



### TITLE

HOW DO LANGUAGES EXPRESS FIGURATIVE LANGUAGE

### KEY IDEA

Languages express figurative languages using special language tools like metaphors.

### CONSPECTUS

1. Introduction: Figurative language is different from ordinary language.
2. Key idea: Language expresses figurative language using special language tools.
3. Reasons: Figurative language expresses in a more vivid way a person's thought
4. Consequences: Figurative language uses figures of speech
5. Conclusion: Figurative language is important in poetry but also in everyday speech

### REFERENCES

*Literary Devices. Definition and Examples of Literary Terms.* Available from <https://literarydevices.net/>.

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Nordquist, R. *The Top 20 Figures of Speech*, ThoughtCo, Sep. 21, 2018, [thoughtco.com/top-figures-of-speech-1691818](https://www.thoughtco.com/top-figures-of-speech-1691818).Thoughtco.

*Figurative Language Definition and Examples. Glossary of Grammatical and Rhetorical Terms.* Available from <https://www.thoughtco.com/figurative-language-term-1690856>).

### OBJECTIVES

1. You can **identify** figurative language.



2. You can **choose** three figures of speech.
3. You can **identify** the differences between figurative language with literal speech.

## FULL TEXT

### 1. Introduction

Figurative language is different from ordinary language. Figurative language is more expressive, gives different meanings to a word. Figurative language is a way of communication. Figurative language uses words with a meaning different from the meaning in the dictionary.

### 2. Key idea

Language expresses figurative language using special language tools. Languages (vocal and sign) express figurative language by means of figures of speech. Figures of speech are language resources that use words in an unusual way in order to make the sentences more expressive.

### 3. Reasons

Figurative language uses figures of speech in order to be more expressive, more powerful.

We distinguish figurative language from literal speech: figurative language uses figures of speech and literal speech doesn't.

Literal speech uses the words in their original sense, in the sense that is in the dictionary.

Three most common figures of style are: metaphor, comparison, personification.

Metaphor is a figure of speech in which we apply a word or sentence to a person, an object or an action to which it is not usually applicable. The same applies to Portuguese sign language: a metaphor consists in using a sign naturally applied to a situation in another situation.

Comparison is a figure of speech that states similarities between two different things that have something in common. Comparison is different from a metaphor, because a comparison states a resemblance with the words "like" or "as" and metaphor doesn't. The same applies to Portuguese sign language.

Personification (in Portuguese vocal language as well as in Portuguese sign language) is a figure of speech in which we give human attributes to an object, idea or animal.



#### Metaphor:

«Love is a journey» or «You are the sunshine of my life». There are no natural connections between the words ‘love’ and ‘journey’; there is also no literal connection between ‘you’ and ‘sunshine’. “Roll up the sleeves” (arregaçar as mangas), meaning we are preparing to fight or to work hard. There is no natural connection between ‘roll up the sleeves’ and ‘fight’.

#### Comparison:

“You are brave as a lion” (Portuguese vocal language) “slow as a snail” (Portuguese sign language). The word ‘as’ make this sentence a comparison. If we say “you are a lion” or “you are a snail” it would be a metaphor.

#### Personification:

“The sky weeps”. To weep is a natural quality of human beings. When we say “The sky weeps” we are giving the sky the ability to cry, which is a human quality. The same with the personification used in Portuguese sign language: “hands have voice”.

#### 4. Consequences

Thanks to figurative language we can play with language. We have poetry or jokes. Figurative language is also used in everyday language to make it more expressive.

#### 5. Conclusion

Figurative language is useful to give readers/viewers new insights and is also a way to express abstract thoughts. It is a more expressive language and better to communicate emotions. Figurative language can highlight and make more expressive some aspects of our experience.