### FIGURATIVE LANGUAGE AND SYMBOLIC MEANING IN MANGPAPELLAO RITUAL PERFORMED BY ENREKANG (DURI) COMMUNITY



#### A Thesis

Submitted to the Faculty of Cultural Sciences Hasanuddin University in Partial Fulfillment of The Requirement to Obtain Sarjana Degree in English Literature Study Programme

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#### **THESIS**

### FIGURATIVE LANGUAGE AND SYMBOLIC MEANING IN "MANGPAPELLAO RITUAL" BY ENREKANG (DURI) COMMUNITY

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The writer realizes that this thesis is far from being perfect. Therefore, critic

and advice are needed, both in writing and speaking for improvement in the next re-

search. Finally, the researcher hopes that this thesis will be beneficial and useful for

the writer and for those who read this thesis.

Makassar

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VIII

#### **ABSTRAK**

**RONALDI.** "Figurative Language and Symbolic Meaning in "Mangpapellao Ritual" by Enrekang (Duri) Community (Dibimbing oleh **Kamsinah** dan **A. ST. Aldilah Khaerana**)

Penelitian ini bertujuan mengidentifikasi jenis-jenis bahasa kiasan yang terdapat pada mantra atau *baca-baca* dalam tradisi *Mangpapellao*. Selain mengungkapkan jenis bahasa kiasan dalam tradisi *Mangpapellao*, penulis juga menjelaskan makna simbolik yang terdapat dalam tradisi *Mangpapellao*.

Metode yang digunakan dalam penelitian ini adalah metode kualitatif deskriptif, dimana pengumpulan data didalam penelitian ini melalui observasi dan wawancara. Penulis mengumpulkan data dan menganalisis melalui pendekatan semantik.

Hasil analisis data menunjukkan bahwa tradisi *Mangpapellao* dilaksanakan secara turun-temurun dari generasi nenek moyang terdahulu dan sampai sekarang masih dipertahankan, dan merupakan bentuk do'a kepada Allah swt agar arwah orang meninggal diterima disisi-Nya. Penulis juga menemukan bahwa mantra atau *baca-baca* terdapat beberapa jenis bahasa kiasan. Terdapat alusi, aliterasi, dan antitesis. Penulis juga menemukan bebrapa makna simbolik didalam tradisi *Mangpapellao*.

Kata kunci: mangpapellao, bahasa kiasan, makna simbolik

#### **ABSTRACT**

**RONALDI.** "Figurative Language and Symbolic Meaning in "Mangpapellao Ritual" by Enrekang (Duri) Community (Dibimbing oleh **Kamsinah** dan **A. ST. Aldilah Khaerana**)

This research aims to identify the types of figurative language found in mantra or *baca-baca* in tradition of *Mangpapellao*. Besides finding kinds of figurative language in tradition of *Mangpapellao*, the writer also explains the symbolic meaning contained in tradition of *Mangpapellao*.

The method used in completing this thesis is a descriptive qualitative method by collecting the data through observation and interview. The writer analyzed it through a semantic approach.

The result of the data analysis that has been carried out show the tradition of *Mangpapellao* has been carried out from generation to generation of ancestors and still maintained today, and is form of prayer to Allah SWT so that the souls of people who have died will be accepted by his side. The writer also found that mantra or *baca-baca* contain several types of figurative language. There are allusion, alliteration and antithesis. The writer also found several symbolic meanings in tradition of *Mangpapellao*.

Keyword: Mangpapellao, figurative language, symbolic meaning

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#### CHAPTER I INTRODUCTION

#### A. Background

Language is a system of conventional spoken, or written symbols by means of which human beings, as member of a social group and participants in its culture, express themselves. Language could be expressed into two forms; written and spoken. Written language commonly found in a poem, novels, newspaper and many more, while spoken language could be found in a conversation and song. Language as proposed by Chomsky was a set (finite or infinite) of sentences, each finite in length and constructed out of a finite set of elements. The functions of language include communication, the expression, and emotional release.

According to Koentjaraningrat, language is part of culture or in other words, language is under the cultural environment. According to him, in ancient times when humans only consisted of small groups scattered in only a few places on this earth, language was the main element that contained all other elements of human culture. Now that other elements of culture have developed, language is only one element but its function is very important for human life.

According to another opinion, language is often regarded as a social product or a cultural product, even an inseparable part of culture. As a social

and cultural product, of course, language is a forum for social aspirations, community activities and behavior, a forum for cultural disclosure, including technology created by people who use the language as their creativity and work. Language in a certain period act as a forum for what happens in society (Sumarsono, 2007: 20). "Figurative language is a language which departs from the straight forward use of the words. It creates a special effect and makes writing more interesting and colorful."

According to Abrams (1986), "Figurative language is a deviation from what speakers of language apprehends as the ordinary, outstand, significance or sequence of words, in order to achieve some special meaning". Another opinion in terms of figurative language is come from Perrine (1982) that defined figure of speech as a way of saying something other than ordinary way. Figurative language using a word to mean something that have a different meaning from their literal meaning in order to emphasize the idea

Reaske (1966:33) described figurative language as language which employs various figure of speech on kind language, which departs from the language employed in the traditional, literal ways of describing person or objects.

Figurative languages is portraying something by contrasting it with something different. This sort of portraying bring the literary works or writing alive. The figurative language is the piece of literature. The figurative language is a tool used to make an enhancement or feeling by making some sort of intriguing or a creative comparison.

Enrekang community is one of the tribes in Indonesia that still preserves is culture. Enrekang tribes, comes from the word *Endekan* which means a raise. In Enrekang Regency, there are three tribes live: Enrekang, Duri, and Maiwa. The 3 tribes formed a unit called the Massenrempulu tribe. Massenrempulu, in Enrekang language, means sticking like sticky rice. The word used to show the unity of the 3 tribes.

This study aims to find out the figurative language in *Mangpapellao* ritual mantra and the symbolic meaning that contain in *Mangpapellao* ritual by Enrekang (Duri) community. The writer decides to choose this topic since *Mangpapellao* ritual is a tradition that is very close to the life of the writer and also the writer often encounters. In addition, this topic is a concern for the writer because this iconic tradition has begun to fade in the midst of modern Enrekang society.

#### **B.** Identification of Problem

- 1. It is hard for several people to identify or classify kinds of figurative language in a culture.
- 2. It is difficult for some people to understand the symbolic meaning
- 3. The culture tradition of *Mangpapellao* ritual has been fading in Enrekang (Duri)

#### C. Research Question

This research is conducted to discover the answer to the research questions that have been formulated as follows:

- 1. What kind of figurative language used in *Mangpapellao* ritual?
- 2. What are the symbolic meaning in *Mangpapellao* ritual used by Enrekang (Duri) community?

#### **D.** Objective of Writing

Based on the research question that have been formulated, the objectives of this study are as follows:

- 1. To describe kind of figurative language used in *Mangpapellao* ritual
- 2. To explain the symbolic meaning of *Mangpapellao* ritual used by Enrekang (Duri) community

#### E. Significance of the Study

Theoretically, the writer expects that this study will give the readers information about the figurative language existing in mantra *Mangpapellao*. In addition, the writer also hopes that the readers can understand the symbolic meanings and the choice of dictions in this mantra.

#### **CHAPTER II**

#### **REVIEW OF LITERATURE**

In chapter two, the provides the review of literature, in this case the previous studies and the theoretical background with provide information about semantics and special terms figurative language and symbolic meaning

Theoretical Framework

#### A. Previous Studies

After reading some thesis, the research found out that some of them have written and related references with this study in some cases, such as:

Fitri Sakinah (2019) "The study of figurative language in Gayonese's traditional Melengkan". She analyzed the figurative language use in traditional ritual of wedding ceremony with using qualitative descriptive, she also finding shown there was five figures of speech used in traditional wedding ceremony in Gayonese namely simile, metaphor, repetition, hyperbole, personification. The dominant type of figurative language in her research mostly is hyperbole. This study is useful for the researcher to understand the use of figurative speech.

Amar Ma'ruf (2021) "Figurative language, symbolic meaning, and choice of diction in mantra Matteppang bibi' ripangempange used by Buginese community". His research kinds of figurative language in this study, he also found out the symbolic meaning in this study as well. This study really useful for the research to understand the use of symbolic meaning as well.

Ansar (2010) conducted research with purpose of her study was to analyze *the figurative meaning existed in Melolama of Molulo Dance*. She figured out that there are some types of figurative meaning in Melolama. It is dominated with metaphor. Besides metaphor, there are other types of figurative meaning; hyperbole, allegory, part pro toto, paranomosia, and so forth. She also figured out that the Melolama always uses simple word and the meaning that in the Melolama show about love and human life.

Those previous studies above were dealing with the figurative language and symbolic meaning. The differences of this research with the previous studies are the object of the research. The research wants to find out kind of figurative language existed in the selected ritual and also wants to figure out the symbolic meaning existed in the ritual.

#### **B.** Theoretical framework

#### **Semantics**

Semantics is a form of study that can refer to literal meaning or meaning that depends on the speaker or author or non-literal meaning. In this study, semantics is often referred to as the science of meaning in language, a study of scientific meaning. Leech (1981: 2) argues that "semantics is the study of meaning in language or only the linguistic semantics that study meaning."

There are some components in linguistics, such as phonology, morphology, syntax, and semantics. Hornby (1972:789) defines, "Semantics is a branch of linguistics concerned with studying the meaning of words and sentences".

Saeed (1997) clarifies that "the relationship between the sentence and its meaning is not arbitrary and unity, in other words, the meaning is composition". The way words are combined into phrases and phrases into sentences determine the meaning of the sentence. That means the language has a different level of analysis.

Discussing about meaning, Leech (1981:9-20) classified meaning into 7 types of meaning; Conceptual meaning, Connotative meaning, affecting meaning, social meaning, reflected meaning, Collocative meaning, lastly, Thematic meaning.

#### a. Conceptual meaning

Conceptual meaning is the literal or core sense of a word. There is nothing read into the term, no subtext; it's just the straight forward, literal, dictionary definition of the word. The term is also called denotation or cognitive meaning. Contrast the word with connotation, affective meaning, and figurative meaning, which go beyond the dictionary to add subtext to a word when it's used.

In writing and conversation, it's good to know the difference between the literal, conceptual meaning of a word and all the connotations it has before you use it, to dispel misunderstandings or any offense before you accidentally put it out there especially if a word is loaded with negatives or stereotypes about a group of people.

"To understand a word fully," noted authors Ruth Gairns and Stuart Redman, "a student must know not only what it refers to, but also where the boundaries are that separate it from words of related meaning."

#### **b.** Connotative meaning

Subtext and layers brought into the context by the use of a particular word; subjective. A word's connotations can be negative or positive, depending on the audience. The label of being a *liberal* or a *conservative*, for example, can be good or bad, depending on the person's intentions in using it and the person hearing or reading it.

#### c. Affective meaning

What meaning is associated with it in the real 12 for the speaker or writer rather than just its dictionary meanings; subjective. A CEO and a nun talking about charity could mean two different things.

#### d. Social meaning

The meaning given to words based on the social context that they're used in. For example, someone from one of region of the country would use *y'all* more often than someone from a different region of the country. People from different regions call a carbonated soft drink difference thing, too, from *pop* to *soda* to *Coke* (whether or not that is its literal brand name).

Language can have a formal or informal register too that relays social meaning, or in some contexts, usage can show social class or a lack of education, such as if someone uses a double negative (*don't have none*), incorrect verb forms (*have went*), or the word *ain't*.

#### e. Reflected meaning

Multiple conceptual meanings. For example, the literal, dictionary definition of the word *gay* is "happy" or "bright" (colors), though in society's use today it has a much different meaning.

#### f. Connotative meaning

Words that are regularly found together. For example, take *pretty* and *handsome*. These words are more often associated with one gender or the other. If you hear someone behind you say, "Don't you look handsome," and you look to see one person talking to a girl and one talking to a boy, your knowledge of how *handsome* is used connotatively helps you figure out that the person you overheard is talking to the boy

#### g. Thematic meaning

How the speaker portrays the message through word choice, the order of words used, and emphasis. Notice the subtle difference in emphasis between these sentences:

My studies are important to me.

What's important to me are my studies.

A writer or speaker can imbue emphasis by how he or she ends a sentence or paragraph.

There are two kinds of language that studying in semantics, they are literal and non-literal. The following discussion will be about literal and non-literal or figurative language.

#### 1.1 Kinds of languages

There are many divisions in languages, but in general it is mentioned that there are two kinds of languages that we will discuss in this study. "The language has two kinds; they are literal language and figurative language" (Saeed 2004:15).

#### a. Literal Language

Literal language is a language that is very in accordance with the true meaning with what is in a dictionary or a very natural language that is owned by humans. "Literal language is limited to the simplest primitive language of a word, statement or text" (Baldick 1990: 123). This means that the use of literal language is a meaning that refers to the true meaning in accordance with the dictionary and the authenticity of the word. For example, the word "library" in the literal language is a very extensive neat book place. Similarly, the statement "a doctor examines a patient". Literally, it is a doctor who checks patients. From these examples, it can be concluded that literal languages are languages that have limited meaning in ordinary dictionary languages without references to implicit languages. Literal language refers to words that do not deviate or come out of defined meanings.

#### **b.** Figurative Language

Figurative language is a language that has a very broad meaning and may be very different from the real meaning, so it is difficult to understand if it does not have a good language experience. "Figurative languages use many figures of speech different from literal languages" (Maclin: 1992). Figurative language is a part

of the language which means something different from the ordinary order to 10 emphasize an idea or message. Figurative language is also a unique language and difficult to understand because it depends on the context and who uses it. to understand figurative language, experts have grouped figurative languages into several types that researcher will discuss it in this study

#### 1. Figurative Language

Figurative language is which is used words or expressions with a meaning that is different from the literal interpretation. The authors used figurative language to produce images in readers minds and o express ideas in fresh, vivid, and imaginative ways. Figurative language or language style is an attractive language which is use to increase the effect by introducing and comparing an object or certain matter or general. So, the usage of a certain language style earns to alter and make certain connotative.

Keraf (2009) said figurative language is a way to express thoughts through language. It is typically showing the spirit and personality of the author. The use of figurative language in a sentence often has the effect of certain influences. But the most important one is that figurative language has an influence for the meaning to be conveyed.

According to Perrine (1969), there are four main reasons of using figurative language. Firstly, figurative language affords readers imaginative pleasure of literary works. Secondly, it is a way of bringing additional imagery into verse, making the abstract concrete, making literary works more sensuous. Thirdly, figurative is a way of adding emotional intensity to otherwise merely informative statements and conveying

attitudes along with information. And the last, it is a way of saying much in brief compass.

According to Abrams (1999) figurative language consists of several types of languages; they are metaphors, personification, hyperbole, simile, paradox, allusion, irony, alliteration, metonymy, antithesis, synecdoche, allegory, symbolism, and onomatopoeia.

#### a. Metaphors

A metaphor is a figurative language which belongs to a group in which implicit comparisons are made between two things which usually do not look similar between one another but are made similar. In other words, a metaphor is one of the rhetorical devices in the figurative language which uses a comparison statement to make the word is interpreted clearly. "A figure of speech which concisely compares two things by saying that one is the other" (McArthur, 1992, p.653). A comparison by making a statement that one thing is another.

A metaphor is one of the most popular figures used by poets but does not mean limited to poetry, it also occurs in prose and speech. In connecting one object, event or place to another. A metaphor can reveal new and interesting qualities from original things that we usually pay attention to or even consider important. As a result, metaphor function primarily to improve colors and the variations in style that exist in the

language to be conveyed are very impressive and attract the attention of listeners and readers.

A metaphor is a figure that describes the subject by stating that they are the same. At some point, the comparison is the same as other objects that are not related. That is, simply a metaphor that combines two different things in order to be one and similar without using likes or as. This statement supported by Barnet et al (2008, p.672) clarify that "a metaphor assertive the identify, without a connective such as like or verb such as appears, of terms that are literally incompatible."

Based on the explanation above, the researcher can see that the characteristics of the metaphor are:

a. There are two things that will clearly be compared.

b. The comparison does not use binding words as it seems.

c. Comparison of two things is implicitly indicated.

#### For example:

"The world is a stage, and we are all actors."

#### b. Personification

Personification is a metaphorical language that gives nonhumans and objects human traits and qualities. According to Barnet et al (2008, p.674) defines that "the attribution of human feelings or characteristics to abstraction or to inanimate objects is called personification."

These attributes may include sensations, emotions desires, physical gestures, expressions and power of speech, among others. McArthur (1992, p.764) claims that "personification is a discourse in which animals, plants, elements of nature, and abstract ideas are given human attributes" its mean when something that is not human is given human characteristic. The function is to make these object and their actions easier to visualize for the reader.

For example:

"The moon watched over the sleeping world."

#### c. Hyperbole

Hyperbole is a metaphorical language in which statements are exaggerated. In line with McArthur (1992, p.491) argues that "hyperbole is a rhetorical term for exaggeration or overstatement, usually deliberate and not meant to be taken (too) literally". This statemen is supported by Claridge (2011, p.21) concludes that "hyperbole is the contrast between literal never and exceeding of the scale by saying the completely impossible." Actually, people use hyperbole to create an amusing effect or to emphasize meaning. However, in literature, it has very serious implications. By using hyperbole, the speakers make common human feelings remarkable and intense to such an extent that they do not remain ordinary.

For example:

"Her smile could outshine a thousand suns."

#### d. Simile

A simile uses a form of comparison in which one thing is compared to another, unlike thing by using specific words of comparison like: like, as in order to explain the word clearly by comparing it to another. McArthur (1992, p.936) clarifies that "Simile is a figure of speech in which a more or less fanciful or unrealistic comparison is made using like and as." It's mean that simile is a rhetorical figure expressing comparison or likeness that directly compares two objects through some connective word such as like, as, or a verb such as resembles. Barnet, Burto and Cain (2008) identify that "in simile items from different clause are explicitly compared by a connective such as like, as, or than or by a verb such as appears or seems."

Although similes and metaphors are generally seen as interchangeable, similes acknowledge the imperfections and limitations of the comparative relationship to a greater extent than metaphors. The simile also protects or protects the comparison of authors who are outrageous, incomplete, or unfair. In other words, a simile is a type of figurative language that compares equations between two different objects.

"As busy as a bee."

For example:

#### e. Paradox

A paradox has different definitions depending on where it's being used that's where it starts getting complicated. These definitions can be tricky, but we'll try to simplify things for you. In short, a paradox is a self contradictory statement or argument. Sometimes, a paradox seems to contradict itself but it can in fact be true. A paradox defies logic and runs counter to one expectation.

A paradox present conflict ideas and relates them in a way that forces you to wonder if it's true or not. In many cases, a paradox is neither decidedly true nor false and results in circular reasoning. The word origin of paradox comes from the latin *paradoxum*, which in turn came from the greek *paradoxos*. It's a combination of the ancient greek words *para* and *dokein*. *Para*- is a prefix that means "beyond" while *dokein* is a verb that means "to think". Combined, *paradoxos*, or paradox, means "beyond thinking". A paradox is an idea that forces you to ponder beyond the normal, expected limits of your thinking. Some paradox might sound false at first but have some semblance of truth. For example, you might say, "doing nothing is exhausting". If you're doing nothing, you're exerting no energy, so how can it be exhausting? But think about a day where you just sit and do nothing. Or imagine a time you've been on a trip, and you're just sitting in a car or a train with

nothing to do. At the end of those days, you're likely more tired than you would be if you'd been busy.

Those are some basic examples of the concept of paradox. But paradox can get infinitely more complicated, particularly because paradoxes are used or defined differently depending on who is using them. Within the fields of logic and *rhetoric*, paradoxes represent perplexing arguments. Paradoxes in science and mathematics have challenged principles that were accepted as true. In literature, paradoxes juxtapose two ideas that seem incongruous in order to provide emphasis or deep insight. We'll get into some examples of these later.

For example:

"It was the beginning of the end."

#### f. Allusion

Allusion is a reference to a well-known person, character, place, or event that a writer makes to deepen the reader's understanding of their work. Allusions aren't reserved for writing, though—we frequently use them in our speech.

An allusion is a concise way to communicate a lot of meaning. Think of it like a writing shortcut. You could spend a paragraph or two describing why a proposed business venture is doomed to fail despite it checking all the boxes for being the best in its market, or you could

describe it as "unsinkable" and instantly communicate the same sentiment.

While some allusions explicitly name the thing they're referencing, others don't, and this is why it's important to choose a reference your reader will recognize. Essentially, allusion taps into your readers' shared frame of reference, which is why an allusion might make sense to one reader demographic, but fall flat with another.

#### For example:

"To my dog, our neighborhood park is the Garden of Eden."

#### g. Irony

Irony is the contest between the actual meaning of word statement and the suggestion of another meaning. The intended implications are often actually a mockery of what being stated.

The use of *irony* shows the contrast or incongruity between how things appear and how they are in reality. The remark "how ironic" indicates a meaning that's the opposite of its precise meaning.

In an ironic phrase, one thing is said, while another thing is meant.

#### For example:

if it were a cold, rainy gray day, you might say, "What a beautiful day!"

Or, alternatively, if you were suffering from a bad bout of food poisoning, you might say, "Wow, I feel great today."

#### h. Alliteration

Alliteration is when two or more words that start with the same sound are used repeatedly in a phrase or a sentence. The repeated sound creates the alliteration, not the same letter.

For example:

"Tasty tacos" is considered an alliteration, but "thirty typists" is not, because 'th' and 'ty' don't have the same sound.

For example:

"The big brown bear ate the blue berries."

#### i. Metonymy

Metonymy is the naming of a person, institution, or human characteristic. Metonymy is a figure of speech in which a word is substituted for another word that it is closely associated with.

For example:

"The White House" is often used as a metonymy for the presidential administration.

#### j. Antithesis

An antithesis is a figure of speech that states strongly contrasting ideas placed in juxtaposition. They contain compound sentences with the two independent clauses separated by a comma or a semicolon, in most cases. However, there are also instances where the antithesis is a

compound sentence with a conjunction. An antithesis is mainly used to portray the stark difference between the two opposing ideas.

For example:

"Speech is silver, but silence is gold."

#### k. Synecdoche

Synecdoche is a term derived from Greek word Synekdechesthai that means "receiving together" (Keraf, 1984). Synecdoche is a kind of figurative language that mentions part of a thing to signify the whole thing or uses the whole to signify the part. Shakespeare use synecdoche when he said that the cuckoo's song is unpleasing to a "married ear", for the means married man (Perrine, 1973).

For example:

"I won't let him come under my roof"

#### l. Allegory

An allegory is a narrative or visual representation in which a character, place, or event can be interpreted to represent a meaning with moral or political significance. Authors have used allegory throughout history in all forms of art to illustrate or convey complex ideas and concepts in ways that are comprehensible or striking to its viewers, readers, or listeners.

Allegory generally operates such as extended metaphor. The overt or surface narrative/description is meant to have enough literary

elements to be a standalone work that is interesting and/or entertaining by itself. However, the emphasis of allegory is typically placed on the abstract ideals represented or symbolized by the work's literary elements. In other words, the meaning of allegory itself used to be conceal than to be reveal it (Perrine, 1969).

#### For example:

"The mirror cracked, illustrating the breaking of illusions."

#### m. Symbolism

Symbolism is carried out only to a word or phrase that signifies an object or occasion which in its turn signifies something, or has a variety of reference, past itself Perrine (1969). Symbolism is a component (could be an object, character, situation or motion) which stands for something else more summary.

#### For exmaple:

"The dove is a symbol of peace. / A red rose, or the color red, stand love."

#### n. Onomatopoeia

The term of onomatopoeia is originated from Latin roots, 'onoma' and 'poiein'. As its Greek suggests, onomatopoeia is the making 'poiein' of a name or word 'onoma' from natural sounds. Aronowitz (2002) considers that onomatopoeia is as words whose sounds suggest their meanings. He gives specific example of onomatopoeic words in

several contexts such as *thud*, *whoop*, *whoosh*, *boom*, *aarrgh* which are often found in a comic book. It can be in the form of word or phrase. While Tonge (2005) mentions that onomatopoeia is a word whose sound imitates the actual sound to which it refers, such as *pop*, *sizzle*, and *crash*. Onomatopoeia is also defined as the meaning of thing or action by a vocal imitation of the sound associated with it (Whitman: 2001), however onomatopoeia can be defined as formation of word or words whose sounds like the action or thing they name or refer to.

For example:

"The baby burbled and smiled."