SD MAKING USE OF THE MEANING OF LANGUAGE UNIT (FIGURES OF SPEECH)

1. Aim:

✔ To distinguish EM and SD before analyzing modern discourse texts.

  2. Objectives:

✔ To discuss the notion of EM and SD providing with examples.

✔ To investigate EM and SD according to the lexical, syntactical, phonetic levels.

METAPHOR

Metaphor denotes a transference of meaning based on resemblance, in other words, on a convert comparison:

He is not a man, he is a machine;

What an ass you are!;

Not only objects can be compared in a metaphor, but also phenomena, actions or qualities:

Some books are to be tasted, others swallowed, and some few to chewed and digested (F.Bakon)

SIMILE

This is a comparison creating a vivid image due to the fact that the object with which we compare is well-known as an example of the quality in question. Here conjunction "as" is used:

(as) beautiful as a rose;
Stupid as an ass;
Fat as a pig;

The characteristic on the basis of which the comparison is made, may only be implied, not named, as when the preposition "like" is used:

*to drink **like a fish** (=very much)*
*Oh, my love is **like a red, red rose***
That`s newly sprung in June. (Burns)

METONYMY

Metonymy denotes a transference of meaning which is based on contiguity of notions, not on resemblance. In cases of metonymy, the name of one object is used instead of another, closely connected with it.

Washington and *London* agree on most issues;

*He was followed into the room by **a pair of heavy boots***;

ZEUGMA

This is a SD that plays upon two different meanings of the word-the direct and the figurative meanings, thus creating a pun.

*A leopard changes his **spots**, as often as he goes from one **spot** to another* (spot=1. пятно; 2.место).

*The importance of being **Earnest** (1.name; 2.serious).*
(O.Wilde`s comedy)

OXYMORON

This is a device which combines, in one phrase, two words (usually: noun+adjective) whose meanings are opposite and incompatible:
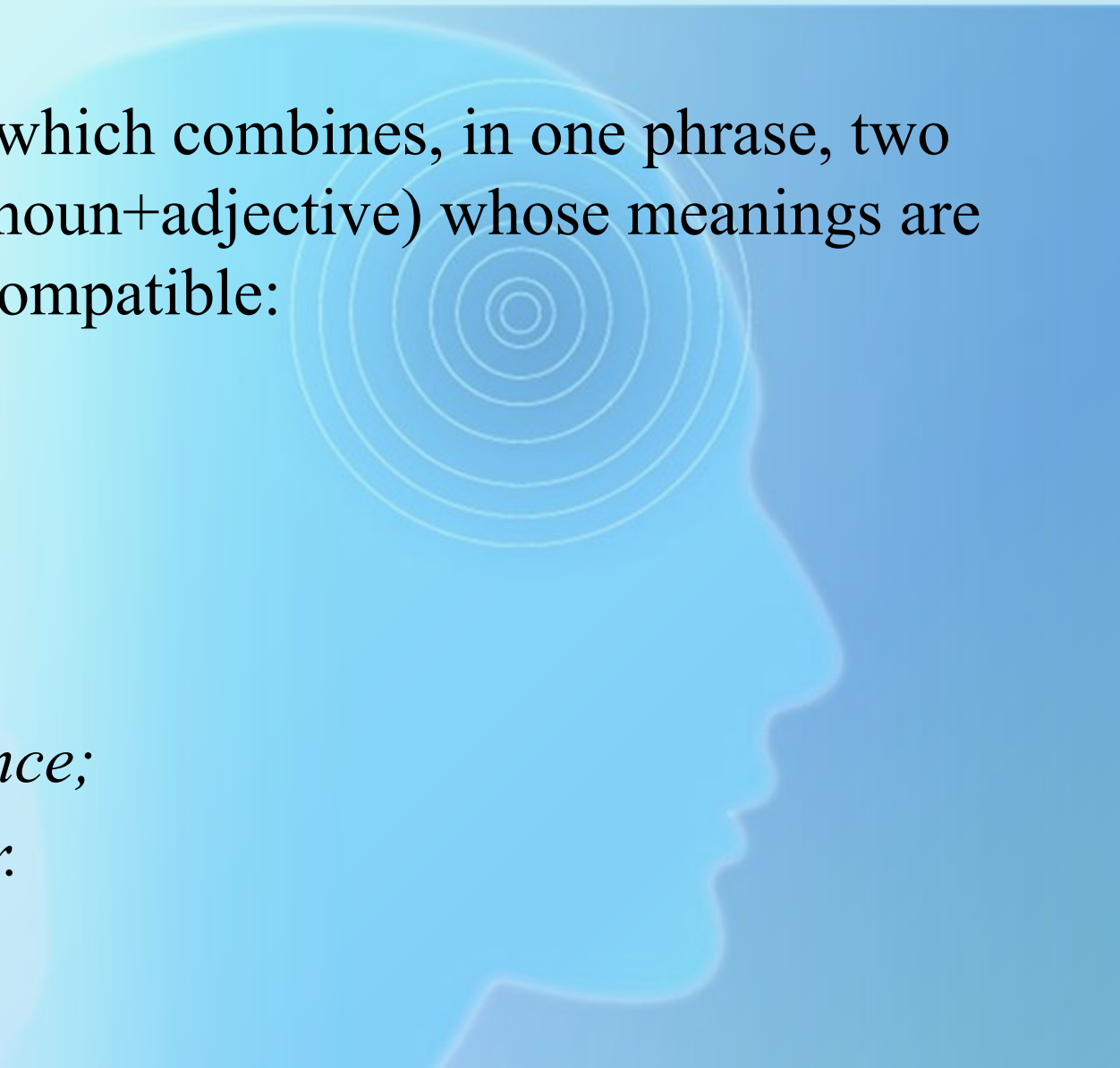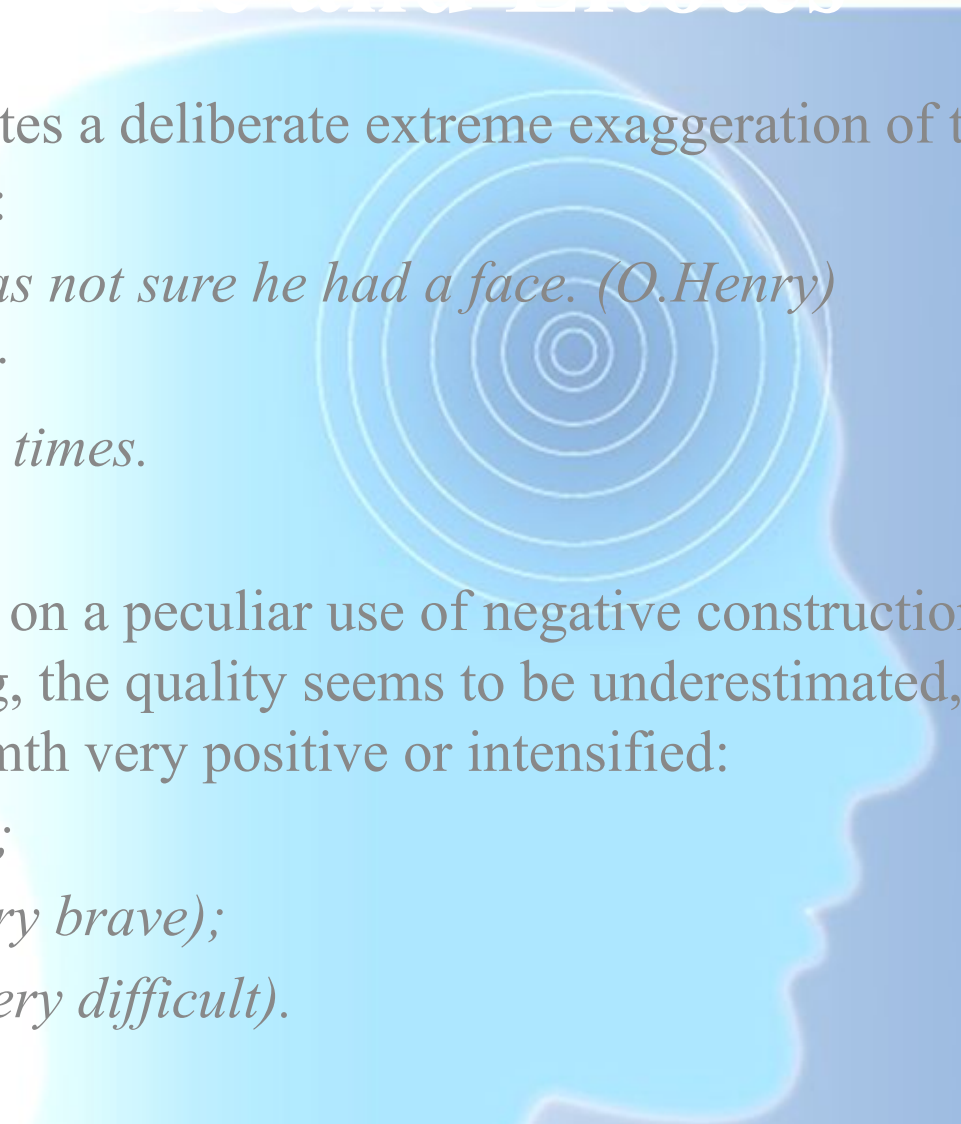
a living corpse;

sweet sorrow;

a nice rascal;

awfully nice;

a deafening silence;

a low skyscraper.

Hyperbole denotes a deliberate extreme exaggeration of the quality of the object:

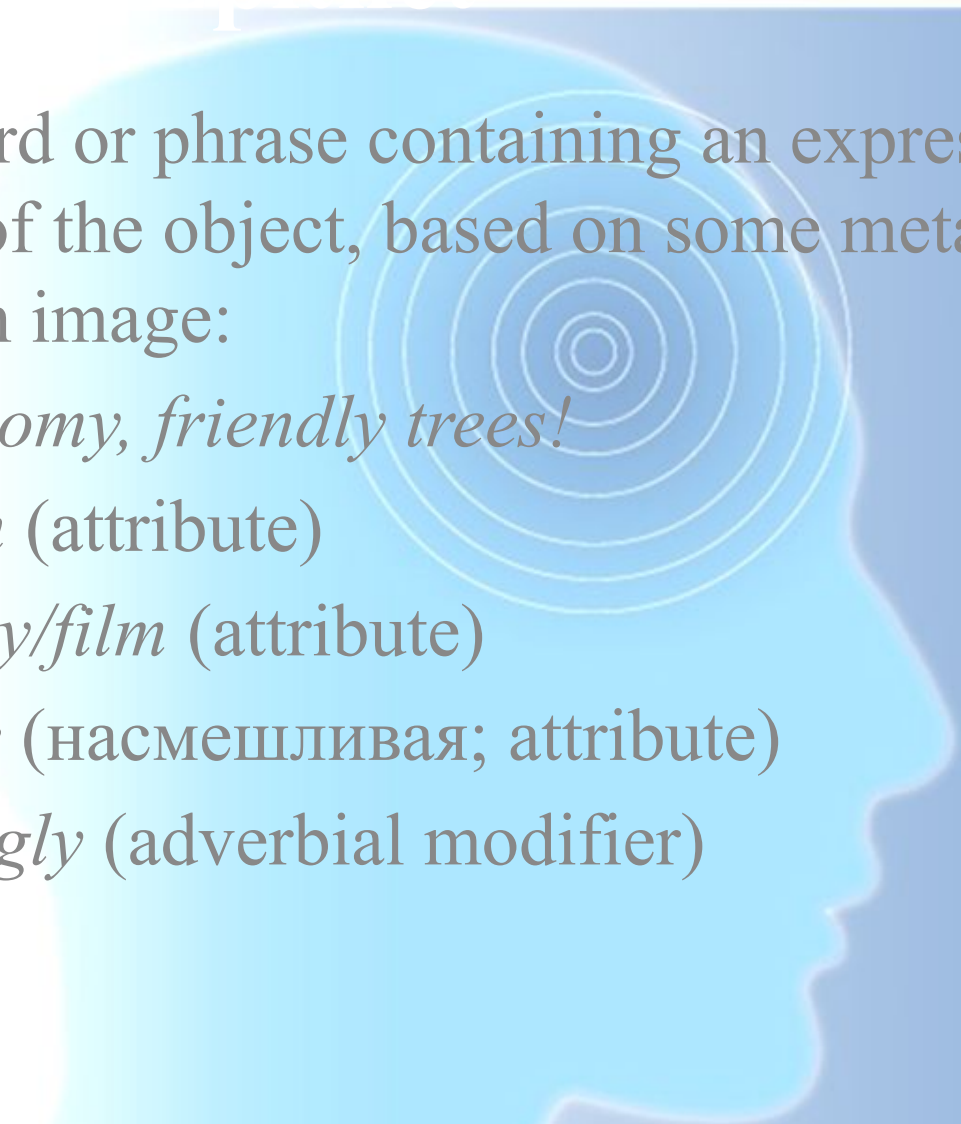*He was tall that I was not sure he had a face. (O.Henry)*

A thousand pardons;

I`ve told you million times.

Litotes is a based on a peculiar use of negative constructions in the positive meaning, the quality seems to be underestimated, but in fact it is shown as smth very positive or intensified:

Not bad (very good);

He is no coward (very brave);

It is not easy task (very difficult).

This is a word or phrase containing an expressive characteristic of the object, based on some metaphor and creating an image:

O dreamy, gloomy, friendly trees!

A silvery laugh (attribute)

A thrilling story/film (attribute)

A cutting smile (насмешливая; attribute)

To smile cuttingly (adverbial modifier)

This is a device by which a longer phrase is used instead of a shorter and plainer one; it is a case of circumlocution, which is used in literary descriptions for greater expressiveness:

The little boy has been deprived of what can never be replaced (Dickens) (deprived of his mother)

An addition to the little party now made its appearance (another person came in)
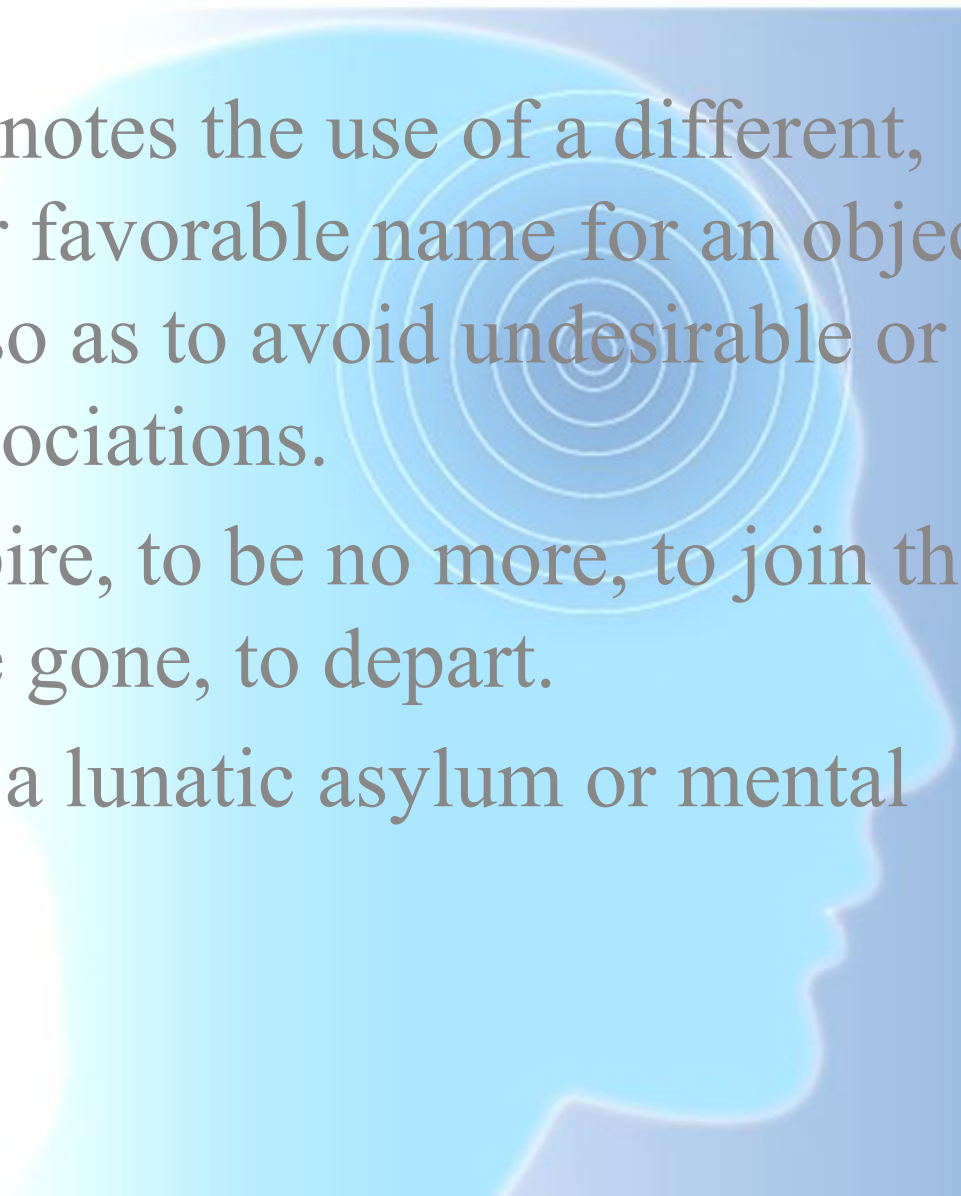
God=Our Lord, Goodness, Heavens.

This device consists in the use of proper names instead of a common name or vice versa. Thus we may use a description instead of a person`s name, creating a kind of nickname:

Mister know-all (a character of Maugham)

He is the Napoleon of crime;

You are a real Cicero; (a great orator);

This term denotes the use of a different, more gentle or favorable name for an object or phenomenon so as to avoid undesirable or unpleasant associations.

to die =to expire, to be no more, to join the majority, to be gone, to depart.

a madhouse= a lunatic asylum or mental hospital.

SEMINAR QUESTIONS

1. What is a trite metaphor?
2. Speak on the difference of metaphor and simile.
3. What is synecdoche and speak about use of metonymy.
4. Explain the decomposition of a set-phrase in zeugma.
5. What is pun? Provide with examples.
6. What are syntactic and fixed epithets?
7. Give explanations and definitions on Allegory, Allusion, Irony and Rhetorical Questions. Provide with examples.

LITERATURE

1. I.R. Galperin Stylistics Moscow 1997
2. В.В. Гуревич English Stylistics Москва 2011г.