

CLASSIFICATION OF STYLISTIC DEVICES. LEXICAL STYLISTIC DEVICES: METAPHOR

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- **Abstract:** *In this article, as we know, metaphor an inseparable part of grammar, plays an important role in stylistic. This article provides information about metaphor and its different classifications.*
- **Key words:** *metaphor, its different classifications and stylistic.*

Metaphor is not merely an artificial device making discourse; more vivid and poetical. It is also necessary for the apprehension and communication of new ideas. It is the way in which creative minds perceive things.

Metaphors like many Stylistic Devices must be classified according to three aspects: 1) the degree of expressiveness, 2) the structure i.e. in what linguistic form it is presented or by what part of speech it is expressed, 3) the function, i.e. the role of Stylistic Devices (SD) in making up an image.

The expressiveness of an SD depends on various aspects. Different authors and literary trends or movements have different sources where they borrow the material for images. Favourite images in oriental poetry are: nightingale, a rose, and moon. Nature, art, war, fairy tales and myths, science etc. May also serve as sources for metaphorical image.

We distinguish genuine and trite metaphors. The metaphors in which images are quite unexpected are called genuine. Those which are commonly used — are called trite (language) or dead metaphors. Genuine metaphors are also

called speech metaphors. Genuine metaphors can easily become trite if they are frequently repeated.

There is an opinion that a metaphor is a productive way of building up new meanings and new words. Language can be called the «dictionary of faded metaphors».

Examples of genuine metaphors: The lips were tight little traps; the whole space was a bowl of heat; this virus carried a gun; the dark swallowed him; Mrs. Small's eyes boiled with excitement; the words seemed to dance....

A **metaphor** is a powerful linguistic tool used to describe one thing as if it were something else, not in a literal sense but to convey deeper meaning or create a vivid mental image. Unlike a direct statement, metaphors engage the imagination and emotions, making communication more impactful.

Purpose:

1. **Simplification:** Helps explain complex or abstract ideas.

Example: «Life is a journey» simplifies the idea of life's unpredictability.

2. **Emotional Connection:** Evokes feelings by tapping into shared cultural or personal experiences.

Example: «A blanket of sadness covered her» conveys emotional weight.

3. **Creativity:** Makes language more artistic and engaging.

Example: «The stars are diamonds» paints a vivid picture.

Detailed Types of Metaphors

Here's a closer look at different types of metaphors with examples:

1. (Simple) Metaphor

Directly equates one thing with another.

Example: «His mind was a steel trap.»

(Suggests his mind is sharp and quick.)

2. Implied Metaphor

Does not state the comparison outright but implies it through language.

Example: «She sailed through her exams.»

(Implied comparison to a ship gliding smoothly.)

3. Extended Metaphor

Develops the comparison across several lines or throughout a work.

Example: In Shakespeare's *As You Like It*:

➤ «All the world's a stage,

And all the men and women merely players:

They have their exits and their entrances...»

(Compares life to a theater play.)

4. Dead Metaphor

So common that the metaphorical image is no longer not chair.»

«Time is running out.»

5. Mixed Metaphor

Combines two or more inconsistent metaphors, often for humorous or unintentional effect.

Example: «We'll cross that bridge when we reach the fork in the road.»

6. Conceptual Metaphor

Links a physical or concrete concept to an abstract idea, often foundational in how we think.

Examples:

«Time is money.» (Spending time, saving time.)

«Love is a battlefield.»

Famous Metaphors in Literature.

1. William Shakespeare (*Macbeth*):

➤ «Life's but a walking shadow, a poor player

That struts and frets his hour upon the stage.»

(Life is likened to a fleeting, insignificant performance.)

2. Emily Dickinson:

➤ «Hope is the thing with feathers.»

(Hope is compared to a bird that perches in the soul.)

3. Langston Hughes:

➤ «Life is a broken-winged bird that cannot fly.»

(Life without dreams is fragile and impaired.)

Practical Uses of Metaphors

1. **Education:** Teachers use metaphors to clarify concepts.

«Atoms are like tiny solar systems.»

2. **Business:** Metaphors simplify strategic goals or motivate teams.

«Let's bridge the gap between departments.»

3. **Everyday Speech:** Metaphors are integral to casual language.

«He's fishing for compliments.»

(Searching or probing for praise.)

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