



LANGUAGE GLOSSARY

ACKNOWLEDGEMENT FORMULA

A speaker uses various formula to show sympathy, encouragement, acknowledgement etc. eg. mm, yes, no, really, well, fancy, of course, certainly, indeed.

ALLITERATION

The repetition of consonants. "The fair breeze blew, the white foam flew. The furrow followed free. We were the first that ever burst Into that silent sea" (Coleridge)

ALTERED STRUCTURES

Sentences which we correct as we are saying them, see anacoluthon.

AMBIGUITY

Two possible meanings, both correct, eg. "Is your head swollen?" Ambiguity is often humorous.

ANACOLUTHON

A break in the grammatical structure of a sentence. In speech a speaker may have become confused and unable to finish the sentence correctly. eg. The word is easily defined if you take a sentence such as this will have to break in the grammar.

ANTITHESIS

A figure of speech in which words or ideas are brought into contrast by being balanced one against another. eg. Power corrupts; absolute power corrupts absolutely. Better to reign in Hell than serve in Heaven.

APPOSITION

The placing of one noun or noun-equivalent beside another in a sentence to add description or explanation. The noun (or noun-equivalent) must be equal in function and bear the same relation to the rest of the sentence as the original noun. eg.

Alexander, the coppersmith, did very much evil. The second stage - the translation of forecast pressure distribution into forecast weather was most difficult.

ARCHAISM

A word, spelling, construction etc. that is old fashioned eg. methinks, thee, quoth [archaic].

ASSONANCE

The repetition of vowel sounds. This is less obvious and softer in effect than alliteration. eg. /a/ s / u/. "In Xanadu did Kubla Khan A stately pleasure dome decree." (Coleridge)

ATMOSPHERE

The mood pervading a literary work, often setting up in the reader expectations as to the course of events. eg. Hamlet - tense and fearful atmosphere comes largely from the tense and nervous dialogue at the beginning. In Macbeth the witches create an atmosphere of gloom and obscurity and prepare us for the mystery of the workings of fate. Horror movies - music and scene often used.

CARICATURE

Makes a person or product ludicrous or by exaggerating or distorting prominent features - in cartoons, literature or advertising. eg. Wemmick in Great Expectations.

COUPLET

Lines of poetry rhyming in pairs.

IMAGE

A picture created in the reader's mind e.g a. Concrete Image - created by accurate and evocative description b. Figurative Image - created by the use of metaphor or simile.

IRONY

The humorous or mildly sarcastic use of words to imply the opposite of what they normally mean. eg. Swift's Modest Proposal; Dramatic Irony - a. the audience knows something that the characters do not. b. when what happens is the opposite of what a character has said - or is the same, but in a different

sense eg. "you kill me".

JUXTAPOSITION

Placing two contrasting words, ideas or images side by side to highlight the contrast eg. Owen: "Anthem for Doomed Youth."

PARODY

Makes fun of a serious work by imitating it.

SATIRE

The art of diminishing a subject by making it ridiculous.

TONE

The author's attitude to the subject matter or the intended audience eg. satiric, condescending, humorous.

BALANCED SENTENCE

A sentence made up of roughly equal parts eg. "The Prime Minister is at home when he is overseas, and all at sea when he is at home."

CLICHE

An over-used and worn out expression: any phrase that is not fresh and original. eg. to bury the hatchet, nose to the grindstone.

CLIMACTIC SENTENCE

A sentence made up of several parts (often in groups of three) which rise to a climax in the final part. eg. I came, I saw, I conquered, Never in the field of human conflict was so much owed by so many to so few.

COINAGE

(Neologism) a newly created word eg. prazz, vroom, nuke, nylon, biro, background (as a verb).

COLLOCATION

The 'collocation' of words refers to the regular patterns of co-occurrence in which words may be found in a given context; the way words are found together. eg. We expect to see fish with chips, goods with chattels, break with enter, blue with sky. In certain circumstances, indeed, such items would be foregrounded if they did not occur together. When this happens it is "unusual collocation".

COLLOQUIALISM

Colloquial language is language suitable for conversation, is for everyday speech rather than for formal written or spoken language. So a colloquialism is an expression found in, and typical of, ordinary speech. eg. 'I'll see you' 'He's a good joker', (very formal-formal-colloquial-slang-swearing).

COMPOUNDING

The creation of a new word by joining two words eg. timebomb, blackout, sit-in. - see Coinage, Portmanteau.

CONNOTATION

Words carrying extra meaning in their associations (see Overtones) eg. these words for "male human being" contain differing emotional content: boy, youth, lad, fellow, chap, adolescent, joker, yobbo.

DENOTATION

The basic, or dictionary, meaning of a word.

ELLIPSIS

The shortening of the construction of a sentence by omitting a word or words that might readily be supplied from the context. eg. Jack fell down and (Jack) breaks his crown.

EUPHEMISM

A mild or vague expression used instead of a harsher or blunter one. eg. queer-mad; make love; pass on; one's reward.

FOREGROUNDING

Given prominence:

A word, phrase, or image is foregrounded when it is used unexpectedly. eg. "vision and revision" or any metaphor.

Prominence can also be given with unusual patterning eg. a recurring word in a poem, rhyme, rhythm.

HOMONYM

Two words with the same form or spelling but different meanings are homonyms eg.

BOW - curved (the weapon, rainbow, n; v violin, bow-legged)

BOW - (n & v - from the waist. BOW - of a ship (front)

BOW - of ribbon in hair.

HYPERBOLE

Overstatement - an extravagant exaggeration of fact.
A cowboy ordered a steak well done. When it was served he roared. "Do you call that well done? I've seen critters hurt worse than that get well". mice/ millions of them.

IDIOM

Every language has its odd, sometime idiotic ways of expressing things. All the speakers of the language knew them but foreigners often have trouble eg. He was knocked off. She was knocked off. He knocked off. Don't knock it. Knock back a few. Knock on the door. He was knocked back. He was knocked out.

IMPERATIVE

An order or command. You will go to town ----- Go to town! [Subj. + (aux) + verb ----- Verb + ----]

INITIAL MARKER

An attention holding or attention gaining device found at the beginning of an utterance eg. "Well ... I believe that"

INVERSION

Unusual order in the parts of a sentence , 1. In sentence structure - A train he is not , S V - He is not a train — S V 2. In group structure - the body beautiful N adj - the beautiful body det adj N.

JARGON

The specialised language used by a specialised occupation eg. airline pilot, lawyer, plumber, business letters.

LOGO

[logogram] a sign or symbol in shorthand. it is a particular form of symbol which presents in a graphic way a word or group of words, eg. Radio Avon.

LOOSELY CO-ORDINATED CLAUSES

A long sentence, made up of what could have been short sentences, but which are sometimes strung together in speech. eg. We will meet at five and pool our material and see if we can reach a conclusion and afterwards send the books back but I can't stay long.

METAPHOR

An unstated comparison of one thing with another. One thing is said to BE another. eg. The boy hared around the track.

MINOR SENTENCE

A sentence that is complete in itself but which does not contain a finite verb. eg. What? Eh/ Closed until further notice.

ONOMATOPOEIA

The correspondence of sound with meaning. The sound of the word resembles the meaning of the word. eg. his, buzz, rustle, pop. "A tap at the pane, the quick sharp scratch and blue spurt of a lighted match". [Browning] "The moan of doves in immemorial elms, and murmuring of innumerable bees". [Tennyson].

OVERTONES

Additional meaning that a word has to convey to users of that word. These associations may be developed in three ways.

- 1) Names: some names develop associations, Diana, Jesus, Adolf, Jason, Sheila.
- 2) Value Judgement: some words have implied value judgements, eg. slouch, gawky. a) Purr words: words with favourable value judgements are often called purr words. b) Snarl words: words with unfavourable value judgements are often called snarl words.
- 3) Words associated with a particular resister. eg. terrific, jolly, super.

OXYMORON

A figure of speech where two words or phrases of opposite significance are placed consecutively to highlight the contrast - D Thomas. "My youth is bent by the same wintry fever", eg. bitter sweet, a sour sweet love, Macbeth - a joyful trouble to you.

PARADOX

A statement that seems absurd and self-contradicting but which is in fact true eg. Donne: One short sleep past, we wake eternally, And Death shall be no more, Death, thou shalt die. Wordsworth: The child is father of the man.

ACTIVE

Active - the subject of the sentence is the actor - performs the action. The lion NP1 + beat VP + the unicorn

PERSONIFICATION

A metaphor or simile in which an inanimate object or an abstract concept is given HUMAN qualities. eg. The mountains marched to the sea.

PHRASAL VERBS

In informal speech we often use a phrasal verb rather than a more formal, more exact single word verb, eg. shake out takes out - remove, extract sort out - decide, arrange pick over - select

PORTMANTEAU WORDS

Two words combined, in form and meaning, into one, eg. JABBERWOCKY eg. slithy = lithe + slimy, chortle = chuckle + snort. Also Eurasia, Australasia.

PUN

The use of two words with the same sound (homophones) for humorous effect eg. the mortician's description of his client as a grave man.

RHETORICAL QUESTION

A statement in the form of a question: a question asked not to gain a reply, but to achieve a rhetorical emphasis stronger than a direct statement, eg. "Now could things be worse? There is nothing left to go wrong."

RHYME

The identity of the final accented vowel and all following sounds in two words. eg. still-hill, bore-more, ending-bending. Effects: to create a pleasant sound to enhance or contribute to meaning, to bind a verse together, to emphasise a word, to make it memorable.

(INTERNAL) RHYME -

Where the words that rhyme are not at the end of lines, but one is in the line of the following line. eg. Coleridge: "In mist or cloud, on mast of shroud, It perched for vespers nine: While all the night, through fog-smoke white glimmered the white moon-shine".

RHYTHM (Meter)

The pattern of stressed and unstressed syllables in language, especially poetry. eg " Hello darkness, my old friend, I've come to talk with you again".

SIMILE

The comparison of two things is stated. One thing is said to be the LIKE or the same AS the other. eg "The boy ran like a hare".

SLANG

The use of specialised words and phrases within a specific social group eg. bikies, Porridge: nurk, screw, con, stretch, nick, fuzz, bird = prison sentence.

Rhyming slang - flowery dell - cell, captain cook/ butcher's (hook)= lock.

SYMBOL

Something that stands for something else eg a crown, red cross, arabic numerals.

UNDERSTATEMENT

A form of irony in which something is deliberately represented as being much less than it is. Swift: "Last week I saw a woman flayed, and you will hardly believe how much it altered her appearance for the worse". Twain: "The reports of my death are greatly exaggerated."

VERBAL CONTRACTIONS

Instead of the full verb, eg I'll, we'll, can't, she's, etc.

WEAK "FILLER" VERBS

Verbs used commonly in conversation which do not carry much specific meaning eg got.