

Rhetorical Devices for Assignment 5

Repetition (2)

ANADIPLOSIS

Anadiplosis is a rhetorical device that may be viewed as a chain that links one phrase, clause or sentence to the next by a repeated word. The device is used mostly in prose for clarity in developing ideas and for elegance of expression.

Example of Anadiplosis

And not only so, but we glory in tribulations also: knowing that tribulation worketh *patience*; And *patience, experience*; and *experience, hope*: And *hope* maketh not ashamed; because the love of God is shed abroad in our hearts by the Holy Ghost which is given unto us.

—Romans 5:4

Example 2 of Anadiplosis

For whom he did foreknow, he also did predestinate to be conformed to the image of his Son, that he might be the firstborn among many brethren. Moreover whom he did predestinate, them he also called: and whom he called, them he also justified: and whom he justified, them he also glorified.

—Romans 8:29–30

Example 3 of Anadiplosis

How has expectation darkened into anxiety—*anxiety into dread*—and *dread into despair*!

—Washington Irving

EPIZEUXIS

Epizeuxis is a rhetorical device used in poetry and prose that involves the repetition of words in immediate succession, primarily used for emphasis or to add emotional weight to what is being expressed. In the following excerpt from Shakespeare's *King Lear*, Lear is expressing his utter despair and deep sorrow at the death of his youngest daughter Cordelia whom he had formerly mistreated. The repeated word *howl* adds pathos to the scene.

Example of Epizeuxis

Howl, howl, howl, howl! O, you are men of stones:

Had I your tongues and eyes, I'd use them so

That heaven's vault should crack. She's gone for ever!

—King Lear, Act V, Scene 3

SCESIS ONOMATON

Scesis Onomaton is a rhetorical device involving the repetition of ideas, not words and uses near synonyms in succession. One of the most famous uses of this rhetorical device is found in Abraham Lincoln's Gettysburg Address. Notice that Lincoln also uses the rhetorical device of anaphora (repetition of initial words—*we cannot*) and climax (an elevation of ideas or expression of those ideas—to consecrate is more intense than to dedicate and to hallow is more intense than to consecrate).

Example of Scesis Onomaton

We have come to dedicate a portion of that field, as a final resting place for those who here gave their lives that that nation might live. 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 detract.