

FIGURATIVE LANGUAGE IN POE'S ANNABEL LEE

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Abstract

Figurative language is an inseparable element in literary work. It is used in various kind of works, but it is mainly in poetry. The purpose of using figurative language in poetry is to emphasize the meaning that the author tried to express. Other than that, it is also use to beautify the sound of the poetry. Edgar Allan Poe is one of the authors that use various kind of figurative languages in his work. This research mainly focuses on one of his poem, Annabel Lee. The researcher found seven types of figurative languages in the poem as the result of the study. They are ending rhyme, internal rhyme, repetition, hyperbole, metaphor, alliteration, and anaphora.

Keywords: figurative language, poetry, Annabel Lee

INTRODUCTION

Poetry is one kind of literary works that is written beautifully following the purpose of its poet (Kaharuddin et al., 2020). The languages and words that are used in poetry is often modified to make the sound beautiful (Arafah, 2018). They may not follow linguistic and grammatical rule to make the poem sound better when it is read. The words that are used also sometimes contain very different meaning from its dictionary form (Rahman et al., 2020). It depends on the context of the poetry and the story which the poet wants to tell. These kind of language is called figurative language or figure of speech (Abbas, 2020; Edy et al., 2019; Hamuddin et al., 2020).

Marliton and Syafitri (2018) states that poets or writers use their knowledge of language to deliver their ideas, emotions, desires, and all other things they want to express. It allows the writers to express their thoughts without being bound by linguistics rules. Figurative languages give certain effects to a poetry such us highlighting the meaning and beautify the sound (Marliton and Syafitri, 2018; Irmawari et al., 2020).

One of writers who used many figurative language is Edgar Allan Poe. Poe was born in Boston on January 1809. His parents separated when Poe was still a little boy. Soon his mother became seriously sick and at the end of 1811, she died in Richmond. After the death of his mother, Poe was adopted to a wealthy family, John Allan. In England, Poe began his education

for five years and after returning to Richmond he was admitted to a local school. At age seventeen, Poe was entered to Virginia's University and in that time his youth happiness met its end. In 1827, he found new opportunity and published his first book as "Tamerlane and Other Poems by Bostonian". In 1829 he moved to Baltimore and his second book was published under the title of "Al Aaraaf, Tamberlane, and Minor Poems". In New York, 1831, he found publisher who collected his book entitle "Poems by Edgar A. Poe, Second Edition". Another principal poetic works that he has, is "The Raven and Othet Poems". And finally he died at age fourty, on October of 1849 (Kamarzadeh, 2015).

LITERATURE BACKGROUND

Figurative language or figure of speech is a type of language that is used to give deeper meaning in poetry. It is used to give the words different meaning to its original meaning or dictionary meaning. So, figure of speech gives connotative meaning to a poem (Elfridan and Sitompul, 2018). The aim of figurative language is to catch readers attention, so that the poetry will be interesting to read. Other than that, it also delivers the poet's idea in such unique and imaginative way (Raisa, Rufinus, and Sudarsono, 2017). There are many variations of figure of speech. Regmi (2014) divides figure of speech into ten categories.

- a. Allegory and Circumlocution: An Allegory is a type of figure of speech that contains double meaning; they are primary meaning and secondary meaning. It also can be understood as an indirect way of speaking.
- b. Euphemism: Euphemism is the use of indirect words that are more pleasant and indirect instead of more precise and direct ones.
- c. Irony and satire: Irony is the difference between words and action.
- d. Metaphor and simile: Metaphor and simile are making comparison between two unfamiliar objects with their common qualities. Metaphor is implied and indirect comparison whereas the simile is direct comparison.
- e. Metonymy and synecdoche: Metonymy is substituting the name of a thing through attribution or association. Synecdoche is a figure of speech in that refers a part of something to the whole of it or vice versa.
- f. Paradox and parody. Paradox is a statement in which they seem to be absurd or contradictory but it may be true. Parody is a type of speech that imitates the style of others writing, either the same or in an exaggerated way.
- g. Personification and pleonasm: Personification is treating inanimate objects as a human being or representing it in human form, for example human attributes and feeling. Pleonasm is used for unnecessary syntactic addition, to use more words than necessary to express the meaning.
- h. Oxymoron and conceit: Oxymoron in linguistic point of view, uses the combination of two contradictory terms. As for conceit, it gives an unexpected comparison between two apparently unfamiliar ideas.
- i. Allusion and anaphora: Allusion gave the reference of place and event to the readers either directly or indirectly. Anaphora is a particular figure of speech that consists of sequence of repeated words at the beginning of neighboring clauses to emphasis the meaning.
- j. Image and symbol: Image explains the quality of an object. A symbol can appears as an object that represents an

abstract idea, such as love, tragedy, unionism, death, sadness etc.

Other than that, Leech (1981) classifies figurative language into seven types.

- a. Irony is a type of language that uses some words to say something other than what the speaker actually mean. Irony is one type of figurative language that use the opposite meaning with the fact.
- b. Hyperbole is expression that exaggerates things.
- c. Metaphor gives figurative meaning that has an implicit comparison between two unlike objects. It is compared by identifying or substituting one with other.
- d. Metonymy is a figurative language which means that the name of one object or idea can be substituted with another closely associated object.
- e. Litotes is a type of figure of speech in which the writer uses the opposite words to express his idea to emphasis the meaning, rather than making a certain statement directly.
- f. Simile is comparing two completely unrelated things.
- g. Personification is giving human characteristic to a lifeless object.

Moreover, Merriam-Webster's encyclopedia of Literature in Harya (2016) elaborates that figurative language or figures of speech can be classified into five categories, such as:

- a. Figures of resemblance on relationship (e.g. simile, metaphor, kenning, conceit, parallelism, personification, metonymy, synecdoche, and euphemism).
- b. Figures of emphasis or understatement (e.g. hyperbole, litotes, rhetoric, question, antithesis, climax, bathos, paradox, oxymoron, and irony).

- c. Figures of sound (e.g. alliteration, repetition, anaphora, and onomatopoeia).
- d. Verbal games and gymnastics (e.g. pun and anagram).
- e. Errors (e.g. malapropism, periphrasis, and spoonerism).

METHODOLOGY

This research used qualitative research method (Arafah & Hasyim, 2019; Hasyim et al., 2020). Qualitative methods emphasize the observation of phenomena and focus more on the substance of the meaning of these phenomena (Kaharuddin, & Rahmadana, 2020; Rahman, 2017). The analysis and acumen of qualitative research are strongly influenced by the strength of the words and sentences used. Therefore, the focus of qualitative research is on the process and the meaning of the results. Qualitative research attention is more focused on human elements, objects, and institutions, as well as the relationships or interactions between these elements, in an effort to understand an event, behavior or phenomenon.

Qualitative research is an exploratory research (Arafah & Hasyim, 2020). It provides insights into the problem or helps to develop ideas or hypotheses. It is also used to explain thought and opinion, and dive deeper into the problem. In using this methodology, the researcher explained the issues that occur in the poetry by collecting the whole data in details, in this case the data were words, phrases, descriptions, and so on.

The researchers collected the data by doing library research method and close reading by reading the poetry *Annabel Lee* carefully and repeatedly. Other than that, the researcher also read thesis, journal, and article related to the poetry and figurative languages. The researcher took notes in order to collect the data related to figurative languages in the poetry including the words, phrases, and descriptions.

After the process of collecting data, the researcher analyzed the data. There were several steps that were used in order to analyze the object using figurative language theory. The first step was to do intensive reading on the object, in this case, *Annabel Lee* by Edgar Allan Poe. The second step in applying figurative language theory was the researcher identified all figurative language that can be found in the poetry. The last step was to draw conclusion from the data analysis.

FINDINGS

Edgar Allan Poe was an American writer who is famous for his poetry and short stories. He is known as a figure of romanticism in America. Many of his works are gothic with dark theme and talk about death. One of those works is *Annabelle Lee*. *Annabelle Lee*, written by Poe was published in 1849. Like his many other works, *Annabel Lee* is a spooky and sad poem about the death of a beautiful young woman. It is believed that Poe wrote this poetry in memory of his wife who was dead by tuberculosis in 1847.

Annabelle Lee was written in a form of lyric poetry. In order to transfer his feeling into the poetry, Poe used many variation of figurative language. By using figurative language, the poetry sounds more beautiful to the reader.

*It was many and many a year ago,
In a kingdom by the sea,
That a maiden there lived whom you may
know
By the name of Annabel Lee; —
And this maiden she lived with no other
thought
Than to love and be loved by me.*

There are three figurative languages in the first stanza. There is ending rhyme in line 2, 4, and 6 using words of sea, Lee, and me. Hyperbole can be seen in line 5 and 6,

which gives meaning that the maiden has nothing more other than her love. The last is repetition of phrase “in a kingdom by the sea” which is found in every stanza.

*I was a child and she was a child,
In this kingdom by the sea;
But we loved with a love that was more than
love —
I and my Annabel Lee —
With a love that the wingéd seraphs in
Heaven
Coveted her and me.*

The second stanza also contains three figurative languages. The first is ending rhyme in line 8, 10, and 12 using words of sea, Lee, and me. Next is repetition. Like the first stanza, the phrase “in this kingdom by the sea” is also written in this stanza. Other than that, there is a repetition of word “love” in line 9. The last is metaphor in line 9. Line 9 means that their live is bigger than anyone can imagine.

*And this was the reason that, long ago,
In this kingdom by the sea,
A wind blew out of a cloud, chilling
My beautiful Annabel Lee;
So that her high-born kinsmen came
And bore her away from me,
To shut her up in a sepulchre,
In this kingdom by the sea.*

There are three figurative languages in the third stanza. The first is ending rhyme in line 14, 16, 18, and 20 using words of sea, Lee, me, and sea. Next is repetition of phrase “in this kingdom by the sea” which is mentioned two times in this stanza in line 14 and 20. The last is metaphor in line 15-19. Line 15-16 means that *Annabel Lee* was sick, in line 17-18 her sickness become worse, and in line 19 she finally die.

*The angels, not half so happy in Heaven,
Went envying her and me —*

Yes! — that was the reason (as all men know,

In this kingdom by the sea)
That the wind came out of the cloud by night,

Chilling and killing my Annabel Lee.

The fourth stanza also contains three figurative languages. As in the other stanzas, ending rhyme can also be found in this stanza in line 22, 24, and 26 using words of me, sea, and Lee. Next is repetition of phrase “in this kingdom by the sea” in line 24. The last is alliteration in line 21 using words of half, happy, and heaven.

But our love it was stronger by far than the love

Of those who were older than we —
Of many far wiser than we —

And neither the angels in Heaven above,
Nor the demons down under the sea,
Can ever dissever my soul from the soul
Of the beautiful Annabel Lee: —

The fifth stanza contains three figurative languages. The first is ending rhyme in line 28, 29, 31, and 33 using words of we, we, sea, and Lee. The second is repetition of words “of” and “than we” in line 28 and 29. The third is hyperbole in line 30-33. Those lines express that the love between the narrator and Annabel Lee is so big, that nobody can separate them, not even death.

For the moon never beams, without bringing me dreams

Of the beautiful Annabel Lee;

And the stars never rise, but I feel the bright eyes

Of the beautiful Annabel Lee: —

And so, all the night-tide, I lie down by the side

Of my darling — my darling — my life and my bride,

In her sepulchre there by the sea —

In her tomb by the sounding sea.

There are four figurative languages in the sixth stanza. The first is 2 internal rhymes in line 34 and 36. The internal rhymes in line 34 uses words of beams and dreams, whereas in line 36 uses words of rise and eyes. The second is repetition of phrase “of the beautiful Annabel Lee” in line 35 and 37. This repetition emphasize the meaning, in which the narrator loves her so much that the only beautiful woman in his eyes is her. Next is anaphora in line 39, which repeat the word “my” before all the phrases. The last is hyperbole in line 34-37.

CONCLUSSION

Although it has dark theme of death and separation from a loved one, Edgar Allan Poe wrote Annabel Lee in such beautiful way. It is believed that Poe wrote this poetry in memory of his wife who was dead by tuberculosis in 1847. Many figurative languages that are found in the poetry give deeper meaning to the poetry and emphasize Poe’s idea. After analyzing every stanza carefully, the researcher finds seven types of figurative languages in the poem Annabel Lee. The researcher identifies five ending rhyme, two internal rhyme, six repetition, three hyperbole, two metaphor, one alliteration, and one anaphora. In conclusion, Poe used many varieties of figurative languages in order to express his idea and to give deeper meaning to his writing.

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