

THE ANALYSIS OF FIGURATIVE LANGUAGE USED IN CHARLOTTE BRONTE’S JANE EYRE

Nikhla Khotmalinda ¹

Yuniar Fatmasari ²

¹ the Graduate of English Education Study Program
Peradaban University Bumiayu – Brebes
Email: lindaanikhl@gmail.com
Phone: +62 853 2904 9918

² the Lecturer of English Education Study Program
Universitas Peradaban Bumiayu – Brebes
Email: yuniarefes@gmail.com
Phone: +62 821 3855 0007

Abstract

In literary works, the use of beautiful language is used by the author as efforts to enrich the impression, and expand the imagination of the readers. Sometimes, readers often encounter difficulties in understanding the meaning of those unliteral words. One of the keys to understanding the meaning of words is to understand figurative language. Knowing figurative language can make us able to understand the implicit or explicit meaning of works. In this study, the writers analyze the figurative language used in Jane Eyre by Charlotte Bronte based on the types according to Siwantoro. The method of this research is descriptive qualitative research. The research's results shows that

Bronte uses 71% similes, 11% metaphor, 10% personification, 2% hyperbole, 1.5% synecdoche, 2.5% symbols, and paradox with 1%. Of the 300 figurative languages that have been found, simile is the most widely used in this novel with 8 types of vehicles.

Keywords: *Semantics, Figurative language, Jane Eyre, Charlotte Bronte*

A. Introduction

Language enables community members to communicate, interact and collaborate in a variety of different ways and forms. People use language to talk about various things in life, discuss various issues, conduct business, express concerns, express opinions and ideas, express emotions and produce various literary works, such as literature.

Literature is one of the studies that have an impact on human life. The language used in literature is the language that attracts readers. A person's ability to use language does not guarantee that he/she knows how language works. If you learn a language, people may be surprised by the complexity of the language, which has long become a challenge. They learn language in order to discover certain parts of the "mystery" of the language, such as meaning. The language itself has both literal and non-literal meanings.

One of the keys to understanding the meaning of words is to understand figurative language. Morner & Rausch state that figurative language is a language in which the meaning of words or expressions is different from the literal interpretation of words. For comparison, emphasis, clarity or freshness, the words or phrases are different from the spoken language of the text.

Just like in a novel, sometimes the author uses figurative language words to modify his work, which requires more understanding to analyze the meaning. According to Abrams (1999: 96), affirmative figurative language is clearly different from the standard meaning of words or the standard order of words that language users understand in order to achieve a certain special meaning or effect.

Jane Eyre is a 19th century romantic novel written by Charlotte Bronte. Jane Eyre is the novel with the setting of the Victorian era. The novel is about Jane Eyre who is an orphan, growing up and later becoming an independent woman who has an invincible soul and spirit, keenness and courage.

Jane Eyre is a true fascination with the Victorian era and its social status. The plot of this novel is based on the form of a Bildungsroman, in which the story reveals the protagonist's life narrative path from child maturity to adulthood.

However, Charlotte uses a lot of figurative language in her novel. Readers will find a variety of figurative languages in the novel. She uses figurative language a lot to express many things in the novel, from using parables, comparisons, hyperbole, satire, and so on.

The writers choose to analyze the figurative language in Jane Eyre considering that to understand a novel, the readers need to understand the meaning of every utterance contained in the novel, including figurative speech. The writers describe the 7 types of figurative language that are most commonly known and most often found in literary works. According to Siswantoro (2002), there are 7 types of figurative language, such as: simile, metaphor, personification, hyperbole, synecdoche, symbol and paradox.

B. Literature Review

Figure of speech conveys meaning that cannot be expressed exactly. In other ways, they convey the great deal in a shorter time that would otherwise be possible, and they are immediate because they embody the meaning in imagery instead of expressing it abstractly (Potter, 1967: 56-57).

There are 7 most common figurative languages. Even though each expert has different views and opinions regarding the types of figure of speech. According to Siswantoro (2002) there are simile, metaphor, personification, hyperbole, synecdoche, symbol, and paradox.

According to Reimer (2018: 6), the types of vehicles in simile into 8 sub categories, namely: Human/ treats/ feelings, concrete objects, nature and its forces, animal, folklore/ mythology, abstractions, events, and church/ religion. Human, treats, and feelings juxtapose the subject (tenor) with other humans, certain characters, or things related to humans in general as a comparison. Concrete objects are inanimate objects that are naturally caught by the senses. In its use, tenors are juxtaposed with these inanimate objects as a comparison of themselves. Nature is everything that includes the skies, the earth and their contents. In the "Nature and its forces" category, Reimer (2018) finds that all four elements such as water, air, earth and fire were represented. Humans and animals are different creatures. In this sub-category, this difference is actually used as an "equalizer" between the tenor and the vehicle. The use of mythological creatures such as elves, fairies, and goblins are also examples of vehicles with this category in the novel. Abstractions is usually used to present something that is difficult to identify and describe. Event is defined as something that happens, especially

important. As a vehicle, this category is used to explain how the subject is in more detail, through certain circumstances. Religion is something related to God.

Meanwhile another kind of figurative language after simile is metaphor. Kennedy (1983: 482) states that metaphor is a statement that one thing is something else, which in literal sense, it is not. It does not use connective words such as like or as. A metaphor is used as a figure of speech to similar an object or person to another object or person, based on certain similar qualities that both possess. Through a direct comparison, this is a type that is not applicable literally.

Personification is the depiction of inanimate objects or not human either invisible or abstract which are treated as if they were humans (Siswantoro, 2002: 29). Hyperbole is used by the poet in the portrayal of objects, ideas and others to give weight to excessive pressure to obtain intense effects (Siswantoro 2002: 34). Synecdoche is a style that is reflected in the packaging portion manifestations, but already includes a whole (Siswantoro, 2002: 39). Symbol is something more that we can catch Siswantoro (2002: 43). According to Siswantoro (2002: 41) paradox is part of a style that uses contradictory phenomenon, but if examined actually show the truth.

C. Method of Investigation

The writers use descriptive qualitative analysis to analyze the figurative language on Charlotte Brontes' Jane Eyre. In addition, the data are described descriptively based on the research problems, how is the figurative language realized in Charlotte Bronte's Jane Eyre.

The source of data in this study is taken from the novel entitled Jane Eyre. The novel was one of the

greatest 19th century romantic novels written by Charlotte Bronte. The novel was published by Smith Elder & Co in London, England in 1848 under the name Currer Bell. The novel consists of 410 pages with 38 chapters.

The writers collect the data from “Jane Eyre” a novel by Charlotte Bronte. Then the writers identify by reading “Jane Eyre” novel to find out how is the figurative language used in the novel. The last the writers analyze the figurative language found in “Jane Eyre” novel.

D. Findings and Discussion

There are seven types of figurative language based on Siswanto's theory found in the analysis. They are simile, metaphor, personification, hyperbole, synecdoche, symbol and paradox.

1. Simile

Siswanto (2002: 24), and Wren and Martin (1981: 40) state that simile is a comparison between two objects or between two objects with different types, but have one thing in common. Similes are usually marked with the following words: like, as, so, more than. According to Reimer (2018: 6), the types of vehicles in simile into 8 sub categories, namely: Human/ treats/ feelings, concrete objects, nature and its forces, animal, folklore/ mythology, abstractions, events, and church/ religion.

a. Human, treats, and feeling

Of all the simile sentences, the type of simile with human vehicles is the second most frequently used by Bronte in this novel. The vehicle she uses is often a child-like noun, because this novel begins with the main character's childhood, besides that the word

child is several times compared to Bertha, who basically has the character of a child. With 40 sentences in total, examples of vehicles of this type mention of Victorian-style figures such as slave, roman, servant, and the character itself.

b. Concrete Objects

With 40 simile sentences in total, this type of vehicle is Bronte's third most frequently used vehicle. As the name suggests, this vehicle includes tangible objects around us, such as shelves, waxwork, doors, pictures, houses or other objects. In this novel, Bronte uses this vehicle a lot as a comparison to describe the visualization of the tenor he mentioned. For example, in the sentence "*I discriminated the rough stones of a low wall- above it, something like palisade* (Bronte: 293), *the old fashioned chairs were very bright, and the walnut wood table was like a looking glass* (Bronte: 304). The vehicles like these allow the reader to imagine how the tenor will look, and the landscape of it.

c. Nature and its Forces

In Jane Eyre, Bronte uses a lot of figure of speech in vehicles with natural elements, especially in the simile category. There are 61 sentences categorized as this element. Bronte mentions many natural elements such as lightning, wind, moon or moonlight and many more.

The example is vehicle lightning, it is mentioned about nine times with several synonyms such as thunder: Then off for your bonnet, and *back like a flash of lightning!*"

(Bronte: 234), *I should have known instinctively that they neither had nor could have sympathy with anything in me, and should have shunned them as one would fire, lightning, or anything else* (Bronte: 99), *but joy soon effaced every other feeling; and loud as the wind blew, near and deep as the thunder crashed, fierce and frequent as the lightning gleamed, cataract-like as the rain fell during a storm of two hours' duration, I experienced no fear and little awe* (Bronte: 226).

d. Animals

In *Jane Eyre*, Charlotte Bronte uses several animals as vehicles to compare to characters. The first character that is often juxtaposed or equated with animal vehicles is Jane. Bronte uses birds to highlight important themes in her novels. While birds traditionally symbolize freedom and expression.

In Jane's case, Bronte uses them to denote independence (or lack of), freedom, and division in social class. She emphasizes several moments while giving readers a deeper understanding of Jane's character as isolated as a caged bird, and her desire to fly and be free. For example: *that to taste but of the crumbs he scattered to stray and stranger birds like me, was to feast genially* (Bronte: 214), *Jane, be still; don't struggle so, like a wild frantic bird that is rending its own plumage in its desperation.* "I am no bird; and no net ensnares me; I am a free human being with an independent will, which I now exert to leave you." (Bronte: 223).

In addition, this vehicle has also been used several times to be equated with characteristics, for example to describe the sound: she glances up at him, and chatters like a wren: (Bronte: 154), Diana had a voice toned, to my ear, like the cooing of a dove” (Bronte: 304).

The second character who has been compared to animals several times is Bertha. Bronte uses animals as vehicles to describe the wildness and ferocity of Bertha. For example: at first sight, tell: it grovelled, seems, on all fours; it snatched and growled like some strange wild animal: but it *was covered with clothing, and a quantity of dark, grizzled hair, wild as a mane, hid its head and face.* (Bronte: 258), *a lion-like creature with long hair and a huge head: it passed me* (Bronte: 97).

e. Mythology and Folklores

The supernatural elements and events including them are the important feature of Charlotte Brontë’s novel Jane Eyre. Numerous mythological creatures are referenced, and signs are utilized as symbols all through the novel, making up a few of the occurrences where the supernatural is included. The supernatural air that is hence given to the novel serves to compete with the religious emphasis, additionally to form a feeling of mystery and tension all through the book. The similes with mythological elements found by the writers in the novel are 15 sentences.

f. Abstractions

Abstract language is defined as something that is not physical or concrete. In the novel there are 11 vehicles with this element, for example: *you will elude the grasp like an essence — you will vanish ere I inhale your fragrance.* (Bronte: 281), *when, at some fatal moment, you will again desert me — passing like a shadow, —* (Bronte: 388), *“But the old lady seemed to regard his existence as a universally understood fact, —”* (Bronte: 86), *“She sincerely looked on me as a compound of virulent passions, mean spirit, and dangerous duplicity”* (Bronte: 12). Some of these examples show tenors which are likened to something abstract. Maybe in this case Bronte wants to explain a broader picture, so she uses something abstract as a vehicle.

g. Events

Like the novel in general, the use of similes with this vehicle is also used in Jane Eyre. This vehicle is used to describe the plot or feelings of the characters so that the reader can also guess how the process or feeling itself is. Based on the findings, there are 11 utterances with this kind of vehicle.

For example, on page 30, It's a metallic and corroding taste, giving me a sensation as if I've been poisoned. In this sentence the reader can guess how Jane felt when she chose to speak out against Mrs. Reed, but her thoughts became uncontrollable, and confused (signs of poisoning), this indicated a change in mental status where she seemed to become weak at the thought of the consequences.

h. Church and religion

In Jane Eyre, Charlotte Brontë represents religion as a limit that can be used for evil or good. Very thick with religious elements, the novel places a lot of emphasis on the Christian side of its characters such as Helen Burns, John Rivers, and Jane herself. Even so, for the figurative language, the writers find about 15 sentences of this category in this novel by Charlotte Brontë. For examples "*Sometimes, preoccupied with her work, she sang the refrain very low, very lingeringly; "A long time ago" came out like the saddest cadence of a funeral hymn*" (Bronte: 16), and *a great book, like a Bible, lay on each table, before the vacant seat* (37).

2. Metaphor

Almost the same as similes, metaphors compare tenors with other things that are different but on the other hand they are compared because they have the same nature or characteristics, the difference is without using the words "like or as. The writers find about 34 metaphorical sentences in Jane Eyre.

3. Personification

To liven up the atmosphere by giving objects or animals with human nature, Brontë uses a lot of personification sentences. Among the 29 personifications in Jane Eyre novel that the writers find, there are at least five sentences where Brontë gives the verb "sing" to birds, for example: *the birds sang in the tree-tops; but their song, however sweet, was inarticulate* (Bronte: 192), *The rooks cawed, and blither birds sang; but nothing was so merry or so musical as my own rejoicing heart* (Bronte: 226), *never more see birds making nests*

and singing idyls in your boughs; (Bronte: 243) and the birds were singing their last strains— (Bronte: 318). Then, the emotional giving of inanimate objects, rising out of that adhesion at the faithful, honest roots (Bronte: 243), I would have sullied my innocent flower — (Bronte: 395). Other verbs such as sweep, smile, wake up, and so on, for example: A waft of wind came sweeping down the laurel-walk (Bronte: 223), but I looked neither to rising sun, nor smiling sky, nor wakening nature (Bronte: 283), while all the flowers in this old garden awake and expand (Bronte: 191).

4. Hyperbole

Hyperbole is a figure of speech that is used to exaggerate something. In literary works such as novels, the use of hyperbole is intended to suppress, intensify or generally convey the feelings or emotions of the author in the form of depicting a sentence. In the novel, the writers find at least 7 types of figure of speech in the hyperbole category.

5. Synecdoche

Synecdoche is a figure of speech that falls into the "comparison" class. This figure of speech is a bit similar to a metaphor but with a broader description. In the form of its use, this figure of speech is divided into two types, a broad description to mean one thing (microcosm), *I had not intended to love him; the reader knows I had wrought hard to extirpate from my soul the germs of love there detected; and now, at the first renewed view of him, they spontaneously arrived, green and strong! He made me love him without looking at me. (Brontë: 153).*

In this excerpt from *Jane Eyre*, Jane talks about “the germs of love.” The germs here refer to the early stages of love, and Bronte continues this metaphorical usage saying that the germs return “green and strong.”. then the use of one thing as a representative for a broad description or meaning (macrocosm), *having brought my eventide musings to this point, I rose, went to my door, and looked at the sunset of the harvest-day*, (Bronte: 318) the use of door to represent the whole or every corner of the room.

6. Symbol

Symbols are signs. In figure of speech symbol is a style of language that describes something by using certain terms to express meaning. In *Jane Eyre*, Bronte uses several symbols to further describe the place or character. There are about 8 symbols used by Bronte in this novel that the writers find, as mentioned in the findings, there are: Reed room, burns porridge, fire, ice, burns, the splintered chestnut tree, drawing portraits, and Lowood.

7. Paradox

Paradox is the existence of two contradictory things, but it turns out that both things are true. In *Jane Eyre*, there are three paradoxes where this contradiction is found in the opinion of the character as the narrator, and we as the reader. The following are 3 paradoxical utterances that the writers find in *Jane Eyre*: “*How comfortable I am! That last fit of coughing has tired me a little; I feel as if I could sleep*: (Bronte: 70). “*You are no ruin, sir — no lightning-struck tree: you are green and vigorous* (Bronte: 393). “*Mr. Rochester, if ever I did a good deed in my life — if ever I thought a good thought — if ever*

I prayed a sincere and blameless prayer — if ever I wished a righteous wish, — I am rewarded now. To be your wife is, for me, to be as happy as I can be on earth." (Bronte: 394). Two of which are the opinions which, for the reader, contradict the sentence itself, the depiction of happiness in something that is clearly suffering. It can be concluded that the form of paradox in Jane eyre does include Jane's blind love for Rochester.

E. Conclusion

There are seven types of figurative language in the novel Jane Eyre. The number of figurative language in Jane Eyre is as many as 300 utterances. Of these, simile is the most used type with a percentage of 71% (214 utterances) and paradox is the least used type, which is only 1% (3 utterances). If categorized by the type of vehicle, simile is Divided into 8 elements, namely nature and its forces, concrete objects, human, treats and feeling, events, folklore or mythology, abstract and church or religion. The similes with the most sequences are natural elements 61 utterances, human and its treat 40 utterances, concrete objects 40 utterances, animals 21 utterances, mythology and folklore 15 utterances, church and religion 15 utterances, abstraction 11 utterances, and the last event with 11 utterances, and based on its shape, Bronte uses a lot of nouns such as birds, wind and lightning as tenors and vehicles in the use of figurative language.

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