
FIGURATIVE LANGUAGE IN POE'S BRIDAL BALLAD

By

Fatnia Paramitha Makatita

**English Language Studies, Postgraduate Program, Faculty of Cultural Sciences,
Hasanuddin University, Perintis Kemerdekaan Street Tamalanrea, Makassar 90245**

Email: fatniamakatita@gmail.com

Abstract

Figurative language is an essential element in literary works especially in poetry. It helps authors in emphasize meaning of their works and also drawn the reader in the beauty the language. Edgar Allan Poe was one of author that used various types of figurative languages in his works. The aim of this research is to elaborate figurative languages in one of Poe's poetry Bridal Ballad. The data were collected from text and analyzed by employing descriptive-qualitative analysis. The result of this research that there are five types of figurative languages: alliteration, anaphora, irony, metaphor, and simile.

Keywords: Figurative Language, poetry, Edgar Allan Poe, Bridal Ballad.

INTRODUCTION

Language plays important role in human live. The main function of language is a communication tool, without language it would be difficult to human in communicating and understanding each other. There are two kinds of language. They are literal language and figurative language. The literal language has meaning as it is uttered. Literal language refers to facts without any exaggerations or alterations of the meaning. In contrast, figurative language refers to words that alter and exaggerates the meaning. Keraf (2007) identifies that figurative language in two categories: direct and indirect meaning. The figures of speech compare one thing with another thing and find the similarity between these two things.

Figurative language known as a part figure of speech that been used in literature. Literature is a social creation made by author using language as the media for express their feelings and ideas. The author uses the depth of their imagination, vision, and intellectuality in writing a literary work (Wellek and Warren, 1962).

Poetry is one of the literary work that as universal and ancient as language. Reading poetry gives pleasure and enjoyment, people

love to read it, listen to it, and sometimes recite it as a part of entertainment. Generally, poetry known as a form of literary work that have intense language than the ordinary language, which means to fully understand a poetry, people needs to employed different approach that just take the meaning by its literal words (Perrine and Arp, 1978). Figurative language in poetry helps to emphasize the meaning and also beautify the sound (Marlinton and Syafitri, 2018, Arafah 2018).

Edgar Allan Poe is one of famous writer who has been known used many figurative languages in his works. He was born in January 1809, he lost his mother since a young age and later adopted by a wealthy family. He attended Virginia's University at seventeen and published his first book "Tamerlane and Other Poems by Bostonian" in 1827. Poe is one of the leaders of the American Romantic Movement. Most of his work adopted gothic and dark romance theme. His famous works are "The Raven", "Annabel Lee", "The Tell-Tale Heart", and "Black Cat". Poe die at age forty, on October 1849 (Hasanah et al, 2021, Budiargo, 2020).

LITERATURE BACKGROUND

Figurative language is a part of figure of speech that used to give deeper meaning in writing. It generally applied in the study of poetry. But, many studies have applied the study of figurative language in other literary works like Novel (Hikmah et al, 2021). Figurative language refers to words of sentences that alter or exaggerate meanings (Ibrahim et al, 2019). According to Glucksberg (2001) in figurative language, the real meaning that intended does not coincide with literal meanings of the words of sentences are used. The purpose of figurative language is to catch reader attention, and makes the writing interesting to be read. It also delivers the author's idea in creative and unique way (Raisa, Rufinus, and Sudarsono, 2017). Perrine and Arp (1978) divide figurative language into several categories. However the researcher only explains some of them as it are used in Poe's poetry "Bridal Ballad".

1. Alliteration

Alliteration is one of figure of sound. According to Perrine and Arp (1978) Alliteration is a syllable consists of a vowel sound that may be preceded or followed by consonants sounds. For the example: "tried and true", "safe and sound" and "fantastic four"

2. Anaphora

Anaphora is a particular figure of speech that consists of sequence of repeated word at the beginning of neighboring clauses to emphasis meaning (Hasanah et al, 2021).

3. Irony

Irony is a literary device that may be used in the service of adding extra dimensions to meaning. Irony is the difference between words and action (Perrine and Arp, 1978, Hasanah, 2021).

4. Metaphor and Simile

Metaphor is a declaration which compares two things that are not the same. For example: "time is money", "life is pain" and "laughter is the best medicine". Simile

and metaphor are similar, but simile used "like" and "as" in the comparison (Hikmah et al, 2021).

METHODOLOGY

This article employed qualitative research (Abbas et al., 2022). The data were collected from the novel *The Invisible Man* and journals, theses, articles related to the figurative language in literature. Qualitative research is an exploratory research (Arafah and Hasyim, 2020). The researcher collected the data from the poetry *Bridal Ballad* by Edgar Allan Poe as the primary source of data. The researcher also read theses, articles, and journals that related with the poetry and figurative language. The collected data in this research were deeply analyzed by applying descriptive method to identify all the figurative language in this poetry.

FINDINGS AND DISCUSSION

Bridal Ballad is one Poe's ballad published in the Saturday Evening Post 1841. This poetry tells about the story of a bride who married a rich man after the death of her soldier lover. She was uncertain of her happiness and had to ensure herself that she is happy to married a wealthy man. It is a rhyming poem of five stanzas, wrote in the first person voice, the bride herself.

A. FINDINGS

The ring is on my hand,

And the wreath is on my brow;

Satin and jewels grand

Are all at my command,

And I am happy now.....5

The poem begins with the bride stating about her wedding ring and wreath, these are symbol of marriage and femininity. Satin and jewel implies the wealthy of her groom. She ready to commits in marriage and convince herself that she is happy. The rhymes in first stanza are all full abaab, *hand/grand/command* and *brow/now*.

And my lord he loves me well;

*But, when first he breathed his vow,
I felt my bosom swell—*

For the words rang as a knell,

*And the voice seemed his who fell
In the battle down the dell,*

And who is happy now.....12

The second stanza rhyme scheme is cbcccb, well/swell/knell/fell/dell and vow/now. in this stanza the bride state that her new husband love her well. However, when she heard the vow, his voice reminds her of her death lover that died in the battle.

But he spoke to re-assure me,

And he kissed my pallid brow,

While a reverie came o'er me,

And to the church-yard bore me,

And I sighed to him before me,

Thinking him dead D'Elormie,

"Oh, I am happy now!".....19

This stanza consists of seven lines with similar rhyme dbdddb and mostly repeated the word "me". In this stanza the bride husband spoke soothing words to her because he noticed something upset her. However, the bride's mind still wandering around her death lover even mistaking her husband as her deceased lover due confusion and sadness. The wedding ceremony at church seems to bore her (line 16)

And thus the words were spoken,

And this the plighted vow,

And, though my faith be broken,

And, though my heart be broken,

Here is a ring, as token

That I am happy now!.....25

The fourth stanza consists of six lines with same rhyme scheme ebееeb. After the vows finally given, the bride expressed her broken heart and broken faith. She realized that she would never be able to love her husband as much as she loved her deceased lover. Nevertheless, she still in denial state while convince herself that the ring on the finger proves her happiness.

Would God I could awaken!

For I dream I know not how!

And my soul is sorely shaken

Lest an evil step be taken,—

Lest the dead who is forsaken

May not be happy now.....31

In the last stanza the rhyme scheme is fbfffb.

In this stanza, the bride finally realizes that she is not happy at all. She worried about her deceased lover because she betrayed their love.

B. DISCUSSION

Fear, regret, and sense of guilty are the strong theme in this poem. After read the poetry, the researcher concludes there are 4 kinds of figurative language in this poetry.

1. Alliteration

Alliteration in this poem can be found in the line 6, line 7, and line 11.

And my lord he loves me well (line 6)

But, when first he breathed his vow
(line 7)

In the battle down the dell (line 11)

2. Anaphora

Anaphora in this poem can be found on lines 22-23 and 29-30

And, though my faith be broken,

And, though my heart be broken (lines 22-23)

Lest an evil step be taken,—

Lest the dead who is forsaken (lines 29-30)

3. Irony

The irony in this poem placed at line 24-25. the line as follows;

Here is a ring, as token

That I am happy now!

The bride expressed the frustration by saying she is happy when she clearly do not. The ring suggests that she should be happy like the normal bride in her wedding day and show off her ring in happiness. However, she is broken-hearted.

4. Metaphor and Simile.

Metaphor in this poem can be found on second stanza. "And the voice seemed his who fell in the battle down the dell" (line 10-11), the lines refers to the bride's old lover who died in the battle field. Simile in this poem can be found in line 9. The line read "For the words rang as a knell". This

is a comparison of words to the ring of a bell.

CONCLUSSION

Bridal Ballad tells about a woman who repeatedly tries to convince herself that she is happy. This poetry starts with cheerful tone when she talks about her satin dress and jewels, but turn sad and dark in the end. Just like his other works, Poe used consistent rhyme schemes and various figurative languages. The researcher identified three alliterations, two anaphors, one irony, one metaphor and one simile in this poetry. In conclusion, the figurative language in Poe's poetry is used to express his idea and emphasize the meaning in works.

REFERENCES

- [1] Abbas, Asriani, Kaharuddin, Hasyim, Muhammad. 2021. The Organization of Personal Pronouns in Sentence Structure Construction of Makassarese Language. *Journal of Language Teaching and Research*, 13, (1), pp. 161-171.
- [2] Arafah, B and Hasyim, M. (2020). Covid-19 Mythology and Netizen Parrhesia Ideological Effects of Coronavirus Myth On Social Media Users. *Palarch's Journal of Archaeology of Egypt/Egyptology*. Vol. 17. Issue 4. 1398-1409.
- [3] Arafah, B. (2018). Incorporating the Use of Literature as an Innovative Teaching Technique for Teaching English. *The 1st Annual International Conference on Language and Literature*. KnE: Social Sciences, 24-36.
- [4] Budiargo, A. D. (2020). Figurative Language used in The Raven by Edgar Allan Poe (unpublished thesis). Sukarta: Muhammadiyah University of Sukarta.
- [5] Gluckberg, S. (2001). *Understanding figurative language: From Metaphors to Idiom*. Oxford: Oxford University Press
- [6] Hasanah. U, Arafah. B, and Abbas. H. (2021). Figurative Language in Poe's Annabel Lee. *Jurnal Ilmu Budaya*. Vol. 9. No. 1. 54-60
- [7] Hikmah. N, Arafah. B, and Abbas. H. (2021). Understanding Nature Through Language; Figurative Language in Thielle's February Dragon. *International Journal of Innovative Science and Reseach Technology*. Vol. 6. Issue 1. 1078-1082
- [8] Ibrahim, Akib. M, and Hayim. R. (2019). The Analysis of Figurative Language in Endless Love Song Lyric. *Lisan: Jurnal Bahasa dan Linguistik*. 119-130.
- [9] Keraf, G. (2007). *Diksi dan Gaya Bahasa*. Jakarta: PT. Gramedia Pustaka Utama.
- [10] Marlinton. M, and Syafitri. D. (2018). An Analysis of Figurative Language used in Edgar Allan Poe's Poems. *Linguistic, English Education and Art (LEEA) Journal*. Vol. 2. No. 1.
- [11] Perrine, L and Arp, T. R. (1978). *Sound and Sense: An Introduction to Poetry* (8th Edition). Vol. 38, no. 2. Harcourt Brace Jovanovich College Publisher.
- [12] Raisa. M, Sudarsono. S and Rufinus. A. (2017). A Study on Figurative Language Covering Simile, Metaphor, Personification, and Symbol in Poem. *J. Pendidik dan Pembelajaran Untan*. Vol. 6. No. 10. 209883
- [13] Wellek. R, and Warren. A. (1962). *The Theory of Literature*. New York: A Harvest Book Harcourt, Brace & World Inc