

# Analysis Figurative Language Used In Dylan Thomas's Selected Poems

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## Analysis Figurative Language Used In Dylan Thomas's Selected Poems

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**Abstract.** This research was created to determine figurative language according to theory (Keraf, 2007) in several selected poems by Dylan Thomas. This research includes qualitative research with an object approach through qualitative methods to analyze 3 poems by Dyland Thomas namely, *Do Not Go Gentle Into That Good Night*, *Love in The Asylum*, and *Clown in The Moon*. The techniques used in data analysis are reading, finding, understanding, identifying and making conclusions from each poem by Dyland Thomas which is analyzed. The results of this research show that figurative language in this selected poem is eleven repetitions, four symbols, four similes, two hyperboles, one personification, and one oxymoron. So, it can be concluded that this selection of poems by Dyland Thomas is dominated by Repetition.

**Keywords:** Figurative Language, Dylan Thomas, Poetry

**Abstrak.** Penelitian ini dibuat untuk mengetahui bahasa kiasan menurut teori (Keraf, 2007) dalam beberapa puisi pilihan Dylan Thomas. Penelitian ini termasuk penelitian kualitatif dengan pendekatan objek melalui metode kualitatif untuk menganalisis 3 puisi karya Dyland Thomas yaitu *Do Not Go Gentle Into That Good Night*, *Love in The Asylum*, dan *Clown in The Moon*. Teknik yang digunakan dalam analisis data adalah membaca, menemukan, memahami, mengidentifikasi dan membuat kesimpulan dari setiap puisi karya Dyland Thomas yang dianalisis. Hasil penelitian menunjukkan bahwa bahasa kiasan dalam puisi terpilih ini berjumlah sebelas repetisi, empat simbol, empat simile, dua hiperbola, satu personifikasi, dan satu oksimoron. Jadi, dapat disimpulkan bahwa puisi pilihan Dyland Thomas ini didominasi oleh Repetisi.

**Kata Kunci:** Bahasa Kiasan, Dylan Thomas, Puisi

## BACKGROUND

Analyzing poetry is a fairly common form of research in the field of literary studies, including English literature. The analysis material we chose was about Figurative Language. Even though there has been a lot of literary research that has raised this topic, there are still many who do not fully understand Figurative Language, therefore we want to add a lot of information about this topic.

The poem we chose is the work of Dylan Thomas. Dylan Thomas is a poet and novelist, he is famous for his poetry even though he has written many novels. According to the article, Dylan Thomas is famous for his very lyrical and emotional poetry, as well as his tumultuous personal life. It is not surprising that his work emphasizes imagination, emotion and is very original.

We chose 3 poems, entitled Don't go gentle into that good night, Love in the asylum, Clown in the moon. We chose Dylan Thomas' poetry because his work has deep meaning and the series of words in his poetry are very beautiful. Apart from that, there has been no research on complex Figurative Language in these three poems, so we are even more motivated to analyze the Figurative Language in these three poems.

## THEORETICAL REVIEW

### Poetry

Poetry is a series of words arranged into a work in the form of an expression of the heart, thoughts or events that the poet wants to convey. "According to Robert Frost's opinion, poetry is when an emotion has found its mind and thought has found its words." also said that to understand a poem, it must contain not only your insight but also your senses, emotions, and imagination.

### Figurative Language

According to Figurative language is different words or phrases that have an implied meaning behind them. Figurative language can be found in several written works such as articles, poetry, songs and dramas. but it will be very rarely found in everyday conversation. "Figurative language is language that uses words or expressions with different meanings from a literal interpretation."

In this research we analyze Figurative Language based on opinions. There are several types of Figurative language, namely, Metaphor, Simile, Irony, Metonymy, Synecdoche, Hyperbole, Personification, Parable, Paradox, Repetition, Oxymoron, Symbol, Antithesis. And in this research we found 6 types of Figurative Language in Dylan Thomas's poetry, namely, Repetition, Symbol, Simile, Hyperbole, Personification and Oxymoron.

According to Repetition is a figure of speech that is repeated in the form of words or phrases or sentences that are in different sentences several times. "simile is an expression that describes something as being similar to something else, using words 'as or like' ".According to , "A symbol may be defined as something that means more than what it is." This means that the word has a hidden meaning.

"Hyperbole is used by the poet in an effort to describe the object, idea and to give weight excessively pressure to obtain an intensive effect." .According to Personification is a figure of language in which everything that is not human is given a human identity. It can also be used the opposite of its original meaning based on the given context. And "Oxymoron is a style of language that attempts to combine words to achieve conflicting effect." .

## RESEARCH METHODS

The method used in this journal is a qualitative method. Qualitative methods relate to a person's perceptions, opinions, ideas or beliefs in a field of study and cannot be confirmed through numbers. "Qualitative research is a research method to explore and understand the meaning that comes from social or human problems."

We analyzed data through selected poetry to support and apply this method to this research. According to " *Analisis data adalah suatu metode untuk mengelompokan susunan data kedalam aturan yang ada untuk mendapatkan hasil yang sama dengan data yang telah dikumpulkan.* " Data analysis is a method for grouping data into existing rules to get the same results as the data that has been collected. The data sources we use are documents that we get from the internet. We use this poetry manuscript to identify the various types of Figurative Language in the poem and look for reasons why it can be classified into the types of Figurative Language. The following are the steps taken in analyzing this journal;

- 1) Look for poetry that will be analyzed.
- 2) Read and understand the meaning of the selected poem.
- 3) Know and understand the meaning of Figurative Language types.
- 4) Look for the types of Figurative Language in the selected poetry.
- 5) Group words, phrases or sentences in poetry based on the types of Figurative Language that have been found.

## RESULTS AND DISCUSSION

### Repetition

#### Data 1:

*Do not go gentle into that good night,  
Old age should burn and rave at close of day;  
Rage, rage against the dying of the light.*

*Though wise men at their end know dark is right,  
Because their words had forked no lightning they  
Do not go gentle into that good night.*

*Good men, the last wave by, crying how bright  
Their frail deeds might have danced in a green bay,  
Rage, rage against the dying of the light.*

Wild men who caught and sang the sun in flight,  
And learn, too late, they grieved it on its way,  
*Do not go gentle into that good night.*

Grave men, near death, who see with blinding sight  
Blind eyes could blaze like meteors and be gay,  
*Rage, rage against the dying of the light.*

And you, my father, there on the sad height,  
Curse, bless, me now with your fierce tears, I pray.  
*Do not go gentle into that good night.*  
*Rage, rage against the dying of the light.*

(Source: Do Not Go Gentle into That Good Night, by Dylan Thomas)

The repetition of the phrase, don't be gentle on that good night in stanzas 1,2,4,6 and Anger, anger at the dying of the light in stanzas 1,3,5,6 indicates that there is a message emphasized by Thomas in this poem through these sentences.

**Data 2:**

A stranger has come  
To share my room in the house not right in the head,  
A girl mad as birds  
  
Bolting the night of the door with her arm her plume.  
Strait in the mazed bed  
*She* deludes the heaven-proof house with entering clouds  
  
Yet she deludes with walking the nightmarish room,  
At large as the dead,  
Or rides the imagined oceans of the male wards.  
  
*She* has come possessed  
Who admits the delusive light through the bouncing wall,  
Possessed by the skie

*She* sleeps in the narrow trough yet she walks the dust  
 Yet raves at her will  
 On the madhouse boards worn thin by my walking tears.

And taken by light in her arms at long and dear last  
 I may without fail  
 Suffer the first vision that set fire to the stars.

(Source: Love in The Asylum , by Dylan Thomas)

The repetition of the word "she" four times in stanza 2 line 6, stanza 4 line 10, and stanza 5 lines 13 & 14. which emphasizes that this poem depicts one person, namely "she".

### Data 3:

My tears are like the quiet drift

Of petals from some magic rose;

And all my grief flows from the rift

Of unremembered skies and snows.

I think, that if I touched the earth,

It would crumble;

It is so sad and beautiful,

So tremulously like a dream.

(Source: Clown in The Moon, by Dylan Thomas)

The repetition of words in this poem includes the word "of" at the beginning of the sentence in stanza 1, lines 2 & 4 and the word "it" at the beginning of the sentence in stanza 2, lines 6 & 7. This repetition functions to provide specific details in the sentence.

### Symbol

#### Data 4:

Do not go gentle into that *good night*,

Old age should burn and rave at close of day;

Rage, rage against the dying of the light.

(Stanza 1 line 1, Do not go gentle into that good night)

The phrase "good night" in this sentence is a symbol of the word "death" which means that you should not be weak towards death.

**Data 5:**

Though wise men at their end know dark is right,  
Because their words had forked no lightning they  
Do not go gentle into that good night.

(Stanza 2 line 4, Do not go gentle into that good night)

The word "dark" in this sentence symbolizes death, because this poem describes the author's opinion regarding death, he symbolizes death with several words.

**Data 6:**

Yet she deludes with walking the nightmarish room,  
At large as the dead,  
Or rides the imagined oceans of the male wards.

(Stanza 3 line 7, Love in The Asylum)

The phrase "nightmarish room" in this sentence symbolizes a terrible room in a mental hospital.

**Data 7:**

Yet she deludes with walking the nightmarish room,  
At large as the dead,  
Or rides the imagined oceans of the male wards.

(Stanza 3 line 9, Love in The Asylum)

The word "Rides" in the sentence above symbolizes the word "drowned".

**Simile**

**Data 8:**

A girl mad as birds

(Stanza 1 line 3, Love in The Asylum)

This sentence is included in a simile because there is a presupposition using the word "as".

**Data 9:**

At large as the dead,

(stanza 3 line 2, Love in The Asylum)

It is the same as, there is a presupposition using the word "as".

**Data 10:**

My tears are like the quiet drift

Of petals from some magic rose;

(stanza 1 line 1, Clown in The Moon)

The word "like" in this sentence is a conditional word which makes it a simile.

**Data 11:**

So tremulously like a dream

(stanza 2 line 8, Clown in The Moon)

In this poem, Thomas chooses the word "like" as a simile.

**Hyperbole****Data 12:**

Grave men, near death, who see with blinding sight

Blind eyes could blaze like meteors and be gay,

(stanza 5 line 13 & 14, Do Not Go Gentle Into That Good Night)

This sentence is included in Hyperbole because it is an exaggeration, saying that sight can blind and flash like a meteor which represents anger.

**Data 13:**

I think, that if I touched the earth,

It would crumble;

(stanza 2 line 5 & 6, Clown in The Moon)

There are also exaggerating sentences in the poem Clown in The Moon which says that if he touches the earth, the earth will be destroyed. If you think about it logically, it's impossible for the earth to be destroyed with one human touch, but that's what makes it hyperbolic.

**Personification****Data 14:**

On the madhouse boards worn thin by my walking tears.

(stanza 5 line 3, Love in The Asylum)

The word "walking" which is a human identity is used for tears, which is why this phrase is included as Personification.



### Oxymoron

#### Data 15:

It is so *sad and beautiful*,

(stanza 2 line 3, Clown in The Moon)

This sentence is included in the oxymoron type because there are two words that have opposite meanings, namely "sad and beautiful" which becomes a figure of speech.

### CONCLUSION

There are 12 types of figurative language according to (Keraf, 2007) but in Dylan Thomas's poetry that we analyzed, namely *Do Not Go Gently Into That Good Night*, *Love in The Asylum*, clown in *The Moon*, only 6 types of figurative language were found, there are 11 repetition, 4 symbol, 4 simile, 2 hyperbole, 1 personification, and 1 oxymoron.

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