

Tropes & Schemes



Tropes and Schemes

- In classical rhetoric, the tropes and schemes fall under the canon of style. These stylistic features certainly do add spice to writing and speaking. The idea being that we are persuaded by the imagery and artistry because we find it entertaining.
- Indeed, politicians and pundits use these language forms to create specific social and political effects by playing on our emotions.

Tropes and Schemes

- Trope: The use of a word, phrase, or image in a way not intended by its normal signification (unexpected).
- Scheme: A change in standard word order or pattern in a sentence.

Tropes and Schemes

Tropes and schemes are collectively known as figures of speech. The following is a short list of some of the most common figures of speech.

Schemes

- Balance
- Omission
- Repetition

Tropes

- Comparisons
- Word Play
- Meaning

Schemes

Balance

- Parallelism of words
 - Exercise physiologists argue that the body-pump aerobics sessions benefit a person's heart and lungs, muscles and nerves, and joints and cartilage.
- Parallelism of phrases
 - Exercise physiologists argue that body-pump aerobics sessions help a person breathe more effectively, move with less discomfort, and avoid injury.

- Parallelism of clauses
 - Exercise physiologists argue that body-pump aerobics is the most efficient exercise class, that body-pump participants show great gains in stamina than participants in comparable exercise programs, and that body-pump is less expensive in terms of equipment and training needed to lead or take classes.

Each of these three parallel schemes is also called zeugma.

- Zeugma: One item (usually a verb) governs several words, or clauses, each in a different sense.
Example: “He stiffened his drink and his spine.”

- Antithesis : parallelism is used to juxtapose words, phrases or clauses that contrast. The purpose is to point out differences between two juxtaposed ideas, rather than similarities.
- Antithesis of words:
 - When distance runners reach the state they call “the zone,” they find themselves mentally **engaged** yet **detached**.
- Antithesis of phrases:
 - When distance runners reach the state they call “the zone,” they find themselves mentally engaged with their physical surroundings yet detached from moment-to-moment concerns about their conditioning.

- Antithesis of clauses:
- When distance runners reach the state they call “the zone,” they are empirically engaged with their physical surroundings, yet detached from moment-to-moment concerns about their conditioning.

To err is human; to forgive, divine.

- Antimetabole: words are repeated in different grammatical forms.
 - When the going gets tough, the tough get going.

(Adjective becomes Noun; Noun becomes Verb)

Schemes

- Repetition
- Anaphora: A scheme in which the same word or phrase is repeated at the beginning of successive phrases, clauses, or sentences.
 - I will fight for you. I will fight to save Social Security. I will fight to raise the minimum wage.
- Polysyndeton: the use of several conjunctions in close succession, especially where some might be omitted.
 - He ran and jumped and laughed for joy.

- Alliteration: Repetition of consonant sounds at the beginning or in the middle of two or more adjacent words.
 - Intramural hockey is a strenuous, stimulating, satisfying sport.
- Climax: Repetition of words, phrases, clauses in order of increasing number or importance.
 - Excellent athletes need to be respectful of themselves, their teammates, their schools, and their communities.

- Epistrophe: A scheme in which the same word is repeated at the end of successive phrases, clauses, or sentences.
 - I believe we should fight for justice. You believe we should fight for justice. How can we not, then, fight for justice?
- Anadiplosis: Repetition of the last word of one clause at the beginning of the following clause.
 - Mental preparation leads to training; training builds muscle tone and coordination.

Schemes

- Omission
- Asyndeton: Omission of conjunctions between related clauses.
 - I skated, I shot, I scored, I cheered – what a glorious moment of sport!
- Ellipsis: Omission of words, the meaning of which is provided by the context of the passage.
 - In a hockey power play, if you pass the puck to the wing, and he to you, then you can close in on the goal.

Schemes

- Interruption
- Appositive: a construction in which two coordinating elements are set side by side, and the second explains or modifies the first.
 - Leonardo Da Vinci, a famous painter, celebrated his masterpiece the Mona Lisa.
- Parenthesis: to interrupt the flow of a passage to inform the reader.
 - parenthesis () or dash –

Tropes

- Comparison Word Play Meaning

Comparison: The most important trope – the metaphor.

- Metaphor: A trope in which a word or phrase is transferred from its literal meaning to stand for something else. Unlike a simile, in which something is said to be "like" something else, a metaphor says something *is* something else.
 - Debt is a bottomless sea.
 - Her eyes are as blue as a robin's egg.

- Metonymy: A trope that substitutes an associated word for one that is meant.
 - Using "top brass" to refer to military officers.
- Synecdoche: A trope in which a part stands for the whole.
 - Tom just bought a fancy new set of wheels.
- Personification: A trope in which human qualities or abilities are assigned to abstractions or inanimate objects.
 - Integrity thumbs its nose at pomposity.

Tropes

- Word Play – understatement/overstatement
- Litotes: A trope in which one makes a deliberate understatement for emphasis.
 - Young lovers are kissing and an observer says: "I think they like each other."
- Pun: A play on words in which a homophone is repeated but used in a different sense.
 - She was always game for any game.
- Hyperbole: A trope composed of exaggerated words or ideals used for emphasis and not to be taken literally.
 - I've told you a million times not to call me a liar!

Tropes

- Meaning
- Irony: A trope in which a word or phrase is used to mean the opposite of its literal meaning.
 - I just love scrubbing the floor.
- Oxymoron: A trope that connects two contradictory terms.
 - Bill is a cheerful pessimist.
- Rhetorical Question: A trope in which the one asks a leading question.
 - With all the violence on TV today, is it any wonder kids bring guns to school?