

Expressive means of language

Stylistic Devices

stylistics

phonetics



vocabulary



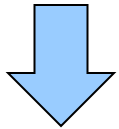
syntax



text

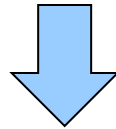
metaphor

A transference of meaning based on
resemblance,
in other words, on a covert comparison



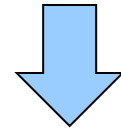
simple

Man cannot live
by *bread* alone



complex

The average New Yorker
is caught in a machine.
He whirls along,
he is dizzy, he is helpless.
If he resists, the machine
will crush him to pieces.



trite

A flight of
imagination

simile

A comparison with the object which is well known

“as” / “like”

Beautiful as a rose; as dead as a doornail;

Drink like a fish;

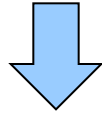
She climbed with the quickness of a cat;

John skates as well as Kate does



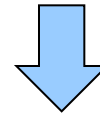
metonymy

A transference of meaning based on contiguity of notions. The name of one object is used instead of another, closely connected with it



The name of a part not a whole
(**synecdoche**)

Washington and London agreed
on many issues

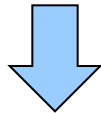


The name of a container
not the contents

The whole town was
out
in the streets

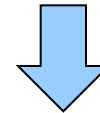
metonymy

A transference of meaning based on contiguity of notions.



A characteristic feature of an
object
but not the object

The massacre of the
innocents



Instrument instead of action

All they that take the sword,
shall perish with the sword

zeugma

Plays on two different meanings of the word.
(a pun)

- ✓ A leopard changes his spots, as often as he goes from one spot to another.
- ✓ The importance of being Earnest. (=serious. name 'Ernest' sounds the same) *O. Wilde*

oxymoron

Combines in one phrase two words (noun+adj)
whose meanings are opposite
and incompatible

- ✓ Sweet sorrow
- ✓ A low skyscraper
- ✓ Awfully beautiful
- ✓ Best enemy

hyperbole

Intensification of meaning. Extreme
exaggeration
of the quality of the object

- ✓ A thousand pardons
- ✓ I've told you a million times
- ✓ The man-mountain

litotes

Based on use of negative constructions in the positive meaning, so that the quality is underestimated

✓ Not bad (=very good)

✓ It was no easy task (=very difficult)

epithet

A word or phrase containing an expressive characteristic of the object, based on some metaphor

✓ A man of iron

O **dreamy, gloomy, friendly** trees! (*Trench*)

✓ A silvery laugh

✓ Just a ghost of a smile

✓ A little man with a **Say-nothing-to-me expression** on his face

An iron ~~spoon~~

periphrasis

A longer phrase is used instead of shorter

- ✓ An addition to the little party now made its appearance
(=another person came in)
- ✓ A pensive warbler of the ruddy breast
(=a bullfinch)
- ✓ A disturber of the piano keys
(=a pianist)

antonomasia

The use of a proper name instead of a common name and vice versa.

We may use the description instead of a person's name

- ✓ Miss Today (*W. Thackeray*)
- ✓ Mister Know-all (*S. Maugham*)
- ✓ Mr. Murdstone (*Ch. Dickens*)
- ✓ He is the Napoleon of crime
- ✓ I have a Rembrandt at home

euphemisms

The use of a different, more gentle or favourable name for an object to avoid unpleasant associations.

- ✓ To expire, to be no more, to join the majority (=to die)
 - ✓ The Prince of darkness (=the Devil)
- ✓ China is a country where you often get different accounts of the same thing (=many lies are told)

allegory

The names of objects or characters of a story are used in a figurative sense, representing some more general things, good or bad qualities. (in fables, parables, proverbs)

- ✓ All is not gold that glitters
- ✓ There is no rose without a thorn
- ✓ Make the hay while the sun shines

personification

A subtype of allegory.

Human qualities are ascribed to inanimate objects, animals ...

‘No sleep till morn, when Youth and Pleasure meet
To chase the glowing Hours with flying feet’ (*Byron*)

Twinkle, twinkle, little *star*!
How I wonder where you are! ...

allusion

Indirect reference to some historical or literary fact (personage) expressed in the text.

✓ He felt as **Balaam** must have felt when his ass broke into speech.

irony

Based on the simultaneous realisation of two opposite meanings:
‘direct’ meaning of words and their contextual meaning.

- ✓ How delightful – to find yourself in a foreign country without a penny in your pocket!
- ✓ Aren’t you a hero – running away from a mouse!
- ✓ I do not consult physicians, for I hope to die without their help.

Rhetorical questions

Contains a covert statement of the opposite

- ✓ Who does not know Shakespeare?
- ✓ What business is it of yours?
- ✓ Can the leopard change his spots?