

## An Analysis Figurative Language in The Short Story "Tale-Tell Heart"

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### Abstract

This study aims to analyze the types of figurative language contained in the short story "Tale-Tell Heart". This type of research is descriptive qualitative research. The source of the analyzed data comes from several sentences contained in the short story. The analysis technique used is content analysis. The data collected is in the form of words and sentences containing language style obtained through the identification of the short story text "The Tell-Tale Heart". The data was obtained using purposive technique based on the criteria of language style used. The researcher used qualitative research methods to analyze the data by observing the written text contained in the short story "The Tell-Tale Heart". The results showed that there are several figurative languages in the short story "Tale-Tell Heart" by Edgar Allan Poe such as hyperbole, simile, personification and metaphor.

*Keywords: short story, figurative language, qualitative research*

## 1. INTRODUCTION

Language is the utterance or gesture used by humans to communicate. Language is an important element in human life. This is in line with the opinion of Kridalaksana and Djoko Kentjono (in Sari and Septiani, 2020), that language is a system of arbitrary sound symbols used by members of social groups to work together, communicate and identify themselves. With the existence of language, the world of human civilization developed more advanced and this has been recognized by some linguists. Language refers to the specific human abilities and capacities to acquire. Therefore, language is studied more deeply by humans. The scientific study of language is called linguistics.

In linguistics, there are many branches of knowledge, one of which is semantics. Semantics is very important to study because semantics is a branch of science that studies the meaning of a sentence or utterance. Understanding the meaning is very important for social life so that we can grasp the meaning of the conversation or information from other people to us. In semantics there are various types of literature that use non-literal words. We can find this in poetry, short stories and various other literary works. These words are called figurative language. Figurative language are usually used to make the sentences more interesting and imaginative. There are many types of figurative language such as metaphors, hyperbole, irony, and others. There is a branch of linguistics that focuses on the analysis of figurative language which is commonly called stylistics.

Currently, figurative language has been used in various literary works, one of which is short stories. A short story is a prose where the plot is real and not. As far as we know, short stories do not only contain denotative sentences to convey the author's message. However, in the short story there is also figurative language that helps the author to make the storyline interesting and help the message conveyed.

Based on this stylistic knowledge, the writer is interested in analyzing the figurative language contained in one of the short stories. The short story that will be taken is "The Tell-Tale Heart" by Edgar Allan Poe. This short story tells about the murder of a grandfather by a man. In this study the author wants to analyze the meaning of the figurative language contained in the short story "The Tell-Tale Heart".

## 2. LITERATURE REVIEW

Figurative language is a language that uses words of expression with meaning that is different from the literal interpretation (Widodo: 157). It means that figurative language refers to using words in ways that deviate from conventional order and meaning to convey complex meanings, colorful writing, clarity, or compelling comparisons. It uses regular expressions to refer to something without expressing it directly. Figurative language is commonly used in literary works such as newspaper or magazine articles, advertisements, novels, poetry, and so on. Figurative language is the use of words that go beyond their ordinary context. Figuring out the poet's sense involves utilizing one's imagination. When a researcher uses literal words, he or she is presenting the truth as they are. Figurative language, on the other hand, employs exaggerations or word substitutions to make a specific linguistic meaning.

Abrams (1999:96) characterized figurative languages as a noticeable deviation from what readers of a language perceive as the standard meaning of words, or the regular order of words, to accomplish some significant meaning or impact. Figures are often defined as primarily literary, but they are essential to the operation of language and all forms of discourse. A figurative language is a language that contains or uses figures of speech. However, when people use the term "figurative language", they often do it in a slightly narrower way. In this narrower definition, figurative language refers to language that uses words in a way that deviates from their literal interpretation to achieve a more complex or powerful effect. This view of figurative language focuses on figurative uses that play with the meaning of words, such as metaphors, similes, personifications, and hyperbole.

Previous researcher has been interesting to use figurative language as their topic of study. For instance, Syafitri and Marlinton (2018) has created a research with a tittle "An Analysis of Figurative Language Used in Edgar Allan Poe's Poems". The purpose of the study was to describe the many types and meanings of figurative language utilized in Edgar Allan Poe's writings. Annabel Lee, The Sleeper, A Dream Within A Dream, To One in Paradise, Alone, Spirit of the Death, The Lake, and Evening Stars were the names of Edgar Allan Poe's eight poems. According to Syafitri and Marlinton (2018), the use of figurative language made the poetry sound more beautiful, and the employment of such figures made the poems more appealing to the reader. The poet is conscious of the use of

metaphorical language in the composition of this poem, and it is employed purposely to deepen the poem's meaning.

Widyanti (2013) explores the figurative language occurring in Harper's Bazaar Magazine Advertisement text. The purpose of this study is to describe the metaphorical language employed in Harper's Bazaar Magazine advertising. There are three goals to this study. The first step is to recognize the different types of figurative language employed in Harper's Bazaar Magazine adverts. This study looks into six different types of figurative language: simile, metaphor, metonymy, synecdoche, personification, and hyperbole. According to Widyanti (2013), Advertising is one of the most essential means of mass communication used to persuade an audience to buy or take a desired action regarding products, ideas, services, and so on.

### 3. RESEARCH METHOD

This research used a qualitative descriptive research method. Descriptive qualitative research is a research with a case study method or approach (Sugiyono, 2017). The purpose of this research is to reveal the figurative language in the short story "The Tell-Tale Heart" by Edgar Allan Poe. What is described includes the choice of sentences and choices of discourse or figurative speech. While the analysis technique used is content analysis. Content analysis is used to systematically analyze data containing figurative language.

The data collected for this study are words and sentences containing language styles obtained through the identification of the short story text "The Tell-Tale Heart" by Edgar Allan Poe. Data obtained by purposive technique and based on the language style criteria used. According to Sugiyono (2017) purposive sampling is a data sampling technique based on certain considerations. The researcher used qualitative research methods to analyze the data by observing the written text contained in the short story "The Tell-Tale Heart".

### 4. RESULT

*"I heard sounds from heaven"*

**Data 1 p.1**

*"His eye was like the eye of a vulture"*

**Data 2 p.3**

*"a cold feeling went up and down my back"*

**Data 3 p.3**

*"my blood became cold."*

**Data 4 p.3**

*"..so that a single, thin, small light fell across that eye.."*

**Data 5 p.5**

*"The darkness in his room was thick and black"*

**Data 6 p.8**

*"Now he knew that Death was standing there."*

**Data 7 p.9**

*"Only that eye, that **hard blue eye**, and **the blood in my body became like ice.**"*

**Data 8 p.10**

*"At that moment I must have become quite white."*

**Data 9 p.1**

## 5. DISCUSSION

Figurative language is defined as language that use words and phrases that have a meaning that differs from the particular interpretation. Based on the result, the researcher has been analyzed several types of figurative language.

### Hyperbole

*"I heard sounds from heaven"*

In that sentence, the writer used hyperbole to make the word "sound" more beautiful such as heaven. Because heaven has the meaning of the perfectness, beautiful and the best place ever to live after life." The heaven "also means a news / information about something that is very good. It can also be interpreted as something that is very desirable, or a coincidence that comes unexpectedly. Therefore, the sentence has the meaning that he gets the blessing to do good things.

*"My blood become cold"*

In the sentence, the writer attempt to explain the condition of the blood using the word "cold", as it is a word that will make the word "blood" is too much coldness. "become cold" is defined as fear or worry. In the context of this sentence. The author feels very scared. So he described the fear with the presence of cold blood.

### Simile

*"His eye was like the eye of vulture"*

Simile describes a clear contrast between two or more items that share one or more characteristics and can be identified by the words "like" and "as." In that sentence, the writer used the word "like" to state that the eye is as same as the eye of vulture. "the eye of vulture" describes an eternity. Where is a bird that has died, but its eyes never go away. The word also contains a mysterious thing. Because the eyes of someone who is still alive but directly juxtaposed with "the eye of vulture".

### Personification

*".. So that a single, thin, small light \*fell\* across that eye"*

Personification is a type of figurative language where an animated entity is given human characteristics. In that sentence, the writer makes the word "light" can be fell across the eyes, as it is can be moving down to the eyes like the human characteristic.

**"A cold feeling went up and down my back"**

Abrams (1999:99) defines personification as the process of speaking of a lifeless entity or an abstract idea as if it has been equipped with the existence or human qualities or emotions. In that sentence, the writer wants to express the cold feeling as it can be move from bottom to top. The use of personification influences how readers visualize things and pique their interest in the subject.

**"Now he knew that death was standing there."**

In the sentence above, it is classified as a type of personification figure of speech. Where in the original meaning there is an object that seems to behave like a human. It is contained in the sentence "That death was standing there". Death in the sentence seems to be made like a human being who can "stand". But the sentence has a real meaning, namely that someone who already knows that he will die, is like he is getting ready.

**"Only that eye, that hard blue eye, and the blood in my body became like ice"**

In this sentence there is a personification figure of speech and a simile figure of speech. It is marked by the word "hard blue eye" which has a personification figure of speech. "Hard blue eye" has the meaning of a sharp eye. "Blue eye" which gives the impression that the person belongs to the type of blue eye that is owned by an Asian outsider. The simile figure of speech here is marked by the word "My body became like ice" which means he is pensive and frightened so he likens his body to ice.

**Metaphor**

**"The darkness in his room was thick and black"**

In the sentence, it is classified as a type of metaphorical figure. Where there is a word that is directly compared in one sentence. "Darkness" here as a main subject associated with "thick" and "black". The real meaning of the sentence is to explain that in a room looks very lonely and empty, uninhabited, full of mystery. This is the interpretation of the words "thick" and "black".

**"At that moment I must have become quite white"**

The sentence is classified as a metaphorical figure. Due to the direct comparison of my sentence which became very white. Very white there means that I feel pale. It is associated with the fear or worry that humans feel.

## 6. CONCLUSION

This study analyzes several figurative languages contained in the short story "Tale-Tell Heart". Based on the research findings, there are four types of figurative language that have been found in the story, for example, metaphor, hyperbole, simile, and personification. The researcher found four sentences using personification, two sentences using metaphors, two sentences using hypeboles, and one sentence using similes. From each of these sentences there are meanings stored in figurative language. Two data, including hyperbole, show that in this study, hyperbole is not often used. One data shows simile figure of speech, meaning that in this study it is not often used to use conflicting

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figure of speech. In this study, there are 4 figure of speech personification. Which means that in this study, the data uses a lot of figurative words that turn on the character of objects relying on them as if they were humans. And there are two figures of speech metaphor. In short, this study uses personification figure of speech more often than other figures of speech.

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