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### LINGUISTIC FEATURES OF APHORISMS

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**Annotation:** *Aphorisms are concise and expressive statements that convey universal truths and philosophical insights. This study examines the main linguistic features of aphorisms, focusing on their structural, lexical, and stylistic characteristics. Using qualitative analysis, the research identifies brevity, metaphorical language, and syntactic balance as key elements. The findings demonstrate that aphorisms achieve their effectiveness through a combination of simplicity and semantic depth, making them powerful tools in communication and literature.*

**Keywords:** *Aphorism, linguistic features, brevity, metaphor, antithesis, structural balance, figurative language, semantic depth.*

Aphorisms have long played a significant role in both language and literature, serving as a means of expressing complex ideas in a condensed form. They are widely used by philosophers and writers such as Oscar Wilde and William Shakespeare, whose works often include memorable aphoristic expressions.

From a linguistic perspective, aphorisms are notable for their brevity and depth of meaning. According to Encyclopaedia Britannica<sup>1</sup>, an aphorism is a concise statement that expresses a general truth or principle. Similarly, Oxford Learner's Dictionaries<sup>2</sup> defines it as a short, clever saying that conveys an important idea.

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This study seeks to answer the following research question: What linguistic features make aphorisms effective in communication? The aim is to analyze their structural and semantic properties.

This research employs a qualitative descriptive approach. A total of three aphorisms were selected based on their popularity and clarity from academic and educational sources such as Literary Devices<sup>3</sup>.

The selected examples are:

“Knowledge is power.”

“Time is money.”

“Less is more.”

Each aphorism was analyzed according to the following criteria:

lexical features (simplicity and word choice)

syntactic structure (brevity and sentence form)

stylistic devices (metaphor, antithesis, parallelism)

This method allows for a focused linguistic examination of aphoristic expressions.

The analysis revealed several essential linguistic features. Firstly, all aphorisms demonstrate brevity, containing no more than four words, which confirms the principle of linguistic economy. Secondly, figurative language is widely used. For example, “Time is money” employs metaphor to equate time with a valuable resource, while “Less is more” reflects antithesis and paradox.

Furthermore, aphorisms exhibit structural simplicity and balance, often following basic sentence patterns that enhance memorability. As noted by Literary Devices<sup>3</sup>, aphorisms rely on simple yet impactful wording to communicate deeper meanings.

The findings suggest that aphorisms are effective due to their unique combination of brevity and depth. The use of metaphor and contrast enables

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them to convey complex ideas in a compact form. Additionally, their simple structure makes them easy to remember and widely applicable.

These results are consistent with previous studies in linguistics, which emphasize the importance of clarity and universality in effective communication. However, one limitation of this study is the small sample size, which may not fully represent all types of aphorisms.

Further research could explore cross-cultural differences in aphorism usage and interpretation.

In conclusion, aphorisms are linguistically rich expressions characterized by brevity, metaphorical language, and structural balance. These features contribute to their effectiveness in conveying complex ideas in a simple and memorable way. As a result, aphorisms remain an important subject of study in both linguistics and literary analysis.

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