Antithesis and Oxymoron: Ronald Reagan's Figurative Rhetorical Structure

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Abstract
Reagan and Public Discourse in America assesses the rhetorical legacy of the Reagan Presidency. The essays in this collection focus on a variety of domestic and foreign policy controversies and identify a broad range of persuasive strategies and devices to reveal how Ronald Reagan both appropriated and transformed American public discourse in the 1980s. Reagan's obvious skill at speech-making earned him the title "Great Communicator," but the contributors to this book seek his rhetorical significance in deeper waters. They analyze Reagan's impact not only on the policy issues of the 1980s but also on the process of public political discourse itself. The contributors uncover ways in which Ronald Reagan helped to change how we talk about public issues, and, just as important, what kinds of issues we talk about. They find Reagan a constricting and distorting influence; his rhetoric tended to remove some issues from public debate and to limit the discussion of others chiefly to rituals, gestures, and evasions. From nuclear strategy to social welfare programs, from budget policy to military intervention, Reagan's rhetoric impoverished and perverted political discourse in the public sphere. Taken together, the essays in this collection challenge the traditional emphasis in rhetorical criticism on individual speech texts in unique historical situations. The contributors find the "text" of their analyses not only in Reagan's public comments on a particular issue, but in the articulation of this issue-specific rhetoric with the historically evolving process of public discourse as a whole. Here, they argue, is where Reagan's greatest significance as a communicator is to be found.

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Oxymoron, Antithesis, Irony. Oxymoron is a stylistic device the syntactic and semantic structures of which come to clashes. In Shakespearian definitions of love, much quoted from his Romeo and Juliet, perfectly correct syntactically, attributive combinations present a strong semantic discrepancy between their members. Cf.: "O brawling love! O loving hate! O heavy lightness! Serious vanity! Feather of lead, bright smoke, cold fire, sick health!" Oxymoron and antithesis both exert emphasis on a contradictory expression. The only untold way to understand the difference is literal. In oxymoron contradictory words are put close together e.g. He was the wisest fool. Whereas antithesis feeds on contradictory words lying distant from each other either inside phrases or clauses e.g. Man proposes; God disposes. The antithesis of a proposition is another proposition that contradicts the first proposition. Either a proposition or its antithesis may be true, but not both. An oxymoron implies that both a proposition and its antithesis are true. An oxymoron therefore cannot be true. What is the difference between an oxymoron and an antithesis? 215 views · View 1 Upvoter. What is the Difference Between Antithesis and Oxymoron? Oxymoron contains two opposite words. Antithesis contains two opposite words, clauses, concepts, etc. Antithesis is a literary device in which an opposition or contrast of ideas is expressed using a parallel grammatical...
Oxymoron is a figure of speech in which apparently contradictory terms appear in conjunction. Content.