


LEXICAL STYLISTIC DEVICES

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Simile

Сравнение



Simile is an image-forming stylistic device in which **two** unlike things are explicitly compared by the use of **conjunctions *like, as, as if, as though*** or **verbs *to resemble, to bear a resemblance to, to remind of, to have a look of*** etc.

My **heart** is *like* a **singing bird** (Rossetti).

heart



singing bird




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Simile

X is like Y

X is similar to Y



“O my Luve’s like a red, red rose
That’s newly sprung in June;
O my Luve’s like the melodie
That’s sweetly played in tune.”

Robert Burns

A simile has different forms.

- A simile can be a simple sentence:

*She was like a tigress
ready to jump at me.*

*He rolled to the front like
a brunette polar bear,
and shook Platt's hand.*

- Or a complex sentence:

*She looked at him as
uncomprehendingly as
a mouse might look at
a gravestone (O'Brian)*

It can also be a compound word:




Dog-like

hungry-looking


Sustained (extended) simile

A simile in which the author gives a detailed description of an imaginary situation, enlarging the simile.



They eased me through a door as if I were a millionaire invalid with four days to live, and who hadn't as yet paid his doctor's bill.


(Chase)



A little after midnight Dolores Lane came in and stood holding a microphone the way a drowning man hangs on to a lifebelt.

(Chase)

Similes which have become so frequent in use, which are used as idiomatic expressions in everyday phrases are called ***trite similes***:



as mad as a march hare, as cool as a cucumber, as blind as a bat, as proud as a peacock, as bright as a button etc, as drunk as a lord, to fit like a glove, to smoke like a chimney etc.

It is important to distinguish between:

a simile

- She sings like nightingale.
- Our agricultural reform is as slow as a snail.

a logical comparison

- She sings like a professional singer.
- The reforms are as slow as they were last year.


has no stylistic value!

Comment on the use of similes.

The ruby shall be redder than a red rose, and the sapphire shall be as blue as the great sea. (*Wilde*)


Comment on the use of similes.

*And a billion monarch butterflies in
June rising up like celebrations tossed
on parades to the sea. (Ray
Bradbury)*




“The very mystery of him excited her curiosity like a door that had neither lock nor key.”

Gone With The Wind by Margaret Mitchell.




It was as though an iron fist had
clenched suddenly around Harry's
heart. (*J.K. Rowling*)

Huddled in her grey fur against the sofa cushions, she had a strange resemblance to a captive owl, bunched in its soft feathers against the wires of a cage.
(Galsworthy)



It was a glorious morning, late spring or early summer, as you care to take it. when the dainty sheen of grass and leaf is blushing to a deeper green: and the year seems like a fair young maid trembling with strange, wakening pulses on the brink of womanhood. *(Jerome K. Jerome)*




“Time has not stood still. It has washed over me, washed me away, as if I’m nothing more than a woman of sand, left by a careless child too near the water.”

The Handmaid’s Tale by Margaret Atwood.



Metaphor


Metaphor is expressive renaming on the basis of similarity of two objects.



The similarity can concern any feature (colour, shape, character of motion, speed, value etc.) – the reader should search in his mind to find features in common between these objects.

The rain came down in long knitting needles.


Enid Bagnold, National Velvet



The last colours of sunset, green and gold like the rice, were dripping over the edge of the flat world...

(Graham Greene)

Metaphors can also be trite (dead) or fresh (original).



*A flight of imagination, to burn with desire,
the apple of one's pie, to fish for compliments
etc.*

*What's biting her, I wonder? (Chase)
(trite metaphors)*

It is important to distinguish between:

A simile


- Both objects are named
- Formal connecting words

He is as stubborn as a mule.

A metaphor

- Only one object is named
- No connecting words

He is a mule.



Sustained metaphors - a chain of metaphors containing the central image which is followed by another, the logical development of the first element.

"In November a cold, unseen stranger, whom the doctors called Pneumonia, stalked about the colony, touching one here and there with his icy fingers. Over on the east side this ravager strode boldly, smiting his victims by scores... Mr. Pneumonia was not what you would call a chivalric old gentleman..."

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Personification

Personification



Personification is a type of metaphor when human qualities are attributed to lifeless objects (inanimate concrete nouns or abstract notions).

The long arm of the law will catch him at the end.

Some formal signs can signal personification:



- 1) The use of pronouns he or she with lifeless things;
- 2) Words which express personified notion can begin with capital letters;
- 3) Direct address can be used.


"Then Night, like some great loving mother, gently lays her hand on our fevered head, and turns our little tear-stained face up to hers, and smiles, and, though she does not speak, we know what she would say and lay our hot, flushed cheek against her bosom and the pain is gone."

○ stretch thy reign, fair Peace!


Pope

Comment on the use of metaphors.


We talked and talked and talked,
easily, sympathetically, wedding her
experience with my articulation.
(John Barth)




“Let us be grateful to people who make us happy, they are the charming gardeners who make our souls blossom.” *Marcel Proust*




“All the world’s a stage, and all
the men and women merely
players.” –*William Shakespeare*



**“Books are the mirrors
of the soul.” – Virginia
Woolf**




“But it is just two lovers, holding hands
and in a hurry to reach their car, their
locked hands a starfish leaping through
the dark.” – John Updike




"In the slanting beams that streamed through the open window the dust danced and was golden," (O. Wilde)

Metonymy


Метонимия



Metonymy is based not on
identification as a metaphor, but on
some connection between two concepts.



Metonymy is a transfer of a name of one object to another object which is connected to the first, related to it or is a part of it (transfer by contiguity).



Metaphor is a transfer by **similarity**,
while **metonymy** is a transfer by
contiguity!



‘The round game table was boisterous
and happy.’ (Dickens)

The associations of connection may be of different type:

- a) Object – material it is made of;
- b) An item of clothing – a person wearing it;
- c) A container – what is inside;
- d) A place and the people who occupy this place;
- e) A part of the body – a person;
- f) A process – its result;
- g) A name of a tool – a name of an action performed by this tool or the doer of the action;
- h) Symbol – the object symbolized etc.

Examples of trite metonymy from everyday speech



The kettle is boiling.

“Will you have another cup?”


The gallery applauded.

The pen is mightier than the sword.


I am fond of Dickens.

He has a Picasso in his mansion.

"Blue suit grinned, might even have winked. But big nose in the grey suit still stared." (*Priestley*)



"As the sword is the worst argument that can be used, so should it be the last." (Byron)



"The camp, the pulpit and
the law For rich men's sons
are free." (Shelley)

"We smiled at each other, but we didn't speak because there were cars all around us." (*Chase*)

"Miss Tox's hand trembled as she slipped it through Mr. Dombey's arm, and felt herself escorted up the steps, preceded by a cocked hat and a Babylonian collar." (Dickens)

"Then they came in. Two of them, a man with long fair moustaches and a silent dark man...

Definitely, the moustache and I had nothing in common." (Doris Lessing, "Retreat to Innocence").

He made his way through
the perfume and
conversation. (I. Show)

Let us turn swords into ploughs.

For there can live no hatred
in thine eye (W.
Shakespeare. Sonnet XCIII)