

Lit -In- English

SS 1

WEEK 7

FIGURES OF SPEECH

1. **DEFINITION:** Figure of speech refers to the kind of expression used to make speech or writing more clear and comprehensible.
2. Some of the figures of speech are:
 - a. **Allusion:** It is the act of making reference either to events, person, society or history.
Examples:
 - i. Saintliness is a virtue less easy to develop.
 - ii. Obedient to God is an act of bearing the cross.
 - b. **Simile:** This is a figure of speech that shows indirect comparison of one thing with another using "like" or "as". Examples:
 - i. Emeka eats like a dog.
 - ii. She look as ugly as her toy.
 - c. **Metaphor:** It is a figure of speech that shows a direct comparison of one object with another without using "like" or "as". Examples:
 - i. He has a heart of stone.
 - ii. Okon is a lion.
 - d. **Hyperbole:** It is a device that exaggerates the actual situation being represented.
Examples:
 - i. Mike is bigger than two-storey-buildings.
 - ii. She swallows everybody with her mouth.
 - e. **Personification:** This is a way of endowing inanimate objects with human traits or attributes.
Examples:
 - i. The rain beats the man mercilessly.
 - ii. The sun is walking all over the globe.
 - f. **Assonance:** This is the repetition of the same vowel sounds in a line of poem. Examples:
 - i. He touched a hot pot - /o/.
 - ii. I saw a dead devil - /e/.
 - g. **Alliteration:** It is the repetition of a consonant sound in a line of poem. Examples:
 - i. Flourishing flowers - /f/.
 - ii. Grace to grace - /g/.
 - h. **Onomatopoeia:** This is the use of words with sounds associated with their meanings.
Example: Bee buzzes.
 - i. **Irony:** This is the use of words that is purely opposite to the intended meaning.
Example: I know that you are a good man (bad man).
 - j. **Paradox:** This is a statement which looks untrue or false but contains some truth if inwardly examined. Examples:
 - i. It is better to give than to receive.

- ii. Givers never lack.
- k. **Synecdoche:** This is the use of a part to represent the whole or the whole to represent a part. Examples:
 - i. He needs more hands for the feast.
 - ii. All hands on deck.
- l. **Euphemism:** It is a way of expressing an unpleasant thing in a mild or pleasant form. Examples:
 - i. She passed away yesterday.
 - ii. The innocent man kicked the bucket.
- m. **Oxymoron:** This is side by side placing of two words with contradicting meanings. Examples:
 - i. The death of the boy has become an open secret.
 - ii. Sleeping and snoring is a necessary evil.
- n. **Antithesis:** It is the use of contrastive words to express an idea. Examples:
 - i. Man proposes, God disposes.
 - ii. Pennywise, pound foolish.

HOME WORK

1. Write short notes on the following figures of speech:
 - a. Simile
 - b. Metaphor
 - c. Euphemism
 - d. Hyperbole
 - e. Alliteration
 - f. Assonance
 - g. Oxymoron

