

The Outsider Literary Device

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Figures of Speech

- **Irony:** Definition: Irony occurs when there is a gap between what is expected and what actually happens. Example: Although Meursault is tried for murder, the court gives more importance to his indifference at his mother's funeral. Not the murder, but not crying becomes the greater crime. Effect: Irony shows that society values emotions more than the crime itself.
- **Metaphor:** Definition: When something is used as a symbol of another thing, it is a metaphor. Example: The sun is a metaphor here. The heat and glare symbolize human helplessness. It is under the pressure of the sun that Meursault fires the gun. Effect: The metaphor shows man's weakness and submission to nature.
- **Hyperbole-like Exaggeration:** Definition: Stating something in an exaggerated way. Example: The prosecutor calls Meursault a "monster." This is an exaggeration beyond reality. Effect: Shows how society oppresses those who are different.
- **Repetition:** Definition: Repeating the same words or ideas again and again. Example: Meursault repeatedly says, "It doesn't matter to me." Effect: His detachment and absurd view of life become clear.
- **Paradox:** Definition: A statement that seems contradictory but reveals truth inside. Example: By accepting the inevitability of death, Meursault finds peace. Life is meaningless, yet he discovers meaning in that very meaninglessness. Effect: Reveals Camus's philosophy of the "Absurd."
- **Symbolism:**
- **The Sun:** The heat and glare symbolize murder and restlessness. It reflects the absurd pressures of life.
- **The Sea:** While swimming with Marie Cardona, the sea symbolizes joy and freedom.
- **The Court:** Represents not just law but society's judgment and moral authority.
- **The Prison:** Symbolizes human limitations and life's constraints.

- **The Chaplain:** Represents religious faith and social pressure. By rejecting religion, Meursault shows his independence.

Moral Lessons from The Outsider

- Indifference is isolation.
- Death gives life meaning.
- Society fears the outsider.
- Nature overpowers man.
- Freedom is accepting absurdity.

LxNotes