

KINDS OF FIGURATIVE LANGUAGES

Poets, song composers or novelists often use figurative languages to have more creative wording than just the direct language because they can build a high imagination on every word or sentence they create. That's why, figurative languages cannot be literally translated.

The followings are the simple explanation and examples of some figurative languages.

Here are the common types of figurative languages:

1. METAPHOR

Metaphor is figure of speech that compares two different things which can be connected, but usually have the same characteristics. It is used to express the similarities of both compared things that people may not see.

e.g.- **The leader's speech is showering our heart.** (This means that his words being released during the speech give impacts to us.)

- **Our home is tranquility.** (It implies that we live in calmness and peace)

2. SIMILE

Simile is the same as metaphor, but it uses the word "like" or "as" to compare the two different things. So, it is a direct comparison.

e.g. – **The dimple is like a pretty decoration on her face when smiling.** (Decoration always beautifies thing)

- **He is goofing around like a clumsy bear.** (He is going here and there, without any purpose to do things)

- **She feels as ecstatic as an actress getting an Oscar.** (Her happiness is so intense).

3. PERSONIFICATION

Personification is figure of speech which describes non-living things in such a way that we feel they do or act like what humans do.

e.g. – **The tortured earth is crying now.** (who can feel tortured and cry is human. The sentence shows that the earth is now in a worse condition)

- **Every morning, the sun grins to all people and gives them spirit to lift a life.** (who can smile and give spirit is human. This sentence tells that the appearance of the sun reminds us to always welcome the day happily.)

4. HYPERBOLE

Hyperbole is figure of speech that creates extreme exaggeration to stress a point, just make humor or color an expression. Surely, no one will believe in it.

- e.g. - **My life is in your heart.** (This is to express how big the person's love for the other is)
- **I will go to the deepest ocean and the highest mountain in the world to find you.** (This expresses that the person never gives up getting the other's love.)

Here are some literary devices that can build imagery:

1. ALLITERATION

It is a literary device that uses the same first consonant sound for a number of words that are close to one another.

- e.g. The **d**evils **d**on't **d**are to see their **d**ark **d**estiny.
The **r**avenous **r**ats were **r**unning to **r**each the dead **r**accoons.

2. ONOMATOPOEIA

Onomatopoeia is a literary device which uses a word or group of words imitating the sound it produces. It is useful to make what we write becomes more descriptive.

- e.g. – **The wooden stairs creaked** when we stepped on them. (creak is the sound of something when there is a pressure on it.)
- **While the butter is sizzling**, add the sliced sausage and some vegetables. (sizzle is the sound of the things like butter or oil on the hot frying pan.)
- **The clink coming from the guests' toast** expresses their happiness for their success in the election. (Clink is the short ringing sound coming from pieces of glass or metal hitting each other like two or more glasses in a toast)

3. REPETITION

Repetition is used to make certain word, phrase or even sentence memorable and easy to understand by repeating them few times.

There are several types of repetition.

Here are three examples.

a. Anaphora

It is a repetition of the first part of successive sentences. What are repeated can be word, phrase or sentence!

- e.g. - **Find** him now! **Find** his children now!
- **What you say** is important, **what you say** will inspire everyone!

- **Let him go! Let him go!** Before it becomes worse.

b. Epistrophe

It is a repetition of the last word or phrase of successive sentences.

e.g. - You must stay **here**. They won't see you **here**. I will be **here**.

- Have a big **dream**. Reach your **dream**. Never lose the **dream**.

- Humans created **Artificial Intelligence**. Humans depend on **Artificial Intelligence**.

Finally, humans will be destroyed by **Artificial Intelligence**.

c. Mesodiplosis

It is a repetition of the word in the middle of successive sentences.

e.g. - Stay here, **or** die. Keep quiet, **or** get killed.

- Keep the distance, **though** you want to be near. Stay at home, **though** you want to meet me. Just talk on the phone, **though** you miss me much.

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