

TYPES OF FIGURATIVE LANGUAGE AND MEANING FOUND IN THE NOVEL “THE CLIENT” BY JOHN GRISHAM

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Abstract—The title of this research is types of figurative language found in the novel “The Client” by John Grisham. The purpose of this research is to identify the types of figurative language and analyse the meaning in the novel. This research also uses a qualitative descriptive method using two theories. The first is the figurative language theory to identify the types of figurative language from the novel “The Client” proposed by Knickerbocker & Renninger (1963), and the second theory by Leech (1981) to analyse the meaning of figurative language. The focus of this research was to figure out what kinds of figurative language found in the novel “The Client” by John Grisham. There are two research problem of the study namely: (1) What are the types of figurative language are found in the novel “The Client” by John Grisham, (2) What is the meanings of each types of figurative language found in the novel “The Client” by John Grisham. The results of this study indicate that there are four types of figurative language found in the novel “The Client”, namely simile, personification, and metaphor. Here the dominant type is Simile.

Keywords— Figurative Language, Meaning, Novel

1. Introduction

Language is part of human life. According to Brown (2004) language is a systematic tool possessed by humans to communicate an idea or feelings by using agreed-upon gestures, sounds, or signs. Language is an arbitrary system of sound symbols used by community to work together, identify themselves and interact. Language is used to interact with each other (Risweni 2021). Without language we can not get any information about something. Then it can be claimed that language is a tool for communicating all meanings and intents to others. According to Harmer, language is typically used to communicate between people who do not share the same same language (or even a second language). As a result, language plays an important role in human life. Language contains an enormous role in human life to interact and get information. Language is also used to express a person's emotions or emotions, as well as their ideas, thoughts, and imagination, and it can be expressed orally or in writing. There are many different types of language, including spoken and written language. Novels, journalism, poetry, and magazines all include written language.

Figurative language is one way to make the languages have more beautiful words and rich in meaning (Ayomi, 2009). Abrams (1999:96), stated that figurative language is used as the indicator or utterance of word with purpose to gain special meaning of words. It means the words with figurative language cannot be understood and interpreted in literal form. It uses figures of speech to be more effective, persuasive, and impactful. The writers usually use it to express their heart. The writers want the readers or listeners can feel the emotion by heart, not only the eyes or ears. Literature is an amusement; it is an art form that it expressed by the thought and feelings of the beauty of language and depth of message. Wellek and Warren (1949:9) stated that one way to define literature is everything in print. They also said another way of defining literature is to limit it to great books, books which, whatever their subject are not able for literary form or expression.

Literature is made based on what men have seen in life, what they have experienced of it, what they thought and felt about those aspects of it. In other words, literature represents human's experiences of life using language.

Figurative language is words, phrases or expressions in which the meaning of the words or phrase or expression are different from literal language (Rajeg 2018). Abrams (1999:96) said that figurative language is divided into two classes, figure of thought and figure of speech. Figure of thought is a figure in which words used have an extension in their standard meaning. Meanwhile, figure of speech is a figure of which the words have a rhetorical effect. Figure of speech is also named figurative expression.

2. Literature Review

The first thesis is entitled, *An Analysis of Figurative Language in Edensor Novel by Andrea Hirata* by Habibi (2016). The focus of his study was to identify the types of figurative language found in the novel *Edensor* and describe the meaning of figurative language in *Edensor Novel*. In the previous study, the author used a descriptive qualitative method. This study uses the theory from Perrine (1969) to analyse the figurative language. The study resulted in 44 data which includes simile (20), metaphor (8), personification (6), hyperbole (5), synecdoche (1) and (4) symbol. The author obtained simile and metaphor as the most frequent data. Also, this study resulted in 11 data from the meaning which included denotative (10) and a connotative. Compared with Habibi's study, the similarities with this study are both employing a descriptive qualitative data method to analyse the novel. The difference is the data source that is used. The previous study used Indonesian novel, meanwhile this study is English novel.

The second journal by Harya. The title of this study is "An Analysis of Figurative Languages Used in Paulo Coelho's novel Entitled 'The Alchemist'". The objectives of the study are to describe the types of the figurative language found in the book and to identify the contextual meaning of the figurative language. The method used in collecting the data related to the subject of this research is documentation method because the researcher collected the data from novel. This study was conducted by collecting any relevant data and information about the topic or problem of the study from novels and internet that are available for the analysis. The data collection used the following steps: reading the novel, and then selecting the data that used the types of figurative language. While the steps to analyse the data are identifying the types of figurative language according to Leech, identifying the contextual meaning of the figurative language, and the last is interpreting the data. The result shows that there are 70 sentences that have figurative language. From all the sentences, there are 30 items or 42.9% of simile, 27 items or 38.6% of personification, 12 items or 17.1% of metaphor, and 1 item or 1.4% of hyperbole. It can be indicated that the dominant type of figurative language in the novel is simile. The author uses simile to explain circumstances, to describe the characters, to express emotion of the characters, and to make his writing more vivid and entertaining. It can be concluded that figurative language has important roles in this novel. That's why the author used so many sentences that have figurative language in this novel. Using figurative language makes the novel more interesting to read, and helps the readers to imagine the story, the character based on the illustration that the author has already given in the story.

The third study from the journal. This paper aims to describe the figurative language used in the novel *Burung Terbang di Kelam Malam* (hereafter, *BTKM*, or translated as 'A Bird Flies in The Dark of Night'), written by Nur (2014). *BTKM* is one of the ten novels by this author whose language style is strongly influenced by the 32-year long conflict between the Indonesian government and the Free Aceh Movement. The research data are the figurative language used in the novel in the form of words, phrases, sentences, and paragraphs; be it a part of the descriptions, the monologues, or the dialogues between characters. The data are analysed using the stylistic analysis. The result of the research shows that the novel uses simile the most (32 occurrences), followed by satire (22), hyperbole (18), metonymy (16), metaphor (13), sarcasm (11), synecdoche (9), personification and irony (each with 8 occurrences), and with litotes (6) as the least used figurative language. These results imply that the most used figurative language became powerful language tools to represent the social, political, and cultural problems in Acehese society during the conflict and the post conflict era. The psychology of the characters is presented through language that associates with fear, sensitivity, anxiety and insecurity in the middle of the conflict and among people with power who are pitiless.

3. Method

The data source of this research comes from the novel entitled "The Client" by John Grisham. The author analysed this novel because there are many figurative languages that the author can easily learn and understand. "The Client" is one of the best seller novels by John Grisham. This book became a best seller in just two years. The novel, entitled "The Client", has the theme of murder. The assassination of a US senator by members of

the mafia is set in Memphis and New Orleans. Given the background of this novel in the form of acts of lawlessness and crime in the United States, of course this novel is very thick with the characters of the US police and the FBI.

The data of the study was taken through library method from selected the Novel "The Client" by John Grisham. The collection the data were conducted by intensive reading and not taking. And there are some steps in collecting the data in this study. (1) Reading the Novel carefully and repeatedly to find the types of figurative language and types of meaning The Novel "The Client" by John Grisham. (2) Identifying and classifying the types of figurative language in a table.

4. Result and Discussion

Table 1 Types of figurative language & meaning in the novel "The Client" by John Grisham

NO	Types of Figurative Language	Number of Occurrence
1	Personification	2
2	Simile	4
3	Metaphor	2
	Total	8

Table 2 Types of figurative language & meaning in the novel "The Client" by John Grisham.

NO	Types of Figurative Language	Number of Occurrence
1	Conceptual Meaning	3
2	Connonative Meaning	1
3	Collocative Meaning	1
4	Reflective Meaning	1
5	Affective Meaning	1
	Social Meaning	1
	Total	8

According to the table above the research found 3 types of figurative language out of 8 types of figurative language, there are there of simile, metaphor, personification used in the novel "The Client" by John Grisham.

1. Simile

According to Knickbocker & Reninger (1963: 283), a simile is an indirect comparison between two items that uses the words "like, or as" or a synonym. Moreover, the following are the data of simile which found in the novel "The Client".

Data 1

He stuck the filter between his lips like a gangster. (Page 3)

The sentence “He stuck the filter between his lips like a gangster” is considered as simile because the writer compares two things different which are stuck the filter between his activity and gangster. It means that the writer wants to describe his activity as if he is arrogant like gangster which usually in charge.

The meaning of the sentence above was categorized as connotative meaning because there is an expression over and above its purely conceptual meaning. The word ‘gangster’ refers to human or adult male. However, it is psychosocial connotations. It has meaning which refers to bad meaning since gangster is person who arrogant, less attitude and moral.

Data 2

He stayed directly behind the car and slid snake-like on his belly until he was in the shadow of the trunk. (Page 8)

The word “He stayed directly behind the car and slid snake-like on his belly” is also considered as simile since there is like for comparing two things different. In this case, he acts like a snake in which it is an animal that running as fast as possible. It means the writer wants to describe his activity like an animal in which they do it very quickly. The meaning of the sentence above was categorized as reflective meaning because there is a word that has more than one conceptual meaning or multiple conceptual meaning. The word ‘slid snake’ refers to animal and speed of something or someone run. Therefore, the author describes the word ‘he’ like a worm in doing his activity.

Data 3

The cops exchanged looks as if this were a game. (Page 48)

The sentence “the cops exchanged looks as if this were a game” is considered as simile because the word as if also compare the cop’s activity with the game. The cops did like they play something urgent in that situation.

The meaning of the sentence above was categorized as collocative meaning because it requires in the company of certain words. The word ‘cop’ and ‘game’ have their collocate words themselves. The word ‘cop’ collocates with police, jail, uniforms and so on. On the other hand, the word ‘game’ collocates with some words such as playing, partners, win or lose and so on. Therefore, in this case, the writer used games to represent the cop’s activity.

Data 4

The weeds in the road were as high as the front bumper. (Page 6)

The sentence “the weeds in the road were as high as the front bumper” belongs to simile since there is a comparison which is used a. The word weeds are compared to front bumper which means its tall almost covers the car.

The meaning of the sentence above was categorized as conceptual meaning because it represents a logical or literal meaning. The word ‘high’ refers to something great or greater than normal. It also can be size or intensity of thing. It fits with the real meaning in the dictionary that belongs to denotative meaning. However, the sentences comprise two things used a similar intensity in which they absolutely differ each other.

2. Metaphor

Metaphor is a metaphor which has lost its figurative meaning through endless use. (Knickerbocker and Reninger, (1963).

Data 5

Mark opened his mouth into a perfect circle and attempted a smoke ring. (Page 5)

The sentence "Mark opened his mouth into a perfect circle" belongs to metaphor which is compared two things implicitly. In this case, the author is imagining a circle of smoke in front of a smoking person. In other words, this clear imagination will appear not only for those who have experienced but also who have not experienced it.

The meaning of the sentence above was categorized as conceptual meaning because it represents a logical or literal meaning. The word 'a perfect circle' refers shape which has a round plane figure that has a center. It fits with the real meaning in the dictionary that belongs to denotative meaning. However, the sentences comprise Mark's activity with that shape. It means that Mark's mouth was opened circle perfectly as if it is like round thing.

Data 6

He had to rely on his mother's skinny cigarettes. (Page 1)

The sentence "he had to rely on his mother's skinny cigarettes" is also considered as metaphor. It occurs because the word skinny cigarettes should be relied on which belongs to human. However, skinny cigarettes are not a living thing which does not have food or hands that can be relied on.

The meaning of the sentence above was categorized as affective meaning because it refers to emotive association or effects of words evoked in the reader or listeners. In this case, the word 'skinny cigarettes' refers something that used to wrap a cigarette. It fits with someone feelings or emotions. However, the sentence tells that the word 'he' has already addicted to the cigarette since he should rely to it.

3. Personification

According to Knickerbocker and Reninger (1963: 367), personification is giving human characteristic to an object, animal, or an abstract idea. Personification implied comparison between a non-human thing and a human being. Moreover, the following are the data of personification which found in the novel "The Client".

Data 7

He would never tell the soul. (Page 43)

The sentence "He would never tell the soul" is considered as personification since a soul does not have ear which can be hear something. However, in this case, the writer uses a soul as if it is a human that can hear what he tells. It means that the writer illustrates the soul is a person that might not be told the situation in that moment.

The meaning of the sentence above was categorized as social meaning. It is because the meaning conveyed by the piece of language about social context of its use. The word 'the soul' can be that of adult or old human. It means that the sentence uttered the writer mean telling soul of someone. Thus, the reader can understand that the utterance in different context.

Data 8

A highway could be heard in the distance. (Page 2)

The sentence "a highway could be heard in the distance" is considered as personification, because a highway is an inanimate object which has human character or a living thing as if it sounds. In fact, a highway cannot speak or produce sounds in which humans do. While heard is one of the human's characteristics that using ears to receive a sound.

The meaning of the sentence above was categorized as conceptual meaning because it represents a logical or literal meaning. The word 'highway' refers to a public way or a main direct road, while the 'heard' deals

with a receiving a sound with ears. It fits with the real meaning in the dictionary that belongs to literal meaning. However, the sentence describes whether the highway has sound as if it can be heard from a long distance. It means that the author wants to tell whether the situation is really quiet so he can hear something from far.

5. Conclusion

In this analysis that have been done, the total numbering of figurative language 8 numbers, there are 3 types of figurative language in the novel. The first is simile, there are 4 data, the second is metaphor there are 2 data and the last one is personification there are 2 data, the most dominant figurative language found in the novel is simile.

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