

## Figure of Speech Part III

### Metonymy

Metonymy literally means a change of name. In metonymy an object is denoted by the name of something which is generally associated with it.

For example

The Bench, for the judges

The laurel, for success

Bluejackets, for sailors

Red-coats, for British soldiers

The Crown, for the king

Since there are different kinds of association between objects, there are several varieties of metonymy. For example, a metonymy may result from the use of the sign for the person or thing symbolized.

From the cradle to the grave (= from infancy to death)

### Litotes

In Litotes an affirmative is conveyed by negation of the opposite. It is the opposite of hyperbole.

I am a citizen of no mean city. (= I am a citizen of a very celebrated city.)

He is no fool. (= He is very clever.)

### Exclamation

In this figure of speech, the exclamatory form is used to draw greater attention to a point.

What a piece of work is man!

How sweet the moonlight sleeps upon this bank!

### Climax

Climax is the arrangement of a series of events or ideas in the order of increasing importance.

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What a piece of work is man! How noble in reason, how infinite in faculties! In action, how like an angel! In apprehension, how like a God.

Anticlimax

Anticlimax is the opposite of climax. It shows a sudden descent from the higher to the lower. The anticlimax is employed for the purpose of satire or ridicule.

Here thou great Anna! whom three realms obey,  
Dost sometimes counsel take - and sometimes tea.