IMAGERY & FIGURATIVE LANGUAGE IN HENRY WADSWORTH LONGFELLOW SELECTED POEMS



A THESIS

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Submitted in fulfillment one of the requirements of undergraduate thesis examination to obtain Sarjana Sastra (S.S.) Degree at the English Literature Study Program, Faculty of Cultural Sciences, Hasanuddin University.

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ABSTRACT

Regina Mulianina. 2021. Imagery and Figurative Language in Henry Wardsworth Longfellow's Selected Poems. (Supervised by Abidin Pammu and Rezky Ramadhani).

This study aims to explain the use of two features of poetry, which are imagery and figurative languages in Henry Wardsworth Longfellow's selected poems. The objectives of this study are: (1) to identify the kinds of figurative language and imagery in Henry Wardsworth Longfellow's selected poems, (2) to explain the contribution of the two features to the meaning of the selected poems.

The method of research that is used in this study is qualitative method. The data source of this study is the selected poems which titled as *A Summer Day by The Sea* (1875), *The Sound of The Sea* (1875), *The Tides* (1875), and *The Tide Rises, and The Tide Falls* (1880) by Henry Wardsworth Longfellow, published in poetry anthology titled as *Mask of Pandora and Other Poems* (*A Book of Sonnets*) (1875) and *Ultima Thule* (1880). Moreover, the technique of the data analysis that is used in this study is based on poetry devices which are imagery and figurative language explained by Laurence Perrine in a book titled as *Literature: Structure, Sound, and Sense* (3rd ed) which gives attention to intrinsic elements of a literary work.

The results of this study indicate that all of the Longfellow's selected poems, which are A Summer Day by The Sea, The Sound of The Sea, The Tides, and The Tide Rises, and The Tide Falls, have the same setting and contained with various types of imagery and figurative languages. The setting of the selected poems are all around the ocean. Moreover, the imagery of the selected poems are mostly visual and auditory image. Both types of imagery give clear descriptions of the situations that are pictured in the selected poems. The clear descriptions also comes from other senses that human has which in this case is the skin and the nose experiences which are detailed in the 4th poem titled as *The Tide Rises, and* The Tide Falls. The types of figurative languages that the writer found in the selected poems are metaphor, symbolism, personification, simile, paradox, and metonymy. Most of the selected poems use metaphor, personification, and simile while the least types that are being used are paradox which is in 3rd poem titled as The Tides and metonymy which in the 4th poem titled as The Tide Rises, and The *Tide Falls.* Other than the two features, the writer also delivered the general story and the messages the selected poems held inside based on the writer's own analysis. By that, the application of both of the two features in Longfellow's selected poems are succesfully detected and explained.

Keywords: Imagery, Figurative Language, Longfellow, Selected Poems, A Summer Day by The Sea, The Sound of The Sea, The Tides, The Tide Rises, and The Tide Falls.

ABSTRAK

Regina Mulianina. 2021. *Imagery and Figurative Language in Henry Wardsworth Longfellow's Selected Poems*. (Supervised by **Abidin Pammu** dan **Rezky Ramadhani**).

Penelitian ini bertujuan untuk menjelaskan penggunaan dari dua fitur yang ada di dalam puisi, yaitu imagery dan majas yang diaplikasikan di dalam puisi pilihan karya Henry Wadsworth Longfellow. Tujuan dari penelitian ini adalah sebagai berikut: (1) untuk mengidentifikasi jenis-jenis majas dan imagery di dalam puisi pilihan karya Henry Wadsworth Longfellow, (2) untuk menjelaskan kontribusi dari kedua fitur puisi terhadap makna dari puisi pilihan karya Henry Wardsworth Longfellow.

Metode penelitian yang digunakan dalam penelitian ini adalah metode penelitian kualitatif. Sumber data yang digunakan adalah puisi-puisi pilihan karya Henry Wadsworth Longfellow yang berjudul *A Summer Day by The Sea* (1875), *The Sound of The Sea* (1875), *The Tides* (1875), and *The Tide Rises, and The Tide Falls* (1880), dipublikasikan di dalam antologi puisi yang berjudul *Mask of Pandora and Other Poems (A Book of Sonnets)* (1875) dan *Ultima Thule (1880)*. Selain itu, teknik analisis data yang digunakan dalam penelitian ini berdasarkan dalam buku yang berjudul *Literature: Structure, Sound, and Sense (3rd ed)* oleh Laurence Perrine, dimana kedua fitur ini berfokus pada unsur intrinsik dalam puisi.

Hasil dari penelitian ini menunjukkan bahwa seluruh puisi-puisi pilihan tersebut, yaitu A Summer Day by The Sea, The Sound of The Sea, The Tides, dan The Tide Rises, and The Tide Falls, memiliki kesamaan dan memiliki banyak jenis imagery dan majas di dalamnya. Semua latar dari puisi-puisi pilihan karya Longfelow adalah di sekitar area laut. Selain itu, imagery dalam puisi pilihan tersebut kebanyakan berjenis gambaran visual dan auditorial. Kedua jenis ini memberi deskripsi jelas tentang situasi yang digambarkan dalam puisi-puisi pilihan tersebut. Deskripsi yang jelas juga datang dari indera-indera lainnya yaitu pada kulit dan hidung yang didetailkan pada puisi ke empat yang berjudul The Tide Rises, and The Tide Falls. Jenis-jenis majas yang penulis temukan dalam puisi-puisi pilihan tersebut adalah metafora, simbolisme, personifikasi, simile, paradoks, dan metonimi. Kebanyakan dari puisi-puisi pilihan tersebut menggunakan metafora, personifikasi, dan simile, sementara yang digunakan paling sedikit adalah paradoks terdapat dalam puisi ketiga yang berjudul The Tides dan metonimi yang terdapat pada puisi keempat yang berjudul The Tide Rises, and The Tide Falls. Selain dari kedua fitur tersebut, penulis juga menyampaikan cerita umum dan pesan-pesan yang terdapat pada puisi-puisi pilihan karya Longfellow berdasarkan analisis pribadi penulis. Dengan begitu, pengaplikasian kedua fitur dalam puisi-puisi pilihan karya Longfellow ditemukan dan dijelaskan dengan sangat baik.

Kata Kunci: *Imagery, Majas, Longfellow, Puisi-puisi pilihan, A Summer Day by The Sea, The Sound of The Sea, The Tides, The Tide Rises, and The Tide Falls.*

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CHAPTER I

INTRODUCTION

In this chapter , the writer would like to describe each point which are Background, Identification of Problem, Scope of problem, Research Questions, Objective of The Writing, and Sequences of The Writing.

1.1. BACKGROUND

When it comes to literature, there are countless words in our thoughts related to it. It all starts from types of literary works until lists of famous writer names. To make it whole, we might define it as the study related to all written works in the world that divided into many types using theories, approaches, and critics. Literary works itself divided into two types, those are fiction and nonfiction. Non-fiction works are those written texts contain information based on facts, such as biography, auto-biography, newspaper, textbooks, etc. While fiction works are those comes from authors' creativity and imagination, such as prose, drama script, and poetry. Both types with each work have their own uniqueness in their elements. In relation to the previous statement, literature will never be separated from language, as language is the main feature that makes the literature is in style. The connection of literature to language is so strong that literature will never exist without language, since literature needs language in it. By that, the uniqueness of literature is very supported by the power of language style in it which is various. Language takes a big role in supporting literature. Language in literature makes the literature beautiful and enjoyable, but still deep values is implied. It is very different from general language, since it has various styles, such as figurative language and imagery. Figurative language (figures of speech) is a term for language style that utters word(s) with ambiguous meaning to replace another word that stands for the real and one meaning. This style is applied to give various and wide meanings that makes certain works become more meaningful by the variousity and ambiguity of the chosen words. While imagery is the representation of the effects that felt through our senses when reading particular literary works. The way poets choose certain words, in order to give imaginative thoughts, makes mind works to achieve the proper meaning. So that, mind will get pictures or images that trigger the functions of senses. Generally, both of those styles is applied in writing poetry as its features. The application of both styles in poetry is a great importance in order to expose the uniqueness of the works.

Poetry has its own uniqueness that makes it easier to be distinguished with other literary works. It is one of literary works that has millions stories. Wordsworth (1800) defines poetry as, "a spontaneous overflow of powerful feelings recollected in tranquility". Every story in poem is being told in various ways. There is not any boundaries of subjects to write in poetry, even most of the works consist only one or two stanza(s). However, a thing is urgently needed to be understood is the main focus of poetry is not always about meanings or values implied. Poetry is written with styles that successully expose the feelings the author intends to raise. Enjoyment, excitement, compassion, or we can call them all as human emotion, which take an important role in poetry, is what makes the poetry is variously attractive. Moreover, the way poetry is mostly written in a short form, which contains one to four stanza(s) with four to six lines per stanza(s), never fail at telling stories starting from time to time, describing someone's precious moments in details, or even picturing the feeling of falling in love deeply with someone.

Based on the uniqueness and attractiveness that poetry has, the writer chooses to explain more about poetry with its features mentioned above. The poems that the writer selects are *A Summer Day by The Sea, The Sound of The Sea, The Tides,* and *The Tide Rises, The Tide Falls.* All of the poems mentioned before is being selected by the writer because of the similiarities they have which are the setting of the sea, the richness in applying imagery, and the use of most occurred figurative language types. The writer would like to describe what the selected poems are about in a simple way. First of all, *The Sound of The Sea* is a poem that illustrates how a sea at midnight sounded like in details. The poem has a detail description of the sea with its waves rushing to the shore in midnight where it is normally a time to rest. Longfellow made a comparison between the sound of the sea with the sound of the heart. It is loud, mysterious, and beyond our control.

Secondly, *The Tides* as its title is a poem that illustrates tides of the sea along sea shore that enlivened with sea-weed and shells. This time the tides seems calm, but then all of a sudden come a rush of great wave. Longfellow here explains the way his emotions of happiness that he thought were gone suddenly comeback and it upbore him as the calm ocean made a great wave. Next poem is titled *The Tide Rises, The Tide Falls* which describes the flows of the ocean where the night comes and every tourist must comeback to their house. It seems like the season caused the waves to be actively rise and it is not the best season to play along the sea-shore. Lastly, *A Summer Day By The Sea* is a poem that illustrates the beauty of a summer day arrival which slowly landed in an area near a sea and the city looks like a dreamland when night comes. Moreover, this poem also illustrates how people welcomed the day. There was a sense of excitement that accompanied the season while some of them have their own pain of the arriving season.

The author of the selected poems is Henry Wadsworth Longfellow. Henry Wadsworth Longfellow wrote since 1807 until 1882. He was born in Portland, Massachusetts on February 27, 1807. His journey ended in Cambridge, Massachusetts on March 24, 1882. He was probably the most influential American poet of the 19th Century. Possibly his two most famous poems are *Paul Revere's Ride* and *The Song of Hiawatha*. His works are still regularly anthologised after nearly a century and a half. He wrote and edited textbooks, translated poetry and prose, and wrote essays on French, Spanish, and Italian literature.

1.2. IDENTIFICATION OF PROBLEMS

Here are some problems that the writer identify:

- The lacking of explanation about the existence of the two features, which take an important part in reading poetry, makes poetry always seems old and uninteresting.
- 2. As the two features' existence is not well-known, poetry always interpreted as a work that raise only meanings and values of each poem only. However, the two features' existence is expressing various feelings and emotions of poetry much more than facilitate the author to show values.
- 3. These selected poems mostly illustrate beautiful settings. In order to make the poems understandable, the use of the two features is exclusively needed.

1.3. SCOPE OF PROBLEM

According to the identification of problems, this research will focus on the use of figurative language and imagery contained in selected poems by Henry Wadsworth Longfellow. The works chosen are *The Sound of The Sea*, *The Tides*, *The Tide Rises, The Tide Falls, and A Summer Day by The Sea*. The application of the two features mentioned above will be explained along with the poems chosen, since the poems have those features applied constantly.

1.4. RESEARCH QUESTIONS

Based on the problems mentioned above, here concluded the research questions:

- What kinds of figurative language and imagery are applied in Henry Wadsworth Longfellow's selected poems?
- 2. How does the use of figurative language and imagery contribute to the selected poems' meaning?

1.5. OBJECTIVES OF THE WRITING

These are what the writer aims to:

- To identify the kinds of figurative language and imagery in Henry Wadsworth Longfellow's selected poems.
- To explain the contribution of the two features to the meaning of the selected poems.

1.6. SIGNIFICANCE OF THE WRITING

There are several significances that the writer aims to give; First, this writing will provide information about the use of figurative languages and imageries for newcomers in Literature who are interested to start learning about poetry. Second, this writing will foster new information of enhancing knowledge and skills related to poetry analysis for further study in English Department. By that, the result of this study will become a new source of learning poetry.

1.7. SEQUENCES OF THE WRITING

This research is arranged into five chapters, which are as followed:

- CHAPTER I: This chapter contains introduction of the research explained in some points which are Background, Identification of Problems, Scope of Problem, Research Questions, Objectives of The Writing, Significance of The Writing, and Sequences of The Writing.
- CHAPTER II: This chapter contains the supporting statements from reading materials that writer read. This is explained further in some points of Literature Review which are Previous Study and Theoretical Framework as the whole part of this chapter.
- CHAPTER III: This chapter talks about the research methodology we use which consists of Methodology, Method of Collecting Data, Method of Data Analysis, and Research Procedure.
- 4. CHAPTER IV: This chapter explains furthermore of objectives of the research. Namely Research Findings that will present the whole result.
- 5. CHAPTER V: This chapter consists of Conclusion and Suggestion to others who would like to do the same research with the same literary works.

CHAPTER II

LITERATURE REVIEW

In this chapter , the writer would like to describe each point which are Previous Study and Theoretical Framework.

2.1. PREVIOUS STUDY

In writing this research, the writer might needs several relevant resources in order to get more similiar ideas and to solve problems in the process of writing this research. By that, here are several theses which discuss the use of imagery and figurative languages:

- According to Ni'mah Dyah Ayu N. (2012) in her thesis entitled *An Analysis of Robert Frost's Selected Poems*, is aiming to identify the kinds of figurative languages and imagery used in the poem, to tell the general meaning of the selected poems, and to determine the theme of the selected poems.
- According to Nursyal (2009) in his thesis entitled *Imagery and Figurative Language Analysis in Two Poems by Robert Pinsky*, is aiming to identify the kinds of figurative language and imagery and to explain how both features convey the theme of the selected poems titled *In Berkeley* and *The Unseen*.
- According to Irma Umar (2011), in her thesis entitled *Imagery in Robert Browning's Selected Poems*, is aiming to identify the kinds of imagery and

explain how the kinds of imagery functioning in Robert Browning's selected poems.

These studies help the writer to compose the research wholely, especially how to compose Theoretical Framework related to imagery and figurative languages, also what methods to be used in this research in order to collect and to analyze the data. Beside that, these studies most likely have the same topic with this research to discuss. What the writer means here is all of the studies are presenting and analyzing features of each writers' selected poems that are related to imagery and figurative languages. The exact difference about this research with the studies above is the writer's choice of selected poems to discuss. The writer chose Henry Wadworth Longfellow's four selected poems is focusing on the imagery and figurative languages without any additional features like explaining the theme and each value that is being implied in the selected poems.

2.2. THEORETICAL FRAMEWORK

2.2.1. IMAGERY (SENSORY DETAILS)

As we already know, there are five senses that each human has. Those are eyes, mouth, ear, nose, and skin. Each sense has its own unique function, where eyes is to see things, mouth is to taste flavors, ear is to hear sounds, nose is to smell scents, and skin is to feel touches. With the senses we see beautiful view, we smell grass scent, we taste delicious food, we can feel softness of someone's skin, and we can hear good songs. Through our senses we might get hypnotized by the beautiful waves' view and sounds, or our eyes might transfixed to the beautiful sunshine seen through the leaves. There are countless experience we got through our senses.

Imagery is one of poem's features that needs our senses to visualize certain lines in a work. The use of particular words give pictures in mind then trigger the senses to be functioned. Perrine (1978) explained that "imagery is a representation that comes from sense experience of a text." The word 'image' can give an understanding about the experience of an imaginative representation in a form of pictures on mind will create. Thus, certain lines in poem will give sensations of experiencing imagery when reading.

Sensory details is another name for imagery which focused on the function of the senses. While imagery is not only about the senses, in relation to Perrine (1978:595) : "We might experience an internal sensation, such as: hunger, thirst or nausea; or movement or tension in the muscles or joints."

A poem is considerably as a beneficial source of reading where we can get a sense experience while reading it. Particular words that trigger the senses is not when the poem lines say "we watch the beautiful sunset and we laugh to our jokes" but it is imagery when it says "The sun is set; and in his latest beams Yon little cloud of ashen gray and gold" the words "ashen gray and gold" give a visual imagery where the cloud is colored gray like ash with a touch of gold by the sun shines. For example:

"The Rainbow" by Leslie Coulson

"Watch the white dawn gleam, To the thunder of hidden guns. I hear the hot shells scream Through skies as sweet as a dream Where the silver dawn-break runs. And stabbing of light Scorches the virginal white. But i feel in my being the old, high, Sanctified thrill, And i thank the gods that the dawn is Beautiful still."

In the poem above there are some imageries, it gives us visual imagery when it says "watch the white dawn gleam", it gives a clear picture of how the dawn which is white and gleaming. While "and stabbing of light scorches the virginal white.", it gives a visual imagery where the light colored white is so bright. By that, the use of particular words will effect on the sense experience.

2.2.2. FIGURATIVE LANGUAGE

Perrine (1978:605) defined figurative language: "Figurative language is language that cannot be taken literally (or should not be taken literally only), figures of speech are an effective means of concentration, a way of saying much in brief compass." Figurative language or figure of speech is a style of language which use particular words to replace the general words, which has certain meaning, to give various and ambiguous meaning to be interpreted, but it makes the poems more interesting to read since it is unique. By giving various and ambiguous meaning, it does not mean to make the reader confused, but the goal is to make the poem meaningful and entertaining to mind. Moreover, this can be interpreted as a way of language utilization, where using styles of language leads to show the unique characteristics of the literary work.

Perrine (1978) explained that when we have a conversation with someone, the conversation comes to our mind to be examinated in literal way, but rather than understand it clearly, we might find that it is nonsense. Then, this is when we can say that we speak figuratively, because when we talk figuratively, it is difficult for our mind to understand it literally. The use of some words is somehow not in the right place, for example when we find a human attribute is used to non-living things. It is very nonsense, but that is how speaking figuratively works. The use of figurative language is detected when we say more or less than what we mean to say, the opposite or even something else. To get more explanation, here are some types of figurative languages mostly used in poetry:

1. METAPHOR AND SIMILE

Metaphor and Simile are working in a way of comparing things. According to Perrine (1978) both of them used as a means of comparing things that are essentially alike. The only distinction between them is that in simile the comparison is expressed by the use of some word or phrase, such as like, as, similiar to, resembles, or seems; in metaphor the comparison is implied – that is, the figurative term is substituted for or identified with the literal term. For example:

Simile	I wandered lonely as a cloud	The use of 'as' points out
	By William Wordsworth (1170-	that there is a
	1850)	comparation between
		'lonely' and 'cloud' in
		the line. The word 'as' is
		a character of
		comparation using
		Simile.
Metaphor	His face is a familiar painting	The use of 'is' to
		compare 'face' and
		'painting' here indicates
		the character of
		Metaphor.

2. PERSONIFICATION

According to Perrine (1978), personification is a sub-type of metaphor. Personification itself gives the attributes of human being to an animal, an object, or even a concept. The difference between metaphor and personification is that metaphor can be detected mostly by the use of "is" in its sentence or it is directly implied in the sentence, while personification can be easily detected while there is a verb or a noun, which normally is a human activity, used for other creatures and objects.

For example:

I love how the nights' wind smell	-	
	Tanahaa	This line said the
It <i>touches</i> my face	Touches	
slowly		wind touches the
		author's face, while
		the word touch is a
		human attribute,
		where it is a human
		act of being in
		contact with another
		human or things
		either with parts of
		their bodies or
		through other
		possible media,
		given to non-living
		•
		things, which in this
		line it is the wind.
It kisses my face gently	Kisses	This line said the
j ar grij		wind kisses the
		author's face, while
		the words kiss is a
		human act of
		touching another
		•
		person or things
		with their lips, given
		to non-living things,
		which in this line it
		is the wind.
It <i>passes</i> through my	Passes	This line said the
body		wind passes the
-		author's body, while

		the word pass is a human act of moving through something, given to non-living things, which in this line it is the wind.
It blows my hair to every direction.	-	

3. SYNECHDOCHE AND METONYMY

Perrine (1978) explained that synechdoche is the use of a part of a concept to make a whole statement or description, while metonymy is the use of something that looks similiar or closely related to a thing that is being talked about in order to show the real meaning.

Metonymy	<i>Out, Out</i> by Robert Frost (1874-1963)	The use of spilling here
		intends to say that "life"
	"As he swung	
	toward them	stands for "blood".
	holding up the Hand	W /have the hlast south
	Half in appeal, but	When the blood spills,
	half as if to keep	he dies.
	The life from	
	spilling"	
Synechdoche	Ozymandias by Percy	

For example:

Bysshe Shelly (1792- 1822)	The hand here refers to the sculptor that makes
"Tell that its sculptor well those passions read Which yet survive. Stamped on these lifeless things, The <i>hand</i> that mocked them."	the "lifeless things" into a grand statue.

4. SYMBOL

Perrine (1978:625) stated that "a symbol may be roughly defined as something that means *more* than what it is." Symbols vary in the degree of identification and definition given by their authors. Symbols might look alike with metaphors, but symbols stand for more various meanings. Moreover, a symbol might refers as an object for another object and it does not consists of paragraphs of a story. According to Perrine (1978:625), this is an example of the difference between metaphor and symbol:

"Some dirty dogs stole my wallet at the	This is not talking about dogs at all,
party."	here we can see a use of metaphor.
"You can't teach an old dog new	This is not only talking about dogs, but
tricks."	also every living creature. Therefore,
	this is a use of symbol.

Perrine (1978:626) also stated that "sometimes poets are much more specific in identifying their symbols. Sometimes they do not identify them at all."

Here is the example:

A White Rose by John Boyle O'Reilly	The word 'rose' here is not only a rose,
(1844-1890)	it is a symbol of a woman, it is based
"The red rose whispers of passion, The white rose breathes of love; Oh, the red rose is a falcon, And the white rose is a dove.	on the second stanza we can tell that the rosebud can be interpreted as woman.
But I send you a cream-white rosebud, With a flush on its petals; For the love that is purest and sweetest, Has a kiss of desire on the lips."	

5. ALLEGORY

Perrine (1978:632) defines allegory as; "A narrative or description that has a second meaning beneath the surface one. Though less than a symbol, allegory is an effective way of making the abstract concrete and has occasionally been used effectively even in fairly short poems." An allegory might gives several meanings, but as explained by Perrine we can take a conclusions that those several meanings are definite. For example:

"Some say the world will end in fire Some say in ice. From what i've tasted of desire	allegory. Based on the title it talks about fire and ice, the use of fire and ice in the poems might refer as
fire Some say in ice. From what i've tasted of desire I hold with those who favor fire.	ice in the poems might refer as
I think I know enough of hate To say that for destruction ice Is also great And would suffice."	human's emotions. From what we can see the word being used related to fire is desire, which means that fire is a powerful thing that come from human's big desire. While ice there in relation with suffice, where suffice can be interpreted as something that is very enough to complete something. It is said that the destruction comes from ice would be enough if it happened twice, since the first is with fire, with ice is another comparison that would also give a big impact. The ice might comes from human's ignorance of
	apathy, since they tasted how it feels like to be full of desire.

6. HYPERBOLE

Hyperbole is the use of words with excessive meanings, or exaggeration.

The actual event might not be as bad or as good as how it is uttered or written by

the author, in another words we can call it "over-expressing". Here is an example:

Beneath The Copper-Tint Sky by Hunter	These lines from the poem are
Dasten	
	hyperbole. The feeling of falling in love
"And a torrent of passion shot through	
my veins,	might be so good, but that feeling will not
as if God's presence had finally been confirmed."	work like the way the author pictured it in the
	poem.

7. PARADOX

Paradox is the way author pictures a condition or a situation that is contradictive with what is really happening in real life. Also, a paradox comes in various conclusions, thoughts, or assumptions from reading words attractive to our logics. This can be called as truth while it is the opposite of the truth.

For example:

The Eagle by Lord Tennyson Alfred	According to Perrine
(1809-1892)	(1978:647), this might sounds logically
"Close to the sun in lonely lands"	true, but it is not true based on the
	astronomy.