

ANALYSIS TYPES OF FIGURATIVE LANGUAGE USED IN MAYA ANGELOU'S POEMS

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ABSTRACT

The use of figurative language adds to the unique of the literature, which can create an imaginative atmosphere for the reader. The analysis is about type's figurative language of in Maya Angelou's. There are three poems the writer uses in thesis. The research method of this thesis is descriptive qualitative using a descriptive approach. The purpose of this analysis is to find figurative language in Maya Angelou's poem. The selected poems are "Still I Rise", "Caged Bird", and "Alone". The theory used in this research was the theory of figurative language by Gorys Keraf. In analyzing the data the writer analyzes figurative language found in the three poem and draws the final conclusion based on the results of the data analysis. In the analysis and discussion, it is found the meaning of the three poem by Maya Angelou. "Still I Rise" contains seven figurative language, i.e. symbol, simile, irony, repetition, personification, cynicism, metaphor. "Caged Bird" contains four types of figurative language, i.e. personification, metaphor, irony, symbol. "Alone" contains four types of figurative language, i.e. Personification, metaphor, symbol, repetition. The result of the analysis shows that there are many figurative language found in Maya Angelou's poem.

Key words: *Poetry, Figurative Language, Maya Angelou*

INTRODUCTION

Poetry use a lot of figurative languages. The beauty of poem can be seen from the use of a figurative language, the use of language style is the key to adding value to the beauty of poetry.(Keraf,2010:113) argues that a good figurative language must contain three parts, namely based on what is, manners, and stunning. This means that the figurative language must be in accordance with what will be

expressed, its disclosure using polite and exciting speech. Figurative language is widely used in all forms of communication. The use of figurative language adds to the unique of the literature, which can create an imaginative atmosphere for the reader. Like literary works of poetry, figurative language is widely used in sentences in poetry. Figurative language is used to beautify poetry. According to XJ Kennedy (1979), figurative language is a language that uses parables. Figurative language is the language that is used to say something else. In general, figurative language is divided into twelve types including metaphor, personification, simile, hyperbole, symbol, synecdoche, apostrophe, contrast, understatement, symbolism, allegory, metonymy, and irony.

Thus, the writer wants to know the meaning of the figurative language in the three Maya Angelou poems. There are "Still I Rise", "Caged Bird", and "Alone". In addition, her poems contain social criticism. Her poems are very well-known in the community. "Still I rise" has 34 lines, and the writer also wants to know more about what type of figurative language is used in the poem. "Still I rise" is one of Maya Angelou's famous poems because this poem is about a woman's resolution. "Caged Bird", this poem has its uniqueness. She describes the position of the main character as a camera in a cage that cannot fly freely. "Alone". Writer interest in the title of the poem. In the poem, the stage is about the feeling of loneliness experienced by human. "Alone" is a well-known poem in society.

The writer wants to analyzed types figurative language and meaning of the poems. This research is expected to provide information on the diversity of figurative language in Maya Angelou's poetry, according to the title of this study which discusses types of figurative language.

METHODOLOGY

The writer gives an overview of the use of the figures of speech and the meaning of each word so that the writer can conclude what figurative language dominates the poems by Maya Angelou. According to Sugiyono, descriptive research is research done to ascertain the value of one or more independent variables without drawing comparisons or connections to other variables. (2012:13). Based on the

approach above, the writer chooses a descriptive approach because this writer describes the data found in the poem This research concerns figurative language, so the approach is in accordance with the use of figurative language. This research describes one of the intrinsic elements of poetry. In this research the writer analyzes the meaning contained in the figurative language and then reveals the type of figurative language used in the poem.

DISCUSSION

Types of Figurative Language in Maya Angelo's poem

Table 1. Types of Figurative Language in "Still I Rise" Poem

Quotation From the Poem	Types of Figurative Language
With your bitter, twisted lies, (L.2)	Symbol
You may tread me in the very dirt (L.3)	Symbol
But still, like dust, I'll rise (L.4)	Symbol, Simile, Irony
Just like moons and like suns.(L.9)	Simile
Just like hopes springing high,(L.11)	Simile
Shoulders falling down like teardrops,(L.15)	Simile
Cause I laugh like I've got gold mines (L.19)	Simile
But still, like air, I'll rise.(L.24)	Symbol, simile
I rise I rise I rise	Repetition,
You may shoot me with your words (L.21)	Symbol
Did you want to see me broken? (L.13)	Cynicism
Weakened by my soulful cries? (L.16)	Cynicism
I'm a black ocean, leaping and wide (L.33)	Metaphor
I am the dream and the hope of the slave.(L.40)	Metaphor
Out of the huts of history's shame (L.29)	Personification

There are seven types of figurative language used in "Still I Rise". These are symbols, Simile, Irony, Repetition, Personification, Cynicism, and Metaphor. "With your bitter, twisted lies"

The kind of figurative language is symbol because the sentence "Bitter" refers to a problem that has arisen. It means that In the life of the poet, there is a very complicated lie.

"You may trod me in the very dirt"

The kind of figurative language is symbol because the sentence "...trod me in the very dirt". It refers to oppression. It means that she reveals an oppression that occurs in the black race.

"But still, like dust, I'll rise"

The sentence has three types of figurative language. There are symbol, irony and simile. The word "dust" in this sentence is symbol because it symbolizes someone who is weak. And "like" in the sentence is simile. The difference word is "like" which causes the penalty to be called a simile. It is shown in "But still, *like dust*, I'll rise". In the sentence containing irony, she uses the word "like dust" to provide satire with the opposite meaning. In that sentence, she tells her condition as dust which means she is weak and doesn't have any strength. She put the irony. She knows that she is a strong woman and looks like dust. However, she is ready to fight and she will rise again.

"Just like moons and suns"

The kind of figurative language is simile because in the sentence "like" it is simile. The difference word is "like" which causes the penalty to be called a simile.

"Just like hopes springing high"

The kind of figurative language is simile because in the sentence "like" it is simile. The difference word is "like" which causes the penalty to be called a simile.

"Did you want to see me broken?"

The kind of figurative language is cynicism. Cynicism is defined as satire in the form of doubt that contains ridicule of sincerity and sincerity. Cynicism is a satire that is delivered directly.

"Did you want to see me broken?", in these sentences, she insinuates her haters with her thoughts that her haters want her to be destroyed

"Shoulders falling like teardrops,"

The kind of figurative language is simile. The difference word is "...like..." which causes the penalty to be called a simile.

"Weakened by my soulful cries?"

The kind of figurative language is cynicism. Cynicism is defined as satire in the form of doubt that contains ridicule of sincerity and sincerity.

In sentence "Weakened by my soulful cries?", its cynicism because she given . give satire to the opponent by using questions that contain satire that contains ridicule as in the word "...my soulful cries".

"Cause I laugh like I've got gold mines ". The difference word is "like" which causes the penalty to be called a simile.

"Shoot me with your words"

The kind of figurative language is symbol. Because the sentence refers to an action that is an insult or oppression.

"But still, like air, I'll rise."

In the sentence have two figurative language, they are symbol and simile. the word " like air" it is symbol. Air is an element that is important to maintain the life of a creature. And in the sentence "like" it is simile. The difference word is "like" which causes the penalty to be called a simile.

The third is repetition. Maya Angelou's poem entitled *Still I Rise* contains many repetitions. The repetition can be seen in the sentence "I rise/I rise/I rise". This sentence includes repetition, because she wants to reaffirm the meaning in this poem.

"Out of the huts of history's shame"

The kind of figurative language is personification. Personification is the giving of human characteristics to non-humans. The huts history in this sentence is described as a living being who can have a sense of shame.

"I'm a black ocean, leaping and wide"

The kind of figurative language is metaphor. Methapor is a figurative language that compares two things that have a different basis but have the same quality. In both sentences there is a comparison between humans, oceans, dreams, and hope.

"I am the dream and the hope of the slave.

The kind of figurative language is metaphor because in these sentences she compares himself to the dream and hope of the slaves.

Tabel 2. Types of Figurative Language in "Caged Bird" Poem

Quotation From the Poem	Types of Figurative Language
and dips his wing (L.5)	Personification
in the orange sun rays (L.6)	Personification
and dares to claim the sky(L.7)	Personification
A free bird leaps (L.1)	Symbol
his bars of rage (L.11)	Metaphor
his wings are clipped and(L.12)	Metaphor
his feet are tied (L.13)	Metaphor
So he opens his throat to sing (L.14)	Personification
of things unknown (L.33)	Irony
but longed for still(L.34)	Irony
and his tune is heard(L.35)	Irony
On the back of the wind(L.2)	Personification

Maya Angelou's poem entitled "Caged Bird" uses four types of figurative language including personification, metaphor, symbol, and repetition. The personification is found in;

"And dips his wings"(L. 5)

"In the orange sun rays"(L.6)

"And dares to claim the sky"(L.7)

The kind of figurative language is personification. The three lines describe the activities of a bird just like humans. Dips his wings in the orange sun rays and dares to claim the sky. In this sentence, it is as if birds can think like humans who have courageous and confident determinations.

"So she opens his throat to sing" (L.14)

The line above uses personification. She uses birds as human-like objects that can sing.

“On the back of the wind” (L.2)

In this second line, she uses a personification figurative language to embellish his poetry. In these sentences, she described the activities of birds like humans. On the back of the wind, it can be interpreted that the object is flying freely and confidently without fear.

“A free bird leaps” (L. 1).

The kind of figurative language is a symbol. The symbol is a type of figurative language that uses symbols of living things and objects. It shows in In that sentence “A free bird leaps” (L., she uses the subject as a bird(animal) as a symbol of the white race society that enjoys freedom.

“His bars of rage” (L.11)

“His wings are clipped and” (L.12)

“His feet are tied “(L.13)

A metaphor is a comparison used to identify two different things. The metaphor is found In the eleventh line, the phrase "bar of rage" refers to the atmosphere of the physical environment, which makes the bird trapped in the sentence very emotional. While the twelfth and thirteenth lines use metaphors that describe the comparison of wings that are cut off and legs that are tied to the oppression of minority communities. This implies the freedom of a bird that is taken by force so that with a heavy heart the bird cannot fly even though it wants to.

“Of things unknown” (L.33)

“But longed for still” (L.34)

“ And his tune is heard” (L.35)

The kind of figurative language is irony. Irony is the use of words to convey a meaning that is the opposite of what it is. This figurative language is used to express a satire expressed by Maya Angelou. It means something that is known, not missed, and not heard of, which refers to the white race community.

Tabel 3 of types figurative language in "Alone" poem

Quotation From the Poem	Types of Figurative Language
Where water is not thirsty (L.4)	Personification
Storm clouds are gathering (L.28)	Personification
And bread lost is not stone (L.5)	Metaphor
How to find my soul a home (L.3)	Symbol
To cure their hearts of stone. (L.19)	Symbol
That, but, cause, nobody, But nobody Can make it out here alone. Alone, all alone Nobody, Can make it out here alone	Repetition

Maya Angelou's poem entitled "Alone" uses four types of figurative language which are comparisons in the form of personification, metaphor, symbol, simile, and affirmation in the form of repetition. The first personification can be seen in;

"Where water is not thirsty" (line 4).

The kind of figurative language is personification because the expression "where water is not thirsty", she places human characteristics in the water as if they live like humans who feel thirsty.

"Storm clouds are gathering" (line 28).

Figurative language of personification is found in line 28. In the word Storm clouds are gathering, it contains a figurative language of personification. It can be seen that Strom, who is an inanimate object, is described as able to move and gather like humans.

"And bread loaf is not stone" (line 5).

The metaphor can be seen in the 5th line. A metaphor is a comparison used to identify two different things. In the sentence above Maya Angelou compares an object that is not the same, like a stone and bread.

"How to find my soul a home".

The third is symbols. The symbol is a type of figurative language that uses symbols of living things and objects. The metaphor is found in "How to find my soul a home" which is located on line 3. In this sentence, the house is a symbol of a place that can be a community in one's life. She is looking for a home for his quiet soul.

"Their wives run round like banshees."

The next symbolic figurative language is found in the sentence "their wives run round like banshees." located on the 16th line. In this sentence, there is the word "wives" means wealth and banshees which means a disaster for them.

The last one is affirmation in the form of repetition. Can be seen in "That, but, Couse, nobody, Can make it out here alone, Alone, all alone Nobody, but nobody/ Can make it out here alone". In the sentence above, Maya Angelou can be seen repeating words to give extra pressure on the reader.

Figurative language is a way of writing poetry that is used to express her ideas, feelings, and thoughts. This research was conducted to determine the type of figurative language used in Maya Angelou's three poems. The results of this study displayed 37 expressions in 7 types of figurative language. Figurative language includes symbols, similes, irony, repetition, personification, cynicism, metaphor. The figurative language that is most widely used in the three poems is personification. The classification of the figurative language found in poems are shown as follow:

Table 5. The number of figurative language

No	Types of Figurative Language	Total	Presentage
1.	Symbol	8	21,6%
2.	Personification	8	21,6%
3.	Metaphor	7	18,9%
4.	Simile	6	16,2%
5.	Irony	4	10,8%
6.	Repetition	2	5,4%
7.	Cynicism	2	5,4%
Total		37	100%

Based on the table above, the writer found seven types of figurative language which are used in the poems, they are symbol, simile, irony, repetition, personification, cynicism, metaphor. The most of figurative language which is used in some of Maya Angelou's poems above is personification and symbol. There are eight sentences contained in the three poems. Personification is a figurative language used to describe inanimate objects/living things as if they were human. And symbols are found in all three of Maya Angelou's poems.

In the first poem "Still I Rise" the amount is 13.51% which is located in the second, third, twenty-fourth, and twenty-first lines. Both "Caged Bird" amount to 2.70% contained in one sentence in the first line. In the third poem "Alone" there is 5.41% which is in the third line and the nineteenth line. The total is 21.6%. The third figurative language in the three poems is a simile. It is only found in the first poem "Still I Rise" amounting to 16.2%. In this poem, she uses a lot of similes which are figurative language. She uses a figurative language to describe his situation.

The fourth figurative language is irony. This figurative language contains the first poem entitled "Still I Rise" which amounts to 2.70% and in the second poem "Caged Bird" the amount is the same, namely 2.70%. The total is 10.8%. Both of these poems use a lot of irony in the form of satire using opposite meanings.

Repetition is found in the first poem "Still I Rise" with a total of 2.70% and the third poem "Caged Bird" with a total of 2.70%. The total figure for speech is 5.4%. In both of these poems, he uses repetition to confirm the message conveyed in the poem. Apart from repetition, there is cynicism. This is only found in the first poem entitled "Still I Rise" with a total of 5.41%. Cynicism in this poem is used to satirize openly. She wants to satirize society's actions towards his race.

Second, writer would like to convey her findings about the meaning contained in Maya Angelou's three poems. The first, Still I Rise poem presented about women's Resolutions. This poem is one illustration of the freedom of discrimination for black people in a country. In this poem she wants to defend her human rights as a woman. In the poem, it appears that Angelou wants to defend herself. She reveals how he fought for his freedom. She looks confident to defend his rights. She continued to stand until no one else would be able to knock her down. The second, Caged Bird poem presented about compares a bird that flies freely with a bird in a cage. This poem is associated with human life. In this poem,

she compares the two birds that live freely with birds that live in a cage. In this poem, she wants to tell his feelings about an oppressor against black people in America who long for their freedom. The third, Alone poem presented about humans who need community to survive. Wealth in the form of material money will not give happiness. Even very, very rich people can be lonely.

CONCLUSION

The writer concludes that a lot of figurative languages is used in Maya Angelou's three poems entitled "Still I Rise", "Caged Bird", "Alone". Seven types of language styles are used in the three poems: symbols, similes, irony, repetitions, personifications, cynicism, and metaphors. The dominant types of figurative language used by Maya Angelou is symbol and personification. The writer found a lot of symbols and personification of figurative language in the three poem. The writer find figurative language is, first allegory found in "Still I Rise" is symbol, simile, irony, repetition, personification, cynicism, metapor. The two figures of speech in "Caged Bird" are personification, metaphor, irony, symbol, repetition. The last figurative language in "Alone" is Personification, metaphor, symbol, repetition.

The writer interprets the meaning of each poem. The first, "Still I rise" which means discrimination experienced by black people. In this poem, she wants to fight for his rights until no one else brings him down. The second is "Caged bird", this poem has meaning about the oppressors of black people in America who long for their freedom. The third is "Alone" in this poem implies that all people need a community, they cannot only rely on their wealth because being rich will not prevent them from feeling lonely.

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