

B.A.-II Semester
LITERARY TERMS (05 Marks)

1) PARADOX –

It is a figure of speech. It is a statement which looks wrong/false though may be true and makes good sense. The term was a central device in 17th century Metaphysical poetry.

For ex- The king was sick, his cheek was red.
The child is father of man.

2) PERSONIFICATION –

It is a figure of speech. When inanimate (non-living) objects or ideas are spoken of as having life, it becomes personification. It is the attribution of human characteristics to things etc. for artistic effect.

For ex- Everest is the king of Mountain.
And stars began to peep.

3) SIMILE –

It is a figure of speech. When a direct comparison is made with words “like”, “as”, “so”, it is called Simile.

For ex- ‘O my love is like a red, red rose’.
-Robert Burns.

4) METONYMY –

It is a figure of speech. It is a change of name for other thing.

For ex- The ‘Crown’ for ‘King’.
‘Gray hair’ for ‘Old age’.

5) APOSTROPHE –

It is a figure of speech. An apostrophe is a direct address either to absent person, idea or object, or non-human entity. Many Odes in English literature use this device.

For ex- Where is thy sting?
Good bye winter.

6) SYNECDOCHE –

It is a figure of speech. In Synecdoche a part of something is used to signify the whole or the whole is used to signify a part.

For ex- The term ‘Ten Hands’ for ‘10 workmen’.
‘A hundred sails’ for ‘Ships’.
‘Wheels’ for ‘Automobile’.

7) ANTITHESIS –

It is a figure of speech. When opposite ideas are placed side by side for emphasis, it is called antithesis. It is a contrast or opposition in the meanings.

For ex- ‘With a smile on her lips and tears in her eyes’.

8) ALLITERATION –

It is a figure of speech. Alliteration is the repetition of a speech sound in a sequence of nearby words. It attracts our attention when there are more than two repetitions.

For ex- ‘Alone alone all all alone’. (Vowel)
‘Silence of the seas’. (Consonant)