

FIGURE OF SPEECH: ITS ROLE IN LITERARY WORKS

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ABSTRACT

This study aims at analysing the role of figure of speech and its meaning in literary works. The use of figure of speech in literary works is not only to create layers of meaning but also sense of beauty, complexity, power, etc. Figure of speech, among others, metaphor, simile, personification, hyperbole refer to a group of words that deviate from literal interpretation that must be taken in a non literal sense or figurative way in order to understand the meaning. This study is a descriptive qualitative research in the semantic field which uses a short story in Balinese Language Da Nakonang Adan Tiyanage 'Jangan Tanya Namaku' as the data source. The descriptive qualitative method will be applied in data collection, data analysis, and analysis presentation. The theory of meaning entitled Semantic: The Study of Meaning proposed by Geoffrey Leech will be used as the main theory for the needs of data analysis. The result of the study will be expected to be useful either in realizing the important role in using figure of speech in literary works and how its meanings are interpreted.

Keywords: *figure of speech, meaning, literary works*

INTRODUCTION

Language is a system of sign which belongs to the most important tools for human beings to communicate. Human beings use languages to express either their ideas, thoughts, opinions, or to deliver messages and even statements. Wardhaugh (2002: 2) defines language to be a knowledge of rules and principles and of the ways of saying and doing things with sounds, words, and sentences rather than just knowledge of specific sounds, words, and sentences. Hill (1958:9) states language is the primary and most highly elaborated form of human symbolic activity. Its symbols are made up of sounds produced by the vocal apparatus, and they are arranged in classes and patterns which make up a complex and symmetrical structure. The entities of language are symbols, that is, they have meaning, but the connection between symbol and thing is arbitrary and socially controlled.

Language is generally divided into two categories in terms of its meaning: conceptual or denotative/cognitive meaning (Leech, 1981:9) and connotative or literal and nonliteral/figurative meanings. Literal meaning based on the real definition of words or phrases. Non literal or figurative meaning, on the other hand, refers to implied meanings, which can be understood differently depending on the place or setting and the person who uses it. The following two examples will differentiate the meaning of the word blue respectively. In the sentence **The sky is blue**, the word blue refers to the literal meaning or dictionary meaning in which blue here is the colour of the sky. Meanwhile in the expression **Once in a blue moon**, the word blue is not the modifier of the noun moon. The word blue here relies on the figurative meaning in which the meaning of that expression is "very seldom". Based on the two examples it can be determined that figures of speech rely on the use of figurative language for their meaning.

This paper focuses on the use of figures of speech or figurative language as a literary device in a literary work. Figures of speech function as literary devices because of their expressive use of language. As a literary device, figures of speech develop or improve the meaning of a word whether it is used in written or spoken language. In spoken language or oral communication, figures of speech can clarify, enhance description, and create interesting use of language. In written language or writing, figures of speech have the possibility to improve the writer's ability for description and expression so that readers have a better understanding of what is being conveyed.

It is understood that one function of a literary work is to entertain readers and that is the reason the use of figurative language which contains non literal meaning is a must. It is clearly stated that figures and symbols are images used in a particular way to explore the less known through the known (Knickerbocker, 1963).

Therefore it can be concluded that figures of speech or figurative language which refers to language style is a way of describing something through a beautiful language for the purpose of increasing the effect by introducing and comparing the way of a particular object or thing with objects or anything else that is more common.

RESEARCH METHOD

This is a qualitative research which applied an observation method and note-taking technique in collecting data, a descriptive method in analyzing and presenting data. The data source of this research is a Balinese short story entitled *Da Nakonang Adan Tiyange 'Jangan Tanya Namaku' 'Do Not Ask My Name'*. The procedures applied are first eliciting a number of short stories in Balinese Language in order to find the use of figure of speech. Second, determining one short story as the data source. Third, reading the short story repeatedly, underline the figure of speech, and followed by the procedure of note-taking. Then it is continued with the process of classifying the data to find types of figure of speech used in the data source. Next, the classified data was analysed qualitatively based on the theory of meaning proposed by Leech and two other supporting theories. The last step in the research method is presenting the result of the analysis descriptively.

The main theory is the theory of meaning proposed by Leech for analyzing the meaning of figures of speech found in the data. Leech divides seven types of meaning and one of those seven is connotative meaning which can be equalized to non literal or figurative meaning. According to Leech (1981:12-13), connotative meaning is the communicative value an expression has by virtue of what it refers to, over and above its purely conceptual content. Connotative meaning is peripheral compared with conceptual meaning is that connotations are relatively unstable: that is, they vary considerably, according to the culture, historical period, and the experience of the individual. Connotative meaning is indeterminate and open-ended. Based on Leech's understanding of connotative or nonliteral meaning the analysis of implicit or implied meanings in the types of figures of speech found in the data can be analysed correctly. The supporting theories are theory of interpreting literature from Knickerbocker (1963) and theory of figurative language from Mezo (1999). Theory of interpreting literature from Knickerbocker (1963) is used for interpreting the meaning of each type of figure of speech in the data which can be related to the culture where the setting of the story happened. Knickerbocker (1963:282-284) states that figures and symbols are images used in a particular way to explore the less known through the known. Figurative language is sometimes called metaphorical language or simply metaphor which means to carry meaning from the literal to the figurative level. A symbol is something used to stand for, to represent another thing. A lion stands for strength and courage, a lamb stands for gentleness, a burning torch held aloft stands for liberty. Theory of figurative language from Mezo (1999) is used for determining and classifying the type of figures of speech. Mezzo (1999:7) in his handbook states that figurative language is different from literal language and must be read somewhat differently. Mezzo (1999: 9-10) states that there are seven in the common type of figures of speech which also divided into three groups or classes respectively: types of figurative comparison (simile, metaphor, and personification); types of figurative substitution (metonymy and synecdoche); and types of exaggeration (hyperbole and litotes).

ANALYSIS

Figures of speech is a literary device used in literary works. This part presents the analysis of three types of figures of speech (simile, personification, and euphemism) found in the data source and their role or function in literary works. Detail of analysis applies theory of meaning which states that connotative meaning is the communicative value an expression has by virtue of what it refers to, over and above its purely conceptual content (Leech, 1981: 12).

Data 1-5 are classified to simile which is a stated comparison, introduced by like or as (Knickerbocker, 1963:283) and Mezo (1999) also states that simile is a comparison between two different things using the word like or as.

NO	DATA
1	..., <i>tiang seken-seken maan nlektekang <u>adeg goler nyempaka</u>, <u>betekan batis mulus</u> <u>mamudak</u>, ...</i>
2	..., <i>liat ludru manis bibih cara <u>delima engkag</u>, <u>cunguh manohara</u>, <u>bokne sada kriting demdem</u>, <u>gigine putih kedas cara mutiara matata apik</u>.</i> <i>Cara sikep nyander, <u>jrijine mamiu gancan ento</u> janguak tiang.</i>
3	<i><u>Membah cara blabus kapat yeh paningalanne nuut pipinne ane masemu barak nguda.</u></i>
4	<i><u>Bulane masunaran nayuhin.</u> <u>Peningalanne ane waluya bintang sing ngedas lemahang</u>, ane dikenkene ngintip nyledetin tiang.</i>
5	<i><u>Jrijine ane lanjar cara bulun landak</u> ento enu gisiang tiang.</i>

Data (1) ..., *tiang seken-seken maan nlektekang adeg goler nyempaka, betekan batis mulus mamudak, ...*, uses simile figures of speech which can be seen from the following two phrases... (a) adeg goler nyempaka... 'body shape is compared to cempaka flower' and (b) ...betekan batis mulus mamudak, ..., 'the condition and the legs skin colour are compared to coconut flower'. The first phrase (a) adeg goler nyempaka refers to the body shape of the female main character in the story. Her body shape is compared to the shape of a cempaka flower. Balinese consider the shape of a cempaka flower to be proportional or perfect. Furthermore, in Balinese culture cempaka flower has an important role because it is always needed. The second phrase (b) betekan batis mulus mamudak refers to the condition of her legs which are healthy, clean, bright, and have very nice colour. The writer prefers to use figures of speech although it is quite possible to present the picture or image of proportional body shape and nice skin colour in words which have literal meaning. However as a literary work the writer wants his/her work interesting and entertaining readers. The writer realizes that the use of figures of speech has its important roles as stated by Knickerbocker (1963:282-284) that figures and symbols are images used in a particular way to explore the less known through the known. Figurative language is sometimes called metaphorical language or simply metaphor which means to carry meaning from the literal to the figurative level.

Data (5) Jrijine ane lanjar cara bulun landak ento enu gisiang tiang also uses figures of speech which are applied in the first half of the sentence Jrijine ane lanjar cara bulun landak.... This clause refers to the finger shape compared to one animal's fur called landak. The writer compares the finger shape of the female main character as slim and straight exactly as landak's fur so that readers will have pictures or images of how beautiful her finger shape is. This condition will also entertain readers. The use of figures of speech instead of words with literal meaning absolutely refers to the role of figures of speech itself. Its role as a literary device is to give colour to the literary work. If we pay attention in the way the writers applying figures of speech in the two data (1 and 5) analysed above we can see that the first data (1) applies the process of word form or morphological process (*cempaka nyempaka; pudak mamudak*). However, the second data (5) uses the word *cara* which means like or as.

Data 6-11 are classified using personification figures of speech. According to Knickerbocker (1963: 283) personification is giving human characteristics to an object, animal, or an abstract idea. Personification is a metaphor, of course, in the sense that there is an implied comparison between a non-human thing and a human being. Mezo (1999: 9) states that personification is a comparison of something not human (abstract or concrete) to human being. It gives something non-human the characteristics or attributes of a human.

NO	DATA
6	<i><u>Kerugan ombake cara gegitan sekaa shanti</u> ngidungang wirama Bhasantatilaka.</i>
7	<i><u>Sinaran bulane ane aparo nuju pangelong</u>, <u>rasa nyaputin ukudane</u>, <u>nudupang apan leplep dipaipian</u>.</i> <i><u>Ombake putih-putih majejer goler cara janger mangigel</u>.</i>
8	..., <i>ane kahayonne uli ngawit suba ngulgul nalaning tuas, misbis ulunati. <u>Bulane aparo nuju</u></i>
9	<i><u>pangelong</u>, <u>ane sedekan ngambara di langite nyinarang kaulangunan ngetisin jenyana</u>.</i>
10	<i><u>Kuusan munyin mesin kapale ane monotone</u>, <u>tusing ngulgul leplep sirep panumpange</u>.</i>

Data (6) Kerugan ombake cara gegitan sekaa shanti ngidungang wirama Bhasantatilaka. It applies personification figures of speech. Personification in this data is giving human characteristics to an object that is the wave sound which can be classified abstract. The wave sound (*kerugan ombake*) is personified as a group of choir (*sekaa shanti*) which sings a typical spiritual hymn (*wirama*) entitled

Bhasantatilaka. One of human characteristics is to communicate which can be delivered through spoken (sing songs, deliver speech, make a phone call, etc.) or written language (write a report, an essay, etc.) In this data human characteristic is delivered through spoken language in which the object (abstract), the wave sound which can be heard like a choir singing a spiritual balinese (Hindu) hymn entitled *Bhasantatilaka*. The writer prefers to use figures of speech although it is not impossible to present the picture or image of wave sound in words which have literal meaning. However as a literary work the writer wants his/her work interesting and entertaining readers. It gives a strong impression by saying that something which is non-human can do exactly the same thing as humans can do. In this data it says that the wave sound is assumed singing a spiritual hymn and can be heard as if human beings do it. The writer realizes that the use of figures of speech has its important roles as stated by Knickerbocker (1963:282-284) that figures and symbols are images used in a particular way to explore the less known through the known. Figurative language is sometimes called metaphorical language or simply metaphor which means to carry meaning from the literal to the figurative level.

Data (8) *Ombake putih-putih majejer goler cara janger mangigel*. It applies personification figures of speech. Personification in this data is giving human characteristic to an object that is the white waves in rows harmoniously (*Ombake putih-putih majejer goler*). The white waves in rows harmoniously have the implied comparison with one of human characteristics, that is to perform a dance (*cara janger mangigel*) 'as janger dance on performance or on the show.' The writer prefers to use figures of speech although it is quite possible to present the picture or image of white wave in rows in words which is very concrete and does not imply meaning which is rather difficult to understand. However as a literary work the writer wants his/her work interesting and entertaining readers. The writer realizes that the use of figures of speech has its important roles as stated by Knickerbocker (1963:282-284) that figures and symbols are images used in a particular way to explore the less known through the known. Figurative language is sometimes called metaphorical language or simply metaphor which means to carry meaning from the literal to the figurative level.

Data 11-15 are classified as hyperbole. According to Knickerbocker (1963:284) hyperbole is an exaggeration used for special effect. For example 'Go and catch a falling star.' Mezo (1999: 10) states that hyperbole is an overstatement of the literal – an exaggeration. Other understanding of hyperbole is a figure of speech that utilizes extreme exaggeration to emphasize a certain quality or feature.

NO	DATA
11	<i>"Tan pasangkan, petenge ene, di tongose <u>sepi jampi</u>, di tengah <u>pasihe linggah</u>, tiang macunduk ngajak anak wikan ane prasida ngabag isin kenah. Tunangan tiange mrarakang duhkita di ukudan tiange, <u>nues ulunatin tiange</u> baan ngaad, <u>ngetelin baan cuka</u>. <u>Ngaape tan gigisan, sengsarane tan pegatan</u>. Ia nganten ajak timpal tiange akost, nglempasang janji-janjinne ngajakin masesanjan di ambarane nyujur ka suargan.</i>
12	<i>Kapale gangsar tan rerenan, nyibak sayonge nyaputin pasihe. Ambune ba dangin cara langse kabukah baan daa-truna wawu mapawarangan, nywagaten pamedal suryane. ... prajani magejeran ulunatine ulihan tresnane makedapan.</i>
13	<i>Kewala, tresnane jag teka ngulgul turmaning malabuh sid ukudan Dewine.</i>
14	<i>... madasar kenah satulusa lakar mautsaha nandan Dewi nyujur bagiane.</i>
15	<i>... tur unduk katreptian desa palekadan tiange, desa Kintamani, ane dinginne ngutgut tulang</i>

Data (11) *Tan pasangkan, petenge ene, di tongose sepi jampi, di tengah pasihe linggah, tiang macunduk ngajak anak wikan ane prasida ngabag isin kenah. Tunangan tiange mrarakang duhkita di ukudan tiange, nues ulunatin tiange baan ngaad, ngetelin baan cuka. Ngaape tan gigisan, sengsarane tan pegatan. Ia nganten ajak timpal tiange akost, nglempasang janji-janjinne ngajakin masesanjan di ambarane nyujur ka suargan.*

It applies hyperbole figures of speech that utilizes extreme exaggeration to emphasize a certain quality or feature. Hyperbole in this data is an exaggeration used for special effect. *di tongose sepi jampi*, *di tengah pasihe linggah*, *mrarakang duhkita di ukudan tiange*, *nues ulunatin tiange baan ngaad*, *ngetelin baan cuka*. *Ngaape tan gigisan, sengsarane tan pegatan*. The hyperbole figures of speech applied in this data exaggerate the meaning of the literal word in order to get impressive implied meaning. For example *di tongose sepi jampi* 'at a place which is extremely quiet'; *di tengah pasihe linggah* 'in a large ocean'; *mrarakang duhkita di ukudan tiange* 'break the promise'; *nues ulunatin tiange baan ngaad* 'seriously broke my heart.' All of those non literal words which have implied meanings expressed by the

female main character in the story. The writer applied hyperbole figures of speech because of its potential role to make the story interesting, entertaining, vivid, and more colourful. Its role also gives challenges to the readers to grasp the implied meaning conveyed in the figures of speech used. This condition will also improve or expand readers' knowledge in understanding or even using language style.

Data (15) ... *tur unduk katreptian desa palekadan tiange, desa Kintamani, ane dinginne ngutgut tulang*. This sentence expressed by the male main character in the story. The hyperbole figures of speech applied in this data exaggerate the meaning of the literal word in order to understand the implied meaning. For example part of this sentence which says *ane dinginne ngutgut tulang*. The exaggerated meaning in this hyperbole figure of speech derives from the word *dingin* 'cold.' Readers will absolutely understand the meaning of the word *dingin*. However, when it is combined with the words *ngutgut tulang* readers need more knowledge to understand it. Writers used the words *ngutgut tulang* in order to give exaggerative meaning of the word *dingin*. It is quite possible for writers to use *dingin sajan* which means very cold but the writer will not reach what he/she really wants to achieve. One important thing to be achieved by a writer is to gain readers' interest to read his/her work. One among a number of strategies is to use literary devices and one of these is figure of speech. By applying the words *ngutgut tulang* after the word *dingin* in hyperbole figure of speech *dinginne ngutgut tulang* readers will have pictures or image of a village named Kintamani. How cold the temperature is in that village until we cannot stand it which also makes the bones keep rattling or clanging. As what has been stated that hyperbole is an exaggeration used for special effect (Knickerbocker, 1963: 284). Based on this statement it is clear that the special effect needed by the writer in using hyperbole figure of speech is its role or function in order readers in this case will have a real picture of the Kintamani village. Beside the temperature is not only very cold but extremely cold which means that we have to be well prepared facing the exaggerated condition.

CONCLUSION

Based on the analysis of a number of data found in the data source it can be concluded that figures of speech as a literary device has a very important role in literary works in which its basic function always carries meaning from the literal to figurative level. Figures of speech are calculated as needed, when they are required by the context of use. In this research three types of figures of speech are used in this romance short story (simile, personification, and hyperbole). Refers to its role to carry meaning from the literal to figurative level in order to give colour to the literary works through the implied meaning. This condition will make the story more interesting and entertaining because readers will have excellent and challenging pictures in their mind by understanding the role of non literal meaning applied.

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