Figurative Words and it's Types in English

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Abstract: This article is about one linguistic term "Figurative words". In this article , is given what is a figurative word itself, its classification and most used types of figurative words. Figurative words is tool of figurative words. Figurative language is language that is used in ways that differ from the literal connotations and definitions of individual words or phrases. You can see full definition of figurative language and word, its classification and most used types.

Key words: figurative, language, classification, type, meaning.

Figurative language is used to imply concepts and meanings that are more complicated than those that can be conveyed with literal Imagery – Imagery is broadly defined, usually in terms of writing, as the descriptive language used by an author to provide an image in the reader's mind, appealing to one of the five senses.

Figurative language is pervasive. We read it in poems, such as "O my love's like the melody that's sweetly played in tune," in Robert Burns's "Red, Red Rose". We hear it in song lyrics, such as "Despite all my rage, I'm still just a rat in a cage," in Smashing Pumpkins' "The World is a Vampire". We read it in newspaper headlines, such as Newsweek's "Obama is trailing with older voters," prior to the 2008 presidential election. Most of all, we use it in everyday conversations, in expressions such as "I'm feeling down today," "Business is picking up," or "Don't get ahead of yourself"[9, 2].

The term figurative language was often used to characterize expressions that substantially differ from everyday literal linguistic forms. Figurative expressions were viewed as statements that were embellished by metaphor, simile, metonymy, and other tropes to make a message more entertaining or captivating.

Basically, figurative language is every time you stretch the actual that means of words for effect, whether to sound artistic, make a joke, or speak greater actually and engagingly. Figurative language is a common technique in narrative writing, the place the author strives to make emotional connections with the reader. figurative language helps make writing and speeches more engaging and amusing. The reader or listener has to think about the words a little more, as if deciphering a riddle, which means they're actively participating.

Another use of figurative language is to help simplify complex ideas. Scientists might use it to explain the more complicated aspects of their research that a general audience might not understand. Figurative language is phrasing that goes beyond the literal meaning of words to get a message or point across. This definition dates back to the mid-nineteenth century and comes from the Old French word "figuratif," meaning "metaphorical.

It can be concluded that figurative language is languages that are styled using a range of particular language. And can be identified through the use of language that deviates from daily languages

Figurative language and figurative words are classified according to four main category in English. 1.Figure of Comparison. 2.Figure of Contradiction. 3.Figure of Correlation. 4.Figure of Repetition.

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But different scholars divided figurative word and expression in different categories. According to Tarigan states that figurative language can be categorized into four groups, those are:

1. Figure of comparison divided into five groups, those are: simile, metaphor, personification, allegory, and antithesis.

2. Figure of contradiction divided into seven groups, those are: hyperbole, litotes, irony, oxymoron, paronomasia, paralysis, and zeugma.

3. Figure of correlation divided into seven groups, those are: metonymy, synecdoche, allusion, euphemism, ellipsis, inversion, and gradation.

4. Figure of Repetition divided into four groups, those are: alliteration, antanaclasys, chiasmus, and repetition.

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1. Figure of comparison divided into four groups, those are: simile, metaphor, personification, allegory.

2. Figure of Opposition divided into five groups, those are: hyperbole, litotes, irony, sarcasm, oxymoron.

3. Figure of correlation divided into five groups, those are: metonymy, synecdoche, allusion, ellipsis, inverse.

4. Figure of repetition divided into nine groups, those are: pleonasm, climax, anticlimax, rhetorical, alliteration, antanaclasis, repetition, parallelism, and chiasmus [3, 4-6].

As it is seen, in English figurative words are divided into four main category according their meaning and their object in sentences. For example, metaphor and simile are used to describe for comparing two items.

- He was courageous as a lion.
- Her beauty is like a rose.
- The test was a breeze for him.
- You are everything to me.

But all figurative words are not used actively in daily life conservation. Some of them are almost not used in real life except literary words. For example litotes and zeugma are never used in daily life.

For this reason, figurative words are divided into two group according to their activeness.

1. Active used figurative words in conversation.

2. Passive used figurative words in daily life.

In below, we see kinds of active used figurative words:

Simile is widely recognized as a rhetorical figure whereby an author uses a comparison which is literally, often uninformatively true to achieve effects which are usually classed as 'figurative'. A simile is a discern of speech that without delay compares two things. Similes vary from other metaphors by highlighting the similarities between two things the usage of comparison words such as "like", "as", "so", or "than", whilst different metaphors create an implicit evaluation.

For example:

- Seeing this play is like watching paint dry.
- I slept like a log.
- His dry skin was like sandpaper.
- Achilles is like a lion
- The missile darted across the sky like lightning.

Electricity is like lightning [1, 4-19].

A metaphor compares two special things, similar to a simile. The main difference between a simile and a metaphor is that metaphors do not use the phrases "like" or "as."

Unlike similes, metaphors don't renowned that they're comparisons. A literal-minded reader would possibly mistake them for reality, which makes them extra figurative and poetic.

- "The sun was a toddler insistently refusing to go to bed: It was past eight thirty and still light"[8,34].

- 'All religions, arts and sciences are branches of the same tree" [2, 24].

- His words cut deeper than a knife. Words don't materialize into sharp objects. ...

- I feel the stench of failure coming on. Failure isn't fun but it doesn't smell. ...

- I'm drowning in a sea of grief. ...

- I'm feeling blue. ...

- She's going through a rollercoaster of emotions

Personification is giving human characteristics to nonhuman or abstract things. This should be physical attributes ("the eye of the needle"), emotional attributes ("a single lonely shoe"), or human actions ("a leaf dancing in the wind).

- "Because I could not stop for Death –

He kindly stopped for me –

The Carriage held but just Ourselves –

And Immortality"[4, 1].

-"Life moves pretty fast. If you don't stop and look around once in a while, you could miss it" [7, 33].

Hyperbole is a exceptional exaggeration, often unrealistic, to add emphasis to a sentiment. If you're mainly busy, you might say, "I have a million matters to do"; if you're bored, you may say, "I have nothing to do." Neither are certainly true, but the phrasing makes the declaration greater emphatic.

- I'm so hungry I could eat a horse.

- She's as old as the hills.

- I walked a million miles to get here.

- She can hear a pin drop a mile away.

- I died of embarrassment.

- He's as skinny as a toothpick.

- She's as tall as a beanpole.

- It's raining cats and dogs.

Irony is a form of utterance that postulates a double audience, consisting of one party that hearing shall hear & shall not understand, & another party that, when more is meant than meets the ear, is aware both of that more & of the outsiders' incomprehension[5,25].

- "It is a truth universally acknowledged, that a single man in possession of a good fortune, must be in want of a wife"[6, 1].

- A fire station burns down. ...

- A marriage counselor files for divorce. ...

- The police station gets robbed. ...

- A post on Facebook complains about how useless Facebook is. ...

- A traffic cop gets his license suspended because of unpaid parking tickets. ...

- A pilot has a fear of heights.

In conclusion, we can say figurative words service to make more attractive and meaningful speech. Figurative word an expression are parts of figurative language, for this reason in order to know about figurative words, we should know what is figurative language itself.

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