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LEXICAL-SYNTACTICAL STYLISTIC DEVICES IN ENGLISH: A SCIENTIFIC OVERVIEW

Annotation: Lexical-syntactical stylistic devices are critical tools in language that create emphasis, enhance expressiveness, and convey meanings that go beyond the literal interpretation of words. This article provides a detailed analysis of key lexical-syntactical stylistic devices in the English language, such as antithesis, parallelism, inversion, chiasmus, and zeugma. It explores their functions, usage in literature and rhetoric, and their role in shaping meaning, emotional impact, and communicative effectiveness.

Key word: Lexical-syntactical stylistic devices, Antithesis, Parallelism, Inversion, Chiasmus, Zeugma, Stylistic devices, Expressiveness in speech, Literary analysis, Communicative effectiveness

Introduction: Stylistic devices are deliberate and artistic means used by speakers or writers to achieve a particular effect in communication. While lexical devices pertain to word choice and meaning, syntactical devices focus on the arrangement of words and sentences. Lexical-syntactical stylistic devices, thus, refer to the combination of both levels of language, where word selection and sentence structure interact to create stylistic effects. These devices play a significant role in enhancing expressiveness, creating contrasts, establishing rhythm, and adding layers of meaning.

1. **Antithesis:** Antithesis is a lexical-syntactical device that juxtaposes contrasting ideas within a sentence to highlight a particular contrast or opposition. By placing two opposing ideas in close proximity, the speaker or writer emphasizes the tension between them, creating a striking and memorable effect.

For example, in Charles Dickens' *A Tale of Two Cities*, the opening line "It was the best of times, it was the worst of times" is a classic example of antithesis, contrasting positive and negative conditions to underline the complexity of the era.

Function of Antithesis: The primary function of antithesis is to create a clear contrast, often used to express conflicting emotions, highlight moral or philosophical dilemmas, or simply add dramatic weight to an argument or narrative. It is frequently found in political speeches, literary works, and philosophical texts.

2. **Parallelism:** Parallelism involves the repetition of similar syntactical structures in a sequence of phrases, clauses, or sentences. This device enhances the rhythmic quality of language, making the message more persuasive and easier to follow.

For instance, Martin Luther King Jr.'s "I have a dream" speech famously employs parallelism: "I have a dream that one day..." repeated several times throughout the speech, strengthens the emotional appeal and builds a cohesive, rhythmic flow.

Function of Parallelism: Parallelism is often used in rhetoric to reinforce an idea by repeating a structure that echoes the same theme. It allows for clarity, coherence, and emphasis, making the ideas resonate more deeply with the audience. In literature, parallelism can also create balance and rhythm, enhancing the aesthetic quality of the text.

3. Inversion: Inversion, or anastrophe, is a syntactical stylistic device where the normal word order in a sentence is reversed, often for emphasis or to maintain the metrical pattern in poetry. Instead of the typical subject-verb-object structure, inversion places the verb before the subject, or an object at the beginning of the sentence.

For example, in William Wordsworth's line, "A host, of golden daffodils I saw," the natural order would be "I saw a host of golden daffodils." The inversion shifts focus to the "host," emphasizing the visual spectacle.

Function of Inversion: Inversion is primarily used to draw attention to a particular element of the sentence, often creating a sense of formality, suspense, or surprise. In poetry and prose, it can also serve to maintain a specific rhythm or rhyme scheme, adding to the aesthetic quality of the writing.

4. Chiasmus: Chiasmus is a rhetorical device in which two or more clauses are structured in a reverse order, creating a mirror-like effect. The second clause inverts the structure of the first, which creates a balanced and symmetrical sentence.

For example, John F. Kennedy's famous statement, "Ask not what your country can do for you—ask what you can do for your country," exemplifies chiasmus. The reversal of structure in the two clauses underscores the contrast and highlights the reciprocal relationship between the individual and the nation.

Function of Chiasmus: Chiasmus serves to emphasize contrast or opposition and is often used to present a paradox or complex relationship. It can enhance memorability and rhetorical impact, making the message more striking and resonant.

5. Zeugma: Zeugma is a lexical-syntactical stylistic device in which a single word, typically a verb or adjective, governs two or more objects, sometimes creating an incongruous or humorous effect. Often, the verb applies to one object literally and to the other figuratively.

An example of zeugma is found in the sentence, "He stole my heart and my wallet." Here, the verb "stole" has a literal meaning when applied to the wallet and a figurative meaning when applied to the heart.

Function of Zeugma: Zeugma adds wit and creativity to the text by linking disparate ideas or creating surprising juxtapositions. It can also serve to condense information, making sentences more compact and dynamic. In literature, zeugma is often used for humorous or ironic effect, but it can also create deeper associations between the linked elements.

6. Polysyndeton and Asyndeton: Polysyndeton is the repeated use of conjunctions between words, clauses, or sentences, often slowing down the rhythm of the sentence and creating a sense of

abundance or accumulation. Asyndeton, on the other hand, omits conjunctions, often speeding up the pace and creating a more direct, impactful statement.

For example, polysyndeton can be seen in the sentence: "He ran and laughed and jumped and shouted," where the repeated conjunction "and" slows down the flow, emphasizing the multitude of actions. In contrast, asyndeton is present in the sentence: "He ran, laughed, jumped, shouted," which quickens the pace and creates a more intense and urgent effect.

Function of Polysyndeton and Asyndeton: Polysyndeton is used to create a sense of overwhelming abundance, often emphasizing the number or intensity of the actions or items listed. Asyndeton, in contrast, creates a more concise, impactful statement, often heightening the urgency or intensity of the moment.

Conclusion: Lexical-syntactical stylistic devices are essential tools for enriching language and enhancing communication. They serve to emphasize contrasts, create rhythm, and add depth to both literary and everyday language. By studying these devices, linguists and literary critics gain insights into how word choice and sentence structure contribute to meaning, emotional resonance, and aesthetic impact. Whether used in literature, speeches, or casual conversation, lexical-syntactical devices shape how we perceive and respond to language, revealing the intricate interplay between form and function.

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