

Figurative Language in Selected Poem of Louise Gluck

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Abstract: The research aims to figure out what kind of figurative language is contained in Louise Gluck chosen poem and to find out the meaning of Louise Gluck chosen poem. The method used in this study is a qualitative descriptive method. The data source of this research is a selected poem by Louise Gluck, then analyzed using the theory by Keraf. The results of research conducted on two selected poems by Louise Gluck entitled Crossroads and Sunset, the researchers found that there were 16 figurative languages. This finding is of course based on the scope of the research which only analyzes 5 figurative languages, namely: simile, metaphor, hyperbole, personification and synecdoche. Then based on the meaning using denotative and connotative theory, the researcher found 7 lines containing denotative meaning and 13 lines containing connotative meaning.

Keywords: Connotative and Denotative, Hyperbole Metaphor, Personification, Simile, Synecdoche

INTRODUCTION

A Poet may make two kind statement; literal and figurative. The next examples are literal statement which means exactly what the word say: "I am sick", the sky is cloudy," and Lompo Battang is a mountain". Figurative statements, in contrast, always have different meaning from the literal one. A man may say: "I am heartsick", How is it that clouds still hang on you?", and I have mountains of work". The figurative statement meaning: "I am sad," How is it that you are still sad?', and I have lots of work". Based on the explanation above, in the following the researcher will describe several opinions regarding the definition of figurative language, Hardcastle & Beck (2014) explained that figurative language is a departure from ordinary form of expression or the ordinary course of ideas in order to produce a greater effect. A single word or phrase used as part of figurative language or rhetoric is known as a figure of speech. It might be a unique arrangement, repetition, or omission of words with literal meaning, or it could be a phrase with a specialized meaning that is not dependent on the literal meaning of the words. Dancygier & Sweetser (2014) stated that to confirmed that Figures of speech often provide emphasis, freshness of expression, or clarity. However, using them may also compromise clarity since each figure of speech provides a grey area between literal and figurative interpretation. Another definition about figurative language figurative language is a phrase or word having different meanings than its literal meanings (Agustina & Prabawa (2017). it transmits meaning by comparing or associating one object with another that has significance or connotation recognizable to the viewer. That is why it is helpful in creating vivid rhetorical effect.



Figurative language is one of the language processing techniques to produce imaginative and expressive literary works. According to Nurgiyantoro (2014) figurative language is a form of language use whose meaning deviates from the usual usage, standard, or word order that aims to obtain aesthetic or aesthetic effects. Figurative language is also used as a medium for conveying thoughts and feelings both orally and in writing in a literary work. A literary work is said to be good if it has a lot of figurative language. Based on opinion by Syaifuddin (2018) the figurative language used by the author to animate or express feelings, because words alone have not clearly explained the painting. Thus, literary works become more alive and avoid monotonous things that can make readers bored.

According to Tarigan (2009) Figurative language in literary works is a form of expression of thoughts, ideas, responses, and feelings in interesting language so as to create the uniqueness of a work. In addition, the use of figurative language is used to describe life by using a choice of words that have connotative meanings, so that it looks diverse and aesthetic in it. One form of literature that uses figurative language is poem. Poem is a literary work that uses beautiful and meaningful language. The language used in poem is different from short stories, novels, and dramas. The difference lies in the density of word composition. The words contained in poem cannot be freely used to express their true meaning. Furthermore Pradopo (2012) stated that poem expresses thoughts that involve feelings and stimulates the imagination of the five senses in a rhythmic arrangement. In literary works, poem prioritizes beauty in language rather than other literary works. Poem is also a form of literary work that is bound by rhythm or number of lines and is characterized by dense language. These are all very important things, which are recorded and expressed in an interesting and impressive way.

Based on the above opinion, it can be concluded that figurative language has an important role in the formation of a literary work, especially poetry. This has sparked interest in researchers to explore the figurative language found in two selected poems by Louise Gluck. The first poem is entitled Crossroads The second poem is entitled Sunset. The reason researcher is interested in examining the two poems by Louise Gluck is because the first, Louise Gluck is the winner of the 2020 Nobel Prize in Literature. Of course, her poems are very interesting to study because they have won awards. Meanwhile, according to the researcher initial observations, the figurative language used in this poem has its own peculiarities. Second, figurative language in this poem is used as a medium to convey ideas and feelings felt by the author, and thirdly, figurative language is used as a medium of indirect communication to writers and readers.

The researcher chose from Louise Gluck's work as the object of research because

Louise Gluck is a poet who is consistent with the theme of her work, she is also a poet who has extensive knowledge, this can be reflected in her work, broad knowledge can make poetry more varied. This knowledge can be obtained from educational background, life experience or work. The two poems by Louise Gluck such as Crossroads and Sunset to investigated using Figurative language (Gorys Keraf, 2009). The objectives of this research are: (1) Identify type figurative language is contained in the chosen poem of Louise Gluck, (2) to know the meaning contained in the poem selected by Louise Gluck.

METHOD

The researcher used a qualitative descriptive method because the purpose of this study was to reveal facts, phenomena, and circumstances that occurred during the research. According to (Mukhtar, 2013) descriptive qualitative research method is a method used by researchers to find knowledge or theory of research at a certain time. Thus, it can be said that descriptive research is a study that can describe an event, a phenomenon that occurs. This method is divided into three stages of data collection, data analysis stage, and data presentation stage.

This study uses primary data and supporting data. Primary data in the form of poetry text Louise Gluck as the object of research. Supporting data such as journals, previous research and theories related to research. Collecting data is the most strategic step in research; 1. Observation, According to Zaemakhrus (2010) observation is an activity, observing, understanding, feeling phenomena based on previous knowledge to obtain various information to continue a research. 2. Download of selected poem. 3. After making observations, the researcher downloaded two of Louis Gluck's selected poems. 4. Analysis,

In general, analysis is a series of activities such as selecting and distinguishing something to be reclassified according to certain criteria and then interpreted its meaning. The data analysis is collected though the above procedure; Data Collection; An attempt by researchers to obtain relevant data. The relevant data in this study is data that shows the type of figurative language and meaning in Louise Gluck's poem. Data Identification; After data collection, the next step is data identification. Data identification is the process of searching, finding, collecting and recording the data needed in research.

After getting the data needed, the next step is to present the data. Presenting data is the activity of compiling raw data that is submitted in a more orderly manner so that it is easy to understand and analyse. After presenting the data, the researcher draws conclusions from the existing data

RESULTS & DISCUSSION

After collecting and analyzing the data, the researcher then felt the need to discuss several things further. That is about the characteristics of the figurative language used by Louise Gluck in her poems, especially in the two selected poems *Crossroads* and *Sunset*, and its relation to the message to be conveyed. By discussing this further, researchers and readers of this study will gain a wider and open understanding of Louise Gluck's poems.

As we know, Louise Gluck, the American writer, is the winner of the 2020 Nobel Prize in Literature. Of course, this award is not necessarily given without the qualities and characteristics of her poems that distinguish her from other writers. This is evident from the research findings obtained by researchers.

Of the two selected poems studied, Louise Gluck did not use excessive language style. Even the style of language used tends to be simple and raises themes around human personal life, such as fear, loss, death, and suffering. This can be seen in the poem *Crossroads* which describes a situation between life and death;

*“My body, now that we will not be traveling together much longer
I begin to feel a new tenderness toward you, very raw and unfamiliar,
like what I remember of love when I was young—“*

The lyrics describe that now he will soon be separated from this world. What's interesting is, I use simile figurative language, which compares what he feels now to what he felt when he fell in love when he was young. From this the question arises, what do the two conditions have in common so that they present the same feeling? Is the feeling of wanting to die the same as the feeling of love in youth? Then, the researchers tried to draw a common thread from the two situations which did have similarities. If we try to feel again the feeling that was there when we first met love in youth, of course we will understand where the similarities lie. The love you feel when you are young is pure, innocent, full of sincerity. This is certainly the same as how I felt the lyrics to the poem *Crossroads*.

In the poem *Crossroads*, we can also understand that the purity of the feeling of wanting to die is when the attachment to the world is no longer there. This is conveyed by the author in the last stanza to close the poem;

*It is not the earth i will miss,
It is you I will miss.*

Everything about the world, in the form of wealth, position, beauty / good looks, all of that is no longer meaningful in the face of death. And there is no more pure and tender feeling than acceptance and acceptance of the intersection between life and death. Such values are generally what Louise Gluck seems to want to convey in her poem anthology A

Village Life, which is seen in the poems Crossroads and Sunset.

When the researcher finished analyzing the Sunset poem, the same thing also colored the figurative language used, so simple and full of tenderness. In general, this sunset poem wants to convey the message that often in this life humans make damage on earth. We can see this in the first stanza;

*“At the same time as the sun’s setting,
a farm worker’s burning dead leaves”*

The author uses the synecdoche figure of speech 'farm workers' to represent humans as a whole, of course it has a specific purpose. That is because the profession of farmers tends to be closer to nature. And what the author wants to describe is about the destruction of nature. We can see this in the use of personification figure of speech in the word dead leaves. The word leaves refers to plants, plants are part of nature. Using the word dead to describe natural conditions, means that natural damage will have a bad impact on human life. That is, humans destroy nature, and damaged nature will also cause suffering to humans.

Then, the interesting thing is the use of hyperbole figurative language in the third stanza;

*Still, when it blazes up, the farm worker disappears;
from the road, he's invisible*

The researcher considers the use of figurative language hyperbole in the word disappears to describe farmers who leave when the flames are high, aiming to describe irresponsible human behavior due to the damage caused. This is indeed in line with the number of illegal forest land clearing that is rife today. And to facilitate land clearing, these irresponsible elements usually use a fast method, namely forest burning. Which makes the animals homeless, and humans lose their oxygen supply. I think that's what Louise Gluck was trying to convey in her poem.

*Compared to the sun, all the fires here
are short-lived, amateurish—
they end when the leaves are gone.
Then the farm worker reappears, raking the ashes*

In the verse above the author compares fire and the sun which both cause heat. The author describes that, the heat of the fire ends faster than the sun. Because the fire will go out when the leaves run out. Then the farmer who had previously left, returned again to pile up the results of the burning. From this description, the researcher finds the author's intention, namely the author wants to convey that natural resources will run out. And in the end people will feel troubled due to their own actions. Researchers found that Louise Gluck often uses reflections of the universe to describe how she feels personally. Louise Gluck manages to describe her feelings without focusing on her alone.

But the death is real

Of the two poems studied, Louise Gluck raised themes around death, or things related to the road to death. This seems to be based on Louise Gluck's personal condition. When you look at the year this poem was written, which is 2009, it means that at that time Louise Gluck, who was born in 1943, was already 66 years old. So it is natural that Louise Gluck's poems are themed around remembering death.

This is what seems to have earned Louise Gluck the Nobel Prize in Literature. Louise Gluck's style of language was simple, but it couldn't be said to be mediocre either. He doesn't use a lot of complicated dictions so it's hard to find the meaning, but it can't be said that the diction used is ordinary. Louise Gluck succeeded in making her poem easy for ordinary people to understand, namely those who do not really understand poem theory, but also able to attract the attention of literary observers to seek the depth of the meaning of her poem.

The power of language in the characteristics of the figurative language used by in her poetry, Louise Gluck uses a system of traditional spoken or written symbols that members of a common culture use to communicate with one another. Language is essential for human interaction, communication, and information gathering. The findings of research have similarities with the definition of the figurative by Wren and Martin, which explain to figurative of language is a departure from the ordinary form of expression or the ordinary course of ideas in order to produce a greater effect (Wren & Martin, 1981). Figures of language are critical for both the audience to comprehend a song's meaning and the poet's ability to communicate their thoughts, feelings, and emotions. Without them, the poet would find it challenging to convey these things. Then, when conducting research, researcher encountered several obstacles. This causes there are weaknesses in this study. First, in terms of figurative language theory, the researcher only uses five figurative language theories (simile, metaphor, personification, hyperbole, synecdoche). This makes the writer feel limited in exploring more deeply Louise Gluck's poems. Second, in terms of the theory of meaning, researchers use denotative and connotative theories which make it difficult for researchers to find denotative meanings, because the meaning of poem language tends to use connotative language, that is, it does not reveal its true meaning. However, from the existing obstacles, researchers can use it as a lesson for the future.

Table 1. Figurative language found in Louise Gluck selected poems

Poem	Figurative language	Quantity	Percentage
1 Crossroads (P1)	Simile	2	2%
		-	-
	Hyperbole	2	2%
	Personification	1	1%
	Synecdoche	2	2%
2 Sunset (P2)	Simile	4	4%
	Metaphor	1	1%
	Hyperbole	1	1%
	Personification	2	2%
	Synecdoche	1	1%
Total		16	100%

Table 2. Meaning of selected poem from Louise Gluck

No	Poem	Meaning	Quantity	Percentage
1 Crossroads (P1)		Denotative	4	20%
		Connotative	5	25%
2 Sunset (P2)		Denotative	3	15%
		Connotative	8	40%
Total			20	100%

CONCLUSION

Based on the results of the analysis in this study, which has been described by the researcher who discusses the figurative language of the poem of Louise Gluck's choice using the keraf theory. In this study, the researchers concluded that (1) The figurative language used by Louise Guck in the poems chosen by Crossroads and Sunset is simile, which is a figurative language that indirectly compares two objects, using the words as, like, and as thought. (2) In the two selected poems studied by Louise Guck, they use more connotative meanings than denotative meanings. (3) From the two poems studied, the researcher found that the main theme that Louise Gluck always raised in her poem was death and the environment. He also uses reflections of the universe to describe his personal feelings. (4) The style of language used by Louise Gluck is simple, but it can't be said to be mediocre either. He doesn't use a lot of complicated dictions so it's hard to find the meaning, but it can't be said that the diction used is ordinary. Louise Gluck succeeded in making her poem easy for ordinary people to understand, namely those who do not really understand poem theory, but also able to attract the attention of literary observers to seek the depth of the meaning of her poem.

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