

# BOOK REVIEW

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## **INTRODUCTION TO STYLISTICS. Susanta Kumar Bardhan.**

**Kolkata: Jaydurga Library Pvt. Ltd. 2014. ISBN: 9789381680513; pp. 8+176. Rs. 120.**

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Stylistics is a special branch of linguistic study which attempts to portray and characterize the nature of prominent linguistic features occurring in a particular piece of text. A piece of writing stands apart in comparison to other pieces of writing, not only because of its content, or what it is trying to express, but by how it is expressed or presented, that is, by the selection of linguistic features, and how these are arranged in the text. Stylistics is concerned with analyzing the choice of linguistic features and their arrangement in the text.

Undoubtedly Stylistics is a very subtle scientific study associated with close and critical dissection of complex linguistic features present and prominent in a text. Very few books are available, especially for the students and the beginners or new learners that can kindle interest in this subject and awaken curiosity by introducing a lucid way of discussion and elucidation. Susanta Kumar Bardhan's book *INTRODUCTION TO STYLISTICS* comes as a gust of fresh wind to fill this vacuum. This book will enable the students to understand stylistics in a way which is clear, disciplined and obviously less difficult or complicated.

This book with an attractive as well as thought-born cover design consists of twenty-two chapters and all the chapters contain chapter-structure. This chapter-structure which includes systematic presentation and arrangement of certain sections and sub-sections such as Objective, Introduction, Course, Content, let us Sum up, Sample Questions, will guide the readers to study this book in a coherent manner without losing concentration and certainly without any confusion. Some quoted long statements will give the readers a chance to get acquainted with the original exchange of words or language of several renowned linguists and great stylistics experts such as Flower, Batson, Jacobson, Throwbridge, Leo Spitzer, Halliday, Widdowson and C.T. Indra.

The advanced readers and learners of linguistics and stylistics will find **Discourse Analysis** (chapter xv) of this book really interesting and thought provoking. This book is not only confined

to mere elaboration or elucidation of complex theoretical aspects associated with stylistics but also it attempts to make the readers self-sufficient by giving them an opportunity to learn about **Application of Linguistic Insights to Literary Interpretation**. Three chapters (chapter xvii chapter xix chapter xx) are devoted to detailed discussion regarding application of linguistic insight to literary interpretation. However this application seems to be incomplete to some extent as it is limited to the analysis of poems only. Application of linguistic insight to study the prose texts such as novel, short story, essay and also drama could have enriched this volume a great deal.

There are few typographical errors in this book. A brief description regarding the theme and purpose of the book has been stated in a nutshell at the back cover of the book. In addition to this, a short introduction about the author with a special emphasis on his areas of interest enriches the paratextual elements of the book. However a picture of the author along with a list of books written and published by him, e-mail address could have widened the scopes of the readers to learn more about linguistics, satisfying their urge to communicate and interact with the author. The neat illustration on the cover page, fine-quality of pages good quality of printing and above all an affordable price will make this book a constant companion of all the curious readers.