

CHAPTER I

INTRODUCTION

A. Background of the Study

Language has important role in this life. Language is a tool to convey the ideas, thought, opinion and feeling. This means that human being can live in society because of language, without language human being cannot interact with others. Language is an important thing which is very close to human life since language is used by human to communicate in their daily activities. Language is a vehicle of communication whereby one person convey messages to another for a range of different purposes, e.g., informing, ordering, persuading, reassuring. There is an art in language, and the language removed to be creation and it is known as a literary.

Literature represents a language of people, culture and tradition, but literature is more important than just historical or cultural artifact. Literature introduces us to new world of experience. People learn about books and literature, they enjoy the comedy and tragedy stories and they may even grow through our literary journey with books. Furthermore, literature represents “life” and “life” is in large measure of social reality, even though the natural world and the inner or subjective world of the individual have also been objects of literary imitation.¹

¹Rene Wellek and Austin Warren, *Theory of Literature* (New York: Harcourt Brance and World, 1956), 56.

It means the literary is mirror of life because it is related with social reality. Literature is divided into three major types. These types are prose, drama, and poetry or poems.²

Poem is one of creative forms in literature. Wordsworth stated that poem is the spontaneous overflow of powerful feelings.³ This means poem is the expression of heart voice and strong feeling that is written in beautiful stanza form and expressed with style and motion suitable with the contain so that it is performed and listened beautifully.

Poem does different things for different readers. Some respond with emotion- sadness, joy, love, sorrow, etc. Some respond only with thought, hunting immediately for the “message” or central meaning of the poem. Some prefer the intellectual gamesmanship of ferreting out peripheral meanings and recondite implications. It seems logical to agree at the outset that what a poem does, in the most basic sense, is to say something. That may, at first, sound simplistic, but it is nevertheless probably the best summary of what a poem does. A poet writes a poem because he has something he wants to say, something he wants to put into words. The poet usually writes with a reader in mind, and even Emily Dickinson, who purportedly never wanted anyone to read her curious, brilliant poems, kept them neatly tied in little bundles in her bureau drawer where they were easily “discovered”.⁴

Poem is different from short story or novel, short story or a novel is a literary work in history form, poem is more specific and philosophical than history. Because it usually represents about condition of author’s soul expressed through writing. Poem has many

² (Online) <http://www.ask.com/question/what-are-the-3-major-types-of-literature>, Accessed on 26th June 2014 at 14.00 p.m.

³ John peck and Martin Coyle, *Literary Terms and Criticism*, (London: Macmillan Education LTD, 1984),11.

⁴ Christopher R. Reaske, *The College Writer’s Guide to the Study of Literature* (New York: Random House, Inc., 1970), 5.

elements that can be traced. The elements are classified as intrinsic elements of the poem, they are: theme, taste, tone, mandate, diction, imagination, the central narrative, rhythm, rhyme, and figurative language.⁵

Actually, all poets use figurative language, whether they know it or not, and in order to well, people have to recognize it and be aware of its effects. Most figurative languages have a simple purpose. They are to compare something that people are writing about, into the outside piece of writing: imaginative things.

Figurative language is language which uses figures of speech. This is when the writer describes things through the use of unusual comparisons, for effect, interest, to make things clearer. The result of using this technique is the creation of interesting images.⁶ This means to make the word more beauty the author use figurative language because the function of figurative language are to captivate reader interest and deliver our idea and imagination in more entertaining way.

One of genius poets who used more figurative language in her poems is Emily Dickinson. Emily Elizabeth Dickinson was born in Amherst, Massachusetts, on December 10, 1830, the elder daughter of lawyer Edward Dickinson and Emily Norcross Dickinson. Dickinson was the second of three children, a year younger than her brother, William, and three years older than her sister, Lavinia. She was born in a large house built by her

⁵Widjojoko and Endang Hidayat, *Teori Sejarah dan Sastra Indonesia* (Bandung: UPI Press, 2009), 61.

⁶BBC ,” The use of figurative language”, April 2014, (Online)
http://www.bbc.co.uk/bitesize/standard/english/close_reading_texts/appreciating_writer/revision/2/

grandfather, Samuel Fowler Dickinson; except for absences of about a year for her schooling and seven months in Boston.

Dickinson's sharp perceptions and brilliant inner life arise primarily from her background. Her paternal grandfather, whom she never knew, remained an unseen presence in her family. A Trinitarian deacon educated at Dartmouth College, he became moderately prosperous through his legal practice, investments, and a number of appointive and elective government positions; he was also a visionary. His religious zeal led him to use his entire fortune to found two Trinitarian educational institutions: Amherst Academy (1814) and Amherst College (1821). It was he who built "the homestead" in 1813, the great brick house that defined the daily life of his poet granddaughter. Having spent thousands of dollars in the cause of education, he had become insolvent by early 1833. On May 22, 1833, he was even forced to sell the homestead. He moved to Cincinnati, Ohio, where he did church-related work, then Hudson, Ohio, where he died of pneumonia there at precisely 6:00 p.m. on May 15, 1886.

During her lifetime, Emily Dickinson is not really known as a poet. Only ten of his poems was published when he was alive. After Dickinson death, her family found a collection of poetry collections until 1700. A literary critic, Thomas Wentworth Higginson and Mabel Loomis Todd, a friend of the family Dickinson found the language used brilliance of Emily. They compile and edit a series of posthumous collection of Emily. Her work has a remarkable influence on contemporary American poems,

According the explanation above the researcher takes a point that the authors use interesting and communicative language in order to make the readers can understand their message in the poems. Emily Dickinson used many figurative language in her poems

especially on the year 1862. Besides that, Dickinson's poems have the unique characteristics, her poem uses unconventional punctuation and does not have a title and uses the first lines to be a title or by a number assigned to them by posthumous editors. She known for her innovative use of the free temple and the selection of unusual subjects such as nature, spirituality, death, and solitude.

In this thesis, the researcher limits the fiveteen poems to be analyzedbecause that poems was famous, familiar and as we know that many of Emily Dickinson's poems took the first line to be a tittle of the poems. those are Success is counted sweetest, wild night-wild night, there's a certain slant of light, I felt a funeral in my brain, I'm nobody! Who are you?, The soul selects her own society, Some keep the Sabbath Going to Church, After Great Pain a Formal Feeling Comes, Much Madness is Divinest Sense, This is My Letter to The World, I Heard a Fly Buzz-When I Died, I Started Early-Took My Dog, Because I Could Not Stop For Death, The Bustle in a House, Tell All The Truth But Tell it Slant.

In addition, because the researchers who analyze figurative language in a poem are still rare, so that through this research the researcher wants to analyze deeply about figurative language in Emily Dickinson's Poetry by the title "AN ANALYSIS OF FIGURATIVE LANGUAGE IN EMILY DICKINSON'S POEMS".

B. Statements of the Problems

The thesis has two problems that will be explored. Those problems are:

1. What types of figurative languagesare found in Emily Dickinson's poems?
2. What meanings of figurative languages are able to be analyzed in Emily Dickinson's poems?

C. Objectives of the Study

The thesis has two research objectives:

1. To find out the types of figurative language in Emily Dickinson's poems.
2. To analyze the meaning of figurative language in Emily Dickinson's poems.

D. Significance of the Study

After completing all research activities, this study is expected to give significances presented as follows:

1. Theoretical significance

In the end of this research, the researcher hopes that this thesis can contribute to the knowledge of developing a good insight into better understanding of figurative language in the future.

2. Practical significance

a. For teachers

This study is expected to give teachers, especially English and Indonesian teachers, an input concerned on the figure of speech or figurative language in English language or Indonesian.

b. For lecturers

This study is expected to give lecturers new evaluation object and review about meaning of figurative language and hopefully the thesis will give a bit of inspiration for lecturers to give the topic in the teaching-learning process.

c. For students

This study is expected to be able to give students especially the students of English Department STAIN Ponorogo, a reference in linguistic study which is concerned on English Language and Indonesian figurative language.

d. For readers

This study is expected to be able to give readers in general a reference of linguistic study concerned on figurative language whether it is in English or Indonesian.

e. The researcher

This research hopefully will add the researcher's knowledge in linguistic and literature study.

E. Previous Study

There are two previous study related to the writer's present study. First, Lailatul Maulida, students of English department STAIN Ponorogo in her thesis entitled *An Analysis of Figurative Language in a Novel by Stephenie Meyer: Twilight*, as for the analysis are as follows: (1) the types of figurative languages are engaged, (2) the types of figurative languages are dominantly used in the novel *Twilight*.⁷

⁷Lailatul Maulida, *An Analysis of Figurative Language in a Novel by Stephenie Meyer: Twilight* (Thesis, STAIN, Ponorogo, 2012), 9.

Based on this research, Lailatul Maulida concludes that Stephenie Meyer uses four types of figurative language that contains 23 kinds of figurative languages. Comparison type consists of 10 kinds of figurative language. They are hyperbole, allusion, association, metaphor, periphrasis, symbol, onomatopoeia, euphemism and personification. Assertion type consists of 8 kinds of figurative languages. They are parallelism, polysyndeton, climax, correction, repetition, asyndeton, enumeration and tautology. Understatement type consists of 4 kinds of figure of speech. They are irony, sinism, sarcasm and satire. Opposition type consists of only one kind of figurative language, it is antithesis. Besides, the type of figurative language which is dominantly used in the novel *Twilight* is type of comparison, kind hyperbole, there are 183 data.

Second, Royan Wijayanto , students of English department STAIN Ponorogo in his thesis entitled *A Study of Figurative Language Used in The Book of Qasidat Al Burdah (the poem of the mantle) collected by Syed Mohiuddin Qadri*, as for the statement of the problem are follows: (1) what are the figurative languages used in the book of *Qasidat al-Burdah (The Poem of The Mantle) collected by Syed Moihuddin Qadri*, (2) What types of figurative languages are dominantly used in the book of *Qasidat al-Burdah (The Poem of The Mantle) collected by Syed Moihuddin Qadri*.⁸

Based on this research, Royan Wijayanto concludes that Syed Moihuddin Qadri used comparison, assertion, and opposition. Those three types of figurative language contain 17 kinds of figurative languages. Comparison types consists of 8

⁸Royan Wijayanto, *A Study of Figurative Language Used in The Book of Qasidat Al Burdah (the poem of the mantle) collected by Syed Mohiuddin Qadri*, (Thesis, STAIN, Ponorogo, 2014), 9.

kinds of figurative language. They are hyperbole, simile, metaphor, personification, symbolic, synecdoche, periphrasis, and antonomasia. Assertion type consists of 7 kinds of figurative languages. They are repetition, polysyndeton, enumeration, interruption, rhetoric, anticlimax and exclamation. Opposition type consists of 2 kinds of figure of speech. They are contradiction in terms and antithesis.

There are 104 data that contain figurative languages. Hyperbole is 21 data; simile is 21 data; metaphor is 10 data; personification is 13 data; symbolic is 2 data; synecdoche is 4 data; periphrasis is 5 data; antonomasia is 1 data; repetition is 2 data; polysyndeton is 3 data; enumeration is 2 data; interruption is 1 data; rhetoric is 5 data; anticlimax is 1 data; exclamation is 6 data; contradiction in terms is 2 data and antithesis is 5 data. The types of figurative language are dominantly used in the book of Qasidat al-Burdah (The Poem of The Mantle) collected by Syed Moihuddin Qadri is comparison, which is hyperbole and simile. Hyperbole occupies 21 data because the poet wants to create exaggerated imagination and increase the impact of the poem, whether simile occupies 21 data because the poet often showing similarities between two different things that allows the reader to relate the feelings of a writer or a poet to their personal experiences.

F. Research Methodology

1. Research Approach

Research literature basically uses three types of research, field research, library research and laboratory research.⁹ Field research is research in the field. Library research is research in the library. Laboratory research is research in the laboratory. In this study, library research is applied because the location of research, primary and secondary sources were located in the library.

Research approach was needed in this study. This study applied *stylistic* approach. Stylistic simply defined as the (linguistic) study of style, undertaken for its own sake, simply as an exercise in describing what use is made of language.¹⁰ According to Suwardi Endraswara, stylistic is a study about language style of literary work.¹¹

In outline, literature language style is divided into two types, descriptive stylistic and genetic stylistic.¹² The meaning of descriptive stylistic approaches is language style as whole of psychosis expression in a language it is by morphology, syntaxes, and semantics and the meaning of genetic stylistic is an individual language style look language style as a typical personal expression. Muhammad as quoted by Suwardi Endraswara stated that stylistic approach should achieve the level of meaning of literary work, denotative and connotative meaning. Stylistic connotative is divided into two types, rhetoric style and figurative style. Rhetoric style involves

⁹ C.R. Kothari, *Research Methodology: Methods and Techniques; Second Revised Edition*, (United Kingdom: New Age International Publisher, 2004), 20.

¹⁰ Geoffrey Leech and Mick Short, *Style in Fiction: A Linguistic Introduction to English Fictional Prose*, (United Kingdom: Great Britain, 2007), 11.

¹¹ Suwardi Endraswara, *Metodologi Penelitian Sastra, Epistemologi, Model, Teoridan Aplikasi*, (Yogyakarta: Center For Academic Publishing Service, 2013), 72.

¹² *Ibid.*, 73.

euphemism, paradox, tautology, polysindeton, etc. and figurative style has so many types. Such as allegory, personification, simile, sarcasm, etc.¹³

Based on the statements above, it can be concluded that genetic stylistic approach applied for this study. Figurative language is one of the emotional powers in a literary work. It is an expression of the authors' imagination and the decisive factor that their work will be accepted and preferred by the readers. Figurative language had power to make a literary work, in this case was poetry that could excite the readers' interesting to read without feeling bored.

SuardiEndraswara stated the steps of stylistic study such as; determine the unit of analysis and analysis aspects of language.¹⁴ The meaning of determine the unit of analysis is analyze sound, word, phrase, clause, sentence, etc. Analysis aspects of language such as manipulation of the sound mix to achieve aesthetic aspect, analysis of diction which is in the field of literature and supporting meaning and language aesthetic, analysis of the sentences are emphasized on using various sentences in every condition, and analysis the meaning of figurative languages. Based on those statements, this study focused on figurative language in Emily Dickinson's poems.

2. Data Sources

Based on types of data, there are two types of data:

a. Primary Data Source

The primary data source is data that will be the main of source in this thesis. The primary data source is the data that will be analyzed about figurative

¹³*Ibid.*, 73.

¹⁴*Ibid.*, 75.

language in Emily Dickinson's poetry. They are taken from a book entitled *An Introduction to Poetry* by X.J. Kennedy and Dana Gioia published on 2005.

b. Secondary Data Source

The secondary data source is data that have been provided and can be gotten by researcher from reading, seeing, or listening. To make the data clear, this thesis writer needs to find out any other sources called secondary data source, such as books, journals, internet and magazine that focuses on everything about figurative language to support the completion of the data.

3. Technique of Data Collection

In this research, the researcher uses library research method to collect the data about figurative language that engaged in Emily Dickinson poetry taken from a book *An Introduction to Poetry* by X.J. Kennedy and Dana Gioia. Library research method can be conducted by studying literature and documentation.¹⁵

Documentary method or technique is done through searching and finding the proof. The use of document is related to content analysis. Content analysis focuses on analyzing and interpreting recorded material within its own context. When using such documentary sources, the researcher must establish the authenticity of the document itself, as well as the validity of its content.¹⁶ In content analysis, the researcher can calculate frequency of appearing certain concept.¹⁷ The information that comes from book is very useful. The data collections are done by reading and

¹⁵Afifuddindan Beni Ahmad Saebani, *Metodologi Penelitian Kualitatif* (Bandung: CV. Pustaka Setia, 2009), 140.

¹⁶ Donald Ary, et al., *Introduction to Research in Education* (Australia: Wadsworth Thomson Learning), 27.

¹⁷Hadari Nawawi, *Metode Penelitian Bidang Sosial* (Yogyakarta: GadjahMada University, 2007), 73.

analyzing the article as documentation until the researcher find figurative language and understand the meaning of them by searching in dictionary. Then, make list of figurative language used in Emily Dickinson's Poetry. Furthermore, arranging the data systematically in accordance with the study (based on the problem of study).

4. Technique of Data Analysis

Michael Hubberman defines analysis as consisting of three concurrent activities: data reduction, data display, and conclusion drawing/verification. This research stages of analysis applied in this research are presented in the following Hubberman theory :

a. Data Reduction

Data reduction involves classifying, selecting, simplifying, and transforming the data that appear in written-up field notes or transcription. The data reduction/transforming process continues after fieldwork, until a final report is completed. Qualitative data can be reduced and transformed in many ways: through selection, through summary or paraphrase, through being subsumed in a larger pattern, and so on.¹⁸ In this research, the obtained data through documentation about figurative language would be reduced by selecting primary data. The data that selected only the data that will be analyzed in this case only in Emily Dickinson's poetry.

b. Data Display

¹⁸A Michael Hubberman, *Qualitative Data Analysis (second edition)*, (London : SAGE Publications, Inc, 1994), 10-11.

The second major flow of analysis activity is data display. Generically, display is an organized, compressed assembly of information that permits conclusion drawing and action. As with data reduction, the creation and use of displays is not separate from analysis, it is a part of analysis. Designing a display, deciding on the rows and columns of a matrix for qualitative data and deciding which data, in which form, should be entered in the cells-are analytic activities. (Note that designing displays also has clear data reduction implications).¹⁹ Researcher arrange the primary data systematically to make a simple data and meaningful. That data have been achieved will be arranged well and detail so that can be easily understood.

c. Conclusion Drawing

The third stream of analysis activity is Conclusion Drawing. Conclusion Drawing is analyzing the data constantly during or after data being collected to get the conclusion of research. Generally, the data of this thesis are collected from the Emily Dickinson's poetry. The analysis of data of the study are divide into some steps: reading all poetry, selecting and analyzing, found the figurative language and comprehend its meanings, and after that drawing tentative conclusion.

¹⁹Ibid, 11.

G. Organization of The Thesis

This thesis divided into four chapters as follows:

Chapter I: INTRODUCTION

This chapter discussed about background of the study, statement of the problems, objectives of the study, significances of the study, research methodology, and organization of the thesis.

Chapter II: REVIEW OF RELATED LITERATURE

This chapter discussed about definition of figurative language, kinds of figurative language, definition of poems, elements of poems, forms of poems and previous study.

Chapter III: THE ANALYSIS OF FIGURATIVE LANGUAGE IN EMILY DICKINSON'S POEMS

It covers about data and analysis of the statements of problem. This chapter provides data about types of figurative language are engaged in Emily Dickinson's poems and the meaning analysis of figurative languages in Emily Dickinson's poems.

Chapter IV: CLOSING

This chapter consist of conclusions and recommendations.