

# **Expressive means and stylistic devices (part III)**

**The theory of stylistic devices, suggested by  
V.V.Gurevich.**

1. Stylistic devices making use of the meaning  
of language units (figures of speech)
2. Stylistic devices making use of the structure  
of language units
3. Phonetic expressive means and devices

# 1. Stylistic devices based on the meaning of language units

- Metaphor
- Metonymy
- Zeugma
- Pun
- Oxymoron
- Hyperbole
- Litotes
- Epithet
- Periphrasis

# Metaphor (O.I.Glazunova)

- **Nominal metaphoric phrase/ construction**
  - “And down they bring pearls rowe...”
  - “That ever Rose on Scotia’s plain...”
- **Predicative metaphoric phrase/ construction**
  - “...and Life is a faught...”
  - “Thou’ll break my heart...”
  - “How quick Time is flying...”
- **Genitive metaphoric phrase/ construction**
  - “...a cup of kindness...”
  - “...at Fortune’s door...”

## **Metaphor** (O.I.Glazunova) (2)

- **Adverbial** “He burned with desire...”  
**metaphoric phrase**
- **Attributive** «The chrystal streamlets...”  
**metaphoric phrase**
- **Simile** «My Love is like a red Rose...”  
«My Love is like a melody,
- **Phraseological** “I pulled a rose”  
**units**

# Metonymy

- **Synecdoche**
- **Container instead of content**
- **Characteristic feature instead of the object**
- **Name of the instrument instead of the action/doer.**

## 2. Stylistic devices based on the structure of language units

### **Repetition**

#### 1) Lexical repetition

- **Anaphora** – the repetition of the same elements in the beginning of several sentences.
- EX.: No tree, no shrub, no blade of grass, not a bird or beast, not even a fish that was not owned!
- **Epiphora** - the repetition of the same elements in the end of several sentences.

#### 2) Syntactic repetition

**syntactic tautology** or **syntactic parallelism**

- EX. Little Miss Muffet / She sat on a tuffet.

## Stylistic devices based on the structure of language units (2)

- **Climax** – lexical or syntactic repetition of elements which is combined with gradual increase in the emotional colouring of the sentence.
- EX. I got to be agreeable to her. I got to give her presents. ... I'm a slave to that woman.
- **Anticlimax** – the opposite to the climax (the final element is obviously weaker in degree).
- EX. Music makes one feel so romantic – at least it gets on one's nerves.

# Stylistic devices based on the structure of language units (3)

## Stylistic inversion

- full inversion

(EX. Blessed are the poor in spirit)

- partial inversion

(EX. How little had I realized, that...)

- **Ellipsis** - consists in omission of some parts of the sentence that are easily understood from the context.

EX. The sea is just another sky,  
The sky a sea as well...



## Stylistic devices based on the structure of language units (4)

**Asyndeton** - is a deliberate omission of conjunctions.

- EX. There's no use in talking to him, he's perfectly idiotic! (reason: because)

**Polysyndeton** - (opposite to asyndeton) the repeated use of the same connectors before several parts of sentence.

- EX. With the curling smoke of wigwams,  
With the rushing of great rivers...

## Stylistic devices based on the structure of language units (5)

**Chiasm** - a reversed version of syntactic parallelism.

- EX. Down dropped the breeze,/ The sails dropped down.

**Antithesis** - a structure that stresses a sharp contrast in meaning between the parts within 1 sentence.

- EX. Some people are wise, some otherwise.  
One man's meat is another man's poison.

### 3. Phonetic expressive means and devices

**Alliteration** – is a device based on repetition of the same or similar sounds at close distance, which makes speech more expressive.

- EX. Willy-nilly (volence-nolence), hurly-burly (=noise).

**Assonance** – (a variant of alliteration)

1) repetition of the same vowels only.

- EX. The wear and tear of the city life.

2) an imperfect rhyme, when only vowels are rhymed.

- EX. Number – blunder, same – cane.

### 3. Phonetic expressive means and devices(2)

- **Onomatopoeia** – (sound imitation) – the use of words which denote some phenomenon by imitating its real sounding (produced by animals or natural noises).



direct



indirect

# The use of Rhythm and rhyme in versification

**Rhyme** is produced by alternation of regular  
alternation of stressed and unstressed syllables.

Why do you cry, Willie? ('UU/'UU)

Why do you cry? ('UU/')

# systems of versification (1)

- **Syllabic system** (French poetry) – the same number of syllables in different lines, whether stressed or unstressed.
- **Tonic system** (Anglo-Saxon poetry of old times) - the number of *stressed* syllables.
- **Syllabic-tonic system** of versification (modern English, Russian poetry) is based on the repetition of the *same number of stressed and unstressed syllables*.

# types of feet (1)

**A Foot** – is the division of poetic line from stress to stress

1. **trochee** (2 syllables: 1-stressed, 2-nd – unstressed)

- EX. Peter, Peter, pumpkin-eater ('U/'U/'U/'U)

2. **iambus** (2 syllables: 1-unstressed, 2-nd – stressed)

- EX. And then my love and I shall pace...  
(U/'U/'U/'U')

## types of feet (2)

3. **dactil** (3 syllables: 1-stressed, 2 – unstressed)

- EX. Why do you cry, Willie? ('UU/'UU)

4. **amphibrach** (3 syllables, the stress on the 2-nd)

- EX. A diller, a dollar, a ten o'clock scholar...  
(U'U/U'U/U'U/U'U)

5. **anapest** (3 syllables, the stress on the 3-nd)

- EX. Said the flee, 'Let us fly'... (UU/'UU')



## systems of versification (2)

- The type of foot and the number of feet in the line determine the **Metre** of the verse:

trimetre,

tetrametre,

pentametre etc.

- **Rhyme** is created by the repetition of the same sounds in the last stressed syllable of 2 (or more) lines in a stanza.

# Types of Rhymes (1)

**Male rhyme** -the stress falls on the last syllable),  
**the Female rhyme** - the stress falls on the last  
but one syllable:

EX. When the lamp is shattered (F.R.)  
The light in the dust lies dead; (M.R.)  
When the cloud is scattered, (F.R.)  
The rainbow's glory is shed. (M.R.)

# rhyming patterns (1)

*Paired rhymes* –the rhyming pattern is **AABB**

EX. The seed you sow, another reaps; (**A**)

The wealth ye find, another keeps; (**A**)

The robes ye weave, another wears; (**B**)

The arm ye forge, another bears. (**B**)

## rhyming patterns (2)

**Alternate rhymes** - the rhyming pattern is **ABAB**

EX. A slumber did my spirit seal; (A)

I had no human fears: (B)

She seemed a thing that could not feel (A)

The touch of earthly wears. (B)

## rhyming patterns (3)

**Enclosing rhymes** - the rhyming pattern is **ABBA**

EX.

Much have I traveled in the realms of gold, (A)  
And many goodly states and kingdoms seen; (B)  
Round many western islands have I been (B)  
Which bards in loyalty to Apollo hold. (A)

## Types of Rhymes (2)

**Eye-rhyme** – when the elements rhymed are similar only in spelling, not in pronunciation:

EX.

Sometimes whoever seeks abroad may find...

Thy hair soft-lifted by the winnowing wind.

Types of stanza: Ballad, Sonnet, Blank verse.