

Onomatopoeia -Words sounding like what they mean. For example, Buzz; Click; Rattle; Clatter; Squish; Snap, Crackle.

Hyperbole – Exaggerating : for example, "His thundering shout could split rocks." Or, "Yo' mama's so fat . . ."

Meiosis -An understatement: for example, "I was somewhat worried when the psychopath ran toward me with a chainsaw." (i.e., I was terrified). Litotes (especially popular in Old English) is a kind of meiosis where the writer makes use of a statement in a negative way for creating the effect: "You know, Einstein is not a bad mathematician." (i.e., Einstein is a good mathematician.)

Anthimeria - Using a different part of speech to act as another, like a verb for a noun, or a noun for a verb, or an adjective as a verb, etc.: for example, "Gift him with Sports Illustrated magazine for Christmas" (as opposed to give him).

"he sang his didn't, he danced his did." (e. e. cummings) "I am going in search of the great perhaps" (Rabelais).

Catachresis - A completely impossible figure of speech. For example: "The tears falling from her eyes were so sad they too began to cry with her." "Joe will have kittens when he hears this!" It is very closely related to hyperbole and at times synaesthesia. Chaucer phrased it, catachresis is all about "blind mouths."

Synaesthesia -(also spelled synesthesia) is the mixing of one type of sensory input with another in way that is impossible, like speaking of how a colour sounds, or how a smell looks: "The scent of the rose rang like a bell through the garden." "I caressed the darkness with cool fingers."

Aporia - Talking about being unable to talk about something: "I can't tell you how often writers use aporia!" "It is impossible for me to describe how horrible it was to view the pink, runny mass."

Aposiopesis -- Breaking off as if not able to continue: "The fire surrounds them while—I cannot go on."

Oxymoron (plural oxymora, also called paradox) -Use of contradiction in a manner that oddly makes sense: "Without laws, we can have no freedom." Shakespeare's Julius Caesar also makes use of a famous oxymoron: "Cowards die many times before their deaths" (2.2.32). The Bible itself contains many paradoxes: for example, "He that would save his life must lose it; and he that would lose his life will save it"(Mark 8:35).

SCHEMES - Figures of speech that deal with word order, syntax, letters, and sounds, instead of the meaning of words.

Parallelism -When the writer establishes similar patterns of grammatical structure and length. For example, "King Alfred tried to make the law clear, precise, and equitable." The above