**FIGURES OF SPEECH**

A figure of speech is a departure from the ordinary form of expression, or the ordinary course of ideas in order to produce a greater effect.

Figures of Speech may be classified as under.

1. Those based on Resemblance, such as Simile, Metaphor, Personification and Apostrophe.
2. Those based on Contrast, such as Antithesis and Epigram.
3. Those based on Association, such as Metonymy and synecdoche.
4. Those depending on construction, such as climax and Anticlimax.

**Simile:** In a Simile a comparison is made between two objects of different kinds which have however at least one point in common.

The Simile is usually introduced by such words as like, as or so.

Examples:

1. The Assyrian came down like a wolf on the told.
2. The righteous shall flourish as the palm tree.
3. As the hart panteth after the water-brooks, so panteth my soul after Thee,O God
4. Words are like leaves: and where they most abound.

Much fruit of sense beneath is rarely found.

1. How far that little candle throws his beams!

So shines a good deed in a naughty world.

1. Life is as tedious as a twice told tale

Vexing the dull ear of a drowsy man.

1. Thy soul was like a star, and dwell apart

Thou hadst a voice whose sound was like the sea.

1. O my love’s like a red, red rose

That’s newly sprung in June;

O my love’s like the melodie

That’s sweetly played in June.

The following are some common similes of everyday speech:

Mad as a March Hare; as proud as peacock; as bold as Ebrass; as tough as leather;as clear as crystal; as good as gold ;as old as the hills; as cool as a cucumber.

Note-A comparison of two things of the same kind is not a Simile.

**Metaphor-** A metaphor is an implied Simile .It does not, like the Simile, state that one thing is like another or acts as another, but takes that for granted and proceeds as if the two things were one.

Thus, when we say, ‘He fought like a lion’ we use a simile, but when we say,’ He was a lion in the fight’, we use a metaphor.

Examples:

1. The camel is the sheep of the desert.
2. Life is a dream.
3. The news was the dagger to his heart.
4. Revenge is a kind of wild justice.

**Note 1:** Every Simile can be compressed into a Metaphor and every Metaphor can be expanded into a Simile.

Thus, instead of saying.’ Richard fought like a lion’. (Simile) we can say ‘Richard was a lion in the fight ‘(Metaphor).

Similarly instead of saying, ‘The camel is the ship of the desert (Metaphor), we may expand it and say, “As the ship is used for crossing the ocean; so the camel is used for crossing the desert (Simile).

Other Examples:

1. Variety is the spice of life (Metaphor).

As spice flavours food, so variety makes life more pleasant (Simile).

1. The waves broke on the shore with a noise like thunder (Simile).

The waves thundered on the shore (Metaphor).