

**FIGURATIVE LANGUAGE USED IN GEORGE ORWELL'S ANIMAL
FARM NOVEL**

(A Semantics Approach)



A THESIS

*Submitted to the Faculty of Cultural Sciences Hasanuddin University
in Partial Fulfillment to Obtain Bachelor Degree in English Department*

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**ENGLISH DEPARTMENT
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(A Semantics Approach)

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On Tuesday, 25th July 2023, the Board of Thesis Examination has kindly approved a thesis by Akhmad Khaikal Ibnu Ashari (F041181363) entitled **“FIGURATIVE LANGUAGE USED IN GEORGE ORWELL’S ANIMAL FARM NOVEL (A Semantics Approach)”** submitted in fulfillment one of the requirements to obtain Sarjana Degree in English Literature Study Program, Faculty of Cultural Sciences, Hasanuddin University.

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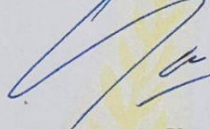
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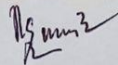
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Makassar, 26 Juli 2023



Akhmad Khaikal Ibnu Ashari

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ABSTRACT

AKHMAD KHAIKAL IBNU ASHARI *Figurative Language Used In George Orwell's Animal Farm Novel* (Supervised by Abd Hakim Yassi and Kamsina).

This study aims to find the types of figurative language and find the meaning of each figurative language contained in the novel *Animal Farm*.

The qualitative descriptive method is the method used in this study. To collect research data, the writer use the Library Research method. The author carefully reads the novel which is the object of research repeatedly. In addition, the authors also use this method to collect information and theories regarding the issues raised by the writer.

As a result, the writer found 40 utterances containing figurative language. The classification of the 40 stories is based on the theory of Kennedy and Perrine. The writer found nine similes, six metaphors, two personifications, five hyperboles, four ironies, two symbols, one allegory, ten paradoxes, and one understatement. Of all the figurative language found by the writer, paradox is the ones Orwell uses the most, approximately ten times.

Keywords: *Figurative language, semantics*

ABSTRAK

AKHMAD KHAIKAL IBNU ASHARI *Penggunaan Bahasa Kiasan dalam Novel Animal Farm karya Gerorge Orwell. (Dibimbing oleh Abd Hakim Yassi dan Kamsina).*

Penelitian ini bertujuan untuk menemukan jenis-jenis bahasa kiasan dan menemukan makna dari setiap bahasa kiasan yang terdapat dalam novel Animal Farm.

Metode deskriptif kualitatif adalah metode yang digunakan dalam penelitian ini. Untuk mengumpulkan data penelitian, penulis menggunakan metode Library Research. Penulis secara seksama membaca novel yang menjadi objek penelitian berulang-ulang. Selain itu, penulis juga menggunakan metode tersebut untuk mengumpulkan informasi dan teori mengenai isu yang di angkat penulis.

Sebagai hasil, penulis menemukan 40 tuturan yang mengandung bahasa kiasan. Klasifikasi terhadap 40 tuturan tersebut didasarkan kepada teori oleh Kennedy dan Perrine. Penulis menemukan sembilan simile, enam metafora, dua personifikasi, lima hiperbola, empat ironi, dua simbol, satu alegori, sepuluh paradox, dan satu understatement. Diantara semua bahasa kiasan yang ditemukan penulis, paradox adalah yang paling sering digunakan oleh Orwell, yaitu sebanyak sepuluh kali.

Kata kunci: *Bahasa kiasan, semantik*

CHAPTER I

INTRODUCTION

A. Background

Humans are social beings who in their lives always have a process of interaction with each other. The process of interaction is interpreted as a social relationship between people or groups. In interactions that are built by humans every day, a communication tool or media is needed that becomes a bridge of meaning for every human who interacts. Language is the answer to that. Language is a tool to express one's thoughts and feelings, either orally or in writing. Language can also be interpreted as a system because it is composed of regular and systematic patterns. Language has the main function as a means of communication between humans, because of that language is very important in human life.

Language is central that cannot be separated from all aspects of human life, especially in the field of literature. Literature is the work of humans from the results of pouring ideas or feelings which is the beauty of language as its medium. The language in literary works is generally written differently from the languages that are scientific. Language in literary works uses figurative language which prioritizes aspects of the beauty of language.

Figurative language can be interpreted as a technique of using language that does not focus on the literal meaning of words in a work. This technique focuses on embedding meaning in words. This figurative language is usually used to enrich a work and generate imaginative pleasure for readers. Figurative language is the

utilization of the wealth of language used by literary writers to express feelings or ideas by producing certain effects as the beauty of language.

The beauty of language contained in many literary works contains meanings that are usually difficult to understand by readers, especially readers who are not speakers of the native language used in the literary work. These difficulties are further complicated in some translated novels. The reader's error in capturing meaning due to the use of figurative language is often encountered in the fields of literature and language. In addition, fundamentally some readers of literary works are also unable to understand figurative language and are unable to distinguish the types of figurative language used in literary works so some readers are not able to understand the contents of literary works thoroughly and comprehensively.

In this study, the writer chose the *Animal Farm* by George Orwell. Orwell was born in Motihari, India, on June 25, 1903. Orwell was a novelist, essayist, and critic best known for his novels *Animal Farm* and *Nineteen Eighty-Four*. *Animal Farm* is a novel that tells the story of a group of farm animals that rebel against humans to create a society where animals can be equal, free, and happy. This novel was first published in England on 17 August 1945. The reason writer choose because this novel is linguistically complex, in which Orwell uses a lot of figurative language which enriches this novel. By making this novel an object of study, the writer hopes that readers can better understand the contents of this novel thoroughly and comprehensively.

B. Identification of Problem

1. Readers sometimes find it difficult to recognize the type of figurative language.

2. Readers sometimes difficult to understand the meaning of the text because of the figurative language used.
3. Sometimes readers have difficulty understanding the contents of the novel as a whole because of the use of figurative language.

C. Scope of Problem

To make this study more focused and directed, the writer limit the problem to only two things. The first is the difficulty of the reader to recognize the types of figurative language that exist in literary works. The second is the reader's understanding of the meaning of the figurative language contained in literary works. The writer also limit this study to several types of figurative language, namely simile, metaphor, personification, hyperbole, irony, symbol, allusion, metonymy, allegory, paradox, and understatement. The classification limits above were compiled based on the merger of two expert theories regarding figurative language, namely Kennedy and Perrine.

D. Research Question

1. What are the types of figurative language used in Animal Farm novel by George Orwell?
2. What are the meanings implied in the figurative language found in Animal Farm novel by George Orwell?

E. Objective of Research

1. To find out the types of figurative language used in Animal Farm novel by George Orwell.
2. To reveal the meanings implied in the figurative language found in Animal Farm novel by George Orwell.

F. Significance of Research

This point explains the benefits of this research theoretically and practically:

1. Theoretically, this study can contribute knowledge to students of the faculty of cultural sciences about figurative language. This study is also useful for teaching reference in the field of semantics.
2. Practically, it is hoped this study can help readers understand the figurative language contained in the novel *Animal Farm* by George Orwell so that readers can fully understand the novel. This study can also be a reference for future researchers.

CHAPTER II

LITERATURE REVIEW

A. Previous Studies

At this point, the writer lists several studies that have been conducted by several people on the same topic that the author studied. Starting with research by Albert Hoke (2012) entitled "Figurative Language in Westlife's Songs: Semantic Analysis". This study attempts to identify and analyze the figurative language meanings contained in 2 Westlife songs that are randomly selected. The findings of this study suggest that a song may contain multiple types of figures of speech. A hyperbolic figure of speech, in which each songwriter contrasts the two objects by giving them an exaggerated quality, is the type of figure of speech that appears most frequently in Westlife songs. This was done to help the listeners comprehend the significance of the meaning that was present.

The next research was conducted by Elaheh Fadaee (2011) entitled Symbols, metaphors, and similes in literature: A case study of "Animal Farm". This study tries to explain how figurative language influences readers' understanding. The obtained outcome demonstrates that the author intended to transmit his novel's message implicitly and indirectly, as evidenced by the employment of more figures of speech with metaphorical meanings that go beyond their literal interpretation. Due to the use of these figures of speech, the addressee is also left in the dark regarding the story's main idea and is forced to go to the novel's allegorical elements to deduce it.

The next research was conducted by Prajokso Yekti Perdana (2017), entitled "Figurative Language and Imagery in William Shakespeare' Selected Sonnets". This study attempts to analyze the types of figurative language contained in several

selected sonnets from William Shakespeare. This study also tries to expand the meaning of selected sonnets from William Shakespeare by using figurative language and imagery. The result of this study indicates that metaphoric language and visual imagery, specifically 13 metaphoric languages and 7 visual imagery, are the most prevalent and often utilized figurative language and imagery in both sonnets.

Another research was conducted by Muhammad Shidiq Saputra Basir (2019), entitled "Semantic Analysis in the Lyrics of Rex Orange County's Selected Songs". This research is intended to identify the types of figurative language and then find the type of figurative language that is most often found in Rex Orange County's selected songs. Not only that, this research is also intended to explain the meanings of the figurative language contained in the research object. This study discovered 33 figurative languages, including 7 hyperboles, 2 metaphors, 3 allusions, 3 paradoxes, 4 symbols, 3 irony, 2 metonymy, 3 sarcasm, 1 erotema, 2 simile, 1 synecdoche, 1 litotes, and 1 antithesis. The most common figurative language is hyperbole.

In addition, Astinana Yuliarti (2011) entitled "Figurative Language and Theme in William Butler Yeats's Selected Poems" tries to examine 4 poems by William Butler Yeats. This study aims to find out what types of figurative language are contained in the 4 poems and then explain the meaning and themes contained in the 4 poems. From the analysis that has been done on the four poems of William Butler Yeats mentioned above, it can be seen that the style of language is the most widely used are allusions.

The writer concludes that there is a difference between the writer's study and previous studies, especially the study by Elaheh Fadaee (2011) entitled Symbols, metaphors, and similes in literature: A case study of "Animal Farm". First, the focus

of this study includes five types of figurative language with library research as a method, namely metaphor, simile, irony, hyperbole, and personification. Second, the writer's research uses qualitative research methods. In contrast with Fadaee's study, he uses a quantitative research method.

B. Theoretical Background

1. Semantics

Semantics is a branch of linguistics that studies meaning in language. This study is different from semiotics which examines meaning by looking at other aspects outside of language, semantics only focuses on seeing meaning within the internal sphere of language itself. According to Adisutrisno (2008) both the meaning of words and phrases with no connection to the outside world and references to the meaning of words or sentences with a connection to the outside world must be included in semantics. The meaning of words, phrases, and utterances must all be considered in the study of meaning in language.

In another view of semantics, Saeed (2003) in Adeniyi (2021:256) explain that semantics is the study of meaning communicated through language. It is also the study of how language is used to convey meaning. Semantics is a branch of the larger study of signs, while semiotics is the branch that deals with language as a system of signs and words as signs (word as a symbol).

In the theory described above, semantics can also be interpreted as a study that looks at how words in language are used to communicate meaning. So semantics is also related to one's ability to convey meaning. This is reinforced by Hipkiss (1995) in Claudya (2022:6-7) which says that the fundamental focus of semantics is on the speaker's ability to produce meaningful utterances and process (understand) the speech of others.

2. Theory of Figurative Language

Figurative language is a technique of using language that does not focus on the literal meaning of words, meaning that figurative language is used to insert meanings that go beyond the literal words spoken by someone. Figurative language can also be referred to as a rhetorical facility that is widely used by many people to produce nuances of beauty in language. Figurative language replaces the literal meaning to make meaning more beautiful which then makes language complex and broad in meaning. As defined by Abrams (1999) in Werdiningsih (2021:19-20), figurative language is a language that deviates dramatically from what the language user perceives as its intended meaning to convey a particular meaning or effect. Based on this theory, the use of figurative language can also be aimed at producing certain effects in language. Figurative language is generally used to make a story or work more interesting and produce imaginative fun. The use of figurative language is common in our daily life and especially in many literary works. According to Kennedy (1979) in Barus (2019:8), Figurative Language is a language that uses figurative speech. A figurative speech is a way of saying something other than the literal meaning of the world. A figure of speech may be said to occur whenever a speaker or writer, for the sake of freshness or emphasis, departs from the usual denotation of the word. According to Kennedy Figurative language is divided into eight types, they are: metaphor, simile, personification, hyperbole, allusion, metonymy, irony, and symbol. In another view, Perrine mentions the types in the figurative have a total of ten types. These ten types included metaphor, simile, personification, metonymy, symbol, allegory, paradox, hyperbole, understatement, and irony.

1. Metaphor

Metaphor is a type of figurative language that describes something with other things that have the same characteristics as a comparison. Kennedy's (1979) in Barus (2019:8) explain that in a literal sense, a metaphor is a statement that one thing is another that is not the case. It does not employ connecting terms like or as. A similar opinion was also expressed by Perrine (1969) in Melly (2022:12). He explain that metaphor is a figurative term which is replaced or designated with literal term and implying a comparison. Here is an example of metaphor:

“Time is money”

This example presented above contrasts two dissimilar things. The worth of time in comparison to a high value item like money.

2. Simile

Simile is a type of figurative language that compares two things directly. Kennedy (1979) in Barus (2019:9) affirms that a simile is a comparison of two things, indicated by some connective, usually like, as, than, or a verb such as resembles. The opinion above is also similar to the opinion by Perrine (1969) in Melly (2022:13) that simile is a comparison which is presented through the use of a word or phrase such as like, as, than, similar to, or resembles. Here is an example of Simile :

"Your eyes is beautiful just like the moon"

With the hyphen "like," two things are explicitly compared in the aforementioned example. It is seen to be a type of beauty when the eyes are likened to the moon.

3. Personification

Personification is a sort of metaphorical language in which human characteristics are assigned to objects, concepts, or living things. In other words, the use of metaphorical language enables non-human things to communicate with us as though they were people. Kennedy (1979) in Barus (2019:9) defines "personification as a figure of speech in which a thing, an animal, or an abstract term (truth, nature) is made human". In another view, Perrine (1969) in Melly (2022:14) mentioned that the personification happens when animals, an idea, or an object are given human attributes. Here is an example of personification:

"The wind tells us that peace will come"

The example above shows that there is one thing that non-humans are capable of being like humans. The wind in the example above is a non-human object that is given the ability to convey something worthy of a human being.

4. Hyperbole

Hyperbole is a type of figurative language that exaggerates something. Kennedy (1979) in Barus (2019:10) emphasizes that hyperbole is emphasizing something with a statement that contains exaggeration. Another definition of metaphor is also expressed by Perrine (1969) in Melly (2022:17) that define hyperbole is a type of figurative language that is exaggerating and can be used

with various effects, such as humor, seriousness, fantasy or restraint and persuasive or unpersuasive . Here is an example of hyperbole:

"The light that emanates from your beautiful eyes can illuminate the entire universe"

The aforementioned illustration compares an eye's beauty to its capacity to light up the cosmos. Even to the point of absurdity, this expression is overstated.

5. Allusion

Abrams (1999) in Werdiningsih (2021:23) defines "allusion as a passing reference without explicit identification not only to a literary or historical person, place, or event but also another literary work or passage". From the theory above, it can be concluded that allusion uses sentences that refer to events, legends, parables, figures, or important events in the past that are considered known by both the speaker and the interlocutor to relate events in the present. Another opinion was also expressed by Kennedy (1979) in Barus (2019:11). Kennedy explain that allusion is figurative language that shows indirectly forwards a person or even that people have known together. Here is an example of allusion:

"Your house is just like Disneyland"

It is clear from the aforementioned example that one thing is connected to another. The lovely home referred to as Disneyland.

6. Metonymy

Metonymy is a figurative language where one thing is replaced with another thing which is generally considered to be closely related. According to

Kennedy (1978) in Barus (2019:11), metonymy is the use of something closely related to the thing meant. Another opinion was also expressed by Perrine (1977) in Melly (2022:14) that explain the usage of a closely related term to what is truly meant is known as a metonymy. Here is an example of metonymy:

"Your mouth is as dangerous as poison"

The example above explains that a person's speech can be as dangerous as poison. The word "poison" is used as a description of the danger of a person's mouth.

7. Symbols

According to Perrine (1969) in Melly (2022:15), symbol is something that represents more than just what it is. Symbol occurs when a word has its meaning but represents something entirely different. The theory above also reinforced by Kennedy (2004) in Barus (2019:12) which state that symbol is any object or action that represents something beyond its literal self. Here is some examples of symbols:

"The flag raises the thought of patriotism"

The example above demonstrates how the flag can serve as a symbol of patriotism.

8. Irony

According to Kennedy in Barus (2019:13), irony has a more developed meaning outside of its scope of employment as a rhetorical tool. Ironi typically results from contrasts or differences between what occurs and what is anticipated to occur. Another definition also express by Perrine (1969) in Melly (2022:18). He explain that irony is an expression that has meaning

extends beyond its use merely as figure of speech. Here is an example of irony:

"Despite being touted as unsinkable, the Titanic sank during its initial voyage"

The example above illustrates how the Titanic, which is strong and is thought to be unsinkable, actually deviates from reality. Even at the start of its journey, the Titanic sank.

9. Allegory

Allegory is a type of figure of speech that states a thing or event in another way, namely through an allegory or depiction. Other explanations regarding allegory are also expressed by several experts, one of them is Perrine (1969) in Melly (2022:16). He explains that figure of speech of allegory is a story or description with hidden meaning. So it can be concluded that allegory is a narrative or description that has meaning beneath the surface. Allegory is a description that has another meaning. The meaning underneath is different from the description. This is briefly explained by Keraf (2009:140) which states that "allegory is a short story contain figurative language." Here is an example of allegory:

"Living life with you is like sailing the beautiful ocean"

This sentence is an example of an allegory that describes something figuratively. In this example, traveling the beautiful ocean is used to describe how wonderful and happy it is to live life with someone.

10. Paradox

According to Perrine (1969) in Melly (2022:16), paradox is a situation or a statement appears to be contradictory but is somehow true. From the theory above, it can be concluded that paradox is a figure of speech that describes differences in reality, but this is stated as true. This figure of speech does not seem to make sense if taken literally, but its interpretation can show that this figure of speech actually makes sense. Another definition is also expressed by Abrams (1981) in Werdiningsih (2021:30). He explains that paradox is a statement that seems on its face to be logically contradictory or absurd, yet turns out to be interpretable in the way it makes good senses. This theory has a meaning similar to the previous opinion, this theory explains that paradox is an expression that sounds illogical or strange, however, this expression can be accepted by common sense. Here is an example of paradox:

“The people in the village are poor but they live in happiness.”

The sentence above shows two contrasting things, namely "poor" and "happiness." These two things in reality are difficult things to put together because poverty requires people to live simply and modestly. But the high gratitude of people who are classified as poor makes their simple life feel happy.

11. Understatement

Understatement is a type of figure of speech that is contrary to the hyperbole figure of speech. If the figure of speech hyperbole exaggerates something, then this figure of speech understatement reduces something. As mentioned by Perrine (1969) in Melly (2022:17), understatement is giving less

than what it really means and the occurrence can be in both what is said and how it is said. Another opinion was also expressed by Abrams and Harpham (2012) in Melly (2022:17-18) that state understatement portrays something as being considerably less in scale or importance than it actually is, or is often thought to be. Here is an example of understatement:

“My salary is only enough to eat for a month”

This example sentence is usually used by many people as an understatement in reality. People generally don't want to exaggerate things, including in terms of income like the example above. The example above is something that belittles reality or even considers it not so important. In the context of this example, it is generally said that people have more than enough income to eat a month, but this reality is hidden in an understatement for a specific purpose.