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TYPES AND FUNCTIONS OF SYNTACTICAL STYLISTIC DEVICES

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Annotation:

This is complete about types and function of syntactical stylistic devices: ellipsis, inversion, rhetorical question and repetition.

Keywords: ellipsis, inversion, repetition, syntactical, stylistic devices.

Ellipsis is a typical phenomenon in conversation, arising out of the situation. We mentioned this peculiar feature of the spoken language when we characterized its essential qualities and properties. But this typical feature of the spoken language assumes a new quality when used in the written language. It becomes a stylistic device inasmuch as it supplies suprasegmental information. An elliptical sentence in direct intercourse is not a stylistic device. It is simply a norm of the spoken language.

Inversion is change of natural or recognized order of words or phrases in a sentence. The traditional word order of the English sentence is subject - predicate - object - secondary parts of the sentence. This word order is generally neutral. However it may be altered in accordance with aims pursued by the speaker or writer. Such change of traditional word order of the English sentence gives additional emotional colouring to the utterance. It is called syntactic inversion. It is used for the purpose of placing the most important words in the most prominent places - the beginning and the end of the line.

In written speech isolated members are separated from the main part of the sentence by graphic means - a comma, dash, brackets, full stop. Isolated members usually serve the purpose to single out certain secondary members of a sentence and so attracting the reader's attention to certain details. A variant of detached constructions is parenthesis. Parenthesis is a qualifying, explanatory, appositive word, phrase or sentence which interrupts a syntactical construction.



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RHETORICAL QUESTION

Rhetorical question is syntactical SD which contains a statement made in the form of a question. In other words, the sentences which is affirmative statement in it's logical sense has the form of interrogative sentence. Repetition is SD which gives the repetition of the same word or phrase with the view of expressiveness. Very often repetition in the oral type of speech which shows the excitement of a speaker. When a person is under the stress of strong emotion, he can't but repeat some words or phrases. *E.g. «Stop»-she cried, «Don't tell me. I don't want to hear, I don't want to hear what you've come for. I don't want to hear».*

A rhetorical question is a question asked for a purpose other than to obtain information.^[1] In many cases it may be intended to start a discourse, as a means of displaying or emphasizing the speaker's or author's opinion on a topic.

A simple example is the question "Can't you do anything right?" This question is intended not to ask about the listener's ability but rather to insinuate the listener's lack of ability.

Negative assertions

A rhetorical question may be intended as a challenge. The question is often difficult or impossible to answer. In the example, "What have the Romans ever done for us?" (*Monty Python's Life of Brian*) the question functions as a negative assertion. It is intended to mean "The Romans have never done anything for us!" When Shakespeare's Mark Antony exclaims, "Here was a Caesar! When comes such another?" it functions as an assertion that Caesar possesses such rare qualities they may never be seen again. (*Julius Caesar*, Act 3, scene 2, 257)

Negative assertions may function as positives in sarcastic contexts. For example, in response to being informed that smoking can increase the possibility of developing lung cancer, someone could respond with the question, "Who knew?" The question functions as an assertion that the truth of the statement should have been utterly obvious.

Metaphors

Rhetorical questions are often used as a metaphor for a question already asked. Examples may be found in the song "Maria" from the 1959 Rodgers and Hammerstein musical, *The Sound of Music*, in which "How do you solve a problem



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like Maria?" is repeatedly answered with other questions: "How do you catch a cloud and pin it down?", "How do you keep a wave upon the sand?" and "How do you hold a moonbeam in your hand?" These responses assert that a problem like Maria cannot be solved.

Vernacular

In the vernacular, this form of rhetorical question is called "rhetorical affirmation". The certainty or obviousness of the answer to a question is expressed by asking another, often humorous, question for which the answer is equally obvious. Popular examples include "Do bears shit in the woods?", "Is the sky blue?" and "Is the Pope Catholic?"

Hypophora

The hypophora is a hyponym of a rhetorical question, characterized by the speaker posing a question for which is immediately answered by the speaker themselves. Examples: "*Do you always watch for the longest day of the year and then miss it? I always watch for the longest day in the year and then miss it.*" - The Great Gatsby. This can moreover be a manifestation of an epiphora, as Daisy had personally asserted her own opinion on her question.

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