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2. **Title:** FUNCTIONAL AND SEMANTIC PARAMETERS OF THE ANTITHESIS IN ENGLISH.
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**Topical Importance.** The relevance of this research lies in the fact that antithesis is a rather complex phenomenon. Its true nature remains not definite even today, despite the fact that this form has become the subject of study for many linguists. Little attention has been paid to antithesis as a syncretic device and its role in marking the author's individual style has not been outlined. The uncertainty of the stylistic status and textual function determines the relevance of this work.

**The main goals are:**

- to determine the functional significance of the antithesis, actualized in the chosen literary work;
- to identify the stylistic significance of the antithesis for the author's individual style;
- to conduct a semantic and stylistic analysis of the features and types of antithesis in the English literary text;

In accordance with these goals, the following **tasks** are solved:

- studying the theoretical material dealing with research in the area of English stylistics, and modern publications on problems of antonymy and antithesis based on it as a stylistic device;

- collecting samples with antithesis in W. Somerset Maugham's novel "The Moon and Sixpence" and performing semantic and interpretative analysis of the empirical material ;
- creating a classification and semantic description of antitheses derived from a literary work based on global opposition.

**Theoretical significance** of the work consists in defining functional and semantic parameters of antithesis, as well as in its classification, comprising, complementary, contradictory and conversive types of antithesis. The work also brings into focus the role of antithesis in creating stylistic expressiveness.

**The practical significance** of the work is in the fact that its results can be used in courses on stylistics or text interpretation, as well as to creating textbooks on English stylistics.

**Results.** Results of the work, give the possibility to determine functional and stylistic significance of the antithesis, as well as the system of analyzing semantic and stylistic features and types of antithesis in the English literary texts.

Antithesis, as a stylistic phenomenon, should be examined and differentiated on the text scale, because its contrasting components are found on all the levels of the text. It was not possible to create a single classification based on the complex multi-featured analysis, but the samples from the text allowed us to form several sub-classifications based on various features of the antonyms. In the semantic classification, which has an important role in the study, three types of antitheses are identified - complementary, proper, and conversive antithesis.

**Implementation advice.** Materials of the paper may be used in courses on stylistics or text interpretation, as well as in creating textbooks on English stylistics.