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Exploring Rhetoric Style of Erwin Smith and Armin Arlert in The Anime Series "ATTACK ON TITAN"

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Abstrak

Penelitian tentang rhetoric style telah banyak dilakukan oleh banyak sarjana. Tetapi penelitian yang berhubungan dengan ini masih sedikit diteliti orang. Penelitian tentang rhetoric style telah banyak dieksplor pada 6 tahun terakhir tetapi rhtoric syle yang membahas tentang penelitian ini masih sedikit. Penelitian ini meneliti gaya retorika yang digunakan oleh dua karakter utama dalam anime Attack on Titan: Erwin Smith dan Armin Arlert. Secara khusus, penelitian ini berusaha menganalisis penerapan gaya retorika Aristoteles yaitu ethos, pathos, dan logos dalam dialog dan monolog mereka. Pengumpulan data melibatkan analisis sistematis transkrip dari anime melalui tiga langkah: (1) menonton serial, (2) mengidentifikasi contohcontoh ethos, pathos, dan logo dalam adegan dan dialog yang relevan, dan (3) melakukan analisis terperinci dari elemen-elemen retoris ini. Sebanyak 276 contoh retorika diidentifikasi di kedua karakter. Bagian gaya bahasa retorika yang paling dominan adalah Pathos yang digunakan oleh Erwin Smith, yaitu sebanyak 32 kali (34,04%). Ethos dan Logos memiliki hasil yang sama, yaitu sebanyak 31 kali (32,97%). Meliputi 62 kali (33,70%) kemunculan Pathos yang digunakan oleh Armin Arlert, begitu pula hasil Ethos dan Logos pada Armin Arlert yang terdiri dari 60 kali (32,96%). Temuan-temuan tersebut mengungkapkan bahwa Erwin Smith dan Armin Arlert menggunakan retorika terutama untuk membangkitkan respons emosional yang kuat dan menumbuhkan empati penonton terhadap tema-tema yang dibahas. Analisis ini menyoroti keefektifan gaya retorika mereka dalam mencapai komunikasi persuasif dalam kerangka narasi anime.

Kata Kunci: Gaya retorika, Monolog, Persuasif, Aristoteles, Anime

Abstract

Many scholars have conducted research on rhetorical style. However, there has been limited investigation into this area by individuals. In the past 6 years, research on rhetorical style has gained significant attention, yet discussions surrounding this research remain scarce. This study examines the rhetorical style employed by two central characters in the anime Attack on Titan: Erwin Smith and Armin Arlert. Specifically, it seeks to analyze the application of Aristotle's rhetorical style ethos, pathos, and logos within their dialogues and monologues. Data collection involved the systematic analysis of transcripts from the anime through three steps: (1) viewing the series, (2) identifying instances of ethos, pathos, and logos in relevant scenes and dialogues, and (3) performing a detailed analysis of these rhetorical elements. A total of 276 rhetorical instances were identified across both characters. The most dominant part of the rhetorical style is Pathos used by Erwin Smith, namely 32 occurrences (34.04%). Ethos and Logos have the same results, namely 31 occurrences (32.97%), covering 62 (33.70%) occurrences of Pathos used by Armin Arlert, as well as the results of Ethos and Logos in Armin Arlert which consist of 60 occurrences (32.96%). The findings reveal that Erwin Smith and Armin Arlert employ rhetoric primarily to evoke strong emotional responses and foster audience empathy with the discussed themes. The analysis highlights the effectiveness of their rhetorical styles in achieving persuasive communication within the anime's narrative framework.

Keywords: Rhetoric style, Monologue, Persuasive, Anime

INTRODUCTION

Rhetoric, determined from the Greek 'rhetorike', is the aptitude to utilize dialect in an enticing way to impact a group of onlookers. Rhetoric is depicted as the craftsmanship of communicating conclusions and the craftsmanship of successfully transmitting data to others through talked and composed dialect (Oktapiani, Rima, M. Syahrun Effendi, 2021). Dialect in the rhetoric may be a humanistic discipline and is based on the capacity to convey thoughts to make it simpler for perusers to get the substance of the subject matter by utilizing compelling and excellent dialect, thus talk is called the craftsmanship of influence. Aristotle, the Greek rationalist, isolated talk into three modes: Ethos, logos, and pathos. Ethos establishes the speaker's validity and reliability, logos present coherent thinking and proof, and pathos makes an enthusiastic request. Understanding and utilizing these modes viably can cultivate engagement, construct connections, and prepare people for collective action (Arianto & Septriani Septriani, 2023). Gaining a deeper comprehension of rhetoric means examining how to arrange language to achieve the intended effect on the audience. Rhetoric serves as an instrument for persuasive communication. The persuasive nature of rhetoric relies on three types of evidence: logical (logos), ethical (ethos), and emotional (pathos). Logical evidence arises from the reasoning of the speaker or presenter, ethical evidence is illustrated through the way the speaker's character is revealed in their discourse, and emotional evidence is shown by the speaker's capacity to effectively express emotions to the audience.

Effective leadership fostered by strong communication with the community will naturally earn public trust in all policies and completed endeavors. Information shared with the public through effective rhetorical communication helps cultivate a sense of community trust in its leaders. Rhetoric, as a field of communication, plays a crucial role in developing rhetorical communication that keeps the public informed about all governmental activities. For leaders, mastering rhetoric is essential for influencing and directing individuals. Without a solid grasp of rhetorical skills, it becomes difficult for a leader to establish their reputation and achieve their objectives. How can they convey their ideas effectively to others without the use of rhetoric? Speaking serves as a crucial instrument for leaders to engage with, critique, invite, and guide on various matters. A powerful speech can create a lasting positive impact on listeners, especially for someone in a presidential position. It is vital for a proficient rhetorician or speaker to bring people together around a shared objective, aiding in progress and the overall well-being. Conversely, a leader who chooses not to speak may leave their supporters uninformed about their policies due to insufficient communication. (Sulistiyani & Mukaromah, 2018)

Agreeing with Aristotle, the importance of the third part in creating a strong argument and influencing the audience is clear. Rhetoric, or the art of effective communication, has been essential for successful communication from ancient Greece to today. By understanding and mastering persuasive techniques, people can engage their audiences, change opinions, and achieve positive outcomes in many situations. Speakers can leave a lasting impression and inspire action by using ethos (credibility), logos (logic), and pathos (emotion) in public speaking, politics, and advertising. Knowing how to use these elements helps people persuade others effectively and build stronger relationships with different audiences in a professional setting. In the world of anime, strong and complex characters often take the spotlight, not just because of how they look but also because of how they communicate and influence those around them. One anime that stands out to fans is *Attack on Titan*, which features not only an intriguing story but also characters with unique and impactful communication styles. Two key supporting characters, Erwin Smith and Armin Arlert, have distinct ways of communicating. Despite their differences, both play crucial roles in shaping the story and influencing the decisions of other characters. This discussion focuses on identifying and explaining the use of ethos, pathos, and logos in the interactions between Erwin and Armin within the anime's context.

Anime refers to animation, either hand-drawn or computer-generated, that originates from Japan. Outside Japan, especially in English-speaking countries, the term is used specifically for animation made in Japan. However, in Japan, "anime" simply means "animation" and includes all animated works, regardless of style or country of origin. This means animations made outside Japan can also be considered anime. The popularity of anime has influenced countries like France and the United States, where animations inspired by Japanese styles are often called "anime-influenced animation." Anime began commercial production in 1917, but the unique art and storytelling styles associated with it today emerged in the 1960s, thanks to Osamu Tezuka, a legendary animator who

revolutionized the medium. This period saw anime grow its audience in Japan and start its journey to global recognition. Anime is distributed in many ways, such as movies, TV shows, DVDs, and digital streaming. Some anime are original, but many are adaptations of manga, novels, or video games. *Attack on Titan*, a shounen fantasy anime, is based on a manga by Hajime Isayama. In a TBS interview, Isayama shared that he came up with the story at 19, inspired by a game about aliens wiping out humanity and the movie *Jurassic Park*, which fascinated him with its creative production process (SUMARAH, 2022).

This study differs from earlier research in a number of ways. First, from the standpoint of language style, (Arianto & Septriani Septriani, 2023) research attempts to identify different world language figures when giving speeches or orations in public. Ponders has made a number of addresses by world leaders such as Martin Luther Lord Jr., John F. Kennedy, Barack Obama, Nelson Mandela, and Soekarno public. Concurring to the study's discoveries, world figures can be recognized by their utilize of anaphora, parallelism, rhetorical questions, metaphors, tricolons, antithesis, epistrophe, pathos, allusions, and litotes, indeed in spite of the fact that they have a particular phonetic fashion. Comparable studies by (Yanuar, Deni, 2019) Ustadz Abdul Somad's sermons at the Baitturrahman Grand Mosque in Banda Aceh are the main subject of this study. Aristotle's rhetoric theory, namely the five canons of rhetorics, which emphasize the study of Elocutio / Style (language style and gesture style) through the concept of Gorys Keraf, is the theory employed in this study. The Miles and Huberman data analysis model is used in this study to analyze the data, and the key informant approach is used to choose the informants.

Then previous research on (Maulana, Rizky, Qoni'ah Nur Wijayanti, S.Ikom., 2023) this article provides an in-depth examination of different facets of communication within the series, encompassing diplomatic dialogue, the transfer of confidential information, propaganda efforts, and the communication-related tensions that lead to conflict. It also investigates how these communication dynamics influence the storyline and the relationships among nations within the narrative universe. By employing this perspective, the article seeks to illustrate how communication shapes the views and responses of characters in the Attack on Titan universe, drawing parallels to real-life conflict situations. This study is to identify the rhetorical style in Avicii's song lyrics. (Pasaribu et al., 2022) This study uses descriptive qualitative research because it uses sentences as data taken from Avicii's songs. The theory used to meet the objectives of this study is the theory of Gorys Keraf (2006) classifying rhetorical styles based on direct and indirect meanings, namely rhetorical styles where rhetoric consists of alliteration, euphemism, litotes, hyperbole, anastrophe, and paradox. Research on rhetoric has also been studied by (Zain, 2018) This research aims to identify and examine the types of rhetoric and rhetorical styles present in religious speeches found in YouTube videos. The results indicate that religious discourse on YouTube can be categorized into six rhetorical types: argumentation, disclosure, persuasion, descriptions, narrative, and depiction. Furthermore, the study reveals that the predominant rhetorical styles include tricolon, ellipsis, sarcasm, balance, hyperbole, alliteration, anaphora, repetition, and rhetorical questions. In summary, it can be inferred that the religious speakers analyzed in this research skillfully utilize a diverse array of rhetorical categories and adjust their rhetorical styles to engage as many viewers as possible.

The same research was also carried out by (Satria & Adek, 2020) The speech analyzed in this research was examined by interpreting the spoken words, which were evaluated through the principles of rhetoric and described, making this a qualitative study employing descriptive methods. The examination of rhetoric in the speeches of the Indonesian president was assessed based on the five principles of rhetoric: invention, arrangement, style, delivery, and memory. Implicitly, the findings of this study suggest that the Indonesian president's speech successfully met the five canons of rhetoric. Then the same research was also carried out by (Purnawan et al., 2024) This paper started by addressing concerns regarding the deficiencies in eloquent rhetorical styles in academic writing, the approaches to citing sources, and the development of theories and arguments within the conceptual frameworks of thesis reports authored by students in the English Language Education Department. The research aimed to clarify the rhetorical styles present in students' theoretical frameworks in their thesis reports, to identify weaknesses or the absence of compelling arguments in effectively presenting ideas in a clear and organized way, and to propose measures to prevent the issue from happening again in the future. The same research was also carried out by (Banowati & Maretha, 2024) This study investigates the rhetorical techniques found in the letter from British Prime Minister Rishi Sunak to Prabowo Subianto, the President-elect of Indonesia, after the Indonesia2024 Presidential Election. The study explores the rhetorical components in the letter, highlighting how Sunak employed language to connect with larger political objectives. The findings demonstrate the significance of political rhetoric in influencing international diplomacy and offer an understanding of the intricate communication strategies that support diplomatic exchanges.

Researchers are keen on examining the rhetorical approaches of Erwin Smith and Armin Arlert as well as their distinct leadership qualities. The rhetorical style demonstrated by these two leaders becomes evident in how they address their troops in the battle against the Titans. This particular area of study has been relatively overlooked, prompting the researcher to explore it further, which has led to the development of the research question. The focus of this investigation centers on the rhetorical techniques employed by Erwin Smith and Armin Arlert in guiding their soldiers, utilizing Aristotle's theory. By analyzing the rhetorical methods utilized by both characters, this research aims to offer valuable perspectives on how language and persuasion influence public perception. These are some of the reasons why this topic is highlighted and recognized as a significant area of study.

METHOD

This research employed a qualitative descriptive method. Descriptive qualitative is a research method that describes certain phenomena or events in detail and specifics, without focusing on numbers or statistics. It is a key approach used in many fields to gain deeper knowledge of social phenomena, human behavior, and experience. Using techniques such as text analysis, observation, and interviews, this method focuses on exploring the subjective viewpoints, meanings, and interpretations that people attach to their experiences. This approach was chosen because the purpose of the research was to uncover the ethos, pathos, and logos of the two supporting characters of the anime series Attack on Titan, specifically Erwin Smith and Armin Arlert, as they needed to be clarified. The researcher examined the use of rhetoric style in the anime series Attack on Titan.

The object of the research was the animated series Attack on Titan, featuring supporting characters Erwin Smith and Armin Arlert on the Netflix application, as well as transcripts linked to hianime.to. The data collection method used in the research relied on transcripts of the Attack on Titan animated series through the following steps: 1) Watching the anime series Attack on Titan, 2) Collecting data including ethos, pathos, and logos from relevant scenes and dialogues, 3) Analyzing each data point containing ethos, pathos, and logos. The analysis focused on deconstructing dialogue and actions of Erwin Smith and Armin Arlert to reveal their rhetorical strategies and character development as depicted in the narrative. This methodological rigor ensured that interpretations were grounded in both textual evidence and contextual understanding of the series.

RESULT AND DISCUSSION

Total

Result

The result of this research are the answers to the problem formulation that has been formulated previously. The data presented is based on the analysis of rhetorical style in Erwin Smith and Armin Arlert's monologues. Based on data analysis, 276 data were found from two characters and the types of rhetoric used in this study are based on Aristotle's theory of Ethos, Pathos and Logos in Erwin Smith and Armin Arlert in the anime series Attack on Titan. The results of the data that have been analyzed can be seen in Table 1.

NO.	Types	Erwin Smith		Armin Arlert	
		Occurance	Percentage	Occurance	Percentage
1.	Ethos	31	32,97%	60	32,96%
2.	Pathos	32	34,04%	62	33,70%
2	Logos	21	22.070/	60	22.060/

Table 1. Types of Rhetoric Style of Erwin Smith and Armin Arlert

100%

182

Table 1 shows as the main instrument for collecting data and contains 3 rhetorical style analyses proposed by Aristotle. The most dominant part of the rhetorical style is Pathos used by Erwin Smith, namely 32 occurrences (34.04%). Ethos and Logos have the same results, namely 31 occurrences (32.97%). covering 62 (33.70%) occurrences of Pathos used by Armin Arlert, as well as the results of Ethos and Logos in Armin Arlert which consist of 60 occurrences (32.96%). As demonstrated in Extract 1, it was necessary to

categorize the sentences based on their primary communicative units. The monologues of Erwin Smith and Armin Arlert were systematically examined with regard to the rhetorical styles used and whether or not summary statements were included or excluded.

Ethos refers to the speaker's credibility. Aristotle believed that a speech delivered by a person you can trust would be more convincing than one from someone whose integrity is in doubt.

Extract 1

Erwin Smith: "It's we who give meaning tour comrades' lives! We die trusting the living who follow to find meaning in our lives!"

Erwin's statement, "It's us who give meaning to our comrades' lives," is analyzed as a powerful rhetorical message. The phrase, "We die trusting the living who follow to find meaning in our lives," reflects the speaker's honesty and strong moral character, which builds trust and credibility (ethos). Aristotle emphasized that ethos is one of the key ways to persuade an audience by showing integrity and values. The use of "we" creates a sense of unity and shared purpose, suggesting that life's meaning comes from relationships and community support. The phrase "we die trusting the living" shows deep faith in the next generation and highlights a commitment to human values and continuity. By framing this statement, Erwin establishes himself as a responsible leader and inspires reflection on life's purpose and each person's role in society.

Extract 2

Armin Arlert: "As a soldier, I have long sworn to give my heart for the restoration of humankind!"

Ethos plays a key role in explaining Armin Arlert's statement, "As a soldier, I have long sworn to give my heart for the restoration of humankind!" It highlights his moral character and authority. According to Aristotle, ethos is one of the three main ways to persuade others, where the speaker shows good judgment and strong values to convince the audience. By calling himself "a soldier," Armin not only reveals his role but also his commitment to a higher moral duty—restoring humanity. When he says "I have long sworn," it shows his sincerity and dedication, building trust and respect from the audience. This statement also reflects universal human values, like personal sacrifice for the greater good, which is central to ethical leadership. Through this, Armin creates a strong ethical connection with his audience, inspiring reflection on moral responsibility. This use of ethos strengthens his position as a trustworthy and principled figure in the fight for humanity.

Pathos the feelings that are evoked in the audience are related to pathos. In order for the listeners to feel what the source speaker is discussing, pathos evokes emotional evidence that can awaken their emotions and instincts. Extract 3

Erwin Smith: "The brave fallen! The anguished fallen!" "My soldiers, rage! My soldiers, scream! My soldiers, fight!"

Erwin Smith's speech is a powerful example of appealing to emotions, one of Aristotle's key elements of persuasion, which focuses on influencing the audience's feelings. Using phrases like "The brave fallen!" and "The anguished fallen!" he taps into emotions of grief and love for sacrifice, evoking both a sense of loss and pride. Commands like "My soldiers, rage! My soldiers, scream! My soldiers, fight!" aim to spark anger, passion, and bravery—strong emotions that inspire action. The repeated use of "My soldiers" creates a sense of unity and shared responsibility, building an emotional bond with the audience. This way, his speech stirs deep emotions, motivating the audience to fight wholeheartedly for a greater cause.

Extract 4

Armin Arlert: "Nothing would make me happier than to die for that cause!"

Armin Arlert's statement, "Nothing would make me happier than to die for that cause!" is a strong example of pathos in Aristotle's rhetoric, as it appeals to emotions by highlighting the idea of personal sacrifice for a noble cause. By expressing a willingness to give up his life, the statement stirs admiration, empathy, and even guilt in the audience, especially if they haven't shown the same level of dedication. The phrase "nothing would make me happier" contrasts positive feelings with the idea of death, creating a striking emotional impact. This approach not only inspires respect and motivation but also encourages the audience to feel a moral duty to share the same spirit of sacrifice. In this way, the statement effectively uses emotional appeal to connect with and influence the audience.

Loogos the speaker's collection of logical arguments is known as logos. According to

Aristotle, logos involves the employment of a number of techniques, such as the formulation of logical arguments and the use of straightforward language.

Extract 5

Erwin Smith: "That is the sole method in which we can rebel against this cruel world!"

Erwin Smith's statement, "That is the sole method in which we can rebel against this cruel world!" reflects Aristotle's concept of logos, as it provides a logical reason for the proposed action. He argues that this is the only effective way to fight against harsh realities, dismissing other strategies as ineffective. The phrase "sole method" emphasizes that the solution is absolute, pushing the audience to agree because no better options are available. This reasoning uses a logical structure, leading the audience to see the action as necessary, not optional. While the speech has emotional elements, its main focus is on logic and rational argument.

Extract 6

Armin Arlert: "For humanity's glory, in what little time I have to left to live, I will continue advocate his strategic value!"

Armin Arlert's statement, "For the glory of humanity, in the little time that remains, I will continue to fight for its key value!" shows the use of logos, a key element of Aristotle's rhetorical theory. It uses logical reasoning to explain why his actions are necessary. He ties his actions to a clear goal, "the glory of humanity," and justifies them by focusing on their "strategic value," showing why the plan is crucial for humanity's survival. His argument is rational and well-thought-out, emphasizing that the strategy is the best way to achieve the goal. By connecting individual effort to the good of all and highlighting the urgency of limited time, Armin makes a strong logical case for action, proving that his decisions are based on careful planning rather than just emotion.

Discussion

This section outlines the analysis of the findings discovered by the researcher. The results stem from an examination of rhetorical data through the lens of Aristotle's theory. This section identifies and interprets the elements of rhetoric and their implications utilized by Erwin Smith and Armin Arlert. After delving into the monologues of the two characters, the researcher observed that both employed the rhetorical strategies of ethos, pathos, and logos while addressing their soldiers. Initially, regarding the rhetorical styles, the findings of this study revealed a total of 276 instances related to Erwin Smith and Armin Arlert. In conclusion, this study determines that the most prevalent rhetorical style is pathos, with 62 occurrences that nearly encompass 94 specific episodes in the anime series "Attack on Titan." By investigating the types of rhetoric employed by Erwin Smith and Armin Arlert, it became clear that both leaders utilized rhetoric to persuade their soldiers and listeners, evoking the emotions experienced by both characters, particularly through the pathos rhetorical style. From this evidence, the researcher deduced that Erwin Smith and Armin Arlert aimed to evoke pathos in their speeches to create an emotional connection with their soldiers, inspiring them to confront the challenges ahead. By appealing to their emotions, Erwin and Armin fostered a sense of purpose and urgency, assisting the soldiers in grasping the significant implications of their mission. Both leaders recognized that an emotional appeal could enhance their connection with their troops, encouraging them to fight for shared objectives and principles. Similar findings were noted in the study by (Sulistivani & Mukaromah, 2018) which explored the rhetorical styles of state leaders Susilo Bambang Yudhoyono and Joko Widodo. The rhetorical styles and individual characteristics of Susilo Bambang Yudhoyono and Joko Widodo are distinctively different. This study aims to identify the rhetorical approaches of SBY and Jokowi with a focus on their leadership during the Plenary Cabinet Session. In this research, the author applies theories of verbal and nonverbal codes and employs a qualitative method with a descriptive analytic approach using triangulation techniques. The same study further (Lustyantie, 2018) examines how effective speech can convey rhetorical arguments, which indicates the necessity for research that aligns with the structure of speeches utilizing rhetorical techniques, particularly in the presidential address of Indonesia's President Joko Widodo during the reform era in the education sector. The rhetorical strategies employed in the president's speech aim to elucidate the educational program framework, outline the implemented educational initiatives, and express hopes and assurances for enhancing the quality of education in Indonesia during the reform era.

CONCLUSION

The study's conclusions show that pathos is the primary rhetorical device used in

Erwin Smith and Armin Arlert's monologues, highlighting emotional involvement as a key persuasion tactic. Through the use of rhetorical analysis, the study demonstrates how these characters use their speeches to arouse emotional resonance and empathy in their audience, forging a strong bond that increases the impact of their statements. The frequent usage of pathos implies that the main goal of these monologues is to encourage and uplift listeners by bringing their feelings into line with the goals and values of the protagonists. In the end, this emotional appeal acts as a motivating factor, successfully influencing the viewer to absorb the lessons and heed the characters' exhortations.

The primary purpose of this research is to examine the rhetorical style employed by Armin Arlert and Erwin Smith in the anime series "Attack on Titan." It is important to acknowledge a number of limitations, even if this study was successful in identifying and analyzing the different rhetorical aspects that underlie these personalities. First off, this study is limited to a single episode, so it might not accurately represent how the characters and their discourse evolve over the course of the series. Additionally, because the method is qualitative, it might not accurately reflect how the general public feels. The purpose of this study is to provide a deeper understanding of how the rhetorical styles of both characters contribute to the major themes in the story, as well as their impact on the audience. As a suggestion for future researchers, it is recommended that they consider conducting a more comprehensive longitudinal analysis, including the influence of broader cultural and social contexts, as well as involving quantitative methods to provide a more balanced perspective.

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