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SMARANDACHE LINGUISTIC TAUTOLOGIES

Abstract.

Classes of linguistic tautologies are introduced with examples and explanations.

The general cases exposed below are modeled on the English language structure in a rigid way. In order to find nice particular examples of such tautologies one grammatically adjusts the sentences.

A tautology is a redundancy, a pleonasm, a needless repetition of an idea, according to the "Webster's New World Dictionary", Third College Edition, 1988.

However, the following classes of tautologies - using repetition - go to a deeper meaning, and even changes the sense. A double assertion reverses to a negation. One also may play with the synonyms.

Let <N>, <V>, <A> be some noun, verb, and attribute respectively.

Also let <N'>, <N''>, etc. represent synonyms of <N> (or just <N>), and so <V'>, <V''>, etc.

or <A'>, <A''>, etc.

Let <NV> represent a noun-ed verb, and <NV'> a synonym, etc.

Then, one defines the following classes of linguistic tautologies and semi-tautologies:

1. Mirror semi-paradox:

<N> of the <N'>.

<N> of the <N'> of the <N''>...

Examples:

Best of the best.

Worst of the worst of the worst.

Mother of the mother of the mother... [the maternal grandmother]

Follower of the followers.

The rows of the rows [lots of rows.].

2. This is not an <N>, this is an <N'>.

Examples:

This is not a teacher, this is a professor.

This is not a car, this is a Volkswagen.

This is not a truck, this is a Chevy.

This is not noise, this is music.

This is not music, this is noise.

This is not a cedar tree, this is a <gad> [gad = Navajo name for cedar tree].

This is not me, this is I.

This is not a sword, this is a saber.

This is not a problem, this is an exercise [= easier].

Practice makes you practice.

This is not a girl, this is Katie.

This is not a horse, this is a pony.

3. <N> is not enough <N'>.

<A> is not enough <A'>.

Examples:

Sufficient is not enough sufficient [which means: to do more than

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"sufficient"].

Punishment is not enough punishment.

Health is not enough wealth.

Clean is not enough clean.

Studying is not enough studying [which means to do more than just getting by, i.e. to do research].

Extravagant is not enough extravagant.

Time is not enough time.

The more you have, the more you want.

Attention is not enough attention [some people need action too].

4. More <A> than <A'>.

Examples:

Better than better [=perfection].

Worst than worst [=evil].

Sweeter than sweeter [=honey].

More life than life [=spirituality].

More depressed than depressed.

Foster than foster.

More beautiful than pretty.

More ugly than ugly [really ugly].

Smarter than smart [like a genius].

5. How <A> is an <A'> <N>?

Examples:

How democratic is a so called democratic society?

How republican is a so called republic society?

How civilized is a so called civilized person?

How free is a free country?

How commanding is a so called commanding officer?

How Pop Culture is a so called Pop Culture?

How strong is a strong man?

How lone is a lone ranger? [not very, he has tanto].

6. No <A> is really <A'>.

Examples:

No friend is really a friend [s/he betrays you when you don't even expect!].

No luck is really a luck.

No original is really original.

No husband is really a husband [you learn to depend on yourself!].

No tomboy is really a tomboy [girl considered boyish].

No work is really less work.

No true Marxist is really a true Marxist [they contradict their own beliefs].

No magic is really magic [all is only a trick].

7. I would rather prefer <A>, than <A'>.

Examples:

I would rather prefer pretty, than prettier.

I want that, not that.

I would rather prefer this, than this.

I would rather be old, than old.

I would rather prefer great than big.

I would rather be crazy than crazy [crazy like foolish, than crazy like insane].

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8. More <A> than <A' >.

Examples:

Prettier than pretty.
More real than real.
More advantage than advantage.
More help than help.
More smiles than smiles [she didn't psychically smile, but there were smiles written all over her face].
More cries than cries.
More meters than kilometers.
Make everyday a rainbow day.
He earns more than himself.
More suspicious than suspected.

9. <V> those who <V' > you.

Examples:

Ignore those who ignore you.
Criticize those who criticize you.
Defend those who defend you.

10. <V>, because <V' >.

Examples:

I want because I want.
I think because I think.
I hear because I listen.
I see because I look.
I need because I need.
I know because I know.
I live because I live.
I believe what is unbelievable [faith].
I am happy because I am happy [there is no reason for my happiness].

11. <V> the <NV' >.

Examples:

I hate the haters (therefore I hate myself!).
I envy the enviers (therefore I envy myself).
I am strange to strangers.
I cheat the cheaters (therefore I cheat myself).
I lie to liars (therefore I lie to myself).
I kick the kickers (therefore I kick myself).
I love the lovers.

The list of such invented linguistic tautologies can be indefinitely extended. It is specific to each language, and it is based on language expressions and types of sentence and phrase constructions and structures.

One can also play with synonymic adverbs, prepositions, etc. to construct other categories of linguistic tautologies.

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