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The figurative language refers to the color we use to amplify our writing. He takes the usual statements and dresses him in an evocative dress. He gently hints at something without stating it directly. Figurative language is a way to engage your readers by guiding them through your writing with a more creative tone. While it is often discussed how many types of figurative language there are, it is safe to say there are at least five major categories. These are: metaphors, analogies, impersonation, hyperbole and symbolism. Every time your letter goes beyond the actual meanings of your words, you use figurative language. This allows the reader to gain a new understanding of your work. In this article, we'll highlight examples of the five main branches of the figurative tree, but in fact, it's just a scratching surface. There are many other literary devices that color our writing, including: alliteration, idioms, irony, onomatopoeia, oxymoron, puns and synecdoche. One of the best ways to understand the concept of a figurative language is to see it in action. Here are a few examples: This coffee shop is an ice box! No, no, no. She drowns in a sea of grief. No, no, no. She's as happy as a clam. I move fast like a cheetah on the Serengeti. (similar) The Sea pounded in anger on the ships, not wanting to endure another battle. The sky misses the sun at night. I told you to clean your room a million times! (hyperbole) Her head was spinning from all the new information. She lived her life in chains. (symbolism) When she saw a pigeon soar high above her house, she knew the worst was over. (Symbolism) Now, let's have some more fun with the figurative language you're likely to come across in your daily readings. Let's dive deeper into the top five categories. We will review their place in your writing, and give a few examples to paint a better picture for you. Metaphor When you use a metaphor, you make a statement that doesn't make sense literally. For example, Time is a thief. Time isn't really stealing from you, but it conveys the idea that hours or days sometimes seem to slip through without you noticing. Metaphors only make sense when the similarities between the two compared things are obvious or readers understand the connection between the two words. Examples include: The World of My Oyster. You're a potato on the couch. Time is money. He has a heart of stone. America is a melting pot. You're my sunshine. Simile A simile also compares two things. However, similes use words like or like. Examples include: Busy as a bee. Clean as a whistle. Brave as a lion. The tall girl stood out like a sore finger. It was as easy as shooting a fish in a barrel. My mouth was as dry as a bone. They fought like cats and dogs. that the movie was like watching grass grow. metaphors vs similes View similes View and reality in writing. Here are some examples: burning wood was plundered and cracked. The sounds of nature are all around us. Listen to croak, coo, buzz, whirr, whirr, hum, charlatan, meow, oink, and tweet. Attract Reader Regardless of the word you use, figurative language can make you look at the world in a different way; it can enhance your senses, add expression and accent, and help you feel like you are having the same experience as the author. With each brush stroke on the canvas, the artist adds depth to his masterpiece. The figurative language adds the same depth to our writing. So instead of hearing the wind blowing against your window tonight, you might hear a whisper of wind as it screams for you like a lover at night (impersonation and simultaneously, respectively). This blank page you're looking at is actually a blank canvas. It's up to you to add texture and depth. Fun layering literary devices, but remember not to go overboard with them! Figurative language: Toast jumps out of a toaster hyperbole impersonation As nouns the difference between hyperbole and impersonation is that hyperbole is (incalculable) extreme exaggeration or exaggeration; especially since the literary or rhetorical device in impersonation is a person, a thing or a name, symbolizing a certain quality or idea; incarnation or example. (en noun) (incalculable) Extraordinary exaggeration or exaggeration; especially as a literary or rhetorical device. (incalculable) Deliberate exaggeration. An example or example of this method. (calculated, outdated) Hyperbole. Terms, 1600s1602, 1800s1837 1841 1843, 1900s1910, 2000s-2001 - i 3 : ... and when he speaks 'Tis like a call-ely-mail; with the terms unsquar'd, which, with the tongue roaring Typhon dropp'd, seemingly hyperbole . The question 1837 - The question: The Great Staircase, however, could have been called, without much hyperbole, a feature of grandeur and splendor. 1841 - 28: No - no - good Sumah, interrupted by Deerslayer, whose love for the truth was too indomitable to listen to such hyperbole with patience. The question 1843 - The question: The Honorary Gentleman makes us hear a lot of this disgusting rhetoric; and then he asks why, if the secretaries nizam and King Oude use all these tropes and hyperboles, Lord Ellenborough should not engage in the same eloquence? c.1910 - The question: Of course, the hymn came to us from somewhere else, but I do not know where; and the average native of our village firmly believes that he is indigenous to our own land, which he can not be if he deals with hyperbole, for the nearest approach to the river in our area is a rustic pond. 2001 - Tom Bentley, Daniel Steedman Jones, Moral Universe: The age-old problem, especially for the BBC, is to reconcile the hyperbole-driven agenda of newspapers with a demand for balance that is crucial to public service credentials. mayosis and understatement (Wikipedia) (Wikipedia) A person, a thing or a name, personifying a certain quality or idea; incarnation or example. Adolf Hitler was the embodiment of anti-Semitism. A figure of speech in which an inanimate object or idea is given human qualities. The writer used impersonation to convey her ideas. The artistic representation of the abstract quality of man the Dark Reaper is the embodiment of death. The figurative language refers to the color we use to amplify our writing. He takes the usual statements and dresses him in an evocative dress. He gently hints at something without stating it directly. Figurative language is a way to engage your readers by guiding them through your writing with a more creative tone. One of the best ways to understand the concept of a figurative language there are, it is safe to say there are at least five major categories. These are: metaphors, analogies, impersonation, hyperbole and symbolism. Every time your letter goes beyond the actual meanings of your words, you use figurative language. This allows the reader to gain a new understanding of your work. 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(Symbolism) Now, let's have some more fun with the figurative language you're likely to come across in your daily readings. Let's dive deeper into the top five categories. We will review their place in your writing, and give a few examples to paint a better picture for you. Metaphor When you use a metaphor, you make a statement that doesn't make sense literally. For example, Time is a thief. Time isn't really stealing from you, but it conveys the idea that hours or days sometimes seem to slip through without you noticing. Metaphors only make sense when the similarities between the two compared things are obvious or readers understand the connection between the two words. Examples include: The World of My Oyster. You're a potato on the couch. Time is money. U stone heart. America is a melting pot. You're my mine. compares two things. However, similes use words like or like. Examples include: Busy as a bee. Clean as a whistle. Brave as a lion. The tall girl stood out like a sore finger. It was as easy as shooting a fish in a barrel. My mouth was as dry as a bone. They fought like cats and dogs. Watching that movie was like watching grass grow. metaphors vs. similes View - Download PDF Personification Personification gives human characteristics to inanimate objects, animals or ideas. It can really affect the way the reader imagines things. The impersonation is often used in poetry, fiction and children's rhymes. Examples include: Opportunity knocked on his door. The sun greeted me this morning. The sky was full of dancing stars. The vines weaved their tender fingers together. The radio suddenly stopped singing and staring at me. The sun was playing hide-and-peek with clouds. Hyperbole Hyperbole is an outrageous exaggeration that highlights the point. This tends to be funny or funny. Hyperbole adds color and depth to the character. Examples include: You snore louder than a freight train! It's a slow burg. I spent a couple of weeks there once. She's so stupid she thinks Taco Bell is a Mexican phone company. I had to walk 15 miles to school in the snow, uphill, barefoot. You could have knocked me over with your pen. Symbolism Symbolism arises when a word has its meaning, but is used to represent something completely different. Examples in everyday life include: Using the image of the American flag to represent patriotism and love for their country. Incorporating a red rose in writing to symbolize love. Using apple pie to represent the traditional American way of life. Using a board to represent education. Incorporating black in writing as a symbol of evil or death. Using an anemov to represent wisdom. Symbolism examples in literature include: The whole world is a stage, and all men and women are just players. They have exits and entrances, and one person at one time plays a lot of parts. - As you like it, the William Shakespeare scene here symbolizes the world and the players represent the man. My love for Linton is like foliage in the woods. Time will change it; I know very well how winter changes trees. My love for Heathcliff resembles the eternal cliffs under a source of little visible delight, but necessary. - Wuthering Heights, Emily Bronte Bronte uses images of the natural world to symbolize wildlife and the deep feelings of her characters. Don't forget the sound device so that covers the big five. But, we would be remiss if we briefly didn't touch some literary sound devices that can hang with the best comparisons and metaphors. Alliteration Alliteration is sound device. This is a repetition of the first consonant sounds in a few words. Examples include: We're up wide-eyed, and wondering while we wait for others bought butter, but the butter was bitter, so Betty bought the best butter to make the bitter butter better. Onomatopoeia Onomatopoeia is also a sound device where words sound like their meaning, or mimic sounds. They add a level of fun and reality to writing. Here are some examples: burning wood was plundered and cracked. The sounds of nature are all around us. Listen to croaking, coo, buzz, whirr, whistling, buzz, charlatan, meowing, oink, and tweet. Attract Reader Regardless of the word you use, figurative language can make you look at the world in a different way; it can enhance your senses, add expression and accent, and help you feel like you are having the same experience as the author. With each brush stroke on the canvas, the artist adds depth to his masterpiece. The figurative language adds the same depth to our writing. So instead of hearing the wind blowing against your window tonight, you might hear a whisper of wind as it screams for you like a lover at night (impersonation and simultaneously, respectively). This blank page you're looking at is actually a blank canvas. It's up to you to add texture and depth. Fun layering literary devices, but remember not to go overboard with them! 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