

**METAPHOR AND SIMILE
IN WILLIAM SHAKESPEARE'S POEMS**
(*Metafora dan Simile dalam Puisi William Shakespeare*)

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Abstrak

Tulisan ini bertujuan mengidentifikasi gaya bahasa dalam puisi karya William Shakespeare dan menganalisis makna gaya bahasa metafora dan simile yang terdapat di dalam puisi tersebut. Puisi yang dianalisis dalam tulisan ini adalah, no longer mourn for me, shall I compare thee, dan my mistress eyes are nothing like the sun. Dalam penulisan ini digunakan penelitian pustaka dan data dianalisis dengan menggunakan metode deskriptif. Dari identifikasi yang dilakukan selain ditemukan gaya bahasa metafora dan simile juga ditemukan gaya bahasa lain seperti personifikasi, hiperbola, dan sinekdoke.

Kata kunci : *puisi, metafora, simile*

Abstract

This writing aims to identify the figure of speech in William Shakespeare's poems and analyze metaphor and simile in the poems. Poems which analyzed in this writing are no longer mourn for me, shall I compare thee, and my mistress eyes are nothing like the sun. In this writing used library research and data analysis by using descriptive method. Identification found metaphor and simile, but also found another figure of speech such as personification, hyperbole and synecdoche.

Key words: poetry, metaphor, simile

I. Introduction

Poetry is a kind of language which is different from ordinary one, on account its expresses intensely. To understand a poetry we have to know thoroughly each word in it. Often the best clues to the meaning of unfamiliar word are to be found within the poem it self, may be this

is the reason of Volpe who says that poetry is perhaps the most difficult kind of language (Volpe in Siswantoro, 2002:3)

Poetry consists of several elements. One of the elements is figurative language having a very big role in giving a power in poetry. The figurative language in a poem customarily has its own meaning either

implicit or explicit meaning. According to Perrine (1974:599), “figurative language or the language using figure of speech is one way to say something different from ordinary one, it produces extra dimension to the language”

On account its distinctive characteristic, language in poetry is very interesting to be observed and to be found out what the figure of speech means in a poem. In this writing, the writer chooses William Shakespeare poems as the object of writing, because Shakespeare has more than a hundred interesting poems to be analyzed. This writing will discuss kinds of figurative language can be found in William Shakespeare’s poetry and what the meaning of metaphor and simile used by William Shakespeare in his poetry.

2. Figurative Language

All imaginative literature, whether poetry, prose or drama are primarily concerned with human feelings and attitudes. And nearly all great literature tries to recreate human experience that involves the reader emotionally and intellectually. What then makes poetry unique and important? What is poetry?

Wordsworth, who was obviously a transitional poet, gives definition that “poetry is the spontaneous overflow of powerful feelings”. He does not appear to have sense any contradiction in expecting uncommon feelings to be expressed in common language. All the poets in the generation after words worth believed with Lord Byron that poetry is “the lava of imagination whose eruption prevents an earthquake” and that there is a “poetic” way of thinking that differs dramatically from prosaic thinking. It is typified by energy, emotion, excitement and audacity.

Perrine also gives definition about poetry. Perrine said that poetry might be defined as kind of language that says more

and says it more intensely than does ordinary language (1974:553). This statement clarified that the language used in poetry has differences with the language used in our daily activity.

The depth of poetry as Perrine says, similar with the explanation of volpe in Siswanto (2002:03). According to him, poetry is perhaps the most difficult kind of language (1974:3).

Emily Dickinson, one of the greatest American poet states:

“If read a book and it makes my body so cold and no fire can ever warm me, i know that it is poetry.” (Bode in Armady. 1998:11)

Emily Dickinson exploits sense as an instrument of judging poetry. Sometimes the context of poetry refers to monolog. It means that there is another institute letters in the text. The speaker is called narrator.

Another definition about poetry came from Shakespeare. He gives his definition that “a poet is one who sees relationships, in this case relationships between earth and heaven and between mundane events and their philosophical implications”. Mary Elizabethan and Sacobean poets came to define their craft in just this way.

Although we may unable to answer the question “what is poetry?” for all of time, we may summarize those elements in the definition of poetry that have shown above. Poetry likes an author’s emotional and philosophical expression of what is thought and felt, rather than what is known as fact. It depends on observation, just as science might distant and unrelated. Poetry is an imitation of human being experience, which is pouring down into verses and involving sense to judging it.

The study of poetry is related to the figurative language as a medium to

obtain a poetical effect in poetry. Anyway the figurative language is not only found in literary work, but we can also find them through everyday conversation, non-literary writings, political speeches and much more. The use of figurative language is very complicated and significance for the poet and other literary creators. Every poet in every period uses figurative language in their own way.

Perrine (1974:610) says that, "a figure of speech is any way of saying something other than the ordinary way". A figure of speech is more narrowly definable or away of saying one thing and meaning another, it might seem absurd to say one thing and mean another. But we can do it with good reason. We do it because we can say what we want to say more vividly and forcefully by figure than we can by saying it directly. And we can say more by figurative statement than can say by literal statement. Figure of speech is another way of adding extra dimensions to language.

Wren and Martin in Siswantoro (2002:24) also good definition about figurative language or figure of speech: "figure of speech is a departure from the ordinary form the expression or the ordinary course of idea in order to produce a greater effect". This has the same meaning with Perrine's definition before, figurative language provides a more effective means of saying what we mean than does direct statement. According to Perrine (1974:16), There are some reasons for the effectiveness of using figurative language in a poem.

They are:

1. Figurative language affords us imaginative pleasure. Imagination might be described in one sense as that faculty or ability of the mind that proceeds by sudden leaps from one point to another, which goes up a stair

by leaping in one jump from the bottom to the top rather than by We have probably all taken pleasure staring into a fire and seeing castles and cities and armies in it, or in looking into the clouds and shaping them into animals or faces, or in seeing a man in the moon. We name our plants and flowers after fancied resemblances: jack-in-the-pulpit, babies'-breath, Queen Anne's face. Figure of speech is therefore satisfying in them, providing us with a source of pleasure in the exercise of the imagination.

2. Figure of speech are way of bringing additional imagery into verse, of making the abstract concrete of making poetry more sensuous, figurative language is a way of multiplying the sensuous, figurative language is a way of multiplying the sense appeal of poetry.
3. Figure of speech are a way of adding emotional intensity to otherwise merely informative statements and of conveying attitudes along with information. If we say, "so-and-so is a rat" or "my feet are killing me", our meaning is as much emotional as informative.
4. Figure of speech are means of concentration. A way of saying much in brief compass. Like words, they may be multidimensional. Considering for instance, the merits of comparing life to a candle in that it begins and ends in darkness; in that while it burns, it gives off light and energy, is active and colorful; in that it gradually consumes itself, gets shorter and shorter; in that it can be snuffed out at any moment; in that it is brief at best, burns only for a short duration. Possibly your imagination suggests other similarities. but at any rate Macbeth's compact metaphorical

description of life as “a brief candle” suggest certain truths about life that would required dozens of words to state in literal language. At the same time it makes the abstract concrete, provides imaginative pleasure, and adds a degree of emotional intensity.

Obviously one of the necessary abilities for reading poetry is the ability to interpret figurative language. Every use of figurative language involves a risk of misinterpretation, though the risk is well worth taking. For the person who can translate all people have imagination to same degree, and imagination can be cultivated.

2.1 Metaphor

Metaphor is a kind of figurative language which is used as means of comparing things that essentially unlike. If in simile the comparison uses word: like, as, etc. in metaphor, the comparison is implied. The figurative terms is substitute for, or identified with literal term.

Metaphor may take one of four forms. They are:

- the first one, as in simile both the literal and the figurative terms are named;
- the second one, the literal term is named in the figurative term is implied;
- the third one, the literal term is implied and the figurative term is named;
- the fourth one, a comparatively rare one, neither the literal nor figurative terms are named: both are implied.

Wren and Martin in Siswanto (2002:27) also give definition about metaphor. They said that “a metaphor is an implied simile. It does not like the simile, state one thing is like another acts as another, but takes that for granted and proceeds as if the two things were one”.

Due to mentioned explanation if we said *He fought like a lion*, it belong to

simile otherwise if we said *He was a lion in the fight*, it belong to metaphor.

Actually, sometimes we used in our daily language, for example if we say he is Einstein, it means we compare him with Einstein in this case we want to say that he is a genius man like Einstein. By using a metaphor we can feel the intensity of meaning that a poet wants to convey without using prosaic words.

Another definition came from Onions (1966:572) metaphor: a figure of speech involving the transference of a name to sometimes analogous.

2.2 Simile

Simile and metaphor are both used as a means of comparing things that are essentially unlike. The only distinction between them is that in simile the comparison is expressed by the use of some word or phrase, such as like, as, than, similar to, resembles, or seems, in metaphor the comparison is implied. (Perrine, 1974:610)

According to Wren and Martin in Siswanto (2002:24) simile definite as “a comparison made between to objects of different kinds which have, however, at least one point in common”. In simile the main point is there are comparison between to objects which are essentially unlike, but they have one point in common.

To make easier to understand about simile, we can see the simile which is employed in Robert Burns’ poems below :

*My love, is like a red, a red rose
That’s newly sprung in June
My love is like the melodies
That’s Sweetly played in tune*

Reading the lines in Robert Burns’ poem above, we can find the simile in the first line, *my love is like a red, a red rose*.

In that line, Roberts Burns compares his lover with a rose, as we know that a red rose a very beautiful flower and it is used as a symbol of love.

Both simile and metaphor are common in daily speech. Other said "Sharp as a knife" or "as slow as turtle." such simile and exciting, but they become overused. While similes are use full to poets primarily because they offer a mechanism for starting abstract truths through specific images, they also contribute intellectual stimulation, emotional connotations and conciseness.

3. Presentation and Analysis of Data

In this chapter, the writer presents an analysis the figurative language especially metaphor and simile in the tree of William Shakespeare's poem:

"Shall i compare thee to a summer day" (sonnet 18), "No longer mourn for me" (sonnet 71 and "My mistress' eyes are nothing like the sun" (sonnet 130).

As a prelude, the following information is added:

During the Elizabethan era, love poetry tended to follow certain conventions, one of which was exaggerated description of the beauty of the beloved. She was usually blonde and fair, with a peaches-and-cream complexion-and disdainful. Common themes were fame, mutability (changes worked by time) and coldness of the beloved. A poet generally felt obligated to work within these conventions, but the tried to achieve originally in spite of them-trough ingenuity in devising comparisons, through cleverness of phrasing, or even by turning the convention upside down. (Mc Donnel, 1982:30)

Shakespeare who was one of the first developers of the English sonnet used the

highly rigid from and structure of the poem to create meaning and emphasized the arguments he wanted to make. His use of structure, unique language and numerous other effects all contributed towards developing the meaning, form and content of the poem.

Shakespeare's collection of sonnets are concerned with four characters: the speaker, a handsome young man, an older woman, and another poet who is a rival of the speaker.

3.1 Shall I Compare Thee To A Summer Day? (Sonnet 18)

Sonnet 18 is perhaps the best known and well-loved of all 154 poems by Shakespeare. It is also one of the most straight forward in language and intent. The theme of this poetry is the stability of love and it is power to immortalize the poetry and the subject of that poetry. We can find some figurative language in this poetry such as metaphor, personification, synecdoche, and hyperbole or overstatement.

3.1.1 Metaphor

Datum 1:

Shall I compare the to a summer day?

.....

In this poem, he tries to compare the lovely of summer's day and poetry. According to Shakespeare, summer's day is lovely and delightful but the scenery's not everlasting. Sometimes, the sun in summer's day is too hot and when it goes behind the clouds, it loses its beauty. But the lovely of poetry will never fade, loses the beauty its possession and the death never bring it away. Poetry will live forever as long as there are people on this earth.

Datum 2:

.....
Sometime too hot the eye of
heaven shines,
And often is his gold complexion
dim's;
.....

The word “heaven shines” is use to substitute the sun. This poem tries to explain that in the summer's day, the sun is too hot. Shakespeare tries to make his poem powerful by making similarities between the sun and the “heaven shines”. And in the next line, the light of the sun is substitute with the word “gold complexion”. The color of the sun light viewed as the “gold complexion” by Shakespeare.

3.2 No Longer Mourn For Me (Sonnet 71)

Sonnet 71-74 are usually grouped together and are linked by the poet's thoughts on his own mortally (Shakespeare mortality), in the relationship with his dear friend, Shakespeare is the older man, and believing he well die before his young man, he create this verse, to console his friend. This sonnet describes a profound sadness because of loss and death. It also tells us that the poet tries to solace his dear friend and release him from the sadness that comes with knowing he well die. The hopelessness expressed in this sonnet seems to indicate that the poet's faith war deeply lacking hiss dear friend. The poet feels anxiety over his dear friend that he will forget him when he wa died.

In this poem, we can find some figurative language such as, metaphor, personification, synecdoche and hyperbole.

3.2.1 Metaphor

Datum 1:

.....
From this vile word with vilest
worms to dwell:
.....

The word, “worms” is used to represent the grave, as know, when someone was buried in cemetery, his body will mix with the dust and dirt then eaten by the worms. So we can see that the word “worms” used to suggest the grave. It is used to create an imagination about the object in a poem.

3.3 My Mistress Eyes Are Nothing Like the Sun

My mistress eyes are nothing like the sun was written sometimes in the mid-1590. It was published along with the rest of his sonnets, in 1609. It is a poem in which Shakespeare forms an argument against conventions to flatter one's lover with praise of he beauty as well as make comments about the way that love between two people can be expressed and interpreted. He uses the example of a woman who is not physically perfect to emphasize that love is deeper and more important than these superficial comparisons.

Sonnet 130 are written in fourteen lines, with a rhyme scheme af abab cdcd efef gg, lines on and three (jun and dun), lines two and four (red and head), lines five and seven (white and delight), lines six and eight (cheeks and reeks), lines nine and eleven (know and go), lines ten and twelve (sound and ground), and lines thirteen and fourteen (rare and compare).

The majority of the poem gives negative connotation . The sun, red, coral, snow, roses, performs, music, and a goodness all bring to kind beautiful images, but the speaker's mistress eyes,

lips, breasts, cheeks, breath, voice, and walk are all contrasted with the description of loveliness. Her eyes do not shine, her lips are not red, her breasts are not white, her cheeks are pale, her breath stinks, she does not have pleasant voice and she does not walk gracefully as goodness would. The speaker seems to be viewing his mistress disdainfully, as if he is not attracted to her, and perhaps sorrow for this woman who is so ugly that not ever her lover describes her as being pretty is felt. The image serves to make the sonnet comes to life because the reader can see the comparisons through the use of a declarative words.

In sonnet 130, we would find only two kinds of figurative language, they are metaphor and simile.

3.3.1 Metaphor

Datum 1 :

.....
Coral is far more red than her lip's red
.....

In above line, the poet compares coral and his lover's lips. According to him, coral is more red than her lover's lips. This unusually expression which used by a lover to flatter his woman, because commonly when a lover flattering his woman, he will used flowerily words.

Datum 2 :

.....
If snow be white, why then her breasts are dun
.....

In this line, the speaker compares his lover's breasts with the snow. When we read the above line, instantly present us with a picture of a beautiful snow-white woman, because we are accustomed to love poems describing exactly that, but

then that picture suddenly vanishes, leaving us with a woman with dull, dark breasts. This is also the way of the speaker to convey that her lover's breasts are certainly not as white as snow.

Datum 3 :

.....
If hairs be wires, black wires grow on her head
.....

In above line, the speaker (the poet) compares between her lover's hairs and wires. Shakespeare's reference to hair as "wires" confuses modern readers, because we assume it to mean our current definition of wire – a thread of metal – which is hardly a fitting word in the context of poem. However, to a renaissance reader, "wire" would refers to the finely – spun gold threads woven into fancy hairnets. Many poets of the time used this term as a benchmark of beauty. In the above line of the poem, when speaker compares his lover's hairs and wires, he actually want to say his lover has a black hair, as we know that a beautiful woman in that era supposed to have a golden hair and not a black one.

Datum 4 :

.....
I have seen roses damask's, red and white,
But no such roses see in her cheeks
.....

In this lines, the speaker compares his lover's cheeks with the roses, as we know that rose petals are soft, almost silky to touch, pleasant to look at and have perfect shades of color, the speaker uses this comparison to create several different effects, just from the use of one word. He says that his mistress cheeks are not soft and do not have the color of the roses in

her cheeks.

Datum 5 :

.....
And some perfumes is there more
delight
Than in the breath that from my
mistress reeks.
.....

In above lines, the speaker compares her lover's breath with the perfumes. According to him, some perfumes give more delight than the breath of her mistress. It means that the breath of her mistress is stink. This is really unflattering terms to describe the love of a man to woman he loves.

Datum 6:

.....
I love to hear her speak, yet well i
know
That music hath a far more pleasing
sound
.....

In above lines, the speaker compares his lover's sound with the sound of the music. According to him, even though he loves to hear his lover's voice, music has a more pleasing sound than her lover's voice. It is also declare us that his lover does not have a pleasant voice.

Datum 7 :

.....
I grant i never saw a goddess go
My mistress, when she walks, trends
on the ground
.....

In above lines, the speaker compares his mistress with a goddess. This suggest us that his mistress is completely human, and hints at the idea that some of normal comparisons are unrealistic. The comparison between the mistress and a goddess is used to heighten the effect of

the poem. When we think of superhuman perfection and beauty, the comparison of his mistress and goddess also tell us that even though his mistress's beauty and perfection could not same with goddess but his mistress has something more than physical beauty that is goddess qualities in her self. May be, she has a very kind heart.

3.3.2 Simile

Datum 1

My mistress eyes are nothing like the
sun
.....

The use of word "like the sun" is a sign of the employing of simile. In the above line, the speaker makes a comparison between her mistress eyes and the sun. he wants to tell us that his mistress eyes are nothing like the sun. he wants to tell us that his mistress eyes are not bright as well as the sun. His mistress are not at all like the sun.

Datum 2 :

.....
And yet, by heaven, i think my love
as rare
.....

In above line, the speaker proclaim that his love as a rare thing, because he has just brought attention to the many short coming of his love, but he loves her and thinks more highly of her than any woman who has ever been described favorably by the previously mentioned qualities.

Datum 3 :

.....
As any she belied with false compare
.....

In the above line, the speaker suggests that the woman, who has been described in terms such as their eyes which shinning like the sun, have been accurately described. This is what he

called "false compare", the speaker chooses to be honest rather than using the flowery language. Also beauty should not be the reason that one loves someone. He also suggests that other writers who hold their loves to impossible standards are not being truthful. Perhaps true love is accepting that a person has loving him anyway.

IV. Conclusion

One of the aspect which is Shakespeare uses to give a powerful in his poetry is figurative language, two of them are metaphor and simile, the use of those figurative language makes his poetry more beautiful and interesting to read. Shakespeare's ability in using figurative language in his poetry, forces the reader to think more about the meaning that he wants to convey by his poetry, such in his poetry "my mistress eyes are nothing like the sun". in that poetry, Shakespeare compares his mistress in uncommon way as the man do when he flatters his woman. In fact, he loves his mistress very much. This poetry teaches us that a true love is deeper and more important than physically appearance.

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