



**A linguistic Perspective of English  
Eulogies: An Analytical Study**

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### Abstract

The present paper aims at shedding a spotlight on a significant issue in the western life, namely eulogies which are important practices in the western community employed in a funeral of a deceased / living person. However, writing eulogy requires a specific stylishness inscription in order to serve specific functions and purposes so as to mitigate or soften the gloomy effects of the event on his/her family or friends. Metonymy, mitigation of apology and hypophora are regarded as linguistic devices to convey the profound meaning of the eulogist in an elegant way. Exploring these devices , identifying their role in eulogies and analyzing them linguistically are the principal objectives here.

The conclusions of the paper support the idea that the most prominent syntactic patterns of wh-questions are wh words (especially what?) Hypophoric question is used to get the audience's attention and make them curious. It may heighten the effect of the audience in such endearment.

Nevertheless, mitigation of apology with its expression categories happens to some extent in this study , on the other side , metonymy that strengthens the social communication and adds a kind of delicacy and floridness to speech , performs less emanate in writing eulogies as a linguistic device . In a nut shell, hypophoric open questions of (wh-) are outstanding forms of questions in eulogies that they allocate superior standing .

**Key Words:** eulogy , mitigation / hedges , metonymy , hypophora .

### الناحية اللغوية للتأبين الانكليزي : دراسة تحليلية

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### الملخص

تهدف هذه الدراسة إلى تسليط الضوء على قضية مهمة في الحياة الغربية، وهي كلمات التأبين التي تعتبر ممارسات مهمة في المجتمع الغربي يتم استخدامها في جنازة شخص متوفي/ او للشخص الذي لازال على قيد الحياه . ومع ذلك، تتطلب كتابة التأبين كلاماً أنيقاً منقوشاً من أجل خدمة وظائف وأغراض محددة لتخفيف أو تلطيف التأثيرات الموحشة للحدث على عائلة/أصدقاء ذلك الشخص. الأدوات اللغوية المتمثلة بالكناية، وتخفيف الاعتذار، والتعبير عن الكلام باستخدام السؤال ذو الجواب الحالي تعتبر اساليب لنقل المعنى العميق لكاتب التأبين بطريقة أنيقة. إن استكشاف هذه الأدوات وتحديد دورها في التأبين وتحليلها لغوياً هي الأهداف الرئيسية هنا.

تدعم استنتاجات الدراسة الحالية فكرة أن أبرز الأنماط النحوية للسؤال باستخدام أدوات الاستفهام هي كلمات الاستفهام التي تبدأ ب ( wh ) (خصوصاً أداة الاستفهام ماذا؟) ويستخدم أسلوب التعبير باستخدام السؤال ذو الجواب الحالي (المباشر) لجذب انتباه الجمهور وجعلهم (محبون للاستطلاع). وهذا قد يزيد من تأثير الجمهور في مثل هذا التحبب (الكلام التحبيبي) .

ومع ذلك، فإن التخفيف من الاعتذار بفئات تعبيره برزت إلى حد ما في هذه الدراسة، وعلى الجانب الآخر، فإن الكناية التي تقوي التواصل الاجتماعي وتضيف نوعاً من التتميق إلى الكلام والرقعة حققت أقل تواجداً أو ظهوراً في كتابة التأبين كأداة لغوية.

وبأيجاز شديد، تعد الأسئلة الغير محدوده المطلقة من (wh-) أشكالاً بارزة من الأسئلة المستخدمة في التأبين بحيث حصلت على مكانة متفوقة في هذا المجال.

**الكلمات المفتاحية:** التأبين، التخفيف/ الكلام المتحفظ، الكناية، الاسئلة ذو الاجابات المباشرة .

## 1-Introduction

To highlight major points in deceased 's life , eulogies are written .To understand the life of a great man , who has exemplified his century by enlightening the word , is to eulogize the human spirit.

In this respect , a successful eulogy may establish a connection to the poem whom the eulogy is in behalf of , as well as providing comfort and inspiration .

In western world, “it is a practice to be asked to come up on stage and say a few good words about the deceased during his/ her funeral, this is termed as eulogy” (Goatly,1997:57) .Consider the following eulogy:

*"so let us celebrate his death , and not mourn . However , those who appear to be a little too happy will be asked to leave" (Jack Handey , " How I Want to Be Remembered" The New Yorker , March 31 , 2008) .*

To over sentimentalization of eulogies is foremost reflected in the considerable number of linguistic devices. With the use of ‘metonymy’ , these linguistic devices are presented to enhance imaginary focus on concrete objects , for example , and to make the esthetical and rhetorical aspects of the language . Moreover , these linguistic devices are applied to influence an audiences’ emotions and thoughts .

Sometimes a word deviates from its normal meaning, or a phrase has a specialized meaning not based on the literal meaning of the words in it such as , metaphor , hyperbole rhetorical questions , etc.

From deep investigation, the following main linguistic devices have agreed upon among others from the part of the researchers that it is believed of their association with eulogies: *Metonymy*, *Mitigation of apology / Hedges* , and *Hypophora*.

In this regard, the present paper aims at :

- 1- Identifying the linguistic devices i.e., metonymy , mitigation of apology- hedges , and hypophora employed in eulogies of decent and living famous and ordinary persons .
- 2- Recognizing which type of these linguistic devices has gained the highest percentage of usage in eulogies .
- 3- Identifying the categories of hypophora ,And
- 4- Deciding the syntactic type of hypophoric questions.

Importantly to say that the analysis of the data includes samples of modern American and British English, but differences in writing eulogies between them and their varieties are beyond the scope of this paper. To make way in this analysis, the researchers attempt to select diverse samples in their work, for instance, eulogies for a father, grandfather, mother, daughter, son , famous leaders, famous figure, etc. To the best knowledge of the researchers, no paper has tackled this vital topic in western life before , nonetheless, the efforts come to fill this gap in the literature.

The researchers have randomly collected 20 significant eulogies mainly from *The Book of Eulogies* by Phyllis Theroux / 2015 . The analysis of the selected eulogies is basically based upon : Rubba(2006) for metonymy ; Frazer(1999) for mitigation apology expression / hedges( Prince etal., 1982) ; Harris(2010) for the identification of hypophora .

## 2-English Eulogy

“A speech or writing in commendation of a person on an account of his valuable qualities or services” (The American Heritage Dictionary, 2011)

Theroux (1997:14) says that “the eulogy is the oldest and, in some ways, least valued of our literary forms. It is practiced by amateurs, when someone dies, it is customary for a member of the family or a friend to 'say a few words ', composed under great duress about the deceased”.

It is worth stating that eulogies may be supplied as part of duties of funeral .During or after wake , eulogies happen in a funeral home . In order to get the respect of traditions , some religious compellation , however , either discourage or do not permit eulogies at services. To praise people who are still alive , eulogies used . Thus , this may happen on office parties , retirement celebration , and birthdays , etc. as special circumstances.

To make a difference between eulogies and elegies is demanding . the term elegies are poems written in the honor of the dead and they are contrasted with obituaries that are published biographies that relate to the lives of those who died recently. As a matter of fact , obsequies actually refer to the rituals communicating funeral . It is worth stating that catholic priests are preventing from giving eulogies for the deceased in place of a homily during a funeral mass.

The modern use of the word eulogy was first established in the 15<sup>th</sup> century . It really came from the Medieval Latin term 'eulogium' (Merriam-Webster 2012). Eulogium has changed into the shorter 'eulogy' of modern day .

As a ritual, the delivering of eulogies dates back to the first time one person stood above the body of another and friend to say , in so many words , who that person was and what his or her life signified.

" As a form, it has at various times been a vehicle for the practice of rhetoric, the glorification of royalty (as in French eloges ) and the imparting of religious instruction" (Theroux ,1997:15).

It is almost required to celebrate , dedicate , and also to mourn the life of the deceased and there are some circumstances that require a rhetorical response . Through eulogy , one responds to death , he/she also responds to the particular expectations of the audience.

Jamieson (1978:40) noted that "eulogies were created as a response to the death of loved ones. Eulogist rhetoric has traditionally affirmed the reality of death, eased the confrontation with one's own mortality, psychologically transformed the relationship between the bereaved and the deceased, and refashioned relationships of members of the community in the absence of the deceased".

Jamieson and Campbell (1982:147) offered five purposes or functions for an eulogy: (1) To “acknowledge the death,” (2) to “transform the relationship between the living and the dead from present to past,” (3) to “ease the mourners terror at confronting their own mortality,” (4) to “console them by arguing that the deceased lives on,” and (5) to “re-knit the community” .

Kent (2007:2) adds that the difference between eulogies for the 'great' and 'everyday' citizens' include "those everyday eulogies draw substantially on religious topoi in construction of their messages , and that the comforting quality that has been ascribed to eulogies in the literature is delivered primarily from the extra linguistic features of funeral services and not from the rhetoric of the eulogy itself ". Consider the following eulogies:

- 1- *"It's our painful duty to announce the death of EDWARD HACKETT, Esq., Mayor of Cork, which took place at his residence" ... (TCE, April 14)*
- 2- *"From where he started to where he ended up with the journey so vast and incredible it's too much for me to hope to emulate..." (Craig Ferguson )*
- 3- *[...]. "Previous to his departure he complained of slight illness, which immediately on his arrival at Bristol, eventuated in malignant fever, by which he was carried off in the prime of life". (TCJ, April 30).*

### 3- Metonymy

“ Metonymies are cases when we use one entity to refer to another to which it is related” (Lakoff & Johnson 1980:35), or, as Lindquist (2009:118) puts it “ metonymy is based on association, while metaphor is based on similarity”. Lakoff and Johnson (1980:36) also claim that “the primary function of metonymy is referential, in that we use one entity to refer to another. The primary function of metaphor, on the other hand, is understanding - that is, we use one entity to understand another”. With regard to metaphors , Lakoff and Johnson (1980:37) point out that metonymies are regarded as part of our everyday life , they are not only a matter of language . Like metaphors , metonymies are perceptive in our experiences in the world.

Warren (1995:17) sees metonymy as “a case of non-literal use of a word or phrase for the sake of creating a clear link between the referent of the mentioned word and the intended referent in an appropriate context”. Leech (1997: 216-



219) states that this concept leads to a semantic transfer of one idea to another that may help in removing uncertainty what is otherwise ambiguous. Casnig (2006:1) defines metonymy as "an introspective equation where an item which exists in one domain is replaced with another in the same domain". The replacement of one term for another happens within the identical domain depending on the clausal or conceptual relation between terms.

According to Crystal (2003: 291) "metonymy is a term used in semantics and syntax, referring to a figure of speech in which the name of an attribute of entity is used in place of the entity itself". On a close connection in everyday experience, metonymy is a kind of relation between words (Yule, 2006:108). Besides, this relationship might depend on either a relation of 'container – contents' as in (can /juice, bottle/ water), or a relation of 'whole- part' as in (house/ roof, car/ wheels), or a relation of 'representative – symbol' as in (the president / the white house, king/ crown).

Hurford et al., (2007:338) say that the term metonymy is "a kind of non-literal language in which an object is employed to denote to another". This is connected with in some way e.g., 'metonymic concepts. 'Metonymic concepts' may permit to conceptualize one thing by means of its relationship to something else.

Meaning is added to an item in metonymy. Within just one syntactic phrase, this descriptive way or method is ordinarily given. Anyway, a metonymic use embodied meaning characteristics which are not directly or indirectly constituted in a string:

4- *I ate the whole plate.* (i.e. 'all the food on the plate') 5- *The half-back played a long ball to the centre-forward.* (i.e. 'played the ball a long way').

"Metaphor is an extension to a word's meaning on the account of similarity. On the other side, metonymy is a way of extending the meaning of a word based upon its association to another". Metaphor, on the one side, can be used to denote to a word in an object category to put it in the abstract semantic category. "Metonymy can be used in informal or insulting situations as well. For example, the association of brain to a person means he is intelligent, and 'asshole' is a metonymy for an idiotic person in an insulting manner" (Driven and Porings, 2003: 407).

#### 4-Functions of Metonymy

It is a fact that metonymy as a major figure of speech can be used to represent many rhetorical purposes. Rubba(2006:1) mentions the following as the major metonymy functions : “1-classification of identity of referent 2-abbreviation 3-focus 4. attribution or mitigation of credit or blame 5. metonymy as a lexical operation of zero derivation of credit or blame 6. metonymy as a means for expressing personal attitudes 7. metonymy used for dubbing”.

What matters this paper is ‘attribution or mitigation of credit or blame’ as mentioned above in point 4 , in that, intending to present a blame or praise someone who has done something, metonymy is served as a strategy to bear the referent a complete or partial responsibility for the thing done. The referent (the congress) as in the example 6, holds a metonymic meaning where such a political establishment is employed to represent the individuals who run it: (6) *The Congress passed the law*. Congressmen and congresswomen, to be specific, the board of legislators own a special power to abolish or ratify any law. In another example, blame is directed at a sole person whose name is utilized to indicate an entire governmental establishment: (7) *Hitler killed millions of people*. Though Hitler is not merely who perpetrated those gruesome crimes, however, all blame is placed on him. In fact, the proper name indicates the German army as an entire entity with Hitler as the leader of it. Thus , “the speaker holds Hitler completely accountable for the atrocities committed during his rule” (Ibid.:2006).

#### 5-Mitigation

Fraser(1980: 341) points out that the term ‘mitigation’ is not considered as a kind of ‘speech act’ . In this regard , to mitigate is not meant to perform some specific ‘illocutionary act’ like apologizing , promising or requesting. Nor is meant to perform a ‘perlocutionary act’ like surprising and annoying . But , the term ‘mitigation’ is highly linked to these two aspects of language usage.

Mitigation is not the same as politeness . Politeness depends upon the extent to which the speaker has acted appropriately in that context. Mitigation , on the contrary , comprises a reduction in the unwelcome effect of what is done .

Mitigation can be expressed in a number of mitigating devices groupings; they are as follows (Ibid.: 345)

- Indirect performance of the speech act;
- Non-specific reference to the speaker or the hearer;

- Disclaimers;
- Parenthetical verbs;
- Tag questions; and
- Hedges.

Mitigation can be linguistic, legal or social. Linguistic mitigation is "the strategy of trying to repair linguistically the damage done to someone's face (self-image) by what you say or do". For example , if you say "You're a plonker, but so am I", in fact in this case, there is a reduction of the threat "to the other person's 'positive' face by suggesting in the second clause that you are both equally silly". Additional good example is: If you say "I wonder if you could give me a bit of help' instead of 'Help me!" . Again there is a mitigation of the threat to the other person's 'negative' faced by these points :

- "Making the amount of help needed seem small by using the hedging expression 'a bit',
- Being more indirect linguistically,
- Using a declarative structure rather than an imperative and
- Framing the request as if it were hypothetical" .

“Mitigation is of precise interest for the reason that it is a form of coping with stress and sorrow and it is typically recognized in discourse” (Allwood, 1996; Chafe, 1995). There can be diverse categories of mitigation that are realized in different settings, for instance, "linguistic, social and legal mitigation". The most important of them is linguistic mitigation which is the focus of this study.

### 5-1 Mitigating Apology Expressions

Mitigating apology expressions like “I’m sorry to say”, “I’m afraid”, “If you forgive my asking” or the more elaborate “I wouldn’t like to appear too inquisitive, but ...”. These expressions constitute previous or subsequent apologies for conflictive illocutions and thus mitigation is mainly directed to ‘face-work’ (Brown and Levinson 1987: 162-163).

Mitigation comprises argumentation , that is a more general strategy for both of the change of social judgment and the practice( Eemeren and Grootendorst,2004). The speaker aims at choosing arguments to change the standpoint of the hearer in both of the mitigation and in argumentation. It is worth stating that argumentation technique could assist mitigating . Generally , the process of mitigation is prompted by the speaker's desire to evade being

reprehensible for wrongdoing , more than the truth argument ( Goldman, 1997 ; Martionvski , 2000).

Within the study of discourse, mitigation has been defined broadly as “weakening or parameters, which affects allocation and shuffling of downgrading of interactional rights and obligations” (Caffi, 1999), as a way “to ease the anticipated unwelcome effect” (Fraser, 1999: 342) .

Mitigating apologies are utilized by language users, eulogies and obituaries writer to maintain the conventions of social tact and respect which are expected in such a formal communicative situation as that of a death announcement. That can be seen in the following two examples:

8- *We regret to have this day to announce the death of a zealous and exemplary young Clergyman, the Rev. Patrick M'HALE, which took place... (TCJ, April 30)*

9- *It's our painful duty to announce the death of EDWARD HACKETT, Esq., Mayor of Cork, which took place at his residence ... (TCE, April 14)*

It is worth noting that expressions of apology like those in the obituaries above marked in italics are inclined to arise for the economic or social position of the dead in the community entail a further elaborate mitigation. Quite enough, such discursive euphemistic strategies are existed in the most of the obituaries of individuals of nobleness in the corpus. For example, the death of a duke is announced in the following notification:

10- *We regret to state that his Grace the Duke of Northumberland departed this life at an early hour on Thursday morning ... (TCE, February 15)*

A further usage of apology expressions , in that, they reduce the compliments that are given by the eulogist and thus, the exaggeration is mitigated which results from his eulogium. This can be observed in the following example:

11- *In the domestic and social life, we are guilty of no exaggeration in saying that there never lived an individual who enjoyed more largely than he, the respect, the confidence, the love of his friends and associates-nor one whose qualities more richly deserved the sympathies of friendship and the devotion of love. (TCJ, April 16)*

The existence of mitigating expressions is indirect in the examples under this heading.

## 5-2 Minimizing the Degree of Offense

In this strategy, the apologizer seeks to minimize the degree of offense , either by arguing that the supposed offense is of minor importance , in fact is

'hardly word mentioning' , or by querying preconditions on which the complaint is grounded. Finally, the apologizer may be only partly responsible ( Trosborg, 1995: 77 ). Three categories of this strategy are:

**5.2.1 Minimizing** :the apologizer tries to minimize the degree of offense by saying that the happening is not a big deal :

12- *take it easy , it is not the end of the word.*

**5.2.2 Querying Precondition:** the apologizer may cover the complaint by querying precondition:

13- *who told you that I would marry you?*

**5.2.4 Blaming Someone Else:** the apologizer tries to convince regards that a third party is responsible for the offense , also partly:

14- *I 've tried to tell you , but you always busy with your job.*

### 5-3 Hedge Expression

Lakoff analysed hedges as “words whose meaning implicitly involves fuzziness-words whose job is to make things fuzzier or less fuzzy” (1972: 271) and he discussed words and phrases manifesting hedging power like ( rather, very, in a manner of speaking) setting some boundaries in how to interpret linguistic items as hedges.

Brown and Levinson (1978: 145) define a hedge as “a particle, word or phrase that modifies the degree of membership of a predicate or a noun phrase in a set; it says of that membership that it is partial or true only in certain respects, or that it is more true and complete than perhaps might be expected.”

Whereas to Hübler (1983), hedges “are used to increase the appeal of the utterance, to make it more acceptable to the interlocutor and thus increase the probability of acceptance and reduce the chances of negation” .This may also give an explanation of the term hedge as the intention of the speaker driven to reduce any damage and so shielding himself /herself from the probable consequences of rejection from the side of the addressee. House & Kasper (1981) consider that “both these functions – one defensive and ego-oriented, the other protective or alter-oriented are fulfilled by politeness” (1981: 157) .

To this stage , “Hedging refers to any linguistic means used to indicate either a) a lack of complete commitment to the truth value of an accompanying proposition, or b) a desire not to express that commitment categorically.” (Hyland 1998a: 1)

Speakers and authors may attempt to propose a lack of commitment or varying degree of precision as to their speeches or statements. By employing hedges , readers are invited by writers to make judgments concerning the truth value of the proposition. This may happen without the possibility of being biased by the absoluteness of a non- hedged speeches or statements.

There exists a list of items which have been suggested by Zuck and Zuck (1986) that usually works as hedges. The level of probability or certainty of these items is different. These items include the categories: ‘*Auxiliaries verbs*’ (may, might, could); ‘*Semi-auxiliaries verbs*’ (appear ,seem,); ‘*Full verbs*’ (suggest); ‘*Passive voice*’; ‘*Adverbs and adverbials*’(relatively, almost ,probably).

A hedge expression is one of the significant devices or strategies for ‘mitigating’. It is a *mitigating* word or sound employed to lessen and soften the effect of an utterance. Typically, hedges are shown through : modal auxiliaries , modal lexical verbs ( such as doubting and evaluating rather than merely describing ( to seem , to suggest ). They (hedges) might be represented also by (adjectival , adverbial and nominal and model phrases such as (possibly , estimate) (Prince etal., 1982: 87) . He (Ibid.) adds that introductory phrases such as ( I believe , to our knowledge , it is our view , we feel that ) are direct connection that may refer to a strategy of hedges.

15-*There might just be a few insignificant problems we need to address.*  
(adjective)

16-*The party was somewhat spoiled by the return of the parents.* (adverb)

17-*I'm not an expert but you might want to try restarting your computer.*  
(clause)

18-*All I know smoking is harmful to your health.* (Introductory phrase)

In the afore-mentioned example, it can be seen that by the hedging expression (all I know), the information conveyed is limited by the speaker .In this respect , the speaker needs to notify that the speaker is not only creating an assertion but also perceiving the maxim of quantity as well.

19-*By the way, you like this car?(introductory phrase)*

The employment of (by the way) in the above example, indicates that what is said by the speakers has no connection with the moment in which the conversation happens . The production of such hedging expression happens in the middle of conversations between speakers. This means that there is a desire by the speaker to make a shift between two different topics. As matter of fact , "by the way" serves as a hedging expression that refers to the speaker's desire to move to another subject matter or to end the former one (Ibid.).

## 6- Hypophora

A figure of reasoning in which one or more questions is/ are asked and then answered , often at length by one and the same speaker ; raising and responding to one's own question(s) (Eidenmuller, 2008:205).

Harris (2010:20) believes that this term includes posing one question or more and then keeping on to give an answer to them, usually at some length. A common use is to apply the question at the beginning of a paragraph . Consequently , that paragraph is employed to provide an answer of it , as the following :

*20- There is a striking and basic difference between a man's ability to imagine something and an animal's failure. . . . Where is it that the animal falls short? We get a clue to the answer, I think, when Hunter tells us . . . . –Jacob Bronowski*

Hypophora can function as mediator or guiding factor to shift directions or to start a new topic of discussion .Consider the following :

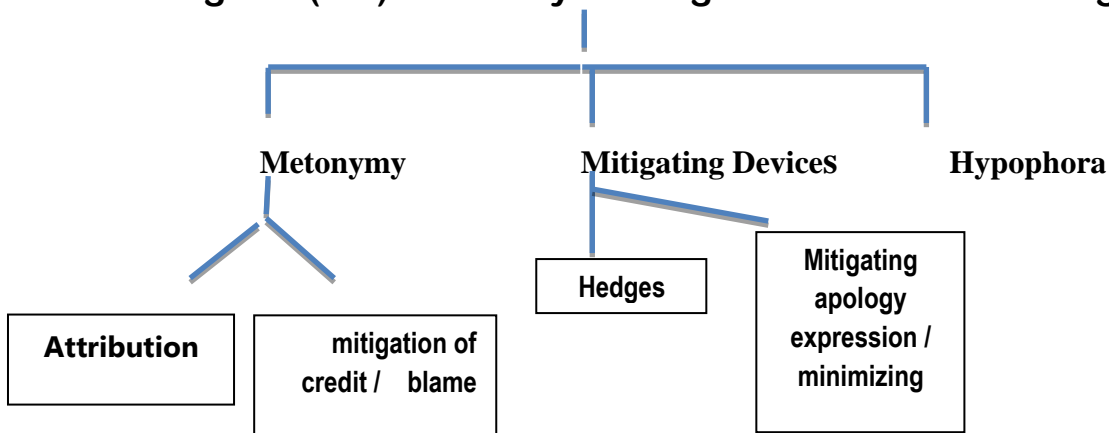
*21- How and why did caveat emptor develop? The question presents us with mysteries never fully answered. --Ivan L. Preston*

Another usage of hypophora is that they serve to pose questions or to present important materials where the reader has not yet known or thought about it : (Ibid.:21-22)

*22- How then, in the middle of the twentieth century, are we to define the obligation of the historian to his facts?..... The duty of the historian to respect his facts is not exhausted by . . . . –Edward Hallett Carr.*

The following diagram summarized the linguistic devices of eulogies in this paper :

## Diagram (2.1) Summary of Linguistic devices of Eulogies



## 7- Data Analysis

<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● <a href="#">Eulogy for Mahatma Gandhi</a> delivered by <a href="#">Jawaharlal Nehru</a> on <a href="#">February 02, 1948</a></li> </ul> <p>"<a href="#">Jawaharlal Nehru</a> was a close associate of Gandhi during India's freedom struggle. At the time of this famous speech he was serving as the first Prime Minister of independent India".</p> <p>1-A glory has departed and <b>the sun that warmed and brightened our lives</b> has set, and we shiver in the cold.</p>	<p><b>Analysis:</b> A fascinating example of mitigation device is exemplified in using the relation between a person and the sun, where the <b>metonymy</b> is so influential to the audience. According to the eulogy of a close associate to Gandhi who considers Mahatma Gandhi as important as the sun. The departure of Gandhi is like the setting of the sun. Both of them have left India in a shivered cold. The employment of metonymy here makes a kind of reducing or easing the predicted consequences of Gandhi departure through raising his importance and comparing him with the sun which means the life.</p>
<p>2-Great men and eminent men have monuments in bronze and marble set up for them, but this man of divine fire managed in his lifetime to become enshrined in millions and millions of hearts so</p>	<p><b>Analysis :</b> Given that, the phrase (all of us) represents the speakers and the hearers at the same time, we have here a kind of non-specification in referring to both the speakers and the hearers,</p>



<p>that all of us became somewhat of the stuff that he was made of, though to an infinitely lesser degree.</p>	<p>however, this is due to the intention of the speaker to mitigate the results of becoming without the leadership of Gandhi by making generality. Thus, by using the <b>hedge</b> (though to an infinitely lesser degree), the speaker has mitigated the threat to the other person's 'negative faced' in indirect way.</p>
<p>3-He spread out in this way all over India, not just in palaces, or in select places or in assemblies, but in every hamlet and hut of the lowly and those who suffer. He lives in the hearts of millions and he will live for immemorial ages.</p>	<p><b>Analysis:</b> The writer of this eulogy continues in attempting linguistically to ease the influence of the departure of Gandhi from this life by giving the opposite meaning of departure, that is of existence. In other words, Gandhi could be found not only in his own place when he was alive, but in all over India especially with those who are in need for him. By doing so, the writer is also reducing the losing of such a giant figure where his figurative symbol is still alive in all places (hearts). Here, another type of eulogy devices, i.e., <b>metonymy</b> is used indirectly to show the similarity between places and hearts of Indian people where in both of them, Gandhi's image can be found immemorially.</p>
<p>4- What, then, can we say about him except to feel humble on this occasion? To praise him we are not worthy--to praise him whom we could not follow adequately and sufficiently. It is almost doing him an injustice just to pass him by with words when</p>	<p><b>Analysis:</b> A new type of device used in eulogies, namely, <b>hypophora</b>, is introduced clearly in this example where the elegant inclusion of the answer could be found within the question itself. Simply, the question is (what can we say about him) and the answer</p>

<p>he demanded work and labor and sacrifice from us; in a large measure he made this country, during the last thirty years or more, attain to heights of sacrifice which in that particular domain have never been equaled elsewhere.</p>	<p>is simply (to feel humble). If a look at the phrase (we are not worthy) is taken, a sense of mitigation could be felt. The speaker indirectly says that the passed person is a prominent character, so, he cannot put himself or others at the same status with the deceased man.</p>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● <u>Bill Bradley Eulogy For Dave Debusschere:20 may 2003</u></li> </ul> <p><b>Dave was a man of action, not words. He was above the petty things in life, and he wasn't impressed easily. Power, fame, money, were not the currencies he traded in. Friendship, loyalty, hard work, were what he placed the greatest value in.</b> If Bush or Madonna or Rockefeller walked into a bar, I bet he'd barely look up from the beer he was sharing with a friend. <b>If I had \$100 for every night Dave played hurt, I could buy a nice car. One night, Dave caught an elbow in the face that broke his nose. The pain was obvious. I didn't see how he was going to play the next night.</b> But, there he was, ready to go, when the buzzer sounded--with a strip of plastic over his nose, held in place by white adhesive tape forming an ``H" above and below his eyes.</p>	<p><b>Analysis: Mitigation</b> is used here to preserve the conventions of social tact and respect which are expected in such a formal communicative setting as that of a death speech where counting and describing the merits of the dead person occupying the greatest part of a given eulogy. Stating memories of the deceased person as given in the second paragraph, is another significant part of any eulogy. By doing so, the speaker reduces the vulnerability of the audience attending the funeral.</p>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● <u>Oprah Winfrey Eulogy for Rosa Parks 7 March, 2009</u></li> </ul> <p>"...God uses good people to do great things." I -- <b>I feel it an honor to be here</b> to come and say</p>	<p><b>Analysis: Mitigating</b> apology expressions are also employed to minimize the compliments that the eulogist pays, and, by doing so, tone-down the exaggeration</p>

<p>a final goodbye</p>	<p>deriving from his eulogium. It should be noted that apology expressions like that in bold type in this eulogy tend to appear when the social or economic status of the deceased in the community require a more elaborate mitigation.</p>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● <u>Eulogy For Jacqueline Perez In memory of Jacqueline Perez-1973-2009 by Sandy Gurgul</u></li> </ul> <p><b>1-Being the humble person she was I feel she would be amazed by the amount of tears, sadness and tremendous loss we feel here today.</b> She brought true joy into my life in good times and bad. Her life was not always a walk in the park but her coping mechanisms were just remarkable .</p>	<p><b>Analysis:</b> Jacqui always knew the true meaning of "Family" and her most precious gift to us was unconditional love and support. This device is <b>mitigation</b> of apology.</p>
<p><b>2-We never really had to worry because Jacqui worried enough for all of us.</b> Her husband Louie was the love of her life for the past 27 years. May God bless all of you and grant you comfort.</p>	<p><b>Analysis:</b> in such formal communicative situations the <b>mitigation</b> apology expression ( we never...) is used to achieve two functions, i.e., alleviating the sad effect and also apologizing because of this sad event.</p>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● <u>Dr. Martin Luther King's Funeral Eulogy by Robert F. Kennedy 4April, 1968</u></li> </ul> <p><b>1- Martin Luther King dedicated his life to love and to justice for his fellow human beings,</b> and he died because of that effort.</p>	<p><b>Analysis:</b> Praising the works of the deceased person is a device often used in English eulogies since such precious memories indirectly give the idea for both of the speaker and the listener that he had performed his role in life very well consequently this would relieve the grieve. <b>mitigation of apology</b></p>

<p>2. Let us dedicate ourselves to <b>that</b>, and say a prayer for our country and for our people.</p>	<p><b>Analysis:</b> Non-specification by using the expression (let us) is another device to express <b>mitigation of apology</b> in such formal contexts like funeral</p>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● <u>Queen Elizabeth's Eulogy by The Archbishop of Canterbury, Dr. George Carey 9 April, 2002</u></li> </ul> <p>1- How should we explain the numbers? Not just by the great length of a life, famously lived to the full. It has to do with her giving of herself so readily and openly.</p> <p>There was about her, in George Eli's lovely phrase, "the sweet presence of a good diffused".</p>	<p><b>Analysis:</b> The eulogist is raising an important issue about the dead by using a <b>hypophoric</b> question. The eulogist here is elaborating the answer and is quoting a lovely phrase from a poet to create interest and curiosity to the readers.</p>
<p>2- Something of it is reflected in the fact that for half a century we knew her and understood her as the Queen Mother. It is a title whose resonance lies less in its official status than in expressing one of the most fundamental of all roles and relationships — that of simply being a <b>mother, a mum, the Queen Mum.</b></p>	<p><b>Analysis:</b> There is <b>metonymy</b> here (a mother , a mum , the queen mum)</p>
<p>3-Like the sun, she bathed us in her warm glow. Now that the <b>sun</b> has set and the <b>cool</b> of the evening has come, some of the warmth we absorbed is flowing back towards her.</p>	<p><b>Analysis :</b> <b>Metonymy</b> here is indicated by :the sun and the cool.</p>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● <u>Eulogy for Pastor John by Phil Lineberger Senior Pastor 2 June, 2015</u></li> </ul>	<p><b>Analysis:</b> There is <b>hypophora</b> in this eulogy: why is John gone? etc. the eulogist is stating a general</p>

<p>1- The family has asked me to talk a little bit about some of what John was going through. Patrick asked the question, “Why is John gone?” All of us want to know, “<b>Why is John gone?</b>” <b>We can’t answer all of the whys. Paul wrote in I Corinthian’s 13:12 in the New International</b>, “Now we see but a poor reflection as in a mirror; then we shall see face to face. Now I know in part and then I shall know fully, even as I am fully known”. The King James Version says, “For now we see through a glass darkly but then face to face. Now I know in part but then I should know, even as I am known” We can know in part. And this is the part we know. <b>John suffered from a terrible illness that we label depression. It is called a time defying sadness.</b> It’s unlike the sadness that you and I, in the normal sense, have when we are sad and then we are glad and then we get over it and then we go our way.</p>	<p>question about John and then he is trying to introduce an important point and the reader might not have the knowledge to ask for himself : John suffered from a terrible illness that is depression , so he has gone.</p>
<p>2- <b>Why did John go this way? Why did he choose this? He didn’t. The choice was being forced upon him by an overriding and overwhelming darkness. It is not a willful fault nor is it a sin. It is a signal that something is wrong. It is a</b></p>	<p><b>Analysis:</b> Again, the writer here imposes another question about the dead John and about his choice of death i.e., he is giving justification to the audience . The aim of this <b>hypophora</b> is to create curiosity among the audience.</p>

<p><b>signal that we need help and we need hope</b></p>	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● <u>Barack Obama For Senator Edward Kennedy 25 August, 2009</u></li> </ul> <p>“As you know so well, the passage of time never really heals the tragic memory of such a great loss, <b>but we carry on, because we have to, because our loved ones would want us to, and because there is still light to guide us in the world from the love they gave us.</b>”</p>	<p><b>Analysis: Hedges</b> may intentionally or unintentionally be employed in both spoken and written language since they are crucially significant in <u>communication</u>. Here the hedge clauses (but we...), (because we...) and (because our....) are used intentionally to raise the negative state and at the same time to soften the sorrow of the event.</p>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● <u>Charles Spencer For Princess Diana ,27 June, 1998</u></li> </ul> <p><b>We are all united not only in our desire to pay our respects to Diana, but rather in our need to do so.</b> For such was her extraordinary appeal that the tens of millions of people taking part in this service all over the world via television and radio who never actually met her, feel that they too lost someone close to them in the early hours of Sunday morning. It is a more remarkable tribute to Diana than I can ever hope to offer her today.</p>	<p><b>Analysis:</b> The role model is a prominent device that is frequently exemplified in English eulogies to distinguish the significance role of the deceased in the life of those who are close to him and at the same time to describe his legacies in their life. This is exemplified by <b>metonymy</b>.</p>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● <u>Eulogy of Steve Irwin by Bindi Irwin, daughter of Steve Irwin 'The Crocodile Hunter'. 20 September, 2006</u></li> </ul> <p><b>"My Daddy was my hero"</b> – he</p>	<p><b>Analysis:</b> Both of <b>hedges</b> and <b>mitigation</b> are exemplified in this example. (<b>But most of all...</b>) is an example of hedges expressions, especially when we realized that the eulogist attempts to convey us a sense of linguistically</p>

<p>was always there for me when I needed</p> <p>him. He listened to me and taught me so many things, <b>but most of all</b> he was fun. I know that Daddy had an important job. He was working to change the world so everyone would love wildlife like he did.</p>	<p>indirectness. Being linguistically indirect serves here to mitigate sorrow caused by remembering the dead person.</p>
<p>● <u>Eulogy of Eleanor Roosevelt Franklin Roosevelt's wife (1884-1962)</u> by Adlai Ewing Stevenson (1900-1965)</p> <p>And now <b>one can almost</b> hear Mrs. Roosevelt saying that the speaker has already talked too long. <b>So we must say farewell. We are always saying farewell in this world</b>, always standing at the edge of loss attempting to retrieve some memory, some human meaning, from the silence, something which was precious and is gone.</p>	<p><b>Analysis:</b> While <b>mitigation</b> of apology is evident in (<b>So we must say farewell. We are always saying farewell in this world</b>), as there is non-specific reference to the speaker or the heard by using the pronoun (we) as if the pain of saying farewell is divided among the audience in order to share it all.</p>
<p>● <u>Eulogy of Nadezhda Mandelstam (1898-1980)</u> By Joseph Brodsky (1940-1996)</p> <p>Poetry always proceeds prose, and so it did in the life of Nadezhda, <b>she is the creation of two poets with whom her life was links enoxorably: Osip Mandelstam and Anna Akhmatova.</b> And not only because the first was her husband and the second her lifelong friend...</p>	<p><b>Analysis :</b>The eulogist expresses his belief that Nadezhda Mandelstam is the production of two influential figures in her life, likewise, those forces represent the influence of poetry on Nadezhda Mandelstam's life. Instead of saying that poetry influenced her life too much, he said that two poets gave her birth and consequently it not surprise to feel her talent in writing poetry. <b>Metonymy</b> is used here to classify the identity of the referent.</p>

<p>● <u>Eulogy of Marilyn Monroe (1926-1962)</u> By Diana Trilling (1905-1996)</p> <p>Marilyn Monroe <b>spoke to our dreams as much as to our animal nature</b>, but in most unusual way. For what she appealed to was our determination to be rid of fantasy and to get down to the rock-bottom actuality. Marilyn Monroe was <b>a tragedy of civilization, but this is something quite else again</b> from, and even poignant than, being a specifically American tragedy.</p>	<p><b>Analysis:</b> Here the eulogist's obviously attempts to make Marilyn Monroe's death a general issue, since she uses the pronoun (our) twice in this piece of eulogy. However, the writer here tries to mitigate or lessen the effect of this event by using one of the main linguistic devices of eulogy, viz <b>mitigation</b>. Once again, the generality of this event extends not only to all American people, but to all humanity or all the world. As if the writer tries to make Marilyn Monroe's death a global issue, though globalization is limited in that time. Here, we can say it is a kind of mitigation of mitigation or it a double <b>mitigation</b>.</p>
<p>● <u>Eulogy of Rily Grannan (1868-1908)</u> By William Herman</p> <p>This is a very brief statement. You have the birth and the period of grave. <b>Who can fill the interim? Who can speak of his hopes and fears? Who can solve the mystery of his quiet hours that only himself knew? I cannot.</b> He was born in the sunny Scotland - in Kentucky. He died in Rawhide.</p>	<p><b>Analysis :</b>A succession of questions is utilized in this eulogy to serve transition from one information of importance to another in order to guide the eulogist and describe many aspects of the deceased person life, the legacy of the dead person and his/her distinguished life events. This is exemplified by <b>hypophoric questions</b> in this eulogy</p>
<p>● <u>Sister Beatric of Jesus, OCD</u> We <b>laid her</b> to rest among our Sisters at New Cathedral Cemetery and hold her memory close to our hearts until <b>we meet</b></p>	<p><b>Analysis:</b> An ideal piece of eulogy that is full of linguistic devices to represent the writer feelings and consequently other people affection towards the lost</p>



<p><b>again</b> in the paradise of Dante and his Beatric.</p>	<p>of Sister Beatric. How it is ideal? If a look is taken quickly, we can find the words (laid her) are used to represent (laying her body) to rest in the cemetery and using (our hearts) to refer to us in <b>metonymic</b> style. Secondly, using the pronouns (we/our) to make the feeling general or non specific in a mitigative style.</p>
<p>● <u>George E. Mackinnon (1906-1995)</u> By his daughter <u>Catharine A. Mackinnon (1946-)</u> <b>We celebrate</b> this day the unknown life of a common man. George Edward Mackinnon lived into his ninetieth year- a man of common sense, common courage, and uncommon perseverance. Every day, he simply put one foot in front the other on a path that describes a slow, simple arc upward</p>	<p><b>Analysis:</b> Non specification by employing the pronoun of the first person plural (we) is a linguistic technique used within the linguistic device of <b>mitigation</b> to reduce the pain of losing a beloved one through distributing the pain of losing among the attendance</p>
<p>● <u>Nelle Reed Cook (1897-1991)</u> By her son <u>David R. Cook</u> <b>We gathered to celebrate</b> a fulfilled life. <b>Our mother, grandmother, great grandmother, and friend,</b> Nelle Reed Cook, lived out her life with courage, determination, joy, and purpose. So if tears come, they will be the tears of feeling the loss of a mighty presence in our lives but not tears of sadness for her death.</p>	<p><b>Analysis:</b> Another example of <b>mitigation</b> represented by talking in general without specifying or limiting the identity of the speaker is clear here where the speaker extends in the description of the dead person through using a series of titles, viz (Our mother, grandmother, great grandmother, and friend).</p>
<p>● <u>Mary White (1905-1921)</u> By her father <u>William Allen White</u></p>	<p><b>Analysis:</b> A complicated relationship between a rift in the clouds, a shaft of sunlight and her</p>

<p>1868-1944)</p> <p>A rift in the clouds in a gray day threw a shaft of sunlight upon her coffin as her nervous, energetic body sank to its last sleep. But the soul of her, the glowing, gorgeous, fervent soul of her, surely was flaming in eager joy upon some other dawn.</p>	<p>coffin is elegantly drawn by the eulogist to refer finally to the body of the deceased person in a subtle <b>metonymic</b> style which is utilized a linguistic device to focus the attention to the speaker.</p>
<p>● <u>John Conrad . JR.</u> (1979-1993) <u>By John Conrad .SR.</u> (1951)</p> <p><b>How</b> do you celebrate a life like John's? <b>How</b> do you celebrate a tragic life and death? <b>How</b> do you find any redeeming value to the life of retarded boy who suffer from severe and bizarre emotional problems? <b>How</b> do you celebrate a life of dead expectations?.....</p>	<p><b>Analysis:</b> consecutive four examples of <b>hypophra</b> beginning with (how) tell that the eulogist has many things to say about the dead person. Actually, following these questions comes a full description of John's life from birth to death. The hypophora here fulfills its purposes in transiting from one aspect of John's life and suffering into another one, besides giving important Information about John's life and suffering.</p>
<p><b>Today our hearts are broken, but we have learned to live life with a broken heart and to enjoy life anyway.</b> We have been inspired by John's love and positive, persevering spirit. And we will live our lives with ad many thumbs-up days as possible.</p>	<p><b>Analysis:</b> A substitution of hearts instead of human beings in a <b>metonymic</b> style is obvious in this piece of euology. Instead of saying we are broken, the eulogist says our hearts are broken followed by a contradiction where John was able to love with a broken heart through his suffering.</p>
<p>● Leonhard Euler by Nicolas Fuss (April , 2005)</p> <p>After such a brilliant period <b>what could Mr. Euler expect? Could he hope that nature which is not generous with her gift might provide him with a miracle after having placed so many mathematical heads together at one time ? He felt especially</b></p>	<p><b>Analysis :</b> two <b>hypophoric</b> questions are raised to enter a new area of discussion about Euler. Here , the eulogist is asking these questions one after the other and then provides detailed answers to bring interest with the audience.</p>

<p><b>inspired by nature and</b> what she had done for him; so much so that he entered into this career with the absolute assurance that only the knowledge of a decided inspiration can provide , and he showed to all that his predecessors had not exhausted all the richest of geometry and analysis.</p>	
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## 8- Discussion and Concluding Remarks

### 8.1 Discussion

Results analysis of eulogies have been revealed the fact that hypophora is the outstanding device emerged in this paper . Twenty (20 hypophoric questions ) are displayed and recorded 43.478%. from the total linguistic devices which are 46 . Mitigation apology expressions in the form of hedges are next in order used to lessen and soften the effect of an utterance and their occurrences are 15 from the total number 46 and they read 32,608% .

Additionally , metonymy reads 11 occurrences with 23. 914%. Hypophoric open questions of ‘WH- type’ are the dominant types of questions in these eulogies as they indicate 18 occurrences from the total questions which are 20 with 90% . Two ‘Yes /no’ questions shape the rest of hypophora with 10 % . The following table includes these results :

**Table (7.1) Linguistic Devices of Eulogies**

Linguistic Device	Occurrence	%	Wh- Question.	Yes-no Question
Hypophora	20	43.478	90%	10%
Mitigation/hedges	15	32.608	---	---
Metonymy	11	23.914	---	---
Total	46	100	---	---

## 8.2 Concluding Remarks

It is the intention of this paper to demonstrate, discuss and prove that figurative language such as '**metonymy**', '**mitigation**' and the phenomenon of '**hypophora**' can be influential in writing eulogies.

Wherefore , the conclusion of the paper obtained support the idea that '**hypophora**' : to raise questions , to introduce materials of importance or to enter a new area of discussion is distinguished in eulogies. **Hypophoric** questions are used to get the audience's attention and to make them curious. It may heighten the effect of the audience in such endearment.

The present paper clarifies that '**mitigation**' ( mitigating apology expressions) with hedges( intentional or unintentional) categories are also effectual tools which can create their own reality .

'**Metonymy**' functions in strengthening social communication that it adds a kind of delicacy and floridness to speech . Examples from this paper are ('the sun that warmed...' , 'a mother ' , 'the queen Mum' , 'the cool' ) . These **metonymies** are representative – symbol relations. They are next in order occurrences in eulogies. **Metonymic** expressions are sometimes used indirectly by eulogizers.

The purpose of using eulogies is to express the love of the text composers for the departed. Eulogies function as mitigating tool the announcer sometimes uses to reduce the effort of the association on the reader i.e., soften the pain of death . The main body of this paper includes:

('it is an honor to stand before' / 'it is a great privilege' / 'I marvel at your will' / 'your excel lance' / 'his pure soul' ). Being with memories of such words candles lessening or softening the essence of this unpleasant and grief contexts.

Mead, (1993) confirms that "social judgment processes such as blame and mitigation involve human abilities to perceive and appraise one's on cognitive states and processes as well as the cognitive states and processes of others".

Noticeably, the paper shows that **hypophoric** questions of (**Wh-**) are eminent types of questions because they must be answered with more information than just a simple "yes" or "no." (**What** is used to request information about somebody or something) .

These **hypophoric** questions are ‘open’ because the number of possible responses is limitless. This means that eulogists are mainly address the audience by ‘**WHAT?**’ because of its ‘*Nobility and Impressiveness*’ .

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