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# **EMBOLALIA AND CHIASMUS**

**A Research Paper**

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## **Introduction**

Language is regarded as the most effective means of communication that human beings are provided with. Through this means, people could exchange their messages, emotions, ideas, and so on. Furthermore, there are several styles and techniques which are employed to convey their thoughts. Thus, the style used in a scientific subject differs from the one used in a literary work or a religious speech, or other subjects.

Going deeply, one could observe the fact that within each subject, several techniques or strategies are provided for different reasons and purposes. In literature, for instance, there are many techniques employed by the writers or authors to achieve different literary aims. These techniques are called stylistic devices, such as Simile, Juxtaposition, metaphor, personification, Rhyme, alliteration, chiasmus, Anaphora, Euphemism, and so many other devices.

Language is a vital thing in human life, language additionally assumes an important part in human communication. Without language we cannot speak with each other. Language is an arrangement of subjective vocal images utilized for human communication. There are sorts of language used by the speakers to convey their ideas such as figurative language and automatic speech. This paper discusses figurative language and automatic language in addition to chiasmus as a stylistic device.

### **1. Figurative language**

It is a language which utilizes figures of speech. It implies that a method for saying a certain something and importance another (Lakoff and Johnson, 1980: 53).

Figurative language is a language which has figurative significance and joins the speaker's want to touch the feelings, to cause stun and to induce vigorously. By utilizing the figurative language to prompt parallel musings and sentiments in others, so he can make a feeling of influence in his speech. As it were, figurative is an infer that the speakers to enable him to exchange his thoughts or contemplations into the gathering of people' minds. In this way, he can influence the group of onlookers to concur with his thoughts or expression which is utilized for embellishments and

which does not have its typical or strict significance (Peter, 2002 :12).

Figurative language implies a method for saying an option that is other than the strict importance of the words. It is talked about importance which is unique in relation to the strict translation. It is bolstered by the hypothesis which said that figurative or inventive language is the sentences fall outside the space of ordinary exacting language. Figurative language as indicated by M.H. Abrahams is a deviation from what speakers of language catch as the normal, or standard, hugeness or succession of word, so as to accomplish some exceptional importance of impact (Ibid.).

Sharndama and Suleiman (2013:166) express that figurative language are utilized in performing expressions as a medium communicating musings, sentiments, and thoughts certainly as opposed to explicitly. Figurative language is utilized as a part of any frame of communication, for example, in day by day discussion, article in daily paper, advertisement, books, lyrics and tune. A different method of expression or logical figure is figurative language as a solitary word or expression. It can be a unique redundancy, course of action or oversight of words with strict significance, or an expression with a specific importance not founded on the exacting importance of the words. Figures of speech often give accentuation, freshness of articulation, or clearness. Be that as it may, lucidity may likewise experience the ill effects of their utilization, as any more interesting methods of expression presents a vagueness amongst exacting and figurative elucidation (Wales, 1989: 170-177).

Figures of speech, as a sort of language frame, has particular talk impact and is inventively utilized as a part of particular setting, and it is likewise thought to be "a takeoff from the phonetic norms" of ordinary language somehow, regardless of whether semantically or grammatically. While it has dependably been of enthusiasm of the rhetorician and is additionally viewed as fringe marvel and outside of the center information which the language specialists ought to be concerned. As a matter of fact it is an inescapable wonder in each language as a kind. (In the same place.).

Figures of speech mean a case of saying something and significance something different keeping in mind the end goal to achieve noteworthy impact. Analogies, representations, images, metonymy, synecdoche, , punctuation, confusing expression, and exaggeration are diverse figures of speech (Ibid.).

## **2. Automatic Speech (Embolalia)**

Embolalia or automatic speech alludes to the verbalization of various words or expressions that happen without the cognizant exertion of the person. This kind of speech segment often fills in as verbal filler amid the center of an introduction or conversation. It comprises of words not specifically under the control of a man's cognizant personality, and are talked without thought. Such speech incorporates false begins, falterings, redundancies that go with words that speakers design and articulate cognizant sentences, and filler words, (for example, "Similar to", "Er" and "Uhm") (Kuniper,2000:279).

The word embolalia originates from the Greek word embolos which signifies 'something tossed in', from the word emballo-signifying 'to toss in'- and - lalia signifying 'speech, prattling and chattering; unusual or confused type of speech. Automatic speech has started explore in a wide range of fields since quite a while back. Present day language specialists drove by Leonard Bloomfield in 1933 call these "delay frames" the hints of stammering (uh), faltering (um, um), throat-clearing (ahem!), slowing down (well, um, that is), added when the speaker is grabbing for words or at a misfortune for the following idea (Ibid.).

Harry Levin and Irene Silverman called automatic speech "vocal isolates" in their 1965 paper on delay wonders and discovered from their investigations on kids that these isolates appear to be less deliberate faltering marvels and might be indications of uncontrolled emotionality under pressure. The Irish artist William Butler Yeats contended for automatic speech explores different avenues regarding his significant other, which furnished him with images for his verse and additionally scholarly hypotheses (Ibid280).

One of the important functions of embolalia is **Comprehension Cues**. There

is a typical understanding that disfluencies are joined by critical changes both at the segmental and prosodic levels and that speakers and audience members utilize such signals efficiently and seriously. In this way they show up as etymological widespread gadgets that are like different gadgets and are controlled by the speaker and directed by dialect particular limitations .What is more, speech disfluencies, for example, fillers can help audience members to recognize up and coming words. While automatic speech can fill in as a valuable prompt that more is to come, a few people do build up an oblivious reliance on these filler words (Wray,2009:1).

At the point when this is the situation, it is important to revise the issue by influencing the speaker to know about their over-dependence on automatic speech creation and via preparing the individual to make more productive utilization of other verbal methodologies. As the individual additions certainty and is less adept to have a requirement for filler words, the preference toward automatic speech is then ready to continuously diminish(Ibid.).

An investigation done by Foxtree (2001:89) demonstrated that both English and Dutch audience members were quicker to distinguish words in a bearer sentence when it was gone before with an "Uh" rather than without an "Uh", which proposed that distinctive fillers have diverse impacts as they may pass on various data. Fischer and Brandt-Pook likewise discovered that talk particles stamp topical breaks, flag the relatedness between the first and following expression, show if the speaker has comprehended the substance imparted, and bolster the detailing procedure by flagging conceivable issues in speech administration. While fillers may give audience members prompts about the data being passed on, Bailey and Ferreira's examination made a refinement between "Great Cues" and "Terrible Cues" in encouraging audience's perception.

A "Decent Cue" drives the audience to effectively foresee the beginning of another constituent (Noun Phrase, Verb Phrase), though an "Awful Cue" drives the audience to inaccurately anticipate the beginning of another constituent. "Great Cue" make it less demanding for audience members to process the data they have been

exhibited while "Terrible Cue" make it harder for audience members process the pertinent data. There is solid experimental confirmation that speakers utilize automatic speech in comparative routes crosswise over dialects and that automatic dialect assumes a major part in the organizing of unconstrained speech, as they are utilized to accomplish a superior synchronization between questioners by declaring up and coming theme changes, defers identified with arranging burden or readiness issues, and also speaker's aims to take/give the floor or to amend/forsake an articulation he/she had just introduced. Open objectives (Ibid.).


An investigation led by Clark and Foxtree (2002:154) specified that parts of automatic speech, for example, fillers, serve an open capacity and are viewed as necessary to the data the speaker tries to pass on, in spite of the fact that they do not add to the propositional content or the essential message. Rather, they are considered piece of an insurance message where the speaker is remarking on her execution. Speakers deliver filled stops (e.g. "Uh" or "Um") for an assortment of reasons, including the expectation to demoralize interferences or to increase extra time to design articulations.

In any case, not all types of automatic speech are viewed as fitting or innocuous. There are cases of automatic speech creation that lean towards being offensive, for example, the utilization of anything thought to be profanity inside a given culture. In this shape, the speech is typically the addition of swear words inside the sentence structure used to pass on different thoughts. On occasion, this utilization of automatic speech comes to fruition because of the individual being enormously bothered or irate. In any case, there are circumstances where swear words are embedded unwittingly regardless of whether the individual is to a great degree glad. At the point when the utilization of swear words is called to the consideration of the individual, he or she may not have known about the use of such automatic speech (Ibid.).

### **3. Chiasmus**

The present section focuses on chiasmus. This technique is often used in literary works and is also clearly observed in the religious speeches. Chiasmus refers to the idea of using the same items in an inverted way so that a particular issue is focused on.

The term chiasmus is originally taken from the Greek word *khiasmus* (χιασμός), which means to mark with a cross (X). Thus, chiasmus is usually associated and explained by the use of (X) form (Lederer, 2012: 40). Generally speaking, Chiasmus is a stylistic device used to put emphasis on a particular phrase or clause. It involves the process of placing the sentence elements in a criss-cross form. The elements are supposed to be corresponded in either meaning or syntax, with some kind of flexibility concerning words' repetition (Preminger et. al, 1986: 36). The following example illustrates this process:

*Never let a fool kiss you,*  
  
*Or a kiss fool you.*

Grothe (2002) comments on this example stating that putting the sentence elements in an inverted order would result in such perfect cross which reflects an intended meaning. For Norrman (1986: 276), chiasmus (or chiasm in his terminology) is "the use of bilateral symmetry about a central axis". This means that a single word or a group of words can be presented in a unit that is parallel across the pivotal midpoint of a literary piece. Thomson (1995: 25-26) believes that chiasmus is said to be obtained in a passage if the text under question shows a bilateral symmetry of four (or more) elements about the a central axis. This symmetry consists of any combination of grammatical, verbal, or syntactical elements, or, of course, concepts or ideas in a particular pattern. According to Cuddon (2013: 119), Chiasmus is defined as "a reversal of grammatical structures in successive phrases or clauses", as in

*You don't need to get a **phone**, you need a **phone** that gets you.*

*We make **the tools**, you make **them** do.*

Raffa (2000: 137) defines chiasmus as a grammatical figure of speech which refers to the crossing, diagonal arrangement of words. In such order of words, one of the two successive clauses is inverted in the other, as in the following example:

*Conceived in sin, and unto labour borne,  
Standing with fear, and must with horror fall, And  
Destined unto judgment, after all.*

*“We should behave to our friends as we would  
Wish our friends to behave **to us**.”*

This stylistic device is highly observable in literary and religious contexts. It is clearly seen in the Bible, Old and New Testaments and Gospel. It is usually employed in such contexts to emphasize something or to show contrast or comparison or for some other reasons. Many studies have been conducted to investigate this technique used in different religious contexts. For example, Bullinger (1898: 374-393) discusses in his book *Figures of Speech Used in the Bible* what he termed 'Introverted Correspondences' and also 'Complete Correspondence'. Then, he (1914) also investigated the chiasmic structure of Both Bible and texts from King James Version.

Furthermore, Lund (1942) tackled the case of chiasmus in New Testament analyzing some sections of OT., Epistles of Paul, the Gospels and the book of Revelation. The study highlighted the importance of chiasmus in the interpretation of the religious contexts. Such and other similar studies clarify the structure, functions, and the importance of this technique to focus on a particular idea or message. Chiasmus can be regarded as a combination of inversion and parallelism or as inverted parallelism. It can be defined on the basis of the different language levels; grammatical, syntactical, semantic, and as a rhetorical device. These levels are discussed in the following section.

### **3.1 Levels of Chiasmus**



Chiasmus can be observed on different levels. This section present an account of these different levels.

### a. The Phonological Level

In terms of the phonological level, chiasmus deals with reversing phonemes and syllables. This can be exemplified in the reversal of phonemes in the following example: (cited in Nänny, 1994: 127):

*His hollow belly echoed to the stroke;*

In the above example, the sketch below shows the phonemic reversal:

$/k > əʊ/ > < /əʊ < k/$

As for the reversal of syllables, it is clarified in the following speech of Lincoln (cited in Fransworth: 2011: 109):

*Four score and seven years ago our fathers brought*

*Fourth on this **continent** a new **nation**, **conceived** in liberty....*

The syllable /kɒn/ in the first part of the chiastic sequence precedes that of /nju:/. In the second part of the sequence, the syllable /kən/ is followed by that of /neɪ/ constituting phonological chiasmus.

### b. The Morphological Level

At this level, chiasmus makes a process of morphological change for the words repeated in an inverse order (Myers and Wukasch, 2003: 20):

*Nowhere but here did ever meet*

*Sweetness so sad and sadness so sweet.* (Fonagy, 2001: 363)

By a process of word formation, *sweetness* and *sadness* are taken from the root words *sweet* and *sad* with the addition of the morpheme *-ness*. The words are made in a chiastic order denoting chiasmus at the morphological level. As a result of this morphological process, the grammatical functions of the reversed elements reversed have changed: the N becomes an Adj. and vice versa.

### c. The Syntactic Level

Syntactically, chiasmus means to put the segments which are formed by two syntactically similar group of words in an inverted order (Dupriez, 1991: 95). Dillon (1978: 52) claims that the criss-cross process implies the inversion of, for example, the V and O as they similarly introduced in the next part of the chiastic sequence, as in

To prove (V) his puissance (O) in battell brave  
Upon his foe, and his new force (O) to learne (V);

In this example, the two objects are moved and syntactically put in a suitable form with respect to the verbs employed.

This is only one example about how chiasmus is applied with reference to syntactic inversion. It can also be applied to other syntactic forms, such as a prepositional phrase followed by a noun, a noun phrase followed by a verb, a verb followed by an adverb, etc.(I'jam and Fadhil, 2016)

#### **d. The Semantic Level**

From a semantic point of view, chiasmus is regarded as a "figure composed of a double antithesis in which the terms cross each". This means that the words cross each other with possible opposite in meaning (Rosenwasser and Stephen, 2009: 289), as in the example below,

*But many that are **first** shall be **last**;  
and the **last** shall be **first**.*

For Fahnestock (1999: 123), Chiasmus is applied not only to identical words, but also to some words which are recognizable in synonymous or antonymous way, as in the following example:

*Napoleon was defeated by a Russian winter  
And the snows of Leningrad destroyed Hitler.*

Reordering the elements of the sequence with respect to semantics, the chiasmic order of elements will be as such:

*Invader: Russian winter / Russian winter: invader*

Fahnestock (1999: 124) moves to state that the opposite items can also be observed to pass under chiasmus, as in

*That I blind was and am now seeing*

Grudzina and Beardsley (2007: 113) define Chiasmus as a rhetorical device through which the first and the second grammatical constructions are paralleled, but the order is reversed, as in:

*The coin that is lost unhappily is gladly found.*

Thus, instead of “lost unhappily” being paralleled by “found gladly” where both of them are phrases consisting of a verb and an adverb, “lost unhappily” will be followed by a phrase with inverse order of the elements; that is, an adverb and a verb “gladly found”.

Finally, chiasmus is defined as a stylistically ornate device that flips the original form of a structure around. It involves the inversion of the expected. It is often used to reinforce a statement (McGuigan, 2008: 107), as in the example below:

*While the sun was **hot and scorching**, **cool and soothing** were the waves*

### **3.2.Functions of Chiasmus**

In terms of functions, chiasmus can have several functions. There are two main functions of chiasmus, structural and general. Although this section will focus on these two functions, there are other one which will be referred to with supplementary examples, mainly from poetry.

The structural function of chiasmus could contribute to the literary work as a whole, or to a part of the it, as observed in the following stanza, in which chiasmus is a technique of opening a poem:

*At my post* will *I stand*,

*I will position* myself *on the watch - tower.* (Waston, 1994: 369)

Similarly, it could also be employed to give an end to a poem. Thus, the lines which are presented in the previous lines of the poem can be repeated at the end of it in a reverse way (Vierke, 2011: 155), as in:

Turned to *mourning* has *my lyre*, and

*My flute* to *weeper's voices.* (Waston, 1994: 370)

For emphasizing antithesis, a chiasmic structure is highly observable in adverbs, as in (Ibid):

*The just man* eats to sate *his appetite*,

But *the belly* of *the wicked* is empty.

For Schokel (2000: 83), one other function of chiasmus is to express merismus. This is used to denote totality by naming some parts that are representative of the part, as in:

*Dissolve* will *the mountains* beneath him,

*The valleys* will be *tore apart.* (Waston, 1994: 370)

In terms of general functions, chiasmus can be employed through breaking the monotony of direct parallelism. This process can attract the attention of the reader. This implies the use of the structure AB followed by BA, instead of using AB in both parts of the parallel sentence, as in (Harris, 2010: 2):

*What is now* *great* was *at* *first* *little,* (AB - AB)

*What is now* *great* was *little* *at first.* (AB - BA)

Aphoristic function is one of chiastic aims. As in the case of slogans or epigrams, the reverse use of the items makes them remembered. To make some ideas go deeply in the society, explicit repetition of phrases is regarded as a hallmark of chiasmus. This function can be exemplified in the slogan of the American gun lobby:

When *guns* are outlawed,

Only outlaws will have *guns*. (Besold et al., 2015: 198)

The basic function of chiasmus is to emphasize something. Therefore, the reversal repetition of the ideas or information is actually not to present new information, but to focus or emphasize this piece of information only through repeating the previous statement in a reverse way, as in:

A most beastly place. **Mudbank, mist, swamp, and work;**  
**work, swamp, mist, and mudbank.** (Fransworth, 2011: 107)

Stylistically, the chiastic structure has an effect on the sentence, contributing to the rhythmical aspect of it. In the following example,

*He sat down whistling and played by ear:*

*Just picture you upon my knee*

*With tea for two and two for tea*

*And me for you and you for me*

chiasmus, in the last two lines of the example above, is adopted through parallelism, polysyndeton, with the employment of phonetic stylistic means and expressive tools. This combination of different means contributes to the rhythm of these lines totally (I'jam and Fadhil, 2016).

The last function of chiasmus is to create a kind of reciprocal relation. In such a case, the places of the items are changed and their differences could possibly be undecidable. This is quite similar to the case of vise-versa, as in

People do not seem *to talk for the sake of expressing their opinions*, but to

*maintain an opinion* for the sake of talking.

## **Conclusion**

Through what has presented in this paper, the researchers have come up with the following conclusions:

1. Figurative language is utilized to prompt parallel musings and sentiments in others, so one can make a feeling of influence in her/his speech. figurative is an infer that enables the speaker to exchange her/his thoughts or contemplations, i.e., figurative language is utilized in performing expressions as a medium of communicating contemplations, sentiments and thoughts.

2. Automatic speech (embolalia) often fills in as verbal filler amid the center of an introduction or conversation. Such speech incorporates false begins, faltering, redundancies that go with words that speakers design and articulate cognizant sentences, and filler words, (for example, "Similar to", "Er" and "Uhm"). One of the important functions of embolalia is Comprehension Cues. Not all types of automatic speech are viewed as fitting or innocuous such as swear words.

3. Chiasmus is generally defined as a technique employed in writing for some purposes. This process involves using the same words or phrases in a revers way within the parallel sequence to add a touch of aesthetic aspect to writing. It is clearly observed in literary works, mainly the poetry, and religious books and writings. It is regarded as a stylistic device which reflects the intention of the author. Chiasmus works on different levels, mainly phonological, morphological, syntactic, semantic, stylistic, etc. The main function of chiasmus is to emphasize particular ideas or emotions. It is stylistically used to attract the reader to the texts.

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