

Stylistic Devices

Any kind of language intentionally designed to emphasize / underline / illustrate the speaker's ideas, feelings or thoughts and to convey a vivid and graphic impression, (e.g. choice of words, figures of speech, rhetorical devices, syntactic structure etc.)

Figures of speech

A **figure of speech** is a word or phrase used in some way other than the ordinary meaning, to make a word picture or comparison.

Language that makes use of figures of speech is called **figurative language**.

The making of "pictures in words" is called **imagery**. Among the various types of imagery are simile, metaphor and symbol. In a broader sense, *imagery* is often used as synonymous with *figure of speech* or *figurative language*.

image	a mental picture created by a word, phrase or sentence ('picture in words'); many images are conveyed by figurative language, as in metaphor, simile and symbol
simile	an explicit comparison between two unlike objects, grammatically connected by "like" and "as" ("He fought <i>like</i> a lion.")
metaphor (<u>for</u> sth.)	an implicit comparison expressing one word through a more vivid one; a metaphor uses a symbol to compare a thing or person to sth. else ("She has a heart of stone." - "He was a lion in the fight.")
symbol (<u>of</u> sth.)	something concrete which stands for sth. else, usually sth. abstract like ideas, feelings, qualities etc. ("lion" ⇒ strength, courage; "dove/pigeon" ⇒ peace; "lily" ⇒ purity; "rose" ⇒ beauty, love, youth)
irony	the literal meaning of a word or statement is the opposite of that intended ("That's just wonderful!" = S "That's just terrible"!)
personification	sth. inanimate is referred to as if it were a human being ("justice is blind")
hyperbole	obvious, extravagant exaggeration or overstatement, not intended to be taken literally, but used figuratively to create humour or emphasis ("her memory runs back farther than mythology")

Rhetorical devices

A rhetorical device is a particular arrangement of sounds or words to achieve special effects. Unlike in the case of figures of speech, the meaning of the words themselves is not changed.

alliteration	a repetition of initial sounds in two or more words for emphatic effects (“ <u>b</u> loody <u>b</u> lameful <u>b</u> lade”)
apostrophe	an explicit address to some person or thing (“Roll on, thou ball, roll on!”)
assonance	words with the same stressed middle vowel sounds (“ <u>p</u> ale/ <u>f</u> ade”; “ <u>w</u> hite/ <u>a</u> like”); often used in poetry
enumeration	(“we live thick <i>and</i> are in each other’s way, <i>and</i> stumble over one another, <i>and</i> I think ...”)
parallelism	structural arrangement of clauses or larger passages in which elements of equal importance are equally phrased
repetition	repetition of sounds, words, sentences; repetition of keywords with variations (company, companion, companionable)
rhetorical question	a question asked solely to produce an effect or to make a statement but not expected to receive an answer
exaggeration	overstatement or stretching of the truth (“I cried my eyes out”; “I laughed my head off.”); the deliberate use of exaggeration as a literary device is called hyperbole
antithesis	the opposing of ideas by parallelism in grammatical structure (“stories of old time and of new eternity”)
anaphora	the repetition of the same word or phrase in two or more successive clauses (“ <i>Awake</i> , my spirits/ <i>awake</i> my glory ...”)
contrast	putting two completely different ideas or facts side by side in order to show the characteristic of each in a vivid and memorable way
quotation	
exclamation	

Diction

Word choice. There are two basic standards – not mutually exclusive – by which a speaker’s or writer’s diction is usually judged: clarity and appropriateness.

Clear diction is both precise and concrete, including a high proportion (approximately one out of every six words) of strong verbs and verbals.

Appropriate diction is diction at a level - formal, informal, colloquial, slang – suitable to the occasion.

proportion of abstract words to concrete words
derogatory words

Syntactic structure

short epigrammatic, apodictic statements contrasted by
complex hypotactic constructions
simple versus complex sentences