



An Analysis of Figurative Language in Hotel Books' Spoken Word Poetry

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Abstrak – Penggunaan bahasa kiasan meningkatkan keindahan dan kesenian puisi serta menjadikannya lebih menarik dan unik. Penelitian ini bertujuan untuk mengidentifikasi berbagai macam bahasa kiasan yang terdapat dalam puisi kata lisan Hotel Books dan makna kontekstual dari masing-masing kategori bahasa kiasan. Penelitian ini bertujuan untuk mengidentifikasi bahasa kiasan dengan memahami makna umum dalam puisi. Data dapat diinterpretasikan, dan bahasa kiasan dapat diungkap dengan menggunakan analisis deskriptif. Setelah memilih rekaman audio puisi lisan, peneliti menentukan makna simbolis di seluruh konteks yang sesuai untuk menganalisis makna umum bahasa kiasan. Penulis memulai dengan mengumpulkan puisi kata-kata yang diucapkan Hotel Books, kemudian mendengarkan dan memahami dua rekaman audio, dan akhirnya mengumpulkan bahasa kiasan yang terdapat dalam puisi kata-kata yang diucapkan Hotel Books. Saat mengevaluasi data, peneliti menganalisis setiap bahasa kiasan dalam puisi lisan. Peneliti menentukan temuan pada tahap akhir sesuai dengan hasil penelitian. Konteks makna dua puisi lisan dari Hotel Books diidentifikasi dan dianalisis berdasarkan temuan dan pembahasan. Kesimpulannya, hasil penelitian ini diharapkan dapat bermanfaat bagi banyak orang, khususnya mahasiswa Jurusan Bahasa Inggris IKIP PGRI Bojonegoro yang tertarik untuk melakukan penelitian serupa.

Kata kunci: bahasa kiasan, buku hotel, puisi lisan

Abstract – The use of figurative language enhances the beauty and artistry of poetry and makes it more interesting and unique. The study aimed to identify the various kinds of figurative language found in Hotel Books' spoken word poetry and the contextual meaning of each category of figurative language. This research aims to identify figurative language by understanding its general meaning in poetry. It is possible to interpret data, and figurative language can be uncovered using descriptive analysis. After selecting audio recordings of spoken word poetry, the researcher determined the symbolic meanings throughout the appropriate contexts to analyze the general meaning of figurative language. The author began by collecting Hotel Books' spoken word poetry, then listened and comprehended two audio recordings, and finally collected the figurative language found in Hotel Books' spoken word poetry. While evaluating the data, the researcher analyzed every figurative language in spoken-word poetry. The researcher determined the findings in the final stage according to the study's results. The context of the meaning of the two spoken word poems from Hotel Books was identified and analyzed due to the findings and discussion. In conclusion, it is expected that the results of this study will be useful to a wide range of people, particularly students of the English Department at IKIP PGRI Bojonegoro interested in conducting similar research.

Keywords: figurative language, hotel books, spoken word poetry

INTRODUCTION

Literature can enlighten and assist us in gaining a more profound understanding of the universe and ourselves. Literature provides insight into the human experience and enhances mutual comprehension. By listening to the viewpoints of others, people can begin to understand another perspective. The

relationship between a reader and a literary work is intriguing. A literary work can frequently captivate people to the point where they feel like they are part of it. According to Bennet and Royle (2016), literature is the genre of writing that most consistently and provocatively investigates the unique features of experience, cognition, and emotion.

Poetry may be the most difficult literary genre to comprehend fully. Poetry is characterized by its figurative language, which involves using exceptionally attractive or uncommon phrases to convey the poet's interpretation. This is why poetry is more difficult to understand than other literary forms (Pradipta, 2009). Poetry is difficult to translate due to each language's phonological and visual characteristics (Preiss et al., 2020). Additionally, it causes individuals to lose interest in poetry. Novels and other brief works of literature will attract more readers because they typically portray human life with a diverse cast of characters and engaging dialogue.

Poetry slam, or spoken word poetry, is a literary form for public performance. It combines wordplay, rhythm, sounds, meter, and other literary elements with carefully chosen and arranged text to elicit an emotional response from the audience. Poets who recite their poems aloud seek to captivate their audiences by establishing emotional bonds with them. Literature can frequently draw us in and make us feel like we are part of the story (Bennett, 2016). This is primarily achieved through the use of literary or rhetorical aesthetics.

In addition to song, body movement, musical instruments, and drama, a performance may incorporate other elements. These measures ensure that the intended audience receives the message the poet intended to convey. Like stories and melodies, poetry is meaningless if it fails to elicit an emotional response from its audience (Johnson-Laird & Oatley, 2022). Speaking aloud enables us to narrate a poem with emotion and style, inspiring and motivating our audiences (Agarwal, 2020).

Poetry written in the manner of spoken word is intended to be read aloud; therefore, how the poem sounds is just as important as the meaning behind the words. Using poetic devices like onomatopoeia, alliteration, and assonance, the poet can give your writing a more rhythmic quality. Due to the predominance of oral culture in our society, the audience had a much easier time comprehending spoken word poetry. While reading and writing are still distinct talents, we are good listeners. However, written and spoken poetry can be combined using spoken words (Kijiner, 2014).

In Hotel Books, the poet attempts to make the listener feel as miserable as possible by evoking the greatest possible levels of grief, frustration, and stress through the spoken word. The artist uses spoken word poetry in their music to exaggerate the sensation they are experiencing to convey a certain impression or demonstrate the intensity of their emotions. In addition, he believes that through

Hotel Books' spoken word poetry, listeners and readers will experience the same emotions as the musicians.

Cameron Smith, a spoken word artist, founded Hotel Books in Porterville, Tulare County, California 2011. He has been working on it ever since. They are well-known for Smith's distinctive vocal manner, which is frequently the primary focus of their work. Cam Smith and his colleagues have toured extensively throughout the United States, Europe, Asia, and Australia, delivering his evocative, cathartic poetry over a musical blend of ambiance, post-hardcore, and emo. They have performed alongside well-known bands such as Counterparts, Defeater, and I Prevail. Smith was drawn to spoken word poetry because it was unique and allowed him to concentrate solely on composing lyrics without considering a melody.

Figurative language enables poetry to convey concrete, condensed, and captivating meaning. Comprehending the poetry's actual meanings is crucial, as this is deemed essential. It is not very sensible to simply read poetry without understanding what the poets attempt to convey. The writer selected Hotel Books' spoken word poetry in figurative language because it piqued the writer's interest in learning about poetry and its facets so that the writer and the reader could communicate more effectively.

RESEARCH METHODOLOGY

A research design is a method for collecting and analyzing data to answer research queries. A research method encompasses the entire procedure for collecting and analyzing data (Ary, 2013). In this research, the researcher used qualitative methods. Qualitative research describes and investigates a phenomenon, event, social activity, behavior, belief, perception, or the thoughts and feelings of individuals or groups (Sukmadinata, 2010). He adds that the two goals of qualitative research are first to describe and investigate and then to describe and explain. On the other hand, it explains that the qualitative technique is a new research method that consists of open-ended inquiries, data from observations and interviews, written materials, and audiovisuals. It involves text and image analysis (Yanuar, 2019).

According to Kutha (2009), the most essential qualitative methodological characteristics are: a.) Giving the message and its import careful thought while utilising a suitable cultural study tool; b.) The meaning is constantly shifting because we place more value on the processing than on the study outcome; c.) The design and research plan are speculative because the research characteristics are undetermined; d.) The research is scientific while taking place in a social, cultural, and contextual setting; e.) There is no separation between the subject researchers and the research object, with the subject researcher serving as the primary instrument; consequently, there is a direct interaction between others.

In the research context, all data are objects in the form of objects, events, and symptoms. As a result, the spoken word poetry by Hotel Books served as the study's

data source, which included language-specific phrases, sentences, and slang. The data source for this study is the 2015-released spoken word poetry audio by Hotel Books, which is available on the Spotify Platform. The transcript of each poetry is included in the two audios that will be used to help identify the figurative language. The two audios namely, "Nothing Was The Same" and "Wooden Floorboards" from album "Run Wild, Young Beauty" by Hotel Books. More than a million people have listened to these tracks on Spotify. That number is continuously growing, making them a useful case study for examining the figurative language used in this poetry.

Descriptive qualitative is applied to solve the problem by objectively collecting, classifying, and analyzing a situation. It was qualitative research because the researcher analyzed the data in the form of word. To respond to the problem statements, the researcher employed the descriptive technique, first analyzing the data and then describing the findings. In qualitative research, the researcher is the primary data collection instrument. The researcher obtained the data by applying the theories and interpreting the data based on the poems' general semantic and contextual meaning, interpreting the data based on how Hotel Books used figurative language and drawing conclusions based on data analysis.

According to Moleong (2002), content analysis is a research method for achieving objective, systematic, and explicit descriptions manifested in a communicative framework. Define the text units to be sampled, the sample to be included, the units of analysis, the codes to be used in the analysis, the categories of analysis, conduct the data analysis, summarize, and draw inferences. The researcher executed only a few content analysis procedures, as follows: a.) Reading. Hotel Books' poetry was read as the initial phase of data collection. It was the first step in understanding the poems' subject matter and discovering their figurative language; b.) Listing. After reading the poems, the writer listed the figurative language contained in some Hotel Books poems; c.) Identifying. This step involved classifying the figurative language used in some of Hotel Books' poems into various categories; d.) Analyzing. Following the third step above, the author then attempted to determine the significance of each metaphorical language found in some of Hotel Books' poems; e.) In this stage, the researcher drew conclusions based on the findings of the study.

FINDING AND DISCUSSION

Here, the researcher moved on to the next part of the study and found the study's objectives. The writer has just analyzed two poems by Hotel Books. The poems are Nothing was The Same and Wooden Floorboards. The result of the analysis can be observed in the following points:

The Explanation of Figurative Language Types and Contextual Meaning in Hotel Books's Selected Spoken Word Poetry

In this section, the researcher presented the most crucial findings of the study. The researcher identified figurative language in the data. The analysis involves

identifying every word to determine the varieties of figurative language. Each poem explains the analysis of figurative language by mentioning the source of figurative language. Figurative language makes for a reasonable interpretation in poetry because it requires the ability to focus on interpreting the poem's essential term. Therefore, figurative language in poetry is necessary because it can make the poems more engaging to the reader.

According to the preceding paragraph, the researcher used 10 figurative language elements to analyse the data. Those 10 points were simile, metaphor, personification, metonymy, irony, apophasis, imagery, alliteration, assonance, and hyperbole.

a. Nothing Was The Same

There are 8 kinds of figurative language used in this poem; metaphor (2), hyperbole (2), alliteration (7), metonymy (1), personification (1), assonance (3), simile (2), irony (3).

1) *I chose to believe every word I was fed*

It means that the writer finally make a decision to put his belief on every word that he was fed. 'Fed' in here does not the natural meaning of 'feed', which is giving a food to human or animals but this 'fed' is similar with hear. So the writer try to belief every word that he was heard.

The word 'fed' here is **metaphor**.

2) *And I thought the coals on my back were a product of the lack you left*

The kind of figurative language is **hyperbole**.

It implies that the writer's ex-girlfriend has left him with some wound or resembling scars due to the burden or responsibility the writer shouldered throughout his relationship with the woman.

3) *But you could not seem to formulate any such thought in your head*

The word 'formulate' and 'head' has the similar sound of the form of the words.

The kind of figurative language used in this stanza is **alliteration**.

4) *And my mind would riot*

'Riot' in here used to build the imagery that there is a lot of things inside of the writer's head that makes him in trouble to face his own mind.

The word 'riot' in here is **metaphor**.

5) *Stuck in self-preperuated mental violence*

Connected with the previous stanza which is 'my mind would riot', the sentence 'stuck in self-preperuated mental violence' in here was the continous explanation of 'riot'.

This kind of figurative language is **metonymy** because it was the illustration of how riot it is on his mind.

6) *And dreams kept **private***

The word 'private' that refers to the word 'dreams' in here was not a living object or human. 'Private' in here was assigning of human characteristic to non human.

The word 'private' here is **personification**.

7) *The ambition to fix this wishlist of selfish misfit realist missions*

'Whislist', 'misfit', and 'realist' has a similar form of word that ended up with word 't'.

The kind of figurative language in here is **alliteration**.

8) *The ambition to fix this wishlist of selfish misfit realist missions*

The kind of figurative language used in here was **assonance**.

The word 'wishlist', 'selfish', 'misfit', and 'realist' has the form of repetitions of equal vocal of 'i'.

9) *That the stressed within this relationship was a product of the world's oppressions*

This kind of figurative language is **hyperbole**.

The writer feels constrained by his relationship until he compares this pressure to the world's harshness

10) *And I convinced myself that I **needed** to be **needed***

The word 'needed' repeated twice in the stanza and ended up with the equal consonant.

The kind of figurative language is **alliteration**

11) *I would be smiling **like** you still today*

The kind of figurative language is **simile**.

In this stanza the writer try to compare between himself and women that he mention in his poem. The comparison in here used the word 'like'.

12) *And it was a simple lie but I told it to you and **like** a captain of a sinking ship*

The kind of figurative language is **simile**.

The writer try to compare that the way he told the girl is like a captain of a sinking ship. The comparison used the word 'like'.

13) *Choosing to believe **the bottom of the ocean was a better source of oxygen***

The stanza in here told us that it was an impossible that in the bottom of the ocean is better source of oxygen. The writer try to convey the opposite of it.

The kind of figurative language is **irony**.

14) ***It's so nice** and I still chose to believe*

The kind of figurative language is **irony**.

The statement 'It's so nice' is made in this context. The writer tries to hide that he is not doing well, but the truth is the opposite.

15) *But we aborted the sorted truths we once disorted*

The kind of figurative language is **alliteration**.

The word 'aborted', 'sorted', and 'disorted' has a similar equal consonant and ended up with form of word 'ed'.

16) *And that's fine because I would do the same, and I would leave me*

The kind of figurative language is **apophysis**.

When the listener try to listen this original spoken word audio, listener will notice that there is a stress that the writer try to put inside of the word.

17) *But because I saw value in your smile but not in your values*

The word 'value' and 'values' has the similar equal vocal 'ue'.

The kind of figurative language is **assonance**.

18) *And I finally feel fine because I spent so long trying to change you, not realizing I was the one who needed to change*

The kind of figurative language is **irony**.

The poet tries to convey the opposite of his condition, that he is not okay because he spends much time with the woman that he means, but in the end, that woman finds love within the arms of another instead of the heart of the poet.

19) *That my selfishness tried to take away but you were the one that was the hardest to watch walk away*

The kind of figurative language is **alliteration**.

The word 'away' and 'away' was repeated twice and have the similar sound.

20) *But thank you for letting me be a part of everything you were building and creating*

'Building' and 'creating' are ended up with the form of word 'ing' which means have the similar sound.

The kind of figurative language is **alliteration**.

21) *And you were relating so much beauty, and I love you, and I'm sorry*

The kind of figurative language is **alliteration**.

'Beauty' and 'sorry' are ended up with similar consonant.

22) *Thank you for letting me be a part of your journey, thank*

you for letting me be me. And thank you for setting me free and showing me love in its full capacity

The kind of figurative language is **assonance**

'Journey', 'me', 'free', and 'capacity' are the repetitions of similar sounds in word.

b. Wooden Floorboards

There are 10 kinds of figurative language used in this poem; simile (2), metaphor (9), personification (4), metonymy (2), irony (1), apophasis (3), imagery (3), alliteration (4), assonance (2), and hyperbole (1).

1) *I have these **voices** in my brain*

The kind of figurative language is **metonymy**.

The word 'voices' in this stanza is a pronoun related to or having nearly the same meaning as the writer's thought.

2) *I created them and I hate them, but I **ask** them to stay*

The kind of figurative language is **personification**.

Concerning the previous rhyme, the voice is created by the writer, and from the word 'ask,' it appears that the voice is a person who can be asked to remain in the writer's mind.

3) *This fixation on you and on **me**, but who could I **be**?*

The kind of figurative language is **assonance**.

'Me' and 'be' has similar equal vocal which ended up with 'e'

4) *I spent three years writing poems about a fixation on the **past**, and she told me it was worth it because she told me it would **last***

The kind of figurative language is **alliteration**.

'past' and 'last' has the similar form of word and sound. This means that the poet took considerable time to compose a poem about his past, for which his girlfriend rewarded him. However, the girlfriend also predicted that everything would eventually end.

5) *'cause forgetting what you think love means is **my sleeping pill** every night*

This kind of figurative language is **metaphor**.

'Sleeping pill' in here was something that the writer try to convey as something that it is not. The poet try to put the word on in so that the reader or listener could understand or make an illustration about it.

6) *"Maybe our love is just laced with **LSD***

The kind of figurative language is **metaphor**.

Love is a feeling of human being. Occasionally, humans are willing to sacrifice everything for love. When a person falling in love, they will be more honest with themselves. The poet put a word 'LSD' as a representation of it.

7) *And **as** I tried my best to read between the lines*

The kind of figurative language is **simile**.

The word 'as' here is a comparison between the efforts of the poet to understand the implied meaning of his lover.

8) *As Lucifer found his way back into retail, my dear, **he sold us a product** we didn't wanna buy*

The kind of figurative language is an **imagery** and **simile**.

It indicates a comparison to Lucifer as a merchant.

9) *The voices in my brain **telling** me it's all in my head*

The kind of figurative language is **personification**.

It means that the voice which means 'what the poet's think' is like a human who have a characteristic to talk.

10) *'cause a fair assessment of an **existence** is an **inconsistent***

The kind of figurative language is **alliteration**.

This means that an evaluation, especially of humans, is only sometimes fixed because humans have souls that change according to the circumstances and situations they are experiencing.

11) *And **these whispers** in my head **intensify** to **raspy screams***

This kind of figurative language is **metaphor**.

In this stanza, the poet's choice of language creates the impression that a whisperer can shout aloud. This means the author's mind is filled with thoughts that threaten to bind him.

12) *Asking when **my skull will explode** so **they can breathe***

The kind of figurative language is **metaphor**.

The whispers crowded into the poet's mind, likening it to a bomb about to explode.

13) *And that **violence has its own sort of beauty***

The kind of figurative language is an **irony**.

The poet attempts to convey his emotions, but his words have contradictory meanings. There is no beauty in the violence.

14) *And **you're not my oxygen** but **I breathe your air***

The kind of figurative language is **apophasis** and **metaphor**.

It implies that the poet's lover is not oxygen but a source of air for him. In this case, the air is a metaphor, and it refers to the woman as half of the poet's life.

15) *"Look what I went through, **I survived**", but is survival living or is survival just a placeholder for a vacant mind*

The kind of figurative language is **apophasis**.

It represent that the poet emphasizes and claims that he has survived and thrived in the relationship he has maintained thus far. However, it has a contradictory meaning, as explained in the following sentence 'survival living, or is survival just a placeholder for an empty mind?'

16) *But is survival living or is survival just a placeholder for a vacant mind to cut off the threat to coincide with the **soil** while their **blood boils**?*

The kind of figurative language is **assonance** and **metaphor**.

'Soil' and 'boils' has the similar form of equal vocal. 'Blood boils' in here means the negative emotions of anger.

17) *My biggest fear was waking up in that coffin with **these voices chanting***

The kind of figurative language is **personification**.

The poet gives the 'voice' as a representation the sound of singing creature.

18) *... these voices chanting a **chorus of remorse, a forced** abort from the **course** I had chosen*

The kind of figurative language is **alliteration**.

'Chorus', 'remorse', 'forced', and 'course' is a repetitions of similar sound of words.

19) *And now I'm **laying here frozen***

The kind of figurative language is **metaphor**.

It means that there is nothing the poet can do about what happened.

20) *With fear **staring up at a splintering slab of wood***

The kind of figurative language is **imagery** and **metaphor**.

The poet attempts to evoke fear in the reader by describing a piece of wood that reveals itself as a coffin in which the readers or listeners lies.

21) ***Buried beneath the earth** that grew the weeds that poisoned my family's feet*

The kind of figurative language is **imagery**.

The poet invites the readers or listeners to visualize themselves burried underground as a death human.

22) *We just **scrubbed** the blood stains out the **carpet**, we just **rubbed** the mud remains out your **pockets**, we just **dubbed** the tough claims out of your **sonnets***

The kind of figurative language is **alliteration** and **hyperbole**.

'Scrubbed', 'carpet', 'rubbed', 'pockets', 'dubbed', and 'sonnets' is a repetition of similar form of words.

It is related to the previous stanza 'what if I woke up, walked back home and it was like nothing had happened?' explains that what is being discussed is not what occurred but the poet's worries.

23) ***A place** for the non-permanent inhabitants to exist within this home we created to raise our kid*

The kind of figurative language is **metaphor**.

The stanza is an illustration of a house.

24) ***These voices in my head, what would they say and what would they see?***

The kind of figurative language is **personification**.

The phrase demonstrates that a 'voice' is a living creature with a mouth that is uses to express what it sees.

25) *Did I survived or am I cursed? Did I die or did I learn?*

The kind of figurative language is **irony**.

The two sentences contain contradictory statements and demonstrate that the poet feels confused by the tragedies he suffered.

This study was conducted to identify the figurative language employed in two poems by Hotel Books. The analysis of these five compositions revealed 53 figurative expressions belonging to 10 different categories. Those figurative language are simile, metaphor, personification, metonymy, irony, apophasis, imagery, alliteration, assonance, and hyperbole. Most of the figurative language used in the Hotel Books poems is metaphor and alliteration. Based on the table above, the researcher found 10 types of figurative language which are used in the poems. The most of figurative language which used in some Hotel Books's poems above is metaphor, there are eleven metaphor and eleven alliteration in those two poems that has a great exxageration used to emphasize a point, and it used for expressice effect. Metaphor is a phrase describing something as something it is not in reality and to compare two things symbolically. The second dominant of figurative language is alliteration, there are eleven sentences in those poems.

The third dominant of figurative language is irony there are five sentences in those two poems. Then assonance is the fourth dominant, there are also five sentences in those two poems. . They are a form of the repetitions of equal vocal. Simile is the fifth dominant, there are four sentences in those two poems. Simile is atype of figurative language which is used to compare one thing against another. The sixth are irony when a statement made is directly contradictory to the reality. The last are apophasis which is a rhetorical wherein the writer brings up a subject by either denying it or denying that t should be brought up.

CONCLUSION

After passing the analysis step, the figurative language used in some of Hotel Books' poems contains 52 figurative language divided into 10 types such as simile, metaphor, personification, metonymy, irony, apophasis, imagery, alliteration, assonance, and hyperbole. The conclusions were drawn to address the purpose of the study; 1.) The writer just analzed two poems that written by Hotel Books. The poems are Nothing Was The Same and Wooden Floorboards. Most of types of figurative language used in those two poems is metaphor. The second types of figurative language mostly used in those poems are alliteration. The third types of figurative language mostly used in those poems are irony. The fouth dominant is assonance and the fifth is simile. While other types of figurative language are used almost as often in these pieces; 2.) The previous chapter explained the contextual meaning of each poem's section. Some of them was 'Nothing Was The Same' poem, one of the sentences was '*and I thought the coals on my back were a product of the lack you left*' it

implies that the poet's ex-girlfriend left him with wounds or resembling scars due to the burden or responsibility he carried during their relationship and the kind of figurative language is hyperbole.

By employing figurative language, the poems become more engaging to read and assist the reader in visualizing the poems so that the reader's imagination remains in the context of the poems. The stanza in the poem from Hotel Books are a desire to convey to the reader or listener what a man feels when his heart is shattered. A male is expected to be a strong figure in daily life, so he often conceals his emotions or sadness. If a man is seen crying, the society around us will judge him as a coward because he cannot contain his emotions. This is because men are expected to be able to control their emotions. Consequently, it is tough for a man to find a right place to cry. In this poem, Cam Smith illustrates how serious it is for a man when a woman betrays his heart. The listener can sense the feelings Cam Smith is trying to portray through spoken word poetry and excellent musical instruments, even though Cam Smith uses high diction to represent his sadness.

The researcher concludes that Hotel Books' poems could be an alternative method for teaching Prose, Poetry, and Drama because the writer discovered figurative language in these poems. By thinking about the philosophy and findings of this research, readers can learn about the subjects of prose, poetry, and drama.

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