

Some Practical Assignments for Stylistic Analysis



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Stylistics Connotations in Vocabulary

- *The choice of style may depend*
 1. On particular relations between the participants of communication
 2. On a particular attitude of the speaker to what he says



Stylistic Characteristics of English Vocabulary

- **Bookish (literary)**, which is typical of formal styles (scientific, official, business, publicist)
- **Colloquial**, which is typical of the lower style (informal style of speech, characteristic of oral communication)
- **Neutral**, which can be used in all kinds of style, they are not emotionally coloured and have no additional evaluating elements

Point out stylistic differences within the groups of synonyms

I think — I gather — I presume — I take it — I guess — methinks

Boy — youth — lad — young male person — youngster — teenager

lass — girl — maiden — wench — young female person

nonsense — absurdity — rot — trash

legs — pins — lower extremities

Silence, please! — Stop talking! — Shut your trap!

Wait! — Hold on! — Stand by!

You are — thou art

breathe in — inhale — gasp

friend — comrade — pal — buddy — acquaintance

Hurry up! — Move on! — Hasten your step!

Colloquial vocabulary

- **The Colloquial Style** is the style of informal, friendly oral communication.
- Colloquial speech is characterized by the frequent use of words with a *broad meaning*: speakers tend to use a small group of words in quite different meanings, whereas in a formal style every word is to be used in a specific and clear meaning.

Paraphrase so as to show the different uses of the verb “to do”

1) Have you done your homework? 2) I have to do a sum.
3) Will you please do the room? 4) Who does the cooking in your family? 5) Go and do your teeth! 6) I like the way you do your hair. 7) They do fish very well in this restaurant. 8) What subjects do you do at your University? 9) I did some music in my childhood. 10) This car can do 80 miles an hour. 11) What do you do for a living? 12) You did right to tell me about it. 13) That won't do. 14) Will this sum do for you? 15) It did me good. 16) He is doing well at school. 17) How are you doing? 18) He was up and doing at five in the morning. 19) What is doing here? 20) If you say it again, I'll do you! 21) Can we do Oxford in three days? 22) He does Ronald Reagan very well.

Figures of Speech

- Metaphor
- Simile
- Metonymy
- Zeugma
- Oxymoron
- Hyperbole and Litotes
- Epithet
- Periphrasis
- Irony
- Antonomasia
- Euphemisms
- Allegory
- Allusion
- Rhetorical questions

Structural Stylistic Devices

- Lexical Repetition is often used to increase the degree of emotion

Example: *Alone, alone, all, all alone*

Alone on a wide, wide sea

- Anaphora is a repetition of the same elements at the beginning of some sentences

Example: *My life is my purpose*

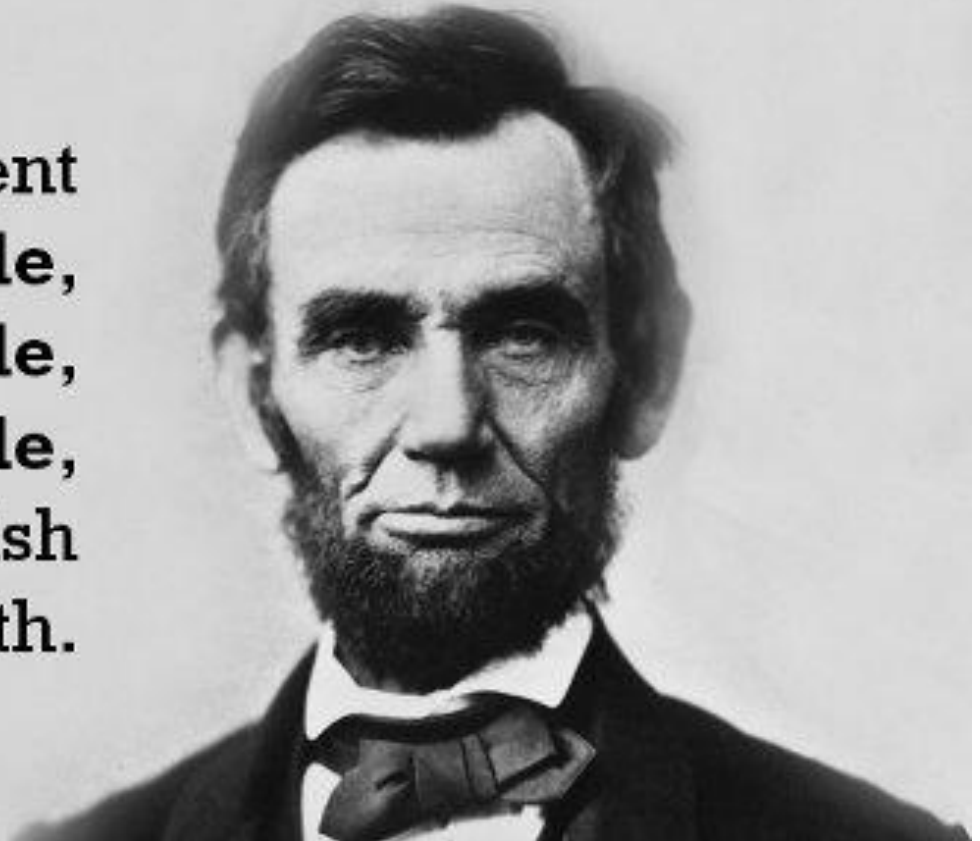
My life is my goal.

My life is my inspiration

Epiphora

One of the most famous examples of epiphora is from Abraham Lincoln's [Gettysburg Address](#), November 19, 1863:

... that government
of **the people**,
by **the people**,
for **the people**,
shall not perish
from the earth.



The other example of the Epiphora

- **Barack Obama**, speech after New Hampshire primary loss, January 8, 2008:
- For when we have faced down impossible odds, when we've been told we're not ready or that we shouldn't try or that we can't, generations of Americans have responded with a simple creed that sums up the spirit of a people: **Yes, we can. Yes, we can. Yes, we can.**
- It was a creed written into the founding documents that declared the destiny of a nation: **Yes, we can.**
- It was whispered by slaves and abolitionists as they blazed a trail towards freedom through the darkest of nights: **Yes, we can.**
- It was sung by immigrants as they struck out from distant shores and pioneers who pushed westward against an unforgiving wilderness: **Yes, we can.**

Syntactic parallelism

- This method adds balance and rhythm to sentences giving ideas a smoother flow and thus can be persuasive because of the repetition it employs.
- For example, *“Alice ran into the room, into the garden, and into our hearts.”* We see the repetition of a phrase that not only gives the sentence a balance but rhythm and flow as well. This repetition can also occur in similar structured clauses e.g. *“Whenever you need me, wherever you need me, I will be there for you.”*
- ***One may see by their footprints that they have not walked arm in arm; that they have not walked in a straight track, and that they have walked in a moody humour.***

Climax

- *AGO: My friend is dead,
'Tis done at your request. But let her live.
OTHELLO: Damn her, lewd minx! Oh, damn her,
damn her!
Come, go with me apart. I will withdraw
To furnish me with some swift means of death
For the fair devil. Now art thou my lieutenant.*
(*Othello* by William Shakespeare)

There is some debate over the climax in Shakespeare's tragedy *Othello*. Some argue that the real climax of the play occurs when Othello murders his wife Desdemona due to jealousy. And, indeed, there's no going back from this action. Only after Othello murders Desdemona does he realize her innocence, and of course there's nothing he can do. **However, the above excerpt is the psychological climax of the play. Iago has subtly convinced Othello of Desdemona's infidelity, and here Othello swears to kill her. Nothing after this point will convince him otherwise.**

Anticlimax

OTHELLO

Well, hurry up and confess. Be quick about it.
I'll wait over here.
I don't want to kill you before you've readied your soul.
No, I don't want to send your soul to hell when I kill you....

DESEMONA

Send me away, my lord, but don't kill me....

OTHELLO

It's too late....
(*Othello* by William [Shakespeare](#))

This is one of the narrative anti-climax examples from Shakespeare's works. Here, a sudden transformation can be seen, when Othello stabs Desdemona. It is creating a disappointing and thrilling effect in the end.

Inversion Definition

Inversion, also known as anastrophe, is a literary technique in which the normal order of words is reversed in order to achieve a particular effect of emphasis or meter.

Inversion Techniques

Inversion is achieved by doing the following:

- Placing an adjective after the noun it qualifies e.g. the soldier strong
- Placing a verb before its subject e.g. shouts the policeman
- Placing a noun before its preposition e.g. worlds between

Ellipsis

- Ellipsis is the omission of a word or series of words. There are two slightly different definitions of ellipsis which are pertinent to literature. The first definition of ellipsis is the commonly used series of three dots, which can be placed at the beginning, in the middle, or at the end of a sentence or clause. These three dots can stand in for whole sections of text that are omitted that do not change the overall meaning. The dots can also indicate a mysterious or unfinished thought, a leading sentence, or a pause or silence. This punctuation is also referred to as a suspension point, points of ellipsis, periods of ellipsis, or in speech may be called, “dot-dot-dot.”
- The other definition of ellipsis is a linguistically appropriate omission of words that are mutually understood and thus unnecessary. This type of ellipsis is usually used where the words omitted would be redundant. For example, a person might say, “I went to the mall on Monday, and she on Sunday.” A contextually identical sentence would be “I went to the mall on Monday, and she went to the mall on Sunday.” The words “to the mall” are omitted because they are understood from the context what the speaker is referring to.

Examples of Ellipsis

- The vast flapping sheet flattened itself out, and each shove of the brush revealed fresh legs, hoops, horses, glistening reds and blues, beautifully smooth, until half the wall was covered with the advertisement of a circus; a hundred horsemen, twenty performing seals, lions, tigers...Craning forwards, for she was short-sighted, she read it out... “will visit this town,” she read.
- A poor boy... No father, no mother, no any one
- So...what happened?
 - Um...I’m not sure that’s true.
 - ...sure.
 - You went to the restaurant. And...?
 - But I thought we were meeting on Tuesday...?

Antithesis Definition

- Antithesis, literal meaning opposite, is a rhetorical device in which two opposite ideas are put together in a sentence to achieve a contrasting effect.

Example:

“Setting foot on the moon may be a small step for a man but a giant step for mankind.”

Aposiopesis

- Aposiopesis is a rhetorical device that can be defined as a figure of speech in which the speaker or writer breaks off abruptly and leaves the statement incomplete, as if the speaker is not willing to state what is present in his mind due to being overcome by passion, excitement or fear. In a piece of literature, it means to leave a sentence unfinished so that the reader could determine his own meanings.

Example: *“All quiet on Howth now. The distant hills seem.
Where we. The rhododendrons. I am **a fool perhaps**, He gets
the plums, and I the plumstones. **Where I come in.**”*
(by James Joyce)

In the following passage, Joyce deliberately paused twice in order to create dramatic effect. The idea is left unfinished. This break also gives an impression of reluctance to continue. The unfinished thoughts are shown in bold.

Phonetic Expressive Means and Devices

Alliteration Definition

Alliteration is derived from Latin's "*Latira*". It means "letters of alphabet". It is a stylistic device in which a number of words, having the same first consonant sound.

Example: *The fair breeze blew, the white foam flew,
The furrow followed free;
We were the first that ever burst
Into that silent sea."*

In the above lines we see alliteration ("b", "f" and "s") in the phrases "breeze blew", "foam flew", "furrow followed", and "silent sea".

Assonance Definition

- Assonance takes place when two or more words close to one another repeat the same vowel sound but start with different consonant sounds.
- “*Men sell the wedding bells.*”

Onomatopoeia

- Onomatopoeia is a phonetic sound device, such as sound imitation. It denotes some fact/phenomenon by imitating real sounding.

Example:

*The moan of doves in immemorial elms,
And murmuring of innumerable bees*

Phonetic devices

Phonetic devices could be used as a mean of expressing stylistic peculiarities.

- Onomatopoeia

- Alliteration

- Assonance

- Rhyme

Onomatopoeia

A kind of sound imitation. It makes texts more connotative and expressive. Sounding of words call acoustic impressions.

Example: *“Sh-sh”, he said. “But I`m whispering!”*
This continual shushing annoyed him.

Alliteration

Repeating the same consonants at the beginning or in the middle of words. Sounds are connected with the content. It makes texts more expressive and musically-sounding.

Example: *Doubting, dreaming dreams no mortals ever dared to dream before*

Assonance

Repeating the same/similar vowels to make the intonation sound persistent.

Example: *Dreadful young creatures – squealing and squawking.*

Rhyme

It makes the perception of poetical texts easier.

- Adjacent (aa, bb);
- Cross (ab,ab)
- Girding (ab,ba)