

## STYLISTIC DEVICES AND CHARACTERISTICS OF SIMILE STRUCTURES

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### Abstract

The purpose of the article is to show importance of stylistic devices, especially simile and metaphor. Moreover, it discusses the characteristics of stylistic devices that are really essential for the oral and written speech.

**Keywords:** stylistic devices, features of stylistic devices, characteristics of stylistic devices, simile, metaphor, personification, symbol.

There are many stylistic devices to color the text and give extra meaning. With the help of stylistic devices, speaker or writer can create interesting and meaningful. Stylistic devices refer to any of a variety of techniques to give an additional or supplemental meaning, idea, or feeling. Also known as figures of speech or rhetorical devices, the goal of these techniques is to create imagery, emphasis, or clarity within a text in hopes of engaging the reader. There are many stylistic devices in literature, but today we are going to focus on six specific devices that are used most commonly.

Moreover, a figure of speech is a departure from the usual form of expression for the purpose of making the meaning clearer, more forceful, or more beautiful. Figures of speech are highly effective, for they add vividness, vigor, and beauty to our utterances. Though figures are the ornaments of speech, they should not be used unless they are natural and appropriate and increase the effectiveness of what we have to say. All men, poets and otherwise, constantly employ so called “figurative language,” the difference being that the best people use images which are original and poetic, while ours are often overworked and commonplace.

The principal figures of speech and examples are listed below:

- Simile – Direct comparison to unlike things – will almost always use the words “like” or “as”:

- My daughter dances like an angel.
- Wandered lonely as a cloud. Wordsworth
- Sally whistled like a bird.

- Metaphor – An implied comparison made between two unlike things that actually have something in common. Among the most common metaphors are those that refer to our senses of touch, taste, sight, hearing and smell.

- “Hunka' hunka' burnin' love.” Elvis Presley
- An old flame.
- Boiling mad
- “I’m so hot for her and she’s so cold.” The Rolling Stones

- Symbol – is a person, place, or thing comes to represent an abstract idea or concept -- it is anything that stands for something beyond itself. "A symbol is a repeatable concrete image, an object, which captures a second level of meaning from a particular experience." (Philip Ellis Wheelwright, *Metaphor and Reality*, Indiana University Press, 1962)

- Scales of justice
- Lady liberty
- The doves of freedom
- The land of the free and the home of the brave. Personification – A figure of speech in which an inanimate object or abstraction is endowed with human qualities or abilities.
- The ocean roared.
- The tea kettle screamed out in the kitchen.
- The lonely train whistle wailed in the distance.

- Hyperbole – A figure of speech in which exaggeration is used for emphasis or effect; an extravagant statement.

- These books weigh a ton.
- She had millions of Facebook and MySpace friends.
- After a long day, the ASC instructor felt at least 158 years old.

- Understatement – A figure of speech in which a writer or speaker deliberately makes a situation seem less important or serious than it is.

- "I have to have this operation. It isn't very serious. I have this tiny little tumor on the brain." (Holden Caulfield in *The Catcher In The Rye*, by J. D. Salinger)

- Onomatopoeia – The formation or use of words that imitate the sounds associated with the objects or actions to which they refer.

- "I'm getting married in the morning! Ding dong! the bells are gonna chime." (Lerner and Loewe, "Get Me to the Church on Time," *My Fair Lady*)
- "One of these days, Alice. Pow! Right in the kisser!" (Jackie Gleason, *The Honeymooners*)
- "Plop, plop, fizz, fizz, oh what a relief it is." (slogan of Alka Seltzer, U.S.) Alliteration – The repetition of an initial consonant sound.

• "Alliteration lightly links stressed syllables with common consonants." (John Hollander, *Rhyme's Reason*)

• "The sibilant sermons of the snake as she discoursed upon the disposition of my sinner's soul seemed ceaseless." (Gregory Kirschling, *The Gargoyle*, 2008)

• "The mass of men lead lives of quiet desperation." (Henry David Thoreau, *Walden*)

Metonymy - A figure of speech in which one word or phrase is substituted for another with which it is closely associated (such as "crown" for "royalty"). Metonymy is also the rhetorical strategy of describing something indirectly by referring to things around it, such as describing someone's clothing to characterize the individual.



- The government says...
  - The White House asked the public to remain calm during the crisis.
  - The suits at the large investment firms will finally have their day in court. - Synecdoche – A figure of speech in which a part is used to represent the whole, the whole for a part, the specific for the general, the general for the specific, or the material for the thing made from it.
  - Give us this day our daily bread.
  - She worked two jobs because she had six hungry mouths to feed.
- Oxymoron - A figure of speech in which incongruous or contradictory terms appear side by side.
- "The phrase 'domestic cat' is an oxymoron." (George Will)
  - the expressions "act naturally," "original copy," "found missing," "alone together," "peace force," "definite possibility," "terribly pleased," "ill health," "turn up missing," "jumbo shrimp," "alone together," "loose tights," "small crowd."

Looking through various theories about simile and other stylistic devices, like metaphors; both similes and metaphors are forms of comparison that compare words in a sentence. Moreover, they help to fulfill the meaning of a text. They can be used to make your sentences more interesting. On the other hand a question comes to mind that how similes and metaphors are different.

A simile is a word that compares words in a sentence. You can usually tell if a simile is present in a sentence when you see the words as or like. Don ate his salad like a vacuum cleaner. His arms were weak and felt like noodles. The thunder was as loud as fireworks. You can see that the underlined words in the sentences above are compared to each other. The words as and like are bolded to show that a simile occurs in this sentence

Like a simile, a metaphor compares words in a sentence; however, instead of saying that one thing is like something else, a metaphor actually makes one thing become something very different by renaming it. A metaphor can sometimes use words like is, are, or was (and other words) to signal that a metaphor is present. However, a metaphor never uses the words like or as to compare. The smoke was cotton balls billowing from the chimney. You are my hero. The sun was a furnace. You can see in these examples that the first underlined word is actually renamed by the second underlined word. The bolded words are bolded to show that the second underlined word is something else.

In both Uzbek and English, simile and metaphors are debatable. Many scholars claim that simile and metaphors are nearly the same but still there are several differences between them. The differences can be appeared in the sentences. For instance, She is as beautiful as a moon. In the example the terms “as beautiful as moon” is considered as simile. However, in the next example sentence it is a metaphor: She is a beautiful moon in our family.

### **Bibliography**

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