

NICK JOAQUIN AND WILLIAM FAULKNER:
A LINGUISTIC APPROACH TO STYLES

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Master of Arts in Literature

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INTRODUCTION

Albert H. Marckwardt asserts that linguistic scholars fifty years ago were mostly literature teachers as well, and what was thought linguistic, or, more appropriately, philological study was a normal part of the education of each one whose great interest was in literature.¹ Scholars in both fields traditionally worked side by side harmoniously, sharing the same interests and problems.

But one might say this was fifty years ago. Since then so much has been studied and discovered about language and literature that what one knew about these two branches of learning fifty years ago or so, might be obsolete and unacceptable now. In fact this is precisely what happened. Some traditional literary approaches were superseded by new ones. A good example of a new approach to literary studies which has replaced an old one is Practical Criticism with its emphasis on the autonomy of a given text as a sole basis for evaluating style. In the language world, new directions were taken and new techniques were adopted. An illustration of a

¹Albert H. Marckwardt, Linguistics and the Teaching of English (London: Indiana University Press, 1966), p. 102.