

LESSON NOTE ON LITERATURE-IN-ENGLISH WEEK 2

SUBJECT: Literature-in-English
TOPIC: Selected figures of Speech
CLASS: JS3
WEEK: 2

DEFINITION OF FIGURE OF SPEECH

A figure of speech is a word or phrase that possesses a separate meaning from its literal (without additional interpretation) definition.

Figures of speech create images or mental pictures in the reader's mind. Most poets use language more than other writers.

Figures of speech include:

- Simile
- Metaphor
- Euphemism
- Hyperbole
- Personification
- Onomatopoeia
- Rhetorical question
- Alliteration
- Assonance
- Repetition
- Irony
- Rhetorical question
- oxymoron

1. Simile

This is a comparison of two things of a different nature or class by the use of the words "as" or "like".

Examples

- a) The knife is as sharp as a razor.
- b) Jude fights like a lion.
- c) It was as big as an elephant.

2. Metaphor

This is a direct comparison of two things without the use of "as" or "like". In metaphor, you say that one thing is that person or thing.

Examples:

- a) That boy is lion.
- b) The classroom was a zoo.
- c) She is a peacock.
- d) He is a night owl.

3. Euphemism

This is a mild word or expression that is use to substitute a harsh or offensive statement.

Examples:

- a) The man has kicked the bucket. (The man is dead.)
- b) She is under the weather. (She is sick.)
- c) They were sent to a correctional facility. (They were sentenced to prison.)

4. Hyperbole

This is an overstatement or an exaggeration of a particular condition for emphasis.

Examples:

- a) I walked a million miles to get there.
- b) Olu slept like a rock last night.
- c) I'm so tired; I could sleep a million years.

5. Alliteration

This is the repetition of consonant sounds at the beginning of words, in two more words on the same line.

Examples:

- a) **P**eter **p**iper **p**icked a **p**eck of **p**ickled **p**epper. Repetition of /p/
- b) **K**ee**p** the **k**ettle in the **k**itchen. /k/
- c) The love of **m**oney **m**akes **m**any **m**ad. /m/

6. Irony

This is a statement that means the opposite of what is being said.

Examples:

- a) I am really full. (When in actual fact you very hungry.)
- b) The exam was very easy. (When you mean the exam was difficult.)