



LINGUISTIC PERIPHRAISIS

Abduraxmonova Sayyora Abdumajidovna
 Student, Uzbek State World Languages University
 Masters Department Faculty: English Linguistics
 +99893 5752413, sayazfir19865gmail.com

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, I will delve into the significance of linguistic periphrases and highlight their role in enhancing communication.

Keywords: linguistic periphrasis, indirect speech, word combination, enhances clarity, extra context, alternative way, simile, allusion, euphemism, metaphor, metaphorical epithet, impressiveness, emotiveness, statement.

Introduction

Linguistic periphrases, also known as circumlocutions or indirect speech, are constructions where a phrase or a combination of words is used to express an idea or convey meaning that could otherwise be expressed in a single word or phrase. It involves using more words than necessary to describe something, often adding layers of meaning and nuance. Besides periphrases play a crucial role in enhancing clarity and understanding in communication. They provide extra context, explanation, and detail to ensure that the intended meaning is accurately conveyed. The main function of periphrases is to convey a purely individual perception of the described object. To achieve it the generally accepted nomination of the object is replaced by the description of one of its features or qualities, which seems to the author most important for the characteristic of the object. The oftenrepeated periphrases become trite and serve as universally accepted periphrastic synonyms: "the gentle / soft / weak sex" (women); "my better half (my spouse)"; "minions of Law" (police), etc.

By using periphrases, speakers and writers avoid using simple and straightforward statements, periphrases offer alternative ways to express ideas and describe situations. They allow us to avoid repetitive language, making our conversations and texts more engaging and interesting.

- Instead of saying "he is old," one can say "he has seen many winters," adding an element of wisdom and experience to the description.



- Instead of saying "she is pregnant," one can say "she is expecting a child," highlighting the anticipation and joy that comes with pregnancy.

Periphrases are also commonly used to express politeness and deference. For instance, instead of directly asking someone to do something one might say "Could you please lend me a hand" (can you help me) or "Would you mind helping me?". This form of linguistic periphrasis softens the impact of the statement and is often used to make the request more polite and less demanding. Another example is "I am absolutely starving" (I am hungry). This form of periphrasis adds intensity and emphasis to the statement, making it more impactful.

Periphrasis is also considered one of the metaphorical tools that provide variety, impressiveness, and artistry of speech. In certain respects, this phenomenon is similar to the means of artistic representation, such as simile, allusion, euphemism, metaphor, and metaphorical epithet etc. For example "Life is a journey, not a destination" (Ralph Waldo Emerson). The word "journey" equals to a process of experiences, challenges, and discoveries along the life. The expression "to carry the weight of the world on one's shoulders" (allusion) comes from the Greek myth of Atlas, who was part of the second generation of the Titans, the oldest gods of Greek mythology. However, Atlas did not actually carry "the weight of the world"; instead, he carried the celestial sphere (the sky). Linguistic periphrases are widely used in poetry, strengthening the emotions and avoiding using simple statements:

The Fire Of Passion

by Shadow Of Light

You burn within me (love me)

Like the fire of passion (strong desire)

When I see you

My eyes smile once again (be happy)

My lips long for you (kiss)

My heart pounds within my chest. (beats fast)

In conclusion, linguistic periphrases play a significant role in enhancing communication by providing additional clarity, creativity, and expressiveness. They add variety and depth to our language, making it more engaging, memorable, and impactful. Whether in spoken conversation or written work, the use of periphrases helps us convey a specific message, evoke emotions, and ensure precise understanding. Embracing linguistic periphrases can result in more effective communication and contribute to a richer and more vibrant language.

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