

# **EXPRESSIVE MEANS AND STYLISTIC DEVICES**

**Structure and functions**

# Transference

the act of name exchange, of substitution

The name of one object is transferred onto another on the basis of:

a. their **similarity** (of shape, color, function, form, etc.);

b. Their **closeness** (of material existence, cause and effect, instrument and the result, part and whole relations, etc.).

# Expressive means of a language (EMs)

**EMs** of a language are:

- a) phonetic means, morphological forms, means of word-building;
- b) lexical, phraseological and syntactical forms.

**Purpose:** they function in the language for emotional or logical intensification of the utterance, e.g.: He **shall** do it.

# What is a stylistic device?

A **SD** - is a conscious and intentional literary use of some facts of the language (including **expressive means**) with **the purpose of** further intensification of the **emotional or logical emphasis** contained in the corresponding expressive means.

# Examples of SDs

- a) Andrew's face looked **as if** it were made of **a wrotten apple** (simile).
- b) She gave him her best **go-to-hell** look (phrase epithet).
- c) Her family is one aunt about **a thousand years old** (hyperbole).
- d) **I looked at the gun**, and **the gun looked at me** (chiasmus).

# Convergence of EMs and SDs

... **And** heaved **and** heaved,  
still **unrestingly** heaved the  
black sea, **as if** its **vast** **tides**  
were a **conscience**

(H.Melville. Moby Dick).

# Convergence of EMs and SDs in H.Melville's phrase

1. Inversion
2. Repetition
3. Polysyndeton
4. Rhythm
5. Neologism
6. Expressive epithet «vast»
7. An unusual comparison: tides -  
conscience

# CONVERGENCE

**Ex.:** Define the EMs and SDs in this example.

**Sara was a menace and a tonic,  
my **best enemy**; Rozzie was a  
desease, my **worst friend**.**

(J.Gary. The Horse's Mouth).



# Check yourselves

- 1) Parallel constructions.
- 2) Antithesis: **enemy-friend, worst - best.**
- 3) Antonymical metaphors: **tonic - disease.**
- 4) Violation of usual combinability: instead of **best friend** we read **best enemy, worst friend**

**Stylistic function:** deep contradictory relations inside a love triangle are portrayed.

# Phonetic EMs

1. **Onomatopoeia** - murmur, hiss, bump, etc.
2. **Alliteration** - «And the **s**ilken, **s**ad, un**c**ertain  
ru**s**tling of each purple curtain ...»  
(E.Poe. The Raven).

**Stylistic function:** authentic live communication, the informality of speech acts: lemme, mighta, coupla...

# Phonetic EMs -2

## 3. **Graphon:**

- a) «Yetalians», «peerading» (parading).
- b) stumbling: N-n-nice weather, isn't it?
- c) lisping: You don't mean to thay that thith ith your firth time...

**Stylistic function:** authentic live commu-nication and speech characteristization.

# **METAPHOR**

**A SD based on similarity**

# What Is a Metaphor?

**A metaphor** is a relation between the dictionary and contextual logical meanings based on the affinity (similarity) of certain properties (traits) of two corresponding concepts. I.V. Arnold qualifies **metaphor** as **concealed simile**. Compare:

a) You are my **angel**.

b) I hear your voice - it's **like an angel's sigh**.

# The Structure of a Metaphor

A **metaphor** consists of the following parts:

1) **tenor** (the thing/object or person denoted); 2) **vehicle** (the object with which comparison is made); 3) **the ground** (basis for comparison, the commonness) [I.V.Arnold]. **E.g.:**

He is **a snake**.

The doctor **wrapped** himself in **a mist of words**.

Carl Sandburg

## Fog

The fog comes  
On little cat feet.  
It sits looking  
Over harbour and city  
On silent haunches  
And then moves on.

# LITERATURE

1. V.A.Kukharenko, pp.10-13 (phonetic SDs)
2. I.R.Galperin, pp.118-119 (EMs & SDs)
3. I.V.Arnold, pp.100-101(convergence)
4. М.П.Ивашкин и др., с.6-13. Look through all the exercises.
5. М.П.Ивашкин и др., Exercise 7, pp.19-20.