

FIGURE OF SPEECH

POETRY IS A TYPE OF LITERATURE TYPICALLY WRITTEN IN VERSE THAT USES FIGURATIVE LANGUAGE, OR LANGUAGE THAT CAN HAVE DIFFERENT MEANINGS FROM WHAT IS LITERALLY SAID, TO GIVE MULTIPLE SHADES OF MEANING TO A WORD OR A PHRASE.

A **FIGURE OF SPEECH** IS AN EXPRESSION USED TO MAKE A GREATER EFFECT ON YOUR READER OR LISTENER. IT INCLUDES MAKING COMPARISONS, CONTRASTS, ASSOCIATIONS, EXAGGERATIONS AND CONSTRUCTIONS. IT ALSO GIVES A MUCH CLEARER PICTURE OF WHAT YOU ARE TRYING TO CONVEY.

IMPORTANCE OF FIGURE OF SPEECH IT ENHANCES THE BEAUTY OF THE WRITING. IT MAKES THE SENTENCE DEEPER AND LEAVES THE READER WITH A SENSE OF WONDER. IT BRINGS LIFE TO THE WORDS USED BY THE WRITER. THE FIGURE OF SPEECH NOT ONLY SHOWS THE WRITER'S INTENT BUT ALSO HIS PURPOSE IN USING SUCH LANGUAGE.

IT ADDS FLAVOUR TO THE WRITING AND MAKES IT SO MUCH MORE ENJOYABLE FOR THE READER. THERE ARE FIVE MAJOR CATEGORIES OF FIGURES OF SPEECH AS BELOW:

- **FIGURES OF RESEMBLANCE:** IT IS ALSO KNOWN AS THE FIGURE OF RELATIONSHIP. IT IS MADE UP OF SIMILE, METAPHOR, OR KENNING
- **FIGURES OF EMPHASIS:** IT IS ALSO KNOWN AS A FIGURE OF AN UNDERSTATEMENT. IT IS MADE UP OF HYPERBOLE.
- **FIGURES OF SOUND:** IT USES ALLITERATION.
- **VERBAL GAMES:** IT IS ALSO KNOWN AS GYMNASTICS. IT INCLUDES PUNS.
- **ERRORS:** IT IS CREATED OF MALAPROPISM AND USUALLY GENERATED BECAUSE OF BLUNDER.

TYPES OF POETIC DEVICES

ALLITERATION

ALLITERATION IS THE REPEATING OF CONSONANT SOUNDS RIGHT NEXT TO EACH OTHER, WHICH CREATES A MEMORABLE OR MELODIC EFFECT.

EXAMPLE: SHE SELLS SEASHELLS BY THE SEASHORE.

ANTITHESIS

ANTITHESIS IS A LITERARY TECHNIQUE THAT PLACES OPPOSITE THINGS OR IDEAS NEXT TO ONE ANOTHER IN ORDER TO DRAW OUT THEIR CONTRAST.

EXAMPLE: "IT WAS THE BEST OF TIMES, IT WAS THE WORST OF TIMES ..." —CHARLES DICKENS, A TALE OF TWO CITIES.

HYPERBOLE

HYPERBOLE IS A DELIBERATE EXAGGERATION THAT ADDS EMPHASIS, URGENCY, OR EXCITEMENT TO A STATEMENT.

EXAMPLE: IF I DON'T EAT SOON, I'M GOING TO DIE OF HUNGER.

METAPHOR

METAPHOR IS THE DIRECT COMPARISON OF DISSIMILAR THINGS TO CREATE MORE VIVID IMAGERY OR UNDERSTANDING.

EXAMPLE: HE WAS AN ONION; TO UNDERSTAND HIM, SHE HAD TO PEEL BACK THE LAYERS.

SIMILE

SIMILE COMPARES TWO DISSIMILAR THINGS USING "LIKE" OR "AS." THE GOAL OF SIMILE IS TO GIVE THE READER A MORE VIVID UNDERSTANDING OF SOMETHING.

EXAMPLE: IT WAS THE FIRST REAL DAY OF SUMMER, AND BY THE TIME SHE CAME BACK INDOORS, SHE WAS AS RED AS A TOMATO

PUN

A PUN IS A FORM OF WORDPLAY THAT PURPOSELY SUBSTITUTES WORDS THAT SOUND SIMILAR BUT HAVE DIFFERENT MEANINGS.

EXAMPLE: "'MINE IS A LONG AND A SAD TALE!' SAID THE MOUSE, TURNING TO ALICE AND SIGHING. 'IT IS A LONG TAIL, CERTAINLY,' SAID ALICE, LOOKING DOWN WITH WONDER AT THE MOUSE'S TAIL; 'BUT WHY DO YOU CALL IT SAD?'" —LEWIS CARROLL, ALICE'S ADVENTURES IN WONDERLAND

PERSONIFICATION

PERSONIFICATION IS ASSIGNING HUMAN ATTRIBUTES TO NONHUMAN THINGS.

EXAMPLE: THE FLOORBOARDS GROANED UNDER THE WEIGHT OF EACH STEP

OXYMORON

AN OXYMORON IS A PHRASE THAT USES TWO CONTRADICTORY WORDS TO CREATE A NEW MEANING.

EXAMPLE: THAT STRAWBERRY CAKE WAS AWFULLY GOOD.

ONOMATOPOEIA

ONOMATOPOEIA IS A WORD THAT SOUNDS LIKE WHAT IT MEANS.

EXAMPLE: WHEN A CHARACTER IS EXASPERATED, THEY MIGHT EXCLAIM, "SHEESH!" THAT'S BOTH A WORD TO SHOW EXASPERATION AND A SOUND THAT HAPPENS WHEN YOU SIGH LOUDLY.

SYNECDOCHE

SYNECDOCHE IS WHEN A SMALLER UNIT IS USED TO SIGNIFY A LARGER UNIT OR VICE VERSA.

EXAMPLE: NEW ENGLAND WON THE GAME BY A TOUCHDOWN. (HERE, NEW ENGLAND MEANS NEW ENGLAND'S FOOTBALL TEAM.)

APOSTROPHE

APOSTROPHE- IN THIS FIGURE OF SPEECH, THE WRITER MENTIONS THE ABSENT OR INANIMATE OBJECTS AS ALIVE AND WRITES ABOUT THEM. IN THIS FIGURE OF SPEECH, THE WRITER MENTIONS THE ABSENT OR INANIMATE OBJECTS AS ALIVE AND WRITES ABOUT THEM.

EXAMPLE "O, ROMEO, ROMEO, WHEREFORE ART THOU ROMEO?"

"TWINKLE, TWINKLE, LITTLE STAR, HOW I WONDER WHAT YOU ARE"

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ANAPHORA

WHEN MANY PHRASES OR VERSES START WITH THE SAME WORD, IT IS KNOWN AS ANAPHORA.

EXAMPLE I CAME, I SAW, I CONQUERED. WE SHALL NOT STOP.

WE SHALL GO ON AND ON. WE SHALL MOVE FORWARD.

ASSONANCE

WHEN WE USE REPETITION OF VOWEL SOUNDS, IT IS KNOWN AS ASSONANCE.

EXAMPLE THINK ABOUT THE LONG "O" SOUND IN: GO SLOW ON THE ROAD.

EUPHEMISM

IT IS KNOWN AS A EUPHEMISM WHEN WE REPLACE BLUNT, OFFENSIVE, OR HARSH TERMS WITH SOFT, MILD, VAGUE, OR INDIRECT TERMS.

EXAMPLE - USING LETTING YOU GO INSTEAD OF FIRING

USING A LITTLE THIN ON TOP INSTEAD OF GETTING BALD

USING PASSED AWAY INSTEAD OF KILLED OR DIED

USING STICK TO THE TRUTH INSTEAD OF CALLING SOMEONE A LIAR

IRONY

IF YOU USE TERMS THAT CONTRAST WITH WHAT YOU SAY AND WHAT YOU DO, IT IS KNOWN AS IRONY. IT'S LIKE A DIFFERENCE BETWEEN WHAT IS SAID AND WHAT IS MEANT.

EXAMPLE

A TRAFFIC COP GOT A TICKET FOR PARKING IN A NO-PARKING ZONE.

THE TITANIC WAS SAID TO BE UNSINKABLE BUT GOT SUNK ON ITS FIRST TRIP.

WHEN THE VIEWER KNOWS WHO THE KILLER IS IN THE MOVIE, BUT THE ACTOR DOESN'T KNOW THAT.

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