

### **Onomatopoeia in the English Literature**

The goal of every writer is to convey their ideas on paper to the reader. Authors can use literal language and plain sentences to tell a story or explain an idea, but often, the use of figurative language is more effective in evoking emotions and images. Writers of fiction and poetry, particularly make use of figurative language and figures of speech in order to engage the senses to provide a more immersive experience. One of the senses that is easiest for authors to tap into is the sense of sound by use of onomatopoeia.

Onomatopoeia - the use of words whose sounds imitate those of the signified object or action, such as "hiss", "bowwow", "murmur", "bump", "grumble", "sizzle" and many more. Imitating the sounds of nature, man, inanimate objects, and the acoustic form of the word foregrounds the latter, inevitably emphasizing its meaning too. Thus the phonemic structure of the word proves to be important for the creation of expressive and emotive connotations. A message, containing an onomatopoeic word is not limited to transmitting the logical information only, but also supplies the vivid portrayal of the situation described. Poetry abounds in some specific types of sound-instrumenting, the leading role belonging to alliteration - the repetition of consonants, usually in the beginning of words, and assonance - the repetition of similar vowels, usually in stressed syllables. They both may produce the effect of euphony (a sense of ease and comfort in pronouncing or hearing) or cacophony (a sense of strain and discomfort in pronouncing or hearing).

Onomatopoeia is particularly effective in poetry. Poetry relies on rhythm and meter and is often recited, creating the perfect medium for an effective use of onomatopoeia. Poetry has its roots in aural tradition making the use of words that evoke sounds particularly appropriate. Onomatopoeia words are often single syllable words that can affect the rhythm and meter of a poem, dramatically, increasing their use for emphasizing a particular point or evoking a certain emotion that the author is trying to evoke.

Space is limited and words must be used to their fullest effect to maximize their effectiveness in telling a story and conveying meaning and context to the reader.

Onomatopoeia is a powerful device that authors can use to create a more immersive atmosphere by engaging the sense of sound, a concept that is often difficult to convey with words. Like all figures of speech, its use can help to better explain events, give a more vivid description of people, places, and ideas, and provide the reader with a better understanding of the writer's intent and meaning.

Many people confuse onomatopoeia with interjections; however, they are two different and distinct concepts. Interjections are one of the eight parts of speech. An interjection is a sudden outburst of emotion or excitement, such as "ouch" or "wow."

While some onomatopoeic words may be used as interjections, most interjections do not imitate sounds. Contrarily, onomatopoeic words, such as "buzz" or "boom," always mimic the noises to which they refer. Here are some examples of onomatopoeia:

The sheep went, "Baa."

The best part about music class is that you can bang on the drum.

It is not unusual for a dog to bark when visitors arrive.

Silence your cellphone so that it does not beep during the movie.

Many times, you can tell what an onomatopoeic word is describing based on letter combinations contained within the word. These combinations usually come at the beginning, but a few also come at the end.

The following examples have been grouped according to how they are used.

1. Words Related to Water – These words often begin with sp- or dr-. Words that indicate a small amount of liquid often end in -le (sprinkle/drizzle): bloop, splash, spray, sprinkle.

An onomatopoeia poem by Lee Emmett of Australia also illustrates many onomatopoeia related to water:

Water plops into pond  
splish-splash downhill  
warbling magpies in tree

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trilling, melodic thrill...

2. Words Related to the Voice – Sounds that come from the back of the throat tend to start with a gr- sound whereas sounds that come out of the mouth through the lips, tongue and teeth begin with mu- giggle, growl, grunt

3. Words Related to Collisions – Collisions can occur between any two or more objects. Sounds that begin with cl- usually indicate collisions between metal or glass objects, and words that end in -ng are sounds that resonate. Words that begin with th- usually describe dull sounds like soft but heavy things hitting wood or earth. For example: bam,bang,clang...

4. Words Related to Air – Because air doesn't really make a sound unless it blows through something, these words describe the sounds of air blowing through things or of things rushing through the air. 'Whisper' is on this list and not the voice list because we do not use our voices to whisper. We only use the air from our lungs and the position of our teeth, lips and tongues to form audible words. For example: flutter, fist, fwoosh...

5. Animal Sounds – If you've spent significant amounts of time with people from other countries, you know that animals speak different languages too. Depending on where a chicken is from, for example, she might cluck-cluck, bok-bok, tok-tok, kot-kot or cotcotcodet. In the United States, however, animals speak English: arf, baa, bark, bray, cuckoo, meow.

6. Miscellaneous Examples – Onomatopoeia can also be found in literature, songs and advertisements as well. Consider the following examples of onomatopoeia: "Chug, chug, chug. Puff, puff, puff. Ding-dong, ding-dong. The little train rumbled over the tracks."("Watty Piper" [Arnold Munk], The Little Engine That Could)

Reviewing examples of onomatopoeia words and their various sound categories is an excellent way to learn to recognize and understand onomatopoeic words. Look for the patterns that almost always exist, and if you ever have a question about what an onomatopoeic word means, just ask yourself, 'What does it sound like?'

### Литература

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