

LEXICAL STYLISTIC DEVICES: OXYMORON, HYPERBOLE, ANTONOMASIA, ZEUGMA AND PUN

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Annotation

This article examines several important lexical stylistic devices widely used in English language and literature. The study focuses on oxymoron, hyperbole, antonomasia, zeugma, and pun, explaining their definitions, functions, and stylistic effects in communication and literary texts. These devices help writers and speakers create expressive, emotional, and memorable language.

Key words

Lexical stylistic devices, oxymoron, hyperbole, antonomasia, zeugma, pun, expressive language, stylistics, figurative speech.

Introduction

Stylistics is a branch of linguistics that studies the expressive means of language and their role in communication. Lexical stylistic devices are based on the use of words in special or unusual meanings to achieve a particular artistic or emotional effect. Writers, poets, journalists, and speakers often employ such devices to make speech more vivid and persuasive.

Oxymoron

Oxymoron is a stylistic device in which two words with opposite or contradictory meanings are combined in one phrase. Examples: deafening silence, bittersweet memories, living dead.

Hyperbole

Hyperbole is a deliberate exaggeration used to emphasize a point or create a strong impression. Examples: I have told you a thousand times; This bag weighs a ton; She cried a river.

Antonomasia

Antonomasia is a stylistic device in which a proper name is used instead of a common noun, or a common noun replaces a proper name. Examples: calling a very intelligent person Einstein; referring to a traitor as Judas.

Zeugma

Zeugma is a stylistic device in which one word relates to two or more words in a sentence, although the meaning may differ for each. Example: She broke his car and his heart.

Pun is a play on words based on different meanings of the same word or similar sounds of different words. Example: A bicycle can't stand on its own because it is two-tired.

Conclusion

Lexical stylistic devices enrich language and make communication more expressive. Understanding them helps students analyze texts and improve language skills.

References

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