

## An Analysis of figurative language in the poem *The Phoenix and the Turtle* by William Shakespeare

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### Abstract

This research aims to figure out figurative language that was used in the phoenix and the turtle works of Shakespeare. This study used library research, which focuses on literal and non-literal meaning of figurative languages to make it easier to classify data. The technique of analysis of the data is by reading, identifying, understanding, finding, and making conclusions of every poem. The results of the study shows that the most dominant figurative language in the selected poems is seven Metaphor/allegory, eleven personification, three simile and two symbols.

**Keywords:** *Semantic, Figurative language, poem*

### INTRODUCTION

The meaning of a word is related to the relation by which a language is deceptive as a reference on literary works. (Lin, 2019) Semantics of which is the relationship between the elements of the lexical system is an aspect of its meaning or significance. The meaning of a sentence is related to the conditional value of the logic. It is generally accepted that semantics determines the relationship between linguistic expressions and expression references. Opinions about the reference differed after that, however, as there was disagreement about what the entity the different words meant. We know that the language of a word or sentence is used to express meanings that others can. But meaning is in our heads and we can express it through spoken and written forms of language. (Strle, 2021) The main difference of meaning theories lies in the interpretation of meaning and in relation to the world. In extensional semantics, reference is direct and without intermediaries, and linguistic expressions correspond directly to objects in the world. In intentional semantics, linguistic expressions indirectly acquire meaning through intentions.

(Astuti & Chalesti, 2022) Research about meaning is assessed through analysis of context, social and individual points of view. semantic analysis is concerned with meaning and will be interested, among other things, in those elements of language which give the sentence. (Bagha, 2011) Semantics is the level of linguistic analysis where meaning is analyzed. Meaning is closely related to a person's ability to think logically and understand. So, when we try to analyze meaning,

we try to analyze our ability to think and understand our ability to create meaning.

One of the literary products is poetry. (Yadaf et al., 2021) Poetry is a work of art, craft and creativity in the form of a figurative texture, followed by the mechanism of significant thematic tones, contradictory diction, figurative imagination, metrical aspects, sentimental expressions, intricate non-linguistic aspects, rhythm and variety and complexity of experiences. in contact with the personal and impersonal perspectives of the poem. Poetry based on regular meter, whether accented or syllabic, or both, attracts attention and facilitates communication. It's more memorable and emotional. (Putu Nova Ariangga et al., 2022) In analyzing poetry, the ability to appreciate poetry is a skill and ability by many people to know and understand poetry in detail, including the physical and internal structure. It is an arrangement of words chosen to convey the message of the poem itself.

Poetry enhances the word-for-word listening skills conveyed by the reader of the poem. Poetry analysis examines the elements of language in order to understand literary works as a whole. There is a unique element in poetry called imagery, which includes figurative language. (Rahman, 2019) Figurative language is language that uses a specific word or phrase that has a different meaning than its literal meaning. Figurative language is often used by writers of literary works to convey creative ideas to readers. This certainly can stimulate the imagination of the reader. The reader can develop his feelings. figurative language always describes

comparisons, similarities. Readers who have sensitivity and ability in figurative language will certainly find it easier to understand the poetic meaning of a poem. When examining the use of figurative language, it is necessary to consider how this use differs from language to language and this raises the general question of how linguistic and cultural patterns affect cognition. (Laimena & Que, 2022) Some figurative language is used in poetry: a) Personification is a type of idiom that describes things like liveliness or human characteristics. Personification gives human properties for inanimate objects, things, animals or ideas. It shows an analogy of drawing a thing as if it were human features. b) (Prosyannikova, 2021) The simile, as a multifunctional linguistic-semiotic construction, can exhibit iconic, indexical, and symbolic properties based on the relationships between a linguistic sign and a conceptualized real object. Simile is an expression that compares something to another by the use of a function word, such as like, then, resemble, seem, or as. A simile uses a direct comparison between some ideas which are unlike in their essence. c) (Fahas et al., 2021) A metaphor is a type of figurative meaning that is an explicit comparison in which two, as opposed to an object, are compared by identifying or replacing one another. d) (Pedersen, 2015) A symbol is considered to be "a special sign which, by its revealed representations or implied similarities, conventionally means something other than what it is". Symbolism is a type of figurative language that uses the symbol of an animal, plant, or thing to represent something else. Symbolism arises from personal experiences, expressions and fantasies. A symbol is a literary device composed of multiple layers of meaning that represent other aspects, concepts, or characteristics. Use an object, idea, or action that carries more meaning than its literal meaning. The symbol uses mostly familiar things from people's daily lives.

By analyzing a poem line by line, you can learn more about its structure, form, language, metrical patterns, and themes. I wish this Research can be widely accepted, leaving readers interested in learning more about poetry and its nuances. Finally, the study contributes to help the student in semantics class to analyze the type of

figurative language and the concept of figurative language commonly used in semantics. It is hoped for future researchers that the research results can be used as reference for further study of the imagery used in different poems. The researcher focuses on analyzing the types of figurative language in Shakespeare's poem *The Turtle and the Phoenix*. The researcher is limited to examining the words, sentences, and phrases used.

## RESEARCH METHOD

In this study, the researcher used library research to help the researcher analyze the figurative language used in the phoenix and the turtle. At the library researchers look for some examples of figurative language to increase knowledge about figurative language. Method of data analysis, first is to answer the research problem through data collection by identifying the data based on the kinds of figurative language, which focus on literal and non-literal meaning of figurative languages to make it easier to classify data. Second, the writer classifies each figurative language according to some of the points based on the kinds of figurative languages. The researcher lists the data which was found and the writer analyzes the literal and figurative meaning to make a clear definition.

## FINDING AND DISCUSSION

Several figurative languages were identified in the phoenix and the turtle. They are:

### Personification

- a. 'Let **the bird** of loudest **lay**': a comparative figure of speech that likens animals here used is the word bird that acts like a human lying down. As it is known that birds are flying.
- b. 'to whose sound chaste **wings obey**': a comparative figure of speech which likens inanimate objects here used is the word wing which acts like a human which shows human obedience. It is known that the wings are the body parts of birds to fly.
- c. '**love** and constancy are **dead**': a comparative figure of speech that likens feelings here used is the word love which acts like a human being which shows the process of human life, namely death.

- d. 'Number there in **love** was **slain**': a comparative figure of speech that likens feelings here used is the word love which acts like a human being which shows the process of human life.
- e. '**property** was thus **appalled**': a comparative figure of speech that likens inanimate objects here used is a property that acts like a human.
- f. 'love has reason, reason none': comparative figure of speech which compares feeling to inanimate objects that act like humans
- g. 'for these **dead birds** sigh a **prayer**': a comparative figure of speech which compares animals here to inanimate objects that act like humans, namely praying

#### Similar

- a. '**So** they Lov'd, **as love** in twain'
- b. '**as** chorus to their **tragic scene**'
- c. '**be** the death-diving **swan**'

Parables also compare two things directly, but not in the same way. Comparisons with parables focus on traits or characters.

#### Metaphor/Allegory

Metaphoric figures of speech by equating words with something that is almost the same as the original word.

- a. 'foul procurer of the **fiend**'
- b. 'every fowl **of tyrant wing**'
- c. 'Augur of the **fever's end**'
- d. 'flaming in the **Phoenix**' **sight**'
- e. 'here enclosed, in **cinders lie**'
- f. 'death is now **the Phoenix**' **nest**'

#### Symbols

- a. 'save the **eagle**, feather's **king**': Powerful, fast and beautiful. This is perhaps the most memorable eagle figure. This bird is considered a symbol of courage and fighting spirit.
- b. 'Let the priest in surplice **white**': White represents purity, kindness and chastity and also to reveal the truth.
- c. 'to the **phoenix** and **Where**': symbolizes eternal love

#### CONCLUSION

Several figurative languages are found in the poem the phoenix and the turtle. They were 7 sentences of personification. 3 sentences of simile, 7 sentences of metaphor/ allegory and 2

sentences of symbols. There are many theories as to what Shakespeare's The Phoenix and the Turtle represents as a whole. I still cannot show the whole meaning implied in this poem. Many words have a meaning that is obscure or vague and mysterious in the poem. Shakespeare himself deliberately disguised the meaning of the truth and beauty of love in the poem. So that further research can be carried out on the figurative meaning of this literary work.

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