FIGURATIVE LANGUAGE ANALYSIS ON MEWLANA JALALUDDIN

RUMI'S SELECTED POEMS

A GRADUATING PAPER

Submitted in Partial Fulfilment of the Requirements for Gaining the Bachelor's

Degree in English Literature Department

By :

Rizqiani Azizaturrohmah

17101050034

ENGLISH DEPARTMENT

FACULTY OF ADAB AND CULTURAL SCIENCES

SUNAN KALIJAGA STATE ISLAMIC UNIVERSITY

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The writer,

Rizqiani Azizaturrohmah
Student No: 17101050034

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Hal   : Skripsi

a.n. Rizqiani Azizaturrohmah

Yth
Dekan Fakultas Adab dan Ilmu Budaya
UIN Sunan Kalijaga
Di Yogyakarta

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Setelah memeriksa, meneliti, dan memberikan arahan untuk perbaikan atas skripsi Saudara:

Nama   : Rizqiani Azizaturrohmah

NIM   : 17101050034

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Pembimbing,

Aninda Aji Siwi, S.Pd., M.Pd
NIP 19851011 201503 2 004

KEMENTERIAN AGAMA
UNIVERSITAS ISLAM NEGERI SUNAN KALIJAGA
FAKULTAS ADAB DAN ILMU BUDAYA
Jl. Marsda Adisucipto Telp. (0274) 513949 Fax. (0274) 552883 Yogyakarta 55281

PENGESAHAN TUGAS AKHIR

Nomor : B-175/Un.02/DA/PP.00.9/01/2022

Tugas Akhir dengan judul   : Figurative Language Analysis on Mewlana Jalaluddin Rumi's Selected Poems

yang dipersiapkan dan disusun oleh:

Nama   : RIZQIANI AZIZATURROHMAH
Nomor Induk Mahasiswa   : 17101050034
Telah diujikan pada   : Senin, 17 Januari 2022
Nilai ujian Tugas Akhir   : A

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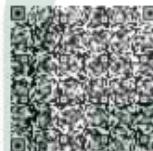
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Valid ID: 61ed2e3162cc2

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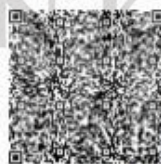Fuad Arif Fudiyartanto, S.Pd. M.Hum.,
M.Ed., Ph.D.
SIGNED

Valid ID: 61ef4c91c4324

Penguji II

Dr. Arif Budiman, S.S., M.A
SIGNED

Valid ID: 61ee0e792f4cc

Yogyakarta, 17 Januari 2022
UIN Sunan Kalijaga
Dekan Fakultas Adab dan Ilmu Budaya

Dr. Muhammad Wildan, M.A.
SIGNED

Valid ID: 61ef40e51bd81

iv

FIGURATIVE LANGUAGE ANALYSIS ON MEWLANA JALALUDDIN RUMI'S SELECTED POEMS

By: Rizqiani Azizaturrohmah

ABSTRACT

In literature, there are various kinds of literary works, one of which is poem. Poem is a literary work that uses elements of beauty and is full of meaning. Poets usually use figurative languages in conveying their poems. It is intended that the content of the poems will be more attractive and contain aesthetic values, and the meaning that the poets want to tell still remains. This research is qualitative descriptive research. In this study, the researcher uses the poems from Jalaluddin Rumi, a Persian poet. The researcher chooses Rumi's poems as the object of study because many of Rumi's poems contain figurative languages, and the contents of the poems are related to the verses of Al-Qur'an. The purpose of this research is to identify the figurative languages contained in the selected poems. The researcher tries to analyze the contextual meaning in each line containing figurative languages. The researcher uses the theory of figurative language by Perrine. After conducting the study, the researcher found 76 data in total with the number of metaphor (24), simile (14), personification (10), apostrophe (3), metonymy (2), synecdoche (3), symbol (0), allegory (0), paradox (18), hyperbole (5), understatement (1), and irony (3).

Keywords: *Poems, Figurative Languages, Jalaluddin Rumi, Contextual Meaning*

ANALISIS GAYA BAHASA DALAM PUISI-PUISI PILIHAN MEWLANA JALALUDDIN RUMI

Oleh: Rizqiani Azizaturrohmah

ABSTRAK

Dalam sastra, ada berbagai macam karya sastra, salah satunya adalah puisi. Puisi adalah karya sastra yang menggunakan unsur keindahan dan sarat akan makna. Penyair biasanya menggunakan gaya bahasa dalam menyampaikan puisinya. Hal tersebut bertujuan agar isi puisi terlihat menarik dan mengandung nilai estetika, serta makna yang ingin disampaikan oleh penulis tetap ada. Penelitian ini merupakan penelitian deskriptif kualitatif. Dalam penelitian ini, peneliti menggunakan puisi dari Jalaluddin Rumi, seorang penyair dari Persia. Peneliti memilih puisi-puisi Rumi sebagai objek kajian karena ada banyak puisi Rumi yang mengandung gaya bahasa dan isinya berkaitan dengan ayat-ayat Al-Qur'an. Tujuan dari penelitian ini adalah peneliti ingin mengidentifikasi gaya bahasa yang terdapat dalam puisi-puisi karya Jalaluddin Rumi dan mencoba menganalisis makna kontekstual yang ada di setiap baris yang mengandung gaya bahasa tersebut. Peneliti menggunakan teori gaya bahasa dari Perrine. Setelah dilakukan pengkajian, diperoleh 76 data secara keseluruhan dengan jumlah *metaphor* (24)*, simile* (14), *personification* (10)*, apostrophe* (3)*, metonymy* (2)*, synecdoche* (3)*, symbol* (0)*, allegory* (0)*, paradox* (18)*, hyperbole* (5)*, understatement* (1)*, dan irony* (3).

Kata Kunci: *Puisi, Gaya Bahasa, Jalaluddin Rumi, Makna Kontekstual*

MOTTO

"Taking the first step is always the hardest, but once you briefly take it,

everything will be lighter than before."

– **Rizqiani A**

"Faith is taking the first step even when you don't see the whole staircase."

– **Martin Luther King, Jr.**

DEDICATION

This work is dedicated to:

My beloved parents;

My beloved brothers;

My beloved family;

My beloved teachers;

My precious friends;

My dearest advisor, Mrs. Aninda Aji Siwi;

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Lastly, I fully realize that this graduating paper is far from perfect. Therefore, comments and suggestions are very welcome to improve this research. Hopefully, this research can be helpful for all the readers.

Yogyakarta, January 2nd, 2022

Rizqiani Azizaturrohmah
Student Number: 17101050034

TABLE OF CONTENT

LIST OF TABLE

CHAPTER I

INTRODUCTION

1.1   Background of Study

Language is a combination of words that contains ideas and can be understood by the community. Language is a system of conventional spoken or written symbols used by people to communicate. According to Santoso (1990: 1), language is a series of meaningful sounds used by conscious human beings. According to Wibowo (2001: 3), language is a system of symbols that are meaningful and create sound, which is arbitrary and conventional, and used as a means of communicating by a group of people to express feelings and thoughts.

Semantics is one of the system's components. One of the essential subfields in linguistics is semantics (Jannedy, 1994:5). Janedy defines semantics as the study of the meaning of words and sentences (1994: 216). It can also be described as the study of meaning (Lyons, 1995: 3). The word "meaning" is not enough to describe what it means. It is a complicated, multilayered phenomenon that resists through explanation because the term "meaning" has a wide range of contexts and various meanings.

Meaning is a complicated phenomenon involving interactions between a language and the speakers' thoughts, between a language and the world, and between a language and the practical applications to which it is put (Jannedy, 1994:219). Contextual meaning (situational meaning) comes as a result of the interaction between statements and context (Pateda, 2001:116). As a result, context

1

plays a role in determining meaning. This statement is supported by Malinowski, who argues that if a word is taken out of context, it loses its meaning (Parera, 2004).

Language is used in almost every part of life. One of them is literary works. Poem is a literary work that has been a part of civilization. According to Altenbernd (1996: 1), poems have been produced by every civilization in history, and it never loses its power during this time. Poem is an indirect expression, meaning that describes something by using connotative meaning (Riffaterre in Pradopo, 2007: 77). Poems express the idea in line using diction, figures of speech, rhyme, rhythm, etc. The language used in poems is more complex in meaning.

There are a lot of things that can be discussed in a poem, one of which is figurative language. Figurative language is a necessary thing in poems. According to Perrine, figurative language is language that uses figures of speech, and cannot be taken literally (1969: 28). Perrine also stated figurative language as a way of saying one thing and meaning another (1977: 61). Figurative language is a departure from the ordinary form of expression or the ordinary course of ideas to make a greater effect (Wien and Martin in Siswantoro, 2002: 24). Dale explained that figurative language is a beautiful language that is used to elevate and enhance the effect by introducing and arranging an object or a particular thing with objects or other more common things (cited in Tarigan, 1986: 112). Figurative language is a poet's expression of his imagination.

Mewlana Khwodavadgar Jalal al-Din Muhammad bin Mohammad al-Balkhi al-rumi or known as Rumi was born in 1207 (Rumi and Islam, 204, vol. xviii). Rumi has been speaking to people for centuries through the language of love.

He becomes the symbol of tolerance because every word comes from him is full of love and peace. Scholars claim that his words are expressing his feelings to God. Even his work Mathnavi contains spiritual subtleties and Qur'anic realities (Jamal, 2009: 145). Rumi who is known as a Sufi, concerned his works to humanity and spiritual substance to God.

The researcher chooses Mewlana Jalaluddin Rumi's selected poems for the object of study for some reasons. First of all, Rumi is an Islamic poet, and his poems are mostly expressing his feelings to God and humanity. Secondly, Rumi's poem is strongly influenced by Sufism as he was also a Sufi. Rumi has his own writing style, and the researcher finds that Rumi uses figurative languages in writing the poems. Analyzing what types of figurative languages he uses is a way to understand his writing. Lastly, some of Rumi's poems are related to the Qur'an, and many people may not know about the verses related to the poems yet. Thus, the researcher chooses Rumi's poems as the object to analyze and help people to know about what verses are related to Rumi's poems.

The researcher uses figurative languages as a tool to analyze the poems because poems often use figurative words. Because the form of figurative languages cannot be known literally, the usage of these figurative languages may make them difficult for the reader to understand the meaning of the line. It needs to be analyzed to figure out what those words actually mean. The researcher also explains the meaning of each figurative language using contextual meaning to elaborate the meaning of the words containing figurative languages.

There are 149 poems written by Rumi in PoemHunter.com. After reading Rumi's poems, the researcher decided to choose the poems that have figurative languages randomly. Therefore, there are ten poems selected by the researcher in this research. The titles are *The Privileged Lovers, When I Die, The Taste of Morning, A Stone I Dead, Did I Not Say to You, Do You Love Me? Lovers, You Who've Gone on Pilgrimage, Ode 1373,* and *The Guest House.* The researcher chooses those ten poems after reading and considering which poems contain figurative languages that are suitable for this research.

In selecting the poems, the researcher reads and determines which poems contain figurative languages. There are several stanzas that contain figurative languages in the poems. The example of figurative languages can be found in Rumi's poem below:

Title : *The Priviledge Lovers*

Line : 1

Lyric : *The moon has become a dancer*

at this festival of love.

This line uses personification. Personification gives human qualities or characters to animals, ideas, or inanimate objects (Shaw, 1972: 283). The lyric *The moon has become a dancer* shows that the poet makes the moon dances like humans do. The contextual meaning of this lyric is that everyone who falls in love will feel happy. They feel as if the moon is also dancing with them because of their happiness.

Hence, this study focuses on figurative languages used in Jalaluddin Rumi's selected poems. Based on the background above, the researcher is interested in analyzing the figurative languages and the meanings of them. This research would like to find out the types of figurative languages and the meanings of figurative languages in Jalaluddin Rumi's selected poems. After analyzing types of figurative languages in Jalaluddin Rumi's selected poems, the researcher will explain the meaning of each line that contains figurative languages using contextual meaning to explore what the poems are telling us about.

1.2   Research Questions

1. What kinds of figurative language are used in Rumi's selected poems?
2. What is the meaning of each figurative language in Rumi's selected poems?

1.3   Objectives of Study

1. To figure out the kinds of figurative language in Rumi's selected poems.
2. To explain the meaning of each figurative language in Rumi's selected poems.

1.4   Significances of Study

The significance of study in this research is for the researcher, the reader, and the next researcher. Theoretically, this research is expected to enrich the study of elements of literary work especially in figurative languages to help understand the meaning of poems. Practically, this research is expected to give benefits for the researcher, the reader, and the next researcher. This research can be useful for the

researcher as an insight into linguistics used in literary work. This research may help the readers have more information about figurative languages in Jalaluddin Rumi's selected poems. This research can be used as a reference for the next researcher who wants to research topics related to figurative languages.

1.5   Literature Review

The researcher finds some previous studies that analyze poems using figurative language. The first is a thesis by Wulandari (2015) entitled *Figurative Languages Used in Robert Frost's Selected Poems*. She focuses on the dominant figurative language used in Robert Frost's poem. She uses Tjahyono's perception. The poems analyzed by Wulandari are *Fire and Ice, The Road Not Taken, Stopping by Woods on a Snowy Evening,* and *Mending Wall*. In her research, she finds that the selected poems use symbol, paradox, parallelism, climax, personification, tautology, metaphor, contradiction, repetition, rhetoric, simile, inversion, and hyperbole. The dominant figurative language used in the poems is symbol. The differences from this research are the theory and the objects. The previous research uses figurative language theory by Tjahyono and Robert Frost's poems as the object.

The second is a thesis by Maula (2017). Her study is entitled *Meaning of Metaphor in Mewlana Jalaluddin Rumi's Poem*. She only focuses on analyzing metaphor and its meaning in her study. She uses metaphor theory by Ullmann. The poems analyzed by Maula are *This is Love, This aloneness, The Meaning of Love, A Moment of Happiness, Aroused Passion,* and *Caught in The Fire of Love.* In her research, she found 16 cases of metaphor – they are synesthetic metaphor, concrete

to abstract metaphor, and metaphor that does not belong to the category of Ullman's theory. The differences from this research are the theory and the title of the selected poems. The previous research only focuses on metaphor theory by Ullman, while this research focuses on general figurative theory by Perrine. The title of the selected poems are also different. This research analyzes the selected poems by Rumi with the titles *The Privileged Lovers, When I Die, The Taste of Morning, A Stone I Dead, Did I Not Say to You, Do You Love Me? Lovers, You Who've Gone on Pilgrimage, Ode 1373,* and *The Guest House.*

The third is a thesis by Hasanah (2018) entitled *An Analysis of Figurative Language Used in Some Poems By Oscar Wilde.* Her research focuses on the analysis of figurative language and contextual meaning. There are fifteen types of figurative language she found; they are personification, hyperbole, synecdoche (totem pro parte and pars prototo), repetition, metaphor, simile, symbol, litotes, metonymy, apostrophe, denotative meaning, and imagery (the kinds of imagery are visual imagery, auditory imagery, and gustatory imagery). Figurative language that is mostly used in her research is visual imagery. The differences from this research are the objects and the theory.

The fourth is a journal by Nurhaida and Marlina (2017) entitled *An Analysis of Figurative Language in Views (Opinion Column) of Online Padang Ekspres Newspaper.* Their research uses figurative language by Keraf. Their research focuses on the types of figurative language in Padang Express Newspaper in the opinion column part. The figurative languages found in their research are metaphor, simile, and personification. The dominant figurative language used is metaphor.

The differences between their research and this research are the objects and the theory. Their research uses Newspaper as the object and figurative theory by Keraf.

The last is a journal by Rapiudin (2018). The journal is entitled *The Analysis of Figurative Language in Poems "My Friend", "My One True Love", and "No Regrets" By Shayna O'Connell*. He focuses on analyzing kinds of figurative language used and analyzing the contextual meaning of each figurative language in selected poems. The figurative language used in his research are metaphor, simile, personification, hyperbole, litotes, and repetition figures of speech. The differences from this research are the objects and the theory.

The previous studies above use figurative language as the theory, but they have different objectives. The study by Maula (2017) uses Mewlana Jalaluddin Rumi's poem, but she only focuses on analyzing metaphor. The differences are that this research focuses on a wider type of figurative language by Perrine's theory. This research also focuses on contextual meaning of each figurative language, and this research has different selected poems to study.

1.6 Theoretical Approach

A theory appears in research study as an argument, a discussion, or a rationale, and it helps to explain (or predict) phenomena that occur in the world (Cresswell, 2009: 51). In this research, the researcher uses semantic theory focusing on figurative languages by Perrine's theory (1969: 64).

According to Perrine (1969: 64) figurative language is a way of adding extra dimension to language. Perrine (1969: 65) divides figurative language into 12

kinds; they are simile, metaphor, personification, apostrophe, synecdoche, metonymy, symbol, allegory, paradox, hyperbole, understatement, and irony.

Figurative meaning and vocabulary have a great relationship that is reciprocal. Figurative meaning and semantics also have a great relationship because without the knowledge of the meaning of the word, even connotative meaning, it is difficult to understand figurative meaning. Sometimes people read the newspapers, the magazines or novels, overlook non-literal expressions, and read them literally. Of course, the meaning of the expression becomes odd or not understandable. Therefore, figurative language becomes essential in the learning of vocabularies (Tarigan, 1995:113).

1.7 Method of Research

A method is a more or less consistent and coherent technique of thinking about and producing data, interpreting and analyzing data, and determining the theoretical end that results (Richards, 2013: 10). The method of this research consists of type of research, data sources, data collecting technique, and data analysis technique. It will be explained more as follow.

1.7.1. Type of Research

This research uses qualitative research. According to Cresswell, qualitative research is a technique for investigating and comprehending human or social cases, whether people or organizations, and then interpreting them. (2009: 1). The researcher calls this research qualitative research because the data are collected from the words of poems. Therefore, the researcher intends to explore the types of figurative languages in Rumi's poems by using figurative language theory. This

research uses library research to perform the research because the researcher observes various literary books and other supporting papers.

1.7.2. Data Sources

The main data refers to "the data as a subject of research in which it is collected as a source to be analyzed where the data are obtained" (Siswantoro, 2010: 72). The poems in this study were drawn from a collection of Rumi's poems compiled by PoemHunter.com. Rumi's poems include a wide range of topics, including love, spirituality, tolerance, coexistence, and God's praise. In this research, the researcher chooses poems randomly with many themes. The population of the data in this research is the whole Rumi's poems in PoemHunter.com, and the samples of the data are the poems that contain figurative languages. The researcher selects ten poems after reading and considering which poems contain figurative languages. The poems selected are *The Privileged Lovers, When I Die, The Taste of Morning, A Stone I Dead, Did I Not Say to You, Do You Love Me? Lovers, You Who've Gone on Pilgrimage, Ode 1373,* and *The Guest House*.

1.7.3. Data Collection Technique

The way to collect data selection is to concentrate on the data that is required while following to particular criteria or characteristics. (Siswantoro, 2010: 74). In this study, the data is collected using library research because the data obtained from written material that is closely related to the topic.

The researcher selects the data that contains the poem's meaning with care. The data collection processes are completed in three steps by the researcher. First,

reading the poems by Jalaluddin Rumi in PoemHunter.com. Second, highlighting and identifying lines that contain figurative languages. Third, identifying the contextual meaning of the lines that contain figurative languages.

1.7.4. Data Analysis Technique

The researcher employed theory qualitative research to analyze the data, which involves a number of processes and iterations like as acquiring data, assessing data, comparing earlier data to newer data, and producing new data to collect. The researcher separates the analysis technique into many steps after collecting the data. First, the researcher categorizes the poems based on the type of figurative language theory. Second, the researcher interprets the meaning of each figurative language used in the poems. Last, the researcher finds the conclusion of the analysis.

1.8 Paper Organization

There are four chapters in this study. The introduction is the first chapter. It covers general information such as the background of the study, research question, objectives of the study, significance of the study, literature review, theoretical approach, method of research, and paper organization. The second chapter provides a theoretical basis, explaining semantic theory and how to analyze figurative languages in the poems using contextual meaning. The third chapter applies the figurative languages theory to research and discussion by applying the figurative languages theory and analyzing the meaning of each figurative language. The last chapter presents the conclusions and suggestions of this research.

CHAPTER IV

CONCLUSION AND SUGGESTION

4.1   Conclusion

In this study, the researcher uses Jalaluddin Rumi's selected poems as the data. Rumi is a different poet from other poets. Out of his love for Allah, he wrote many poems using beautiful language as well as figurative language. Rumi's selected poems are analyzed for the figurative languages and the contextual meaning in its lines. The researcher uses the figurative language theory by Perrine and contextual meaning to help the researcher analyze each line. Furthermore, the researcher will answer the research questions mentioned in the earlier chapter below.

First, in the 10 selected poems, the researcher found that the poet uses 10 of 12 figurative languages by Perrine's theory. The figurative languages used by the poet are metaphor, simile, personification, apostrophe, metonymy, synecdoche, paradox, hyperbole, understatement, and irony. There are no lines in the selected poems that contain symbol and allegory. The researcher found 76 lines that contain figurative languages. There are 14 lines of 6 poems that use metaphor, 14 lines of 4 poems that use simile, 10 lines of 3 poems that use personification, 3 lines of 1 poem that use apostrophe, 2 lines of 1 poem that use metonymy, 3 lines of 1 poem that use synecdoche, 18 lines of 4 poems that use paradox, 5 lines of 2 poems that use hyperbole, 1 line of 1 poem that use understatement, and 3 lines of 1 poem that

use irony. There are 76 lines that contain figurative languages in total of 10 selected poems.

Second, the researcher has explained the contextual meaning of some figurative languages found in the 10 selected poems. Because of the unbalanced number of data, the researcher only took 3 lines in each figurative language that has more than 3 data that are mostly related with the verses of Al-Qur'an. The researcher has explained all lines that contain figurative languages in which the number of the data is less than 3 data, regardless of whether they are related to the verse of the Qur'an or not.

4.2   Suggestion

After finishing the study, the researcher finds some suggestions while writing this paper. First, the analysis of figurative language and the contextual meaning of it is very common, but it is not very common to find the analysis of poems that relate to the verses of Al-Qur'an. When looking for work with this theory, other researchers usually do not use figurative language by Perrine's theory. The researcher suggests the next researchers use Perrine's theory because it has more kinds of figurative languages than others. Perrine's theory has 12 kinds of figurative languages that will help the researchers analyze the poems more widely.

Second, other researchers can find data in other poems, not only in Jalaluddin Rumi's poems. If the next researchers are interested with the poems of Jalaluddin Rumi, the researcher suggests the next researchers to focus on one of the poems of Rumi to see and analyze how Rumi loves Allah that he shows through his poems.

The next researcher can use either figurative language theory or other theories to analyze Rumi's poems.

Last but not least, figurative language theory can be applied to other data as well such as novels, song lyrics, speech, etc. By that, it can enrich the study and probably inspire the next researchers to analyze deeper about the data and the theory.

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