

Class 5

Eulogies and Figures of Speech II

Figures removed due to copyright restrictions.

Rhetorical Figures Continued

Anadiplosis

The repetition of the last word (or phrase) from the previous line, clause, or sentence at the beginning of the next.

Anadiplosis Example

- "Once you change your philosophy, you change your thought pattern. Once you change your thought pattern, you change your attitude. Once you change your attitude, it changes your behavior pattern and then you go on into some action."

--Malcolm X

Anadiplosis Example

- "Don't you surrender!
Suffering breeds
character; character
breeds faith; in the end
faith will not
disappoint. You must
not surrender...."
--Jesse Jackson

Anadiplosis Example

- "Somehow, with the benefit of little formal education, my grandparents recognized the inexorable downward spiral of conduct outside the guardrails: If you lie, you will **cheat**; if you **cheat**, you will **steal**; if you **steal**, you will kill."

-- Justice Clarence Thomas

Antithesis

- **Two contrasting ideas are intentionally juxtaposed, usually through parallel structure; a contrasting of opposing ideas in adjacent phrases, clauses, or sentences.**

Antithesis Example

- "We find ourselves rich in goods but ragged in spirit, reaching with magnificent precision for the moon but falling in a raucous discord on earth. We are caught in war wanting peace. We're torn by division wanting unity."

--Richard M. Nixon

Antithesis Example

- "The gratitude of every home in our Island, in our Empire, and indeed throughout the world, except in the abodes of the guilty, goes out to the British airmen who, undaunted by odds, unwearied in their constant challenge and mortal danger, are turning the tide of the World War by their prowess and by their devotion. Never in the field of human conflict was **so much owed by so many to so few.** "

– Sir Winston Churchill

Antithesis Example

- "I have a dream that my four little children will one day live in a nation where they will **not be judged by the color of their skin** but **by the content of their character**. I have a *dream* today!"

--Martin Luther King

Antithesis Example

"We observe today not a victory of party but a celebration of freedom, symbolizing an end as well as a beginning, signifying renewal as well as change."

--John F. Kennedy

Antimetabole

- The words in one phrase or clause are replicated, exactly or closely, in reverse grammatical order in the next phrase or clause; an inverted order of repeated words in adjacent phrases or clauses (A-B, B-A).

Antimetabole Example

- "But we must remember a crucial fact: East and West do not mistrust each other because we are armed; we're armed because we mistrust each other."

- Ronald Reagan

Antimetabole Example

"Tonight, we are a country
awakened to danger and called
to defend freedom. Whether we
bring **our enemies to justice** or
bring **justice to our enemies**,
justice will be done."

-- George W. Bush

Antimetabole Example

- "And so, my fellow Americans, ask not what your country can do for you; ask what you can do for your country."
- John Fitzgerald Kennedy

Pericles and the Greek *Epitaphios*

- *Epitaphios*
 - Literally “after the entombment” or “at the tomb”
- Used plain language
- Two tasks – two parts
 - *epainesis*: Praise for the dead
 - *parainesis*: Advice for the living

Much of the information and language on this and subsequent slides comes from:
Wills, Gary. *Lincoln at Gettysburg: The Words that Remade America*

Common Structure of *Epainesis* of the Dead

- *Logoslergon*: the spoken words are fitted to the heroes' deeds, perpetuating the fame of the dead in the words of the living.
- *Dikaion*: The rite is a good thing despite the sadness of the occasion.
- *Progonoi*: The heroes have the nobility of great ancestors,
- *Autochones*: All the heroes share an ancestry from the earth of the homeland.
- *Paideia*: The dead were trained to heroism.
- *Politeia*: The norms of the state are heroic.
- *Aretē*: The heroism of these dead have matched the aretē of their ancestors.

Common Structure of the *Parainesis* to the Living

- *Paranythētikon*: The living should be comforted that the dead have won honor.
- *Protreatikon*: The living should prove worthy of the fallen.

Pericles' speech and other surviving *Epitaphioi*
reply on *Antithesis* –the use of opposites

- The one and the many -- the many dead must rely on one speaker's skill
- Light and dark – the dead go into the dark but the living need the light of their splendor
- Mortal and immortal – the life of the soldiers was short, but their fame will live forever
- Athenians and others – Athenians live differently with a different political system than other people

Oppositions Continued

- Word and deed -- it is difficult to fit poor words to the heroes' great deeds
- Teachers and taught. The heroes teach us
- Male and female – the wives as well as men grieve,
- Past and present – the exploits of the founders and fathers

Lincoln's Gettysburg Address

Epainesis

- ***Progonoi***: Four score and seven years ago, our fathers
- ***Autochthones***: brought forth on this continent a new nation,
- ***Politeia***: conceived in liberty and dedicated to the proposition that all men are created equal.
- ***Paideia***: Now we are engaged in a great civil war, testing whether that nation, or any nation so conceived and so dedicated can long endure. We are met on a great battlefield of that war. We have come to dedicate a portion of that field as a final resting place for those

Lincoln's Gettysburg Address

Epainesis continued

- ***Aretē***: who here gave their lives that that nation might live.
- ***Dikaion***: It is altogether fitting and proper that we should do this. But in a larger sense, we cannot dedicate – we cannot consecrate – we cannot hallow – this ground. The brave men, living and dead, who struggled here, have consecrated it, far above our poor power to add or subtract.
- ***Logoslegon***: The world will little note, nor long remember, what we say here, but it can never forget what they did here.

Lincoln's Gettysburg Address

Parainesis

- ***Protreptikon***: It is for the living, rather, to be dedicated to the unfinished work which they who fought here have thus far so nobly advanced. It is rather for us to be dedicated to the great task remaining before us –
- ***Paramythētikon***: that from these honored dead we take increased devotion to that cause for which they gave the last full measure of devotion – that we here highly resolve that these dead shall not have died in vain – that this nation, under God, shall have a new birth of freedom – and that government of the people, by the people, for the people shall not perish from the earth.

**What are some of the
oppositions in *The
Gettysburg Address*?**

Group Work

- Analyze ML King's Eulogy of the Birmingham Children or B Obama's Eulogy of Edward Kennedy in terms of:
 - *epainesis*: Praise for the dead
 - parainesus*: Advice for the living
 - Oppositions
 - Rhetorical figures

We will get to Plato next week --
meanwhile

MIT OpenCourseWare
<http://ocw.mit.edu>

21W.747 Classical Rhetoric and Modern Political Discourse
Fall 2009

For information about citing these materials or our Terms of Use, visit: <http://ocw.mit.edu/terms>.