newspaper style has always attracted the attention of many philologists and linguists. Here are just a few of them: S. Bally, I. V. Arnold, A. Vezhbitskaya, O. O. Potebnya, W. von Humboldt, I. O. Baudouin de Courtenay and many others.

So, let us see what syntactic means are used to attract attention. One such method is inversion. To interest the reader, the participial or de-partial turns or circumstances of place and time are put in the first place. Let's consider specific examples:

1. *Surrounded and low on ammo, the elite troops out to spoil Putin`s New Year.*
2. *In occupied Mariupol, Russian invaders hold a sham election.*
3. *On March 7-th the FSB said it had killed two Islamist radicals who were*

*planning an attack on a synagogue in the city.*

Among the morphological means, passive constructions and impersonal sentences can be distinguished. Verb phrases occupy a more prominent place in online news media texts. At the morphosyntactic level, passive verb forms and impersonal constructions are widespread, serving to present information as objectively as possible [Isakova 2021, p. 191].

Examples of passive constructions are so characteristic of newspaper style:

1. *“We know that the crime **was perpetrated** by radical Islamists,” Mr. Putin said on March 25.*
2. *On the same day one of the alleged terrorists **was photographed** inside Crocus City Hall.*
3. *Twenty-six attack UAVs of the Shahed-136/131 type **were destroyed** within Odesa, Kharkiv, Dnipropetrovsk and Zaporizhzhia regions.*
4. *That – crudely put – **is the question being asked** in chancelleries across Europe, as the French president warms to his new role as the continent’s resister-in-chief to Vladimir Putin.*

In this sentence, in addition to the passive construction, we also meet with a play of words, instead of commander-in-chief the author of the article calls the French president *resister-in-chief*.

Impersonal constructions are most often used by the media to convey public opinion. There are many different kinds of formal style, and choice of grammar and vocabulary is important. Formal styles commonly contain few personal pronouns; noun phrases and the passive voice are commonly used. [Cambridge dictionary]. Let’s look at a few examples:

1. ***It takes** a long time to generate the mass to go from defense to offence.*
2. ***It is evident** that solidarity between Europe and America is more important than ever before.*
3. ***It is clear** that many allies believe Taurus would give Ukraine the chance to strike deep behind Russian lines.*

And now let’s talk about such a phenomenon in language as ellipsis. Ellipse or ellipsis means from the Greek language – the omission. It is figure of speech characterized by the deliberate omission of a word or words that are, however, understood in light of the grammatical context [Encyclopedia Britannica]. It is obvious that the economy of language means, which is a leading feature of newspaper style, is one of the main reasons for the appearance of elliptical sentences in the language of newspapers. The study of the economy of language material is relevant for this style primarily because of the constant need to transmit

a large amount of information, which is due to the development of the technical process, the quantity and quality of not only oral but also written communication between people. [Strelnikova 2000, p.316] This is confirmed by the following examples:

1. *Few would have dared, at the start of the war, to bet on the odds of a Ukrainian army virtually devoid of naval resources against an armada that was Moscow's pride and joy.*

*(The word **people** is omitted)*

2. *Odesa's Stanislav Skrinnik, ballet dancer by night and weapons manufacturer by day. (We can add **who works as a ballet dancer**).*
3. *Russia's latest crime in Mariupol: stealing property. (The subject and the predicate are omitted- **they are** stealing property).*

The next stage of our analysis will be such means as emphatic comparisons or emotionally colored characteristics Let's study some of them:

1. *They will be treated not as human beings, but as Satans.*
2. *Few russian leaders apart from Stalin have been as obsessed with their ~~own~~ security, while failing so spectacularly to provide it for their people, as Vladimir Putin.*
3. *Olaf Scholz, Germany's chancellor, has dug in his heels, refusing to give Ukraine the even more powerful Taurus missile.*
4. *The bullet remains stronger than the ballot*

As can be seen from the examples, journalists address the most difficult and painful problems, where the use of adjectives in the highest degree of comparison contributes to the emotionality of the narrative, and draws attention to topical issues [Semyon 2015, p. 145].

1. *My young son, Yan, now six, is in Chicago. But I have not seen him for almost three years. It's **the biggest** pain, more than the pain from being under occupation, the war or anything else."*
2. *Right now, both sides are jockeying for the "**the most favourable** position" ahead of potential talks.*
3. *The general says **the largest** unknown factor of the war is Europe. If Ukraine's neighbours do not find a way of further increasing defence production to help Ukraine, they too will eventually find themselves in Russia's crosshairs.*

Finally, let us turn to lexical and stylistic means, the most numerous and the most vivid, which not only attract attention, make empathize, but also form the

public opinion of readers. Let's start with epithets. Epithets from Ancient Greek mean "attached". *They are adjectives or phrases that are used to express a characteristic of a person or thing, such as Ivan the Terrible [Encyclopedia Britannica]*

Today the press is saturated with various epithets that help us to create images of modern politicians, evaluate their actions and imagine all the horrors of war.

1. *As always with Emmanuel Macron, the logic is **impeccable**; and the arguments are **unbreakable**.*
2. *But for Mr. Putin, accepting that his American **arch**-enemy might act out of concern for Russians would undermine his **paranoid** and **conspiratorial** worldview.*
3. *Vladimir Putin, who is used to claim that Russia needs to be strong in the face of **bloodthirsty** enemies.*

In contrast to an epithet, a metaphor an expression, often found in literature, that describes a person or object by referring to something that is considered to have similar characteristics to that person or object: "The *mind is an ocean*" and "the *city is a jungle*" are both metaphors [Cambridge dictionary].

Thanks to the use of metaphor, the aesthetic value of the artistic text is increased, the imagery and expressiveness of speech are enhanced, the reader's associative thinking is developed, and pragmatic influence on the recipient is realised [Sukhova 2018, p. 129].

Consider the following examples where metaphors and epithets are sometimes intertwined in the same sentence:

1. *Ukrainian **drone`s mother** unleashes her deadly children into a battle.*
2. *Kamikadze **drones are changing the face** of the Ukraine.*
3. ***Ukraine is suffering from acute "shell hunger"**, which is why it was forced to withdraw from Avdiivka.*
4. *Macron **switches from dove to hawk** on Russia's invasion of Ukraine. The last in our study we will*

The last in our study will learn such a linguistic tool as metonymy. Metonymy, (from Greek *metōnymia*, "change of name," or "misnomer"), figure of speech in which the name of an object or concept is replaced with a word closely related to or suggested by the original, as "crown" to mean "king" ("The power of the crown was mortally weakened") or an author for his works. [Encyclopedia Britannica].

1. ***Russia** has little difficulty recruiting contract soldiers: it can pay them amounts that seem extravagant in poor parts of the country.*
2. ***Ukraine** is also running low on tanks and other fighting vehicles, though*

*there is hope that America could send it hundreds of mothballed Bradley fighting vehicles without needing more cash from Congress.*

3. **Europe** must get ready for looming war, Donald Tusk warns.

4. **Samsung** has said it will stop supporting the Russian payment card Mir on its mobile payment service from 3 April – a result of anti-war.

Metonymic transfer of names is widely used to create imagery, expressiveness, and appreciation; due to the use of metonymic transfer, there is a reduction of expression, which corresponds to the requirement of the brevity of the newspaper text. [Shkurko 2013, p. 217; Mihalova 2013, p. 217].

As can be seen from the above, the vocabulary of war is saturated with bright emotions and colours, which is very relevant today. It is able not only to form public opinion but also to appeal to the patriotic feelings of the people. The maximum of linguistic means is used to convey such necessary information today, thanks to which the hope for the victory of good over evil lives in us. In the modern conditions of the war period in Ukraine, expressiveness is not only a stylistic device in the newspaper discourse but also a communicative tool to express emotions, dignity, patriotism and deep feelings of compassion, courage, despair and incredible thirst for victory, helping to consolidate citizens and support the spirit of joint struggle for the national idea. [Korotkova 2023, p. 27; Sabelnikova 2023, p. 27]. Linguistic expressivisation of a newspaper text of the war period occurs as a conscious process of selecting appropriate linguistic means or the genesis of innovative communication tools to convey the communicator's intentions to focus attention on a socially significant piece of information. That is why the journalist uses expressive means to emphasize the main thing – the horror of this unjust war, the cruelty and baseness of the enemy, the heroism of the AFU, volunteers and the people of Ukraine [Maslova 2023, p. 238].

### Література:

1. Ісакова С. С. Мовні засоби та прийоми привернення уваги читачів інтернет-новин з політичним контентом на прикладі англomовних та киргизькомовних ЗМІ. *Політична* 6 (90) (2021): 190-199
2. Короткова Ю. М., Сабельникова Т. М. Посилення ролі мови й мовної освіти в умовах Воєнного Стану. *Вчені записки ТНУ імені В. І. Вернадського. Серія: Філологія. Журналістика* 1, ч. 1, т. 34 (73) (2023): 27-30
3. Maslova Julia. Експресивність якдомінантна риса сучасного газетного дискурсу в Україні під час війни. *Актуальні питання гуманітарних наук* 67, т. 2 (2023): 226-230.
4. Семен Г. Я. Граматичні особливості газетних текстів. *Науковий вісник Міжнародного гуманітарного університету. Сер.: Філологія* 18, т. 1 (2015): 143-145.
5. Стрельникова О. В. Функціональні види еліпсису в газетному стилі англійської

- мови. *Наукові записки Національного університету "Острозька академія". Серія "Філологічна"* 26, т. 1 (2021): 316-318.
6. Сухова А. В. Метафора як основа естетичної цінності художнього тексту (на матеріалі англomовної новели). *Вісник Харківського національного університету імені В. Н. Каразіна. Серія: Іноземна філологія. Методика викладання іноземних мов* 2 (87) (2018): 129-134.
  7. Шкурко Т. А., Міхальова К. І. Метонімія в газетах політичної направленості (на матеріалі англomовної та україномовної преси). *Вісник Житомирського державного університету імені Івана Франка* (2013): 216-222.

### Інтернет-ресурси:

8. <https://www.britannica.com/>
9. <https://dictionary.cambridge.org/>

### References:

1. Ysakova S.S. Jazkovye sredstva y pryem pryvlechenyja vnymanyya chytatelej internet-novostej s polytycheskym kontentom na prymerе anglojazychnyh y kyrgyzskojazychnyh SMY. [Linguistic means and techniques of attracting the attention of Internet newsreaders with political content on the example of English- and Kyrgyz-language media]. *Polytycheskaja lyngvistyka* 6 (90) (2021): 190-199.
2. Korotkova Ju. M., Sabel'nykova T. M. Posylennja roli movy j movnoi osvity v umovah vojenного stanu. [Strengthening the role of language and language education in martial law]. *Vcheni zapysky TNU imeni V. I. Vernads'kogo. Serija: Filologija. Zhurnalistyka* 1, ch. 1, t. 34 (73) (2023): 27-30.
3. Maslova J. Ekspressivnost kak domynanta sovremennogo gazetnogo diskursa v Ukraine v gody vojny. [Expressiveness as a dominant feature of modern newspaper discourse in Ukraine during the war]. *Aktual'ni pytannja gumanitarnyh nauk: mizhvuzivs'kyj zbirnyk naukovyh prac' molodyh vchenyh Drogobys'kogo derzhavnogo pedagogichnogo universytetu imeni Ivana Franka* 67, t. 2 (2023): 226-230.
4. Semen G. J. Gramatychni osoblyvosti gazetnyh tekstiv. [Grammatical peculiarities of newspaper texts]. *Naukovyj visnyk Mizhnarodnogo gumanitarnogo universytetu. Ser.: Filologija* 18, t. 1 (2015): 143-145.
5. Strel'nikova O. V. Funkcionalni vydy elipsysu v gazetnomu styli anglijskoi movy. [Functional types of ellipsis in the newspaper style of English]. *Naukovi zapysky Nacional'nogo universytetu "Ostroz'ka akademija". Serija "Filologichna* 26, t. 1 (2012): 316-318.
6. Suhova A. V. Metafora jak osnova estetychnoi' cinnosti hudozhn'ogo tekstu (na materialі anglomovnoi' novely). [Metaphor as the basis of the aesthetic value of a literary text (based on the material of an English-language novel)]. *Visnyk Harkivs'kogo nacional'nogo universytetu imeni V. N. Karazina. Serija: Inozemna filologija. Metodyka vykladannja inozemnyh mov* 87 (2018): 129-135.
7. Shkurko T. A., Mihal'ova K. I. Metonimija v gazetah politychnoi napravlenosti (na materialі anglomovnoi ta ukrainimovnoi pressy). [Metonymy in Newspapers of Political Orientation (on the Material of the English and Ukrainian Language Press)]. *Visnyk Zhytomys'kogo derzhavnogo universytetu imeni Ivana Franka* (2013): 216-222.
8. <https://www.britannica.com/>
9. <https://dictionary.cambridge.org/>