

FIGURES OF SPEECH

A figure of speech, is a word or phrase that moves away from usual language and is used to create a more creative and beautiful impact in an expression. There are many forms of figures of speech. This month we take up Tautology.

What is a Tautology?

A tautology is an unnecessary or unessential repetition of meaning, using different and dissimilar words that effectively say the same thing twice.

- It was a free gift.

The term 'gift' by definition is something given without charge. So saying it is a 'free gift' does not add to the meaning.

How is tautology used in Prose?

Tautology in prose is more commonly used as two synonyms next to each other.

- He 'first introduced' the game to the audience.

'introduced' generally implies that it is the first time that someone or something has been presented.

- The committee has come up with a 'new innovation'.

'innovation' is always something new.

Some other examples are: unsolved mystery, 'added bonus', 'over-exaggerate', 'short summary', etc.

How is tautology used in Poetry?

Tautology in poetry does not necessarily have to happen in a chorus. It is something that we can find even in the middle of stanzas:

"There is a thorn; it looks so old,
In truth you'd find it hard to say,
How it could ever have been so young,
It looks so old and grey."



WORD POWER

hapless (adjective): unhappy – It was a hapless situation.

insurgent (adjective): rebellious – The insurgent nature of the extremists brought about a change in the freedom movement.

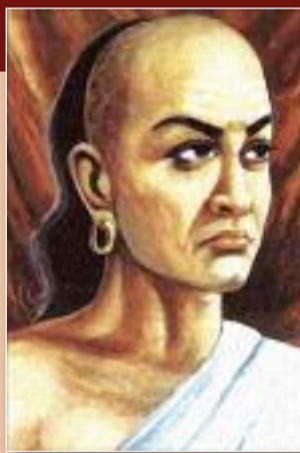
interim (noun): temporary – The interim government was soon dissolved.

intrinsic (adjective): inherent – The intrinsic nature of the animals was evident all through.

invincible (adjective): that which cannot be defeated – Alexander was the invincible ruler of the world.

intermittent (adjective): periodic – The intermittent flow of water will determine the position of the planets.

WORDS OF WISDOM



"Once you start working on something, don't be afraid of failure and don't abandon it. People who work sincerely are the happiest. One whose knowledge is confined to books and whose wealth is in the possession of others, can use neither his knowledge nor wealth when the need for them arises."

- Chanakya (350-283 BCE)

One of the greatest figures of wisdom and knowledge in Indian history, Chanakya was an adviser and prime minister to the first Maurya Emperor Chandragupta. Known to the Western world as the 'Indian Machiavelli' he was considered as the pioneer in the field of economics and political science. His famous works include Chanakya Neeti, Arthashastra and Neetishastra.

Trivia

- The word 'Checkmate' in chess comes from the Persian phrase "Shah Mat, 'which means "the king is dead'".
- The only word that consists of two letters, each used three times is the word 'deeded'.
- The two longest one-syllable words in the English language are 'screeched' and 'strengths'.
- 'Stewardesses' is the longest word

that can be typed using the left hand.

- The longest word that can be typed using on the right hand is 'lollipop'.
- The word 'karate' means 'empty hand'.

