

**FIGURATIVE LANGUAGE AND IMAGERY IN WILLIAM HENLEY'S
SELECTED POEMS**



A Thesis

*Submitted to the Faculty of Cultural Sciences, Hasanuddin University
in Partial Fulfillment of Requirements to obtain an Undergraduate Degree in
English Literature Study Program*

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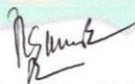
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FIGURATIVE LANGUAGE AND IMAGERY IN WILLIAM HENLEY'S SELECTED

POEMS

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It has been examined before the Board of Thesis Examination on Friday, 29 December 2023
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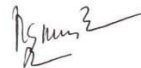

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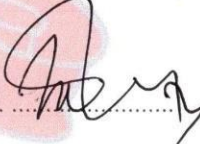


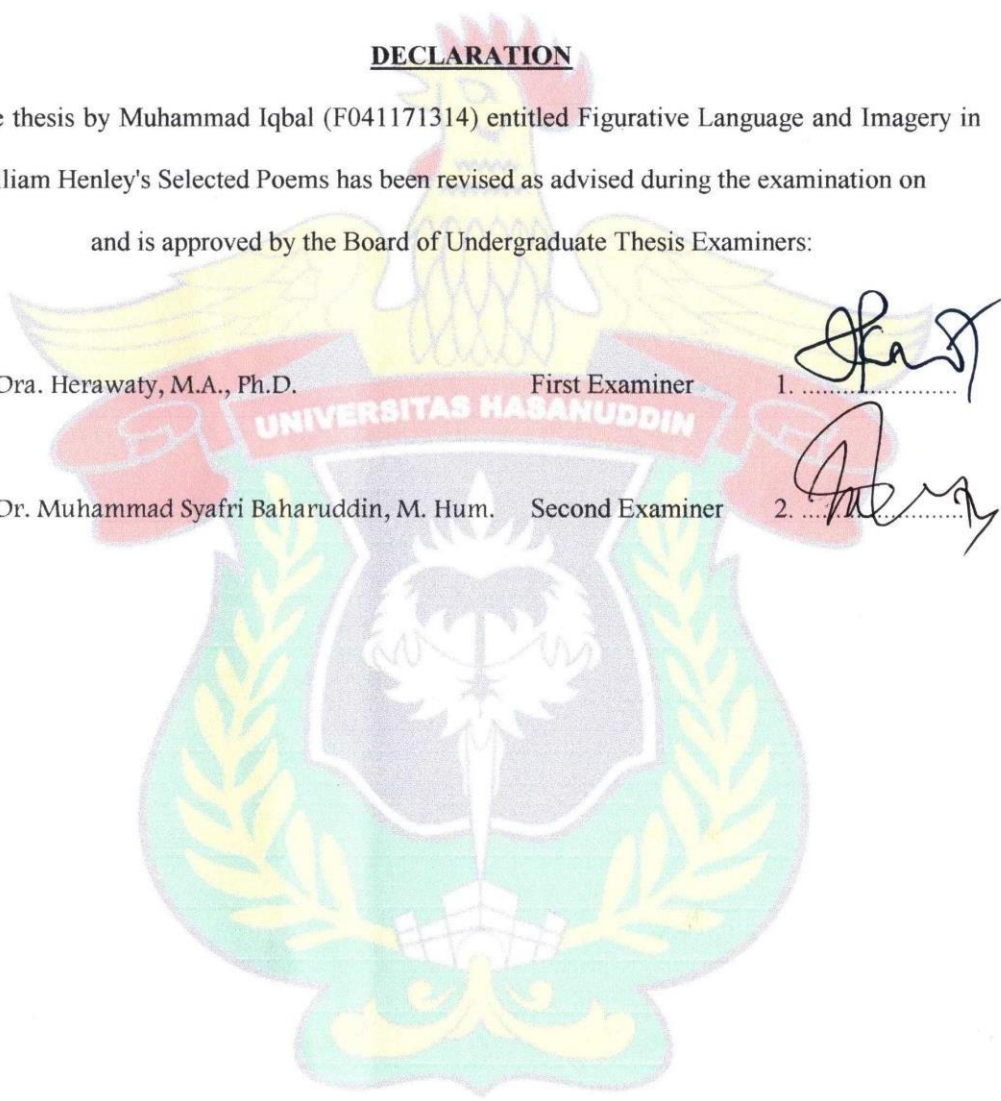
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AGREEMENT

On September 29, 2023, the Board of Thesis Examination has kindly approved a thesis by Muhammad Iqbal (F041171314) entitled *Figurative Language and Imagery in William Henley's Selected Poems* submitted in fulfillment of one of the requirements to obtain Sarjana Degree in English Literature Study Program, Faculty of Cultural Sciences, Hasanuddin University.

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ABSTRACT

Muhammad iqbal. 2023. Figurative Language and Imagery in William Henley's Selected Poems. (Supervised by M. Amir P. and Rezki Ramadhani)

The purpose of this study is to identify and explain the use of figurative language and imagery in selected poems by William Ernest Henley with hope that it can give more insight to the readers and new fans of poetry about figuration in poetry and of course the work of William Ernest. The study will be focused on three poems that consist of 59 lines and 11 stanzas. This study has identified 16 uses of personification, 31 uses of metaphor, 3 uses of hyperbole, 2 similes, and 1 paradox, metonymy, and symbol. And in this study, we have identified 11 visual imagery, 6 tactile imagery, and 3 auditory imageries. The analysis of the selected poems will be applied by using structuralism approach. This research hopes to offer an insight to enhance knowledge and skills in understanding and analyzing poetry for the student of the English Department.

Keywords: *figurative, imagery, poem, Henley.*

ABSTRAK

Muhammad iqbal. 2023. *Figurative Language and Imagery in William Henley's Selected Poems.* (Dibimbing oleh M. Amir P. and Rezki Ramadhani)

Tujuan dari penelitian ini adalah untuk mengidentifikasi dan menjelaskan penggunaan bahasa figuratif dan imagery pada puisi-puisi pilihan karya William Ernest Henley dengan harapan dapat memberikan lebih banyak wawasan kepada para pembaca dan penggemar baru puisi tentang kiasan pada puisi dan tentunya karya William Ernest. Penelitian ini difokuskan pada tiga puisi yang terdiri dari 59 baris dan 11 bait. Penelitian ini telah mengidentifikasi 16 penggunaan majas personifikasi, 31 penggunaan majas metafora, 3 penggunaan majas hiperbola, 2 majas simile, dan 1 majas paradoks, metonimia, dan simbol. Dan dalam penelitian ini, penulis telah mengidentifikasi 11 citraan penglihatan, 6 citraan perabaan, dan 3 citraan pendengaran. Analisis terhadap puisi-puisi yang dipilih akan diterapkan dengan menggunakan pendekatan strukturalisme. Penelitian ini diharapkan dapat memberikan wawasan untuk meningkatkan pengetahuan dan keterampilan dalam memahami dan menganalisis puisi bagi mahasiswa Jurusan Sastra Inggris.

Keywords; *figuratif, citra, puisi, Henley,*

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CHAPTER I

INTRODUCTION

This chapter consists of the background of study, research question, scope of study, objectives of study, significances of study, and sequence of writing.

1.1. Background of Study

Literary works can be described as a study related to all written works in the world. Generally, literary works separated into two categories, fiction and non-fiction.. Literature arising in the society imitates life, a social reality, natural world and the inner or subjective world of individual. There are countless words to describe literature, from various expert to our own interpretation of what it is. Fiction is a literary work that comes from a writer's imagination such as poetry, drama script, and prose, while non-fiction is a written text which contains various information based on facts such as newspaper, textbook, autobiography, and other. Both serve their own purpose and had their own unique feature.

According to Wellek and Warren (1948:89) in their book entitled *Theory of Literature*, literature can also be defined as social institutions using as its medium language, a social creation. Language has various styles, such as figurative and imagery. Figurative language or figure of speech is a term for a sequence of words with ambiguous meaning that stands for the actual meaning of the word. This style is used to give a wider interpretation and meaning to the writer's creation and the reader. Imagery is an interaction that we feel in our senses with a certain word, poets use imagery to trigger our mind to work with our senses in order to

achieve the proper meaning of their works. Usually, poets will use both of these styles in writing poetry to make their works unique and interesting.

Poetry has a very distinguish trade from other literary works such as prose and drama, so it is easy to be identified. There is no limitation ever set to write poetry, because the aim of a poetry is to letting go or drawing out the emotion or feeling that the writer intended. The shortness of the poetry is what makes it so unique and attractive, usually it only consists of one to five stanzas with four to six lines per stanza and can contain a description of a precious moment and human emotion with copious detail.

Based on the interesting feature of poetry, the writer chose to explain more about the two feature mentioned before, which is figurative language and imagery. The writer selected 3 of William Ernest Henley's poetry, *Invictus*, *I am The Reaper*, and *Madams Life's a Piece of Bloom* from his first book title *A Book of Verses (1888)*. All the poetries that are selected by the writer are from the same chapter in *A Book of Verses* which tittle *Life And Death (Echoes)*. Not only do the selected poems have the same topic which is death, but they also rich in figurative language.

The writer would like to give a brief description of the selected poems. The first one is *Invictus (1875)*, this poem tells a story about a man who is trapped in a -fell clutch of circumstancell as William Henley put it, and still refuses to give up his spirit or his will. In this poem, Henley used -place of wrath and tearsll and -horror of the shadel, as a metaphor for life and death. The second one is titled *I am the reaper*. In this piece, life and death are described as the reaper and the

sower. The third and the last one is called *Madam Life's a Piece Of Bloom*. In this third poem, Henley described life and death as -tenant of the room|| and -ruffian of the stare||.

The poet of the selected poetry above is William Ernest Henley. He was born in Gloucester, England in 1849. He first began to write poetry after having part of one of his legs amputated when he was only 12 years old. He was eventually educated at Crypt Grammar School and the University of St. Andrews. Throughout his life, Henley wrote numerous collections of poetry including, *A Book of Verses* (1888) and *Hawthorn and Lavender* (1901). He also worked as an editor and critic. He died in 1903. The first volume of Henley's poetry appeared in 1888 as *A Book of Verses* and included the famous hospital poems. His subsequent books of poetry include *The Song of the Sword and Other Verses* (1892), reissued as *London Voluntaries* (1893), which included the revised versions of the two previous volumes, *For England's Sake: Verses and Songs in Time of War* (1900), *Hawthorn and Lavender* (1901), and *A Song of Speed* (1903). These volumes elevated him to the first rank of late-Victorian poets. In 1897, Henley tried unsuccessfully to obtain a nomination as Poet Laureate of England. Instead, he received a Civil Service Pension of 225 pounds a year.

The writer chose to analyse the figurative language and imagery in selected poems from *A book of verses* (1888) by William Ernest Henley with hope that it can give more insight to the readers and new fans of poetry about figurative language and imagery in poetry and of course the work of William Ernest Henley.

1.2. Research question

Following the title of this thesis, these are the question that guide this research:

1. What kinds of figurative language and imagery and how are they applied in William Ernest Henley's selected poems?
2. How does the used of figurative language and imagery contribute to the meaning of the selected poems?

1.3. Scope of Study

The research will be focused on the use of figurative language and imagery in the selected William Ernest Henley's poems. The selected poems are *Invictus*, *I am the Reaper*, and *Madam Life's a piece in bloom*. The use of figurative language and imagery in these poems will be explained along with the selected poems.

1.4. Objectives of Study

These are the writer's aims in this research:

1. To identify the kinds of figurative language and imagery that are used in the selected poems by William Ernest Henley
2. To point out the function of the two features with the selected poems.

1.5 Significances of Study

This research can provide information regarding the use of figurative language and imagery for anyone who is interested to start learning about poetry. This research hopes to offer an insight to enhance knowledge and skills in

understanding and analyzing poetry for the student of the English literature.

Meaning that the research will become a new source of learning.

1.6. Sequence of Writing

This section will provide guidelines for the reader:

1. CHAPTER 1: Introductions are comprised of several points, which are: background, identification of the problem, scope of the problem, statement of the problem, objective of the research, benefit of the research, and sequences of chapters.
2. CHAPTER 2: This chapter consists of supporting statements from the reading materials that the writer read. This is explained further in some points of the literature review, which are previous studies and the theoretical framework as the whole part of this chapter.
3. CHAPTER 3: This chapter contains research methodology, which is separated into several points like methodology, method of collecting data, method of data analysis, and research procedure..
4. CHAPTER 4: This chapter includes a further explanation of all findings within the objective of the research that will present the result.
5. CHAPTER 5: Comprise the conclusion of the research and suggestions for anyone who would like to do the same research in the future.

CHAPTER II

LITERATURE REVIEW

This chapter consists of previous related studies and the theoretical background.

2.1. Previous Related Studies

Patel. (2014) in his thesis entitled *Imagery and Figurative Language in Wordsworth's Poems —The World is Too Much with Us! And —My Heart Leaps Up!* is aiming to identify the type of figurative language in said poem and identify the meaning of the poetry. Here, Patel explains that Wordsworth claims the harsh realities of materialism and industrialization have caused the present era to lose its connection to nature and everything important. Wordsworth weaves a tale of human advancement at the expense of natural preservation across the entire sonnet. Childhood was described by the poet as being the father of man. When he remarked that a kid was the father of a man, he meant that a child may sometimes be wiser than a man. This demonstrates how a man's early years have a significant impact on his entire life. It served as the foundation for masculinity. The poet thought that infancy was where the roots of masculinity were planted. They weren't always wise, but when they were young, but they had a strong knowledge of nature and didn't lie. This study took a qualitative method. The merit of this research was that it briefly conveyed the visual, aural, and kinesthetic images without confusing the reader.

Sugama. (2017) in his thesis entitled *The Potraits of Slaves' Tribulation in Frances Harper's Selected Poems*. He aims to to reveal the intrinsic element to prove that poetry has significant function that works with the portraying tribulations of slaves. Sugama limited the problems of the research to the intrinsic elements that portray tribulations of slaves such as diction, figurative language, imagery, and tone that shown through Harper's selected poem: *The Slave Mother*, *The Slave Auction*, and *Bury Me in a Free Land*. Therefore, the analysis of the poems will be applied by using structuralism approach. Omit in his research sugama found that *The Slave Mother*', *The Slave Auction*', *Bury Me in a Free Land*', are very artistic poems. This is because the structures that are elements of the poem are related to each other and also have their respective functions in giving effect and meaning to the poems. Intrinsic elements are diction, figurative language, imagery, and tone. Harper's three poems tell about tribulations that fall upon slaves. Slavery is a place where human rights are deprived so that it only separates the injury and the deterioration.

Hasanah. (2018) in her thesis entitled *An Analysis of Figurative Language Used In Some Poems by Oscar Wilde*, is aiming To explain the kinds of figurative language that are used in Oscar Wilde's poems. And, to explain the contextual meaning of each figurative language in Oscar Wilde's poems. Omit Personification, exaggeration, synecdoche repetition, metaphor, simile, symbol, litotes, metonymy, apostrophe, denotative meaning and visual imagery, auditory imagery, and gustatory imagery are among the 126 figurative languages discovered by her. In the previous chapter, the contextual meaning was given in

each section of the poetry. Some of them were from the poem *Requiescat* and one of the words was *-the daisies grow* which suggests that the writer connected the woman with flowers like daisies, and the type of figurative language is symbol. The other was *-lily-like, white as snow* which suggests that the woman was pure and beautiful. The use of figurative language makes the poetry more interesting to read and allows the readers to visualize the poems. The reader's imagination is still in the context of the poems.

The studies mentioned above help the writer to complete this research particularly on the theoretical framework that are used in figurative language and imagery analysis. Like the three studies above, The writer also has the same topic, which is analysis of figurative language and imagery, but the writer chooses William Ernest Henley's three selected poems and exclusively analyzes the figurative language and imagery. Furthermore, the object of this study is strictly based on death from the perspective of one man, and it has nothing to do with the state of political and social conditions around him.

2.2. Theoretical Background

2.2.1. Figurative Language

Figurative language is a style that are using a particular word to mask the true word intended. Poets use it to give their work a certain flare or uniqueness, so the reader can have a meaningful and entertaining experience.

Rozakis. (1995, 28), stated that —*figurative language is saying one thing in terms of another*l, It suggests that figurative language is a term employed indirectly by a person or author through comparison.

When we speak figuratively it is difficult to understand the use of some word when its somehow not in the right place, for instance when someone explained human attribute to non-living things, it didn't make sense but that's how figurative language works. Here are the types of figurative language that mostly used in poetry:

1. Methaphore and Simile

Keraf (1994: 139) Metaphor is variety of analogy which compare two things directly, but in short pattern. It means that between subject and object have same attributes, and writer uses it to compares it to another. Simile uses the phrase (like, as, similar to, resembles, or seems). While metaphor, use the phrase (is), or the comparation is implied, the figurative term is identified with the literal term.

2. Personafication

Personification is a figure of speech in which a thing, an animal, or an abstract term (truth or nature) is made human (Kennedy, 1983:495). The difference between personification and metaphor is personification use a verb or a noun which are usually use to describe a human movement or activities. While metaphor, use the phrase (is), or the comparation is implied, the figurative term is identified with the literal term.

3. Synecdoche and Metonymy

Synecdoche is the use of part a thing to stand for the whole of it or vice versa (Kennedy, 1983: 479). And metonymy is, according to Perrine (1978:57), metonymy is the use of something closely related for the thing actually meant. It is figure of speech which the name of one object is replaced by another which is closely associated with it.

4. Symbol and Allegory

According to Diyanni (2004:569) symbol is any object or action that represents something beyond its literal self. An apple pie, for example, can represent an American Lifestyle. Natural symbols like light and darkness, fire and water can stand for contradictory things. The meaning of any symbol whether an object, an action, or a gesture, is controlled by its context. A symbol can be defined simply as any object or action that means more than itself. And allegory is a narrative or a description that has a second meaning beneath the surface one. Though less than a symbol, allegory used effectively even in fairly short poems. A symbol might consist of more than one meaning and it does not consist a paragraphs of a story. Allegory is also consist of one meaning or more but The main difference between allegory and symbolism is how they are presented. Allegory is a narrative, as the moral lesson is in the form of an allegorical story. Symbolism is a literary device that presents one particular item, like a dove, to represent something else.

5. Hyperbole

Kennedy (1983:496) affirms hyperbole is emphasizing a point with statement containing exaggeration. It can be ridiculous or funny. Hyperboles can

be added to fiction to add colour and depth to a character. Hyperbole is figure of speech that it is intentional exaggeration or overstating, often for emphasis or vivid descriptive.

6. Paradox

Paradox is how author describe a situation or condition that are contradictive to what is actually happening in reality. Paradox occurs in a statement that at first strikes us as self-contradictory but that on reflection make some sense (Kennedy, 1983:497). It can be meant all of things that interest because of their truth. Paradox is apparent self-contradiction or deliberate inconsistency. A statement or situation containing apparently contradictory or incompatible elements, but on closer inspection may be true.

2.2.2. Imagery (sensory)

There are five senses that each normal human has, we have mouth, eyes, skin, ear, nose and of course all comes with a different and unique function. The mouth to taste flavor, the eyes to see, skin to feel touch, ear to hear, and nose to smell scents. Of course, it all comes with a different sensation when stimulate. In order to visualize their work, a poet use a certain word to stimulate human senses this is called imagery. imagery may be defined as the representation through language of sense experience. Perrine (1978: 49). Imagery can be interpreted as mental picture, that is picture, photograph, or painting of thought created as result from the reader when they comprehend a poetry.

Imagery in poetry is very diverse and relate to all of the human senses such as sight, hearing, taste, smell, touch, body perception, muscle tension, etc. It is

classified into 7 types which are visual imagery, auditory imagery, olfactory imagery, gustatory imagery, tactile imagery, kinesthetic imagery, and organic imagery.

1. Visual Imagery

Visual imagery is what you see with your mind's eye. Visual images are used very productively by authors to describe situations, places, scenes and buildings.

2. Auditory Imagery

Auditory Imagery is appeals to the sense of hearing. It can be generated by naming and describing sounds. The poet obliges the reader to hear that sound through his composition.

3. Olfactory imagery

Olfactory imagery uses words to describe fragrant odors, unpleasant odors, and other related odors.

4. Gustatory imagery

Gustatory imagery uses the words that represent taste and others related to the flavour.

5. Tactile imagery

The tactile imagery conveys a sense of touch. Reading and analyzing poetry gives the reader a tactile sensation. It speaks to the heart of the reader. Touch can also evoke emotions, sensations, and well-being.

6. Kinesthetic imagery

Kinesthetic imagery is a term that describes a stationary object as being in motion, or a description of something that is actually in motion.

7. Organic Imagery

Organic imagery are mental images that influence the inner feelings of the reader. Emotions and personal experiences of a character's body can be evoked, including emotions such as hunger, thirst, fatigue, nausea, pain, and pain.