

11. Antithesis

→ a figure of speech which refers to the juxtaposition of opposing or contrasting ideas.

→ It involves the bringing out of a contrast in the ideas by an obvious contrast in the words, clauses, or sentences, within a parallel grammatical structure.

Some examples :

(i) "Man proposes, God disposes." — unknown source.

(ii) "Love is an ideal thing, marriage a real thing" — Goethe

(iii) "To err is human ; to forgive divine." — Alexander Pope

(iv) "Give every man thy ear, but few thy voice." — Shakespeare

(v) "Many are called, but few are chosen" — Matthew 22:14

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According to "A Glossary of Literary Terms":

"Antithesis is a contrast or opposition in the meanings of contiguous phrases or clauses that manifest parallelism — that is, a similar word order and structure — in their syntax."

Examples:

✓ (i) "Willing to wound, and yet afraid to strike."
— "Epistle to Dr. Arbuthnot" (1735) by Alexander Pope.

✓ (ii) "Marriage has many pains, but celibacy has no pleasures".
— "Rasselas" (1759), chapter 26, by Samuel Johnson.

(here we can see alliteration too, making more prominent)