**Metaphor and metonymy**

The extract is taken from David Lodge’s Nice Work. It deals with an argue occurred during a drive. The main characters are Vic Wilcox e Robyn Penrose. The discussion regards the advertisement of a cigarette brand called Silk Cut that the characters saw numerous times during their trip wondering themselves the meaning of it. In this text, can be recognize the different attitude that Robyn and Vic have towards reality: Vic is more superficial, he became immediately impressed by the advertisement without wondering why it was done so. On the contrary, Robyn, investigates the hidden messages behind those images. In this conversation Robyn tells Vic the substantial difference between metaphor and metonymy. Through Robyn's explanation, the narrator wants to make it clear to the intelligent reader the difference between the two figures of speech; metaphor is a figure of speech in which a word or phrase that ordinarily designates one thing is used to designate another, thus making an implicit comparison; metonymy is a [figure of speech](http://grammar.about.com/od/fh/g/figuresterms.htm) in which one word or phrase is substituted for another with which it is closely associated. According to Robyn the poster was the iconic representation of a missing name, like a rebus. The shimmering silk, with its voluptuous curves and sensuous texture, obviously symbolized the female body. The advert thus appealed to both sensual and sadistic impulses, the desire to mutilate as well as penetrate the female body. Listened to the explanation of Robyn, Vic mocks her. The binary vision of reality of the two characters emphasizes the main concept of Postmodernism: there is no single truth and there are different ways of interpreting reality. Another fundamental aspect that can be seen from this text is the use of parody. The narrator wants to make the reader laugh with funny statements, but at the same time he wants to make it clear that in Robyn's postmodern mind there is that sense of seeking deeper meaning which was not in the Victorian mind, that of Vic.

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