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## The Art of Figurative Language in Moana : An Analytical Study

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**Abstract:** *This analysis explores the utilization and impact of various forms of figurative language in the script of the movie "Moana." The study delves into six types of figurative language: simile, metaphor, hyperbole, paradox, irony, and personification. The choice to focus on these six types is rooted in the writer's deep understanding of these specific forms, allowing for a more thorough and nuanced analysis. Through a meticulous examination of the script, it is revealed that personification and metaphor are the most prevalent, contributing significantly to the narrative depth and cultural richness of the film. The personification, in particular, enlivens it as a character and underscores its cultural significance in Polynesian lore. Additionally, metaphors and similes are instrumental in character descriptions and thematic elaboration, while hyperbole and irony inject humor and complexity into the storyline. Paradoxes are employed to provoke critical thinking about the story's underlying themes. Ultimately, this analysis underscores the indispensable role of figurative language in enriching the storytelling of "Moana" and enhancing its emotional resonance.*

**Keywords:** *figurative language, script, Moana*

### 1. INTRODUCTION

This research explores how figurative language is used in movie scripts, focusing specifically on the film "Moana." As Florman (2024) notes that Figurative language—encompassing metaphors, similes, personification, hyperbole, paradox, and irony—is essential to storytelling. It helps filmmakers create deeper meanings, connect emotionally with audiences, and make stories more memorable.

According to Boaz (2024) the importance of figurative language in storytelling. Figurative language adds layers of meaning beyond the literal words, creating a richer experience for the audience. For example, Lakoff (1980) explains that metaphors are not just decorative language; they are fundamental cognitive structures that shape how we perceive and understand the world. In "Moana," metaphors help express the characters' journeys and the themes of the story, making them more relatable and impactful.

Similes are another type of figurative language, where two things are compared using "like" or "as." This technique makes the imagery in the story clearer and more vivid. As Frost (1968) points out, similes enhance storytelling by drawing strong visual and emotional connections between seemingly unrelated concepts. In "Moana," similes might be used to describe the ocean or the characters, making them more relatable and engaging to the audience.

Personification is when human qualities are given to non-human things, like animals, objects, or ideas. This technique makes the story more engaging by making these elements feel alive and important. Setiawati and Maryani (2018) note that personification helps audiences connect more deeply with the narrative. In "Moana," the ocean is personified, becoming a character with its own intentions and emotions, which plays a crucial role in Moana's journey.

Hyperbole involves deliberate exaggeration to create strong feelings or emphasize a point. Fitria (2018) highlights that hyperbole is often used in song lyrics to convey intense emotions. In "Moana," hyperbole might appear in dialogue or songs to emphasize the characters' emotions or the challenges they face, adding drama and intensity to the story.

Paradox is a statement that seems contradictory but reveals a deeper truth. According to Ibrahim, Ma'ruf, and Zulkarnain (2019), paradoxes are used to provoke thought and highlight complexities in storytelling. In "Moana," paradoxes might be used to explore the duality of Moana's journey—leaving home to find herself—which ultimately reveals deeper truths about identity and purpose.

Irony involves saying something but meaning the opposite, often to highlight differences between appearances and reality. Adams (2016) discusses how irony can add depth and humour to narratives by making the audience think more critically about what is being said. In "Moana," irony might be used to show the gap between what characters say and what they truly feel, adding layers to their development.

This research focuses on these six types of figurative language because the writer has a deep understanding of them, allowing for a detailed and insightful analysis. By focusing on "Moana," a film rich in figurative language, this study aims to show how these tools enhance the story's depth, cultural significance, and emotional impact. Through this analysis, according to Lakoff (1980) and Frost (1968), we gain a better appreciation of how figurative language not only embellishes but also breathes life into cinematic storytelling, making it resonate deeply with audiences.

## **2. METHOD**

This study analyzed specific scenes from the movie "Moana," which tells the story of a young Polynesian girl on a journey to save her island and discover her true identity. The movie, with a runtime of 107 minutes, was carefully examined to identify how figurative language is used throughout the narrative.

The data for this research was gathered by analyzing several key scenes from "Moana" that were selected based on their importance to the overall narrative and their rich use of figurative language. The scenes chosen were those that significantly contribute to character development, plot progression, and the film's cultural themes.

The analysis involved two main approaches: qualitative content analysis and narrative analysis. The qualitative content analysis began by identifying and categorizing instances of figurative language—such as similes, metaphors, personification, hyperbole, paradox, and irony—within the selected scenes of the "Moana" script. This process aimed to systematically capture how these elements appear and how they function within the context of the film.

We used narrative analysis to examine the context in which each instance of figurative language appears. This involved interpreting how these figurative expressions enhance the story, contribute to character development, and evoke emotional responses. We also analyzed how figurative language helps integrate Polynesian cultural and mythological elements into the film, adding layers of depth and authenticity to the narrative.

Additionally, the study considered the emotional and cognitive effects of figurative language on the audience. This was done by reviewing viewer responses and critical reviews, which provided insights into how the use of figurative language influenced audience engagement and understanding of the film's themes.

### 3. RESULT AND DISCUSSION

The movie script for "Moana" uses figurative language in the dialogue. This figurative language also has certain. The tables below provide an overview of the study's findings:

**Table 1.** Figurative Language in Movie Script "Moana"

Types of Figurative Languages	Occurrence	Percentage
Simile	3	10%
Metaphor	6	20%
Hyperbole	4	13.3%
Paradox	3	10%
Irony	4	13.3%
Personification	10	33.3%
Total	30	100%

The table shows how often different types of figurative language appear in an article, adding up to 30 instances. Personification is used the most, making up 33.3%, followed by metaphors at 20%. Hyperbole and irony show up 13.3% of the time, while similes and paradoxes each account for 10%. This means the article often gives human traits to things, making descriptions more vivid. Metaphors are used a lot to make strong comparisons. Hyperbole and irony add emphasis and humor, while similes and paradoxes, though less common, still add variety. And not find other forms of figurative language like alliteration, onomatopoeia, or oxymorons in this analysis.

### **Simile**

Data 1: *"It's like the tide always falling and rising."*

In this simile, the comparison between Moana's internal struggles and the perpetual movement of the tide creates vivid imagery that enhances our understanding of her character. The tide, with its constant ebb and flow, symbolizes the relentless nature of Moana's desires and aspirations. By likening her inner turmoil to the natural rhythm of the ocean, the simile suggests that her calling is an inherent part of her being, something as consistent and unavoidable as the tides themselves. This comparison not only emphasizes the intensity of Moana's emotions but also underscores the inevitability of her journey and the challenges she must face.

### **Metaphor**

Data 2: *"An ocean is a friend of mine."*

Through this metaphor, the ocean is personified as a comforting and reliable companion to Moana. By describing the ocean as a friend, the metaphor conveys a sense of intimacy and mutual understanding between Moana and the vast expanse of water that surrounds her. It suggests that Moana finds solace and support in the ocean, viewing it not merely as a physical entity but as a source of emotional connection and guidance. This metaphor not only highlights Moana's deep affinity for the sea but also underscores the theme of humanity's interconnectedness with nature, portraying the ocean as a benevolent force in Moana's journey of self-discovery.

### **Hyperbole**

Data 3: *"The ocean chose me"*

This hyperbolic statement magnifies Moana's sense of destiny and purpose by attributing human-like agency to the vast and impersonal entity of the ocean. By claiming that the ocean has specifically singled her out for a monumental task, Moana emphasizes the magnitude of her role in the narrative and the weight of her responsibilities. This

hyperbole underscores Moana's conviction and determination and reinforces the overarching theme of fate and the interconnectedness of all living things. It elevates Moana's character to heroic status, emphasizing her exceptionalism and her pivotal role in shaping the course of events.

### **Paradox**

Data 4: "*The journey may leave a scar. But scars can heal and reveal just where you are.*"

The journey may leave a scar. But scars can heal and reveal just where you are." This paradoxical statement encapsulates the complex interplay between adversity and growth within Moana's narrative. By acknowledging Moana's challenges and setbacks on her journey, the paradox underscores the inevitability of struggle and the transformative power of hardship. It suggests that while adversity may leave scars, these scars serve as tangible reminders of one's resilience and capacity for growth. This paradox highlights the cyclical nature of human experience and reinforces the theme of perseverance and self-discovery, portraying adversity not as an obstacle but as an opportunity for personal evolution.

### **Irony**

Data 5: Maui's: "*What can I say except you're welcome, for the tides, the sun, the sky.*" //

Moana's: "*I am not here for you to sign my oar and say thank you. I'm here because you stole the heart of Te Fiti.... Put it back!*" This interaction amplifies the irony as Moana, the inexperienced yet determined protagonist, confronts Maui with the reality of his actions. Maui, who considers himself the story's hero, is called out for being the very cause of the problem Moana is tasked with solving. The ocean's choice of Moana over Maui to restore the heart of Te Fiti further intensifies the irony, underscoring that heroism is defined by courage, selflessness, and a willingness to correct one's mistakes, not by past achievements or strength. This situation reveals the deep contrast between appearance and reality, making it a prime example of irony in the narrative.

### **Personification**

Data 6: "*The sea, she calls me*"

Moana's connection to the ocean is portrayed as deeply personal and intimate through the personification of the sea. By attributing human-like qualities to the natural world, the personification enhances the theme of humanity's symbiotic relationship with nature, suggesting that Moana's bond with the sea is reciprocal and communicative. The personification emphasizes that nature is not merely a backdrop to Moana's journey but an active participant, guiding and influencing her path. It imbues the ocean with agency and

intention, elevating it from a mere setting to a central character in Moana's quest for self-discovery.

These explanations delve deeper into the nuances of each figurative language device in "Moana," unravelling the layers of meaning and thematic significance embedded within the narrative. Each device contributes to the story's richness and complexity, enhancing its emotional resonance and philosophical depth.

#### 4. CONCLUSION

This research has demonstrated the integral role of figurative language in enriching the narrative of the movie "Moana." By analyzing six types of figurative language—simile, metaphor, hyperbole, paradox, irony, and personification—we uncover how these elements contribute to the film's emotional depth and cultural richness. The prevalence of personification and metaphor, particularly in the portrayal of the ocean as a character, underscores their importance in conveying the story's themes and enhancing its resonance with audiences. This study highlights how figurative language is not merely a decorative aspect of the script but a fundamental narrative device that breathes life into the story, deepening the viewers' engagement and understanding of the film's cultural and emotional landscape. By weaving these figurative expressions into the script, "Moana" succeeds in creating a vivid and immersive world that not only entertains but also provokes thought and emotional connection, illustrating the indispensable role of figurative language in cinematic storytelling. This exploration reveals the profound impact of these literary devices on the audience's cognitive and emotional experience, showcasing the innovation in narrative techniques within modern filmmaking.

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