

Glossary of Schemes and Tropes

alliteration a scheme; repetition of initial or medial consonants in associated words near one another.

anaphora a scheme; repetition of a word or group of words at the beginning of successive clauses.

antithesis a scheme; expression of contrasting ideas, often in parallel structure.

asyndeton a scheme; omission of connectives between a series of clauses.

epistrophe ending successive clauses or sentences with the same expression.

hyperbole a trope; deliberate exaggeration.

irony use of a word or words to convey a meaning opposite to their apparent meaning.

litotes a trope; deliberate understatement.

metaphor a trope; an implied comparison between two dissimilar things.

metonymy type of metaphor; the image used to represent the object is closely associated with it-- e.g., what contains it, what causes it, what stands for it, etc.

onomatopoeia a trope; words whose sound reflects their sense.

oxymoron the linking of ordinarily contradictory terms.

parallelism a scheme; the expression of similar meanings in similar grammatical constructions.

periphrasis substitution of a descriptive word or phrase for a name, or of a name for a quality associated with the name.

personification a trope; endowing objects or abstractions with human attributes.

polysyndeton a scheme; deliberate use of many connectives.

pun a trope; a name given several varieties of plays on words.

rhetorical question a trope; a question not intended to be answered.

scheme a deliberate deviation from the ordinary arrangement of words for rhetorical effect.

simile a trope; a comparison between two dissimilar things.

synecdoche a trope; the use of a part to stand for a whole.

trope a deliberate deviation from the normal signification of a word for rhetorical effect.

Adapted from Jim W. Corder's *Uses of Rhetoric*. (Philadelphia: J.B. Lippincott Co.), 1971.