

The Figurative Language Used in Ayu Meutia’s Poetry Tigress Based on Gibbs & Colston’s Theory

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ABSTRACT

The purpose of this article is to find the truth of Gibbs & Colston theory in Meutia’s poetry and to find out the types of figurative language and the most dominant kind of figurative language in Meutia’s poetry. The study focused figurative language in Meutia’s poetry Tigress. The study used descriptive qualitative method and Gibbs & Colston’s theory (2012) is used for identifying the figurative language. The writers chose six poetries randomly. There are Moonset, Migration, Materialism, Your City, What Your Heart is Not, and Awkward Silence. Gibbs & Colston theory (2012) conducted about evaluating the use of metaphors, metonymy, irony, idioms, and proverbs. Gibbs & Colston (2012, p.19) state that special feature of figurative language may have much to do with their meaning products as with the cognitive processes used to create those meaning. The result of the study is idiom 1 data, irony 5 data, metaphor 133 data, and metonymy 2 data. Proverbs are not found in this study. Figurative language is found metaphor, metonymy, idiom, and irony. The most dominant figurative language in Poetry Tigress is metaphor. Figurative language in poetry gives sense and beauty to the poem. It helps people to expression, description of something, to make easy people to reference of something, to give inspiration and motivation.

Keywords: Figurative Language, Poetry, Poetry Tigress

INTRODUCTION

Poetry is one of literary that has existed since the past until now. In the course of time, it changes according to the changing times. The writing poetry in the past was a conventional, while nowadays it is a modern style. Although poetry undergoes many changes that are influenced by many things, poetry still contains figurative language.

The style of writing in the past was a conventional style, while nowadays it is a modern style. Contemporary poetry is dominated by young people. The existence of poetry proves that poetry is important part of life. The young people create the poetry with their style. The existing political and cultural situation does not affect for the young people to express themselves in poetry. Whatever the style of writing poetry, figurative language is still an important thing that is used in

poetry. Figurative language is the basis for knowing what message will be conveyed to the reader through the poem.

The rules in modern poetry are not the basis for modern people to create poetry. They are motivated to explore experiences and express the depth of sense they have so that the process and the result are something new. It is interesting for the reader to read and encounter what is happening in the poem. Ayu Meutia's Poetry *Tigress* is one of the modern poetries. Ayu Meutia is a young creator of poet.

Alexandra Pitsis (2014, p. 5), state that poetics is typically defined in terms of its literary basis. Poetry is one of tools to giving information, suggestion, opinion, and affection. The beauty in poetry deserves to be presented so that readers are interested in exploring the poem. The beauty in poetry is presented in figurative language.

Poetry seems to speak the reader by figurative language. The reality of life is given by the author and it is described within figurative language. It makes the reader ability to see the detail of what is happened in poetry. Poetry is more easily to understand by readers who analyze or search the meaning of words or sentences in their mind. It is clear that the reader get value or something new of the poetry.

Figurative language helps writers and readers understand what is being speech. According to Gibbs & Colston (2012, p.1), figurative language generally refers to the speech of speakers means something other than what they say. The message conveyed by the speaker is more easily accepted through figurative language.

Figurative language makes words simply to produce and understand the discourse given the present context and the joint communicative goals speakers mutually shared by Jr, Gibbs & Colston, L. (2012, p.7). Figurative language can be found in many texts such as newspaper, advertising, poems, drama, novel, essays, news and other text.

Herbert L. Colston (2015, p. XV) state that figurative language contains of language production, comprehension, structure, underpinning, and change, for figurative and indirect but additionally all language, need to align with current understandings of not only human cognitive phenomena but also social, emotional, motivational, physical, and other human and animal. Figurative language is found in communication so that information or message expressed can be received by the recipient properly, connected and to minimize misunderstanding. Every kind of figurative language has a function.

The figurative language can be using in several ways (Herbert L. Colston, 2015, p. 118). One way is to look separately at broad versus narrow explanation. For instance, one word can be used in a figurative sense. Exaggerate food. Food can be interpreted broadly in a figurative sense and in a narrow sense in the form of asking question about food, such as the type, shape, material and other form of question. One could next detail how a person accomplishes each of those things. A person makes a breakdown of an existing statement to complete an existing one for example someone detailing statement from food. The one combine ingredients in certain ways. The third way to answer the question is more subtle. A question focuses on the agent and an object of the

statement. For example, “How do you use the hammer?” The question directs the listener to perform an action in general or a specific step using an agent to perform an action on an object.

The purpose of this article is to combine Gibbs & Colston theory (2012) and modern poetry style of Meutia’s poetry. Gibbs & Colston theory (2012) is based on the evaluation of several theories about figurative language to find the right definition of the figurative language by conducting research using experimental methods for 15 years. While Meutia’s poetry was published in 2018. Finding figurative language in modern poetry by using a new theory is expected to provide a new perspective on how to find types of figurative language.

The writer study of Meutia’s poetry to analyzes metaphor, metonymy, idioms, proverbs and irony which in Ayu Meutia’s Poetry based on Gibbs & Colston theory (2012). The reader will understand this poetry after the writer analysis figurative language of Poetry *Tigress*. Analysis figurative language of Meutia’s Poetry is important to make the reader imagine what happens in the poetry and the dominant of kind of figurative language, it can help the reader easily understands this Poetry, the writer wants to show up that Indonesian writer has good poetry for the reader nor Indonesian but other countries, because this book one of the good books, the poetry influences to give sense for everyone who reads it, and the writer wants people expressing their self in poetry to improve language skill.

Related to the previous study, this research analyze of kind of figurative language is used and the most dominant kind of figurative language in poetry. The analysis kind of figurative language are metaphor, metonymy, irony, idiom, and proverbs. The average sample of previous study is taken from Western poetry. This study takes Asian poetry. There is different culture.

LITERATURE REVIEW

FIGURATIVE LANGUAGE

Figurative language is the ways of process and products of language. Colston (2015, p. 7) state that the system of interact is in complex ways to affect processes and products of language comprehension and production. Moreover, this social aspect of language accords many more concerns for researchers wishing to explain figurative language use and comprehension because talk between people is not just a means of information exchange between interlocutors.

Gibbs & Colston (2012, p. 19) state that there is a lack of an explicit definition of the difference between literal language and figurative language. This is because the experimental interpretation of figurative language finds many problems. The problem is related to the background, situation, culture, education of a person, different context of conversation, so as to produce different meaning product. Gibbs (2012, p. 127) state the difficulty in figurative language research is the ambiguity of what it really means. Figurative language requires extra think activity. It requires the involvement of philosophers, linguists, psycholinguists, and neuroscientists to test ideas about the interpretation of figurative language.

According to Gibbs & Colston (2012, p. 20), figurative language cannot be separated from literal language. In general, individual research compares metaphoric vs literal language meaning,

ironic vs literal meaning, idiomatic vs literal meaning, metonymic vs literal meaning, and so on. The assumption that learns the same literal meaning in every study and the type of figurative language associated with metaphors, idioms, ironies, and so on are equivalent across different studies.

Figurative language has various depend of the point of view. There are two aspects namely language aspect and non-language aspect. This study is figurative language for language aspect. Focused with Herbert Colston (2012, p. 20) theory which is analyzes metaphor, metonymy, idioms, proverbs, and irony.

While according to Barbara and Eve (2014, p. 1) state that the function of figurative language in poetry as a way are figurative language improves the poetry can be associations and expectations which is can be satisfy, modify or subvert, figurative language gives special esthetic value for poetry, and figurative language makes poetry meaningful and powerful to rise thinking up and solve the problems in society.

KIND OF FIGURATIVE LANGUAGE

This study uses Gibbs & Colston (2012, p. 20) theory which is analyzes metaphor, metonymy, idioms, proverbs, and irony. First is metaphor. Metaphor has long been considered to have several special characteristics that make it ideal for many communicative purposes (Gibbs & Colston, 2012, p. 225). Several special characteristics are the product of its meaning as well as the cognitive processes used to create meaning in unsolvable literal meaning problems (Gibbs & Colston, 2012, p. 19), understanding the psychological processes that occur, make the reader to higher dimension (Gibbs & Colston, 2012, p. 30), a metaphorical word or phrase in a context has a source domain and a target domain (Gibbs & Colston, 2012, p. 47). There are two mappings, metaphorical mapping and iconic mapping. Metaphorical mapping in the form of a concrete source domain manifested into an abstract target domain. Iconic mapping in the form of a concrete domain to a linguistic domain. And takes longer process than literal speech (Gibbs & Colston, 2012, p. 66). Second is metonymy. Metonymic language has the ability to activate a wide range of stereotypical beliefs and attitudes that evoke complex rhetorical effects (Gibbs & Colston, 2012, p. 236). Third is idioms. Idioms emphasize identical meanings produced more blends than did pairs with different meanings and need to understanding as holistic units rather than through compositional analysis. Fourth is proverbs. Proverbs have specific rhetorical effects that are largely attributable to their relatively fixed forms an appeal to common wisdom (Gibbs & Colston, 2012, p. 242). And the last one is irony. Irony as a persuasive tool is frequently used for ideological purposes as in political satire (Gibbs & Colston, 2012, p. 257). Irony is an opposite statement of what the speaker intends to communicate.

METHODOLOGY

This study uses qualitative method to analyze of figurative language in poetry. The main of the qualitative research design are collecting data from case study and concern about figurative language on that Meutia's poetry and dominant of figurative language on this poetry. The kind of the figurative language are metaphor, irony, metonymy, proverbs, and idiom. The study classifies

those sentences into the kinds of figurative language. Reading poetries repeatedly can help the writer to analysis words or phrases that is used. After reading repeatedly, classify those sentences into the kinds of figurative language how many kinds of figurative language that are used in poetries, makes list for the types of figurative language and make conclusion from the data collected. Process of analysis data explains that things happen in the poetry.

In this study, the data is taken from the Meutia's Poetry *Tigress* book. There are fifty-two poems. The writer took six poems randomly that have kinds of figurative language. There are *Moonset*, *Migration*, *Materialism*, *Your City*, *What Your Heart Is Not*, and *Awkward Silence*. The writer searches the data from the book store. It is *Tigress Poems* by Ayu Meutia. The poetry was published in 2018. In this study the writer used some steps to collect the data. They are as follow; first, the writer chooses one of the poems. It is Meutia's Ayu Poetry in book of *Tigress*. Second, the writer identifies *Tigress*, and third the writer found figurative language in *Tigress*. The writer analyzing data follow some steps analysis data are; first, classifying the poem, second, Analysis, and the last one conclusion. The writer classifies those sentences into the kinds of figurative language, how many kinds of figurative language that are used in poetries. In this analysis, the writer reading poetries repeatedly to find the meaning. Reading poetries repeatedly can help the writer to analysis words or phrases that is used. After reading repeatedly, the writer makes list for the types of figurative language. The writer takes into the list of words or phrase that is found. The major type of figurative language that is used in poetry can be find from that list. The writer make conclusion from the data collected. Process of analysis data explains that things happen in the poetry. The types of figurative language and the dominant the types can find from the analyzing process and steps.

FINDINGS AND DISCUSSION

The writer research of Meutia's Poetry *Tigress*. There are fifty-two poets in a book of *Tigress*. The writer chooses six poetries randomly. There are *Moonset*, *Migration*, *Materialism*, *Your City*, *What Your Heart is Not*, and *Awkward Silence*. Each poem is classified based on the type of figurative language. The data has been classified, written in table to make easier to find the mount of each type of figurative language and calculated in percentages. The writer would like present each figurative language is in descriptive analysis.

A. Metaphor

The neural theory of metaphor offers additional motivation for embodied motivation by showing detailed manner how metaphor is a natural development of the way the neural system work with recurring mappings, predictable inference patterns, and emergent properties. (Gibbs & Colston, 2012, p. 119-120).

Metaphor has long been considered to have several special characteristics that make it ideal for many communicative purposes (Gibbs & Colston, 2012, p. 225). Several special characteristics are the product of its meaning as well as the cognitive processes used to create meaning in unsolvable literal meaning problems (Gibbs & Colston, 2012, p. 19), understanding the psychological processes that occur, make the reader to higher dimension (Gibbs & Colston, 2012, p. 30), a metaphorical word or phrase in a context has a source domain and a target domain (Gibbs & Colston, 2012, p. 47). There are two mappings, metaphorical mapping and iconic mapping. Metaphorical mapping in the form of a concrete source domain manifested into an abstract target

domain. Iconic mapping in the form of a concrete domain to a linguistic domain. And takes longer process than literal speech (Gibbs & Colston, 2012, p. 66).

05 Moonset

Datum 1

- In the absence of The Sun

In datum 1, source domain is The Sun and target domain is absence. The sun concept is juxtaposed with absence concept. The concept of absence refers to present. The concept of absence refers to existence. The image formed in this metaphorical expression is the image of existence.

11 Migration

Datum 13

- Every word is recollection of home

In datum 13, source domain is word and target domain is recollection. The concept of word juxtaposed with the concept of recollection. The concept of recollection shows the activity of collecting something that has been made, done, and happened in the past. The concept of recollection refers to recalling. So that the image formed is an image of memorizing.

50 Awkward Silence

Datum 36

- I hope we can all be beautiful like poetry

In datum 36, source domain is we and target domain is beautiful. The concept of we refer to I (the author) and poetry. The concept of we are juxtaposed with the concept of beautiful. The concept of beautiful is in a woman who is beautiful and attractive. This is also attached to poetry which is the written of a woman. The concept of beautiful refers to identity. So that the image formed is an identity image.

B. Metonymy

Metonymic language has the ability to activate a wide range of stereotypical beliefs and attitudes that evoke complex rhetorical effects (Gibbs & Colston, 2012, p. 236).

11 Migration

Datum 1

- multiplying the red and white stripes
- of our flag adding a golden crescent
- moon and starlights on our tongues

In datum 1, there are three lines because these refer to one object. This is datum 1 line 3 to line 5. It is one of the regions or countries. In the previous line the author uses literal language about past events. This is in line 1 and line 2. The three lines above refer to a country that has flag characteristic as described those three lines. In the next line, line 6 and line 7 refer to a worker. Line 8 and line 10 described with metaphorical language about the peace that is obtained only in words. On line 11 to line 20 with metaphorical language describing the political situation and state system adopted in the country. Line 21 and line 22 are statements with literal language.

20 Materialism

Datum 2

- Found penny inside your jeans

In datum 2, penny refers to money.

C. Idiom

Idioms emphasize identical meanings produced more blends than did pairs with different meanings and need to understanding as holistic units rather than through compositional analysis. Idioms are

very useful tools for quickly communicating varied complex meaning (Gibbs & Colston 2012, p. 239)

05 Moonset

Datum 1

- into the blue, midnight sky

In datum 1, into the blue is a sadness and midnight sky refer to on the night. This line still related with the previous line 'They promise to put colors' in line 5. A promise that will always give happiness in the sadness at night.

D. Irony

Irony as a persuasive tool is frequently used for ideological purposes as in political satire (Colston. 2012: p.257). Irony is an opposite statement of what the speaker intends to communicate.

05 Moonset

Datum 1

- Who tend to pretend that their bodies are
- Made out of unbreakable bones
- and undying nerves.

In datum 1, there are three lines. The first line, tend to pretend refer to has an appearance that does not match the real situation. Pretending to display a healthy and strong body when it is not. The opposite statements are emphasized in the second and the third line. The second and the third lines are described of the real situation.

Datum 2

- But still, it is a scary neighbour with friendly

In datum 2, a scary is the opposite situation. The previous line states that 'The city reveals a kinder face' but in this datum states a scary

20 Materialism

Datum 3

- But still, we are

In datum 3, there is contradictory statement, contradictory situation. Although we (baby, my friends and I) always get convenience and luxurious gifts, but in fact we have to do something.

Datum 4

- We are students, who never learn.

In datum 4, students refer to live actor and life is like school. We learn to live, but fact we cannot learn from life.

Datum 5

- educated to be greedy.

In datum 5, education makes people can be good people but, in this statement educated make people to be greedy, do not care, and get more from other.

E. Proverbs

Proverbs have specific rhetorical effects that are largely attributable to their relatively fixed forms an appeal to common wisdom (Gibbs & Colston, 2012, p. 242).

05 Moonset

No proverbs

11 Migration

No proverbs

20 Materialism

No proverbs

33 *Your City*

No proverbs

41 *What Your Heart is Not*

No proverbs

50 *Awkward Silence*

No proverbs

The use of metaphor is used in every poem except in *Your City*. Metaphor is not. Metonymy is used in *Migration* and in *Materialism*. Irony is used in *Moonset* and *Materialism*. The kinds of figurative language are used in the six of Meutia's poetry are idiom 1 data, irony 6 data, metaphor 36 data and metonymy 2 data.

Metaphor is widely used in Meutia's poetry. The writer finds metaphor 36 data. The ability of metaphor attached to every event in poetry and helps provide clarity of the author mental that cannot explained by literal language. Metaphor become a bridge between the process and the word so the person responses quickly. The events that occur in the poem give a feeling of sadness and excitement at the same time. The description of uncomfortable feeling with its details, including room, place, and feeling.

The ability of metaphor that can describe something abstract into words make it easier to combine with irony. The use of metaphor as well as irony in 'educated to be greedy' in *Materialism* line 16. Educated in metaphor refers to informal education system that occurs in the environment and situation. Educated to be greedy in irony refer to education fosters learners to become human beings who have good character but in this poem they become greedy.

Proverb is not found in the Meutia's poetry. Proverbs require a deep understanding and take longer to understand the context of language and the meaning of the message conveyed in the poem. Of course, as a writer, Meutia expects a quick response from readers about her poetry. The use of proverbs is usually used for matters relating to wisdom.

The result of the study above answer of the problem that kind of figurative language and the most dominant of figurative language in Meutia's Poetry. The detail line of poetry can find of kind of figurative language exactly and the high percentage one of the kinds of figurative language is the most dominant figurative language.

CONCLUSION AND RECOMMENDATION

The kinds of figurative language are used in the six of Meutia's poetry are idiom, irony, metaphor, and metonymy. The most dominant of figurative language is metaphor. Almost every poem uses metaphor. The figurative language used has some functions in Meutia's poetry. The functions are emphasizing of meaning, create meaning in unsolvable literal meaning problems, expressive and adds to the beauty poetry and has important role in supporting Meutia's poetry. The language used in Meutia's poetry is not difficult for young learners. The students can learner several figurative languages and can express their experience by poetry. The difference this research and previous figurative language research is the combination of Gibbs & Colston Theory (2012) with Meutia's Poetry which was first published in 2018. The combination of new figurative language theory with modern poetry. The difference in the results of the latest idea test is expected to provide a new perspective of figurative language. The use of figurative language is increasingly being used event in product promotion, not limited to poetry or novels. Young people are increasingly familiar with

figurative language in various purposes and various media. Poetry has changed with the development of science and technology. The changes that occur make researchers, writers, and readers have broad and complementary insight. Of course, research does not stop at this point, but young researchers of figurative language are still on going to find the right interpretation of the characteristic of figurative language. While Meutia's poetry can be one of the poems use for learning the introduction of figurative language in Senior High School. Vocabularies and the contents of the poem are easily to understand by students.

Based on the research analysis of figurative language in Ayu Meutia's poetry, the writer gives suggestion to; first to the reader, Ayu Meutia's poetry book can be used as a reference to increase knowledge of the types of figurative language. The figurative language used has some functions in Meutia's poetry. The functions are emphasizing of meaning, create meaning in unsolvable literal meaning problems, expressive and adds to the beauty poetry and has important role in supporting Meutia's poetry. It makes the reader sure of the feelings and the situation that is happening. Figurative language provides an impressive description and attracts the reader to understand what is happening in the poem. Second to the students, poetry is one of materials are given for students in Senior High School. It is contained in the syllabus which has a target that students must know the kind of figurative language in poetry. It means that students introduce the types of figurative language. The language used in Meutia's poetry is not difficult for young learners. It can also be used to study vocabulary that is close to young learners. Third to the teachers, the writer finds that Ayu Meutia's poems can be used as an example in introducing kind of figurative language in Senior High School. The language used in Ayu Meutia's poetry is easy to understand for students. The contribution for teaching poetry, introducing figurative language in Senior High School. The students can learner several figurative languages and can express their experience by poetry.

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