



# Stylistic devices making use of the meaning of language units (FIGURES OF SPEECH)

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# Periphrasis

This is a device by which **a longer phrase is used instead of a shorter** and plainer one; it is a case of circumlocution (a round- about way of description), which is used in literary descriptions for greater expressiveness.

# Periphrasis. Examples:



The notion of **king** may be poetically represented as the protector of earls; the victor lord; **the giver of lands**;

a battle = a play of swords;

a saddle = a battle-seat,

a soldier = a shield-bearer,

God = Our Lord, Almighty, Goodness, Heavens, the Skies.

In poetry:

a disturber of the piano keys = a pianist (O. Henry).

an elongated yellow fruit = banana (Charles W. Morton)

# Antonomasia

This device consists in the use of **a proper name** instead of **a common name** or vice versa. Thus, we may use a description instead of a person's name, creating a kind of nickname.

# Antonomasia. Examples:



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**Do not act like Mr. Bean** (a famous British comedy character) = acting ridiculous/illogical

Mister Know-all (a character of S. Maugham)

Scrooge - a miser; Solomon - wise ruler

He is the Napoleon of crime (= a genius in crime as great as Napoleon was in wars)

He looked at himself in the glass. Here, then, was a modern Hercules.

= a man who is like this hero of ancient Greek myths (A. Christie).

As we can see, on the one hand, **antonomasia is a subtype of periphrasis, on the other, it is a subtype of metonymy.**

# Euphemisms

This term denotes the use of a different, more gentle or favourable name for an object or phenomenon so as to avoid **undesirable** or **unpleasant** associations.

# Euphemisms. Examples:



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the verb **to die** may be replaced by euphemisms like:

**to expire, to be no more, to join the majority, to be gone, to depart.**

A **madhouse** may be called **lunatic asylum** or a **mental hospital.**

A **toilet, lavatory** = **ladies' (men's) room; rest-room; bathroom.**

# Euphemisms. Peculiarities:



Euphemistic expressions may have the structure of a **sentence**:

**China is a country where you often get different accounts of the same thing = where many lies are told (from Lord Salisbury's Speech).**

There are euphemisms replacing **taboo-words** (taboos), i.e. words forbidden in use in a community:

**The Prince of darkness or The Evil One = the Devil;**  
**the kingdom of darkness or the place of no return = Hell.**



**Thanks a lot for your  
attention!**

**Please, now ask your  
questions and let's do  
some tasks!**