

The Use of Synecdoche in English Language

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Abstract

Various scholars classify synecdoche as a figure of speech or a distinct trope, in which others might see it a certain sort of metonymy, though others enlarge it to be a main trope which comprises most metonymical associations. A classical rhetoric phenomenon is known by the term synecdoche which alternates part for whole and species for sorts or vice versa.

It seems to have different depictions that change from a researcher to another in fluctuating from a trope to another. According to Nordquist (2014:1), part of synecdoche is utilized to signify the whole and vice versa and it may also be known as a word that can be replaced through figurative speech for example, we call fireside as a hearth which represents a part of the fireplace.

Actually, the problem of the present paper deals with how native speaker utilizes synecdoche in his speech as to comprehend the factual meaning of synecdoche in the cultural language and where did he use it only in spontaneous conversation or informal conversation?

Then, the researcher completes his paper by stating that people and authors may draw readers' attention through the use of synecdoche in their speech which gives profounder meanings to their common ideas and matters.

Lastly, Synecdoche looks like other types of figure of speeches that make words seem glowing when it is presented properly and thus it adds a bright color to the words. To insert this " life" factor to literary, political, educational as well as casual conversation, speaker of English language will understand the meaning of the used words vividly.

Key Words:

Synecdoche, Figure of speech, Metonymy, informal conversation

1.Introduction

A rapid gaze at orientation dictionaries expresses that synecdoche is the phenomenon which alternates a part for the whole and vice versa. All through years, synecdoche acted in altered portraits changing between "growths and falls", "glory and depression" and "distension and weaken". It has conspicuously viewed a complicated process of development wherever it is found.

Accordingly, the use of non-literal wording or verbiage to communicate a point is denoted by figurative speech, which habitually creates a contrast in consuming verbal imageries to demonstrate the speakers' thoughtfulness, (Reeser; 2013:1).

As it is known that rhetoric is a word associated with the use of the figurative speech and the usage of the literary language and many tropes as in metaphor, irony, simile, metonymy, and synecdoche etc. (ibid).

Hornby (2015: 570) identifies it in a way that parts would be substituted by the whole and vice versa as a word or phrase as in;

"Australia lost by two goals", in which it can be interpreted that when we say Australia that means we talk about the Australian national team.

Whereas, Burke(1945: 305) expresses synecdoche as "part of the whole and the whole for the part, container for the contained, sign for the thing signified, material for the thing made, cause for the effect, effect for the cause, and finally genius for species, species for the genius".

Nordquist (2006: 2) elucidates synecdoche as part which can be produced by the whole that refers to a figure of speech. Thus, (ABCDE F...., for alphabet) which conveys that part of the whole, while the whole for apart can be found in such example (German gained the cup of the world in 2003). Some linguists state that synecdoche is frequently conserved as a sort of metonymy as in this instance: "Give us this day our daily bread". Synecdoche is the prayers of lord "bread" which signifies all food, (ibid).

Correspondingly, Brook (1958:167-177) elucidates that the most significant two tropes in figurative language is synecdoche and metonymy. Thus, synecdoche is defined by Brook (ibid) as the name of a part which can be used to the whole as a figure of speech, or, contrariwise, in which the name of the whole is utilized to apart of it.

For example "hand" is applied to refer to the working people in an industrial unit. In fact, synecdoche is used figuratively and thoroughly associated to two tremendously processes; and these are extension specialization, (See also, Trask 1996: 44).

2. The Starting Point of Synecdoche

The word "synecdoche" is derived from the Greek word together out accepting, from the prepositions and the verb (accept) originally meaning accepting apart as responsible for the whole or vice versa. It means " shared understanding", (Nordquist; 2006:1), and it literary means a change of name (khan; 2010:1).

In addition, synecdoche known as: intelligence and quick self-satisfaction, (Nordquist 2006:1). Other linguists state that the item 'Synecdoche' is a compound Greek term comes from syneckdochē meaning 'to receive conjointly or in connotation with' (from sun, together with, and ekdoche, receive from). It is used as a technical term to refer to the rhetorical figure in which 'one word accepts something from another, which is internally allied with it by the connection of two opinions' (Bullinger, 1968: 613).

3. Figurative Language and Synecdoche

Metonymy is another type of figurative language which bears a resemblance to synecdoche, though it is at times confused with it. Thus, synecdoche is regarded as a rhetorical trope by many linguists and a type of figurative speech that is alike to metonymy.

Actually, they are both considered as a figure of speech wherein a word that represents one thing is utilized to mention a correlated thing. Respectively, synecdoche can be substituted by metaphor or in another words, (Gallagher; 2013:3).

In relation to Brook point of view (1958:177), that they are both are considered as two figures of speech which are based on contiguity rather than only on similarity. As such, synecdoche is often treated as a type of metonymy, which based upon the association of ideas, (Burke; 1969: 507 -508).

Thoroughly, Hornby (2015: 803) expresses metonymy in a way which means the act of denoting something by the name of another thing that is carefully related to it. As it can be seen in utilizing the clause "the white house" which refers to "the US president" and also the usage of the term " tongue " for "language" which is agreed to be used by native speakers and so on.

Accordingly, Larson (1984:116) has assumed that metonymy is in certain behaviors similar to euphemism. Whereas Brook (1958:178) points out that synecdoche is commonly well-defined as a trope through which the name of the part can be is applied to indicate the whole or vice versa (Trask;1996 :44), as it is observed in this instance that the use of the term " rhyme " to denote " pome".

Correspondingly, Burke(1969 : 509) clarifies that synecdoche in an accurate way and a very wide-ranging when he assumed that synecdoche stands for " part of the whole, whole for the part, container for the contained, sign for the thing signified, material for the thing made, cause for the effect, effect for the cause, genus for species, species for the genus".

In addition to, he proposes that synecdoche patterns can comprise revocable Paris such as disease-cure and can be replaced by the word illustration, as in this example; the " gray beard " to denote " old man ", "long hair" to signify "hippie, " wheels" to show "a complete vehicle" , "London" to mean "British Government" , " hands" to refer to "workers in a factory", "steel" to denote "sword , " plastic" for creating "card", "book" to mean the "Bible", and "john Hancock " for the "signature of any person", (ibid).

Another example is that " the hand that rocks the cradle rules the world " demonstrates the variance between synecdoche and metonymy. At this point " the hand" refers to a synecdoche illustration of the mother of whom it is a part, while " the cradle " characterizes a child by adjacent connotation, (Nordquist ; 2014: 6).

Sometimes people make an absolute distinction between a metonymy and a synecdoche, treating metonymy as different from, rather than inclusive of, synecdoche. There is a similar problem with the use of simile and metaphor.

Actually, the researcher found in stating the distinction between the subsequent: as soon as "A" is utilized to talk about " B " it is a synecdoche. Thus, if "A" is a constituent of "B", or if "B" is a constituent of "A", and a metonym if "A" is frequently allied with "B" but not part of its whole or a whole of its part. Consequently, we may consider "20,000 hungry mouths to feed", is a synecdoche since Australia is a whole of which the people who elected are part. Alternatively, we can say that metonymy is illustrated in "the white house said", but not synecdoche for a very simple explanation, that "the president and his staff" and "the building" is not a part of the people, (ibid).

4. The Synecdoche's Usages

Personification is regarded as a figure of speech as to exemplify a notion or a thing or an animal which is given qualities of human. As such, we may feel that the non-human objects are depicted in a way as to act like human beings and synecdoche is often employed as a kind of personification, through attributing a human feature to a non-human thing.

Thus, in using such example to refer to political relation in "having a foot", means a country or "the wrong hands" as to define opposite groups, typically can be found in military power's contexts, (web 1, p.3). In the light of figurative language, some linguists state that synecdoche exists in literature as part of the general cultural heritage.

As such, mythic characters, gods and goddess, and Archetypes which have some literary characters all been regarded as synecdochical, for instance: Romeo, Othello, Juliet, Hamlet, Macbeth, Jane, Desdemona, Eyre and Willy, and Loman, (Nordquist; 2014 : 8).

Hence, synecdoche may be utilized to highlight an essential characteristic of an imaginary charisma, for instance, "X- files" might characterize a light house, (Ryan; 2011:10).

"Take the face hence", (William Shakespeare, Macbeth)

b- Robert Louis Stevenson, in "Treasure Island" as in:

"Land oh! All hand on deck!", (ibid).

The poet utilizes "Hands" as a synecdoche to denote persons on the deck, (ibid).

It is frequently used in popular advertising. Meanwhile, synecdoche is used as a part to represent a whole, its usage needs addressees to create connotation and "fill in the gaps", appealing with the "ad" through discerning about the product. Furthermore, holding the courtesy of an addressees as in "getting eyeballs", (Nordquist 2004 :4).

In addition within the science of writing, synecdoche may be common too, e.g., DNA is a synecdoche for life and the test tube can be used for experiment, but the statistical test for proof, and Tally 's corner for a type of social institute, (Nordquist; 2014 :14).

Ever more, synecdoche is quite mutual in spoken English particularly in alluding to sports. Also, the name of cities is employed to demarcate events and their outcomes, such as "Denver won Monday's game", When precisely a sports team was winning, (Nordquist; 2006: 5).

4.1. The Arrangement of Synecdoche Rendering to Its Usage:

1- A portion denoting the whole as in:

a. Topographies of people:

-It is seen in "the gray beard" as a compound behavioral.

b. Objects:

-It is found in "wheels" describing a complete vehicle or motorcycle (Burke; 2014:2) a handle bars.

-The term sails mentions the whole ship, (Rhetoricae; 2013: 3).

-"Suits" denotes "business man".

c. Body parts:

- Several terms are referring to the people via using the body parts e.g., head count, counting noses, or all hands on deck or eyeballs, (Burke; 2014:2).

-Head is applied to denote the cattle or assistants are stated as hands.

d. Politics' expressions:

-It is used in stating the term country (or its government) and using the name of its capital city. Council or police officers refer to the "law", e.g. London when referring to the British Government (or United Kingdom). - -It is also used in Beijing, when referring to the Chinese Government (or the China), and Washington, when talking about the United States Government (containing the United States Congress or President). It is mentioned in Australia votes, because Australia is a whole of which people who voted are apart, (ibid: 3).

-It is employed in the bench in the middle ages, judges sat on a wooden bench. The (bench) itself has come to represent an entire court or legal system. Supreme Court justice are said to sit on or read their verdicts form the bench.

Example: Barack Obama nominated Elena Kagon to the bench of the Supreme Court, (Galaphor; 2013: 4).

-It is denoted in Lobbyist: A lobby is a large building of American government people wishing to gain favor from politicians. Later the term lobbyist referred to these people hopping from special favors form the government, (ibid).

-Also, it is used in Pentagon which refers to a few decisions, (Khan; 2010:1).

- Furthermore, it is used in terms like Boot which is usually refers to the soldier, (Burke; 1945:507).

E. Equipment:

-It is seen in describing a small portable radio as a transistor (though that may simply be an abbreviation for " transistor radio " or a CRT- based television receiver as "the tube").

F. Historical synecdoche:

-The Holy Roman Empire was usually mentioned as "Germany", owing to the dominance of it by German lead and that the utmost of it was focused upon terrain regarded Germany.

- The kingdom of Sardinia in the nineteenth century was generally mentioned as "Savoy" since its presiding community was from Savoy.
- Hungary was usually denoted as "Austria".
- The Soviet Union was ordinarily stated by its main and utmost renowned affiliate, "Russia", and later named "The Federal Republic of Yugoslavia".
- Serbia and Montenegro was normally known via the name of its chief "Constituent Republic Serbia", (ibid: 3).
- The Island Nation of Trinidad and Tobago is frequently denoted through its chief island "Trinidad".
- Livonia is utilized to imply the following name (after the insignificant ethnic group of the Livonian) to express the whole terrain medieval "Estonia and Latvia".
- Great Britain for the employment of the "United Kingdom". This expression is critiqued for not including "Northern Island", a "constituent country of the UK", which is not situated on Great Britain's Island.
- Holland referred to the whole country.

G. Acronym:

- Consuming "CPU" to denote the inclusion that houses all as the central apparatuses of a home computer's desktop.
- Proverb as "bubbles or bubbly" is referred to "Champagne" or whichever "glittering win", (ibid).
- "Arabian sands" is used to mention the "Arabian deserts".

4.2. A Name in General Class Used as an Allied Class:

- "Bible" derives from the "Greek book".
- Things:
- "truck" is referred to vehicle.
- " good people" can be used as to be interpreted as "He is a good person".
- "Le Football" French word literally used to mention "football association". "The football" expression is only one of many forms of football and it was adopted into "UK.-English" by French as football.

4.3. A Name of Specific Class Rendered as a Set of Related Things:

- "Hancock" conveys the Persons' signature in the United States.
- A widespread trade mark e.g. "Cock" may be used to denote any assortment of cola (or for whichever diversity of soft drink, as in the Southern States).
- "Band-Aid" is employed for every adhesive bandages or Styrofoam for whichever invention prepared of consumed Polystyrene.

4.4. The Substantial That an Object is (Truly, Traditionally, or Hypothetically) Prepared of Denoting That Thing:

- "Brass" is made for brass tools.
- "Cement" for concrete, cement being only the folder in concrete.
- "Flint" as the sparking bit in a lighter, is referred to Ferro cerium (which is not made of flint).
- "Glasses" is used for "spectacles".
- "Iron" is substituted by restraints located round prisoners' wrists or ankle to confine his movement.
- "Ivories" is used to refer to a "piano".
- "Lead" is replaced by "bullets".
- "Pigskin" is exchanged by an "American or Canadian football".
- "Plastic" is utilized via "a credit card".
- "Rubbers" is replaced by "a condom".

- "Silver" is used for "table wave-cutlery" or "the dishes" or other dishes that were once made of silver metal.

- "Steel" is substituted by "a sword".

- "Strings" is denoted via the term "a string of instruments".

- "Threads" is used for "clothing".

- "Tin" is utilized by container made with "tin plating".

- "Wax" or we can say "vinyl for vinyl record" (successor to wax phonograph cylinders)

- "Willow" is replaced via "cricket bat".

- "Coopers" is employed to refer to "coins".

4.5. A Usage of Container to refer to Its Contents:

"He drank the cup" to denote his drinking of "the cup's contents".

- What we can hear from casual conversation, can be observed in such instance of synecdoche from everyday life:

- 2000 hungry mouth to feed; "mouths" are a part of the "people" to speak of.

- The item "bread" talks about food or money as in "writing is my bread and butter" or "sole bread winner".

- Hey man, nice threads, "threads", here is utilized for cloths.

"The stage was nearly setup, but the conductor did not have enough space for the strings", here, "strings" is synecdoche for a single unit "the string section".

- "The bartender is giving away the bar" expresses that he or she is giving into too many free drinks, which is "the stuff the bar contains", (Galaphor, 2013 :4).

- this day 9/11/2001, is found as if citation of this date, (Nordquist : 2014 :2). Similarly, if somebody requests "Are you wearing Kevlar?" you might see from watching enough action movies that this is synecdoche for "bullet-proof vest", while using "plastic". By way of supplies, containers can from time to time come to denote the objects they include-another form of synecdoche.

As per, "Nazi drank the cup", it does not literally convey that Nazi swallowed a small cup, but rather that she drank the contents of the cup. Equally, "the bartender is giving away the bar", express that she or he is being too generous to give many free drinks, which is the stuff the bar contains, (Burake; 1969: 509).

Conclusion

Synecdoche is used in everyday language in our life as a form of a figure of speech. As such, it has several complicated patterns that can be used via bigger groups to denote lesser groups or vice versa. It speaks of an object in a container or stuffing via the name of that container or stuffing can also appeal for an object through the substantial it is created of.

Consequently, synecdoche is regarded as a sort of figurative speech and a rhetorical trop alike to metonymy. It is infrequently reflected as a substitute of metonymy, rather than distantly related to metaphor as another type of figures of speech.

In fact, the researcher found in diverse field in our life in social conversation that synecdoche can be seen as in terms of recitation of the features of people as in parts of body similar to heart or hand to refer to "love" or "help" or material things in the usage of the term "leather". Furthermore, it is applied in literature and historical events to refer to certain terms as in "Great Britain" and in abbreviation in addition to its usage in politics, e.g. boots to denote the word "soldier", in TV broadcasts, radio, magazines and newspaper.

Accordingly, synecdoche is recycled in casual conversation, political speech, and informal address in our speech community in our everyday life. The researcher achieves in his analysis for synecdoche that its comprehending will support the students those that indicated native or non- native English

speakers or students' journalism, politics, to increase their knowledge about synecdoche which is often very confusing to those who do not live in US.

This research will enhance teaching students to recognize and comprehend the factual meaning of the expression and the envisioned meaning of the speakers to create the precise conversation and can benefit from its usage in different fields.

To conclude, its usage will add a discrete color to difference of opinions which give them the impression of vividness. As such, it will give speakers consideration as to make everyday speech more colorful, more creative, and extend speakers' imagination for the usage of new words.