

Figures of Speech

classmate

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Class - D-I, II & III
Sub - English
Lecture - 4.

(II) Figures of emphasis / Figures of understatement

eg - Hyperbole, Antithesis, climax, paradox, bathos, Oxymoron, irony rhetorical question and litotes etc.

(a) Hyperbole

Definition:- Hyperbole is a figure of speech in which exaggeration is used for emphasis or effect.

Examples:- (1) He was so hungry, he could eat a horse.

[This sentence is a hyperbole because it gives the impression that he is really hungry, yet he is not literally going to eat a horse.]

(2) I said that a million times!

(b) Antithesis

Definition:- Antithesis is used to show the rhetorical contrast of opposing ideas and meaning through parallel arrangements of words.

clause, or sentence.

Example— (1) Man proposes; God disposes.

[Antithesis is a balancing of one term against another for emphasis or stylistic effectiveness.]

(2) To err is human, to forgive divine.

(c) Climax

Definition:— Climax is a figure of speech in which the sense rises by successive steps to what is more and more important and impressive.

Examples:— (1) I came, I saw, I conquered.

(2) He begs, he lies, he steals, he kills for gold.

Paradox

Definition:— paradox is a figure of speech in which a statement or proposition that seems self-contradictory or absurd but in reality expresses a possible truth.

Examples:— (1) No one goes to the restaurant because it is overcrowded.

(2) "Don't go near the water 'til you have learned how to swim".