

**LINGUISTIC
SIGNIFICANCE AND
FUNCTIONS OF LEXICO-
SYNTACTICAL STYLISTIC DEVICES:
ANTITHESIS**

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Annotation: This thesis highlights the data related to one of the most crucial branches of the stylistics in terms of antithesis as a lexico-syntactical stylistic devices.

Key words: stylistic devices, figurative meaning, stylistic function, opposition.]

Language uses various stylistic devices which make use either of the meaning or of the structure of language units. The term *figures of speech* is frequently used for stylistic devices that make use of a figurative meaning of the language elements and thus create a vivid image.[1]

Antithesis denotes a structure that stresses a sharp contrast in meaning between the parts within one sentence: *Art is long, life is short'. One man's meat is another man's poison'. Some people are wise, some otherwise.* (B. Shaw) \

As Caesar loved me, I weep for him, as he was fortunate, / rejoice at it', as he was valiant, / honour him', but as he was ambitious, I view him. There's tears for his love', joy for his fortune', honour for his valour, and death for his ambition.[2]

(Shakespeare) *Youth is full of peevishness.*

Age is full of care'.

Youth like summer morn.

Age like winter weather (ib.)

Antithesis based on relative opposition, which arises out of the context through the expansion of objectively contrasting pairs. E.g.: wisdom –foolishness; light – darkness; everything- nothing. Don't use *big* words. They mean so *little*.

Mrs. Nork had a *large* home and a *small* husband. In marriage the *upkeep* of woman is often the *downfall* of man. [3]

Antithesis is a confrontation of ideas in different sentences or parts of one sentence (*A saint abroad and a devil at home*). Types of antithesis: morphological

(overworked and underpaid), lexical proper (That's one small step for a man, one giant leap for mankind), developed (It was the best of times, it was the worst of times. It was the age of wisdom, it was the age of foolishness. It was the epoch of belief, it was the epoch of incredulity. It was the season of Light, it was the season of Darkness (exposition to "The Tale of Two Cities" by Ch. Dickens)).

Antithesis (Gr. 'opposition') is the setting of one clause or a member of a sentence against another to which it is opposed. The stylistic function of antithesis is to emphasize contrasting features. Antithesis is frequently based on the use of antonyms placed at the beginning and at the end of a sentence or in the same syntactic function in one or several sentences, e.g. *From the caress in her voice, the look on her face, he became certain that she wanted something from him, uncertain whether it would be wise of him to give it to her*; (Galsworthy, L) *Love is my sin, and thy dear virtue hate*. (Shakespeare, S)

One can distinguish between two kinds of antitheses:

(a) Two words opposite in meaning characterize one and the same object, exposing its contradictory nature, e.g. *Within you there were changes, building up of tissues, breaking down of tissues*; (Cusack, SND)

As fast as thou shalt wane, so fast thou grow'st

In one of thine, from that which thou departest. (Shakespeare, S)

(b) Two different objects connected with some spatial, temporal or causal relations are given emphasized opposite characteristics, e.g. *He himself had always been a worker and a saver. George always a drone and a spender*; (Galsworthy, L) *It seemed to show the growth of something or other - or perhaps the decline of something else*. (Galsworthy, L)

In poetry a whole stanza or poem can be based on antithesis, e.g.

*Crabbed age and youth
Cannot live together;
Youth is full of pleasure,
Age is full of care
Youth like summer mom,
Age like winter weather;
Youth like summer brave,*

Age like winter

bare.

Youth is full of sport,

Age's breath is short,

Youth is nimble, age is lame,

Youth is hot and bold

Age is weak and cold;

Youth is wild and age is tame,

Age, I do abhor thee

Youth, I do adore thee.

(Shakespeare, PP)[1]

The thesis highlights the importance of antithesis as a stylistic device used to show contrasts and make language more expressive. By placing opposite ideas side by side, antithesis creates clear and impactful imagery while adding depth to literary and rhetorical works. Whether in word choice, sentence structure, or poetry, antithesis is a versatile tool for showing contrasts in meaning. With examples from Shakespeare, Dickens, and others, the study shows how antithesis helps make writing clearer, more emotional, and more artistic. This research emphasizes its value in stylistics and its role in enhancing language and literature.

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