

**Spoken communication** - dynamic, characterized by readiness and immediateness.  
**Written communication** - static, characterized by preservability and surveyability (*přehlednost*).

(Vachek, 1976)

Spoken English -

- **lexical sparsity** (*lexikální střídmost*)
- **simple vocabulary** → potential polysemy
- **vagueness**
- **opacity of meaning** (*neurčitost*)
  - caused by
    - **impromptu speech** (*nepřipravený projev*)
    - **interactive meaning** (i.e. the recipient expects that comprehension will be easy and that he/she will contribute to the interpretation of the meaning)
    - **approximation** (*významové přizpůsobování*) (i.e. the recipient cannot absorb too much factual and exact information → it is adapted, i.e. approximated)
    - some meaning is not carried by words, it is signalled by **paralinguistic and extralinguistic features**
    - **context-bound meaning**

Typical features of the **lexicon of spoken language**:

- short, often monosyllabic words
- phrasemes, idioms
- colloquial expressions, slang words
- interjections
- discourse markers (e.g. *I mean, you know, all right, I see, you see, so, anyway, yeah, ...*)
- vague expressions (*probably, possibly, a little, a bit, a sort of, ...*)
- deixis → to give authenticity
- afterthoughts (*dovětky*), additional remarks
- addresses (social deixis)
- idiosyncratic expressions

(Urbanová, Oakland, *Úvod do anglické stylistiky*, pp. 24-26)

Written English -

- **social prestige**
- **referential function** (*popisná funkce*) - more objective and abstract than in speaking
- **condensation** (complex condensation of meaning) - frequent use of **infinitives, gerunds, present and past participles**; *polovětné vazby*) → economy, accuracy and conciseness of expression.

Part of the **nominal tendency** in English. Supported by **conversion**.

→ verbo-nominal phrases: copular verb (*take, get, give, make, have, put, set, ...*) + noun.

Also frequent in spoken language.

### **Grammar** of written English:

- linear modification (+ punctuation, capitals, paragraphing, graphic layout)
  - complex condensation
  - **paratactic**, as well as **hypotactic** sentences (to express adverbial, i.e. causal, temporal, local, etc. relations)
  - distinctive **length of sentences** - with clear boundaries (through punctuation and connectors)
- (Urbanová, Oakland, *Úvod do anglické stylistiky*, pp. 31-35)

**Formality**    - social distance (*odstup*)  
                  - official approach (*oficiálnost*)  
                  - stiff manners (*odměřenost*)

**The politeness principle**    - positive politeness  
                                          - negative politeness

**The cooperative principle** - maxims of    - quantity  
                                                          - quality  
                                                          - relevance  
                                                          - manner

(Paul Grice, 1975)

“Varieties of a language according to the use to which it is being put, and the context in which it is uttered, are known as **registers**.” (Fowler, 1996)

### 4 basic **meta-functions of language communication**:

- **ideational or experiential** – speaker’s cognitive awareness of the world (Crystal, 1992)
- **interpersonal** – to formulate ideologies and beliefs, to exchange views
- **textual** – creation and interpretation of text; **message**
- **logical** – to create logical relations in a discourse