

CHAPTER I INTRODUCTION

1.1 Background of Study

Language has become one of the systems in society that is found anywhere, anytime, and to anyone with various purposes. This fact allows each person to have their definition of language. Of the many definitions of language, the writer is interested in Steven Pinker's idea (1995, p. 15) Language is just an instrument used to make sounds from the mouth, which means it is owned by all normal humans and obtained naturally. However, even though it only contains sounds, Pinker gives several examples of how language influences people to each other. Simply put, Pinker's idea, which the writer of this thesis took, is based on a shared understanding of language. This understanding is built by exploring Pinker's depiction by the writer's knowledge. Although the writer and Pinker have not met in person, Pinker's ideas form a new understanding and window for the writer, all because of language. With this, the writer emphasizes the role of language in influencing human life as the fundamental reason for compiling this thesis. However, discussing the role of language in general is too much for the writer now. Therefore, the writer chooses the realm of politics, which is complex because it involves the needs of many people. This fact makes politics a complicated and tense topic. If likened, politics is a realm where the fire is flammable, like a gas station, and language is the fire. However, the discussion of ideology is more famous than language implementation despite its role as the basis of ideology and political communication.

With the role of language in politics being so crucial, it sparked the writer to relate between the two. However, language and politics are only the general background of this research. To look deeper, the writer used figurative language as one part of language. Figurative language is a technique where the word's literal meaning is not used, and only its figurative meaning is used. This definition concluded that figurative language falls under semantics, a branch of pure linguistics that studies meaning. Semantics is exclusive because it only focuses on exploring the meaning of language without involving the situation. As a part of semantics, Figurative language is generally used in literary works for entertainment. However, figurative language is also an exciting option in a world inversely proportional to entertainment, such as politics. Figurative language allows politicians to convey complex ideas as a shortcut with significant results. Figurative language has several types, which different researchers have proposed. In this thesis, the writer uses the division of figurative language by Laurence Perrine (1974) Which is generally used to examine the types of figurative language in poetry. However, to prove the versatility of figurative language, the writer uses Perrine's theory to study language in politics.



the writer realizes that politics is difficult to study because it has eas and theories. Therefore, the writer makes the speeches of two lonesian politicians the object of research by using Perrine tive theory. Two political figures competing in the general election 0residential candidates in 2024 are hotly discussed: Prabowo ies Baswedan. In the 2024 general election, Prabowo Subianto

became the elected President of Indonesia for 2024-2029. Prabowo's career opener was the military in 1974. Prabowo's achievements in the military field include being a general for Kopassus (Komandan Pasukan Khusus or Special Forces of Indonesia) from 1996-1998 and raising the Indonesian flag at the peak of Everest (the highest mountain in the world) for the first time. In 2008, Prabowo became the founder and general chairman of the Gerindra or Gerakan Indonesia Raya party. Prabowo finally entered the cabinet during Jokowi's 2019-2024 term as defense minister. With his position as Minister of Defense, Prabowo succeeded Indonesia on the international stage with his presence at the 2023 IISS meeting and bravely expressed his opinion regarding the heated Russia-Ukraine conflict. The other controversial politician is Anies Baswedan, who has an academic background. Anies started his career as a rector of Paramadina University in 2007 at 38, making him the youngest rector then. From 2017 to 2022, Anies served as governor of DKI Jakarta. Anies' achievements are seen in the infrastructure development in Jakarta. This is considered a real action, not just a promise; with these various developments, Anies has gained trust to become a 2024 presidential candidate. Anies made achievements in the infrastructure sector by building the Jakarta International E-Prix Circuit and the international-scale Jakarta Stadium. Both politicians are political actors whose careers are brilliant because they can reach the stage of becoming Indonesia's 2024 presidential candidate. The explanation of this background does not affect the analysis process of this thesis because the writer examines it from a semantic perspective. Explaining the background of the object of research aims to validate the involvement of the object of study with the theoretical background of this thesis.

Up to this paragraph, the writer realizes that so much research is developing. Without having to leave the Hasanuddin University environment, the writer has learned that everyone is creating their ideas. However, the mass of research is not only filled with theoretical background because urgency is needed. In the initial paragraph, the writer explains the relationship between language and politics, which raises the question of how this relationship manifests in the real world, especially in Indonesia. The writer mentions this research objective as a manifestation of language and politics. Then, what makes this research urgent and necessary? The reason goes back to the duties of politicians who are responsible for the welfare of many people. This fact is the urgency of this research. Dealing with the interests of many people certainly requires skills in using language. Every politician has responsibilities in each field they control, but this cannot be separated from the need to communicate and require language skills. On top of knowledge of the sector they are responsible for, politicians should consider the effects of language in carrying out their responsibilities. Therefore, this research highlights politics using language.



are generally used for literary works or other art forms. However, urgency of language studies in politics is more important to consider

ry out responsibilities for the wider community's needs.

ing developed still needs boundaries, not to limit the development

al goal of producing something. The use of figurative language by

ies is not only a reflection of the relationship between politics and

rofoundly, the figurative language used by Prabowo and Anies also

reflects their thoughts and characteristics. These reflections cannot be separated from the central role of language as a tool to express ideas and thoughts. However, the writer emphasizes that this research does not aim to personalize the research objects, so their characters are not explained. The explanation of the background of the research objects is to ensure that Prabowo Subianto and Anies Baswedan are influential figures in the political world and worthy of representing Indonesian politics. This research focused on figurative language in their speeches to discover the embodiment of language in Indonesian politics. Therefore, the writer discussed the meaning of the speeches and the type of figurative language. Not involving the object's character of research indicates that this research is included in semantic studies because it does not affect the object's background, such as its character or position.

This research studies figurative language, which leads to the relationship between politics and language. In his book, Pinker (1995, p. 17) calls language a crucial tool in social life and the miracle of humankind. Even more miraculous is that this miracle is obtained naturally. The role of language itself is the urgency of this research. However, the combination of politics and language makes the writer more confident in conducting this research. Society has stigmatized politics as a highly complex field filled with various ideologies. Meanwhile, figurative language is generally associated with literary works such as poetry. We don't have to go too far to draw this conclusion because the background of Laurence Perrine's figurative language theory used in this research is itself part of poetry studies. This interesting combination is the writer's reason and motivation for conducting this research.



1.2 Identification of the Problem

Based on the background above, the writer identified several root problems as follows:

1. Utilization of figurative language techniques on the Indonesian political stage.
2. The application of figurative language in speech and its types in Prabowo and Anies's speech.
3. The meaning of the figurative language used by Prabowo and Anies in the speech.
4. Types of figurative language most frequently used by Prabowo Subianto and Anies Baswedan.

1.3 Scope of the Problem

The romantic story between language and politics has been theorized. Many books discuss theoretically why language plays a vital role in politics. One of the most famous books is the work of Noam Chomsky and C. P. Otero entitled *Language and Politics* (2004). It is inseparable from language's central role as a means of communication. The relationship between language and politics needs to be reflected in the real world as absolute proof of the role of language in politics.

The writer certainly sets limits in this case. A field as broad as language and politics will complicate this research. Therefore, the writer focused on figurative language as one of the language techniques used in the speeches of two controversial Indonesian politicians, Prabowo Subianto and Anies Baswedan.

To understand Prabowo and Anies's figurative language more deeply, the writer categorizes the types of figurative language based on Laurence Perrine's theory (1974). The categorization results then reveal the kind of figurative language that is most often used. Another crucial part is understanding the meaning behind the figurative language used based on the context of the whole speech based on the study of semantic meaning.

1.4 Research Questions

Based on the scope of the problem understood, the writer formulated several issues in this research, as follows:

1. What are the types of figurative language used by Prabowo Subianto and Anies Baswedan's speeches?
2. What are the intended meanings of figurative language found in Prabowo Subianto and Anies Baswedan's speeches?

1.5 Objective of the Study



"The research question that the writer has formulated, this thesis discusses about:

Classification of figurative language in Prabowo Subianto and Anies Baswedan's speeches.

Intended meaning of figurative language found in Prabowo Subianto and Anies Baswedan's speeches.

1.6 Significance of the Study

In general, the speeches of Prabowo and Anies are applications of language used for political purposes. Therefore, the research indicates clear evidence of how language plays a political role. With that fact, this research is aimed at politicians or figures who deal with the public to consider the urgency of the role of language in their responsibilities.

This research generally discusses the role of language, so it is hoped that language users (which means everyone) will be more sensitive to language's influence and pay more attention to its use in the future, not only in politics but also in readers' lives.

Furthermore, this research uses figurative language as its object. That means reading and understanding this research increases the reader's knowledge about the meaning of figurative language contained in the research results. In addition to enriching knowledge about the meaning, figurative language indicates flexibility because the writer uses Laurence Perrine's theory from 1965. Even so, the implementation of this theory is still commonly found in this era, especially in the political realm.



CHAPTER II LITERATURE REVIEW

Research is not only based on an abstract background; it also needs a theoretical background to support it. The theories chosen by the writer will complement this research to include it in a scientific study. Therefore, this chapter contains theories to support this research.

2.1 Previous Study

The discussion about the application of language in politics is not new. Previously, many researchers have shown interest in studying language from a political perspective. As initial inspiration and reference material for writing a thesis, several researchers have conducted similar research.

The conclusion drawn based on similar studies below is that the analysis of figurative language is flexible and used for various purposes. For example, the first previous study used figurative language with a cinema theme. This illustrated Jokowi's use of figurative language and provided insight into standard terms in cinema. The second and fourth studies prioritized the frequency of figurative language used by Joe Biden. Study number 3 analyzed Hillary's figurative language to find out her characteristics and the efficiency of figurative language used in her speech. Previous studies five and six prioritize interpreted meaning using connotative and denotative perspectives.

This thesis analyzed figurative language as a practical form of figurative language processing in the political arena. It only focused on implementing figurative language for political purposes without involving the character of the politician who delivered the speech. This is crucial to underline because the study of figurative language has different purposes, as the writer explained in the previous paragraph. To know more about figurative language studies, below is an example of a prior study conducted by a researcher whose object of study is also political.

The following is previous research:

2.1.1 Figurative Language of Cinema's World in Joko Widodo's Speech by Sundari Mayang Albarusyi Sihalo and Eryna CM Simatupang, 2020

This research provided a description and explanation of the meaning of figurative language used by Jokowi. Therefore, the research results are presented in qualitative form with data in words. The researcher took some documentation from Jokowi's speeches. The documentation was at the International Monetary Fund-World Bank Annual Meeting in Bali, the World Economic ASEAN Forum in Hanoi, and the US-ASEAN Forum. In some of these



Jokowi mentioned some unfamiliar terms. These terms are standard of cinema. In this research, the meaning of these terms is elaborated by Perrine's (1963) and Taylor's theories (1981: 167).

The research results showed the types of figurative language used by Jokowi. The figurative language are classified based on Perrine and Taylor's theories. The types of figurative language used are allusion, metaphor, and simile. All the data in this study are themed terms in cinema to make the

speech fresh and up-to-date. Because of its uncommon meaning, this term is included in the figurative language that adds to the uniqueness of the speech. The researcher then made a data table and classified the types of figurative language, and the meaning of each piece of data was described.

The similarity between the research on Jokowi's figurative language and the research that the writer compiled is in the object of research, which is an Indonesian politician. Joko Widodo and the two research objects in this thesis have a real-life relationship, making this research similar in outline. Differences are also found in the number of research objects. The difference between the research on the number of objects. In the study by Sundari and Ervina, researchers focused on Jokowi's use of figurative language. It was determined that the figurative language came from terms in cinema. Meanwhile, this thesis research raised Prabowo and Anies' speeches as objects to show the use of figurative language in the political realm.

2.1.2 An Analysis of Figurative Language on Joe Biden's Victory Speech by Febriani Nainggolan¹, Dwiki Agustina Siahaan², Bloner Sinurat³, Herman⁴, 2021

The object of this research is also a political figure, the 46th president of the United States, Joe Biden. The data is obtained from content analysis based on the writer's chosen documentation: the victory speech from Joe Biden on November 7, 2020. This research took samples based on the results of speech documentation obtained through the Washington Post website. The documentation results are then classified based on Leech's division of figurative language (1981).

This research classified Joe Biden's figurative language using Leech's classification. The classification results found 86 utilizations of figurative language by Joe Biden, with five types of figurative language. Metaphor is the most frequently used figurative language, totaling 44. Joe Biden often used metaphors to compare two things. Next is personification, with 34, which uniquely enriches the speech. Hyperbole is also found in 5; there are two similes and one litotes.

This research on Joe Biden has similarities in the political background of its object. However, the results of Joe Biden's research did not explain the meaning of each figurative language used in depth. This research focused on classifying the types of figurative language and describing the number with a graph. In conclusion, the researcher reiterates figurative language's important role in enhancing the appeal of Joe Biden's speech by inviting the reader's imagination.



Language Style in Hillary Clinton's Speech by Budi Susatyo¹ and Dwiki Agustina Siahaan², 2019

Clinton is one of the female American political figures with character. Taking her speech as the object of research is an exciting thing to study a politician's ability more deeply. This research on Hillary Clinton also took from the documentation of Hillary's speech entitled "Hillary Clinton

Makes History Speech" on March 14, 2018. Researchers described the figurative language used in detail by listening and then analyzing by reading and rewriting Hillary Clinton's speech. The researcher did not use classification based on experts but divided based on the common figurative language types.

The analysis showed that the figurative language used by Hillary Clinton are Litotes, idioms, persuasion, prospective, persuasion, climax, repetition, simile, irony, symbolic, sarcasm, and metaphor. Hillary Clinton utilized the role of figurative language and succeeded in increasing the attention of the audience. Using figurative language, Hillary emphasizes other or hidden meanings of what she is saying. This not only makes her speech interesting but also facilitates the audience's understanding of the complex ideas that Hillary is trying to convey.

Research on the speeches of political figures is indeed an exciting thing. This is one of the similarities between the research on Hillary Clinton and the object of research in this thesis. Despite having the same background, each political figure has different utilization depending on the idea and character. Hillary Clinton used various figurative language, but the repetition clarified her speech's main idea and purpose.

2.1.4 A Discourse Analysis of Figurative Language in Barack H. Obama's Speech by Lestary Sudarsono¹, Burmin Samola², and Mister Gidion Maru³, 2018

Barack H. Obama is also a political figure who served as the 44th president of the United States. This analysis used presidential speeches based on language's role in communication needs. The source of this research used the first inaugural speech of Barack H. Obama when he was elected president of the United States on January 20, 2009. Because the data source is in words, this research is also processed with descriptive qualitative methods. Of course, a theoretical background is needed in determining the data in Obama's speech. The writer uses the division of figurative language based on Laurence Perrine (1963).

The research on the role of language through Obama's speech produced data on the frequency of figurative language use. The frequency of figurative language use is often found in 52 data sets. Among the 52 data, metaphor is figurative language that dominated the speech, with 24 data or 46.15% of the total data. The second figurative language type is hyperbole, with 14 data or 26.92% of the total data. Furthermore, the third position is held by personification, as much as 9 data or 17.30% of the total data. Then, the type of figurative language that occupied the final position is a paradox, which only appears 5 times and only takes up 9.61% of all data. Based on the amount of data found, the writer concluded the use of figurative language that dominated Barack H. Obama's speech.



This research has the theoretical basis of the role of language in Barack H. Obama's speech. This fact makes this research similar to the research compiled in this thesis. Political speeches are indeed one of the unique phenomena filled with figurative language, which plays a crucial role in beauty. This research lacks a strong theoretical background, so the writer's research method has no basis other than assumptions.

2.1.5 Figurative Language in Kamala Harris' Victory as Vice President Election Speech on BBC News by Juanda¹, Mulyaningsih², Fara Dela Tasya Amalia³, and Asep Supriadi⁴, 2023

This research is similar to the previous research because it discusses American politicians. The politician who is the object of this research is controversial and iconic. Kamala Harris was the vice president of America during the Joe Biden era. BBC News broadcasted Kamala Harris' speech via the YouTube platform on November 8, 2020; the 5.12-minute broadcast is the data source for this research. The research method is carried out in a descriptive qualitative manner following the data source, a series of words. A theory is also used to determine the result based on Perrine (1974), which uses several types of figurative language. The researcher took several specific steps in retrieving data: the reduction step, the presentation, and the final stage of verification.

Among the types of figurative language by Perrine, Kamala Harris only used four types of figurative language: hyperbole, simile, personification, and paradox. Not only the classification stage, but the writer also described the meaning of figurative language connotatively and denotatively. In the speech, six figurative languages were found, with hyperbole being the dominating type as much as 3 data. Then, one data each was found for simile, personification, and paradox. The writer interpreted it into two types, namely connotative and denotative.

This research has similarities with the writer's research object in this thesis, a politician. However, this study did not clearly state the frequency of figurative language used. The writer only described the data and then gave denotative and connotative interpretations.

2.1.6 Figurative Language in Joel Osteen's Speech "Your Words Become Your Reality" by Theresia Hutagalung¹ and Muhammad Yusuf², 2022

This previous study is slightly different because the research object is not a politician but an author. Joel Osteen is an author and pastor from the United States. The data source was obtained from the YouTube platform, a video of Joel Osteen's speech entitled "Your Words Become Your Reality," which was 27 minutes long and was published on January 7th, 2016. The data source is then processed into a narrative form, which makes this research qualitatively organized. The leading theory used in the study is Reask's theory (1996).

Based on Reask's theory, 30 data with eight different types of figurative language were found, with details of 9 simile forms, five metaphor forms, four personification forms, two irony forms, three hyperbole forms, three litotes forms, two metonymy forms, and two synecdoche forms. Based on the overall data, the writer concluded that the data used connotative meaning following figurative language which did not use the word's literal meaning.

The research focused on interpreting meaning between connotative and denotative. The writer's findings are then studied using a connotative or denotative perspective. In contrast, this thesis research focused on classification. The classification is carried out based on the dictionary's literal meaning and then correlated with the context of the speech.



Based on these six studies, one common conclusion is using figurative language analysis as a form of language implementation in social life. The study of figurative language is indeed typical, as the six studies above have their own final goals in studying figurative language among the figurative language studies used as a benchmark for the characteristics of the research object. For those who have the purpose of interpreting the meaning of figurative language to measure the beauty of speech, this thesis has similarities in the study process, namely the classification of types and then the interpretation of the meaning of figurative language.

What makes this thesis so crucial is the object of research. Studies on the speeches of Indonesian politicians are still relatively rare. Indonesian people often guess the ability and personality of a politician based on his daily life. However, studies in terms of language use are still very rarely used as a benchmark. Therefore, this study raises the speeches of controversial politicians as a form of language implementation in Indonesian politics and becomes a new perspective for readers regarding language and politics. It can be seen from previous studies that the writer did not find even 30% of studies on Indonesian politicians' speeches, even though figurative language reveals new perspectives.

2.2 Theoretical Background

In research, a theoretical foundation is needed to support the background of the problem raised. Each theory has its role in the background of the study. The following is the theoretical basis of this research:

2.2.1 Language and Politics

Language has become a fundamental tool used every day by humans. The primary meaning of language is commonly used and found in dictionaries. However, even in a dictionary, words often have multiple meanings. The meaning of language varies according to how the speaker uses it and on what basis it is used. Regardless of the meaning, humans must universally accept that language is a system to control the social. Communicating has become a human need as social beings, which makes language familiar in various fields. The primary purpose of using language is to express the ideology that is understood by others. The shared ideology opens the possibility of new views for others; more broadly, it influences the behavior of others. With these effects, language does take an essential role in social life.

Talking about ideology leads the writer to politics, filled with complex and complicated ideas. In the political aspect, it is essential to understand the primary role of political actors in exerting influence that should be felt by all structures of society in a country. In philosophy, language is used to express a truth by the occurring facts. Politics is extraordinary because facts are manipulated, regardless of the manipulation's purpose. According Beard (2001, p. 18), using language in politics as material for opinion is not taboo because the same event is explained differently by who is speaking or, in short, as an opinion leader. Using language in politics has become as common as finding pieces of cloth in the sewing machine. This means it is expected to use language to manipulate.



When a politician conveys his ideas, they will not be at odds with his ideology or background. Take DN Aidit's Angkatan Kelima (Fifth Force) idea, which aimed to arm some workers who don't have a military background. Why the workers? His proposal was based on the ideology held by Aidit, namely communism, which is rooted in Marxism with the belief that everyone deserves equal rights. The Communist Party later launched rebellions, such as the G30SPKI, which made it a banned party. Meanwhile, Kartosoewirjo proclaimed the Islamic State of Indonesia with the text of his proclamation, which has elements of Islam. This is under the ideology held by Kartosoewirjo, who was part of DI or Darul Islam and later also rebelled to form Indonesia as an Islamic state. Despite having different ideologies, the ideas of Aidit and Kartosoewirjo were the result of refractions of their ideologies. Such is the use of language in politics. Language expresses the actors' ideas while refracting their ideology (Beard, 2001, p. 18). A fact that occurs is neutral but processed and shaped according to who reveals it; this is how language in politics works. In simpler terms, language is used to refract the perpetrator. This fact makes language a flexible tool that is capable of distorting facts.

Not only does it reach the stage of personal bias, but language is also brought to the stage of being a propaganda tool, where ideology is refracted and instilled in others. The writer again discusses one of the phenomenal histories of Indonesia. Indonesians are familiar with 'Romusha'; although it was formed in Japanese, Indonesians understand it best. 'Romusha' is a forced labor system created by Japan where Indonesians are forced to work for wages that are not by their hard work, putting the Indonesian people under pressure, coercion, and torture. Looking back, at the beginning of Japan's entry into Indonesia, Japan conducted propaganda that voiced independence to all Asian countries. This propaganda was recorded by History as an example of one of the 3A movement posters where Japan declared itself as the light and protector of Asia. However, Romusha didn't represent the poster's words. Language is used according to the needs, ultimately becoming a frame that directs people's points of view on something that is not real. Chomsky writes it as an "abuse of language." (2004, p. 473). Social disabilities are created from words that have positive connotations. Another example is Soekarno's idea called NASAKOM (Nationalist, Religious, and Communist), which aimed to put the three ideologies on the same level as a form of harmony. However, as good as Soekarno named this concept, it still triggered rebellions until its end. Japanese propaganda and the NASAKOM differ. However, both are used to instill a value to be believed by the wider community.



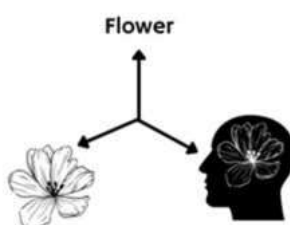
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does not discuss in depth about these historical events because
of the purpose or who benefited and harmed in these examples, it
eak the fact that language plays a vital role in carrying out each of

these processes, from refraction to instilling ideology. The writer does not emphasize that the use of language for manipulation is a good and bad thing. The writer agrees with Adrian Beard's (2001, p. 17) statement that the exact truth does not exist; the truth is present because of trust. Right and wrong are flexible. The writer lets go of right and wrong and focuses only on the fact that language is a crucial tool in politics.

The relationship between language and politics is just an opening that directs this research to a more concrete study. The influence given between language and politics directs the writer to the practice of its use in the recent Indonesian political environment. Until finally directing the writer to study meaning based on its practical use. Therefore, in the next section, the writer discusses more in-depth studies of language practices in the political world.

2.2.2 Semantics

The crucial role of language is to convey the intent of the speaker. However, the meaning of words changes influenced by a few backgrounds, and that is how one word has more than one meaning. Therefore, study about meaning is essential to avoid injuring the primary function of language as a communication tool. Semantic science seems ordinary because it only explores the meaning of language. However, a detailed understanding will show more complex ideas than just meaning. Semantics discuss how an object/reference gets meaning and how one word has different meanings. When a speaker mentions a word, listeners with the same language background will react by imagining the object that the speaker noted. Humans imagine the object or reference of the word when someone is speaking, which is an everyday occurrence (Collin & Guldmann, 2005, p. 9). However, it is enough to make some scientists dig deeper into the process of language. Here is an illustration of how the semantic process occurs:



Picture 1. Semantic Process



The writer describes how the semantic process gives an object or meaning. Then, what is “meaning” discussed in semantic studies? that is conveyed must have a purpose in it. Meaning contains intentions that a person wants to communicate to others, and every their way of communicating their feelings or intentions. Therefore, meaning is abstract because it is not only in language. Meaning is contained in works such as paintings. Although it has different forms, a line drawn that meaning contains feelings, intentions, and

signs owned by humans (Palmer, 1981, p. 3). Back to the primary purpose of language as a tool to convey the intention of its users.

Meaning comes from something real or a valid feeling felt by social beings. Many humans agree upon and feel this fact to make the dictionary a regular thing, not creating controversy. Based on the explanation of the process of fact, readers feel how broad and abstract meaning in language adapts to diverse social life. Meaning is not born from one person; to give an interpretation of something and force others to accept it is selfish because the beauty of diversity is born from differences. Regardless of the reader's understanding of semantics, one excellent and certain news is that the formation of this entire system of meaning is abstract, but that does not mean they have no relationship with each other (Fairclough, 1989, p. 94). Every word is not born independently; there is always another word that has a relationship, either as a synonym or an antonym. The related abstractness is the definition of semantics that will provide a projection in the reader's brain but has a connecting thread. Readers will form pros and cons to the writer's statement on semantics. However, the pros and cons will not break the connection between the meanings created by the writer or other linguists because they exist based on others' existence. Therefore, before the writer

compiled this thesis, the writer had to search for related sources to create an independent interpretation. It concluded that behind every word has its meaning, which then forms a chain that is interconnected with each other. In this thesis, the writer described the meaning of the figurative language used. No one interprets the language used by others because only the speaker himself understands the real purpose. However, as Fairclough (1989, p. 94) says languages are intertwined. Nick Riemer (2010, p. 88) Also shares the opinion that meaning cannot stand alone and must be accompanied by context. Ignoring the context is the same as adding to the ambiguity of an utterance's meaning. Therefore, by understanding the context of a text or conversation, it is possible to capture the intentions of others. This understanding of meaning returns the reader to the initial fact that language is influential in exchanging information.

The statement that context is crucial leads the writer to ask why this research uses a semantic background and not a pragmatic one. In this study, the writer only pays attention to the context of the text without involving the character of the speech giver or their position. Pragmatics is the study of how language is used by considering the various contexts in which it is used (Riemer, 2010, p. 129). In this study, the writer only examines the text by

it based on its information. The writer did not involve the situation owo and Anies' speeches were delivered. This fact indicates that h belongs to semantics, which only focuses on the meaning of the r this research, the writer brings the theme of language and politics duction to this study. However, remember that a more profound rried out by the writer only by utilizing one of the language practices The writer does not make the characters of Prabowo and Anies a



mecca to determine the meaning contained in the figurative language used. Neither does the writer involve other contexts, such as the background of the position or the atmosphere when this speech took place. This explanation aims to emphasize the limitations of this research so that it does not reach pragmatic studies.

Semantics is a study that permeates all fields because of its wide use and language. For this reason, semantics is one of the sciences behind this research, and this thesis aims to examine the use of language in politics. Where there is a discussion about language, there is a discussion about meaning. The writer's understanding shows that semantics is the science behind figurative language because together, they carry out the mission of revealing meaning.

2.2.3 Figurative Language Definition

One of the critical things in conveying information is other people's interest in the information. Method used to build interest in other people; for example, in giving a speech, the emphasis is on the tone of the speaker's voice. However, the most flexible method is choosing the words to be conveyed because this method is flexible, whether used in writing or speaking. Figurative language is one of the unique methods where the primary meaning of a word is not used but rather another meaning that requires the listener or reader to think about the intentions of the figurative language user, which may mean less, more, or even very different than the real meaning of the words used (Perrine, 1974, p. 609). Figurative language provokes the speaker or listener to think about its meaning and makes the conversation leave an impression.

The term figurative language still sounds unfamiliar to most people, even its users. In daily communication, people often wonder whether the intentions conveyed to others are well understood. In response to this concern, most people think of methods of choosing unique words or sentences (figurative language) so that the intention is conveyed efficiently. A purpose is common sense, such as reminding another human. Then what makes communication a human need? Even the famous philosopher Aristotle said that humans are social creatures. How humans interact and convey their intentions has a psychological effect. Aristotle indirectly states the essential value inter-social communication holds as part of interaction. Communication is critical, not without reason behind it. Because humans are creatures in daily contact with each other, they eventually form a pattern called habit or, on a large scale, culture. Communication is not an activity carried out without reason; however,

of human dependence on each other, so it has a psychological before, figurative language is essential to bring more color and an wrapper for the user's intention (Endraswara, 2011, p. 73). ly, figurative language should be a familiar term, especially for s who do not know how to be straightforward.

background section, the writer has mentioned how politics and language are seen as opposites. The figurative language states



something that is not straightforward in its meaning, which potentially creates different meanings. Politics is a field that deals with the needs of the public at large; to convey something verbally could be seen as playing with the needs of the public. Therefore, for Bradford Stull (2001, p. 4), figurative language became the primary avenue for poets and lovers of fiction. However, figurative language is needed in a broader world, especially politics, which is now full of manipulation. In a way, politics also has a relationship with figurative language despite the complex political ideology. Politics is no stranger to rhetoric.

On the other hand, figurative language creates difficulties for the audience and misunderstandings. The literal meaning is not used, causing the word's meaning to seem floating and uncertain. It is not that there is no event to understand figurative language. To avoid adverse effects, the most essential thing to realize about figurative language is that its meaning depends on genre and context (Deignan, Littlemore, & Semino, 2013, p. 1). Genre and context play a crucial role in figurative language's meaning; even when communicating daily, a thorough understanding of the topic is required to assess intent. Different interpretations from the audience increase the chances of the speech being memorable and open opportunities for misunderstanding. As the writer mentioned, the use of figurative language is flexible. Therefore, figurative language is often a tactic to manipulate information.

The writer chooses to study figurative language from Prabowo and Anies' political speeches not only because figurative language is one part of the language. The relationship between language and politics has been explained, where language is used to modify an event according to the speaker's purpose. The word modification leads the writer's thoughts to figurative language, which is abstract because of its flexible meaning. The uniqueness of language in politics used to manipulate is very close to the role of figurative language.

2.2.4 Figurative Language Types

Figurative language has generally identical types; however, different researchers have proposed various types. Figurative language has the primary purpose of adding aesthetic value and is divided into several types based on the purpose of its use. Even though it has the same general benefits, figurative language is divided into several types to provide more details on the purpose of its use. The aim of this research is the figurative language classification of the research object. In compiling the classification, the writer uses Perrine's theory (1974), which divides figurative language into twelve types. These types are as follows:



simile

At first glance, the simile is thought to refer to the word "similar." This figurative language aims to compare using signal words like, similar to, resembles, or seems (Perrine, 1974, p. 610). The characteristics of this figurative language are seen from the user's intention and based on the signal word.

Examples:

“Marked me like a bloodstain.” (Swift & Dessner, Cardigan, 2020)

That is a lyric in Taylor Swift's song called “Cardigan.”

The person in the song is remembered like blood stains that stick and are difficult to remove.

2.2.4.2 Metaphor

Based on the purpose of figurative language, simile and metaphor have something in common: to compare. Metaphor substitutes the meaning of something with something else that has a different literal meaning (Perrine, 1974, p. 610). The comparison is not made by using a comparison signal word like a simile.

Example:

“You are my sunshine.”

The meaning of “you” is substituted with “sunshine,” which compares the two words without a comparison signal word.

2.2.4.3 Personification

Recalling the purpose of figurative language as a spice in language uses creativity. For example, implementing the figurative language of personification requires imagination. Personification also compares or substitutes a meaning. It is unique because it focuses on bringing something inanimate to life. For example, in personification, an inanimate object that does not have the character of a living being will be given activities like a living being (Perrine, 1974, p. 613). Personification sounds unique and needs to make more literal sense. Thus, the purpose of figurative language is to add beauty.

Examples:

Lyric in Guns N' Roses song called “November Rain.”

“The sky cries.” (Rose, 1992)

Crying is an activity humans perform. Nevertheless, in the lyrics of this song, crying is associated with the sky, but what it means is rain.

2.2.4.4 Apostrophe

Not far from personification, apostrophe is a figurative language that gives life to an inanimate object (Perrine, 1974, p. 613). The purpose of personification and apostrophe is the same: to provide a point of view on something that is not alive to make it fresh. What distinguishes personification and apostrophe is the part that is brought to life. Personification only gives a human nature or quality to an object or idea, while apostrophe considers the whole object/idea. (Sayakhan, 2016, p. 8).

Therefore, when using apostrophes, the user communicates with the object as if feedback will be given from the discussed object.

Examples:

“Give life to my beloved country, Indonesia.”

Using the word “I” is accurate but communicates with something unalive: Indonesia, a country.



2.2.4.5 Synecdoche

Humans will always project what they talk, hear, or read, as the writer explained in the semantics session about how words, objects/references, and the human brain are connected. Language allows the mind to expand or narrow the context like the figurative language of synecdoche, which expresses a whole with only a part of it (Perrine, 1974, p. 615). In 2024, social media users are familiar with “All eyes on Rafah,” a caption that discusses the situation in Palestine (Shamim, 2024). However, this is a linguistic thesis, not about the conflict. The writing “All eyes” only mentions one part of the human being; of course, not only the eyes are needed for the conflict. The caption refers to the human being as a whole and its empathy.

Example:

“Hasanuddin University wins the debate competition in London.”

Of course, not all members of Hasanuddin University participated in the competition, but some represented the entire institution.

2.2.4.6 Metonymy

Talking about synecdoche, the figurative that will be discussed next has a special relationship with them. Metonymy and synecdoche have a special relationship because they work together to express something without mentioning it directly. Nevertheless, these two figurative languages would not have different names if it were not for the difference. Synecdoche expresses something by using another part of the thing, while metonymy mentions one thing with another different but related thing (Perrine, 1974, p. 615). In short, metonymy mentions something by mentioning an association of it, not part of it, like synecdoche.

Example:

“Literary canteen sells aqua.”

In Indonesia, we often refer to mineral water as 'Aqua' even though this word relates to just one mineral water brand.

2.2.4.7 Symbols

A conversation involving the other person's mind will always have a different impression. All figurative language has the same end goal; it just has its path. Symbols explain something simple that means everything or something more complex than what has been mentioned (Perrine, 1974, p. 628). Interpreting a symbol must thoroughly understand the context because the breadth and narrowness of its meaning cannot be measured. The abstract method of symbols makes it the type of figurative language with the most difficult “path” to get to the end goal.



Example:

“Traffic light is green.”

→ traffic light is green, it is a symbol to go.

Category

→ There are many game trends in the social media era, including a game where a word is given to the first player (without being seen by the first player). Then, the second player must describe the word until the

first player guesses it correctly. This describes how figurative language allegory works. Allegory contained descriptive explanations representing its core values (Perrine, 1974, p. 636). Therefore, this figurative language is generally found in stories where the writer describes the situation so that the value/lesson is taken from the description. Moreover, allegory effectively provides an abstract description of a simple situation/thing to create multiple perceptions, explaining why allegory is often found in politics.

Discussing the explanation in contrast to the actual intent will lead to the perception that allegory is similar to metaphor and symbol. However, there is always a reason why something is considered different. The core difference between allegory and other metaphors is its descriptive form. In meaning, allegory refers to one thing more clearly and is not as abstract as a symbol.

Example:

"Where are you? And I am so sorry.
I cannot sleep. I cannot dream tonight.
I need somebody, and I always.
This sick, strange darkness.
Comes creeping on, so haunting every time.
And as I stare, I counted the webs from all the spiders.
Catching things and eating their insides.
Like indecision to call you.
And hear your voice of treason.
Will you come home and stop this pain tonight?
Stop this pain tonight." (DeLonge & Hoppus, 2004)
This song explains the longing that someone feels with a long description.
The simple way to say those feelings in the description is "I miss you."

2.2.4.9 Paradox

Humans are instantly attracted when faced with something that sounds impossible. Paradox works through the impossibility of contraries (Perrine, 1974, p. 649). Hence, how did paradox emerge as part of linguistics if it is not logic? Something like paradox became the basis of semantic science, showing how meaning is influenced by many things, making it more complex. Therefore, the best way to understand paradox is to consider its conditions and circumstances.

Examples:

"Even in a crowd, I feel alone."

The words 'crowded' and 'alone' have contradictory meanings. However, the above is also fitting because the person feels lonely even in the people.

Hyperbole/Overstatement

If someone says, "I am dying because I could not see my cat," the speaker does not ask the listener to believe because the person does not mean literally. Hyperbole explains all situations with great exaggeration as a warning of something, not to seek other people's belief but to state how



serious the situation is being faced (Perrine, 1974, p. 650). Hyperbole sounds dramatic, but it still has truth in it.

Example:

"Fifteen years, fifteen million tears." (Swift & Dessner, It's Time to Go, 2020) In the song's lyrics, "It is time to go." Taylor Swift's work defines the number of tears in fifteen years as fifteen million. No one knows the exact number of tears, but this song is defined as an exaggeration of fifteen million.

2.2.4.11 Understatement

If something is explained exaggeratedly, then it is possible to explain it less. An explanation of something made less than what happened but still contains truth (Perrine, 1974, p. 651). Understatement does not mean to conceal the truth by explaining less. It just makes it less.

Examples:

"My English score is only 98."

98 is a high number, but the statement contains words only as if the value is small.

2.2.4.12 Irony

Irony is unique in that it inflicts pain on the person it is directed towards. Figurative language involves the other person's mind and feelings. Irony states something opposite to what happened, generally to leave an effect on the interlocutor's feelings (Perrine, 1974, p. 653). With Perrine's definition, there will be confusion between irony, sarcasm, and satire. Irony lives on even if sarcasm or satire is not used. Based on its purpose, sarcasm offends, while satire has both bad and reasonable purposes, and the irony is not good or bad.

Examples:

When the teacher walks into a boisterous class and says, "This is the quietest class I taught today."

This statement is the opposite of the actual situation.

