

**TYPES AND MEANING OF METAPHORS IN *THE STORY OF*
*LAYLA AND MAJNUN***

A GRADUATING PAPER

Submitted in Partial Fulfillment of the Requirements
for Gaining the Bachelor's Degree in English Literature



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2025

MOTTO

من جد وجد

"Barang siapa yang bersungguh-sungguh maka mendapatlah ia"



DEDICATION

I dedicate this graduating paper to;

My beloved parents

Bapak Ahmad Zuhdi

Ibu Hestri Setiyaningsih S.Pd. SD

My Husband

Abdul Majid S.Pd

My Sister

Aisyah Habibatun Nikmah

My Brother

Akmal Huaidi Zain

All of My Teachers

My Lecturers in the English Department

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FINAL PROJECT STATEMENT

A FINAL PROJECT STATEMENT

I certify that this graduate paper is definitely my own work. I am completely responsible for the content of this graduating paper. Other researcher's opinion or finding included in this research is quoted or cited in accordance with ethical standards.

Yogyakarta, 30 April 2025

The Researcher,



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Kami menyatakan bahwa skripsi tersebut sudah dapat diajukan pada sidang Munaqosyah untuk memenuhi salah satu syarat memperoleh gelar Sarjana Sastra Inggris.

Atas perhatiannya, kami mengucapkan terima kasih.

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**TYPES AND MEANINGS OF METAPHORS IN THE STORY OF
LAYLA AND MAJNUN**

By: Annisa Hafifah

ABSTRACT

This study aims to analyze the types and meanings of metaphors found in the novel *The Story of Layla and Majnun* by Nizami Ganjavi, using Ullman's theory of metaphor. Ullman categorizes metaphors into four types: anthropomorphic, animal, concrete to abstract, and synesthetic. The study uses a descriptive qualitative method to examine 31 metaphorical expressions in the novel, which include 3 anthropomorphic metaphors, 8 animal metaphors, 18 concrete to abstract metaphors, and 2 synesthetic metaphors. The findings reveal that metaphors serve as a creative tool for expressing deep emotions, cultural values, and philosophical ideas. Concrete to abstract metaphors is the most dominant, reflecting the novel's tendency to transform tangible imagery into symbolic meanings. This study contributes to the field of semantics by offering insights into the role of metaphor in literary texts and the connection between language and cultural representation.

Keywords: *Meaning, Metaphor, Nizami Ganjavi, Novel, Semantics*



JENIS-JENIS DAN MAKNA METAFORA DALAM KISAH

LAYLA DAN MAJNUN

By: Annisa Hafifah

ABSTRAK

Penelitian ini bertujuan untuk menganalisis jenis dan makna metafora dalam novel *The Story of Layla and Majnun* karya Nizami Ganjavi dengan menggunakan teori metafora Ullman, teori ini mengkategorikan metafora ke dalam jenis antropomorfis, binatang, konkret ke abstrak, dan sinestetis. Penelitian ini menggunakan metode kualitatif deskriptif untuk meneliti 31 ekspresi metaforis dalam novel, yang terdiri dari 3 metafora antropomorfis, 8 metafora hewan, 18 metafora konkret ke abstrak, dan 2 metafora sinestetis. Hasil penelitian menunjukkan bahwa metafora berfungsi sebagai alat untuk menyampaikan emosi, nilai budaya, dan ide filosofis, dengan metafora konkret ke abstrak menjadi yang paling dominan, mencerminkan kecenderungan novel ini untuk mengubah citra nyata menjadi makna simbolis. Penelitian ini berkontribusi pada bidang semantik dengan memberikan wawasan tentang peran metafora dalam karya sastra serta hubungan antara ekspresi linguistik dan representasi budaya.

Kata kunci: Makna, Metafora, Nizami Ganjavi, Novel, Semantik



CHAPTER I

INTRODUCTION

1.1 Background of Study

Language is one of the most important parts of being human. It is one of the most important ways to communicate, and it is also deeply connected to a person's sense of self. According to Halliday (1978), in his book *Language as Social Semiotic: The Social Interpretation of Language and Meaning*, language is viewed as a social semiotic system, where meaning is shaped by social context. People use language to share information, thoughts, and feelings. To communicate effectively, speakers use various linguistic devices. These strategies are applied in different ways depending on the context and purpose of the communication. It can influence a reader's response or effectively express an idea or point of view (Halliday, M. A. K, 1978, p.187).

Linguistic devices come in many forms, such as phonemes, words, phrases, clauses, and sentences. These devices include a range of options such as similes, metaphors, allusions, and hyperbole. They are also called linguistic devices, linguistic techniques, or figurative devices. "Figurative devices are persuasive language," written by Perrine and Thomas in (Syafitri et al, 2018, p. 44). It is another approach to bring a new dimension to words that will attract the reader's attention. It indicates that the figurative devices, such as found poetry, novels, or other works, can pique the reader's interest. Thus, studying the literature can help one understand current linguistic concepts, particularly those related to semantics. Meanings relate to thoughts, feelings, and experiences, as mentioned by Hoed in Nurgiyantoro (2007), which shows how semantics refers to the literal or intended meaning and studies meaning as expressed through many signs and languages.

Keraf claims, "Figurative language is a word or phrase that departs from literal language, which is very difficult to be understood by people, even students, because it has differentiation from its context and reality in meaning, to know that figurative

language is formed based on comparison and similarity" (2009, p. 139). Comparison is a common practice among writers, and there are several ways to do it. In these efforts, the use of metaphor is an important method. A metaphor occurs when a phrase or expression that represents one thing in literal usage is applied to something completely different without making a comparison (Abrams, 1999, p. 97). In addition, there are three parts to a metaphor, as stated by Larson: the subject, the image, and the point of similarity, or the shared quality between the subject and the image (1998, p. 279).

Metaphor is a sort of figurative language that is commonly employed in daily life, both in direct speech and in literature such as music, books, films, and novels. Metaphors are like a perfect fit for stories and books because they can make language more interesting and meaningful (Ulfiana, 2021, p. 189). In stories, metaphors have the special power to make ordinary things seem extraordinary. Many authors use metaphors to bring their stories to life, helping readers see the world in a more detailed way. When people see a lot of metaphors, it is because they are fantastic tools for expressing complex thoughts, emotions, and moods. It makes reading a rich and imaginative experience. This freedom lets people give their words more than one meaning, which makes discussions more interesting and open to different interpretations.

Many literatures in the world use metaphors, one of which is *The Story of Layla and Majnun* by Nizami Ganjavi, which comes from Persia. One of the Persian popular novels, entitled *The Story of Layla and Majnun*, uses much of metaphors. This novel is a popular work written by Nizami Ganjavi, a Persian poet and scholar from the medieval period in 1966 (wikishia.net, 2023). Then, it started to be translated from its original Persian form into English by Dr. Rudolf Gelpke in collaboration with E. Mattin and G. Hill. The story is based on the true story of two lovers from the Bani Amer tribe in Najd in the Arabian Peninsula before Islam. The story is about two

characters, *Layla al-Amiriya*, a beautiful and intelligent young woman, and *Qays ibn al-Mulawah*, “Majnun”, a brilliant poet. Both Layla and Majnun grew up in the same tribe and were childhood friends. They loved each other but had to be apart because of the strict rules of their families and societies. Their love story faced many problems, and Layla's father was worried that Majnun's strange actions and strong love for Layla would negatively affect their family.

Throughout his novel *The Story of Layla and Majnun*, Nizami uses metaphorical language to express the many details of human emotions, cultural values, and social structures. These metaphors are like powerful tools that make the story very interesting. These metaphors are like bridges made of words, helping readers connect with the characters on a deeper, more emotional level. But understanding those metaphors is not easy. For some people, it could be challenging because of the change from literal language. The question is, how do these creative comparisons in novels, like metaphors, make the stories more meaningful, emotional, and affect how readers understand and feel about the text? The explanation will be further in this example:

“As the oyster nourishes its pearl”

(The Story of Layla and Majnun, Chapter I, p. 14)

According to Subroto, metaphors are divided into four categories, they are: Anthropomorphic Metaphors, Synesthetic Metaphors, Animal Metaphors, and Concrete to Abstract Metaphors. Animal metaphors are metaphors used to describe an event that contains animal elements. The sentence above uses a metaphorical language. Based on the quotation above, it can be categorized as an Animal metaphor. The metaphor “As the oyster nourishes its pearl” compares an oyster’s effort to produce a pearl with a person working hard to achieve something valuable. In this metaphor, the oyster represents someone who puts in effort and care, while the pearl symbolizes the rewarding outcome of that hard work. The message is that just as the oyster needs time and effort to create a pearl, a person must also work hard to reach a meaningful or

valuable goal. This metaphor emphasizes the idea that valuable results come from persistence and effort.

After looking into how the novel uses metaphors, it's clear that the author's creativity shows how humans (the author) see the world. They use metaphors to express deep feelings, complicated relationships, and tricky ideas in a more lively and creative way. As people's thoughts and feelings are connected to the place where they live, grow, and interact with others, Layla and Majnun's use of metaphors shows an extensive representation of the Arab people's social life, cultural values, and traditions at that time. Furthermore, the way characters are described, the comparisons made, and the symbolic language used all contribute to shaping the narrative's cultural landscape. These reasons prompt the researcher to examine how the metaphors are used and the meanings depicted within the novel. As Ullman (1983) defines a metaphor as a straightforward comparison based on an actual resemblance or similarity between two entities that have been combined or melted, the researcher will analyze the related cases by relying on the theory of metaphor by Ullman (1983) to answer the research problems stated. The selection of metaphor theory for this study relies on an understanding of metaphors that relate to linguistic meaning.

1.2 Research Question

Based on the issues mentioned above, the researcher formulates the research question as follows:

1. What types of metaphors are used in the novel *The Story of Layla and Majnun* by Nizami Ganjavi?
2. What is the meaning of the metaphors in the novel *The Story of Layla and Majnun* by Nizami Ganjavi?

1.3 Objectives of Study

To solve the problems, the researcher attempts to find the objectives of the study as follows:

1. To identify the types of metaphors used in *The Story of Layla and Majnun* novel by Nizami Ganjavi.
2. To examine the meaning of the metaphors in *The Story of Layla and Majnun* novel by Nizami Ganjavi.

1.4 Scope of Study

This study is limited to the analysis of metaphors used in *The Story of Layla and Majnun* by Nizami Ganjavi. The specific focus of this metaphor analysis is directed towards the words and sentences that are essential in communicating symbolic meanings. Thus, the researcher used semantic theory, which is focused on Ullman's (1983) theory of metaphor in *Semantics: An Introduction to the Science of Meaning*, as explained by Subroto (2019). The purpose of this research is to discuss the kinds of metaphors used in *The Story of Layla and Majnun* novel and their meanings. As Ullman underlines metaphor as a straightforward comparison based on an actual resemblance or similarity between two entities that have been combined or melted, this study extends its analysis to include the examination of words, phrases, or sentences in the novel. There are four categories of metaphors by Ullman, including anthropomorphic, synesthetic, concrete to abstract forms, and animal metaphors will be discussed in this research.

1.5 Significance of Study

The researcher expects that this research will be theoretically and practically useful in some aspects.

1. Theoretically

This research is hoped that the findings of this study will be beneficial for the readers. The researcher expects that this research will contribute to them, especially for English students who are interested in learning and understanding the semantic study. The findings of this study

will help students in comprehending the indirect expression or implicit meaning in the novel through metaphor analysis. The researcher hopes the readers can comprehend their knowledge and gain broader discussions on the linguistic dimensions of metaphors in literature.

2. Practically

The researcher hoped that writers, especially those interested in metaphors, could draw inspiration from this study. Researchers, scholars, and students interested in the exploration of metaphors in *The Story of Layla and Majnun* will be able to refer to this study for the related study.

1.6 Literature Review

Creswell explained, “A literature review, also known as a literature review, is a written summary of journal articles, books, and other documents that highlights the historical and current status of information on your study topic” (2012, p. 80). In this study, the researcher analyzes the words, phrases, or sentences in *The Story of Layla and Majnun* novel by Nizami Ganjavi. However, the researcher has not encountered studies that delve into both Nizami Ganjavi's novel as a material object and its metaphors and meaning as a study of semantic theory. The investigation regarding the novel as a material object and the exploration of metaphor theory are addressed independently in some earlier research. These preceding studies concerning metaphors are explained in the subsequent paragraphs.

The first is a graduating paper entitled *Metaphorical Meaning in Sylvia Plath's Poems* by Abdul Muis Almudin in 2018. This study aims to understand the meaning behind the metaphors used in five poems written by Sylvia Plath, namely *Metaphors*, *Tulips*, *Morning Song*, *Mirror*, and *Child*. The study uses a method that focuses on describing information using words or spoken data, known as qualitative research. The approach used for analyzing the poems is the new criticism approach. The analysis is

based on a theory proposed by Knowles and Moon, which identifies three elements of a metaphor: vehicle, topic, and ground. The findings reveal that there are 19 metaphors in those poems. Through this analysis, the findings reveal that the metaphors in Sylvia Plath's poems convey meanings related to pregnancy, life challenges, happiness, truth, deception, hope, and dreams.

The second is a journal conducted by Silvia Erlin Aditya Sembiring and Harun Sigit (2020) entitled *An Analysis of Metaphor and Simile Translation Strategies in 'The Jungle Book' Novel Study*. This study discusses the metaphor and simile translation tactics in *The Jungle Book* novel. The study has two purposes, which are identifying metaphors and similes in the novel and understanding the translator's methods. It uses descriptive qualitative methods through discussion and narration using Spradley and Newmark's theories. According to research, "The Jungle Book" of metaphor is more dominant than simile. As a result, the writer discovered that, when it comes to metaphor translation strategies, the most common one is to simply reproduce the metaphor in the target language. This accounts for 75% of the data, while the least common one is to translate a metaphor using a simile (or vice versa), which accounts for 10% of the data. The least common approach, with 4% of the data, is to reduce the simile to its idiomatic connotation.

The third is a journal entitled *Types and Meaning of Metaphors in Maher Zain Song* authored by Mumtazah Al 'Ilmah in 2022. This study examines how music media can be used to communicate ideas and feelings. According to the author, Maher Zain's music is specifically highlighted because of its frequent use of figurative language, which may cause misunderstandings. So, the author examines nine of Maher Zain's songs, which include the songs *Palestine Will Be Free*, *Love Will Prevail*, *Freedom*, *Forgive Me*, *Thank You Allah*, *Inshallah*, *Hold My Hand*, *I'm Alive*, and *Peace be upon you*. As the author discusses social relations, peace, Allah SWT's kindness, and

Prophet Muhammad SAW's uniqueness, 29 metaphorical data, including anthropomorphic, concrete to abstract, and synthetic, are found. The research aims to reduce misunderstandings and improve people's views of Islam by comprehending Maher Zain's lyrics under Ullman's metaphor theory.

The fourth is journal research by Alvines Dinda Pratama and Diana Chitra Hasan (2023) entitled *An Analysis of Metaphor in Grimm Brothers Short Stories*. This study discusses the different types of metaphors in short stories by the Grimm Brothers and aims to clarify what metaphors mean. The data is taken from specific Grimm Brothers' short stories chosen by the author. To analyze, the author uses a qualitative method and employs various techniques to gather data, such as reading the short stories, identifying words related to metaphor, classifying each metaphor based on Ullman's theory, and finally, analyzing the data using Beekman and Callow's theory. The findings reveal 12 Anthropomorphic Metaphors, 15 Animal Metaphors, 11 Metaphors transitioning from Concrete to Abstract, and 13 Synaesthetic Metaphors. Interestingly, no specific type of metaphor dominates in the short stories. The meaning of each metaphor is dependent on the context in which it is used.

The fifth is a journal research entitled *Figure of Speech Used in The Story of Layla and Majnun Novel by Nizami Ganjavi* authored by Nimas Ayu Melati and Luqman Al Hakim (2023). The study focuses on identifying and studying the meanings of various figures of speech, such as simile, metaphor, personification, hyperbole, metonymy, synecdoche, and irony. The study examines 76 sentences including figurative language using a descriptive qualitative method and interactive model data analysis. The results show that there were 20 forms of simile, 13 forms of metaphor, 10 personifications, 10 exaggerations, 12 metonymies, and 3 synecdoche. The most common figurative language was found to be a simile, accounting for 26% of the forms that were found. The authors find that this novel not only showed a romantic journey

of love between two people, but also preserved Bedouin culture, including the concept of Divine Love or *Mahabbah*.

The five previous studies all have a common theme and materials in that they focus on the themes of metaphors and different novels or narratives as objects of research. However, the present research stands apart from these studies due to its different approach. Unlike the previous research, this study distinguishes itself by adopting a different approach, contributing to the understanding of metaphors in a unique context. Various studies apply different theoretical frameworks, such as new criticism, Knowles and Moon's theory, Spradley and Newmark's theories, and Beekman and Callow's theory. Despite these differences, the present research distinguishes itself by adopting a novel approach, analyzing words, phrases, and sentences in *The Story of Layla and Majnun* novel using Ullman's (1983) theory, and applying this framework to the semantic context of meanings. The studies also differ in the number and types of metaphors identified, reflecting the unique characteristics of different literary works. This different combination of these elements contributes to the originality of this study and enriches the understanding of how metaphors intersect within the narratives. This distinctive approach contributes to the expanding body of knowledge on metaphors and semantic meanings.

1.7 Theoretical Approach

In the context of the semantic study, the purpose of this research is to investigate the metaphorical language and the meaning of metaphors found in the novel *The Story of Layla and Majnun* by Nizami Ganjavi. This research employs Ullman's (1983) theory as its theoretical foundation. Ullman's theory is about metaphors, which he explains in his book *Semantics: An Introduction to the Science of Meaning*, as mentioned by Subroto (2019). Ullman says that a metaphor is a straight comparison between two things that are joined or melted together. Words that make comparisons

(like "as" or "compared to") are not used to make direct and unified comparisons. "The thing that we are talking about" and "the thing that we are comparing it" are the two phrases that are mentioned by Ullman. To quote Subroto (2019, p. 120), the same viewpoint that was articulated by Lakoff and Mark Johnson (1980, p. 5) is summarized as follows: "the essence of metaphor is understanding and experiencing one kind of thing in terms of another."

Language users possess a sort of information that is utilized in general communication, and this knowledge is referred to be the meaning of a language. In this case, the selection of metaphor theory is predicated on the comprehension of metaphors that are associated with the meaning of a language. In the research object, metaphors are used to determine the meaning of metaphors as well as the sorts of metaphors. According to Ullman, there are four categories of metaphors: anthropomorphic metaphors, synesthetic metaphors, concrete to abstract metaphors, and animal metaphors. In order to analyze the metaphorical expressions and uncover the hidden meanings in the selected novel, this theoretical approach provides an organized approach.

1.8 Method of Research

1.8.1 Type of Research

In order for the researcher to analyze the types of metaphors found in the novel *The Story of Layla and Majnun*, a qualitative and descriptive methodology has been employed. According to Moleong, the descriptive qualitative approach is used to comprehend the phenomena experienced in research, such as behaviour, perception, action, and many others, by describing them in words based on the settings (2007, p. 6). This methodology is used to understand the phenomena experienced in research, such as human experiences, emotions, perceptions, and

interactions based on the novel. Furthermore, the descriptive methodology is highly applicable to this research, as this study is related to metaphor and the context of meaning.

1.8.2 Data Sources

The data for this study can be classified into two main types, as outlined by Creswell: primary data and secondary data (2009, p. 192). The term “data sources” refers to the origins of the data, encompassing details about who, what, and where the data is obtained from. In this study, the main data are the words, phrases, and sentences in the object of research. It involves original information collected specifically for this research, which is a translated novel entitled *The Story of Layla and Majnun* by Nizami Ganjavi. This novel is a translated version from its original Persian form into English by Dr. Rudolf Gelpke in collaboration with E. Mattin and G. Hill. The researcher then used some other research information from academic articles, books, and journals that contribute to the theoretical foundation of the research.

1.8.3 Data Collection Technique

In qualitative research, documentation serves as a valuable source of information, offering insights into participants and study sites. As Creswell (2012, p. 245) explains, a range of documents, such as newspapers, meeting minutes, personal journals, and letters, can contribute to a deeper understanding of the research context. The data for this research were collected through documentation. The researcher gathered information for this study by studying relevant literature, taking careful notes during observation, reading, and analyzing several papers (Sudaryono, 2015, p. 28). In this case, the researcher takes some steps. First, read the whole part of the novel. Then, find narratives or sentences that use the

metaphor. After that, the researcher collected and categorized the data based on the types of metaphor introduced by Ullman (1983).

1.8.4 Data Analysis Technique

Through a comprehensive and organized process, this study's data analysis aims to reveal the various types and meanings of metaphors used in *The Story of Layla and Majnun*. This study's data analysis is a step-by-step process that helps to understand the different kinds of metaphors used in the object research. To begin, the researcher reads the book to find the data on metaphors. The found metaphors are then organized and put into groups based on Ullman's types, which include anthropomorphic, animal, concrete to abstract, and synthetic metaphors. The next part is a contextual analysis, which focuses on the text, characters, and plot to find the story's deeper meanings. The researcher makes sense of and puts together the results, finding links between the metaphors that were found and what they mean in different contexts. Peer reviews and other validity checks are used to make sure that the research is reliable. Lastly, the findings are reported and presented well.

1.9 Paper Organization

In the paper organization, the writer categorizes it into four chapters: introduction, theoretical framework, findings and discussion, and conclusion. The first chapter serves as an introduction. It is divided into sub-chapters. These include the background of the study, research questions, objectives of study, scope of study, significance of study, literature review, theoretical approach, method of research, and paper organization. The second chapter is the theoretical framework. It covers all aspects of the theory used by the researcher. The third chapter is findings and discussion. It displays the data as a result of finding the types of metaphors and the

meaning in the novel. The fourth chapter is the conclusion. It contains a summary of the research results from the novel.



CHAPTER IV

CONCLUSION AND SUGGESTION

In this chapter, researchers will show conclusions and suggestions from the previous chapter. This research will provide some recommendations to future researchers who want to conduct similar research using this material.

4.1 Conclusion

After categorizing the metaphors, the researcher found 31 cases of metaphors in the novel *The Story of Layla and Majnun*, namely 3 cases as Anthropomorphic metaphors, 8 cases as Animal metaphors, 18 cases as Concrete to Abstract metaphors, and 2 cases as Synesthetic metaphors. Metaphors from Concrete to Abstract appear as the most common metaphors found in the research results. This metaphor describes many specific to abstract experiences or explanations to communicate what the researcher wants to convey to the reader.

In conclusion, based on the research that has been conducted by researchers in the discussion of the previous chapter, making a certain literary work in the form of a metaphorical novel is a very important thing in its preparation. Metaphor is an author's technique to express emotions or feelings that he wants to convey, so that the author can more easily communicate them. Understanding the author's intended meaning requires analyzing the literal word, the context of the meaning used, and the substance of the novel as a whole.

4.2 Suggestions

Ullman's semantic theory, adopted by Subroto and focusing on the concept of metaphor, is used by researchers in this study of the novel *The Story of Layla and Majnun*. Researchers use the form of meaning, literal meaning, and metaphorical meaning to find out the message and meaning in the novel *The Story of Layla and Majnun*, because Ullman's theory focuses on meaning. Understanding the meaning in the novel *The Story of Layla and Majnun* is very interesting because it contains beautiful words that have deep meaning, as well as some messages that the author wants to convey to his readers. Other researchers can examine other types of literary works, such as song lyrics, novels, short stories, films, poetry, and other literary works, using various theories, or vice versa, can use the same theory but with different objects.

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