

CLASSIFICATION AND TYPES OF PERIPHRASES

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Abstract

This article is devoted to periphrasis, which are important tool in language that enriches communication, adds depth to expression, and improves understanding.

A periphrasis is one of the tools for communication and the use of linguistic periphrasis boosts expressiveness to our conversation and written texts. In this article, we will delve into the types of periphrases in English language and provide examples to differentiate its types clearly.

Keywords: Linguistic periphrasis, phraseological compounds, , expressiveness, logical, figurative rhetoric, analogy.

Introduction

Periphrases can be classified in several ways. Here are some common classifications based on their functions or characteristics:

1. **Semantic periphrases:** These periphrases are used to provide additional meaning or clarification to a word or phrase. For example, using "the big apple" to refer to New York City. Semantic periphrases, also known as lexical periphrases or circumlocutions, are linguistic devices used to express a specific meaning or concept by using a combination of words instead of a single word. Semantic periphrases involve describing or defining a concept using additional words that convey the same meaning or provide a more explicit explanation. They can be used for various reasons, such as adding clarity, emphasizing certain aspects, or avoiding ambiguity. Here are a few examples of semantic periphrases:

1. "A four-wheeled, motorized vehicle used for transportation" instead of "car."
2. "The act of giving money or resources to an organization or cause" instead of "donation."
3. "The celestial body that revolves around the Earth and reflects the Sun's light at night" instead of "moon."
4. "A large body of water surrounded by land" instead of "lake."
5. "A feeling of intense sadness or grief" instead of "despair."

Semantic periphrasis allows for a more detailed and explicit expression of concepts, offering a richer understanding of the intended meaning. By using descriptive phrases or explanations, semantic periphrases provide additional information that may not be conveyed by a single word.



2. Syntactic periphrases: These periphrases are used to express grammatical relationships or functions. For example, using "going to" in English to express future actions ("I am going to eat"). The syntactic classification of periphrases can be done based on their structural patterns and the syntactic roles played by the components within the periphrastic expression. Here are some common syntactic classifications of periphrases:

1. Nominal Periphrases: These periphrases involve a combination of a noun or a pronoun with other words to express a specific meaning. For example, "a man of wealth" or "the book on the table."

2. Verbal Periphrases: These periphrases use auxiliary verbs along with the main verb to convey different aspects or tenses. Examples include the progressive aspect ("is playing"), the perfect aspect ("has seen"), or the passive voice ("was written").

3. Adjectival Periphrases: These periphrases involve the use of adjectives along with other words, typically verbs or prepositions, to convey a specific meaning. For example, "happy with the outcome" or "fond of chocolates."

4. Adverbial Periphrases: These periphrases consist of an adverb along with other words, often verbs, to express various adverbial meanings. Examples include "in a hurry," "with caution," or "by all means."

5. Infinitival Periphrases: These periphrases use an infinitive verb along with other words to express a particular meaning. For example, "to go shopping" or "to eat breakfast."

It's important to note that these classifications provide a general framework, and there can be overlap or variations based on the specific language or context. Additionally, different scholars and linguistic frameworks may use different classification systems for periphrases.

3. Lexical periphrases: These periphrases involve the use of synonyms or alternative expressions to avoid repetition or for stylistic purposes. For example, using "the city that never sleeps" instead of "New York City." Lexical periphrases are expressions that involve the use of multiple words to convey a specific lexical or semantic meaning. Unlike grammatical periphrases that convey grammatical functions or aspects, lexical periphrases focus on conveying specific lexical content. Here are some examples of lexical periphrases:

1. "Give birth to": This periphrase is used to express the act of delivering a baby. For example, "She gave birth to a healthy baby girl.";

2. "Make a decision": This periphrase is used to express the act of coming to a decision or making a choice. For example, "He finally made a decision about his future career.";

3. "Take a shower": This periphrase is used to express the act of cleansing oneself by showering. For example, "I need to take a quick shower before heading out.";

4. "Fall in love": This periphrase is used to express the experience of developing romantic feelings for someone. For example, "They met in college and quickly fell in love."

5. "Catch a glimpse": This periphrase is used to express briefly seeing or observing something. For example, "She caught a glimpse of the sunset before it disappeared behind the mountains."

4. Descriptive periphrases: These periphrases are used to provide additional descriptive information about a person, object, or situation. For example, using "the man with the golden



voice" to describe a talented singer. Descriptive periphrases, also known as descriptive circumlocutions or descriptive expressions, are constructions that use multiple words to provide detailed descriptions or explanations of a particular concept or object. These periphrases serve to provide additional information or clarity to enhance the understanding of the intended meaning. Here are some examples of descriptive periphrases:

1. "The big, yellow, fluffy cat": This periphrasis provides a more elaborate description of a cat, emphasizing its size, color, and texture. It adds descriptive details to paint a clearer picture of the cat being referred to.
2. "The tall building with glass windows and a pointed roof": This periphrasis offers a detailed description of a building, specifying its height, architectural features, and materials used. It helps in visualizing the building being described.
3. "The tasty, aromatic, freshly brewed coffee": This periphrasis describes a cup of coffee, highlighting its taste, smell, and preparation. It adds sensory details to convey the flavors and experience associated with the coffee.
4. "The book filled with suspense, mystery, and unexpected twists": This periphrasis points out the genres and elements present in a book, emphasizing the feeling of anticipation and surprise that it offers.
5. "The noisy, bustling, crowded city streets": This periphrasis describes the atmosphere of city streets, highlighting the noise, activity, and busyness. It helps in creating a vivid image of the urban environment.

These examples demonstrate how descriptive periphrases add specificity, vividness, and nuance to descriptions by incorporating multiple words or phrases that provide additional details, qualities, or characteristics. They contribute to richer and more expressive language use.

5. Idiomatic periphrases: These periphrases involve the use of fixed expressions or idioms that have a figurative meaning different from the literal interpretation of the words. For example, "break a leg" meaning "good luck" in theatrical performances. Idiomatic periphrases are expressions that involve the use of fixed, non-literal combinations of words. These periphrastic constructions have unique meanings that cannot be easily deduced from the individual words within the expression. They are considered idiomatic because the meaning of the overall phrase goes beyond the literal interpretation of its constituent words. Here are some examples of idiomatic periphrases:

1. "Kick the bucket": This idiomatic periphrasis means to die. The literal interpretation of "kick the bucket" does not convey this meaning, but it has become a widely used expression with a specific figurative sense.
2. "Hit the hay": This idiomatic periphrasis means to go to sleep. It does not literally refer to hitting hay or any physical action. Instead, it is a colloquial expression used to indicate going to bed.
3. "Beat around the bush": This idiomatic periphrasis means to avoid addressing a topic directly or to speak evasively. It does not involve actual physical beating or being near a bush.



4. "Bite the bullet": This idiomatic periphrasis means to endure a difficult or unpleasant situation with courage. It does not involve biting an actual bullet but rather conveys the idea of facing adversity.

5. "Break the ice": This idiomatic periphrasis means to initiate or start a conversation or social interaction. It does not involve actually breaking any ice physically but refers to the action of overcoming initial awkwardness.

Idiomatic periphrases often originate from cultural, historical, or metaphorical associations that have become established in a language over time. They add color, expressiveness, and cultural significance to communication but require knowledge of their specific meanings to be understood correctly.

6. Rhetorical periphrases: These periphrases are used for rhetorical or persuasive purposes, often to make a statement more impactful or memorable. For example, using "the love that dare not speak its name" to refer to same-sex relationships.

It's important to note that some periphrases can fall into multiple categories, as they may serve multiple functions or exhibit different characteristics depending on the context. Rhetorical periphrases, also known as rhetorical circumlocutions or rhetorical figures, are periphrastic expressions used to enhance the persuasive or rhetorical impact of a message. These constructions involve the use of additional words or phrases to convey meaning in a more elaborate or poetic manner. Rhetorical periphrases often employ figurative language, vivid descriptions, or exaggerated expressions to captivate the audience. Here are some examples of rhetorical periphrases:

1. "The land of the rising sun": Instead of simply referring to Japan, this periphrasis creates a more captivating and evocative image by using descriptive language.

2. "The gentle art of persuasion": This periphrasis enriches the description of persuasion by emphasizing its subtlety and skill, adding a persuasive effect to the statement.

3. "The Bard of Avon" (referring to William Shakespeare): This periphrasis creates an elevated and poetic portrayal of the renowned playwright, using a more evocative description instead of simply using his name.

4. "The king of beasts" (referring to a lion): This periphrasis emphasizes the regal and dominant nature of a lion by using a descriptive phrase instead of directly stating the animal's name.

5. "The city that never sleeps" (referring to New York City): This periphrasis captures the bustling and vibrant nature of New York City, using a vivid description to engage the audience.

Rhetorical periphrases are employed to add emphasis, evoke emotions, create memorable images, or enhance rhetorical effects such as rhythm or rhyme. They contribute to the persuasive power of speeches, literary works, and other forms of rhetoric by using creative and imaginative language.

To conclude, a periphrasis or paraphrase is a stylistic approach in which a thing or event that is treated as a synonymous phrase in relation to an existing word is represented not by its name but by a descriptive context, a characteristic feature of the situation. Every periphrasis indicates a new feature of a phenomenon which occurred to the writer. For this reason periphrasis is used to convey a purely individual perception of a given phenomenon.



One and the same object may be identified in different ways and accordingly acquire different appellations. Thus, in different situations a certain person or object can be denoted differently based on the situation and attitude of the speaker.

In some cases periphrasis is regarded as a demerit and should have no place in good, precise writing. This kind of periphrasis is generally called circumlocution.

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