

The Analysis of Figurative Language in Poem “Alone” by Maya Angelou

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The Analysis of Figurative Language in Poem "Alone" by Maya Angelou

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Abstract : This Journal was written to find figurative language in the poem "Alone" by Maya Angelou with the aim that readers can more easily understand the meaning of this poem through the figurative language we found. The focus of this study is figurative language which involves; Metaphor, Simile, Symbolism, Alliteration, and Personification. This research used qualitative data collection method where the researcher increase the representative data. The result of this study showed there were 11 figurative language in poem Maya Angelou "Alone", There were ; 2 Metaphor, 2 Personification, 1 simile, 4 alliteration, and 2 symbolism. The researchers concluded that they had found 11 figurative language in one of Maya Angelou's poetry works entitled "Alone".

Keywords: Fugurative Language, Maya Angelou, Poem, Alone, Metaphor, Simile, Symbolism, Alliteration, Personification.

Abstrak : Jurnal ini ditulis untuk menemukan bahasa kiasan dalam puisi "Alone" karya Maya Angelou dengan tujuan agar pembaca dapat lebih mudah memahami makna puisi ini melalui bahasa kiasan yang kami temukan. Fokus penelitian ini adalah bahasa kiasan yang melibatkan; Metafora, Simili, Simbolisme, Aliterasi, dan Personifikasi. Penelitian ini menggunakan metode pengumpulan data kualitatif dimana peneliti mengumpulkan data yang representatif. Hasil penelitian menunjukkan bahwa terdapat 11 bahasa kiasan dalam puisi Maya Angelou "Alone", yaitu ; 2 Metafora, 2 Personifikasi, 1 simile, 4 aliterasi, dan 2 simbolisme. Untuk menyimpulkan penelitian ini peneliti menyimpulkan bahwa mereka telah menemukan 11 bahasa kiasan dalam salah satu karya puisi Maya Angelou yang berjudul "Alone"

Kata kunci: Bahasa kiasan, Maya Angelou, Puisi, Alone, Metafora, Simili, Simbolisme, Aliterasi, Personifikasi.

1. INTRODUCTION

Literature has been widely involved in both English-speaking and non-English-speaking countries. This has become one of the effective ways to develop students' English skills. Literature helps students to see the diversity of language. Literature is a representation of the author's feelings, Robert and Jacobs (1993) call "literature" a composition that tells a story, dramatizes a situation, expresses emotions, analyzes and supports the ideas that emerge." Literature is not something felt – experienced "personal response" or "imaginative uniqueness", as the terms go, which for us today cannot be separated from Eagleton's (2003) overall idea of literature.

The one of literature work is the understanding the literary of poetry. Poetry also has significance to education such as poetry can benefit students in the ways to increase reading comprehension. Through poetry, students experienced increase in vocabulary, and critical analysis skill. Many of students systematically abandon a text based on

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⁵ length alone. They simply do not believe that they are capable of reading long passages and never attempt to read a novel. Poetry might be a possibility to reading comprehension because poetry just shorter pieces of text (Norris, 2010). Even so, poetry has a deep meaning and is full of emotion. Usually researchers use figurative language to find the meaning of a poem.

⁸ Figurative language is sometimes called metaphorical language or simply metaphor, which works to carry meaning beyond its literal meaning (Ekasani, 2015:24). In other words, ¹² figurative language is the style of language used by author to convey meaning through the depiction of something or imagery. ³ Figurative language used to beautify a sentence structure that primary purpose is to obtain a certain effect in order to create an imaginative impression to listeners or readers, both orally and in writing. Figurative language is used to create and make a literary work to be better, look more alive, and create a better quality of literary works. One of the literary works that often uses figurative language to convey its meaning better is poem (Raflis and Zai, 2018).

According to Miller and Curie (2000:97), figurative language has many types and the author will analyze several of them, such as: simile, metaphor, hyperbole, personification and metonymy. After considering several factors, the author decided to analyze the figurative language of a poem entitled "Alone" by Maya Angelou.

"Alone" by Maya Angelou is a poem which represents human life, where humans cannot live alone, no matter who and how much money you have you will always need other humans to survive in the world.

⁶ Maya Angelou was a famous American poet, storyteller, activist and autobiographer. Maya Angelou was born Marguerite Johnson in St. Louis, Missouri. Louis, Missouri. Angelou had an extensive career as Hollywood's first black female singer, dancer, actress, composer and director. Angelou was also a prolific and widely read poet. Angelou's ¹ poetry, collected in volumes such as Just Give Me a Cool Drink of Water 'fore I Diie (1971), And Still I Rise (1978), Now Sheba Sings the Song (1987), and I Shall Not Be Moved (1990).

2. METHODS

¹¹ In conducting this research the author used ⁴ qualitative research approach which involves collecting and analyzing non-numerical data. Qualitative research is understanding of social phenomenon based on participant's point of view. In order to increase information into a particular phenomenon, such as an environment, a process, or even a belief (Gay, 2006).

² The main data of this study were figurative languages found in the selected poetry "Alone" by Maya Angelou. First, the researcher selected poetry "Alone" of Maya Angelou which popular and famous in her collection poems. After that, she ² read the poetries line by line to found the figurative language, and then classify them and put them in the table based on figurative indicator. In analyzing the data of research, the researcher used qualitative data analysis theory by Miles & Huberman (1994), this analysis consist of two steps, they are: data representation, and conclusion.

In data representation, the researcher presented in the data in table which the data arranged based on each figurative categories. In making conclusion, the researcher conclude which figurative that appears among eleven figurative language, and what figurative that mostly found in selected poetry "Alone" of Maya Angelou.

3. FINDING

In the Maya Angelou poetry entitle "*Alone*", Researcher made (P) used for poetry, (L) used for line, and symbol Σ (Sigma) is used for total of findings.

In poem "Alone" we found ; 2 metaphor, 2 personification, 1 simile, 4 alliteration, and 2 symbolism with total finding of figurative language was in 11 sentences. The most figurative often used was alliteration. There were not other figurative indicators that we found in this poem.

Kind of Figurative Language	Found in Line	Σ
Metaphor	(L5), (L19)	2
Personification	(L4), (L41)	2
Hyperbole		
Simile	(L16)	1
Metonymy		
Synecdoche		
Symbolism	(L3), (L17)	2
Alliteration	(L11), (L49), (L50), (L67)	4
Total	11	

4. DISCUSSION

The authors has reduced the data and found some figurative language in poem "*Alone*" by Maya Angelou. Alliteration is the most figurative language often used in the poem. There

were 5 kinds figurative language that we found ; metaphor, personification, simile, alliteration. and symbolism. There are 11 sentences that contain figurative language. Metaphor consists of 2 sentences, Personification 2 sentences, simile 1 sentence, alliteration 4 sentences, and symbolism 2 sentences. There were not other figurative indicators that we found in this poem.

No	Kind of Figurative Language	Found in Line	The Poem Sentence
	Metaphor	L 5 L 19	"And bread loaf is not stone" "To cure their heart of stone"
2.	Personifications	L4 L41	"Where water is not thirsty" "Where eater rejuvenates you"
3.	Simile	L16	"Their wives run round like banshees"
4.	Alliterations	L11 L49 L50 L67	"Alone, all alone" "Nobody, nobody" "Can make it in this world" "The bad wind will blow"
5.	Symbolism	L3 L17	" How to find my soul a home" "Their children sing the blues"

CONCLUSION

After we conducted this research, we realized that the use of figurative language in analyzing the meaning of poetry, especially in Maya Angelou's poem "Alone", really helped researchers to better understand the meaning of the poem. The researcher also hopes that readers who will read this journal will understand the meaning of Maya Angelou's poem "Alone" through the figurative language that we found.

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