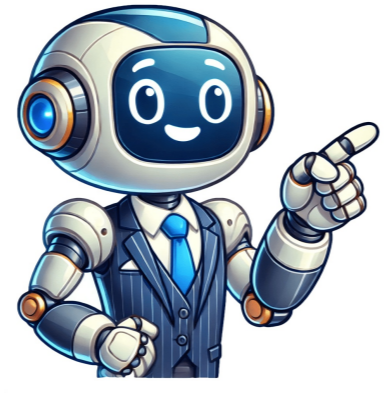


I'm not a robot































spoken language that characterizes a certain region, community, or group of people. Dialect often reflects minor differences in terms of vocabulary, spelling, and style of speech.Archaic DictionIn general, it is stated that the words not in use in topical language are known as archaic words. This is also called archaism but it is mostly the use of classical or outdated words that constitute archaism. Poets often dig out such old-fashioned words to write poetry to meet the demands of rhythm or metrical pattern. For example, using steed or stallion instead of a horse is an archaic usage of the word.Impacts of Diction on ThemesNot only in common communication of daily lives but also in literary works, diction plays an important role in setting things right. The first significant development comes in the thematic strands that a literary piece propagates. Although tone and point of view, too, contribute to thematic strands, they depend on diction in passing on those ideas. Therefore, when diction moves, changes colors and shows nuances, it impacts the thematic strands in different ways. It is clear from Hemingway’s use of diction in A Farewell to Arms and The Old Man and the Sea.Use of Diction in SentencesThe banality of this argument is evident from the use in untoward circumstances. (Difficult Diction)The general feature of this argument is clear when applied to this difficult situation. (Common Diction)We do not hope that they all will come and declare it an open place. (Simple Diction).“The boxes will come later. That takes more time.” (Conversational/Informal Diction)If doughty deeds my lady please / Right soon I’ll mount my steed.” (Archaic Diction).In literature, writers carefully choose specific words and phrases depending on the outcome they wish to achieve for the reader. Diction is the literary device that refers to these linguistic word choices and their artistic arrangement by a writer. Here are some examples of diction in literature:Example 1: Their Eyes Were Watching God by Zora Neale HurstonThen you must tell ‘em dat love ain’t somethin’ lak uh grindstone dat’s de same thing everywhere and do de same thing tuh everything it touch. Love is lak de sea. It’s uh movin’ thing, but still and all, it takes its shape from de shore it meets, and it’s different with every shore.In Hurston’s novel, Janie’s diction helps to establish the setting of rural Florida in the early 1900s. Janie’s diction is colloquial and her word choices and expression support the way she is characterized in the novel as a strong and passionate woman. In this passage, Janie’s diction reveals much about her rural background and limited education in terms of her manner of expression. However, the poetic nature of her words also indicates to the reader that Janie is introspective and capable of deep emotions. Therefore, rather than Hurston choosing to portray Janie through simple colloquial diction, she allows the protagonist to reflect a complex female character through the artistic style of her words and vocabulary.Example 2: The School by Donald BarthelmeOne day, we had a discussion in class. They asked me, where did they go? The trees, the salamander, the tropical fish, Edqar, the poppas and mommas, Matthew and Tony, where did they go? And I said, I don’t know. I don’t know. And they said, who knows? and I said, nobody knows. And they said, is death that which gives meaning to life? And I said no, life is that which gives meaning to life. Then they said, but isn’t death, considered as a fundamental datum, the means by which the taken-for-granted mundanity of the everyday may be transcended in the direction of –I said, yes, maybe.They said, we don’t like it.I said, that’s sound.They said, it’s a bloody shame!I said, it is.In Barthelme’s short story, he utilizes a combination of formal and informal diction to convey the literary theme of the randomness and universality of death. However, in this passage, the author cleverly reverses the diction expected by the reader by assigning formal diction to the elementary students and informal diction to their teacher, Edgar. This reversal of diction and reader expectation underscores the literary theme as well that death is both ever-present yet inexplicable in its pattern of occurrence. The children’s formal wording in their assessment of death as a “fundamental datum” reinforces the absurdity of anyone attempting to explain its meaning-even a figure of authority such as an elementary school teacher. In addition, the limited and informal diction used in response by the student’s teacher reinforces the absurdity that human beings can provide “answers” when it comes to such abstractions as death and life.The word and vocabulary choices made by Barthelme in his literary short fiction establish the story’s narrative voice and tone in an effective way. The children/students in the story are genuinely interested in learning about death and “where” the dead go. However, their teacher is incapable of providing the answers to their questions because he doesn’t have the knowledge, nor the vocabulary, to express any proper responses. This results in an emotional response on the part of the reader of frustration and helplessness in understanding the full concept of death, and therefore life as well.Example 3: This Is Just to Say by William Carlos WilliamsI have eaten the plumsthat were inthe iceboxand whichyou were probablysavingfor breakfastForgive methey were deliciousso sweetand so coldThough Williams’s poem is composed in free verse, without formal rhyme or meter, the diction is poetic in that the poet’s choice of words is descriptive and lyrical. This careful and deliberate use of vocabulary allows the poet to emphasize the denotative and connotative meaning of each word in each line. For the reader, the diction used by Williams in the poem reinforces the theme of temptation and desire intertwined with feelings of resentment and coldness.Example 4: A Farewell to ArmsThe forest of oak trees on the mountain beyond the town was gone. The forest had been green in the summer when we had come into the town but now there were the stumps and the broken trunks and the ground torn up, and one day at the end of the fall when I was out where the oak forest had been I saw a cloud coming over the mountain. It came very fast and the sun went a dull yellow and then everything was gray and the sky was covered and the cloud came on down the mountain and suddenly we were in it and it was snow. The snow slanted across the wind, the bare ground was covered, the stumps of trees projected, there was snow on the guns and there were paths in the snow going back to the latrines behind trenches.The minimum use of adjectives in these lines shows the use of diction by Hemingway. Although it is a descriptive paragraph, there are very few adjectives used, which show how a description could still write descriptives without adjectives to simplify the work and yet make it easy to understand. For example, the first line shows the description of deforestation.“It’s been a bad summer,” the major said. “Are you strong now?”“Yes.”“Did you ever get the decorations?”“Yes. I got them fine. Thank you very much.”“Let’s see them.”I opened my cape so he could see the two ribbons.“Did you get the boxes with the medals?”“No. Just the papers.”“The boxes will come later. That takes more time.”“What do you want me to do?”The writers can use description or dialogues to move the story further. Here, the use of simple diction in the conversation shows how Hemingway has transformed it into a vehicle to convey implicit meanings just using dialogues.Synonyms of Diction In literary vocabulary, the word diction has a vast list of meanings. It could be used in various senses such as phraseology, phrasing, rephrasing, turn of a phrase, choice of words, wording, use of language, language, parlance, vocabulary, terms, terminology, jargon, idiolect, locution, etc.