Proverbs' Inherent and Stylistic Features

As Wolfgang Mieder points out in the introduction to his book, *Illuminating Wit, Inspiring Wisdom - Proverbs from Around the World*, in order for some of the proverbs to be "*memorizable,*" they often employ one or more of inherent and stylistic (poetic) features, such as alliteration, rhyme and pun - just to name a few. In this section, features that are identified in two or more Deaf proverbs is listed alphabetically here along with its definition and a proverbial example taken from *Deaf Proverbs - A Proverbial Professor's Points to Ponder* to illustrate the feature in question.

Alliteration

This feature uses repetition of the same first sound or letter(s) in two or more words.

Signs your <u>mirror</u> <u>mirror</u>s
Your <u>memo</u>ry <u>memo</u>rizes.

Analogy

This feature involves showing a likeness between two different concepts.

<u>Borrowing</u> one's eyes
<u>draws interest</u>.

This proverbial example uses terms from the field of banking for its analogy.

Contronym

A newly coined term for a certain word play where words, "by some freak of language evolution, are their own antonyms." [1]

Put a cap on one's abilities,
you get <u>capabilities</u>.

In the proverbial example, the word, *capabilities*, can mean one of two things and they both are opposites of each other.

Compare it with "Pun" below.

[1] See http://rinkworks.com/words/contronyms.shtml for more information.

Ellipsis

This feature involves a statement whose pattern of words are constructed in a way so that one or more missing words can be inferred from the context.

One is odd, two is even,
three is one odd too many.

The missing word here is "individual(s)."