

## Analysis of Figurative Language in Short Story “The Bet” a Work by Anton Chekhov 1889

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**Abstract:** This research aims to figure out the types of figurative language used in the short story “The Bet” by Anton Chekhov and also to figure out the meaning of the figurative language used in the short story “The Bet” by Anton Chekhov. The research method used is descriptive-qualitative. To obtain data, the research was conducted by reading the entire short story “The Bet,” analyzing each sentence of figurative language and the meaning of figurative language in the short story. The results showed 10 types of figurative language contained in this short story, namely simile 6 data, personification 2 data, metaphor 3 data, allusion 2 data, irony 3 data, metonymy 2 data, parallelism 1 data, synecdoche 1 data, onomatopoeia 1 data, and symbol 3 data. Of the 10 types of figurative language, simile dominates. The results of the analysis of the meaning of figurative language in this short story show 7 meanings as follows: conceptual 5 data, connotative 9 data, reflective 2 data, collocative no data, social 1 data, affective 5 data, and thematic 2 data. Of these 7 meanings, connotative meaning is the most dominating meaning.

**Keywords:** Figurative language, Meaning, Short story, The Bet

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### INTRODUCTION

Literature is a reflection of reality or original data presented in an aesthetic manner through the medium of language. Literature is a form of creative art whose object is man and his life, using language as a medium (Semi, 1988: 8). Furthermore, according to Taum (1997), literature is a form of creative work or fiction that is imaginative and uses beautiful language, and its existence can be useful for other things. When composing a literary work, language is crucial because it allows the researcher to explain ideas to the reader in a way that is easily comprehended by them through a succession of words. Engaging language will undoubtedly make readers feel at ease and enable them to appreciate the message the researcher is trying to get over. In order to establish a connection between themselves and their readers through language and literary works, researchers occasionally employ figurative language in their writing to make it engaging or unique. One of the auxiliary components of literary works is Figurative language, and Figurative language is typically employed to create a lovely impression in a sentence. The researcher's thoughts can be understood by readers through the use of Figurative language, particularly in literary works, where it allows the reader to experience the researcher's emotions and expressions, such as his delight or fury, through writing.

A common type of literature in our daily lives is the short story, In the short story “The



Bet,” there are several types of figurative language used by the researcher, Anton Chekhov. The short story is interesting to study because besides having figurative language in it, this short story also has a meaning contained in it, which is sometimes misinterpreted or misunderstood in the sentences in the short story.

## METHOD

This research used descriptive-qualitative methods in this research. This approach is used because the data analysis and presentation in this study are described by written words and descriptions. It is referred to as qualitative since the information gathered takes the form of words or descriptions of things rather than numerical data (Djajasudarma, 1993: 15). The data source in this research is the short story “The Bet”. Method of data collection is text analysis. The analysis is used to read, understand, and describe the Figurative language contained in the short story "The Bet" by Anton Chekhov. Data analysis in this study used descriptive analysis. This research was conducted by collecting and analyzing data descriptively, namely by presenting the results in the form of clear and systematic explanations of words or descriptions.

## RESULTS & DISCUSSION

In this part, the researcher describes the research results of the use of figurative language in the short story “The Bet” by Anton Chekhov. The data findings obtained are the types of figurative language and the meaning of the figurative language. The presentation of the research data is as follows:

### Types of Figurative Language

Table 1. Types of Figurative Language

Sentences	Types of figurative language	Data
It is all worthless, fleeting, illusory, and deceptive, <b>like</b> a mirage.	simile	1
If roses began to smell <b>like</b> a sweating horse.	Simile	2
I shall look at him with envy <b>like</b> a beggar.	Simile	3
Beauties <b>as</b> ethereal <b>as</b> clouds.	Simile	4
<b>As</b> though you were no more than mice burrowing under the floor.	Simile	5
With long curls <b>like</b> a woman's.	Simile	6
A damp cutting wind was racing about the garden, <b>howling</b> and giving the trees no rest.	Personification	7
Wine, he wrote, <b>excites the desires</b> .	Personification	8
He was a <b>skeleton</b> , with the skin drawn tight over his bones.	Metaphor	9
His reading suggested a man <b>swimming</b> in	Metaphor	10

the sea among the wreckage of his ship, and trying to save his life.		
His face was <b>yellow</b> with an earthy tint in it.	Metaphor	11
He would ask for <b>Byron</b> or <b>Shakespeare</b> .	Allusion	12
Singing of the <b>sirens</b> .	Allusion	13
He was <b>afraid</b> to ask himself which were greater, his debts or his asset.	Irony	14
I <b>renounce</b> the two millions.	Irony	15
I'll <b>bet</b> you two millions you wouldn't stay in solitary confinement for five years.	Irony	16
<b>Beauties</b> as ethereal as clouds.	Metonymy	17
Even when he had lost heavily on the <b>Stock Exchange</b> .	Metonymy	18
To me two millions are a trifle, <b>but</b> you are losing three or four of the best years of your life.	Parallelism	19
I have <b>climbed</b> to the peaks of Elburz and Mont Blanc.	Synecdoche	20
The rusty lock gave a <b>grating</b> sound and the door <b>creaked</b> .	Onomatopoeia	21
The sounds of the <b>piano</b> could be heard continually day and night from his lodge.	Symbol	22
And on his part simple <b>greed</b> for money.	Symbol	23
Your <b>books</b> gave me wisdom.	Symbol	24

In the short story *The Bet* by Anton Chekhov, there are many types of figurative language, including: simile 6 data as much as 25%, Personification 2 data as much as 8.333%, Metaphor 3 data as much as 12.5%, Allusion 2 data as much as 8.333%, Irony 3 data as much as 12.5%, Metonymy 2 data as much as 8.333%, Parallelism 1 data as much as 4.167%, Synecdoche 1 data as much as 4.167%, Onomatopoeia 1 data as much as 4.167%, Symbol 3 data as much as 12.5%.

### 1. Simile

Simile is an indirect figurative language, meaning that something that is compared uses a lot of comparative connective words that refer to similarities. Meaning that a simile is a figurative language that compares two different things that have connective words used as comparisons including "like" or "as" on (Keraf, 2010: 138).

Example:

"It is all worthless, fleeting, illusory, and deceptive, **like** a mirage."

This sentence is simile because there is the word "like" to compare two different things, that is, people and their lives to mirages.

### 2. Personification

Personification is a figurative language style of describing inanimate objects as if they are alive or have human-like characteristics that act, do, and speak in general (Keraf, 2010: 140).

Example:

"A damp cutting wind was racing about the garden, **howling** and giving the trees no rest"

This sentence is personification because the roaring wind or noisy wind in the garden, as if

the wind has the nature of a “noisy” human, describes the banker's restless mind.

### 3. Metaphor

Metaphor is a direct figurative language that does not use connective words (such as “like” or “so”) in comparing two different things. In this case, the connecting word or group of words used is not with the actual meaning (Keraf, 2010: 139).

For example;

“He was a **skeleton**, with the skin drawn tight over his bones.”

This sentence is metaphor because the man is likened to an emaciated and sickly skeleton whose “skin clings tightly to the bones.” The description of the man (the lawyer) is strange and horrifying.

### 4. Allusion

Allusion is figurative language that refers indirectly to a character, place, or event as a reference in real life, mythology, or literary works (Keraf, 2010: 141). This means that it is a figure of speech that compares by using proverbs or words whose meanings are already known to the general public.

Example:

“Singing of the **sirens**”

This sentence is Allusion because using the word “siren,” which means that sirens were Greek and Roman mythological creatures described as half-women and half birds who drew humans to them through their singing.

### 5. Irony

Irony is a figurative language that contains words in the form of sarcastic statements that mean something other than what they mean. As figurative language, irony is a reference that wants to state something with a different meaning from what is contained in the series of words (Keraf, 2010: 143).

Irony is divided into 3 types:

- Verbal Irony: Verbal irony is defined as the opposite of what is said or what is meant.
- Situational irony: happens when there is a discrepancy between what is expected and what actually occurs.
- Dramatic irony: occurs when the audience understands more than the character.

Example:

“I'll **bet** you two millions you wouldn't stay in solitary confinement for five years”.

This sentence is verbal irony because the banker's words are opposite of what is actually meant. The banker wants to bet 2 million dollars on the lawyer to be imprisoned or isolated for 15 years, but in fact, he doesn't want to lose his money.

### 6. Metonymy

Metonymy is a figurative language that uses a word to state something else, because it has a very close relationship close (Keraf, 2010:142). In other words, metonymy is the use of another word (usually a brand label) that has other characteristics, attributes, or attachments.

Example:

“At no other time, even when he had lost heavily on the **Stock Exchange**.”

This sentence is metonymy because it contains the word “stock exchange,” which is a trademark that is a center for trading securities such as stocks.

### 7. Parallelism

Keraf (2010: 126) says that parallelism is a kind of figurative language that tries to achieve parallels in the use of words or phrases that occupy the same function in the same grammatical form.

Example:

To me two millions are a **trifle**, but you are losing three or four of the best years of your life. This sentence is parallelism because of the repetition of the words "but" and "five." Here, the lawyer challenges the banker and emphasizes that he can be imprisoned not only for five years but for fifteen years.

### 8. Synecdoche

Synecdoche is a kind of figurative language that uses part of something to express the whole (pars pro toto) or use the whole to state a part (totem pro parte) (Keraf, 2010:142).

Example:

"I have **climbed** to the peaks of Elburz and Mont Blanc."

This sentence is synecdoche because the word "I have" indicates that the lawyer has climbed many mountains.

### 9. Onomatopoeia

According to Chaer (2012), onomatopoeia is a sound imitation that expresses the impression or sound of an object, situation, and action.

Example:

"The rusty lock gave a **grating** sound and the door creaked."

This sentence is Onomatopoeia because it uses the words "groan" and "creaked." Groan describes the sound of a rusty lock, while creak describes the sound of a door.

### 10. Symbol

Symbolic are figurative language that use symbols to express something (Purwandari, 2017).

Example:

"The sounds of the **piano** could be heard continually day and night from his lodge.

This sentence is Symbol because the word "piano" symbolizes the silence experienced by a banker. The sound of the piano can at least overcome the silence faced by lawyers while in prison.

Table 2. Meaning of Figurative Language

Sentences	Meaning of figurative language	Data
He was a skeleton with the skin drawn tight over his bones, with <b>long</b> curls like a woman's.	Conceptual	1
The rusty lock gave a grating <b>sound</b> and the door creaked.	Conceptual	2
He would ask for <b>Byron</b> or <b>Shakespeare</b> .	Conceptual	3
Singing of the <b>sirens</b> .	Conceptual	4
I have <b>climbed</b> to the peaks of Elburz and Mont Blanc.	Conceptual	5
<b>Roses</b> began to smell like a sweating horse.	Connotative	6
As though you were no more than <b>mice</b> burrowing under the floor.	Connotative	7
I shall look at him with envy like a <b>beggar</b> .	Connotative	8
<b>Beauties</b> as ethereal as clouds.	Connotative	9

A damp cutting wind was racing about the garden, <b>howling</b> and giving the trees no rest.	Connotative	10
He was a <b>skeleton</b> with the skin drawn tight over his bones.	Connotative	11
His face was <b>yellow</b> with an earthy tint in it.	Connotative	12
<b>Beauties</b> as ethereal as clouds.	Connotative	13
And on his part simple <b>greed</b> for money.	Connotative	14
His <b>reading</b> suggested a man swimming in the sea among the wreckage of his ship, and trying to save his life.	Reflected	15
I renounce the <b>two millions</b> of which I once dreamed as of paradise and which now I despise.	Reflected	16
To me two millions are a <b>trifle</b> .	Social	17
It is all <b>worthless</b> , fleeting, illusory, and deceptive, like a mirage.	Affective	18
Wine, he wrote, excites the <b>desires</b> , and desires are the worst foes of the prisoner.	Affective	19
He was <b>afraid</b> to ask himself which were greater, his debts or his assets.	Affective	20
The sounds of the <b>piano</b> could be heard continually day and night from his lodge.	Affective	21
Your books gave me <b>wisdom</b> .	Affective	22
It's <b>not true!</b> "I'll bet you two millions you wouldn't stay in solitary confinement for five years.	Thematic	23
At no other time, even when he had lost heavily on the <b>Stock Exchange</b> .	Thematic	24

In the short story The Bet by Anton Chekhov There are many meanings of figurative language; there are 7 types of meaning among them: Conceptual 5 data as much as 20.833%, Connotative 9 data as much as 37.5%, Reflected 2 data as much as 8.333%, Collocative No data 0%, Social 1 data as much as 4.167%, Affective 5 data as much as 20.833%, Thematic 2 data as much as 8.333%.

### 1. Conceptual

Conceptual meaning, which emphasizes logical meaning. It is sometimes called 'denotative' or 'cognitive' meaning. Although there may be differences in the conceptual meaning of each language user, in this study, it is assumed that the conceptual meaning is the meaning written in the dictionary.

Example:

"He was a skeleton with the skin drawn tight over his bones, with **long curls** like a woman's."

This shows that the Conceptual meaning of because her hair is long is the real meaning because long hair is synonymous with women.

## 2. Connotative

Connotative meaning is the communicative value of an expression according to what it refers to. The word 'women' in its conceptual meaning only means: human, not male, and adult. However, in the connotative meaning, there are additional characteristics that are referred to, whether physical, psychological, or social characteristics.

Example:

“If **roses** began to smell like a sweating horse.”

This shows a negative connotative meaning because roses usually give off a fragrant smell, but in this sentence, it shows a bad smell like horse sweat.

## 3. Reflected

Reflected meaning is the meaning that appears to the speaker when responding to what he sees. For example:

“I renounce the two millions of which I once dreamed as of paradise and which now I despise.”

This sentence shows a reflected meaning because he is willing to leave the two million dollars for “paradise” because he thinks money is not everything and cannot be owned forever.

## 4. Collocative

Collocative meaning is a meaning that contains associations obtained by a word, which is caused by the meaning of words that tend to appear in their environment. Meaning related to the use of several words in the same environment. For example, fish, vegetables, tomatoes, oil, salt, eggs, and chili are included in the kitchen environment.

- No data

## 5. Social

Social meaning is what a language conveys about the social environment of its users. Social meaning concerns the style of word choice in relation to social differences and fields of activity in society.

Example:

“To me two millions are a **trifle**”

This sentence shows a social meaning where two million, according to him, is very trivial or not important. He said this to a young lawyer, meaning he (the banker) is arrogant and feels he has a lot of money compared to lawyers.

## 6. Affective

Affective meaning is meaning that reflects the speaker's personal feelings, including his

attitude towards the listener or his attitude towards something that is said.

Example:

“Your books gave me **wisdom.**”

This sentence shows affective meaning because the word wisdom means that he feels he has more knowledge than everyone else. It shows an arrogant attitude.

## 7. Thematic

Thematic meaning is the last type of meaning that is communicated according to the way the speaker or writer organizes the message in terms of order, focus, and emphasis.

Example:

“At no other time, even when he had lost heavily on the **Stock Exchange.**”

This sentence has a thematic meaning because the sentence “Stock Exchange” shows the emphasis of the word with capital letters on the two words. The meaning of stock exchange is that the banker lost on the stock exchange and suffered a loss.

Based on analysis, the researcher found several types of figurative language in the short story “The Bet”. This study uses keraf’s theory that there are 16 types of figurative language, but this study only found 10 types of figurative language in this short story. There are simile, personification, metaphor, allusion, irony, metonymy, parallelism, synecdoche, onomatopoeia, and symbol. Researchers also found meaning of the figurative language, using leech theory that are 7 types of meaning but the results only found 6 used in the short story. There are connotative meaning, reflected meaning, affective meaning, social meaning, conceptual meaning, collocative meaning and thematic meaning. This finding is similar to those found in earlier studies (Halim et al., 2023; Warsidi et al., 2023)

Simile is the most widely used type of figurative language in this short story, which is 6 data points. Simile is widely used in this story because it is intended to pique the reader's imagination and give concrete images so that the reader enters the story. And the least used types of figurative language are parallelism, synecdoche, and onomatopoeia. As for the type of meaning that is most widely used, it is connotative as much as 9 data because it is to beautify or refine a speech and can also evoke certain emotions or feelings in the reader. The least used type of meaning is collocative meaning, which is 0 data, meaning that there is no data found in this short story.

The use of figurative language in this short story convey emotions well through beautiful writing. The results of this study are expected to be useful for enriching knowledge and learning, especially in the world literature. In addition, this research it expected to study literature, especially figurative language, which is usually found in many literary works such as poetry, novels, film, and short stories, can provide benefits to readers.

## CONCLUSION

Based on data analysis results, there are several types of figurative language in the short story "The Bet," The analysis showed 16 types of figurative language, but in this short story 10 are found including: simile there are 6 data, personification there are 2 data, metaphor there are 3 data, Allusion has 2 data, irony has 3 data, metonymy has 2 data, parallelism has 1 data, synecdoche has 1 data, onomatopoeia has 1 data, and symbol has 3 data. While for the meaning of figurative language. The analysis showed 7 types of figurative language meanings, but in this short story only 6 used, namely: conceptual meaning 5 data, connotative 49 meaning 9 data, reflective meaning 2 data, collocate meaning no data, social meaning 1 data, affective meaning 5 data, and thematic meaning of 2 data. Overall, the use of figurative language in this short story can convey the meaning of the sentence in a beautiful way, and it can add new vocabulary that was previously not understood.

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