

**Lesson
25**

A Final Look at Language

Aims

The aims of this lesson are to enable you to have

- a last Glance at Poetry based on the poems you have looked at earlier

Context

Tutor-marked Assignment *F* includes the following:

Language Questions based on CD
Comprehension and Précis based on your CD
Choice of Compositions on various topics
A Business Letter
Telephone Interview/Discussion with your Tutor

Another Look at Poetry:

Figures of Speech

Before we get on to the last part of this Course which will be Tutor-marked Assignment F, let us look briefly back at the Poems that we read in the earlier lessons, and study from them the Figures of Speech they contain.



We have not looked up till now at *Figures of Speech*, being more concerned with plain spoken and written language. However no language is quite complete without *Figures of Speech*, so let us have a look at them. Their purpose, like *Adjectives* those Describing Words, or Music which conveys mood through pure sound, is to add colour and life to expression. Without Figures of Speech, the stuff most strongly of poetry, language would be drab indeed.

We will consider now the most common Figures of Speech, and see how they are used in the poems we have read. But first some explanations and definitions!

Metaphor:

This rather formidable looking expression is used to compare something with another directly even though at first glance the two seem quite different.

Examples of Metaphor

- a) "The king's name was a tower of strength."
Shakespeare Richard III

(This means the king's name has all the strength of a tower)

- b) "Now is the winter of our discontent
Made glorious summer by this sun of York"
Shakespeare: Richard III

(These famous lines at the beginning of Shakespeare's History have not only Metaphor (i.e. the use of "winter" and "summer" to describe war and peace), but also the insertion of a kind of Pun (a play on words) "Sun of York" referring to Edward the "Son of York", (Richard Plantagenet), who was recently crowned Edward IV.

Simile

The Simile is the other very widely used Figure of Speech: and compares directly two very different things, using most often *as* or *like* for the comparison. Here are some examples:

- i) as good as gold (Proverb);
- ii) March comes in like a lion and goes out like a lamb (Proverb);
- iii) an' the dawn comes up like thunder (Kipling)

Personification

There are other **Figures of Speech** like **Personification**, where an object is given a person's qualities or attributes, (e.g. in Shakespeare's Sonnet XVIII, the sun is called "the eye of heaven") but these are not nearly as common as Metaphor and Simile.

So let us have another look at the Poems we have presented and see what Figures of Speech they contain; it is possible there will be others besides the ones mentioned here.

Rapunzstiltskin: (Liz Lohead)

- a) **Simile** "... he hollered like a fireman in some soap opera" Comparison
- b) **Metaphor** "to weave the means of her own escape..."
Direct Comparison ("Skeins of silk.")
- c) **Simile** "She was keener than a TV Quizmaster"
Comparison

Over Hill - Over Dale (Shakespeare)

Simile: "...swifter than the mooné's sphere..."

Sigh No More, Ladies (Shakespeare)

Metaphor "One foot in sea, and one on shore"

Direct Comparison: showing unreliability of men...

Shall I compare thee to a summer's day? (Shakespeare)

Simile "Shall I compare thee to a summer's day?"

Comparison

Personification/Metaphor: "too hot the eye of heaven shines.."

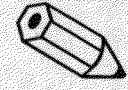
(Here is an overlap between a Direct Comparison, and the giving to the Sun of a Person's Attributes...)

Metaphor: "But thy eternal summer shall not fade.."

(Direct Comparison)

Personification "Nor shall Death brag thou wanderest in his shade..."

(Death presented as a Person)

Activity 1	Please identify the Figures of Speech in the following Sentences: and give the Meaning of the Image:
	<ul style="list-style-type: none">a) When Paul come in, he was like a bull in a china shopb) Mary was simply a cat among the pigeons!c) "Busy old fool, unruly sun!" Ben Jonsond) Margaret Thatcher was known as "the Iron Lady"e) The economic situation at the moment is quite bullishf) The infection visited every house in the city

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