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Investigating Figurative Language In English Poem Written By EFL Student At Mahasaraswati Denpasar University

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Abstrak

Analisis ini bertujuan untuk menyelidiki jenis-jenis Bahasa Kiasan yang ditemukan dalam puisi yang ditulis oleh mahasiswa universitas Mahasaraswati Denpasar. Penelitian ini menggunakan metode kualitatif deskriptif dengan menggunakan kategorisasi teori Abrams (1999). Data yang digunakan dalam penelitian ini adalah 31 puisi mahasiswa yang menjadi tugas mata kuliah Literary Appreciation. Dari teori Abram, penelitian ini menemukan 14 jenis bahasa kiasan dalam puisi yang ditulis oleh siswa. Temuan menunjukkan bahwa personifikasi adalah yang paling dominan digunakan dengan jumlah 37 data dengan persentase 24,32% diikuti oleh hiperbola sebanyak 29 dengan 19,02%, metafora sebanyak 21 dengan 13,82%, antitesis sebanyak 15 dengan 9,86%, simile sebanyak 13 dengan 55%, apostrof sebanyak 8 dengan 5,26%, paradoks sebanyak 7 dengan 4,60%, metonimia sebanyak 5 dengan 3,28%, sinekdoke sebanyak 5 dengan 3,28%, eufemisme sebanyak 4 dengan 2,63%, simbol sebanyak 3 dengan 1,97%, Epithet sebanyak 3 dengan 1,97%, alegori sebanyak 1 dengan 0,65%, dan sarkasme sebanyak 1 dengan 0,65%. Sementara jenis gaya bahasa irony dan allusion tidak ditemukan dalam puisi tersebut. Sebuah puisi ini bukan hanya untuk hiburan. Analisis puisi mengkaji bahasa untuk mengetahui karya sastra.

Kata Kunci: *Gaya Bahasa, Puisi, Sastra*

Abstract

The purpose of this research is to investigate the types of figurative language found in poems written by students of Mahasaraswati University Denpasar. This research uses a descriptive qualitative method using the categorization theory of Abrams (1999). The data used in this study are 31 student poems that became the assignment of the Literary Appreciation course. From Abrams' theory, this study found 14 types of figurative language in the poems written by students. The findings show that personification is the most dominant used with 37 data with a percentage of 24.32% followed by hyperbole with 29 with 19.02%, metaphor with 21 with 13.82%, antithesis with 15 with 9.86%, simile with 13 with 55%, apostrophe with 8 with 5.26%, paradox as many as 7 with 4.60%, metonymy as many as 5 with 3.28%, synecdoche as many as 5 with 3.28%, euphemism as many as 4 with 2.63%, symbol as many as 3 with 1.97%, epithet as many as 3 with 1.97%, allegory as many as 1 with 0.65%, and sarcasm as many as 1 with 0.65%. While the types of irony and allusion language styles are not found in the poem. A poem is not just for entertainment. Poem analysis examines language to find out literary works.

Keywords: *Figurative Language, Poem, Literature*

INTRODUCTION

Literature refers to something related to written works with aesthetics and art such as poems, novels, drama, and other creative writings. It is the interpretation of human thoughts and feelings, conveyed in the form of verbal and written works. Moreover, that is an art that represents human existence and experience imaginatively and creatively. According to Taum (1997), Literary works are a form of creative or fictional works that are

imaginative and use beautiful language. In literature, language is used by authors aesthetically as a way to express the complexity and depth of the human mind. In human life, literature is still very rare to explore, especially for students. The lack of interest in literary works is still very high. Supported by the research of Fitriani, N. H., & Huda, N. (2022) this study identified that many factors cause low interest in exploring literary works, one of which is the lack of motivation from teachers and parents, as well as library reading materials.

In the literary scope, the poems stand out as a unique and artistic form of expression beyond the limits of ordinary language. It becomes a medium of channeling emotions, thoughts, and experiences conveyed concisely while not changing the actual meaning. The characteristics of the poem are literary works that have rhythm and rhyme in each stanza. In addition, the poem also uses figurative language that has implied or explicit meanings. The meaning offered is not as clear as the meaning of the prose (Palupi, 2021). The poem describes an object using ambiguous imagery while prose provides a clear meaning in conveying a story or information. Poem can be a means of knowing and understanding oneself. With poems, writers can utilize their imagination to convey their creativity. The poem is very important to introduce to students by improving writing habits, in poem competitions, or as a creative assignment because through poem literary works one can improve communication skills and empathy. This is supported by (Shofiani, Nugraha, Sari, 2023) Emphasizing the importance of writing culture and creative learning models is key to students' interest and ability in writing poems.

In literature, figurative language is a way of conveying meaning interestingly and more deeply. Figurative language is one of the language processing techniques to produce imaginative and expressive literary works (Taufik, 2023). Figurative language is a literary element that writers use to convey ideas or emotions. Figurative language is a conspicuous departure from what users of a language apprehend as the standard meaning of words, or else the standard order of words, to achieve some special meaning or effect (Abrams 1999). In this context, figurative language functions to give a deeper and more complex meaning. According to Perrine Lawrence in Yulidar (2014), Figurative language is a figure of speech that gives words additional dimensions. Poets often use figurative language as it enables them to express their ideas more powerfully than through plain and mundane vocabulary. According to Abrams (1999), there are 16 types of figurative language namely metaphor, personification, simile, hyperbole, synecdoche, metonymy, allusion, apostrophe, antithesis, paradox, irony, sarcasm, symbol, allegory, epithet, and euphemism. This research aims to identify the figurative language in English poems written by students at Mahasaraswati Denpasar.

Previous literature studies have researched figurative language for songs. First study by Mahendra, Suastini & Candra (2023) investigated the figurative language and analyzed the meaning of the figurative language used in the lyrics of Adele's album "30". This research uses the observation method. The theory used in this research is the figurative language theory by Knickerbocker and Reninger (1974): simile, personification, metaphor, synecdoche, hyperbole, irony, and paradox. The theory of meaning by Geoffrey Leech (1974) namely connotative meaning, thematic meaning, affection meaning, reflected meaning, and stylistic meaning. The most dominant type found in this research is hyperbole. Second study by Gunawan et al. (2021) Investigating the features of figurative language influencing the meaning behind the song "Ice Cream". This study uses a qualitative descriptive method and the types of figuratives used are metaphor, simile, hyperbole, and repetition. Metaphors are the most numerous figurative finds. Third study by (Sarumaha et al., 2022) This study aims to investigate the realization of figurative language in song lyrics from the album 'Lyodra' by Lyodra Ginting. The method used is descriptive qualitative, with data consisting of 8 song lyrics. The results showed the existence of 7 types of figurative language, with metaphor as the most dominant.

Figurative language research on novels the fourth study by (Monny, 2023) aims to find figurative language and its meaning. This research uses a qualitative method. This research consists of 5 figurative language found in the novel "It Starts With Us" from 10 figurative language theories by Colton. The fifth study by Indarti et al. (2023) Their research focuses on exploring the types of figurative language in one of the literary products, the famous novel Kite Runner. The method used in this research is qualitative. The theory used is Perrine's theory (1992) with types of figurative language, namely simile, metaphor, metonymy, personification, synecdoche, hyperbole, paradox, symbol, and apostrophe.

The sixth study by (Taufik, 2023) This study aims to determine the figurative language and meaning contained in the poem "Louise Bluck" The theory used to analyze the poem is the theory of Gorys Keraf (2009) in this study the figurative language obtained is simile, metaphor, hyperbole, personification, and synecdoche. Based on denotative and connotative meanings, 7 lines of denotative meaning and 13 connotative meanings were found. The seventh study by (Palupi, 2021) The purpose of this research is to identify figurative language used in the work of "William Shakespeare". The theory used is Perrine's theory, this study found 9 types, namely simile, metaphor, personification, symbol, synecdoche, hyperbole, paradox, irony, and disparaging. The second aim of this research is to find meaning using Leech's theory. This research found 5 types of meaning, namely conceptual meaning, connotative meaning, social meaning, effective meaning, and reflection meaning.

In research (Riwaldi et al., 2023) discussing figurative language found in songs in the movie Spirit: Stallion of the Cimarron which aims to determine the types of figurative language according to Abrams' theory, finding that figurative hyperbole is the most dominant type. The research has similarities with this research, discussing language style using Abrams's 1999 theory. However, the difference can be seen from the previous research focusing on the types of figurative language and its meaning contained in the song lyrics. This study only focuses on identifying figurative language in poems written by Mahasaraswati University students.

Kinds of Figurative Language

As knowledge develops, many experts have discovered categorizing the types of figurative language. There are several types of figurative language according to M.H Abrams (1999), namely metaphor, personification, simile, hyperbole, synecdoche, metonymy, allusion, apostrophe, antithesis, paradox, irony, sarcasm, symbolism, allegory, epithet, and euphemism.

- a. Metaphor, a metaphor is a figurative expression that establishes a unique comparison between two entirely different entities, suggesting that one thing represents another to illuminate their shared qualities, without using conjunctions like "or" or "like." for example, "my heart is the endless ocean". The ocean is compare to the heart of the author, it also symbolizes love like a vast and deep sea.
- b. Personification is the attribution of human traits, emotions, or characteristics to non-human entities, such as animals, inanimate objects, or abstract concepts. According to Abrams (1999), personification is figurative language that depicts an abstract concept or inanimate thing as a living individual. For example "The dancing tree". The tree is dancing caused of the swaying in the breeze, it could symbolize flexibility.
- c. Simile is a figure of speech that expresses similarity between two things that are not the same, usually formed with the help of words like "like" or "as". For example "You are beautiful like your mom" The beauty of her is compared to her mom.
- d. Hyperbole is an exaggerated statement or claim that is often used for emphasis, to create a strong and dramatic impression, and to evoke strong feelings. For example "I've been waiting for centuries" The centuries is an an exaggerated word because someone is not possibly waiting for that long time.
- e. Synecdoche, is the use of a part of something to describe the whole or vice versa. Synecdoche is categorized into two: Pars pro toto, which mentions some parts of an object or condition to describe the whole object or situation. Totem pro parte, which mentions the whole as a replacement for the name of the part. For example pars pro toto "The bridge of his nose has not appeared for a while" the nose refers to the whole body of person. Example of totem pro parte "Nort Sumatra will soon change its regional head" Nort Sumatra refers to people who are of legal age and have a letter to vote
- f. Metonymy, is a figure of speech in which one word or phrase is substituted for another closely associated word or phrase. For example "She buys new Hyundai" Hyundai refers to the car.
- g. Apostrophe is a figure of speech that speaks to something or someone that does not exist or is inanimate as if they could hear and respond. For example "Oh moon, where should i looking for her" the speaker asks to the moon as if the moon can hear to find her. This illustrates the desperation of someone

- h. Antithesis combines two opposing ideas in one sentence to create a contrasting effect. For example “You look sad in your joy” The person may express joy, but there is sadness that they cannot hide or the joy they have may be intermingled with sadness.
- i. Paradox, is the statements that seem contradictory or absurd but contain the truth. For example “That girl feels peaceful in a noisy city” The girl just focuses on herself and finds calmness in the crowded city
- j. Irony is the difference between what is expected and what happens. For example “Her voice is so melodious like a broken record” Her voice is ugly like a broken record
- k. Sarcasm is sharp satire often with the intent to mock, criticize, or convey contempt. For example “I feel like throwing up when i’m with you” the means that the person feel loathsome around her.
- l. Symbol, is the use of symbols to represent larger ideas or concepts. For example “Dove is symbolize peace” The dove is the Universal symbol and historical symbol of peace.
- m. Allegory is a story that has a hidden meaning behind its events and characters. For example “The anger is like fire, the more it burns the bigger get” if the emotion is more provoked and it will produce bigger anger.
- n. Epithet is an adjective used to describe a quality or characteristic of someone or something. For example “She is sneaky” someone who has negative behavior
- o. Euphemism is a more refined word or phrase to replace a word that is considered rude or unpleasant. For example “She has passed away” describes a more subtle sentence than death
- p. Allusion, a brief reference to a famous event, character, work, place, and historical. “Her romance similar with Romeo and Julieth” the Romeo and Julieth is the famous character of the historical.

METHOD

This study used a Descriptive qualitative research method to investigate the types of language styles in English poems written by EFL students at Mahasaraswati University Denpasar. This method was used to examine social events, human interactions, or specific objects to explain, describe, and analyze facts or phenomena. It involves the classification of data through several techniques, including interviews, questionnaires, and audio recordings. Qualitative research focuses on the quality of information and aims to understand the drivers as well as the motivations behind actions. In addition, qualitative research results in an in-depth understanding of the context within the problem as well as the presentation of ideas. This approach was chosen because the purpose of the study was to investigate the types of figurative language using Abrams' theory.

Sixth-semester students of literary student of Mahasaraswati Denpasar were selected as the subjects of this study. The amount of classes used was 1 class, namely class 6A which amounted to 31 people. The data collection method used in this study was obtained through documents that became assignments for the literature appreciation course which were collected in one Google Drive. The Google Drive was created by the lecturer in charge of the course, which will be a place for students to collect assignments. The data was collected by downloading all the files in Google Drive, then reading to find and understand the type of figurative language and its meaning, and analyzing. Words to examine language aspects such as words, phrases, and sentences in the figurative language contained in a collection of poems, then grouping similar figurative language.

RESULT AND DISCUSSION

Result

Types of Figurative Language Used in Poem Written by EFL Students. This result will answer the question that seeks to classify the types of figurative language used by students in writing poems in the Literary Appreciation course assignment. Based on the analysis 152 figurative languages V` from 32 poems using Abrams' theory. In 16 types of figurative language based on Abrams, 14 types of figurative language found in the poems written by EFL Students were identified, namely personification, metaphor, simile, hyperbole, paradox, metonymy, synecdoche, symbol, antithesis, apostrophe, allegory, sarcasm, euphemism, epithet

Table 1. Types of Figurative Language

No	Types of Figurative Language	occurrence	percentages %
1.	Personification	37	24,34
2.	Hyperbole	29	19,07
3.	Metaphor	21	13,81
4.	Antithesis	15	9,86
5.	Simile	13	8,55
6.	Apostrophe	8	5,26
7.	Paradox	7	4,60
8.	Metonymy	5	3,28
9.	Synecdoche	5	3,28
10.	Eufemism	4	2,63
11.	Symbolism	3	1,97
12.	Epithet	3	1,97
13.	Allegory	1	0,65
14.	Sarcasm	1	0,65
15.	Irony	0	0
16.	Allusion	0	0
Total		152	100 %

Based on table one, the researcher found fourteen types of figurative language used in poems written by EFL Students at Mahasaraswati Denpasar University. Based on the theory used by Abrams (1999). The most dominant type of figurative language in this poem was personification, this type is often used because the authors were aiming to generate a strong imagination in readers' mind. The total data of figurative language in each type are Personification 37 (24,34%), Hyperbole 29 (19,07%), Metaphor 21 (13,81%), Antithesis 15 (9,86%), Simile 13(8,55), Apostrophe 8 (5,26%), Paradox 7 (4,60%), Metonymy 5 (3,28%), Synecdoche 5 (3,28%), Euphemism 4 (2,63%), Symbolism 3 (1,97%), Epithet 3 (1,97%), Allegory 1 (0,65%), Sarcasm 1 (0,65) The most common figurative language is personification. Out of 32 poems, were found 37 data representing 24.34% of the overall data. The lowest figurative language found was allegory and sarcasm, which amounted to 1 data in each section with a data percentage of 0.65%. However, irony and allusion cannot be found in this poem

Discussion

Personification is a figurative language that gives human nature to inanimate objects. The following are examples of figurative words found by researchers in the poems

Extract 1.

With wisdom's whisper, he showed me the light,

Wisdom whisper is comprehension and knowledge with gentle delivery. Wisdom is personified as the ability to whisper, while a whisper is the human ability to speak. The definition of wisdom according to KBBI is *kecakapan bertindak apabila mengahadapi kesulitan*. According to the Oxford Learner Dictionary, "whisper" is to speak very quietly to somebody so that other people cannot hear what you are saying. The word "wisdom" is the ability to make sensible decisions and give good advice because of the experience and knowledge that you have. The situation described here is that the author wants to describe someone's kindness. This phrase can be interpreted as an expression of how someone provides valuable guidance to the writer. Using gentle wisdom, the person helps to find understanding or enlightenment in life.

Hyperbole is a figure of speech that expresses something exaggeratedly.

Extract 2.

"Your feet are full of blood, full of pus"

This hyperbolic expression emphasizes the extent of the mother's suffering and sacrifice,

illustrating both the physical pain and emotional burden she endures for her child. According to the Oxford Learner Dictionary, "blood" is the red liquid that flows through the bodies of humans and animals. The word "pus" is a thick yellow or green liquid that is produced in a wound as a result of an infection. The blood comes after any damage to the skin tissue. According to [IDN Medis](#), pus forms when the immune system responds to an infection or wound. The term is used to give a dramatic effect to the poem, the fact that the statement was made, the mother was still fine and had no wound on her entire feet.

Metaphor is a figurative word that compares two different things without using a conjunction such as or like.

Extract 3.

"In the corridors of learning, we tread"

Corridor of Learning describes the path where the learners progress in education. Interpretation learning in this phrase toward education, education has a meaning which is a journey and has a way and aims. The corridor refers to the journey and learning refers to education. According to the Oxford Learner Dictionary "corridor" is a long narrow passage in a building, with doors that open into rooms on either side. The word "learning" is a long narrow passage in a building, with doors that open into rooms on either side, knowledge that you get from reading and studying. This phrase also refers to a learning environment that supports social interaction and effective learning within the school, emphasizing the importance of creating an atmosphere conducive to learning where students can interact with peers.

Antithesis is the placement of two opposite ideas in one sentence to emphasize the difference between them.

Extract 4.

"When the day falls silent birds singing talking trees"

It means the world is only silent from the activity of human beings, the world lets the other creatures enjoy their peace. According to the Oxford Learner Dictionary, "silent" is where there is little or no sound; making little or no sound. This sentence refers to the Nyepi celebration where no one is allowed to go out and if they are at home, they should not make a big noise and should keep the volume as low as possible. With the lack of activity, sounds that we rarely hear in our daily lives, such as birds or other animals, echo in our ears.

Simile is a comparison between two different things using connecting words such as like or like.

Extract 5.

"Our laughter rings, like chimes in the breeze"

The laughter refers to the chimes. The chimes in the breeze will sound noisy but in this case it shows the joyful sound of laughter. According to the Oxford Learner Dictionary, "chimes" (of a bell or a clock) to ring to show the time by making a ringing sound. The word "breeze" means light wind. "Chimes in the breeze" refers to the pleasant sound produced by wind chimes when they are moved by the wind. The phrase "laughter rings" such as a light wind.

Apostrophe is a reference to a famous event, place, or figure in history or literature.

Extract 6.

"Oh, what would I do without her grace?"

This sentence shows how she can live without someone's grace. This sentence is full of despair that she wants to show the reader. According to the Oxford Learner Dictionary, "grace" is a quality of behavior that is polite and pleasant and deserves respect. The author shows that she is a protective figure for her. The author describes she as an angel who

protects and guides her.

Paradox is a figurative word whose statements seem to be contradictory but contain a deeper truth.

Extract 7.

"My heart inside your song"

This is a slightly illogical. However, if examined more deeply, the meaning of Taylor Swift's lyrics comes from her feelings. According to the Oxford Learner Dictionary, "heart" means the place in a person where the feelings and emotions are thought to be, especially those connected with love. The author expresses that all the emotions possessed by the singer songs are very relatable to him. In this poem, the author expresses that she wants to be present at the opportunity of the singer concert to share the experience by singing along.

Metonymy is a figure of speech that uses the name of an object or concept to refer to another closely related object or concept.

Extract 8.

"Undergoing a boring Nyepi day"

Nyepi day is the silent day of Hinduism usually expecting the beauty of stars on the night. According to thehoneycombers.com, Nyepi is "Day of Silence". It's when, for a full 24 hours, all of the island's lights must be switched off, transport comes to a halt and everyone must stay at home. The whole island shuts down for a full 24 hours, and the streets are off limits to everyone. Even the airport closes for a full day, with planes being rerouted above so not to disturb the silence below. Everyone must remain inside their homes, villas or hotels without any disturbances. Beginning at 6am and finishing 24 hours later at 6am on next day. On Nyepi Day, the Balinese Hindus will be meditating, praying and spending silent time at home with their families.

Synecdoche is a figure of speech that uses a part of something to represent the whole or vice versa.

Extract 9.

"His hands, weathered and worn"

The hands (*pars pro toto*) represent someone's love, hard work and life experiences. According to the Oxford Learner Dictionary, "weathered" means changed in color or shape because of the effect of the sun, rain, or wind. Weathered itself signifies the aging process that occurs in the someone's hand, where the hand is a part of the body. In another sense, the author is saying that despite the aging process happening to the father, he still shows his affection and wisdom.

Euphemism is a figurative word used to describe something unpleasant, impolite, or taboo indirectly.

Extract 10.

"through you may have passed"

Serves as a euphemism for death. According to the Oxford Learner Dictionary the word "passed" refers to "pass away" which means to die. In this poem, the author says that death would not stop all of his father's love and kindness from leaving. It will be eternal in her.

Symbolism Is a figure of speech that uses symbols, or anything that represents something greater than itself.

Extract 11.

"In the garden of learning"

The garden symbolizes growth, nurturing, and the cultivation of knowledge and relationships. According to the Oxford Learner Dictionary, "garden" means a piece of land next to or around your house where you can grow flowers, fruit, and vegetables. In this poem, the author wants to convey that learning is like soil, where if someone wants to plant, then he must dig to place the roots of plants in a good position. Then the plant must continue to be fertilized and watered so that it will produce a perfect plant. Likewise, with learning if the lesson is constantly dug up, it will result in all dreams being realized.

Epithet is a figurative word that describes the nature or characteristics of someone or something.

Extract 12.

"They're so mean"

She shows that no one can reach her out because she is always relying on others. According to the Oxford Learner Dictionary "mean" means to have something as a purpose or intention. On the other means is nasty. In this poem, the author conveys that his surroundings do not treat him well. This situation occurs because the author is always asking for help from his surroundings, and depending on them.

Allegory is a figurative word that expresses something by using figures of speech or imagery to convey abstract meaning.

Extract 13.

"Coffee on the table, Novel in my hand, Scent that fills the air"

The scent is coming because there is the coffee on the table and she is next to it. In the previous line, the author writes about having coffee on the table. "scent that fills the air" refers to the coffee.

Sarcasm is a figurative word of satire used to convey the opposite of what is true.

Extract 14.

"What a damn ugly clouds"

This sarcastic statement expresses the poet's frustration with the dark clouds. According to the Oxford Learner Dictionary, "damn" means a swear word that people use to show that they are annoyed and disappointed. The author shows a feeling of disappointment with the dark sky conditions so that what he expected did not happen. The ugly clouds here are interpreted because of the dark cloud conditions as a sign of the coming rain that covers the lighting device at night.

In this study, there are 5 dominant language styles found in EFL student poems at Mahasaraswati University Denpasar. The 5 language styles are personification with the highest percentage of use, followed by hyperbole, metaphor, antithesis, and simile. This shows that students are acquainted with the language style.

As highlighted in previous studies, figurative language has been found by many previous researchers. However, several aspects distinguish this research from the previous ones. This research reveals the types of figurative language used by students. This study uses the occurrence and percentage of figurative language used by students. Previous research by (Hutauruk, 2019), examined figurative language in the poem of 3rd-semester students, not including what figurative language is dominantly used by students. The types of figurative language found are metaphor, simile, and personification. In addition to the findings (Nainggolan & Elfrida, 2022) examined the types of figurative language and their meanings in the song lyrics on the Map of the Soul album. This research found 11 types of figurative language but did not include the meaning of the figurative types obtained.

CONCLUSION

This research identifies the types and meanings contained in poems written by students. Based on the analysis of poems according to the Abrams theory, there are 14 types

of poems contained in poem collections written by EFL students. This finding is important for the effective use of figurative language and to enrich students' understanding of literary works. This study has research limitations. The data used is limited to one class in one university and cannot be generalized to the entire student population. This research aims to observe the importance of teaching language style to improve skills in writing poems and conveying ideas and emotions.

For future research, the researcher suggests conducting observations by directly interviewing the research subjects to get their perspectives on the figurative language used in the poem. English teachers as teachers must find the right method of teaching and create enthusiasm in students to be more interested in learning figurative language.

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