

ANALYSIS OF THE FIGURATIVE LANGUAGE IN THE NOVEL PERGI BY TERE LIYE

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Abstract

This study aims at discussing the use of figurative language, focusing on Comparative Figurative Language; Personification, Metaphor, Simile and Contradictory Figurative Language; Hyperbole in the novel *Pergi* by Tere Liye published by Republika Penerbit on April in 2018. In this study the author refers to the theory of Gorys Keraf (2010) about figurative language. The research identifies the types of figurative language, analyse their meanings, and reveal the implicit messages conveyed by the author. Relevance to research method, the author used Geoffrey Leech's Stylistic Theory (1981). The method used is qualitative descriptive analysis, with data collection techniques involving in-depth reading and classification of sentences containing specific figurative language elements. The findings indicate that in the novel, Tere Liye predominantly uses personification and metaphor to depict the emotions and situations faced by the main character, while similes and hyperboles are utilized to enhance the dramatic effect of the narrative. These stylistic devices not only enrich the novel's aesthetics but also play a crucial role in conveying moral messages and life values to the readers.

Keywords— figurative language, personification, metaphor, simile, hyperbole

Introduction

Literary works such as novels, poetry, and drama have a unique language style or figurative language that reflects the characteristics of their authors. This style is deliberately used to maximize the purpose of writing and helps readers distinguish works between different writers. The value of literature lies in the balance between form and content. Beautiful language and content that can evoke readers' emotions are key elements. Literature can be created by anyone as an expression of the soul's beauty, although its appreciation ultimately depends on society. As Horace once said, literature is "dulce et utile"—both beautiful and useful. Literary works, including novels, poetry, short stories, and drama, are creations communicated for aesthetic purposes. The novel, as a form of literary work, is a long prose narrative that tells the lives of its characters while highlighting their personalities and traits. A novel not only entertains but also imparts moral values through its intrinsic elements, structured similarly to reality.

Sudjiman (1998) states that a novel is a form of fictional prose that presents characters, a series of events, and settings in a structured manner. As an imaginative work, a novel not only explores the depths of human aspects but also conveys them in a subtle way. Beyond serving as entertainment, a novel is also a form of art that examines various aspects of life and moral values, both good and bad, with the aim of teaching readers about noble character. Thus, a novel can be defined as a fictional story that depicts the lives of its characters through a structured plot. Although fictional, a novel's story is not merely a product of fantasy; rather, it is the result of the author's imagination, inspired by real-life experiences or observed phenomena. Moreover, Aminuddin (2009: 72) states that the term style originates from the Latin word *stilus*, meaning "a tool for writing". Aminuddin explains that in literature, style refers to the way an

author conveys their ideas through the use of beautiful and harmonious language, creating an atmosphere and meaning that can engage both the intellectual and emotional aspects of the reader. In line with this, Scharbach (as cited in Aminuddin, 2009: 72) describes style as an aesthetic element—something sacred, beautiful, graceful, and a reflection of human nature itself. The way an author expresses ideas in scientific writing is certainly different from how they develop the same ideas in literary works. Therefore, even if two authors start with a similar concept, their final works will still exhibit differences, as each author has a unique style in presenting their thoughts.

Language serves as a crucial medium for conveying the author's ideas. Writing style is influenced by the writer's character, creating uniqueness in their work. The use of figurative language adds aesthetic value, making the reading experience more engaging. Figurative Language is a part of diction that considers the appropriate use of words, phrases, or clauses in specific situations. Its scope is broad, encompassing various sentence elements with distinctive patterns.

Pergi is a novel by Tere Liye, published in April 2018 by Republika Penerbit. This novel is a sequel to Pulang (2015) and continues the story of Bujang, who has now become the Great Tauke of the Tong family. As the new leader, Bujang faces various challenges, including conflicts with the El Pacho family and betrayal by Master Dragon. In addition to presenting action and adventure, Pergi also invites readers to reflect on the meaning of life and the importance of finding one's purpose. Through Bujang's journey, the novel conveys deep moral messages and life values. In the novel Pergi, the author not only presents a simple writing style but also makes it engaging and easy for readers to understand. This novel possesses a rich linguistic style, including the figurative language, making it interesting to analyse from a language perspective.

Tere Liye has a distinctive style in conveying stories through his language. He often uses various figurative language, such as metaphors, hyperbole, personification, similes, paradoxes, and others in his writing. The use of multiple literary devices in a single work sometimes makes it difficult for some readers to understand the meaning. The figurative language in the novel Pergi creates a more vivid impression, enhances its beauty, and clarifies the author's ideas. This novel utilizes various figurative languages to depict each event in the story. However, this study will focus only on personification, metaphor, Simile and hyperbole, as these three figurative languages are the most frequently used. Based on the problem limitations mentioned earlier, the author formulates the following research questions: How are personification, metaphor, simile and hyperbole used in the novel Pergi by Tere Liye? Based on this reason, the researcher conducted a study on the novel titled "Analysis of the Figurative Language in the Novel Pergi by Tere Liye." This research focuses solely on analysing the figurative language used dominantly in the novel

Literature Review

Figurative language is a technique or method used to convey a message. Its role is crucial in communication, both spoken and written, as it helps deliver meaning more effectively to the recipient. One of the primary functions of figurative language is to make a message more impactful for the listener or reader, as its use can create specific effects that influence their understanding. Every writer or literary author has a unique style in their works, one of which is reflected in the figurative language they use. Figurative language not only represents the author's personality in expressing emotions through their work but also contributes to creating certain effects. These effects can enrich meaning, depict objects and events more imaginatively, and provide aesthetic nuances and specific motivations for the reader. Figurative language is always present in various literary works, including novels. Novels are one of the most popular literary forms among readers and are frequently written by Indonesian authors. The use of figurative language in novels aims to bring the story to life, making the emotions and messages conveyed more profound. Additionally, figurative language helps readers enjoy and better understand the content of a story. Through figurative language, an author can communicate ideas and concepts indirectly.

Keraf (2010) classifies figurative language into four main categories:

1. Comparative figurative language

According to Keraf (2010), comparative figurative language is a type of figurative language used to compare one thing to another based on similarities in characteristics or traits. This language style aims to clarify, enhance, or create a specific effect on the idea being conveyed. Types of Comparative figurative language consist of:

- a. Metaphor is an implicit comparison between two things without using connecting words such as like or as. For example: She is a flower among the thorns of life.
- b. Personification is assigning human traits to inanimate objects or non-human entities. For example: The night wind whispered softly in my ear.
- c. Simile is an explicit comparison between two things using connecting words like like, as, similar to, or resembling. For example: Her face shines like the morning sun.
- d. Allegory is a more complex comparison, often presented in the form of a story or extended narrative. For example: Life is like a wheel that keeps turning; sometimes you're up, sometimes you're down.
- e. Anthropomorphism is similar to personification, but it fully transforms the characteristics of inanimate objects or animals to behave like humans. For example: The clever mousedeer negotiated with the crocodile to cross the river.
- f. Parable and Fable. Parable is a short story with a moral or religious comparison. Fable is a story that portrays animals with human-like behaviours as a way to illustrate human life.

According to Keraf, comparative figurative language serves to create a more vivid image in writing or speech. By using this figurative language, writers or speakers can emphasize their messages in a more engaging and easily understood manner.

2. Contradictory figurative language

According to Keraf (2010), contradictory figurative language refers to a literary style that conveys meaning by presenting contradictions or differences between two elements. This type of language aims to highlight irony, paradox, or contrast in a statement, thereby creating a specific effect on the reader or listener. Types of Contradictory Figurative Language consists of:

- a. Hyperbole is an exaggerated statement used to create a dramatic or emotional effect. For example: I have been waiting for you for thousands of years!
- b. Litotes is a form of understatement that deliberately minimizes a statement, often as a way of humility. For example: This is just a small gift from me; I hope you like it.
- c. Irony is a statement that conveys the opposite of its literal meaning, often with a hint of sarcasm. For example: You're so smart that you forgot how to read the instructions!
- d. Sarcasm is a sharper and more bitter form of irony, often intended to mock or hurt. For example: Wow, your intelligence is truly remarkable—you keep failing the test!
- e. Cynicism is a form of sarcasm that expresses distrust or scepticism, though less harsh than sarcasm. For example: Ah, a politician's promise? I never believe them!
- f. Paradox is a statement that seems contradictory but actually contains a deeper truth. For example: The more I learn, the more I realize how little I know.
- g. Oxymoron is the use of two opposing words in a single phrase to create a contrasting effect. For example: The deafening silence filled the room.

According to Keraf, contradictory figurative language is used to create surprise, irony, or emphasize meaning in communication. By incorporating this literary style, messages become sharper, more engaging, and often evoke strong emotions in readers or listeners.

3. Associative figurative language

According to Keraf (2010), associative figurative language is a type of figurative language that connects a word, phrase, or expression with another meaning based on a specific

relationship, whether symbolic, figurative, or representative. This type of language is used to enrich meaning and create a deeper impression on readers or listeners. Types of Associative Figurative Language consists of:

- a. Metonymy is the use of a name of an object or concept to refer to something related to it. For example: He reads Shakespeare every night (meaning he reads Shakespeare's works).
- b. Synecdoche is divided into two types: Pars pro toto: A part representing the whole. For example: He owns a hundred heads of cattle on his farm (meaning a hundred cows). Totum pro parte: The whole representing a part. For example: Indonesia won gold at the Olympics (meaning Indonesian athletes).
- c. Allusion is referring to a well-known figure, event, or literary work as a comparison or reference. For example: He possesses wisdom like Solomon.
- d. Euphemism is using milder or more polite words or phrases to replace harsh or impolite terms. For example: He has passed away and returned to God (meaning he has died).
- e. Epithet is the use of a word or phrase as a nickname to describe the characteristics of a person or thing. For example: Alexander, the Great.
- f. Eponym is mentioning a person's name to describe a quality or characteristic associated with them. For example: He is truly an Einstein in mathematics (meaning he is a genius in mathematics).
- g. Symbolism is using symbols to represent a broader idea or concept. For example: The red and white flag waves in the sky (symbolizing the Indonesian flag).

According to Keraf, associative figurative language is used to establish connections between words and broader meanings, whether through symbols, representations, or cultural references. The use of this language style not only enhances the beauty of expression but also helps clarify and deepen meaning in communication.

4. Repetitive figurative language

According to Keraf (2010), repetitive figurative language refers to a stylistic device that emphasizes the repetition of words, phrases, or sentence structures to strengthen meaning, enhance aesthetics, and create a deeper emotional impact on the reader or listener. This repetition aims to reinforce an idea or establish rhythm in writing or speech. Types of Repetitive Figurative consists of:

- a. Repetition is the repetition of words or phrases within a sentence or across consecutive sentences to emphasize an idea. For example: He always works, always studies, and always strives for success.
- b. Parallelism is the repetition of similar grammatical structures in multiple phrases or sentences, making them easier to remember and creating a sense of balance. For example: I see, I hear, I feel.
- c. Anaphora is the repetition of a word or phrase at the beginning of successive sentences or clauses. For example: We must fight. We must endure. We must win.
- d. Epiphora is the repetition of a word or phrase at the end of successive sentences or clauses. For example: I believe in honesty. He lives by honesty. We all need honesty.
- e. Mesodiplosis is the repetition of a word or phrase in the middle of successive sentences or clauses. For example: Life is a struggle, love is a struggle, and success is a struggle.
- f. Epanalepsis is the repetition of a word at both the beginning and end of the same sentence. For example: Life is a struggle, and struggle is life.
- g. Tautotes is the repeated use of the same word within a sentence or across different contexts. For example: Love is love, and nothing can change love.

According to Keraf, repetitive figurative language is used to emphasize meaning, reinforce messages, and create aesthetic and emotional effects in communication. When used

effectively, repetition makes an idea more impactful and memorable for the reader or listener.

Meanwhile, Tarigan (2013) emphasizes the function of figurative language in character portrayal, namely reflecting personality, indicating social background, building emotional atmosphere, and strengthening story conflicts. Nurgiyantoro (2018) identifies patterns in the main character's use of figurative language such as Word choice reflects educational background, Sentence structure mirrors thought patterns, Figures of speech reveal psychological conditions. Moreover, Pradopo (2012) discusses the effects of figurative language on meaning, they are creating an aesthetic dimension, generating multiple interpretations, deepening character portrayal, constructing the character's image. Ratna (2015) also analyses the relationship between figurative language and context; influence of cultural background, social situations, interactions between characters, development of the storyline. The author refers to the theory of Keraf (2010) concerning figurative language in analysing this study..

Research Method

This study uses qualitative descriptive approach. The descriptive method aims to illustrate or explain a research object based on collected data, allowing for the formulation of general conclusions. Moleong (2017:6) explains that qualitative research is an approach that does not utilize numerical data or other quantification methods in its analysis. The primary focus of this study is content analysis, which involves examining and understanding the values inherent in the research object. Therefore, a qualitative descriptive approach is considered the most appropriate for this study. The qualitative research method is suitable for analysing literary works in the form of texts, with the ultimate goal of uncovering meanings and various hidden phenomena through a descriptive-analytical approach. This method involves both explaining and analysing data, where each piece of information is examined directly without waiting for a complete description. The descriptive approach focuses more on the use of words. As the primary data source, literary works are studied and explained in the form of sentences. Moreover, Relevance to Research method, Geoffrey Leech's stylistic theory (1981) provides a systematic approach in analysing literary texts that blends linguistic analysis with literary interpretation. This makes it ideal as a theoretical foundation for qualitative, text-based research method. In general, this study aims to analyse the use of personification, metaphor, simile and hyperbole in the novel *Pergi* by Tere Liye. The data analysis process in this study follows these steps: reading the novel *Pergi* repeatedly to gain a comprehensive understanding of its content, classifying sentences based on the use of personification, metaphor, simile and hyperbole and analysing the meaning of sentences that employ personification, metaphor, simile and hyperbole, while identifying their implicit meanings.

Results and Discussions

The figurative language in a piece of work is an element that adds a unique appeal to readers. Each writer has their own distinctive way of expressing ideas. It reflected in a literary work is influenced by the writer's character and personality, making it evident that a writer's uniqueness plays a crucial role in shaping the identity of their writing.

The novel *Pergi* by Tere Liye contains various types of figurative language. In general, the figurative language in this novel can be categorized into four main groups: comparative figurative language, contradictory figurative language, associative figurative language, and repetitive figurative language. In this case the author will discuss some figurative language found dominantly in the novel, namely Personification, Metaphor, Simile and Hyperbole. Personification, Metaphor, Simile belongs to Comparative Figurative Language and Hyperbole belongs to Contradictory Figurative Language.

The following is an explanation of the different types of figurative language found in Tere Liye's novel *Pergi*.

Personification

Personification is a figurative language that attributes human traits or characteristics to inanimate objects. Through this literary device, objects appear as if they are alive and capable of

acting like humans. The following is the quotations of personification found in the novel *Pergi* by Tere Liye:

1. "*Angin malam berbisik membelai wajahnya*" (p. 15)
2. "*Hujan rintik memeluk kota dengan lembut*" (p. 42)
3. "*Matahari mengintip malu-malu dari balik awan*" (p. 87)
4. "*Lampu-lampu jalan menari dalam gerimis*" (p. 124)
5. "*Keheningan malam merangkul tubuhnya yang lelah*" (p. 156)
6. "*Waktu berlari begitu cepat tanpa peduli*" (p. 203)
7. "*Kenangan itu mengetuk pintu hatinya*" (p. 267)
8. "*Bayang-bayang gelap menari di dinding*" (p. 298)
9. "*Bulan tersenyum lembut menyinari malam*" (p. 325)
10. "*Ombak berkejar-kejaran di tepi pantai*" (p. 378)

Based on the quotations above, it can be explained below.

These personifications give human-like qualities to non-human elements, enhancing the imagery and emotional depth of the narrative. Here's what they convey:

1. "**The night wind whispered, caressing his face.**" (The wind is depicted as gentle and comforting, creating a calm or nostalgic atmosphere).
2. "**Drizzling rain gently embraced the city.**" (The rain is described as soft and soothing, symbolizing tranquillity or melancholy).
3. "**The sun peeked shyly from behind the clouds.**" (The sun is given a timid personality, suggesting a hesitant or gradual emergence).
4. "**Streetlights danced in the drizzle.**" (The flickering lights create a lively or dreamlike mood).
5. "**The silence of the night embraced his weary body.**" (The night's silence feels protective or soothing, emphasizing exhaustion and solitude).
6. "**Time ran so fast without caring.**" (Time is personified as indifferent, reflecting how quickly moments pass, often unnoticed).
7. "**That memory knocked on the door of his heart.**" (Memories are portrayed as visitors, indicating their sudden and emotional impact).
8. "**Dark shadows danced on the wall.**" (Shadows moving with the light create an eerie or mysterious effect).
9. "**The moon smiled softly, illuminating the night.**" (The moon is depicted as kind and gentle, contributing to a peaceful atmosphere).
10. "**Waves chased each other along the shore.**" (The waves are animated, suggesting a playful or relentless motion).

Each phrase enhances the story's imagery, making it more vivid and emotionally resonant.

Metaphor

Metaphor is a figurative language that implicitly compares two things, whether in the form of objects, concepts, actions, or characteristics, without using connecting words. This comparison is used to create a deeper meaning and describe something in a more imaginative way. The following is the quotations of metaphor found in the novel *Pergi* by Tere Liye:

1. "*Dia adalah mentari dalam hidupku*" (p. 23)
2. "*Gadis itu mutiara yang tersembunyi*" (p. 56)
3. "*Kota ini rimba beton yang tak berujung*" (p. 89)
4. "*Kehidupan adalah medan perang*" (p. 134)
5. "*Kenangan adalah racun dalam darahku*" (p. 167)
6. "*Matanya samudra yang dalam*" (p. 198)
7. "*Masa lalu adalah penjara waktu*" (p. 245)
8. "*Dia malaikat penyelamat hidupku*" (p. 287)
9. "*Hatinya gurun yang gersang*" (p. 312)
10. "*Cinta adalah sayap yang mengangkatku terbang*" (p. 356)

Based on the quotations above, it can be explained as follow.

These metaphors convey deep emotions and vivid imagery by comparing abstract

concepts to tangible things. Here's their meaning:

1. **"She is the sun in my life."**(This person brings warmth, happiness, and light into the speaker's life, like the sun).
2. **"That girl is a hidden pearl."** (She is a rare and valuable person, but not easily noticed or appreciated).
3. **" This city is an endless concrete jungle."**(The city is vast, chaotic, and full of towering buildings, like an endless jungle of concrete).
4. **" Life is a battlefield."** (Life is full of struggles, challenges, and battles that one must constantly face).
5. **" Memories are poison in my blood."** (Memories, especially painful ones, are harmful and impossible to escape, affecting the person deeply).
6. **" Her eyes are a deep ocean."** (Her eyes hold deep emotions, mystery, or vast wisdom, like the ocean).
7. **" The past is a prison of time."** (The past traps the person, making it hard to move on, like a prison).
8. **" He is the angel who saved my life."** (This person has helped or saved the speaker in a significant way, like an angel).
9. **" His heart is a barren desert."** (The person's heart is dry, empty, or lacking love and warmth, like a barren desert).
10. **" Love is the wings that lift me to fly."** (Love gives the speaker freedom, joy, and inspiration, like wings lifting them into the sky).

Each metaphor enhances the emotional depth and poetic beauty of the narrative.

Simile

Simile is a figurative language that compares two different things using the words *like* or *as* to create a vivid image or emphasize a particular quality. It helps make descriptions more expressive and engaging. Similes are commonly used in poetry, literature, and everyday language to make comparisons more relatable and imaginative. The following is the quotations of Simile found in the novel *Pergi* by Tere Liye:

1. **"Wajahnya pucat seperti kertas"** (p. 34)
2. **"Suaranya lembut bagai desir angin"** (p. 67)
3. **"Dia berlari laksana kilat"** (p. 98)
4. **"Hidupnya bagaikan kapal tanpa nahkoda"** (p. 143)
5. **"Seperti bunga yang layu"** (p. 178)
6. **"Bagai awan yang berarak"** (p. 223)
7. **"Laksana burung dalam sangkar"** (p. 256)
8. **"Seperti api yang membakar"** (p. 289)
9. **"Bagai daun yang tertiup angin"** (p. 334)
10. **"Laksana bintang di langit malam"** (p. 367)

Based on the quotations above, it can be explained below.

These similes create vivid imagery by comparing different concepts to familiar objects or phenomena. Here's what they mean:

1. **"His face was as pale as paper."** (He looks extremely pale, possibly due to fear, shock, or illness).
2. **"Her voice was as soft as the whisper of the wind."**(Her voice is gentle, calm, and soothing).
3. **"He ran like lightning."** (He ran incredibly fast).
4. **"His life was like a ship without a captain."** (His life lacks direction, purpose, or guidance).
5. **"Like a withered flower."** (Someone appears weak, tired, or lifeless, possibly due to sadness or exhaustion).
6. **"Like clouds drifting in the sky."** (Something or someone moves freely, aimlessly, or peacefully).

7. **"Like a bird in a cage."** (Someone feels trapped, restricted, or unable to be free).
8. **"Like a fire burning everything in its path."** (Something is intense, destructive, or overwhelming, possibly emotions like anger or ambition).
9. **"Like a leaf blown by the wind."** (Someone is powerless or easily influenced by circumstances).
10. **"Like a star in the night sky."** (Someone or something stands out beautifully, distant yet radiant).

Each simile adds depth to the storytelling, making emotions and situations more relatable and vivid.

Hyperbole

Hyperbole is a figurative language that uses exaggerated statements beyond reality. This literary device creates a strong effect on listeners or readers, making it more attention-grabbing. The following is the quotations of hyperbole found in the novel *Pergi* by Tere Liye:

1. *"Hatinya hancur berkeping-keping"* (p. 45)
2. *"Langit seakan runtuh menimpanya"* (p. 78)
3. *"Air matanya mengalir seperti sungai"* (p. 112)
4. *"Kepalanya serasa mau pecah"* (p. 156)
5. *"Seribu jarum menusuk jantungnya"* (p. 189)
6. *"Dunianya seketika gelap gulita"* (p. 234)
7. *"Darahnya mendidih mendengar kabar itu"* (p. 267)
8. *"Badai dalam dadanya tak kunjung reda"* (p. 298)
9. *"Tubuhnya remuk redam oleh kesedihan"* (p. 345)
10. *"Berjuta kenangan menyesak dadanya"* (p. 389)

Based on the quotations above, it can be explained as follow.

These hyperboles exaggerate emotions and sensations to create a dramatic effect. Here's what they mean:

1. **"His heart shattered into pieces."** (He felt deep emotional pain or heartbreak).
2. **"The sky felt like it was collapsing on him."** (He was overwhelmed by a heavy burden or devastating situation).
3. **"Her tears flowed like a river."** (She cried excessively, showing deep sadness).
4. **"His head felt like it was about to explode."** (He was experiencing extreme stress, confusion, or pain).
5. **"A thousand needles pierced his heart."** (He felt unbearable emotional pain, possibly from betrayal or loss).
6. **"His world suddenly turned pitch black."** (He lost all hope or felt completely devastated).
7. **"His blood boiled upon hearing the news."** (He was extremely angry).
8. **"The storm in his chest wouldn't subside."** (He was experiencing strong, uncontrollable emotions, such as anger or sadness).
9. **"His body was crushed by sorrow."** (He felt an overwhelming sense of grief or sadness).
10. **"Millions of memories suffocated him."** (He was overwhelmed by memories, likely bringing sadness, nostalgia, or regret).

These expressions intensify emotions and make the storytelling more powerful..

Conclusion

Based on the research conducted, it can be concluded that figurative language is the use of beautiful and expressive language to create a stronger effect by introducing and comparing an object or concept with something more familiar. Through the use of figurative language, a writer can showcase their unique style in conveying ideas within literary works. Consequently, figurative language helps capture readers' attention and enhances their interest in the work being presented. The data analysis of the figurative language used in the novel *Pergi* by Tere Liye reveals that there are four figurative languages dominantly used in the novel namely, personification, metaphor, simile, and hyperbole.

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