

## An Analysis of Figurative Language in Online Short Story Posted on The Jakarta Post

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### ABSTRACT

*This research entitled "An Analysis of Figurative Language in Onlen Short Story Posted on The Jakarta Post" is aimed to found some kinds of figurative language used; she also studies about the meaning of figurative language used in selected short story on online the Jakarta Post. This research employs the library research in the sense that the researcher visited the libraries to get the data. There are two kinds of data in this research: (1) primary sources and (2) secondary sources. Primary source is firsthand information. Then secondary sources provide secondhand information. In this study, the primary source is short story gained from online Jakarta Post. Then, the secondary source was from books, e-books, journals, English dictionary, observation and documentation that were related to the research which was gained. After the data are gathered, they classified, analyzed, and interpreted by using several theories namely: (1) the theory of Figurative Language by Perrine (1982:61)), Short Story by Klarer (1998:13). Some of the important research findings are presented as follows. First, figurative language has many types, such as metaphor, simile, personification, metonymy, irony, symbol, hyperbole, paradox, alliteration, allusion, onomatopoeia, and many others. Henceforth, all kinds of figurative language cannot be found in all work of literature. There are some types mostly found in the literature, such as simile, personification, hyperbole, metaphor, irony, and metonymy. In this case, the writer only conducted the research in short story. The writer found some types of figurative language in the short story; those are personification, simile, symbol, and onomatopoeia. Personification is one of types of figurative language mostly found in the short story posted on online Jakarta Post.*

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### INTRODUCTION

Language is a signaling system which operates with symbolic vocal sounds and which is used by a group of people for the purpose of communication. Social interactions either daily communication are constantly liked to other via facilitation of language. Obviously, language plays an important role in human life. It is acknowledge from some definition carried out by some linguists.

Language may refer either to the specifically human capacity for acquiring and using complex systems of communication, or to a specific instance of such a system of complex communication. The scientific study of language in any of its senses is called

*linguistics*. Linguistic, it has brought to the subject of semantics a certain degree of analysis combined with a view of the study of meaning as an integrated component within the total theory of how language works.

When we study about linguistic, we will know about semantics which study of meaning. In English we know that meaning has important position to study because it will give influence to someone to understand about speaker's mean or how far some information can be received by listeners.

Semantics as the study of meaning is central to study of communication; and as more a crucial factor in social organization, the need to understand it becomes more and more pressing. Semantics is also at the center of the study of the human mind – thought processes, cognition, conceptualization – all these are intricately bound up with the way in which we classify and convey our experience of the world through language. Because it is, in these two ways, a focal point in man study of man, semantic has been the meeting place of various cross-currents of thinking, and various disciplines of study. Philosophy, Psychology, and linguistics all claim a deep interest in the subject. Semantics has often seemed baffling because there are many different approaches to it, and the ways in which they are related to one another are rarely clear.

The strength of the integrated view is that it makes possible a transfer to semantics of techniques of analysis which have proved successful with other aspect of language. But the extension of the horizon of semantics in one direction has limited it in another direction: the precise analytic methods developed in the study of grammar and phonology only apply to that part of meaning which is traditionally called 'conceptual' or 'cognitive'; other part, which may be lumped together as 'connotative' or 'associative' meaning, have been somewhat neglected.

We know that short story not only use denotative meaning to express message from the author but also connotative meaning. Connotative meaning happens because the author wish to make agreement, disagree, happy, unhappy, etc, for the listeners or readers. Many kinds of literature give us so much information in which they use non literal meaning of words. For example, some sentences on the story use figurative language to make it more beautiful, interesting and imaginative.

Figurative language is language using figures of speech (a way of saying one thing and meaning another). There are many types of figurative language such as: metaphor, simile, symbols, hyperbola, irony, etc. But in general, the figurative language is differentiated into four groups, they are: confirmation, comparison, opposition, and allusion. These figurative languages are famous in society, and also in the field of education starting from elementary school up to the university level.

The writer interested to analyze short story because there are many expression from author that are imagine about condition or situation which author write. So, the writer found figurative language in short story to express the emotion from author to be more interesting. To analysis, the writer uses literary approach and literary devices such as allusion, and the figures of speech. Among the figures of speech, the writer uses metaphor, simile, personification, synecdoche, metonymy, symbol, paradox and irony, etc.

Related to the description above, the writer studies figurative language used in selected short story posted on online the Jakarta Post. Besides, the writer found some kinds of figurative language used; she also studies about the meaning of figurative language used in selected short story on online the Jakarta Post.

## THEORY AND METHODS

### A. Figurative Language

Figurative language is language that uses words of expression with meaning that is different from the literal interpretation. When a writer uses literal language, he is simply stating the facts as they are. In comparison, figurative language uses alteration to make particular linguistic point. According to Groys Keraf, figurative language or style is a way of showing mind through a special language that shows the soul and the characteristic of the writer (language user). A good language style has to certain three elements, three are: sincerity, respectful, and attractive, (Groys 2009:113).

In addition, Perrine (1982:61) states that figurative language is broadly defined as any way of saying something other than ordinary way. It is more narrowly definable as a way of saying one thing and meaning another. Thus, figurative language is the way to express meaning in different way from the literal interpretation.

There are many types of figurative language:

#### 1. Metaphor

A metaphor compares two unlike things. "My baby sister's a doll," you might say, compares your sister's size and sweetness to that of the perfection of a doll. At another time you might say, "My brother is a rat." This compares your brother to the nastiest little creature you can think of. In both cases you would be making a metaphor - a form of comparison that directly compares two unlike things. A metaphor wastes no time in getting to the point.

#### 2. Simile

If you said, "My sister is like a doll," or maybe, "My brother's good as gold," you would be making a simile - a form of comparison in which one thing is compared to another unlike thing by using specific words of comparison like *like*, *as*, and *resembles*. Poets try to find unusual metaphors and similes.

Other examples:

- a. Going for water: we run as if to meet the moon we paused/ like gnomes.
- b. Stars: Like some snow white
- c. Mending Wall: Like an old stone savage armed

#### 3. Symbol

A thing (could be an object, person, situation, or action) which is stand for something else more abstract. Example: Early in Frost's poetry, flower becomes a symbol for the beloved, his wife Elinor.

#### 4. Personification

One of the most familiar kinds of comparison is personification---that is, speaking of something that is not human as if it had human abilities and human reactions. Example: When Keats describes autumn as a harvester "sitting careless on a granary floor" or "on a half-reaped furrow sound asleep," he is personifying a season. Also, in the Dickinson poem mentioned earlier, Dickinson describes frost as a "blond assassin." As a result, she is personifying frost.

My November Guest: the guest is sorrow, personified as a woman dearly loved who walks with him. Tree at my window: the tree watches him sleep; it has tongues talking aloud.

#### 5. Apostrophe

A figure of speech which is someone absent or dead or something nonhuman is addressed as if it were alive and present. Example: Take something like a star: the poem begins, "O Starting," He addressed the star throughout the poem.

#### 6. Synecdoche

A figure of speech which mentions a part of something to suggest the whole. Example: Shakespeare uses synecdoche when he says that the cuckoo's song is displeasing to a "married ear," for he really means a married *man*.

#### 7. Metonymy

The use of something closely related for the thing actually meant. Example: In "Out-," Robert Frost uses metonymy when he describes an injured boy holding up his cut hand "as if to keep / The life from spilling . . ." Literally he means to keep the blood from spilling.

#### 8. Paradox

A statement or situation containing apparently contradictory incompatible elements, but not closer inspection may be true. Example: Ghost house: I'd well in a house that vanished.

#### 9. Hyperbole

A great exaggeration used to emphasize a point, and is used for expressive or comic effect. A hyperbole is not to be taken literally. Example: "An apple a day keeps the doctor away." We know that eating an apple every day will not keep you from ever getting sick and having to go to the doctor.

#### 10. Understatement

The presentation of a thing with underemphasizes in order to achieve a greater effect or implying more than is said. Example: Frost's "Birches": One could do worse than be a swinger of birches."—The end of the poem suggests that swinging on a birch tree is one of the most satisfying activities in the world.

#### 11. Irony

Verbal irony is a figure of speech when an expression used in the opposite of the thought in the speaker's mind, thus conveying a meaning that contradicts the literal definition. Dramatic irony is a literary or theatrical device of having a character utter word which the reader or audience understands to have a different meaning. Irony of situation is when a situation occurs which is quite the reverse of what one might have expected.

Example:

- a. The road of taken: Verbal irony the speakers knows he will tell the old story "with a sigh" of a choice that "made all the different".
- b. Birches: Dramatic Irony the wish to get away from earth may not be granted too soon.
- c. Rage-finding: Irony of situation when speaker disturbed by a bullet but finds it unimportant.

#### 12. Alliteration

Alliteration is the repetition of a single letter in the alphabet (as in "Peter Piper picked a peck of pickle peppers.") or a combination of letters (as in "She sells seashells by the seashore."). It's just about the easiest form of repetition a poet can use.

#### 13. Allusion

A reference in a literary work to a person, place, thing in history, or another work of literature. Example: This ceremony reminds me of the proclamation of independence in 1945.

#### 14. Onomatopoeia

In its simplest form, onomatopoeia is produced by a single word that sounds like the thing it refers to: "Six burgers were *sizzling* on the grill." "A snake *slithered* through the grass."

Gorys Keraf mention about 60 kinds of figurative language divided into 4 mains categories. There are: comparison, contrast, relationship, and repetition. The detail divination can be drawn below:

- a. Comparison: consisting of; simile, metaphor, personification, allegory, antithesis, pleonasm, tautology, periphrasis, anticative (prolepsis), and correction (epanorthosis).
- b. Contrast: consisting of; hyperbole, litotes, irony, oxymoron, paronomasia, paralysis, zeugma, solipsist, satire, innuendo, antiphrasis, paradox, climax, apostrophe, anastrophe (inverse), apophrisis (pretension), hysteron proteron, hypallage, Sinicism, and sarcasm.
- c. Relationship: consisting of; metonymy, synecdoche, allusion, euphemism, eponym, epithet, antonomasia, erotesis, parallelism, ellipsis, gradation, asyndeton, and polysyndeton.
- d. Repetition: consisting of; alliteration, assonance, antanacrisis, chiasmus, epizeukis, tautotes, anaphora, epistrophe, simplek, mesodiplosis, epanalipsis, and anadiplosis.

## B. Short Story

Short story is a part of literary genres, which is fiction. Short story can be categorized as a fiction since most of it relies on fantasy stories, such as fairy tale. Short story emerges as a more or less independent type of text at the end of the eighteen century, parallel to development of the novel. While the novel has always attracted the interest of literary theorists, the short story has never actually achieved the status held by length fiction.

According to Klarer, "A crucial feature commonly identified with the short story is its impression of unity since it can be read-in contrast to the novel-in one sitting without interruption. Due to restriction of length, the plot of the short story has to be highly selective, entailing an idiosyncratic temporal dimension that usually focuses on one central moment of action." (Klarer, 1998:14)

Short story deals with important elements that build the story itself. All of these elements take their own role to make the story sensible. They are theme, plot, setting, character and point of view.

Klarer (1998:13) explains that the roots of short story lie on antiquity and the Middle Ages story, myth and fairy tale relate to the oldest types of textual manifestations, "texts" which were primarily orally transmitted. Short story as a part of literary works is interesting to be analyzed. Although it has a quite short plot, small number of characters and a few places and time as setting, the story can be fully developed. There are many short stories that have been analyzed. Typically, the analysis is related to intrinsic elements of the story.

### a. Intrinsic Elements of Short Story

Intrinsic elements of short story are important part of a short story since these elements will bring the reader into the story. The commonly known elements of short story are theme, plot, setting, character and characterization, style and point of view, according to Klarer (1998:15), the most important elements are plot(what happens?),



character(who act?), narrative perspective(who sees what?), and setting(where and when do the events take place?)

### 1) Plot

Klarer (1998:15) suggests that plot is the logical interaction of the various thematic elements of a text which leads to a change of the original situation as presented at the outset of the narrative. Meanwhile, plot is also defined struggle between two persons, the two groups of people, or two ideas in a person's mind.

Plot is a sequence of occurrence has phases to convey the story and according to Klarer (1998:15), an ideal tradition plot line encompasses the following four sequential levels:

Exposition - complication - climax or turning point- resolution

Further, as explained by Klarer (1998:15), the exposition or presentation of the initial situation is disturbed by a complication or conflict which produces suspense and eventually leads to a climax, crisis, or turning point. The climax is followed by a resolution of a complication.

Thus, plot in a short story is indispensable since it will determine whether the story is interesting or not though it's sequential level, conflict, and narrative style. However, plot can be also confusing if the sequential level is not clear whether the story is flash forward or flashback, has random ideas, or has too much vague flash back.

### 2) Character

Klarer (1998:17) defines that typed character in literature is dominated by one specific trait and is referred to as a flat character, and term round character usually denotes a persona with more complex and differentiated features. In short story, character that commonly emerges is flat character since short story only presents the critical time of the chief character.

In novel or short story character is the number on its narration but the character is limited. Whereas, Jones (1968) as cited in Nugiantoro (2013:165) states: "character is illustration of someone it appear on its narrations".

Character plays an important role in a short story, since short story has small number of characters; the chief character usually becomes the center of interest. These might be other characters in that short story; yet, the other characters are only functioned as a supporter of the chief's character characterization.

The character that has the significant role in the story is called as main character. The main character occupies most parts in plot or events that are occurred in the story. While the character who does not have the significant role because its presence in the story is only to complete and support the main character is named supporting character. Author uses it to clarify characterization of main character by showing natures of the supporting character that contrast with the main character.

The distinction of character based on the function of its role in the story can be categorized into the protagonist and the antagonist (Nurgiantoro, 2013: 178). If the conflict exists between people, the protagonist may seem to be the good guy or the hero, the antagonist the bad guy or the villain. The protagonist defines himself by the interaction of what he is and what he does. Sometimes the protagonist will not respond correctly or admirably. Sometimes, in fact, he may not act at all. Even a lack of response, however, will define and further our understanding of the protagonist's nature.

Whoever or whatever is on the other side of the conflict from the protagonist is called antagonist, usually taking the form of another character. In some cases the antagonist may be an aspect of society or the environment or even some facet of the protagonist himself. Sometimes it may be a complex of many forces that work against the protagonist from outside and inside himself.

### 3) Characterization

Characterization is the presentation of the character nature, image creation or illustration of one who becomes the characters in the story. More simply defined, characterization is the creation of imaginary persons so they seem lifelike.

There is an idea about how reader can understand the story through the identification of characters. If the reader identifies the main character early in the story, he will understand more accurately the intricate relationship among the characters and consequently gain a full appreciation of what they do and say.

### 4) Point of View

Klarer (1998) states, that "narrative perspective or point of view characterizes the ways in which a text presents persons, events, and settings. The subtleties of narrative perspective developed parallel to the emergence of the novel and can be reduced to three basic positions: The action of a text is either mediated through an exterior unspecified narrator (omniscient point of view) through a person involved in the action (first person narration), or presented without additional commentary (figural narrative situation)".

### 5) Setting

This section will explain the definition of setting according to some experts and the importance of setting in the short story. In short story, setting always appears as place, time, and circumstance that will be the scene where the story takes place. Setting becomes one of the important elements of short story since it can create the atmosphere of the story and bring readers to the situation that the authors want to create. Setting plays a big role to this paper since this paper analyzes the contribution of setting in the short story especially the setting is related with gothic.

In action of interpretation, setting can be distinguished into setting of place, time and culture (Nurgiyantoro, 2000: 102). The setting of place physically is a place where events in a story occurred. Presentation of this setting of place supported also by describing of things located in narration because it is a unity of the narration of place. The setting of time describes about time of every event that occurred in the story including present, past or even uncertain times. Whereas the setting of culture describes of society conditions, social group and their attitude, custom, life style and language used in events of the story.

From the explanation above, it may be concluded that setting involves time, place, condition, and atmosphere that are created as the background of the story. Moreover, setting is important since it can shape the main character, build mood and in the whole, help outline the general theme so reader will feel the scene of the short story.

## FINDING AND DISCUSSION

### A. Research Design

Research is the formal systematic application of the scientific method to the study of comprehending the problem; educational research is the formal systematic application of the scientific method to the study of educational problem, Gay (1992:7). A research design is a plan for collecting and analyzing data in order to answer questions. Ary Donald (1985) explained that research

method refers to the general strategy followed in gathering and analyzing the data, Donald.

In this study the writer uses qualitative approach. It is designed to identify some figurative language by understanding the general meaning when they are used in the short story.

The procedures of the study are:

- a. The technique of descriptive analysis offered to analyze data by the reading the data.
- b. Identifying the figurative languages used in the short story.
- c. Categorize the data into some kinds of figurative languages.
- d. The researcher studies the general meaning of figurative language by identifying the lexical meaning and contextual meaning.

Based on the explanation above, this study uses qualitative approach to describe the kinds of figurative language used in short story posted on the Jakarta Post.

#### B. Data Source

For gathering information, it is a must to discover important and accurate data from qualified source. It is explained by Sutanto Leo et.al (2007:70) that there are basically two kinds of sources, namely primary sources and secondary sources. Primary source is firsthand information. Then secondary sources provide secondhand information. In this study, the primary source is short story gained from online Jakarta Post. Then, the secondary source was from books, e-books, journals, English dictionary, observation and documentation that were related to the research which was gained.

#### C. Data Collection Technique

The data will be gained through several instruments as followed:

##### 1. Observation

Here the researcher directly organized observation in the field of research. In this research, the researcher directly conducted the observation in online Jakarta Post Newspaper and examined several short stories. It is aimed to find the figurative language used in short stories of the Jakarta Post.

##### 2. Documentation

Documents can be a valuable source of information in qualitative research. Creswell (2003: 223) cited that documents represent public and private documents. Public documents provide in the form of minutes from meeting, official memos, and newspaper. The examples of private documents are personal journal and diaries, letters, and personal notes. Documentation is also timesaving since transcription is not required. Accordingly, the researcher directly collected some short stories posted on the online Jakarta Post.

#### D. Data Analysis Technique

In this study, referential identity method is used to analyse the data. The procedure of data analysis can be drawn as follows:

1. Applying the theories related to the problems and anything needed based on the purpose of the study.
2. Interpreting the data based on the way of Short Story expresses figurative language.
3. Interpreting the data based on kinds of figurative language .
4. Making the conclusion.



## DISCUSSION

This chapter presents the result of study from the writer. It involves the kinds and meaning of figurative language found in online short story posted on the Jakarta Post.

### A. Research Finding

#### 1. Figurative Language Types

Here are types of figurative language found in the short story posted on the online Jakarta Post

No	Phrases	Types of Figurative Language
1	<b>coiled around</b> her swan-like neck	Personification
2	coiled around her <b>swan-like neck</b>	Simile
3	glittering under the neon lights	Personification
4	They were merely in love with <b>the vitality of Che's writings</b> ,	Symbol
5	The wind gently rustled the trees	Onomatopoeia

#### 2. Explanation of figurative language types

The data above is some types of figurative language found in short story posted on online Jakarta Post. Furthermore, it will be elaborates as follows:

##### a. Personification

Personification is speaking of something that is not human as if it had human abilities and human reactions. Some personifications found in the short story are:

..... when she saw the jewelry, **coiled** around her **swan-like neck, glittering under the neon lights**.

The phrase "coiled around her swan-like neck" and "glittering under the neon lights" refers to the jewelry while it is not human thing but it had human abilities and human reactions.

##### b. Simile

Simile is a form of comparison in which one thing is compared to another unlike thing by using specific words of comparison like *like*, *as*, and *resembles*.

In this case, the writer found one phrase referring to simile, "swan-like neck". It explained that the neck is beautiful like a swan.

##### c. Symbol

Symbol is a thing (could be an object, person, situation, or action) which is stand for something else more abstract.

Phrase included in symbol is "They were merely in love with **the vitality of Che's writings**". The vitality of Che's writing is an abstract thing to express the author the cause of the couple falling in love.

##### d. Onomatopoeia

Onomatopoeia is produced by a single word that sounds like the thing it refers to. In this study, one phrase refers to onomatopoeia found in the one of short story paragraph. Phrase "The wind gently rustled the trees"

is kind of onomatopoeia because “the wind” sounds like it refers to, “rustled”.

## CONCLUSION

Based on the research finding above, the writer can conclude that figurative language is found in the work of literature, such as short story, song, poetry, and novel. Figurative language is language that uses words of expression with meaning that is different from the literal interpretation. When a writer uses literal language, he is simply stating the facts as they are. In comparison, figurative language uses alteration to make particular linguistic point.

Figurative language has many types, such as metaphor, simile, personification, metonymy, irony, symbol, hyperbole, paradox, alliteration, allusion, onomatopoeia, and many others. Henceforth, all kinds of figurative language cannot be found in all work of literature. There are some types mostly found in the literature, such as simile, personification, hyperbole, metaphor, irony, and metonymy.

In this case, the writer only conducted the research in short story. The writer found some types of figurative language in the short story; those are personification, simile, symbol, and onomatopoeia. Personification is one of types of figurative language mostly found in the short story posted on online Jakarta Post.

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