

The 7 effects of language continued

Part 2



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Draw attention/highlight

- Sound devices will invariably draw the reader's attention, mainly because of repetition, but also because of the unique quality of the sound.
 - Onomatopoeia
 - Alliteration
 - Assonance
 - Rhyme

Alliteration

- By repeating the same consonant sound in successive words, attention is immediately drawn to those words, however you may find that your attention is drawn in order to highlight a certain point/message.
 - e.g. “Call country ants to harvest offices” (The Sun Rising: 8)

The sharp ‘k’ sound draws attention to the word call and reiterates the idea of drawing the ants’ attention when they are called. This sharpness of sound can be assimilated to the sharpness of the sun as it rises, it does draw the attention of all living things with its light.

Another Alliteration e.g.

- “Thou, sun, art half as happy as we,” (The Sun Rising: 25, John Donne)
- Note how the voiceless ‘h’ sound is separated by “as”, however it is still close enough to be effective. Its lightness draws attention through its uniqueness because all the other consonant sounds in the line are voiced (heavy). This highlights the diminished happiness of the sun compared to the lovers who are twice as happy, which raises an expectation of heavy/voiced consonants being used when describing the lovers.

Onomatopoeia

- What draws attention in this device is the unique quality of imitating sound through words.
- In some cases the words created would not even be found in the dictionary, but they are easily understandable within the context they are used.
 - e.g. “... she watched her last debtor approach, **vooping** his oversized overalls.” (The Shebeen Queen: 4)

You cannot miss that strange word even if you tried, its sound gives an idea of excess material flapping about as he walks, because his overall is a size or two bigger.

Assonance

- While the repetition of the same vowel sound in successive words could also draw attention, not many poets focus on this; in most cases it seems to happen accidentally and has no significance.
- e.g. “Thou, sun, art half as happy as we”
- The colour coding should alert you to the **difference** in these **vowel sounds**, even though the **same vowel** is used. The repetition in this case does not seem to have any significance.

More on the Vowel Sound

- Noting the difference in the vowel sounds in the previous example becomes crucial when working out Rhyme.
- “Busy old fool, unruly sun,
- Why dost thou thus,
- Through windows and through curtains, call on us?
- Must to thy motions lovers’ seasons run?” (The Rising Sun: 1-4) The colour coding shows you which words **rhyme**, since the focus is on the **vowel sound at the end**, not the whole word.

Rhyme

- If you are familiar with sonnets you will note that they usually have an interesting Rhyme scheme; other poems also use their own pattern for a different effect.
- The first four lines quoted from The Sun Rising (**previous slide**) show the beginnings of a unique pattern (abba). If you continue it is (cdcdee) and this pattern is sort of repeated in the next two stanzas, with different letters because the sounds change. (fggfhihijj and kllkmnmnoo)
- The last words in the first and fourth line in each stanza rhyme, the second and third also rhyme then the next four lines alternate with the last two also rhyming.
- Once you have been drawn to the uniqueness of this pattern you will be compelled to think of its significance.

Rhyme continued

- In *The Sun Rising*, the poet chastises the sun for disturbing lovers by rising and shining through windows and curtains. When the sun rises, although it might be obscured by clouds for a while, the process of rising does not reverse or stop and that is reflected in the letters of the rhyme scheme that continue from stanza to stanza, with only a slight repetition. (The rhyme scheme therefore gives an idea of continuity in the process of the sun rising.)

Thank you

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