

ANALYSIS OF IMAGERY IN THE POEM "DADDY" BY SYLVIA PLATH

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ABSTRACT

The aim of this study is to describe the imagery contained in the poem "Daddy" by Sylvia Plath. The method used in this research is qualitative descriptive. Data collection used the technique of reading logs of the poem "Daddy" by Sylvia Plath. The research results were visual imagery, auditory imagery, pictures, and No aesthetic or magical. The conclusion from the results of the imagery analysis carried out on the poem "Daddy" by Sylvia Plath is that the most dominant image is visual imagery.

Keywords: Analysis, Imagery, Literature, Poetry

INTRODUCTION

Literary work is a work that reviews various life problems that are full of high imagination. However, literary works have elements of beauty in them. Not only that, literary creations also lead to higher thoughts that are not only formed from daydreams (Melati et al., 2019).

A literary work is the result of the author's experiences, observations, thoughts, reflections, and cultural observations regarding something that happens to him and society or what happens in the surrounding environment. Poetry consists of physical elements and mental elements. Physical elements are elements contained in poetic texts (Fadhilah, 2023).

The physical elements of poetry consist of diction, assessment, concrete words, speech, and poetry typography. Mental elements are elements that are more semantic elements or elements that are not contained in the poetic text. The mental elements of poetry consist of themes, feelings, and messages. Imagination or imagery is something that can generate abstract ideas contained in poetry. The imagery that the poet presents in his poetry is heavily influenced by the language

of the poem. Usually, in poetry, there are always parables or parables. The images displayed usually vary. The more images a poet uses in his poetry, the more beautiful and concrete the poetry he writes will express the meaning the poet wants to convey in his poetry. (Purwaningsih et al., 2023).

Literary works are born in the midst of society as a result of the author's imagination and reflection on the social phenomena around him. Therefore, the presence of literary works is part of people's lives. The author, as an individual subject, tries to produce a world view (*vision du monde*) for his collective subject regarding the meaning that describes the individual subject to the social reality around him, showing that a literary work is situated in a particular culture and a particular society. The existence of such literary works means they can be positioned as socio-cultural documents (Saragih et al., 2021).

Poetry is one of the oldest forms of literary work. Since its birth, poetry has shown the distinctive characteristics we know today, even though poetry has experienced development and change over the years. The literary form of poetry is indeed conceptualized by the author as a form of poetry that is then written into poetry. Since its conception, a poet has concentrated all the power of language and concentrated his ideas to produce poetry. Poets do not start their works with prose concepts. The planning of the basic concept of poetry had been planned in his mind (Dirman, 2022).

Poetry is a literary work that arises from the imagination of a writer or poet, which is expressed through written form, provides experiences that can be enjoyed, and stores the messages contained therein (Amalia et al., 2023). Poetry is a part of literary work that contains beautiful words and requirements for meaning. Everyday language is, of course, very different from the language used in poetry because poetry is very influenced by figures of speech, rhyme, diction, and rhythm. The use of language is shorter and full of meaning. The diction used contains many interpretations and meanings (Dianty et al., 2022).

Misconceptions or differences of opinion in interpreting a literary work, in this case poetry, are natural things that often occur. The choice of words or diction and images used in Daddy's poetry Sylvia Plath's work cannot be separated from the use of language style. The choice of diction or words in poetry must take into consideration the choice of the appropriate use of language, which will make the poetry more beautiful, and in describing something, it will be more precise. This then creates new problems or polemics regarding the poetry. A literary work will be more attractive to readers if it is packaged using an attractive language style. Each author has his own language style in creating his work. This language style is a characteristic of authors who have skills in combining beautiful language in their work. The better the language style used in a work, the more it will create a high aesthetic effect and attract readers' interest.

Based on the description above, the researcher took the title for this research, Analysis of Imagery in the Poem "Father" by Sylvia Plath. This research is able to produce visual imagery, auditory imagery, and pictures, which then contribute to readers' better understanding of the meaning of the poem.

LITERATURE REVIEW

Imagery has been identified by various experts. Roberts and Jacobs (2006) argue that imagery is words that trigger one's imagination to recall and recombine images together between old and new memories or mental pictures of tastes, sight, sensation of touch, and sound. Perrine (1993) also states that this concept can be seen as the representation through language of sense impression. However, Richards (in Wellek and Warren, 1989) states that the sensory quality of the image is very important.

Perrine (1993) categorizes imagery into seven types. They are visual imagery, tactile imagery, organic imagery, kinesthetic imagery, olfactory imagery, gustatory imagery, and auditory imagery. Visual imagery means sight sense and becomes the largest role. The imagery describes the characteristics of the character. Next, tactile imagery can be the sense of touch. Then, organic imagery refers to creating a specific feeling. Moreover, kinesthetic imagery deals with the movement of the character. Olfactory imagery can be a particular scent, and gustatory imagery means the sense of taste. Finally, auditory imagery focuses on specific sounds that happened in the story.

It can be concluded that imagery is a representation of sense experience. There are some senses that are included in a poem, namely sound, sight, smell, taste, and touch. Imagery supports readers in imagining something that happened in the poem. Therefore, the readers can understand well.

RESEARCH METHODS

This research is included in library research. Library research is supported by relevance in the form of poetry texts and other supporting book sources that discuss research problems. The object of study is text, in this case, the poem Father by Sylvia Plath. The method used in this research is a qualitative descriptive method. Descriptive means a description or presentation of data based on facts objectively according to the data contained in the poem.

Qualitative is used to analyze or describe concepts that are related to each other. It is said to be qualitative because it does not use statistical principles but is based on literary theories that are related to an objective (structural) approach. The data for this research are elements of imagery contained in the poem "Father" by Sylvia Plath. The techniques used to collect data in this research are reading and writing techniques. The reading technique intended is critical reading. The critical reading technique is a reading activity that is carried out in-depth, evaluative, and

analytical. Critical reading in question is reading and studying poetry. Recording techniques are used to record data obtained from reading results in accordance with the problems in this research. The steps used to analyze the data are (1) analyze all the data that has been determined, (2) the data analyzed per line, according to the order of image types, (3) the discussion adjusted to the findings, (4) concludes and makes a report.

FINDINGS

Below, we will describe the types of imagery findings found based on the analysis carried out on the poem *Daddy* by Sylvia Plath. In the poem *Daddy* by Sylvia Plath, there are several types of imagery that can be found, namely Visual Imagery, Auditory Imagery, and Kinesthetic Imagery.

Visual Imagery

In Sylvia Plath's poem *Daddy*, she uses visual imagery in two ways, literally and figuratively. The passages where Plath uses Visual Imagery literally are:

"...For thirty years, poor and white..." stanza 1, line 4
"...And a head in the strange Atlantic..." stanza 3, line 11
"... And your neat mustache
And your Aryan eyes, bright blue..." stanza 9, lines 43 – 44
"... You stand in front of the blackboard, Dad,
In my image of you..." stanza 11 lines 51 – 52

There are many passages in which Sylvia Plath uses visual imagery figuratively, some of which are:

"...Again, black shoes..." stanza 1, line 2
"...The weight of a marble, a bag full of God..." stanza 2, line 3
"...Bite my pretty red heart in half..." stanza 12, line 56
"...The vampire who said he was you..." stanza 15, line 72

In stanza 1, line 2, Plath uses black shoes as a comparison to her Father; this comparison evokes an old nursery rhyme about an old woman who lives in a shoe. In stanza 2, line 3, the bag full of god could mean that Plath killed her Father figuratively and then put his body in a bag, or it could also mean that her Father's body was the bag itself, here Plath uses the term god to represent her Father so that the reader can understand the importance of her Father to her.

In stanza 12, line 56, Plath tells the reader how her Father broke her heart. In stanza 15, line 72, Plath, at this time, describes her Father as a vampire, a creature who drank her blood for seven years, meaning that her Father had done her a lot of harm.

Auditory Imagery

Sylvia Plath uses auditory imagery not only to describe sound but also silence. The passages where Plath uses Auditory Imagery to describe silence are:

“...I can never talk to you.
His tongue got stuck in my jaw...” stanza 5, lines 24 – 25
“...Ich, ich, ich, ich,
I can barely speak...” stanza 6, lines 27 – 28

In stanza 6, line 27, Ich is the German word for I, so in lines 27 – 28, Plath describes how dangerous and painful she felt when trying to talk to her Father; she stuttered Ich /I because she felt scared and nervous. Lines 27 – 28 are unique because they describe sound and silence. The passages where Plath uses Auditory Imagery to describe sound are:

“...Barely dared to breathe or Achoo...” stanza 1, line 5
“...I used to pray for your recovery
Ach, du...” stanza 3 lines 14 – 15

In stanza 1, line 5, Sylvia Plath uses the childish-sounding word Achoo to give a clue that the first stanza takes place in her childhood. Stanza 3 lines 14 – 15 describe how Plath used to pray for her Father's return or recovery (because it was war); Ach, du is an expression in German that means Oh, you, and is used when angry or impatient.

Kinesthetic Imagery

Sylvia Plath uses kinesthetic imagery to describe movements around her; the parts where Plath uses kinesthetic imagery are:

“...I was ten years old when they buried you...” stanza 12, line 57
“...But they pulled me out of the sack...” stanza 13, line 61
“...They dance and trample you...” stanza 16, line 78

In stanza 13, line 61, Sylvia Plath describes how she failed to kill him because he was saved by people. In stanza 16, line 78, Plath describes how her Father's absence is celebrated by the villagers.

DISCUSSION

Visual Imagery

In Sylvia Plath's poem Daddy, she uses visual imagery in two ways, literally and figuratively. In line with the results of research by Niagara Adriatik et al. (2022), which found that the poet invites the reader or listener to see what has

happened, namely seeing the pain of someone who is experiencing hunger due to poverty

According to Darlik & Samnaik in Nadya & Darlius (2023), visual imagery is a reception related to visual imagination and is the type of imagery that appears most often in literary narratives because almost all the words represented in literary works are words, practically speaking, visible in the mind's eye. From the novel itself, researchers took the following narrative when the main character, Cloud of Sparrows, engages in activities that evoke perceptual images as in visual imagery.

Auditory Imagery

Sylvia Plath uses auditory imagery not only to describe sound but also silence. Plath described how dangerous and painful she felt trying to talk to her Father, and Plath used to pray for her Father's return or recovery.

This is in line with research by Fajira et al. (2021), which reveals that auditory imagery is found in poetry. We can capture an image using our sense of hearing. Auditory images are images generated using the sense of hearing.

Image hearing is an impression or description obtained through hearing (ear). The auditory imagery used in literary works has various characteristics. These characteristics are expressions, sentences, or words in literary works that arouse the sense of hearing in the mind of the reader. These characteristics are pitch (a word, phrase, or sentence that expresses the pitch or imaginary note it produces), timbre (a particular sound of an imaginary sound such as a guitar, violin, etc.), loudness (related to loudness and softness that the reader receives from the imaginary sound), duration (how long the imaginary sound is received by the reader), as well as tempo and rhythm (the specific beat at which the imaginary sound is written) (Izatti & Ruslan, 2022).

Kinesthetic Imagery

Sylvia Plath uses kinesthetic imagery to describe movement around her. There are passages where Plath uses kinesthetic imagery: "I was ten years old when they buried you... but they pulled me out of the bag... they dance and trample you..." Sylvia Plath describes how she failed to kill him because he was saved by people. Plath describes how her Father's absence was celebrated by the villagers.

This is in line with research (Khomarudin et al., 2022) that there is kinesthetic imagery (movement) in a poem being analyzed. In a literary work, the image of movement is often used by the author to describe something that appears to be moving but, in essence, is not moving. Imagery can provide certain mental impression effects to describe behavior, atmosphere, events, etc. A poet only needs to point out certain diction, which are concrete words. Thus, imagery emphasizes past experience rather than the creation of ideas, as does movement imagery.

Motion imagery is imagery that depicts something that is moving or not moving but is depicted as being able to move. This type of imagery can be animate or inanimate objects. In a broad sense, kinesthetics relates to a person's awareness of the position and movement of body parts through the sensory organs in muscles and joints. From a literary perspective, kinesthetic imagery refers to the interpretation of texts that involve movements, both of people and objects, that evoke certain sensations in the reader. Kinesthetic is an image that conveys a sense of movement or tension in muscles or joints. This gives the impression that similar actions or movements can be felt through reading activities (Adam Permana et al., 2022).

CONCLUSION

Based on the results of the imagery analysis carried out on the poem Daddy by Sylvia Plath, it can be concluded that the most dominant image in this poem is visual imagery. Even though visual imagery is the most dominant, we can still find two other types of images from the six types of images, namely auditory imagery and kinesthetic imagery. Meanwhile, three other images that are not found in this poem are Olfactory Imagery (smell), Gustatory Imagery (taste), and Tactile Imagery (touch).

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