

Rhetorical Elements

Definitions

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Alliteration:

The repetition of an initial sound in two or more words. There are two different types of alliteration, **immediate** and **non-immediate**. Immediate juxtaposition occurs when the second consonant sound follows the first sound immediately. Non-immediate juxtaposition occurs when the consonants sounds occur in nonadjacent words.

Examples: "I think a need a **b**igger **b**ox."

"No one standing in this house today can **p**ass a **p**uritanical test of **p**urity that some are demanding that our elected leaders take."

Antimetabole:

The repetition of words in successive clauses, but in reverse grammatical order (A-B, B-A)

Example: "I **know what I like** and I **like what I know**"

Assonance:

The repetition of the same or similar vowel sound in the stressed syllables of successive words.

Example: "The **ch**ild of **m**ine was **l**ying on her **s**ide."

Expletive:

Figure of emphasis in which a single word or short phrase, usually interrupting normal speech, is used to give emphasis to the words on either side of the expletive. Typical examples include: *in fact, of course, to be sure, indeed, I suppose, I hope, you know, you see, clearly, in any event, in effect, certainly, remarkably.*

Scesis Onomaton:

Figure of repetition in which a set of two or more different words having the same (or very nearly the same) meaning occurs within the same sentence; a successive series of words or phrases whose meanings are generally equivalent.

Example: "We **succeeded**, we were **victorious**, we **accomplished** the feat!"

Epanalepsis:

Figure of emphasis in which the same word or words both begin(s) and end(s) a phrase, clause, or sentence; beginning and ending a phrase or clause with the same word or words.

Example: "**The king** is dead long live **the king**."

Simile:

A comparison between two dissimilar things as though they were similar -- usually with the words "like", "as" or "than".

Example: "**Suspicion** climbed all over her face, **like a kitten**, but not so playfully."