



Metaphor Analysis on Students' English Poems

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ABSTRACT

This study aims to know the students' ability in using a metaphor for their English poems writing. Through the poem, the poet uses the metaphor to sharpen the ideas as the media to express the feeling, thought and life experience. In this case, love poems were written by the fifth-semester students using metaphor. This study uses a qualitative method to gain a description of the metaphor analysis in students' English love poems. In research findings, the writer found that the students use several kinds of metaphor in semantic perspective and the mystical love metaphor represented in their poems.

Keywords: English poems, mystical love metaphor, semantic perspective.

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INTRODUCTION

Literature is the unique combination between human's intelligence and art which represented human's idea and feeling through beautiful words and expression. Moody (1971, p. 3) explained that literary work is something more than the language from which it is constructed. A literary work is not just language that reflects the experience and thoughts of its users. Literary works are a complex language that bridged the ideas, the experiences, and the feelings of the author to his readers.

Literary work is the unique artistic product contains language to reflect human's feeling, thought and the experience and thoughts. Literary works are the complex language that bridged the ideas, the experiences, and the

feelings of the author to his readers. One genre of literature is poetry; it is the arrangement of selected words to gain the message of the poem itself.

Poetry is about ideas, about feeling, about places, about people, and about events. It can explore feeling and create a picture of a human's experience. Gill (1995, p. 4) stated that poems are not like ordinary speech or writing; they are specially made objects in words. It means that poetry is the choice of words and their arrangement is made to draw the reader's attention to those features of the language in order to gain the message of the poem itself.

In poetry, there is a unique element called a figurative language which contains the figure of speech. Metaphor is a kind of figurative meaning

which is an explicit comparison in which two, unlike an object, are compared by identifying or substituting one with other. Figurative language is a language that uses a certain word or expression which has the meaning with a different meaning from the literal meaning. A metaphor is a figure of speech which omits the comparative term (like, as, than) and implies that one thing is another: 'All the world's a stage'. This is a metaphor because it says one thing meaning another. A simile says that x is like y, but metaphor says x is y.

Metaphor analysis has been traditionally used in the study of literature especially poetry. Lakoff and Turner in Kamberi (2013, p. 92) explained that the natural of metaphor evolves to the point of it becomes unconscious or automatic to the word it replaces. The role of metaphor in poetic texts has been a matter of interest since Plato and it is still a challenging topic in literary and linguistic theories. The conceptual metaphor theory (CMT) by Lakoff and Johnson in Jaberi, Ho-Abdullah, & Vengadasamy (2016, p. 144) presented the ability to produce poetic metaphors as a part of man's general ability to metaphorize the world around.

According to Parera (2004), there are four types of metaphor; anthropomorphic metaphor, animal metaphor, a metaphor from concrete to abstract, and synesthetic metaphor. An anthropomorphic metaphor is a natural phenomenon. It is used to compare the similar experience with what is found in their bodies. For example, Led by the Fawkes, whose wide scarlet wing emitted a soft golden glow in the darkness, they walk all the way back to the mouth of the

pipe. The next is an animal metaphor is aimed to explain reality in a nature base by using animal's elements. In the example is Aunt Petunia was house faced and bony, Dudley was blond, pink and porky. A metaphor from concrete to abstract is the metaphor that appears because of experience transfer from abstract to concrete or the opposite. For example, Darkness was falling as they walked down to lock the office. The last is Synesthetic metaphor is created by the transfer of response. For example, From behind him, Harry could hear a funny rustling and clicking.

In the concept of love can be related to metaphor concept, it correlates the love expression with the with the metaphor concept in a unique way. The combination of love concept and metaphor referred to the mystical love metaphor concept. Kovesces in Jaberi et al (2016) stated that the term 'love' is the most highly metaphorized emotion concept which it designed the tight relation toward the human's emotion. Lakoff et.al in Jaberi et al (2016, p. 146) listed the kind of love metaphor; (1). Long-term purposeful activity is a journey (e.g. Love is a journey), (2). Strong emotions are madness (e.g. Love is madness), (3) Strong emotion is blinding, (4) Love is unity of two complementary parts, (5). Loved one is possession and (6) Love is a magic.

The use of metaphor in poetry is to explain and elucidate emotions, feelings, a relationship of other elements that could not be described in ordinary language use. The poet uses metaphor to create an effective way of explaining or referring to something in a brief. Writing English poem is not an easy writing

activity for Indonesian students who use English as foreign language communication.

Writing English poems in love theme is a great challenge for them. In this case, the writer wants to analyze the form of the metaphor and the semantic meaning of its metaphor in their poems. Metaphor analysis will be the instrument to improve the students' ability in understanding the form and meaning in metaphor in order to decide better learning method in teaching English poem writing.

RESEARCH METHODOLOGY

The data for this study were taken from the fifth-semester students' poems of English Education Study Program, Education Sciences Faculty,

Muhammadiyah University of Jakarta academic year of 2016-2017 which were composed using metaphor concept. The subject of research is about 24 students divided into 6 male and 18 female students who wrote about the theme of love in universal meaning. For the purpose of the present study, only active aspects metaphorical expressions in a certain theme are examined. This study uses a qualitative research method in qualitative interpretation type. There are some steps implemented in this study; 1) identifying poems in semantic perspective, 2) identifying poems in mystical love metaphor, and 3) identifying poems in order to interpret the meaning of the metaphor in the poems.

FINDING AND DISCUSSION

Table 1. The type of metaphor in a semantic perspective

| Student | The Metaphor in Love Poems | Type of Metaphor |
|---------|--|----------------------|
| LM | When I trust you crazily but, I'm blinded by the sun | Abstract to concrete |
| AR | The long distance is killing me so deeply | Abstract to concrete |
| NK | Even this unbearable pain is stabbed a thousand rusty knife | Anthropomorphic |
| RA | And I'm your moon | Abstract to concrete |
| BS | Mom, your heart is a wing Your heart is a leafy tree Your heart is a blanket | Abstract to concrete |
| HPK | My hope is floating | Abstract to concrete |
| MFB | You are my angel | Abstract to concrete |
| MW | Love is suffering and happiness | Abstract to concrete |
| PFA | Dad, you are my hero You are my sun | Abstract to concrete |
| SR | You're the best and the most beautiful heartbreak | Anthropomorphic |
| AC | The blackie rose is laughing on my face | Synesthetic metaphor |
| ZM | 4,819 kilometers is our sight boundary Bounded by oceans and continents | Abstract to concrete |
| MBA | You are the light come with the hope | Synesthetic metaphor |
| LR | Every day, I'm butterfly | Animal metaphor |
| IA | You are the apple of my eyes | Abstract to concrete |
| AM | Friendship is the two rings with different shape | Abstract to concrete |
| HS | Knowing you is a shine in the darkness | Anthropomorphic |

| | | |
|-----|---|----------------------|
| MSH | A world is a jungle But, love is still a puzzlement | Abstract to concrete |
| AY | You are white for my blacky in life journey | Abstract to concrete |
| RIS | You are my fairy dust Shinning then disappear | Synesthetic metaphor |
| AWA | You are flower I'm a beetle | Animal metaphor |
| MSM | Today is the picture of the future My enthusiasm is my parents | Abstract to concrete |
| SA | Mars and Venus are not same Rose is sense of pain | Abstract to concrete |
| NY | You are coffee You are my curiosity | Abstract to concrete |

The table above revealed that the students' poems represented semantic perspective. There are 16 poems of abstract to concrete metaphor type, 3 poems of anthropomorphic metaphor type, 3 poems of synesthetic metaphor type, and 1 poem of animal metaphor type. In conclusion, 66,7 % of students'

poems revealed abstract to concrete metaphor, 12,5% of students' poem revealed anthropomorphic metaphor, 12,5% of students' poem revealed synesthetic metaphor and only 4,1% of students' poems revealed animal metaphor.

Table 2. The kinds of metaphor in mystical love metaphor

| Student | The Metaphor in Love Poems | Kind of Mystical love metaphor |
|----------------|--|---|
| LM | When I trust you crazily but, I'm blinded by the sun | Strong emotion is blinding |
| AR | The long distance is killing me so deeply | Long-term purposeful activity is a journey: Love is a journey |
| NK | Even this unbearable pain is stabbed a thousand rusty knife | Strong emotion is madness |
| RA | And I'm your moon | Loved one is a possession |
| BS | Mom, your heart is a wing Your heart is a leafy tree Your heart is a blanket | Love is unity of two complementary parts |
| HPK | My hope is floating | Long-term purposeful activity is a journey |
| MFB | You are my angel | Loved one is a possession |
| MW | Love is suffering and happiness | Love is unity of two complementary parts |
| PFA | Dad, you are my hero You are my sun | Loved one is a possession |
| SR | You're the best and the most beautiful heartbreak | Strong emotion is madness |
| AC | The blackie rose is laughing on my face | Strong emotion is madness |
| ZM | 4,819 kilometers is our sight boundary Bounded by oceans and continents | Long-term purposeful activity is a journey : Love is a journey |
| MBA | You are the light come with the hope | Love is a magic |
| LR | Every day, I'm butterfly | Love is magic |
| IA | You are the apple of my eyes | Love is magic |

| | | |
|-----|---|---|
| AM | Friendship is the two rings with different shape | Love is unity of two complementary parts |
| HS | Knowing you is a shine in the darkness | Love is magic |
| MSH | A world is a jungle But, love is still a puzzlement | Strong emotion is blinding |
| AY | You are white for my blacky in life journey | Long-term purposeful activity is a journey :Love is a journey |
| RIS | You are my fairy dust Shinning then disappear | Strong emotion is madness |
| AWA | You are flower I'm a beetle | Love is unity of two complementary parts |
| MSM | Today is the picture of the future My enthusiasm is my parents | Long-term purposeful activity is a journey : Love is a journey |
| SA | Mars and Venus are not same Rose is sense of pain | Love is unity of two complementary parts |
| NY | You are coffee You are my curiosity | Love is unity of two complementary parts |

The data on the table above showed that the use of mystical love metaphor in students' poem is strongly revealed. There are 24 poems that revealed 6 kinds of mystical love metaphors. In details, there are 2 poems categorized as the kind of Strong emotion is blinding, 5 poems categorized as the kind of Long-term purposeful activity is a journey, 4 poems categorized as the kind of Strong emotion is madness, 3 poems categorized as the kind of Love is possession, 6 poems categorized as the kind of Love is unity of two

complementary parts and 4 poems categorized as the kind of Love is magic. In the table presented below is the percentage of the use mystical love metaphor.

Table 3: The percentage of the use Mystical love metaphors

| No. | The Kinds of Mystical Love Metaphor | Percentage |
|-----|--|------------|
| 1. | Strong emotion is blinding | 8.3% |
| 2. | Long-term purposeful activity is a journey | 20.8% |
| 3. | Strong emotion is madness | 16.6% |
| 4. | Love is possession | 12.5% |
| 5. | Love is unity of two complementary parts | 25% |
| 6. | Love is magic | 16.6% |

Table. 4. The interpretation of meaning in metaphor

| Student | The Metaphor in Love Poems | The Meaning of Metaphor |
|---------|--|---|
| LM | When I trust you crazily but, <i>I'm blinded by the sun</i> | Someone who gave the trustee but it is betrayed by her partner. She is blinded by her own trust. |
| AR | <i>The long distance is killing me so deeply</i> | Long distance relationship is too hard to protect. |
| NK | Even this <i>unbearable pain is victim of a thousand rusty knife</i> | Hidden heartbreak is painful. The pain that caused by thousand rusty knife. |
| RA | <i>And I'm your moon</i> | The 'I' seems so charming and attractive like the moon. |
| BS | Mom, <i>your heart is a wing</i> <i>Your heart is a blanket</i> | The mother always supports her daughter as same as the bird flies with its wing to achieve its goal. Besides, mother always warms and protects her daughter or son. |
| HPK | <i>My hope is floating</i> | The hope is unpredictable |

| | | |
|-----|---|---|
| MFB | You are my angel | The partner is the guidance to be a better life. |
| MW | Love is suffering and happiness | It defines love as complex meaning, it can be painful but it can be happy life journey. |
| PFA | Dad, you are my hero You are my sun | Father is a hero means that her father always protects her. Father is brighten the family life. |
| SR | You're the best and the most beautiful heartbreak | The partner is the best person to be loved but he break the girl's heart. |
| AC | <i>The blackie rose is laughing on my face</i> | Blackie rose means sorrow. The sorrow disturb the happiness. |
| ZM | <i>4,819 kilometers is our sight boundary</i> Bounded by oceans and continents | The relationship is in long distance situation. It caused the unpredictable meaning. |
| MBA | <i>You are the light</i> come with the hope | The partner is new hope to secure her heartbreak. |
| LR | Every day, <i>I'm butterfly</i> | Butterfly is colorful, beautiful and attractive animal. It means that she is as beautiful as the butterfly. |
| IA | Mom, <i>you are the apple</i> of my eyes | Apple means so sweet and interesting The mother always be kind and interesting to her daughter or son' eyes. |
| AM | with different shape | Ring symbolized the unity and togetherness. Although the shape is different, they always be strengthen for each other. |
| HS | <i>Knowing you is a shine in the darkness</i> | Knowing each other is the light in the darkness. |
| MSH | <i>A world is a jungle</i> <i>But, love is still a puzzlement</i> | The world represents the unpredictable situation in the jungle. Unfortunately, love is as the puzzlement. |
| AY | <i>You are white for my blacky in life</i> <i>journey</i> | White means new hope. The new hope to educate the dark and difficult to TPA. |
| RIS | <i>You are my fairy dust</i> Shinning then disappear | Having someone in relation. Sometimes it comes for giving new hope or saying good bye. |
| AWA | <i>You are flower</i> <i>I'm a beetle</i> | Flower means beauty. Beetle is a cute but insect animal. This means they are in couple and always be the suitable partner. |
| MSM | <i>Today is the picture of the future</i> <i>My enthusiasm is my parents</i> | Today's life is the future plan. The enthusiasm of life comes from the parents. |
| SA | <i>Mars and Venus are not same</i> <i>Rose is sense of pain</i> | Mars symbolized man and Venus symbolized woman. They always be the partner although they are reluctantly different. Unfortunately, rose symbolizes woman. In this poem, the woman is being hearted. |
| NY | <i>You are coffee</i> <i>You are my curiosity</i> | Coffee means unique taste of bitter. Inside the coffee caused the curiosity refers to mysterious taste. |

The table above described the interpretation meaning of 24 poems that were written by the students in Love theme. These poems revealed the various comparative objects to build the metaphor. The use of metaphor in

students' poems mostly expressed their experience, though, and feeling about love. The students defined love as strong emotion of love that created irrational feeling caused by love, expressive emotion, madness and magical feeling.

Love also created possession attitude to own each other. In another side, love is defined as very long journey with great experiences, struggle, sacrifice, hope, patience, euphoria, magical feeling, or even regretless. In those 24 poems, the students are successful to reveal their mystical love experience in metaphorical forms.

CONCLUSION

Poem is one of very unique literary work form. As the literary work, poem is the expression of feeling, thought and life experience of the poet. In this case, the poems were written by fifth semester students in selected theme of love. Their poems are not only expressed their feeling and experience in artistic words but it also contained the elements of poetry. The poetry element of figurative language used in the poems specifically metaphor. The analysis of

metaphor in their poems reveals not only semantic meaning in semantic perspective.

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