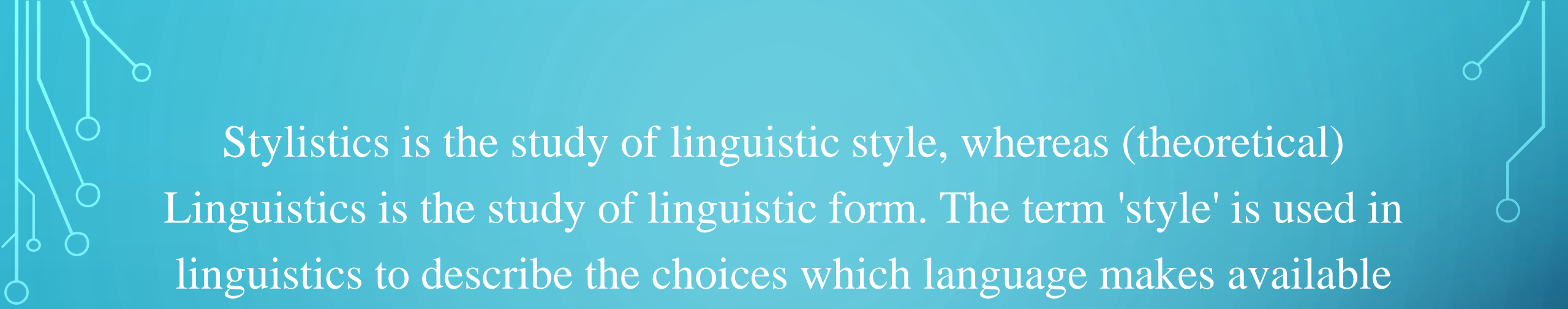




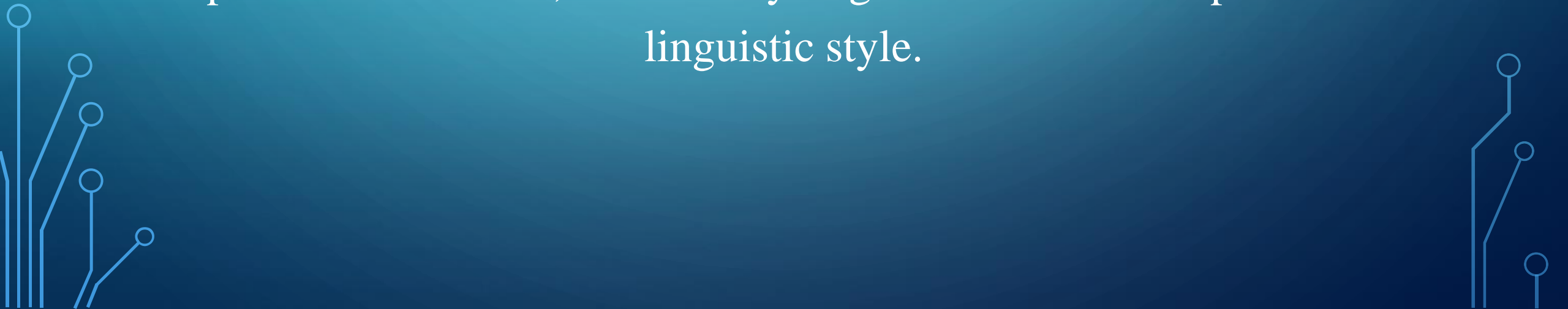
# STYLISTICS

THE SUBJECT MATTER, GOALS AND  
OBJECTIVES



Stylistics is the study of linguistic style, whereas (theoretical) Linguistics is the study of linguistic form. The term 'style' is used in linguistics to describe the choices which language makes available to a user, above and beyond the choices necessary for the simple expression of a meaning.

Linguistic form can be interpreted as a set of possibilities for the production of texts, and thereby linguistic form makes possible linguistic style.



# SUBJECT MATTER

Stylistics, sometimes called lingvo-stylistics, is a branch of general linguistics.



## OBJECTIVES



the investigation of the inventory of special language media which by their ontological features secure the desirable effect of the utterance

the investigation of certain types of texts (discourse) which due to the choice and arrangement of language means are distinguished by the pragmatic aspect of the communication.

## STYLISTICS DEALS WITH:

### **functional styles of language (FS) –**

types of texts that are distinguished by the pragmatic aspect of the communication

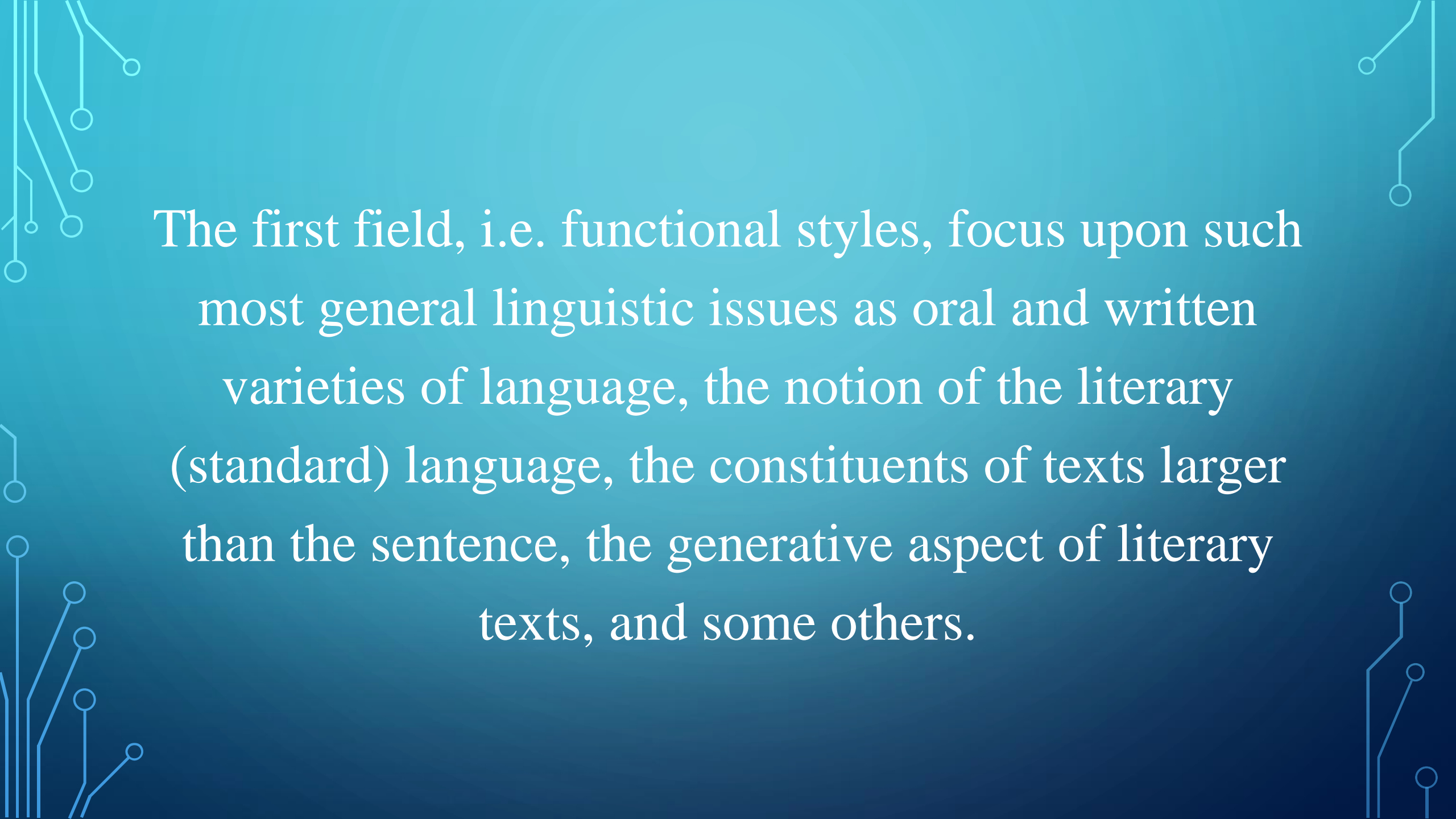
### **stylistic devices (SD)**

–

the special media of language which secure the desirable effect of the utterance

### **expressive means (EM) –**

language means which secure emotional or logical intensification of the utterance



The first field, i.e. functional styles, focus upon such most general linguistic issues as oral and written varieties of language, the notion of the literary (standard) language, the constituents of texts larger than the sentence, the generative aspect of literary texts, and some others.

The second and the third areas of investigation, i.e. SDs and EMs, necessarily touch upon such general language problems as the aesthetic function of language, synonymous ways of rendering one and the same idea, emotional colouring in language, the interrelation between language and thought, the individual manner of an author in making use of language and a number of other issues.

# ETYMOLOGY

Latin *stilus* – instrument for writing. Spelling was modified incorrectly by influence of Greek *stylos* which means "pillar," that probably is indirectly related.

# QUOTATIONS

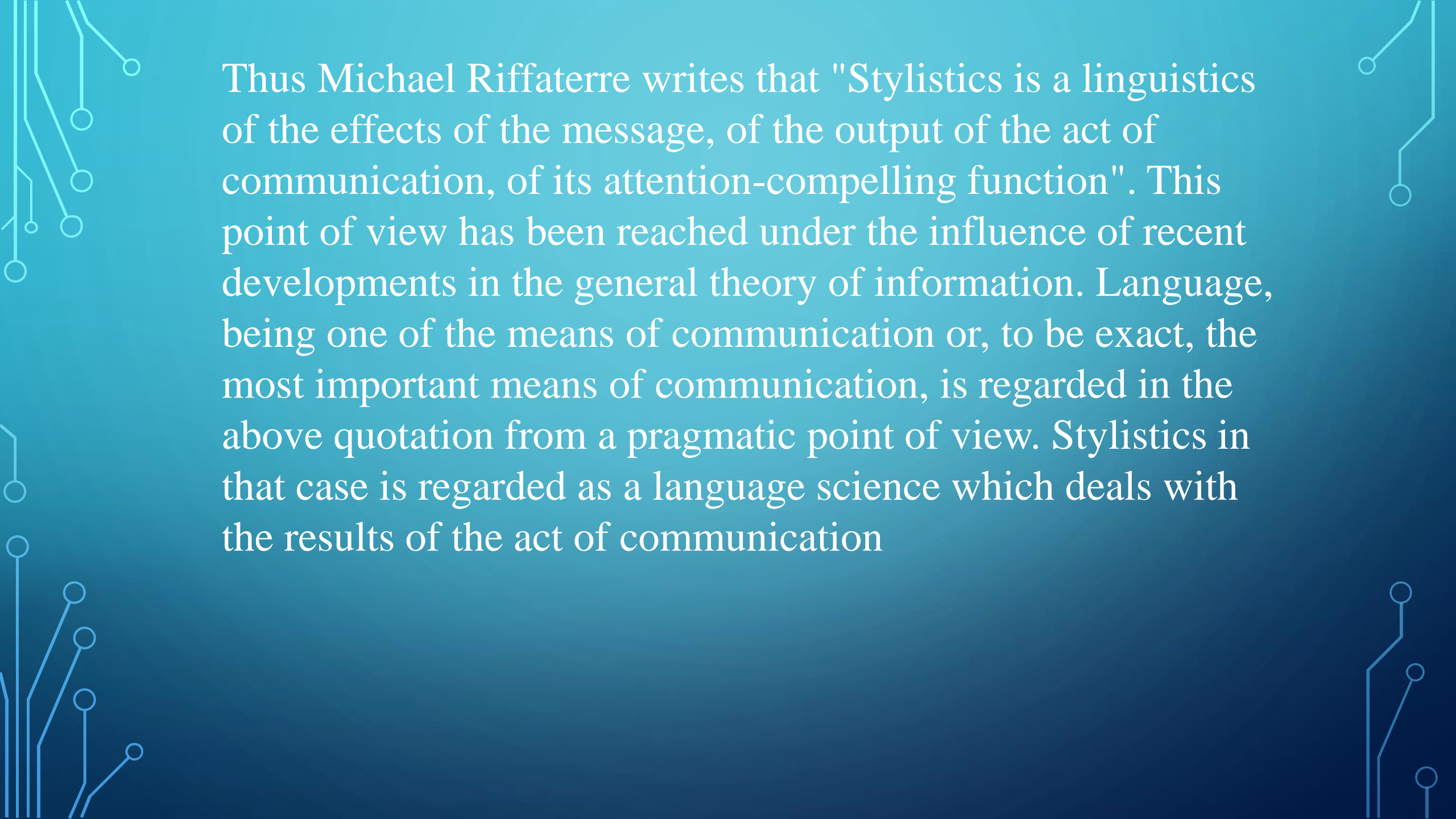
"Style is a quality of language which communicates precisely emotions or thoughts, or a system of emotions or thoughts, peculiar to the author."  
(J. Middleton Murry)

"Style is a contextually restricted linguistic variation." (Enkvist)

"Style is a selection of non-distinctive features of language." (L. Bloomfield)

"Style is essentially a citation process, a body of formulae, a memory (almost in the cybernetic sense of the word), a cultural and not an expressive inheritance." (Roland Barthes)



The slide features a dark blue background with decorative white and light blue circuit-like lines in the corners. These lines consist of vertical and horizontal segments connected by small circles, resembling a stylized network or data flow diagram.

Thus Michael Riffaterre writes that "Stylistics is a linguistics of the effects of the message, of the output of the act of communication, of its attention-compelling function". This point of view has been reached under the influence of recent developments in the general theory of information. Language, being one of the means of communication or, to be exact, the most important means of communication, is regarded in the above quotation from a pragmatic point of view. Stylistics in that case is regarded as a language science which deals with the results of the act of communication