

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

Presentation was created by the student of JK-1 group Pchelkina A.B.

#### 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).

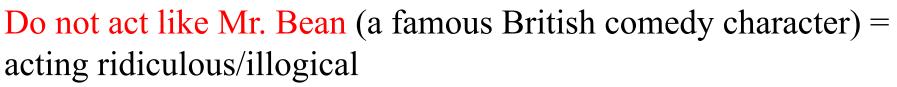
an elongated yellow fruit = banana (Charles W. Morton)

#### 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:



- 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:**



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!