

SELECTED 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. 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 goat.
 - ii. She look as ugly as her pet.
 - b. 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. David is a lion.
 - c. Hyperbole: It is a device that exaggerates the actual situation being represented. Examples:
 - i. Mike is bigger than two-storey building.
 - ii. She swallows everybody with her mouth.
 - d. 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.
 - e. Assonance: this is the repletion 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/.
 - f. Alliteration: It is the repetition of a consonant sound in a line of poem. Examples:
 - i. Flourishing flowers - /f/.
 - ii. Grace to grace - /g/.
 - g. Onomatopoeia: This is the use of words with sounds associated with their meanings. Example: Bee buzzes.
 - h. 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).
 - i. 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.
 - j. 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.
 - k. 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.
- I. 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.

HOME WORK

- 1. Write short notes on the following figures of speech:
 - a. Melvin is fortunate unhappy.
 - b. Ireti is the most intelligent girl in her class (dull).
 - c. All ears were attentive.
 - d.