

An Analysis of Figurative Language in Short Story “The Happy Prince” by Oscar Wilde

Lidya Rona Mentari¹

¹English Education Postgraduate Study Program, Faculty of Teacher Training and Education
Universitv of Bengkulu, Indonesia

Article Info

Article history:

Received: September, 2022

Revised: October, 2022

Accepted: November, 2022

Keywords:

Figurative Language,
Literature, Short Story

ABSTRACT

This study analyzed the figurative language utilized in Oscar Wilde's short story "The Happy Prince." This study aims to identify the most common figure of speech by examining the figurative m language utilized in the short story "The Happy Prince." A descriptive qualitative methodology was used to analyse the figurative language in "The Happy Prince." This study's data source was the text of "The Happy Prince," a short story. The first step was to read "The Happy Prince," a short story. Second, seek for figurative language in "The Happy Prince," a short story. The third part discusses the many figurative language techniques used in "The Happy Prince" short story. Fourth, the utilization of figurative language in each sentence from the short story "The Happy Prince" was classified. Lastly, the data analysis was applied to produce the report or conclusion. Based on the analysis, the researcher found 25 data that contain figurative language. There is simile appears 10 times (40%), metaphor appears only 1 time (4%), personification appears 9 times (36%), synecdoche appears only 1 time (4%), symbol appears 2 times (8%), hyperbole/overstatement appears 2 times (8%). In this research, the simile is the dominant type of figurative language that found in "The Happy Prince" short story.

Corresponding Author:

Lidya Rona Mentari,

Email: lidyaronaumentari0298@gmail.com

<https://doi.org/10.33369/espindonesia.v1i2.26092>

1. INTRODUCTION

A language is a tool that becomes a bridge in conveying ideas in mind to be used when communicating in everyday life orally or in writing. Nursolihat and Kareviati (2020) propose that people use language for oral and written communication. Nainggolan et al. (2021) say that language is a device for correspondence, permitting us to impart considerations and sentiments to other people and talk with companions. Therefore, language is important in everyday life because it is a tool to convey information orally or in writing. According to Nur and Miranti (2018), to establish relationships with those around them, language plays a significant function in human life. Putra and Puspitasari (2020) argue that people can communicate all necessary knowledge, concepts, and ideas through language. Information can be communicated through language, whether orally or in writing. (Fajrin and Parmawati, 2021). Thus, language is a communication tool useful for expressing ideas through speech or writing; that language also has the beauty of making a work of ideas poured through the mind using language.

Literature is an idea expressed through beautiful language that can express feelings or thoughts. Radike and Lapasau (2020) stated that literature is the overflow or realization of the author's experiences, as well as their thoughts, feelings, and experiences. Inayah and Simanjuntak (2022) propose that literature has a marvel and style of language that utilizations sayings to make feeling and creative mind. Therefore, in literary works, it is

important to use figures of speech so that a literary work created will awaken the imagination of the reader so that literary connoisseurs can feel the deep atmosphere of a work they enjoy.

In addition, figurative language describes or makes an equation of something with other things and has real meaning. Hulu et al. (2021) propose that figurative language is when a word or phrase is utilized to make a point without really describing or illustrating it. Figurative language refers to using words with connotations outside of their normal usage (Syafitri and Marlinton, 2018). Thus, figurative language is the utilization of language that doesn't depict the genuine significance in conveying something. This is related according to Nurcitrawati et al. (2019) figurative language is a type of language that uses words or a particular style to communicate ideas that are not concrete or have other meanings. It means figurative language is the beauty of language that expresses a thought or feeling in a way that does not directly reveal the true meaning.

Perrine's theory apply this research to the researcher to know the figurative language in this research. Perrine (1983) mentions that figurative language has twelve kinds. Kinds of figurative language include in the following table:

Table 1. Types of Figurative Language

No	Types	Description
1	Simile	Conveys a similarity. For example, "It feels like a perfect night to dress up like hipsters." The word "like" and its relationship in the sentence create an explicit comparison, which is contrasted with the activity in the sentence. (Setiawati and Maryani, 2018)
2	Metaphor	Object is described in the same way as another. For example, "Fly where only angels sing ." The expression "Angels Sing" shows up in the sentence, and that implies that paradise is where the angels song tune is performed. (Ardhyanti and Supriyatiningsih, 2020).
3	Personification	Where a creature, a thing, or an idea is given the nature of a person. For example, "The words died away on his lips." Obviously " died " was joined to the particular attributes of a quicken object to convey the unconventional peculiarity of the character's muteness. (Adriansyah and Mandarani, 2018).
4	Apostrophe	Absent people or nonhuman objects as though they were present and listening to what was being spoken. For example, "Homegrown alligator , see you later." The author informs the fictitious entity that doesn't exist that the word "alligator" symbolizes Australia, a nation the author has previously visited. (Yaito and Termjai, 2021).
5	Metonymy	Utilizes the names of items or different words to address something different, the two of which are firmly connected with each other.
6	Synecdoche	Technique used in rhetoric. It is similar to metonymy
7	Symbol	Represents a specific objective reality. For example, "and rolling stones never find a home." The word "rolling stone" is used in the sentence to denote something that means more than what the author intended. (Palguna, et al., 2021).
8	Allegory	The meaning that lies beneath is distinct from what is described.
9	Paradox	A seemingly contradictory statement that is nonetheless true
10	Hyperbole/Overstatement	Hyperbole also known as hyperbole or overstatement. For example, there isn't any gold in this river. The term "gold" denotes something pricey. (Swarniti, 2022).
11	Understatement	Understatement is the opposite of hyperbole. It is used as an understatement saying less than the meaning of the words.
12	Irony	a figurative language used to express strong emotions to explain a certain purpose

Perrine's theory about figurative language appears a lot in oral or written literary work, one of the written literary works that also uses figurative language to embellish the written language is a short story. A story that is packaged succinctly and is a short story. This is related to the opinion of Thao et al. (2020). They claimed that short stories provide the reader with sufficient details to continue the story. Kosasih in Murasalim (2019) also argues that short stories are essentially prose pieces that are only a few hundred words long. In the short story, the lives of the characters are shown, which are full of contentious situations that are moving or inspiring and leave a lasting effect. While it is a straightforward literary entertainment medium, each occurrence has a lasting significance.

Researcher is curious to learn about the figurative language the author employed when writing a short story, which is why this research is being done. In writing a short story, of course, the writer considers the figurative language that he will use in his work because it all influences the beauty of the work he creates. Therefore, researchers want to investigate figurative language in a short story. The researcher chosen "The Happy Prince" short story to study the figurative language used by the author of "The Happy Prince" short story by Oscar Wilde. This story tells of a soft-hearted statue and a lovelorn swallow to eradicate poverty in their city.

In relation to this topic, numerous investigations have been done. First, an article by Khairunisa et al. (2020) entitled "An Analysis of Figurative Language in Amir Hamzah's Poems." This investigation focused on Amir Hamzah's chosen poems' metaphorical language. This study's goals were to look at the different kinds of figurative language used in a few of Amir Hamzah's poems and determine what those figurative words actually meant. To address the issues, this study used a qualitative approach. The study's data consisted of phrases and sentences from poetry that used figurative language. Six poems with multiple series from Amir Hamzah's Poetry Anthology of Buah Rindu served as the data sources. Through the use of random sampling, the data were chosen.

The results of this research are there twenty-two figurative languages found, there are metaphor, hyperbole, personification, and simile. Simile and Hyperbole are the most figurative language already found in this research. Second, Yusnitasari et al. (2022) have created research with a title "An Analysis of Figurative Language on the Song Lyrics "You are My Sunshine" by Anne Murray. The analysis of figurative language in the song "You are My Sunshine" is the main goal of this study. The goal of the study is to understand the many kinds of metaphorical language employed in Anne Murray's song "You Are My Sunshine" and how it is used. In this study, data from the song lyrics were analyzed using a descriptive qualitative method. The varieties of metaphorical language in the song lyrics were recognized during the data collection process and categorized. In the data analysis, the study examines song lyrics, identifies the different types of figurative language in song lyrics, sorts song lyrics into the various categories, and draws a conclusion. This study shows nine kinds of figurative language, they are metaphor, hyperbole, symbolism, repetition, idiom, and imagery. Third, an article entitled "Analysis Figure of Speech and Theatrical Story In No Longer Human Novel by Osamu Dazai" by Aziza and Simanjuntak (2022). In the literary analysis No Longer Human, a young man who lives in the actual world recounts his life's path. This tale will be relevant to our time, reflecting social criticism and the outside forces that produce the most hypocritical beings and prone to misfortune. The writing of this novel, which chronicles a young man's crises, also had a psychological impact on the author. The process analysis for the No Longer Human novel employs a qualitative descriptive approach to gather data, process it through careful reading and analysis of the qualitative narrative.

The result found twenty-eight kinds of figurative language, of which hyperbole was found the most. Fourth, Harun et al. (2020) entitled "Figurative language used in a novel by Arafat Nur on the Aceh conflict". The goal of this article is to discuss the figurative language in the 2014 novel *Burung Terbang di Kelam Malam* (also known as "A Bird Flies in The Dark of Night," or BTKM) by Arafat Nur. The 32-year battle between the Indonesian government and the Free Aceh Movement heavily inspired the literary style of one of this author's ten novels, BTKM. The research data are the words, phrases, sentences, and paragraphs of figurative language that are employed in the book as descriptions, character monologues, or dialogue between characters. The research found that simile is the most prevalent figurative language employed in the work, followed by satire, hyperbole, metonymy, metaphor, sarcasm, synecdoche, personification, and irony, with litotes being the least prevalent. These findings suggest that the most used figurative expressions were effective ways to communicate the social, political, and cultural issues facing Acehnese society both during and after the conflict. Through language that conjures up feelings of fear, sensitivity, anxiety, and uncertainty in the midst of a struggle and among merciless people in positions of power, the psychology of the characters is revealed.

2. METHOD

In order to examine the types of figurative language utilized in Oscar Wilde's short story "The Happy Prince," this research employed a descriptive qualitative research methodology. Qualitative research is a method for looking into phenomena found in a context or social setting (Creswell, 2012). Kothari (2004) proposes that Surveys and other kinds of fact-finding inquiries are included in descriptive research. This study employed the short story "The Happy Prince" as a source for its data, and the researcher gathered it by carefully reading it, looking for the author's use theory of Perrine to analyze of figurative language, and taking notes while classifying data.

The analysis of figurative language in the short story "The Happy Prince" was divided into categories based on the many kinds of figurative language used in work. According to Sugiyono (2017), the steps for data analysis are as follows:

1. Read the short story "The Happy Prince."
2. Examines the short story "The Happy Prince" for figurative language.
3. Identifies the figurative language used in "The Happy Prince" short story.
4. Sorting the "The Happy Prince" short story's sentences into figurative language categories.
5. The data were examined to create the report or conclusion.

3. RESULTS AND DISCUSSION

In this section, the researcher uses a descriptive qualitative approach to discuss the investigation's results and conclusions. As a result, all problem statements have answers to problems.

3.1 Results

In this research, there are the figurative language concepts classified and analyzed utilizing 25 data by Perrine (1983). Six figurative languages are applied in the "The Happy Prince" short story. Figurative language involves simile, metaphor, personification, synecdoche, symbol, and hyperbole/overstatement. This data was obtained after analyzing the short story "The Happy Prince."

3.1.1 Types of figurative language employed by the author in the short story "The Happy Prince."

The researcher found six figurative languages in the data analysis. They are simile, metaphor, personification, synecdoche, symbol, and hyperbole/overstatement.

Table 2. Types of figurative language

No.	Types of Figurative Language	Data	Percentages (%)
1.	Simile	10	40%
2.	Metaphor	1	4%
3.	Personification	9	36%
4.	Synecdoche	1	4%
5.	Symbol	2	8%
6.	Hyperbole/Overstatement	2	8%

Given the table, the percentage of figurative language utilized by the author in the short story "The Happy Prince" is simile (40%), metaphor (4%), personification (36%), synecdoche (4%), symbol (8%), and hyperbole/overstatement (8%).

3.1.2 The dominant figurative language used by the author in the short story "The Happy Prince."

Table 3. Dominant figurative language

No.	Types of Figurative Language	Data	Percentages (%)
1.	Simile	10	40%

In light of table 3, the analyst found 10 with data that utilized simile as the dominant figurative language in the short story of "The Happy Prince." From table 1, the absolute information investigation figurative language in the short story "The Happy Prince" is 25 data. The analyst changes the personification information into a rate, and the essayist finds 40% for simile from the all-out rate of 100 percent. From table 1, the most noteworthy is simile with 40%. The researcher can infer that the author of this study dominantly utilizes figurative language as personification.

Simile

The simile is a comparison used to describe one circumstance with another.

Data 1:

"He looks just like an angel,"

This sentence contains an analogy. The word "like" here is a characteristic of a simile. The author here compares two things between "he" and "angel." The author uses figurative language with the parable of the

word "angel," which means kind. The connotative meaning is that the author of the short story "The Happy Prince" believes that "He" has a kind-hearted personality and always has a positive outlook on everything.

Data 2:

....and his hands are like withered leaves.

This data contains a parable. The word "like" here is a characteristic of a simile. The author compares two things between "his hands" and "withered leaves." The author uses figurative language with the parable of the word "withered leaves," which means helpless. The connotative meaning is that the writer of "The Happy Prince" short story believes that "his hands" have no more ability.

Metaphor

It is figurative language that compares or analogizes two unrelated things.

Data 3:

"He is as beautiful as a weathercock,"

From these data, the researcher identified the sentence as a metaphor. The sentence "beautiful as a weathercock" describes the comparison of the word "he." The connotative meaning of this sentence is someone who is greatly admired.

Personification

Personification is a figurative language language that saturates lifeless things with qualities of individuals.

Data 4:

....for she is always flirting with the wind.

The data above shows the utterance "...for she is always flirting with the wind". From this phrase, the author of "The Happy Prince" short story gives the human treatment of teasing the wind, which shows that the wind has a charming effect on the situation.

Data 5:

....and worships a large crystal;

The data shows a utterance "...and worships a large crystal;". From this data, the writer of "The Happy Prince" short story humans worship the large crystal, which shows that the meaning of the large crystal gives a sacred influence in that situation.

Synecdoche

One term is supposed to represent the entire, and vice versa, in a synecdoche.

Data 6:

The young man had his head buried in his hands,....

The data above includes figurative language synecdoche pars prototo because there are intact parts. The word "hands" here means the hands that belong to the young man to indicate the whole hand. The connotative meaning is the young man covers his head with his hands.

Symbol

Symbolic is a figurative language that alludes to something having the force of specific items, creatures, or plants as images, or images that can replace the words you wish to impart.

Data 7:

I am going to the House of Death.

The data above shows that the "House of Death" symbolizes he will leave this earth forever.

Hyperbole/Overstatement

Hyperbole is figurative language used to make an intense impression or draw attention. It takes the shape of an exaggerated statement of reality.

Data 8:

The ruby shall be redder than a red rose....

From this expression, the author exaggerates the beauty and radiance of the "ruby" more beautiful than the "red rose".

3.2 Discussion

Personification is the most figurative language commonly used by the author in the short story "The Happy Prince," accounting for 10 data (40%). At the same time, metaphor and synecdoche are the least commonly used figurative language by the author, accounting for just 1 data (4%). It is possible to conclude that the author employs personification as figurative language because it makes images of inanimate things that resemble people. Personification may be the best figurative language to use figurative language in the short story "The Happy Prince" because the short story tells about a statue that is statue is one of the inanimate objects.

This research is also similar and supported by Khairunisa et al. (2020) in their journal entitled "Figurative Language in Amir Hamzah's Poems." The research results also found metaphor, hyperbole, personification, and simile. The simile is also one of the most figurative languages in this research. The data also used qualitative method to analyze data. Their research has different to this research. This investigation focused on Amir Hamzah's chosen poems' figurative language. This study's goals were to look at the different kinds of figurative language used in a few of Amir Hamzah's poems and determine what those figurative words actually meant. Meanwhile, this research focused on short story as data to analyze. In addition, the study by Harun et al. (2020) is a journal entitled "Figurative language used in a novel by Arafat Nur on the Aceh conflict". Their research data are the words, phrases, sentences, and paragraphs utilized in the novel's figurative language, whether as part of character monologues or dialogue between characters. Meanwhile, this research used a short story. Their research and this research also has similar, one of the most figurative languages in this study is the simile. Aziza and Simanjuntak (2022), in their journal entitled "Analysis Figure of Speech and Theatrical Story In No Longer Human Novel by Osamu Dazai." Their research with this research also has similarities found in simile, metaphor, personification, and hyperbole as figurative language. Their research has different to this research, their research used Novel as source of data. Meanwhile, this research used a short story as source of data. The last, Yusnitasari et al. (2022) entitled "An Analysis of Figurative Language on the Song Lyrics "You are My Sunshine" by Anne Murray." Their research is different from this research because their study focuses on analyzing the many figurative language styles used in the song "You are My Sunshine" lyrics. The purpose of the study is to determine the kinds of figurative language utilized in Anne Murray's song "You Are My Sunshine" and how it is employed, and this research uses a short story of "The Happy Prince" as an object. Besides that, their research with this research also has similarities in that it also found metaphor, hyperbole, and symbolism as figurative language.

4. CONCLUSION

The researcher gathers data regarding figurative language in the short story "The Happy Prince" based on the preceding analysis. This research can conclude that the research gets 25 (100%) data and found six figurative languages from the short story "The Happy Prince." They are simile appears 10 times (40%), metaphor appears only 1 time (4%), personification appears 9 times (36%), synecdoche appears only 1 time (4%), the symbol appears 2 times (8%), and hyperbole/overstatement also appears 2 times (8%). The simile is the most widely recognized non-literal language involved by the creator in the short story "The Cheerful Sovereign" with 10 data (40%), followed by personification with 9 data (36%), it uses figurative language to ascribe human traits to inanimate objects, and symbol with 2 data (8%), it makes the language conveyed smoother, interesting and unique to speak and write. Hyperbole/overstatement, also with 2 data (8%), is figurative language in the form of an exaggerated statement of reality to give a deep impression or call for attention. However, the author in the short story "The Happy Prince" rare to uses symbols and hyperbole/overstatement with 2 data (8%) and metaphors with only 1 data (4%). It was also similar to synecdoche only 1 data (4%). Thus, in the wake of examining the metaphorical language, the prevailing kind of figurative language that the creator utilized in the brief tale "The Happy Prince" is simile, with the

percentage of data being 40%, after simile that is personification, and then symbol and hyperbole/overstatement. Metaphors and synecdoche are the figurative languages that authors use the least. Therefore, based on the findings of this study, the author believes that a simile can be compared to two things directly, but not with the same being, so it is a comparison that focuses on a trait or character. Furthermore, personification can compensation may be the ideal figurative language to make the story contains comparisons of inanimate objects with living things to give an imaginative impression in the form of a description of the atmosphere so that the existence of a figure of speech in work can create a suggestion from the writer for the reader and can create a dense, rich, interesting and effective information effect for the reader.

REFERENCES

- Ardhayanti, S. V., & Suprayatiningsih. (2020). Figurative Language Analysis in Celine Dion's Song Lyrics *Falling into You* Album. *PROJECT (Professional Journal of English Education)*, 3(1), 11-19.
- Ardiansyah, N. M., & Mandarani, V. (2018). An Analysis of Figurative Language Elements upon an American Short Story, *The Monkey's Paw*. *Journal of English Educators Society*, 3(1), 13-21.
- Aziza, A. P., & Simanjuntak, M. B. (2022). Analysis Figure of Speech and Theatrical Story In No. Longer Human Novel by Osamu Dazai. *International Journal of Education and Literature (IJEL)*, 1(1), 68-76.
- Creswell, J. W. (2012). *Educational Research: Planning, Conducting, and Evaluating Quantitative and Qualitative Research*: Fourth Edition.
- Fajrin, M. Y., & Parmawati, A. (2021). An Analysis of Figurative Language Found in Song of Bruno Mars Entitled "Grenade". *PROJECT (Professional Journal of English Education)*, 4(4), 588-594.
- Harun, M., Yusuf, Y. Q., & Karnafi, M. (2020). Figurative language used in a novel by Arafat Nur on the Aceh conflict. *Kasetsart Journal of Social Sciences*, 395-400.
- Hulu, D. A., Sembiring, E. N. B., & Tarigan, N. W. P. An Analysis of Figurative Language in Ariana Grande's Album "Thank U, Next". *Linguistic, English Education and Art (LEEAA)*, 4(2), 317-327.
- Inayyah, F. N., & Simanjuntak, M. B. (2022). Analysis of the Moral Value in the Novel "Imperfect" Written by Meira Anastasia. *LITERACY : International Scientific Journals Of Social, Education and Humaniora*, 1(1), 26-31.
- Khairunisa, N., Dirgeyasa, I. W., & Putri, C. A. (2020). Figurative Language in Amir Hamzah's Poems. *Linguistica*, 9(1), 258-266.
- Kothari, C.R. (2004) *Research Methodology: Methods and Techniques*. 2nd Edition. New Age International Publishers, New Delhi.
- Mursalim. (2019). A Sociological Approach of Literature in Short Story *Senyum Yang Kekal* by Korrie Layun Rampan. *Proceedings of the 28th International Conference on Literature: "Literature as a Source of Wisdom"*, 270-276.
- Nainggolan, F., Siahaan, D. A., Sinurat, B., & Herman. (2021). An Analysis of Figurative Language on Joe Biden's Victory Speech. *International Journal on Integrated Education*, 6(3), 364-375.
- Nur, M. R. O., & Miranti, R. R. (2018). The Analysis of Figurative Language Used in 'Still I Rise' Poem by Maya Angelou. *International Summit on Science Technology and Humanity*, 19-29.
- Nurcitrawati, V., Kareviatic, E., & Atmawidjaja, N. S. (201). Figurative Language Analysis in Disney Songs. *PROJECT (Professional Journal of English Education)*, 2(4), 494-500.
- Nursolihat, S., & Kareviati, E. (2020). An Analysis of Figurative Language Used in the Lyric of "A Whole new World" by Zayn Malik and Zhavia Ward. *PROJECT (Professional Journal of English Education)*, 3(4), 477-482.
- Palguna, I. P. Y. J., Juniarta, I. W., & Candra, K. D. P. (2021). The Analysis of Figurative Language on Passenger Song Lyric in *Runaway* Album. *ELYSIAN JOURNAL English Literature, Linguistics and Translation Studies*, 1(3), 23-32.
- Perrine, L. (1983). *Literature: Structure, Sounds, and Sense* (4th ed). London: Hourcort Brace Jovanovich Inc.
- Putra, I. S., & Puspitasari, A. (2020). An Analysis of Figurative Language in Jalaludin Rumi's Quotes in Book *the Meaningful Life with Rumi*. *Syntax Literate: Jurnal Ilmiah Indonesia* 5(7), 303-313.
- Radike, N., & Lapasau, M. (2020). The Character and Moral Value in "Les Miserables" by Victor Hugo. *INFERENCE: Journal of English Language Teaching*, 3(2), 153-158.
- Setiawati, W., & Maryani. (2018). An Analysis of Figurative Language in Taylor Swift's Song Lyrics. *PROJECT (Professional Journal of English Education)*, 1(3), 261-268.
- Swarniti, N. W. (2022). Analysis of Figurative Language in "Easy On Me" Song Lyrics. *RETORIKA: Jurnal Ilmu Bahasa*, 8(1), 13-18.

-
- Thao, N. V., Sinaga, M. R., & Herman. (2020). Semantic Analysis of Contextual Meaning in Dialogue of “The Ugly Duckling” Short Story. *Walailak Journal of Social Science*, 14(2), 2-7.
- Yaito, K., & Termjai, M. (2021). An Analysis of Figurative Language and Imagery in British and American Pop Songs. *มนุษยศาสตร์สาร ปีที่*, 22(1), 204-226.
- Yusnitasari, V., Wangi, W., & Sugianto, Y. (2022). An Analysis of Figurative Language on the Song Lyrics “You are My Sunshine” by Anne Murray. *LUNAR (Language and Art)*, 6(1), 309-322.