

**A PRAGMATIC ANALYSIS ON FIGURATIVE LANGUAGE  
USED IN ENGLISH TRANSLATION OF AL-QURAN  
CHAPTER AL-BAQARAH**



**RESEARCH PAPER**

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# CHAPTER I

## INTRODUCTION

### **A. Background of the Study**

In the process of communication sometime message is stated directly or explicitly but sometimes it is stated in figurative language. Frost (2009) said that “Figurative language uses "figures of speech" - a way of saying something other than the literal meaning of the words”. Figurative language is language that speaks to our emotions and the imagination. Figurative language is also the language that has more than one meaning.

According to Perrine (1977: 61), “figure of speech is any way of saying something other than the ordinary way, and some rhetoricians have classified as many as 250 separate figures.” Figurative language is language that using figure of speech, is the language that cannot be taken literally. It is the arrangement of sentences that has more than one meaning.

Literal and figurative language is a distinction in traditional systems for analyzing language. Literal language refers to words that do not deviate from their defined meaning. Figurative language refers to words, and groups of words, that exaggerate or alter the usual meanings of the component words.

Figurative language may involve analogy to similar concepts or other contexts, and may involve exaggeration. In traditional analysis, words in literal expressions denote what they mean according to common or dictionary usage, while words in figurative expressions connote- they add layers of meaning. The set of memories will give prominence to the most common or literal meanings, but also suggest reasons for attributing different meaning (Wikipedia, 2009).

Figurative language has purpose to make the language or the sentence interesting, more live and the information clearer when received the addressee. Figurative language has purpose to compare or to analogize something with other in order the illustration clearer, more interesting, and more live. Figurative language has many variations, although it has general characteristic. The characteristic is the figurative language link something with other Altenbernd, in Pradopo (1987: 62). Any language that goes beyond the literal meaning of words in order to furnish new effects or fresh insights into an idea or a subject. Figurative language has a lot of form, there are, Simile, Metaphor, Metonymy, Apostrophe, Synecdoche, understatement, Overstatement (Hyperbole), Symbol, Allegory, irony, Paradox, and Personification.

The following is the example of figurative language:

*“Busy as a bee”*

The example is include in figurative language especially simile because the sentence use word “**as**”. The sentence compare between **busy** and **bee** with conjunction **as**.

One of the messages which need to have the right understanding is the Moslem Holy Scripture, Al-Quran. Al-Quran is the revelations of God. The messages in Al-Quran sometimes are started explicitly but sometimes implicitly by using figurative language. The usage of figurative language in Al-Quran is very interesting to be research and of course the writer does not mean to decrease or increase the content of Al-Quran it self. The research just means to describe the kinds of figurative language in English translation of Al-Quran. In the following sentence is one of the examples of figurative language in English Translation of Al-Quran:

*“Allah has set **a seal** upon their hearts and upon their hearing, and over their vision is a veil” (2: 7)*

It is substance symbol. **A seal** is used to compare the greatest thing goodness. It is object symbol and symbolizes the power/ authority of Allah. The intention of the verse reminds that Allah has authority toward human being, who rejects faith or disbelievers, especially who truly rejects faith. Allah resembles their hearts and hearing with house which has sealed door. There is no entrance to their hearth for guidance their life.

They are unable to accept advice because they do not want to listen it. Allah covers theirs eyes so they are unable to see any kinds of sign from Allah in this world, which can bring them to faith. They just see the phenomenon,

but they cannot think and take the lesson from it. Allah lets them sink in their hearing symbolized lacked condition and there is no entrance for guidance.

According to the explanation above, the writer interests to analyze the figurative language used in English translation of Al-Quran entitled “*A Pragmatic Analysis On Figurative Language Used In English Translation Of Al-Quran Chapter Al-Baqarah.*”

## **B. Previous Study**

This research is not the only one research that will be done by researcher. In the previous, there are many researchers who done the research with different perspectives.

The first is Sumekar (UMS, 2006) that conducted a research entitled *An Analysis on Figurative Language Used in William Blake’s Poems*. The research focuses on knowing the knowledge about poetry and its elements in order to be more clearly understood by the writer and the readers generally. The objectives of the research are to characterize the figurative language, to find out the meaning of figurative, and to point the figurative language used in William Blake’s Poem. She found eight figurative languages. They are Personification, Symbol, Metaphor, Hyperbole, Irony, Apostrophe, Paradox, and Synecdoche.

The second is the research paper entitled *A Pragmatics Analysis on Figurative Language Used in English Translation of Bukhori Hadith* conducted by Dina (UMS, 2008). The research has objective to describe the types of figurative language used in Bukhori Hadith and to describe the implied meaning of figurative language used in Bukhori Hadith. The

researcher found four figurative languages in Bukhori Hadith, there simile, metaphor, personification, and allegory.

The third is the research paper entitled *A Semiotics Study on Metaphor Used in English Translation of Al-Quran* conducted by Pratiwi (UMS, 2008). The research has objectives to describe the variations in metaphor symbol and find out the meaning of metaphor used in English translation of Al-Quran. She analyzed the one of figurative language, Metaphor that was found in English translation of Al-Quran use semiotic theory. She found seven variations of metaphor symbol which is used in English translation of Al-Quran. They are abstract / being, energy, terrestrial, object, substance, animate creature, and man/human. Among the data, the high percentage is human symbol and object symbol. It is natural because the object of the noble of Al-Quran is Human beings

This research is different from the three previous researches. In this research the writer uses different media with the second researches and different theory/ perspective with the first and third research. So, the differences of this research with the three researches are located in the media and the theory/perspective.

### **C. Problem Statement**

According to the background above, the writer concerns with the following problem:

1. What are the variations of the figurative language used in English Translation of Al-Quran Chapter Al-Baqarah?
2. What are the implicatures of the figurative language Used in English Translation of Al-Quran Chapter Al-Baqarah?

#### **D. Objective of Study**

The research aims to:

1. To find out the variations of the figurative language used in English Translation of Al-Quran Chapter Al-Baqarah
2. To describe the implicatures of figurative language used in English Translation of Al-Quran Chapter Al-Baqarah

#### **E. Limitation of the Study**

The research focuses on analysis of figurative language used in English Translation of Al-Quran especially in chapter Al-Baqarah.

#### **F. Benefit of The Study**

The writer hopes that the result of this research has some benefits:

1. Theoretically
  - a. The result of this research can be used as a reference to further research.
  - b. The result will show the clear description about figurative language used in English translation of Al-Quran chapter Al-Baqarah.

2. Practically

- a. The result of this research will be used by other researcher as reference
- b. The result of this research will give information about figurative language to reader and learner

**G. Research Paper Organization**

This research paper is divided into five chapters as follows:

Chapter I is an introduction, propose of background of study, previous study, problem statements, objective of study, limitation of study, benefit of study, and research paper organization.

Chapter II is underlying theory, consisting of notion of figurative language, the kinds of figurative language, notion of Pragmatics, principles of Pragmatics, Implicature, Pragmatics context, and Al Qur'an.

Chapter III is research method that deals with type of method, object of the research, data and data source, technique of data collection, and technique of data analysing.

Chapter IV data analysis and discussion which presents describing the variations of figurative language in English translation of Holy Quran chapter Al Baqarah, the implicature of figurative language in English translation of Holy Quran chapter Al Baqarah, and description of dominant figurative language in English translation of Holy Quran chapter Al Baqarah.

Chapter V is conclusion and suggestion.