AN ANALYSIS OF FIGURATIVE LANGUAGE IN A NUMBER OF EDGAR ALLAN POE SHORT STORIES

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Abstract

This study examined two types of figurative language that most appear in Edgar Allan Poe short stories and the data were taken from seven Poe’s short stories. Figurative language is a language that cannot be taken literary only. It says something other than the ordinary way or saying one thing and means another. (Perrine, L., 1988). The purposes of this research are to find out the types of metaphor and personification and also to describe the meanings of metaphor and personification. This research is qualitative research with descriptive method stated by Gay, et al. (2000) to analyze the data. As a result, the writer found seven types of metaphor used in the short story and some of them are dead metaphor, active metaphor, and absolute metaphor. The writer also found two types of personification; they are human characteristic and animal characteristic. And, the writer found the meanings of metaphor and personification in Poe short stories as different ways to express the emotion and feelings and give additional meaning and senses.

Keyword: figurative language, metaphor, personification, types of metaphor, types of meaning

Introduction

There are many ways for people to communicate with other, to share and express their emotion and direct communication is not become the only way anymore. There are a number of people are using indirect communication as they way to speak with other, that way is using literary art. People can say anything in the literary work by writing and the other people understand that way by reading or listening of the literary work, namely novel, poetry, song lyric and short story. Because, direct communication has limit to express what people want to talk to each other. It does not mean that this way is bored for reader or listener. Because, there is a touching that make the literary work become life, vividly, and interesting, it is figurative language. When figurative language is gave deep meaning for the ordinary word in this way than direct communication. It can be seen in all of Edgar Allan Poe, William
Shakespeare, and Stephen King literary work. They used writing as a way to communicate with many people and how they hypnotism their reader with figurative that they used in it.

Related with that a good literary book such as drama, poetry, and fiction is an author imagination of world, life, and experience remarked in words, where it was not depend on narrative aspect only, but there is also linguistic aspect which is figurative aspects. One of literary books, which are discussed here, is short story. Short story is a kind of language or indirect communication that used writing as a way to communicated; by writing people just not can have communication with many people, but people also can share the emotional, spiritual, psychological that leaves us with a vivid sensation rather than a number of remembered facts explain by (Menrath. J: 2003).

Figurative language cannot be separated with semantic aspect, because figurative language is parts of semantic that interpret about meaning. Meanwhile, Metaphor and personification are two of component of figurative language. Perrine, L (1988:565) explains that “Figurative language is a language that cannot be taken literary only. It says something other than the ordinary way or saying one thing and means another”. Johson and Malgady (1979) added that “figurative language is an ability to produce imagery in the mind of its audience more effectively and more vividly than literal counterparts”. Here the writer applied some example to support the explanation above as a follow:

1. “All in vain; because death, in approaching him had stalked with his black shadow before him and envelope the victim” (The Tale-Tell Heart: P.2.P.3).

Example 1 is a kind comparison of personification. This example was given human characteristics for death such as stalking and enveloping. Death does not really stalk its next victim.

2. “Life is a journey”. This implies that in life there are always going to be ups and downs, challenges, moments of success and moments of failure...just like a journey.)

Example 2 is metaphor; this implies that in life there are always going to be ups and downs, challenges, moments of success and moments of failure just like a journey.

Such phenomenon is most happened in short story, when the two figurative languages gave vividly experience for the reader and different color for this literary art.
Metaphor as one of figurative language which is rather simile without using words “like and as” and it is implied analogy in which one thing is compared or identified with another dissimilar thing. Personification is figure of speech in which human characteristics are given to an animal or an object. By using figurative language, especially metaphor and personification, people can express their idea, feeling, emotion, and imagination, because the words have limitations in expressing idea, feeling, emotion, and imagination, so the words can represent an illustration, description or view could be in forms of metaphor and personification.

In some of Poe’s short stories the writer found metaphor and personification. In this research, the writer want to write metaphor and personification items from different classes that explicitly compared without connotative words, as found in the short story. The writer wants to give some information to the readers about metaphor and personification in the short story. The writer takes the data from some of short stories by Edgar Allan Poe.

Based on explanation above, the writer is interested in analyzing metaphor and personification as found in Edgar Allan Poe short stories. Because, he is not only giving us something to enjoy to reading in our free time, but he also shared many aspect of life in his short stories. And then, by used this two figurative language; metaphor and personification in his literary art, which is figurative aspect in his short stories gives riches or deep meaning in language that he use in his short stories.

There are some reasons why the writer chooses to analyze figurative language especially metaphor and personification used in his short stories. First, there are types of metaphor and personification found in those short stories. Second, there are some meanings of metaphor and personification which the meaning is denotative and connotative meaning.

Poe short stories as the data in this thesis is a famous short story, the stories do not know as a tragic love and mystery only but the figurative language that Poe used in his short stories was give a vivid and interesting to read, the writer can understand and catch the experience in his short stories. Figurative language that mostly used in his short stories is metaphor and personification. Moreover, the writer wants to prove that metaphor and personification is not occurs in novel or song lyric only but also in the short story. That is the reason why the writer
chooses the short story as the data of the research.

**Methodology**

This research is called qualitative research with used descriptive method. Gay et al (2000:378) explain that “Qualitative research can use to examine the lives of the people, history, behavior, functional organizations, social movements, or kinship”. Lexy J. (2002: 3) added that qualitative research is the research that can give a result of descriptive data in the form of words written or spoken that people used. Furthermore, Sugiyono (2009:240) said that descriptive method is a method that describe or interpret the phenomenon that happened in pass or now. Through the qualitative research that used descriptive method the writer can do this research result giving the descriptive types and meanings of figurative language especially in metaphor and personification.

In collecting the data the writer used observation and descriptive method by Gay, et al, (2000:366). The data in this research have observe and take a note from what the writer read in some Poe short stories. The focus of the research is to analyze and describe about the types and meanings of metaphor and personification in order to understand more about the story. There are some steps that writer done based on Gay, et al, (2000:380): first is the writer read seven of Poe short stories, second the writer take a note all of figurative language that writer found, and the last the writer the classified the data into metaphor and personification.

After collecting the data, the writer used observation and description method in analyzing the data. Furthermore this research is qualitative research when he data taken by Poe short stories. Then, the writer ties to describe and explain about types and meanings of metaphor and personification. According to Gay, et al, (2000:499) there are three steps in analyzing the data, first is the writer analyze read and list the data into the type of metaphor and personification related to the purpose of the research and second the writer analyze each of type, after that in the last step the writer found the meaning of metaphor and personification in Poe short stories.

In representing the data analysis, the writer used Sudaryanto (1993:145) while he explains that there are two kinds of methods to present the result of the data analysis. They are informal and formal methods. The informal method explains the result of the data analysis is represented by using natural language or by using the writer’s own words, meanwhile the formal method
explains the result of analyzing data is written in sign and symbol signifying the rule in the research. So, the writer chooses the informal method in representing the result of data analysis by using formulation with ordinary word. From the explanation above the writer used Gay et al (2000) method to collecting, analyze, and Sudaryanto (1993) representing the data that takes six short stories by Edgar Allan Poe as the writer source of data. The writer is using qualitative method as foundation method to analyze the data. The theory helps the writer to examine the meaning of the data and classified data into the types of metaphor and personification.

Findings and Discussion

After collecting the data, the writer tries to classify into the type of metaphor and personification and also the meaning of metaphor and personification which found in some of Poe short stories. The discussion of these explains in two analyzing data. It can be seen in the following data.

Metaphor:

Dead Metaphor

1) “I again plunged into excess, and soon drowned in wine all memory of the deed.” (The Black Cat: P2.P3)

The quotation happened to the man situation. The situation is after he cut of the black cat eyes from its socket. In yesterday night, while he came home much intoxicated and lose his mind. At that time the man thought that the fury of demon was possessed him, moreover while he tried to size Pluto, that black cat inflicted a slight wound upon the man hand with Pluto teeth. That was making the man shock and anger with Pluto. After that, he took a pen knife from his waistcoat pocket and cut one of Pluto eyes from the socket.

When he wakes up in the morning, he had experienced a sentiment half of horror, half of remorse and guilty. But suddenly, the contrast felling was coming, he thought that it was at the best, a feeble and equivocal feeling, and the soul remained untouched. Furthermore, his again plunged into excess, and soon drowned in wine all memory of the deed. Actually, the expression of drowned in wine all memory of the deed is metaphor. Metaphor compares two different things, and here the Poe compared the action that the man used to forget all feeling with drowned in wine all memory of the deed. From the twelve type of metaphor, the writer can classified this data into dead metaphor. When, dead metaphor is the sense of a transferred image and uses a physical action
as a metaphor for understanding. Meanwhile, the data was used physical action to express how he does not care with his complex feeling. The meaning of metaphor in this data is the memories do not drowned into the wine. But, it’s mean that the way how that man said that he was forget or tried to forget his horror deed about the black cat. He does not care if he had little bit a quilt feeling after cut one of Pluto eyes. He still said that his soul is remained untouched, and he chooses to drown all memories in wine. So, he can forget his complex feeling that raging in his heart and forget all of his horror deed.

Active Metaphor

2) “he had the eye of vulture” (The Tale-Tell heart: P1.P1)

This story has a similarity with the Black Cat which is the man has doubt with someone or something. If in the Black Cat the man doubted with his pet Pluto the black cat. In this short story the man has doubt with his neighborhood, the old man. Both of them said that the evil thought was possessed them to kill those thing, but for the first impression they do not have problem with those things. It is proving by what the man was said about the old man that it is impossible to say how first the idea entered his brain: but once convince. It haunted him day and night. Object there was none. Passion there was none, I love the old man, and he had never wronged me. He had never given me insult, for his gold I had no desire, and I think it was his eye! Yes, it was this! He had the eye of vulture—a pale blue eye, with a film over it. Whenever it fell upon me, my blood run cold: and so by degrees—very gradually —I made up my mind to take the life of the old man, and thus rid myself of the eye forever.

In this data the narrator compared the old man eye with the eye of vulture that it always doubted him day and night. The writer classified this data as an active metaphor, because this quotation is noticeable as a metaphor and incites the reader thought. The man used the eye of vulture to show how creepy the old man eye. Actually, it does not mean that the old man really has the eye of vulture. It’s only the of the man to describe the old man eye that it was doubt him and make him think to take the old man eye.

Synecdoche Metaphor

3) “But evil things, in robes of sorrow, assailed the monarch’s high estate”
The data above is a part of Roderick’s ballad evil things in robes of sorrow” this ballad led the narrator into a train of thought wherein there became manifest an opinion of Usher’s for other men have thought thus, as on account of the pertinacity with which he maintained it. It assails the palace and possesses the owner within until now travelers only see in the red-lit windows a ghastly and hideous throng of demonic forms. The red-lit windows echo the red light the narrator sees in Roderick’s room and symbolizes a sort of frenzy and madness that can be seen in his eyes. The result was discoverable, he added, in that silent, yet importunate and terrible influence which for centuries had molded the destinies of his family.

From his ballad Roderick was compared evil things in robes of sorrow with his hideous and ghastly atmosphere in his house and it is full of silent. Based on the story behind the writer classified the data above as synecdoche metaphor while the ballad that Roderick’s said was representing a whole of situation in Usher house and the feeling that Roderick has. Synecdoche metaphor is a small part of something chosen the whole in order to highlight certain elements of the whole. Related with that the meaning of this data is the Roderick’s house does not really have ghost. It just means that the house is gloomy and the silent make the house seems hideous and ghostly and it also gives impact for the owner emotion.

Implicit Metaphor

4) “This opinion, in its general form, was that of the sentence of all vegetable things” (The Fall of The House of Usher: P12.P1)

This quotation happens in Usher house itself, how Roderick’s explain his house that was gave him psychological problem with his ballad. There is no light, happy and hope in the house. The result was discoverable, he added, in that silent, yet importunate and terrible influence which for centuries had molded the destinies of his family, and which made him what the narrator now saw him—what he was.

The sentence of all vegetable things is metaphor that Roderick’s used to compare with his fear of the House of Usher. Meanwhile, this data is related with implicit metaphor while the writer cannot identify the subject directly, the writer used more
sense to the subject to understand and describe it as metaphor. That’s why the writer classified this quotation as implicit metaphor. After sing the ballad Roderick’s explain his fear falling compare with the sentience of all vegetable things theory. He explain that how the very gray stones of the home of his forefathers and their fungi in the order of their arrangement had given birth to a certain condensation of an atmosphere giving off a terrible influence on the inhabitants of the house. It’s the evidence, the evidence of sentience and such opinions need no comment. It’s mean that the data implicitly explain that Roderick’ felt afraid with his house and the house was oppressed him.

Submerged Metaphor

5) “their immediate vicinity-an atmosphere which had no affinity with the air of heaven” (The Fall of The House of Usher: P3.P2)

The statement comes from the narrator who visits the house of Usher. The narrator explains that there can be no doubt that the consciousness of the rapid increase of his superstition--served mainly to accelerate the increase itself. Such, he has long known, is the paradoxical law of all sentiments having terror as a basis. And it might have been for this reason only, that, when he again uplifted his eyes to the house itself, from its image in the pool, there grew in my mind a strange fancy --a fancy so ridiculous, indeed, that he but mention it to show the vivid force of the sensations which oppressed him.

Narrator said that the atmosphere of Roderick’s house no affinity with the air of heaven. Actually, the narrator does not really know about the air of Heaven, the data reflects a strange fancy, ridiculous, and sentiments terror that narrator felt in that house. It’s mean that the house never ever touch by the external atmosphere, and again its show how gloomy the house. So, the narrator fell he cannot take a breath with fresh air. Meanwhile the narrator classified this data as submerge metaphor while the vehicle metaphoric meaning is implied or indicated by one aspect. The data no air of heaven was make the reader must supple the image of bad atmosphere, hideous, ghastly, and the atmosphere can be seems like the hell.

Dying Metaphor

6) “Identified the two as to merge the original title of the estate in the quaint and equivocal appellation of the
"House of Usher" (The Fall of The House of Usher: P10.P2)

In the story when the first time the narrator comes to Roderick Usher house, he was aware, however, that his very ancient family had been noted, time out of mind, for a peculiar sensibility of temperament, displaying itself, through long ages, in many works of exalted art, and manifested, of late, in repeated deeds of munificent yet unobtrusive charity, as well as in a passionate devotion to the intricacies, perhaps even more than to the orthodox and easily recognizable beauties, of musical science. He add that he had learned, too, the very remarkable fact, that the stem of the Usher race, all time-honoured as it was, had put forth, at no period, any enduring branch; in other words, that the entire family lay in the direct line of descent, and had always, with very trifling and very temporary variation, so lain.

The narrator used the House of Usher to compared both family and family mansion of Usher. This data related with dying metaphor when it one that describes a person or object by referring to something that it is considered to process similar characteristics. Furthermore, the meaning of the word is usually used and it seems like an appellation which seemed to include, in the minds of the peasantry who used it, both the family and the family mansion. After that, it used to keeping of the character of the premises with the accredited character of the people, and while speculating upon the possible influence which the one, in the long lapse of centuries.

**Absolute Metaphor**

7) “I thought the heart must burst”
(The Tale-Tell Heart: P2.P7)

The statement comes from the narrator when he came to the old man house to kill him. He was very nervous and scary that the old man will wake up and realize that he was there. He even can hear the old man heart beating that it came to his ears a low, dull, quick sound, such as a watch makes when enveloped in cotton. It increased my fury, as the beating of a drum stimulates the soldier into courage. And now at the dead hour of the night, amid the dreadful silence of that old house, so strange a noise as this excited him to uncontrollable terror. Yet, for some minutes longer he refrained and stood still

The data *I thought the heart must burst* narrator used to compares him nervous and exited to kill the old man. It does not mean
that the narrator heart is burst, but it is a symbol of metaphor to express the narrator felling about the old man. Furthermore, the data is related with the absolute metaphor while there is no relation between the subject and metaphoric word itself. The narrator said that he thought the heart must burst, of course that man does mean that he heart is really burst like boom. It is just a metaphor for felling of nervous or scare.

**Personification:**

**Human Characteristic**

1) “When the entire (all) world slept, it has welled up from my own bosom…” (The tale-tell heart: P2.P3)

This quotation happened when the man come to old man house and try to kill him, the man always come at night when the old was sleep, many a night, just at midnight, when all the world slept, it has welled up from my own bosom, deepening, with its dreadful echo, the terrors that distracted me.

When the entire world sleep mean night situation, the narrator gives human activity to the world which can sleep to explain the night. It is very interesting while the narrator change the situation of night with the world slept, actually just human and animal that can sleep.

**Animal Characteristic**

2) “My original soul seemed, at once to take its flight from my body” (The Black Cat: P2.P2)

This quotation happened when the man go home returning home, and he much intoxicated, from one of his haunts about town, at the time he fancied that the cat avoided his presence. He seized the cat; when, in his fright at the man violence, he inflicted a slight wound upon the man hand with his teeth. Suddenly, the fury of a demon instantly possessed him. He knew his self no longer. He fancied that “My original soul seemed, at once, to take its flight from my body; and a more than fiendish malevolence, gin-nurtured, thrilled every fiber of my frame”. He took from his waistcoat pocket a pen-knife, opened it, grasped the poor beast by the throat, and deliberately cut one of its eyes from the socket! He said that he was blush, burn, and shudder, while he pens the damnable atrocity.

Here the narrator gives animal characteristic for the man evil feeling. Actually, soul cannot really fly and it’s mean to describe how he lost a little bit of himself, only animal can fly such as bird. Narrator gives bird characteristic for the
man when his evil thinks to kill the black cat come to him.

**Conclusion**

After analyzing the data the writer found seven type of metaphor such as dead metaphor, active metaphor, submerge metaphor, implicit metaphor, synecdoche metaphor, dying metaphor, and absolute metaphor. The writer also found two types of personification, there are human and animal characteristic. The last the writer found the meaning of each type of metaphor and personification in the data, the meaning can be understood by the story itself that give vividly and interesting way to communicate with the reader.

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**Bibliography**


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