

**Направление «Лингвистика»**  
**Профиль: «Иностранные языки и межкультурная коммуникация»**

**Образец выполнения задания № 1**  
**лингвистический анализ текста**

The analysis of the text “Matching the Man and the Right Job” by Art Buchwald is aimed at characterizing the categorial aspects of informativeness, cohesion, modality, pragmatics, and communicativeness.

First of all, it is necessary to focus on **informativeness** of the text and identify its type, genre, structure and semantic features. The text under study may be referred to belles-lettres style. The text is a short humorous story presented in the form of correspondence between a man named Edward Kase and representatives of different companies, thus it can be concluded that it is an example of epistolary genre. The letters are composed according to the existing rules of writing (date, address, opening and closing clichés, etc.). Despite the fact that they are addressed to different people, they are arranged chronologically and united under one title, so that they make up a complete story conveying the author’s message. Hence, it proves that the text under analysis is not a set of separate letters but a piece of fiction.

“Matching the Man and the Right Job” is made up of three dialogues. The whole text is an asymmetric dialogue: we come across the salutations, first and second person pronouns of singular and plural forms, expressions of gratitude. Among other features indicating the dialogical nature of the text we can mention the prevalence of usage of predicates in present tense forms (Present Indefinite, Present Continuous, and Present Perfect). The text is an example of narration. The use of verbs and verbal constructions helps us to conclude that.

The main character of the text is a young man trying to find a job. Displaying persistence in achieving his aim, he applies to companies located in different states of the USA (Glucksville – California, Crewcut – Michigan, Ziegfried – Illinois).

The informativeness of the text can be seen through the abundant use of terms (thermo-nuclear energy, laser beam retraction, hydrogen molecule, etc.) to indicate the occupation of Edward Kase, and proper names of companies, institutions and cities (California Institute of Technology, Harrington Chemical Co.) to give us the idea of his educational background and professional experience. This information appears in the first letter of application written by the character in which he represents himself.

There is also one more fact that leads to better understanding of the story. The letters which appear in the text are dated 2008. This information makes us think that the situation alludes to the economic crisis of 2008, which could explain why the main character deliberately distorts his speech to get at least a low-paid job.

The next point of our analysis is the textual category of **cohesion**. The text has a clear structure and can be logically divided into three parts, each part containing a letter of application and a reply to it. This pattern is maintained throughout the text. The chronological sequence of the letters (dates of letters) and the presence of one and the same character in each part (the replacement of the proper name Edward Kase by personal pronouns 'I' and 'you') also make the text logically connected. Among other linking devices words belonging to the same semantic field (qualification, employment, position, company), the words with the same root (overqualified, qualification, etc.), and stylistic synonyms (firm/outfit, adapted for commercial use/money-making) can be mentioned. All these devices make the text complete and easy to comprehend.

The next stage of our analysis is concerned with **modality** of the text. The modality as a text category is displayed through the use of stylistic devices and expressive means. The author skillfully uses them to create a humorous effect. Although each part of the text follows the same pattern and contains the same information, the whole text is based on the deliberate change of speech style from formal ("in regard to employment") to neutral ("I am applying for the position"), and, finally, to colloquial ("I'd like a job with your outfit"). We see that the degree of formality in the letters of employers also reduces to the end of the text. Thus, the stylistic change contributes to the development of the plot and helps the reader to follow the author's intention. Moreover, the information about educational background is changed (B.S. / a Ph.D. in physics / a college education / no education and no experience), as well as the character's employment ambitions (in any responsible capacity / I can do anything you want me to). On the one hand, the transformation of linguistic identity of Edward Kase (did work in thermo-nuclear energy / have fiddled around in research and development / I got moxy and I get along great with people; Dear Sir / Dere Ser) displays his flexibility and desire to find a job at all costs, and on the other hand, it may be regarded as an evidence of low demand for highly educated specialists. All the facts mentioned lead to the ironic and satiric character of the text.

The **pragmatics** of the given text is realised through the author's intention to ridicule the situation with unemployment. This effect is reached not only through the deliberate change of the style in Edward Kase's letters to employers from the highest to the lowest level of formality, but also through the title of the story. The

title “Matching the Man and the Right Job” alludes to the common expression “the right man for the job”; but in the author’s variant we have the job to be *right*, not the man. Such transposition of the word *right* creates sarcasm, which prepares the reader for the absurdity of the whole situation.

The last category we are to describe is the **communicativeness** of the text. The communicativeness of the text is realised through all the categories mentioned above. We can also mention some grammatical indicators that add to the communicativeness of this text: the articles (a job, a position, a college education, a truck driver, a company); some means expressing modality (unfortunately, frankly, hoping, regret, would be willing), evaluative adjectives ( excellent qualification); and a range of verbs (modal verbs: will, need, would, can, might; the verb be as the part of the predicative complement in the function of identifying objects and subjects).

We have analysed the text of the story by Art Buchwald “Matching the Man and the Right Job” to characterize its main textual categories. We can conclude that this analysis helped us not only to describe formal textual characteristics, but also made us reveal the aim the writer pursued when creating the story.