

2. Some literary devices:

One should be familiar with the principle speech figures (simile, metaphor, metonymy, synecdoche, personification, hyperbole, litotes, apostrophe, euphemism, ellipsis, irony, pleonasm, etc.) If one is not, a trip to Mickelsen or the unabridged dictionary is worthwhile. It is hard to appreciate language without a general understanding of these things. On the other hand there is a tendency to multiply speech figures beyond normal absorption and we are not in favor of this any more than total ignorance of the other items. So likely a balance is what must be sought.

Occasionally we are asked if the people who used the figures knew what they were doing. The truth is that the figures are developed in definition from what the writers, speakers have done. So we may well assume they knew what they were doing although they might not have used a twentieth century title or term to describe it. A child who is pouting knows exactly what is being done but might not be able to give it adequate psychological nomenclature.

In addition to the common ones as noted above, mark the following:

--chiasm. This involves the formal reversal of thought in the second clause of at least a two clause construction. In modern English a simple chiasm is this. As a man

	a
he is a great athlete	b
but as a scholar	b
he is an immature boy.	a

The second "b-a" reverses "a-b". This may be done with many lines or thoughts or few and may even extend itself to a whole book. It has been called introversion in other times and there are many forms for it. The name, incidentally, is taken from the Greek letter CHI and the way in which the arms of the chi cross each other in continuing the destiny.

There appears a small chiasm in Psalm 23, after the ideas of Bullinger, in the persons of the Psalm.

Vss 1-3	I and He	(third person)
Vs 4	I and You	(second)
Vs. 5	I and You	(second)
Vs. 6	I and He	(third)

A nice commentary on the use of Chiasm may be found in the commentary on Zechariah by Joyce Baldwin. Many more illustrations may be seen in the COMPANION BIBLE. Perhaps the most famous one is that of Matthew 7:6

Give not that which is holy unto the dogs	a
neither cast ye your pearls before swine	b
lest they trample them under their feet	b
and turn again and rend you.	a

This very simple arrangement of the text does a lot to explain it in very simple form. Observing the form will often make the meaning of a text clearer and it will always add appreciation for the message.

--idioms. These are phrases which, while perfectly cogent in one language, are not easily expressed in another on a word for word equivalency. It is a language expression peculiar in itself the meaning of which