

EXPRESSIVE MEANS AND STYLISTIC DEVICES

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The name of one object is transferred onto another on the basis of:

- a. their similarity (of shape, color, function, form, etc.);
- b. Their closeness (of material existence, cause and effect, instrument and the result, part and whole relations, etc.).

Expressive means of a language (EMs)

- a) phonetic means, morphological forms, means of word-building;
- b) lexical, phraseological and syntactical forms.
- Purpose: they function in the language for emotional or logical intensification of the utterance, e.g.: He shall do it.

What is a stylistic device?

- A SD - is a conscious and intentional literary use of some facts of the language (including expressive means) with the purpose of further intensification of the emotional or logical emphasis contained in the corresponding expressive means.

Examples of SDs

- a) Andrew's face looked as if it were made of a wrote apple (simile).
- b) She gave him her best go-to-hell look (phrase epithet).
- c) Her family is one aunt about a thousand years old (hyperbole).
- d) I looked at the gun, and the gun looked at me(chiasmus).

- Polysyndeton,
- Asyndeton,
- Climax,
- Anticlimax,
- Litotes,
- Antithesis.

What Is Polysyndeton?

- Polysyndeton is a literary technique in which conjunctions (e.g. and, but, or) are used repeatedly in quick succession, often with no commas, even when the conjunctions could be removed.
- It is often used to change the rhythm of the text, either faster or slower, and can convey either a sense of gravity or excitement. It can also be used to intentionally overwhelm the reader, giving them very little room for mentally or visually breathing with the lack of commas.

Example from Mark Twain's *The Adventures of Huckleberry Finn*:

- I got into my old rags and my sugar-hogshead again, and was free and satisfied. But Tom Sawyer he hunted me up and said he was going to start a band of robbers, and I might join if I would go back to the widow and be respectable. So I went back.
- Twain was a big fan of polysyndeton and the first pages of *Huckleberry Finn* are littered with fun but unnecessary conjunctions.

Example from Jane Austen's *Pride and Prejudice*:

- Mrs. Hurst and her sister allowed it to be so—but still they admired her and liked her, and pronounced her to be a sweet girl, and one whom they would not object to know more of.
- Austen uses polysyndeton frequently to convey a sense of enthusiasm and breathlessness.

The Opposite of Polysyndeton: Asyndeton

- Polysyndeton has an opposite, called asyndeton (something Joe is very fond of using). Asyndeton is what would result if you replaced all the conjunctions in the sample sentence above with commas, as in the famous Julius Caesar quote, “Veni, vidi, vici.”

- It is important to note that polysyndeton and asyndeton are not necessarily indicative of a run-on sentence. A run-on sentence has no conjunctions or commas to indicate transition of ideas or phrases, but barrels on as if it were two sentences properly separated by a period. Polysyndeton and asyndeton maintain the elements of transition or connection, and are grammatically functional techniques.

The Gap-Sentence Link

is a peculiar type of connection of sentences in which the connection is not immediately seen and it requires an effort to grasp the interrelation between the parts of the utterance.

She and that fellow ought to be the sufferers, and they are in Italy.

(It means-Those who ought to be the sufferers are enjoying themselves in Italy where well-to-do English people go for holiday.)

The Gap-Sentence Link is generally indicated by **and** or **but**.

The functions of GSL are the following:

- 1) it signals the introduction of inner represented speech;
2) it indicates a subjective evaluation of the facts;
3) it displays an unexpected coupling of ideas.
- **The Gap-Sentence Link** aims at stirring up in the reader's mind the suppositions, associations and conditions under which the sentence can exist.