

Rhetorical Devices

Antithesis - refers to the juxtaposition of two opposing elements through parallel grammatical structure. Example: Go big or go home.

Asyndeton - a stylistic device used in literature and poetry to intentionally eliminate conjunctions between the phrases, and in the sentence, yet maintain grammatical accuracy.

Example: "I came; I saw; I conquered."

Julius Caesar, William Shakespeare

Chiasmus - words, grammatical constructions, or concepts are repeated in reverse order, in the same or a modified form

Example: "Never let a Fool Kiss You or a Kiss Fool You."

Irony - contradictory statements or situations reveal a reality that is different from what appears to be true.

Example: Telling a quiet group, "don't everybody speak all at once"

Metonymy - a figure of speech in which one object or idea takes the place of another with which it has a close association.

Example: Joe's new ride was expensive. (Ride is metonymy for car)

Rhetorical Question - a statement made in the form of a question that requires no answer

Example: Is the pope Catholic?

Synecdoche - a figure of speech in which a part of something is used to signify the whole, or vice-versa.

Example: **Tampa Bay** scored the winning touchdown.

Zeugma - a figure of speech in which a word, usually a verb or an adjective, applies to more than one noun, blending together grammatically and logically different ideas.

Example: "John lost his coat and his temper,"; the verb "lost" applies to both the nouns "coat" and "temper." Losing a coat and losing temper are logically and grammatically different ideas, which are brought together in this sentence.

Rhetorical Appeals

Ethos: convincing others of the character or credibility of the persuader. It is natural for us to accept the credibility of people whom we hold in high regard

Pathos: the emotional influence of the speaker on the audience. Its goal is to create a favorable emotional affection of the audience towards the objective of the speech.

Logos: attempts to persuade the audience by the use of arguments that they will perceive as logical. Logos uses facts and evidence to convince a reader or listener of the strength of your argument.

Figurative Language

Alliteration -The repetition of usually initial consonant sounds in two or more neighboring words or syllables

Example: "Doubting, dreaming dreams no mortal ever dared to dream before" - "The Raven," Edgar Allan Poe

Allusion - a reference in one story to a well-known character or event from another story, history, or place

Example: "*Five-score years ago a great American in whose symbolic shadow we stand today signed the Emancipation Proclamation.*" -*I Have a Dream* by Dr. Martin Luther King This is a reference to the Gettysburg Address which begins with "Four-Score years ago". The Gettysburg Address was an important speech during the time of the Civil War and the abolition of slavery.

Hyperbole - Exaggerated statements or claims not meant to be taken literally

Example: Be careful, it's a jungle out there.

Idiom - saying or expression that is widely used among speakers of a certain language and whose figurative meaning is different from its literal meaning.

Example: ducks in a row (to get organized)

Imagery - Writing about objects, actions, and ideas in such a way that it appeals to our five physical senses

Example: Her lips tasted as sweet as sugar.

Meiosis - The presentation of a thing with under-emphasis especially in order to achieve a greater effect;

Example: "Ay, ay, a scratch, a scratch." -Mercutio after he is mortally wounded by Tybalt - Romeo and Juliet, Shakespeare

Metaphor - a figure of speech that makes a comparison between two unlike things without the use of like or as.

Example: Is there a black sheep in your family?

Onomatopoeia - The forming of a word (as "buzz" or "hiss") in imitation of a natural sound

Personification - a figure of speech in which an idea or thing is given human attributes and/or feelings or is spoken of as if it were human

Example: I wanted to get money, but **the ATM** died.

Simile - a figure of speech in which two essentially dissimilar objects or concepts are expressly compared with one another through the use of "like" or "as."

Example: She smelled like flowers.