



# English Grammar Lectures on the Theory of Language and Universal Grammar And on Oratory and Criticism

By Joseph Priestley

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APPENDIX N. I. OBSERVATIONS ON STYLE. (See titpra, pp. 45, 118. ) The use of writitig, as of speaking, is to express our thoughts with certainty and perspicuity. But as writing is a permanent thing, it is requisite that written forms of speech have a greater degree of precision and perspicuity than is necessary in colloquial forms, or such as very well answer the purpose of common conversation. Style, therefore, which is the manner of writing, may be deemed perfect, when it adequately expresses the whole of what is intended; and every other fault or imperfection in a composition ought to be charged to the account of the thought or conception. But, since every defect in the meaning is indicated by the style, all critics, in their observations on style, generally comprehend under this term, what, strictly speaking, belongs to the other: and, as...



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