

The figurative language: Metaphor and personification in the poetry of William Shakespeare and William Blake

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Abstract - The author in making this journal aims to provide more understanding and information for many people, so that it can be used for their further research or become reference material for their assignments. In making it, the author chooses a qualitative method because it can get a lot of information presented in words or explanatory sentences. The topic taken in journal writing is about metaphor and personification in the poems of William Shakespeare and William Blake. The poems taken by the researchers are four titles namely 'Sonnet 16', Sonnet 18 (Shall I Compare Thee to Summer's Day?', "The Tyger", and "London". This research produces the same number of metaphors and personification, 11, with William Shakespeare's poems using the least metaphors and personification compared to William Blake's poems. So, in this research the author can provide a lot of new information to be used in activities or tasks carried out in education, to add information as a complement to previous journals.

Keywords: poetry analysis; figurative language; metaphor; personification

I. INTRODUCTION

The research in this journal is conducted to complement and add information from existing journals. The researchers conduct research by analysing four poems from poets who are very famous today, namely William Shakespeare and William Blake. The contents of the journal will explain the problems to be researched such as metaphor and personification. In this case, the solution requires related sample data, such as (1) How will the result data be presented? (2) Are there any obstacles in analysing the topic?

Before proceeding to the content to be explained, the researchers explain and provide information related to the poet's life background and the meaning of poetry, figurative language, metaphor, and personification. The purpose of this is for the reader to better understand and appreciate the work written by poets in the past, so that it is not easy to be imitated and plagiarised to be recognised as their work because the difference in the year of writing is very different.

William Shakespeare was a very famous poet and writer; he was born in 1564 in Stratford-upon-Avon to John Shakespeare and Mary Arden. In his birth many mention that William Shakespeare was born on 23 April 1564, due to information obtained from court records and the church that baptized William Shakespeare at that time. Information about William Shakespeare is very limited because of his private life that is closed so that only the works he has written are

known. William Shakespeare's childhood to adolescence was spent attending grammar school, all thanks to the help of his father who worked as a government administrator in Stratford.

When he was 18 years old in 1582, William Shakespeare married Anne Hathaway who was 26 years old at the time. In his marriage he was blessed with 3 children. After 9 years in 1590, William Shakespeare and his family moved to London, because he had to work in an acting company which was then known as Lord Chamberlain's Men and later changed to King's Men in 1603. The career he built at that time was very successful because he was supported to write, produce, and publish his own works to be performed on stage. After his success, he was able to buy his own theatre called the Globe Theatre, which was located on the banks of the River Thames, right in the heart of London. In this theatre, many of his works were performed and received quite a lot of response from the public. But on the way to building his own theatre, many people tried to destroy and burn down his theatre. He was able to rise from all that because of the influence of writers namely Christopher Marlowe, Michel de Montaigne (France), and Petrarch (Italy) who were able to make Shakespeare write his works well until he became famous until now.

Shakespeare's writing style greatly illustrates that he was a literary genius because the reasons for his decisions were made deliberately such as in determining metaphors, the meaning of words to express the truth or satirize someone, or even based on the topics and situations that were happening at that time. The language that Shakespeare used when writing was to use language that had a double or broad meaning, not only that he also liked to play with language so that the words that would be spoken by the theatre players held an important responsibility to convey the message of the story.

William Blake was a very famous writer, beginning his career at a young age. Blake claimed to have seen his first vision of a tree filled with angels, when he was 10 years old. He also studied carving and loved Gothic art, which he incorporated into his unique works. During his career Blake gained fans or admirers at an old age, because he was misunderstood as a poet, artist and visionary and until his death in 1827 William Blake was still very influential even though people at that time were late fans.

On 28 November 1757 William Blake was born in the Soho district of London, England. Blake only experienced school life for a very short time, the rest of his education was mostly obtained from home by the guidance of his mother. In his life the most influential thing was the Bible, because it was the source of his inspiration for life, which adorned his life and work with a strong spirituality.

As a result of this biblical influence, William Blake created many works. By the time he was 14 years old he was already drawing tombs and monuments, collecting prints from artists who were no longer popular. It was almost 40 years later that his works became famous, but at that time Blake criticised artists who tried to create a new style to oppose the artists who were no longer popular and he also rejected the literary trends of the 18th century and preferred and chose the Elizabethan style. So, in his works, most of them still use the English language that existed during Shakespeare's era.

During his career Blake also undertook book publishing and printing projects, and a career as a painter. In 1783 he privately published *Poetical Sketches*, a collection of poems that he had been writing for 14 years. But before that in 1782 Blake married Catherine Sophia Boucher, a woman he taught how to read, write, draw, and colour designs or prints made, so Catherine was very supportive of her husband until Blake's death.

Blake's work is inseparable from the support of his wife Catherine and the influence of the Bible in his life. Although during his career he experienced a lot of opposition from the environment and other parties, but he was able to make a very good work and could be famous until now. And now his work is used for inspiration or reference by artists and writers in creating a literary work.

Poetry is a beautiful literary work because it has a rhyme that ends the same and always has words or language that contains broad meanings about many things such as romance, life, peace,

and beauty. Sayuti (2008) states that poetry is a form of language expression that considers the aspect of the sounds in it, which expresses the imaginative, emotional, and intellectual experience of the poet drawn from his individual and social life; expressed by a certain choice of technique, so it can evoke certain experiences in the reader or audience. Not only that, poetry also has another meaning according to Kosasih (2003) poetry is a form of work that has beautiful words and is rich in meaning (Mumin & Sudrajat, 2021). So, poetry can mean a beautiful work with a lot of emotion, imagination, expression, and experience that is rich in meaning and beautiful words. A poem written by a poet usually comes from his life experiences or things that happen around the poet's living environment

In a poem, it has a very bound character such as rhyme. Usually a poem has a-b-a-b, a-a-a-a, a-a-b-b, etc., so what makes a poem different from others is the rhyme. Rhymes are sounds that arise by letters in poetry that can make the poem beautiful and can describe the atmosphere and feelings of the poet or author. The language used in rhyme should not be arbitrary, because if you choose the wrong words, the effect or mention in the poem will be strange and not give a poetic effect. As said by Lea et al (2021); Sykäri & Fabb (2022) rhyme is the most common poetic device in poetry. And added by Lea et al., 2021 The types of devices present in poetry including rhyme can be used to produce artistic effects and help readers to look to the beginning of the poem. Therefore, the use of language for rhyme must be considered because this language is what makes the development of language continue to stand out. As used in the poetry of William Shakespeare and William Blake who used medieval English which is a mixture of Saxon and French.

Language in poetry must be considered every period, because it can have an impact on changes in the words spoken. What we have analyzed is that the development of English is divided into three periods: English-old era, English-middle era, and English-modern era. It is said by Verdonk (2002) that language style is a way to utilize language for certain purposes and effects in every development of English.

In poetry there is one very important element, that element is figurative language. Figurative language is the kind of language used in poetry to identify the words in the poem. This is what can distinguish the words in the poem and can determine what kind of words are included in the form. According to some expert's figurative language also has different meanings (Kerap, 2008). Figurative language has many types which are divided into 4 main categories namely comparisons, contrast, relationships, and repetition (Anggiamurni, 2020). In figurative language there are a lot of figure of speech, the researchers here explain two figures of speech namely metaphor and personification found in William Shakespeare's poems in "Sonnet 16", and "Sonnet 18 (Shall I Compare Thee to A Summer's Day?)", and in the poem written by William Blake found in the poems "The Tyger", and "London".

Metaphor is a comparison of two terms that are identically the same without using the word *like*, *or*, and *as* to compare them. According to linguist Wainwright (2005) metaphor is one term that is another with the same characteristics. Another definition of metaphor is a figurative word that makes an implicit or hidden comparison of two things that are not related, but have common characteristics of the same two objects (Anggiamurni (2020). It is said by experts that metaphor is the use of a word or phrase that shows a difference in literal or literal meaning and added by other experts that metaphor is figurative language which is part of the figure of speech of comparison used to compare others without using comparative words like, as, and so on (Chaer, 2009: 75; Djajasudarma, 2009; Pradopo, 2014; Kamariah & Arifin, 2020).

In this case, metaphors can also compare many objects that are alive or inanimate. Words used in metaphors can sometimes have positive or negative meanings. Usually, the positive meaning is to describe the beauty of the object. However, negative metaphors usually describe misfortune or sadness in the content of the poem that the poet writes.

Personification is a style of language that always gives human characteristics to inanimate objects or living things that do not have these characteristics. In this case, it has the purpose of making the inanimate object more interesting and easy is to imagine in its

application. But sometimes personification can make the words softer or stand out as sarcasm. This comparison can make the supposition clearer, but sometimes the obstacle obtained when personification is similar to metaphor and has words that are difficult to understand or explain. Abrams (1999) states that personification is where inanimate objects or abstract concepts are portrayed as endowed with life, human attributes, and feelings.

Teja et al (2022) examine figurative language in selected song lyrics by Alec Benjamin, focusing on two main questions: the types of figurative language present and their meanings. The study uses Knickerbocker and Reninger's (1963) framework to identify the types of figurative language and Leech's (1981) theory to interpret their meanings. Data collection involved listening to the songs, reading the lyrics, and highlighting and categorizing figurative language instances. The qualitative analysis identified four types of figurative language: hyperbole, personification, synecdoche, and paradox. Hyperbole and simile were the most frequently used, with the others appearing equally. All identified figurative language conveyed connotative meanings.

Antari's (2022) research investigates the meanings behind figurative language in the lyrics and the symbolic signs and gestures in the music video of Day6's "Zombie" (English Version). The data consists of the song's lyrics and its official video, released by JYP Entertainment on May 11, 2021. Using Fairclough's (1995) critical discourse analysis, the study categorizes figurative expressions and interprets symbolic expressions through semiotics. The findings reveal six types of figurative language: metaphor, personification, paradox, repetition, metonymy, and symbolism. Symbolic meanings in the video are expressed through colour schemes, objects, and gestures. The study concludes that the lyrics and video depict the hopelessness of someone stuck in a monotonous routine.

Sandy et al (2021) study the kinds and meanings of figurative language in four selected poems by Thomas Hardy: "Rain on a Grave," "Her Immortality," "The Spell of Rose," and "The-To-Be-Forgotten." Employing a descriptive qualitative method and Perrine's theoretical framework, the study aims to answer two main questions: the types of figurative language used and their meanings. The analysis reveals 24 instances of figurative language, encompassing nine types: simile, metaphor, personification, apostrophe, synecdoche, metonymy, symbol, hyperbole, and understatement. Through this analysis, the researchers interpret the meanings of the figurative language within the poems.

The study of Hutagalung and Yusuf (2022) explores the figurative language used in Joel Osteen's speech "Your Words Become Your Reality" using a qualitative approach. Analyzing 30 instances of figurative language, the study identifies 9 similes, 5 metaphors, 4 personifications, 2 ironies, 3 hyperboles, 3 litotes, 2 metonymies, and 2 synecdoches. The meaning analysis reveals 9 denotative meanings and 21 connotative meanings. Simile is the most frequently used figurative language. These figurative expressions are employed to stimulate listeners' imaginations and capture their attention (Hutagalung & Yusuf, 2022).

The research investigates the figurative language and its meanings in the novel "It Starts with Us" by Colleen Hoover, published in 2022 (Monny, 2023). Using a qualitative literary study approach, the analysis identifies five types of figurative language: simile, metaphor, personification, hyperbole, and repetition. Out of 86 instances, 76 (86%) are similes, with "like" used 65 times (75.5%), "as" 6 times (6.9%), and "as...as" 3 times (3.4%). Metaphor and hyperbole each appear 4 times (4.65%), while personification and repetition each occur twice (2.32%). The study concludes that the author uses metaphors extensively to compare situations and emotions in the novel.

The other research titled "Figurative Language in Emily Dickinson Poems" explores the types and meanings of figurative language in five of Emily Dickinson's notable poems. Utilizing an intrinsic approach and Perrine's theoretical framework from "Literature, Structure, Sound and Sense," the study identifies and categorizes the figurative language used. The analysis reveals that Dickinson primarily employs personification, simile, and hyperbole, with personification

and simile being the most common. The study concludes that the figurative language in Dickinson's poetry often conveys her personal life experiences (Sriwulandari & Putri, 2021).

II. METHOD

The method is a way for researchers to obtain information data from a problem being studied. Usually in the method there are two ways, namely in quantitative and qualitative ways. Quantitative is a method or method used in displaying or presenting the results of information obtained in the form of numbers, graphs, tables, or diagrams. Meanwhile, qualitative is a method or method used to show the information obtained in the form of sentences, which does not contain data results in the form of numbers, graphs, tables, or diagrams. In research methods related to poetry analysis to find metaphor and personification from poems by William Shakespeare and William Blake, researchers use qualitative methods in obtaining information or data related to the analyzed poems.

Quantitative is the presentation of data or information in the form of numbers, graphs, tables, or diagrams, which are usually used in showing the amount or calculation of the data studied by the researchers. According to Sugiyono (2017) quantitative is a technique that uses statistics in analyzing data. And added by the opinion of Sidik and Denok (2021) that numeric data is one of the quantitative data that can be analyzed accurately.

Qualitative is the presentation of data or information in the form of sentences and does not contain numbers, graphs, tables, or diagrams, which are usually used to examine work of drama, poetry or things related to social. According to Leedy and Ormrod (2010) that qualitative has two mutually beneficial approaches, the first is by emphasizing phenomena that occur in natural settings in the real world, and the second is by studying phenomena in their difficulties.

The researchers chose a qualitative method because it makes it easier for readers to get the information they want to find. The data and information that has been obtained by researchers comes from journals, articles, blogs, and poetry texts. After that, the researchers read all the data and information collected and then analyses it to get the results of the problem to be solved. If all the data and information has been analyzed, the researchers will present it using qualitative methods. The purpose of this research is to improve existing data and information, and complete everything by correcting words and changing definitions so that it can be in accordance with the times.

3. RESULTS AND DISCUSSION

In the research that has been done by the researchers to get the data results in the form of metaphor and personification in four poems namely "Sonnet 16", "Sonnet 18 (Shall I Compare Thee to A Summer's Day?)", "London", and "The Tyger". The research not only found metaphor and personification but also found the presence of middle era language. Middle-era language or a mixture of Saxon and French in the poems of two famous poets of poems of two famous poets of the middle era. In the poems of William Shakespeare's and William Blake's poems do not use too much figurative language in the form of personification but uses a lot of figurative language in the form of metaphor. With this, the researchers describe what metaphor and personification are in the four poems.

Datum I:

- a. Metaphor Sonnet 16
- *But wherefore do not you a mightier way*

In this line, it explains about comparing ways to maintain greater or stronger beauty, but it is not explicitly explained.

- b. Metaphor Sonnet 18 (Shall I Compare Thee to A Summer's Day?)
- *Shall I compare thee to a summer's day?*

This line describes a lover compared to a summer's day, implying beauty and warmth.

- *Rough winds do shake the darling buds of May*

Explaining that the strong wind shook the flower buds in May, this metaphor means difficulties or challenges that can interfere with beauty or perfection.

- *Buy thy eternal summer shall not fade*

This metaphor means that the beauty in the lover will always be eternal unlike summer which can end.

- c. Metaphor The Tyger
- *Tyger Tyger, burning bright*

It is explained that the tiger is compared to a fire that burns brightly, which means strength and beauty that is very amazing.

- *In the forests of the night*

The word used to describe the very mysterious and frightening condition of the world is the word forests as a substitute, because the forest environment is overgrown with tall trees and branches that grow in all directions that cover the light entering the surface.

- *What immortal hand or eye*

Hand or eye describes the creator who is able to make and design the body parts of a terrifying tiger.

- *Could frame thy fearful symmetry?*

Fearful symmetry which implies that the creator has divine or supra-human power, which means a power that cannot be done by humans.

- d. Metaphor London
- *I wander through each chartered street*

Chartered street describes the streets of London and has a broad meaning about life in the city. And all is controlled by power and laws that curb freedom in life.

- *The mind-forged manacles I hear*

For mind-forged manacles, it describes the thoughts and actions made by society that restrain the minds and souls of humans so that they have mental and psychological effects.

- *Every blackning Church appalls*

Blackning Church is a metaphor that describes the many stains committed by sin, corruption, and hypocrisy that affect existing religious institutions.

Datum II:

a. Personification Sonnet 16

- *And many maiden gardens yet unset*

Maiden gardens are a personification that has the meaning of a virgin garden that has not been planted with anything, which illustrates the fertility and the amount of potential that has not yet been done.

- *So should the lines of life that life repair*

Life in this line is personified by having the meaning that any object or thing can be repaired or restored in its shadow like an object that can be maintained.

b. Personification Sonnet 18 (Shall I Compare Thee to A Summer's Day?)

- *Sometime too hot the eye of heaven shines*

The sun in this word has a personification as an object that has eyes that can shine brightly.

- *And often is his gold complexion dimmed*

In the word gold complexion dimmed means that all things can fade or become dim.

- *Nor shall death brag thou wand 'rest in his shade*

Death is personified as an arrogant creature who can hold someone in his shadow through spoken words.

c. Personification the Tyger

- *What dread hand? & what dread feet?*

The personification of hands and feet depicts the creature that created the tiger by giving the impression that the creator has a human nature.

- *When the stars threw down their spears*

The stars are described as warriors throwing their spears which gives a dramatic and deliberate impression.

- *And water'd heaven with the tears*

This line explains that all these things can cry to express their emotions, as if heaven is grieving.

d. Personification London

- *Marks of weakness, mark of woe*

Weakness and woe are described as marks that can be seen on people's faces, meaning that they are like living creatures that leave physical traces on people.

- *And the hapless Soldiers sigh, Runs in blood down Palace walls*

These two lines of the poem portray the personification that the moaning of soldiers can make things turn into blood that will flow on the walls of the palace, with the meaning of the injustice and suffering experienced in life in the city.

- *How the youthful Harlots Curse, Blasts the new-born Infants tear*

Youthful Harlots curse can be interpreted as everything can destroy new-born tears, the meaning of these two lines is to show the negative impact of sin and suffering committed in the past and will be borne by the next generation.

After conducting this study, the researchers found that metaphor and personification are used in four poems of poets William Shakespeare and William Blake. This research also proves that metaphor in the poems of William Shakespeare is less than the poems of William Blake. But not only that, the personification in William Shakespeare's poems also has a smaller number than the poems written by William Blake. So that the data that has been collected and put together can make the information clearer and more informative than before.

IV. CONCLUSION

The conclusion that the researchers has analyzed in the poetry of William Shakespeare and William Blake is metaphor and personification found in four poems namely Sonnet 16, Sonnet 18 (Shall I Compare Thee to A Summer's Day?), London, and The Tyger. The researchers have done many analyses to get better results than previous journals or articles. The contents of this journal are the background of the poet's life, the methods used in poetry research, and finally there are results and discussions in the form of data that show the results of the analyses that have been carried out. The hope of this research can be useful for many people to get additional information for references from assignments, journals, or articles that are being carried out. And the poems of the poets William Shakespeare and William Blake are very representative of the state of the environment from the medieval era to the present, so that their poetic works can be famous until now and are widely done for research in literary works.

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