

Speech characteristics



Introduction

Speech characteristics usually reveal the social and intellectual standing of the character, his age, education and occupation, his state of mind and feelings, his attitude and relationship with his interlocutors.

Such means of characterization is successfully used in the stories “The pawnbroker’s Wife” and “Mistaken Identity”.

“Mistaken Identity”



- The markers of dialectal speech (“dey” for “there”, “dat” for “that”).
- The markers of informal conversational style (“Years ago I arrived one day...”, “asked... if I could have some poor little corner somewhere”).
- The markers of the emotional state of the characters (“Don’t bother me any more”, “Don’t talk such folly”).
- The markers of characters’ attitudes to one another (“Can I be of any service to you?”, “Is that so, my boy?”)

“The pawnbroker’s Wife”



- The initiating signals (“ Sh-sh-sh”, “Ah”).
- The markers of regional speech (“A lot of nice ones, eh?”, “Only young once, eh?”).
- The markers of the speaker’s idiolect (“I’ll say, man”, “But what for, man?”).
- Attitudinal markers (“I’m sorry for Mr. Marais”, “He’s mad”, “The man’s out of his mind”).
- Markers of the emotional state (“To my face she as good as called me a liar”, “What is that brooch...?”, “It was nice of Max to give it away”).

Conclusion



Thanks to this means of characterization the reader gets impression of hearing he characters and witnessing the scenes. Besides, the reader gets all necessary information about the characters: their feelings, mood, relations with one another. Speech characteristics play equally important role in two stories.