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## PUNCTUATION MARKS AS STYLISTIC MARKERS IN LATVIAN AND BRITISH CORPORA\*

**Abstract.** Text is made of different signs, e.g., graphical signs – punctuation marks and emoticons. Punctuation has four functions in the written language: grammatical, intonative, semantic, and stylistic. Since the Latvian language uses the same punctuation marks as English and also the language features in fiction and mass media have become more important, the paper analyses the stylistic usage of punctuation marks in Latvian and English corpora.

**Keywords:** Latvian; British; punctuation; corpora; stylistic usage.

### Introduction

Text is made of different signs. These signs can be used both as the basis of the text – language signs (words, word groups, and sentences) – or with the goal of complementing it – graphical signs, e.g. punctuation marks and emoticons. Punctuation has four functions in the written language: grammatical, intonative, semantic, and stylistic. The stylistic use of punctuation marks helps us to express additional stylistic information, e.g. emotional expression, attitude.

The aim of this paper is to analyse the stylistic usage of punctuation marks in Latvian and English online corpora. In linguistics, a corpus (plural *corpora*), or text corpus, is a large and structured set of texts, or a body, deciphered from

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speech records (nowadays electronically stored and processed) (<http://www.korpuss.lv/about>). Since the Latvian language uses the same punctuation marks as English, and because language usage in fiction and mass media has become more important both to society and researchers, the author of this article wants to examine the stylistic functions of punctuation marks in these text types in both languages for similarities and differences.

Studies based on online text corpora have been carried out in several countries so far: e.g. Soluna Salles Bernal conducted a study on punctuation in medical texts of the 17th century (Salles Bernal 2016, 78–106), Vivian Cook analysed the frequency of punctuation in the English corpus (Cook 2013, 267–290), Tatyana Bystrova-McIntyre performed a comparative study on punctuation use in Russian and English (Bystrova-McIntyre 2007, 137–162), and Anita Zeltkalne studied adjectives and sentence end-marks in the newspaper lead corpus (Zeltkalne 2013) etc.

The diversity of texts included in language corpora allows every user to pinpoint the desired type of text, e.g. spoken language, fiction, mass media, scientific, laws and regulations, transcripts, etc. The author of this article pays attention to the stylistic use of graphical signs, especially punctuation, in different texts; as such, she chooses to excerpt examples from fiction and mass media in which punctuation marks have been used more often than in other text sources. As several authors have pointed out, language features (including punctuation) have become more important in fiction and mass media, with authors trying to reflect prosody (cadence, tone) and paralinguistic means (facial expressions, gestures) (Efimov 1957, 422; Mahlberg 2014, 82; Valgina 1989, 163–164; Vītola 1997, 24).

The stylistic usage of exclamation marks, question marks, ellipsis, quotation marks, and different conjunctions of punctuation marks (e.g. !..., ?!) in online corpora was analysed. The corpus-based method, the descriptive method, and the comparative method were used. Text linguistics was used as a framework for analysis. Sentences and other text units – reduced utterances and quasi-sentences – were discovered. The empirical basis of the research comprised 800 syntactic constructions in which punctuation marks were used stylistically – 500 excerpts from *Līdzsvarotais mūsdienu latviešu valodas tekstu korpuss 2018* (LVK2018), 300 excerpts from *British National Corpus* (BNC) – with some (in bold) discussed in the paper.<sup>1</sup>

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<sup>1</sup> The greater body of data was obtained from the Latvian language corpus because

## 1. Results of researching the Latvian and British corpora

LVK2018 is a general, automatically morphologically tagged corpus of the Latvian language (approximately 10 million real-world word usages), in which different genres of contemporary (1991–2009) authentic texts with metadata are included. The corpus consists of periodicals (60%), fiction (20%), scientific texts (10%), regulatory enactments (8%), and Saeima transcripts (2%). Translations are not included. The developer of this corpus is the Institute of Mathematics and Computer Science, University of Latvia (IMCS UL) (LVK2018; Levāne-Petrova 2018, 4, 5).

The first punctuation marks in Latvian appeared in the 16th century, in translations from the German language (Rūķe-Draviņa 1977, 42). The slash, the full stop, and the question mark were used in the earliest (until nowadays) extant book in Latvian, the Catholic catechism “Catechismus Catholicorum” issued in 1585 (Blinkena 2009, 56–57; Rūķe-Draviņa 1977, 63). There are 16 punctuation marks in modern Latvian: full stop (.), question mark (?), exclamation mark (!), comma (,), colon (:), double quotation marks („”), semicolon (;), dash (–), brackets ( ( ), [ ], { } ), ellipsis (...), two-point ellipsis (..), single quotation marks ( ‘ ’ )<sup>2</sup>, hyphen (–), half-bracket ( ) ), apostrophe ( ‘ ) and slash (/) (Blinkena 2009).

The BNC is a monolingual (British English), synchronous (the 1980s/early 1990s – nowadays), automatically tagged, spoken (10%) and written (90%) language corpus (100 million real-world word usages) source. It contains texts from a wide range of genres (e.g. spoken, magazines, newspapers, scientific, fiction, academic, etc.). The British National Corpus was created by Oxford University Press<sup>3</sup>.

The first punctuation marks in English appeared in the 15th century, in books by the first printer of English books, William Caxton (1474). He used three punctuation marks: the slash, the colon, and the full stop<sup>4</sup>. Nowadays the 14 most commonly used punctuation marks in English grammar are: comma (,), full stop (.), question mark (?), exclamation mark (!), semicolon

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its builders facilitated access to the accumulation of the material needed for the analysis. Compared to LVK2018, the British National Corpus did not always offer the desirable concordant lines.

<sup>2</sup> In Latvian, this type of quotation marks is used only for designation of varieties and word meanings.

<sup>3</sup> See <http://www.natcorp.ox.ac.uk/corpus/index.xml>; BNC.

<sup>4</sup> See <http://applet-magic.com/punctuation.htm>.

(;), dash (–), hyphen (-), colon (:), parentheses (( )), brackets ([ ]), braces ({ }), quotation marks (“ ”), ellipsis (...), and apostrophe (‘ ’)<sup>5</sup>.

The results section consists of six parts. The first part focuses on the use of exclamation marks in syntactic constructions, e.g. an exclamation and imperative sentences. The second part covers the use of question marks in sentences and in parenthesis. The third part deals with syntactic constructions with different conjunctions of punctuation marks. The fourth part looks at the use of ellipses in sentences, while the fifth part pays attention to the use of quotation marks in online corpora. The final section shows the use of emoticons in syntactic constructions in periodicals included in LVK2018.

### 1.1. Exclamation marks

In the empirical material, 300 occasions of syntactic constructions with exclamation marks (200 syntactic constructions with one exclamation mark, 100 syntactic constructions with more than one exclamation mark) were identified. The exclamation mark can be used instead of the full stop to add emphasis or emotion (Stilman 2010, 132). It indicates that in a spoken discourse, the sentence would have been shouted out or otherwise exclaimed. Mostly one exclamation mark at the end of the sentence or other text unit was used:

*Un Bille tā vainīgā , pilsētas špicbuks , māca tik Anitu uz nelietībām , viena pati Anita nemūžam tā neālējas !* (LVK2018) ‘And Bille is guilty, the cheat of the city, teaches Anita all kinds of mischief, Anita herself never fools around like this!’<sup>6</sup>

*That’s wonderful news!*<sup>7</sup> (BNC)

*Sounds like heaven!* (BNC)

Exclamation marks were used also at the end of imperative sentences, the writer expressing a call to action or a harsh order:

*Nebaksties !* (LVK2018) ‘Do not pick up!’<sup>8</sup>

*Skaties , kā vajag ! – Izrāva Billei no rokām , salāpīja pati , piktodamās un Billi sunīdama .* (LVK2018) ‘Look, how you must! – pulled out of Bille’s hands, mended alone, nagging and scolding Bille.’

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<sup>5</sup> See <http://grammar.yourdictionary.com/punctuation/what/fourteen-punctuation-marks.html>.

<sup>6</sup> Following each example in Latvian, a literary translation into English is given.

<sup>7</sup> There are visible formal differences between examples from Latvian and English corpora: Latvian examples, unlike English, include a gap between text and punctuation.

<sup>8</sup> In literary translations, a gap between text and punctuation is missing. The punctuation mark analyzed appears in bold.

*Eat your heart out, Diamond Jim Brady!* (LVK2018)

*'Go to your room!'* ordered Ma. (LVK2018)

The principles for the use of punctuation marks indicate that it is possible to double (!! ) or to triple (!!! ) exclamation mark for stylistic purpose (Blinkena 2009, 371; Ceplītis et al. 1989, 254; Kniūkšta, Lyberis 1996, 53; Abaravičius 2002, 197). In Latvian and English corpora were found instances of two (— *Uztverts !! Andris momentā atdrāzās no blakustelpas un ar skatienu ieurbās televizorā.* (LVK2018) ‘— Perceived!! Andris quickly bolted from the adjacent room and stared at the television.’) and of three exclamation marks at the end of a sentence or other text unit:

.. , *un es nošņācos patiesi nikni : - Klusu , idiot !!!* (LVK2018) ‘.., and I snorted really furiously: - Quiet , idiot!!!’

*In her last letter she announced: ‘SCANDAL!!!* (BNC)

*The Indian was telling him about this little fish that lives in the river and — you can guess the rest!!!* (BNC)

The compaction of punctuation marks (possible to multiply the number of an exclamation mark) was observed in prose text. In order to pay attention to the most important information in the text, capital letters were also used for emphasis:

*Uz virtuves galda stāv ķirbis un dzeltēna līmlapiņa : SAGRIEZ ĪKŠĶA GARUMA GABALOS , SARĪVĒ VIRTUVES KOMBAINĀ , IZŅEM NO SALDĒTAVAS DZĒRVENES UN PIELIEC KLĀT , PIESPIED CĪTRONU UN , LŪDZU , ĒD AR MEDU !!!!!* (LVK2018) ‘There are a pumpkin and a yellow sticky note on the kitchen table: CUT INTO PIECES OF THUMB LENGTH, GRIND IN THE KITCHEN COMBINE, REMOVE CRANBERRIES FROM THE FREEZER AND ADD, PRESS A LEMON, AND PLEASE EAT WITH HONEY!!!!!’

*‘AAARRRRRRRRGGGGGGHHHHHHH!!!!!’* went Ed Kelley, who was, as they say, going through changes. (BNC)

Exclamation marks sometimes replaced replies to ongoing dialogue. In this example, Amors is surprised and unprepared, and lacks words to describe his feelings:

*. Nu joki beigušies . Tu šantažē — tas nelietīgi . Es domās labākās par tevi biju ! Tu tomēr nejauks radījums ! VIENTUĻAIS ZAĶIS : Es nejauks ? Maldies . Paskaties ! Vientuļais Zaķis nomet drēbes . AMORS : !!!!!!!!!!!!!* (LVK2018) ‘. Now the jokes are over. You blackmail — it is cruel. I thought you were better! You are still a nasty creature! LONELY HARE: Am I nasty? You get lost. Look! The Lonely Hare sheds its clothes. CUPID: !!!!!!!!!!!!!!’

In order to relay a positive or negative attitude in some unit of text, to grab attention, and/or to indicate importance, one or more exclamation marks were used, with or without parenthesis in brackets following it/them:

*Vairāk nekā 12 (!) lappuses.* (LVK2018) ‘More than 12 (!) pages.’

*Es noraidu psihologa padomus ( neciešu psihologus !!! ), ..* (LVK2018) ‘I reject the psychologist’s tips (**I hate psychologists!!!**), ..’

*But it has to be said (it has to be said!) wrote Harsnet, and Goldberg, typing, smiled to himself, ..* (BNC)

*My father (my poor father!) was trying to look unconcerned.* (BNC)

An exclamation mark was used at the end of an emotional rhetorical question, asked to make a statement with no expectation of an answer – for example, as a way of saying that something is wrong or not satisfactory:

*‘How could I forget!’ Sheila said derisively.* (BNC)

*Aizrit stunda , mēs cits pēc cita ērtāk izlaižamies krēslos , skaļi atraugājamies , dažs pienācīgi nopiržas ( ko tu vecam padarīsi ! ) , ..* (LVK2018) ‘An hour rolls away, one by one we stretch out in the more comfortable chairs, belch loudly, some pass a decent wind (**what are you going to do to the old!**), ..’

## 1.2. Question marks

There were identified 200 occasions of syntactic constructions with question marks (150 syntactic constructions with one question mark, 50 syntactic constructions with more than one question mark) in the empirical material. Question marks indicate queries, rhetorical questions, requests, and uncertainty (Stilman 2010, 127). One or more question mark at the end of a sentence were used both in LVK2018 and BNC. If during the dialogue one of the parties tries to show that they do not understand the question or to pretend not to know what is at issue, three question marks may appear in the reduced text:

*- Uz Holandi. Pie sava draudziņa. - Ko ??? - iebļāvos, juzdama, kā mana seja noklājas sarkaniem pleķiem.* (LVK2018) ‘- To Holland. To her buddy. – What??? - I screamed, feeling my face breaking out in red.’

*Anyway, I have to get back. My kids will be driving their aunts and their bubbeh round the bend ...’ Your what??? Dull flop of human-heart-shaped stone into very cold, damp pool of water. Sinking down, down, down.* (BNC)

It is possible to double question marks in a sentence to show uncertainty:

*Miris ?? - Opi ! Fū , dzīvs . Pagriez galvu .* (LVK2018) ‘Dead?? – Gramp! Phew, alive. Turns head.’

In order to express doubt or incomprehension, question mark and parenthesis in brackets were used:

..., *kas īsti slēpjas ( vai slēpjas ? ) aiz šī loga..* (LVK2018) ‘..., what is really hiding (**hiding?**) behind this window..’

*They were Asian ones — I could tell that from the label, but he said that Asians had one more (or was it one less?) toe than the Indian ones and different ears.* (BNC)

*And then the idea (how did it come to me?) that it must not simply be glass but big glass.* (BNC)

### 1.3. Ellipsis

The traditional ellipsis (...) in Latvian and in English consist of three full stops. One hundred syntactic constructions in which a traditional ellipsis was used were found in the empirical material. At the beginning or in the middle of a sentence, ellipses were used to show the emission of words or letters: *Žīds , kā saka tas jūsu ūsainais klasiķis un šodienas f-f-a .. . fa .... — Fak jū , pareizi.* (LVK2018) ‘Jew, as your puffy classicist says and today’s **f-f-u .. . fu** .... — Fuck you, right.’

In the middle of a sentence, ellipsis indicated a pause in the text:

— *Papucis ... iedeva ... divus ... latus ...* (LVK2018) ‘— Father ... gave ... two ... lats ...’

*‘I want love, Damian ... love!’* (BNC)

*GUIL: Don’t cry ... it’s all right ... there ... there, I’ll see we’re all right .* (BNC)

At the end of a sentence, it indicated an unfinished thought:

*Nē , es tikai ...* (LVK2018) ‘No, I just ...’

*And if I cry ...* (BNC)

*‘Coincidences simply don’t happen in real life ... ’* (BNC)

*OK I refused to go to Gran’s funeral last year, stayed at home and listened to the Top Forty top volume while I shouted out Nora’s big speech from The Doll’s House — ‘I was simply your little songbird, your doll ... ’* (BNC)

Ellipsis in parenthesis (in brackets) pointed to an attitude against something:

*Kurlais uzsvērti cienīgi — kā jau tas pienākas dakterim — atvādījās no Violas , paspieda roku sērīgajam vārdabrālim ( nu , vecais , gan jau kādreiz ... ) un izgāja laukā .* (LVK2018) ‘The deaf — as the doctor is entitled to — said good-bye to Viola, and shook hands with the mournful brother (**well, old, maybe once...**) and went out.’

*Viena versija — skoti uz golfa spēli parasti ņem līdzī pudeli viskija ( iemesli minēti dažādi , viens no tiem — lai nenosaltu ... ) .* (LVK2018) ‘One version — Scots usually take a bottle of Scotch whisky to a golf game (**the reasons are different, one of them — not to freeze...**).’

Instead of a traditional ellipsis, untraditional dots (more than three full stops) sometimes were used. In the empirical material, there were 20 syntactic constructions in which untraditional dots were used:

*Tā , mīlā Agra , es tev nepateicu neko jaunu , bet varbūt , ka tomēr ....* (LVK2018) ‘Well, dear Agra, I did not tell you anything new, but maybe, that still ....’

*‘Isabel, do you feel unwell? I am really worried....* (BNC)

#### **1.4. Conjunctions of punctuation marks**

In corpora, different conjunctions of punctuation marks (150 syntactic constructions in empirical material – exclamation mark and ellipsis (50), question mark and ellipsis (50), exclamation mark and question mark (50)) could be found. The combination of punctuation marks, e.g. an exclamation mark, a question mark, and ellipsis, can reflect a great deal of human will and expressions of feeling, such as delight, pleasure, indignation, anger, etc. (Abaravičius 2002, 21). For example, an exclamation mark used together with ellipsis: in one case, the ellipsis pointed to a psychological pause following an “emotionally loud” sentence:

*Es to izdarīju !... Māja toreiz nodega manis dēļ !... Tēvs metās ugunī pakāļ pēc tā sasodītā Piķa , un degošais balķis krizdams pārlauza viņam mugurkaulu !...* (LVK2018) ‘I did it!... The house was burned because of me!... Father threw himself into the fire after that damn Piķis, and the burning log broke his spine as it fell!...’

The greater the number of exclamation marks used side by side, the more powerful the emotion expressed. Screaming, e.g. was depicted as a combination of three exclamation marks with ellipsis:

*ļoti ticu !... Diāna . Tu labi zini , ka viņš ir cietumā un rīt viņu nošaus ! Dace . Nē !... Nē !!... Nē !!!... Sigita . Ko tu vari muldēt !...* (LVK2018) ‘I believe so much!... Diana. You know well that he is in jail and they will shoot him tomorrow! Dace. No!... No!!!... No!!!... Sigita. Why do you lie to me!...’

*Jums man ir jātic! Un mana māte... Nē , es netiku viņu nozāļojusi !!!...* (LVK2018) ‘You have to believe me! And my mother... No, I did not get her out!!!...’

If ellipsis occur before an exclamation mark, it points to an unfinished sentence and then expresses a wish, distress or call modality (Vītola 1997, 93):

*Toties tagad ... !* (LVK2018) ‘But now...!’

*Es tev sadošu ... !* (LVK2018) ‘I will beat you...!’



*If he needs a leg-up to get on a flipping horse ... !* (BNC)

*No ... ! she tried to say against that forceful mouth, but he either didn't hear, or didn't want to hear.* (BNC)

*'Don't fight, don't struggle ... just give as you did a minute ago ... !* (BNC)

If the ellipsis is used after a question mark, it indicates a pause after the question. This turns the attention of the interlocutor to the context of the situation:

*Un jūs , jūs kādā sakarā interesējaties ?... Slimnīcā strādājat ?... (LVK2018)*  
*'And you, why are you interested?... Are you working in the hospital?...'*

*Vismaz pasaki tos vārdus , kurus tu sauci , stāvēdams logā pirms lēciena ... - Vai es ko teicu ?... (LVK2018)* *'At least tell me the words you called out, standing in the window before jumping... - Did I say something?...'*

*'Hello, how can I help? ... (BNC)*

Before ellipsis, a question mark indicated an unfinished sentence. First, it expressed subtext, then emotions:

*“ Ko ... ? “ (LVK2018) “ “ What...? “ “*

*“ Bet kā ... ? “ es vaicāju . (LVK2018) “ “But how...? “ I asked.’*

*'And may I ask if she will be so delighted to see me because I happen to be a male member of the human race ... ?' (BNC)*

*'Very good! and oh! up jumps the bee and goes buzzing over to the other side — to — to Max's book, and he says to Max, bzz, bzz Mr Max, have you got any flowers for me to eat? and Max says — ssh, can you hear him ... ?' (BNC)*

The question mark and exclamation mark (sometimes two exclamation marks), and less frequently the exclamation mark and question mark, are written after sentences asking and at the same time affirming or denying the emotional shade highlighted by the sentence. If the question mark is used before the exclamation mark, the question aspect of the sentence predominates. In such a way, it is possible to express different emotions – surprise, anger, disbelief, etc. (Vītola 1997, 110). In fiction, it is a way of letting the reader know that the character (or the narrator) is expressing both surprise and puzzlement in his or her exclamation:

*Kā jaunā paaudze uzzinās patiesību ?! (LVK2018)* *'How will the new generation learn the truth?!'*

*Dzirdi ?! - Tu dzirdi ?! - Vai tu dzirdi ?!! (LVK2018)* *'Hear?! – You hear?! Do you hear ?!!'*

*Some secretary, eh?!!! (BNC)*

*'WILL EVERYBODY BACK THERE PLEASE SHUT UP????!!!!'* (BNC)

*Meitene esot godīga un nevainīga ( nez kā krustmāte to var zināt ?! ) un veidojot frizūras pat žurnālu modelēm . (LVK2018) ‘The girl was honest and innocent (how could godmother know it?!) and created hairstyles even for magazine models.’*

*Nez kā tas gadījās , bet es ieminējos par saderināšanos ( vai patiešām tas biju es , kas kaut ko tādu sacīja ?! ) . (LVK2018) ‘Somehow it happened that I mentioned an engagement (was that really me who said that?!).’*

If an exclamation mark is used after a question mark, the sentence is perceived as an exclamation sentence with the modality of a question. It could be used if the speaker knows what the other person is doing (and probably does not like it). In BNC, this combination (exclamation mark before question mark) was not found:

*Kur tas dzirdēts !? (LVK2018) ‘Where was it heard!?’*

*Es vismaz jutos to pelnījis , bet viņi !? (LVK2018) ‘At least I felt deserving of it, but they!?’*

*Ha , kas tur ko domāt !? (LVK2018) ‘Ha, what to think about!?’*

This combination could be used together with ellipsis. Such a combination indicates an unfinished thought:

*Mammu , ko tu runā !? ... (LVK2018) ‘Mom, what are you talking about!?’ ...’*

*Jūtat !?... (LVK2018) ‘Feel!?...’*

*Vai Gaitis ir ēdis tādu zupu !?...’ (LVK2018) ‘Has Gaitis eaten such a soup!?...’*

### 1.5. Quotation Marks

Twenty syntactic constructions of quotation marks were excerpted from corpora. They were often used to show irony:

*Visas valstis ir šokā , un vairāki „ gudri ” prāti jau sāka izplatīt informāciju , it kā tas būtu atnācēju uzlidojums nolūkā sagrābt Zemi , un šī versija ātri izplatījās . (LVK2018) ‘All countries are in shock, and several ‘smart’ minds have already started to spread the information as if it were an attack on people to seize Earth, and this version quickly spread.’*

*Un lai pēc tam šis “ kritiķis ” teoretizē pēc sirds patikas , lai pierāda , ka manos romānos nav kā dzīvē ! (LVK2018) ‘And then this ‘critic’ theorizes to prove that my novels have nothing to do with life!’*

Transferred meaning put in quotation marks:

*Rudens pusē “ nolaidām ” priedi . (LVK2018) ‘We ‘chop down’ a pine in the autumn.’*

*Aiz braucēju mugurām palika ezers un ezera krasts, kurā stāvēja makšķernieki, kas traktoru „pilotus” nolamāja pēdējiem vārdiem.* (LVK2018) ‘Behind the drivers remained the lake and the shore of the lake, with fishermen cursing the tractor ‘pilots’ in the final words.’

‘Well, we’d never have called France ‘gallant’, I can tell you (BNC)

*Smart army WAR in the 21st century will see soldiers in ‘smart’ helmets that allow them to see through clouds and over hills, according to a report from America’s National Research Council.* (BNC)

### 1.6. Emoticons

As Blinkena pointed out, the digitisation of texts has invited the rise of new characters, e.g. emoticons. These signs are occurring not only on the Internet but also in printed texts (Blinkena 2009, 419). It is assumed that the first emoticons were introduced in 1982 by Scott Fahlman of Carnegie Mellon University on a Computer Science BBS, from which they spread to Usenet and later to the Internet (Ptaszynski, Rzepka, Araki, Momouchi 2011, 1). In LVK2018, emoticons were used multiple times (30 excerpts of syntactic constructions with emoticons in empirical material) in periodicals (In fiction these signs were not found), often to reflect additional stylistic information – representations of a body language in text-based communication. These graphical signs often alleviate problems associated with a lack of nonverbal cues (Ptaszynski, Rzepka, Araki, Momouchi 2011, 1; Duck, McMahan 2018, 333).

Emoticons are easy to use. They have become a part of daily life for a vast majority of users. Emoticons allow the user to express positive or negative emotions, feelings, thoughts, and attitude in text. They are unambiguous – each of them has several meanings, such as :) ‘happiness’, ‘joke’, ‘sympathies’, etc. (Crystal 2001, 36). These graphical signs replace both verbal and nonverbal (facial expression, gestures, moves) information (Bos, Derks, Grumbkow 2007, 843; Malmkjaer 2010, 305; Dresner, Herring 2010, 1; Abdul-Zahra 2013, 3).

Emoticons usually are placed in the middle of a sentence or at the end of a sentence after the last punctuation mark. These graphical signs are often based on punctuation marks, e.g. a colon and brackets. In this manner the joy: *Paņem grāmatu un kļūsti vēl satriecošāka ! : )* (LVK2018) ‘Take a book and become even more stunning! :)’ or unhappiness were illustrated: *Bet kad pienāk saruna dzīvē – Tu nevienu vārdu nevari dabūt laukā :( .* (LVK2018). ‘But when the conversation comes to life – you cannot get a word out :(.’

In the empirical material, some emoticons based on a semicolon and brackets were found, e.g. to portray a wink or a joy:

*Paldies Kaspars Daugavins par nomināciju ; ) ) ) ) Tālāk nominēju lielisko dziedātāju Liene Greifane , superskaisto JAna Dulevska un vienu no maniem mīļākajiem hokejistiem Māris Verpakovskis ; ) ) ) ) ) (LVK2018) ‘Thanks, Kaspars Daugavins, for the nomination ;)))) Furthermore, I nominate the great singer Liene Greifane, the super beautiful Jana Dulevska, and one of my favorite hockey players, Maris Verpakovskis ;))))’*

*Pilnīgi sagribējas sešus bērnus ... ; ) ) ) (LVK2018) ‘Absolutely wanted six children... ;))))’*

Emoticons also may be based on letters, e.g. one or more capital letters D (:D) plus colon. In this manner, the writer expresses happiness or an outburst/roar of laughter:

*No manis tādas spējas noteikti nav iedzimtas. : D (LVK2018) ‘Such capabilities are not congenital for me. : D’*

### **Conclusions**

The analysis of data proved that the stylistic use of punctuation marks occurs not only in Latvian but also in the English language. As a result, it was found that there are similarities in the use of punctuation marks in Latvian and English corpora, e.g. it is possible to double, triple, etc. exclamation marks in a sentence both in Latvian and British corpora; triple question marks, untraditional dots, and quotation marks for transferred meanings are used in both corpora. There are also similarities in the use of conjunctions of punctuation marks, except that there were no examples of an exclamation mark before a question mark or an exclamation mark before ellipsis found in the BNC.

Deviation from prevailing rules are visible: the use of untraditional dots (...), more than three exclamation marks together (!!!!!). The research suggests that the use of punctuation marks in the future may be affected by modern technologies.

Previous studies have demonstrated that with the digitization of texts, new characters come into use, e.g. emoticons. Data from LVK2018 indicated that emoticons were also used in media – not only in electronic communication. It appears that the use of graphical signs in text will become more popular in the future.

The research of language corpora indicates that there is a lack of studies regarding graphical signs in language corpora. This article shows that a query

in the BNC did not always correspond to the intended search. This article suggests that there should be more research on corpora in the future. These results indicate that the findings of this research could be used in other research on graphical signs in language corpora in the future. The author of this article here demonstrates that it is possible to compare the stylistic use of punctuation marks in different languages.

## **PIETURZĪMES KĀ STILISTISKI MARĶIERI “LĪDZSVAROTAJĀ MŪSDIENU LATVIEŠU VALODAS TEKSTU KORPUSĀ” UN “BRITU NACIONĀLAJĀ KORPUSĀ”**

### *Kopsavilkums*

Teksts sastāv no dažādām zīmēm. Tās var būt gan teksta pamatā, gan papildināt to. Pieturzīmes tekstā veic gramatisko, intonatīvo, semantisko un stilistisko funkciju. Interpunktijas zīmju stilistisks lietojums norāda uz teksta autora vēlmi izteikt kādu stilistisko papildinformāciju, piemēram, emocionālu ekspresiju, attieksmi. Šī pētījuma mērķis ir analizēt pieturzīmju stilistisko lietojumu “Līdzsvarotajā mūsdienu latviešu valodas tekstu korpusā” un “Britu nacionālajā korpusā”. Pētījumā aplūkotas pieturzīmes (izsaukuma zīme, jautājuma zīme, daudzpunkte, pēdiņas, pieturzīmju kombinācijas) un to lietojums teikumos un citās teksta vienībās. Autore izpētījusi pieturzīmju lietojumu gan daiļliteratūras, gan publicistikas tekstu sadaļā. Pētījumā izmantotas šādas pētījuma metodes: korpusā balstītā, aprakstošā un salīdzinošā metode. Pētījuma empīrisko bāzi veido 800 sintaktiskas konstrukcijas (500 no LVK2018, 300 – BNC), kurās pieturzīmes lietotas stilistiskā funkcijā. Raksturojamās vienības tekstā trekninātas.

Ekscerpēto piemēru analīze ļauj secināt, ka stilistisks pieturzīmju lietojums sastopams abos tekstu korposos. Redzamas gan līdzības (pieturzīmju blīvējums, netradicionāls daudzpunktes lietojums u. tml.), gan atšķirības pieturzīmju lietojumā (Britu nacionālajā korpusā izsaukuma zīme nav lietota pirms jautājuma zīmes vai daudzpunktes, nav emocijzīmju tekstā). Turpmāk vajadzētu vēl vairāk pievērst uzmanību dažādu grafisko zīmju, it īpaši pieturzīmju, lietojumam tiešsaistes tekstu korposos.

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