

**Phonetic  
expressive  
means**

“I always thought that the music of words is not an acoustic phenomenon and does not consist of the euphony of vowels and consonants taken separately. It results from the correlation of the meaning of the utterance with its sound”.

The Russian poet B. Pasternak

Stylistic phonetics studies the ways of employment of sounds of speech for expressive aids. Phonetical expressive means serve to provoke a certain effect, giving prominence to the utterance and arousing emotions in the reader.

# Phonetic expressive means



Rhyme



Euphony



Alliteration



Assonance



Onomatopoeia



Rhythm



# Rhyme

– is the repetition of identical or similar terminal sound combinations of words

Rhyming words are generally placed at a regular distance from each other. In verse they are usually placed at the end of the corresponding lines

## Full rhymes

identity of the vowel  
sound and the  
following consonant  
sound in a stressed  
syllable

*might – right*

*needless – heedless*

## Incomplete rhymes

### vowel rhymes

*flesh – fresh – press*

### consonant rhymes

*worth – forth*

*tale – tool – trouble*

*flung – long*



# Euphony

– is used mainly in poetry to cause emotional or pleasing effect on the reader, to focus the reader's attention on the rhyming words:

*long, long, afterwards in an oak, I found the arrow still unbroken...*

Artistic and pleasing effect is produced. The effect is based on the prevalence of vowels (diphthongs, long vowels), sonorants, voiced consonants. In prose some sound arrangement may produce ironic effect



# Alliteration

– is a deliberate use of similar consonant sounds in close succession at the beginning of successive words

It aims at producing a strong melodical and emotional effect and may consolidate the sense of a phrase or a sentence fulfilling an integrating function.

Sometimes excessive alliteration may distract our attention from the sense:

*breeding, brain and beauty*

*Scrooge is depicted as secret, self-contained and solitary as an oyster*

**Book titles:** *“Posthumous Papers of the Pickwick Club”* (Ch. Dickens).

*“Pride and Prejudice”* (Jane Austin).

*“The Last Leaf”* (O. Henry).

*“The School for Scandal”* (Sheridan)

**Set expressions:**

*now or never;*

*forgive and forget;*

*good as gold;*

*cool as a cucumber*



# Assonance

– is a repetition of vowel sounds in neighboring words:

*“Tell this soul with sorrow laden,  
if within the distant Aiden,  
I shall clasp a sainted maiden,  
whom the angels name Lenore –  
clasp a rare and radiant maiden  
whom the angels name Lenore?...”*

*(Edgar Allan Poe. “The Raven”)*





# Onomatopoeia

– is a deliberate use of words in which sounds produce an imitation of natural sounds



**direct**



**indirect**

# Direct onomatopoeia

refers to the use of separate sounds or words that are associated with the sources of the sound, usually taken from nature (direct reproduction of sounds)

## **Machines and their sounds:**

*honk or beep-beep*  
for the horn of an  
automobile  
*vroom or brum* for  
the engine

## **animal sounds:**

*quack* (duck)  
*bark* (dog)  
*roar* (lion)  
*meow* (cat)  
*oink* (pig)

# Sneezing

- In English: *Achoo!*
- In French: *Atchoum!*
- In German: *Hatschi!*
- In Russian: *Aptschee!*
- In Turkish: *Hapşirmek!*

# Heart beating

- In English:  
*thump, thump*
- In Hindi: *dhadak*
- In Urdu:  
*dhakdhak*
- In Japanese:  
*doki doki*

# Kisses

- In Malayalam *umma*
- In Russian: *chmok*
- In Japanese: *chuu*

# Frog croaking

- In Ancient Greek:  
*brekekekex koax  
koax*
- In English:  
*ribbet ribbet*
- In Russian:  
*qvah qvah*

# Indirect onomatopoeia

- is the echo representation of the meaning of an utterance by the sounds

*“...and the silken sad uncertain  
rustling of each purple curtain thrilled  
me, filled me with fantastic terrors  
never felt before”*

Edgar Allan Poe



# Rhythm

– is a regular alternation of similar or equal units of speech



## the rhythm of poetry

- The unit of poetic rhythm is a syllable and the basis of it is metre
- The factors which intensify the rhythm in prose are: 1. parallel constructions; 2. homogeneous parts; 3. repetitions; 4. more or less equal length of sentences



## the rhythm of prose

- The unit of prosaic rhythm is a syntactical structure
- Prosaic rhythm is changeable and every change signals the new meaning