The Figurative Languages Found in the Novel: Romance of the Three Kingdoms by Luo Guanzhong

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Abstract: This study aims to analyze the types of figurative language used in the novel "Romance of the Three Kingdoms" by Luo Guanzhong. The research adopts a qualitative method, relying on factual data from the literary work itself and expert quotations. The focus theory is figurative language, which one of the branches in Semantics approach. The findings reveal that out of the 13 types of figurative language, only four were identified in the novel. Hyperbole accounted for 33.79% of the sentences, personification for 26.21%, symbolism for 11.03%, and metaphor for 28.97%. The findings showcased the author's skillful use of language, it can be seen through the analysis in a findings and discussion session. With hyperbole emphasizing characters' emotions, personification highlighting destiny and unity, symbolism conveying deeper meanings, and metaphor foreshadowing future events. These analysis underscored the richness of figurative language in enhancing storytelling. The study invites readers to delve into the world of figurative language, appreciating its impact on narrative depth and reader engagement.

Keywords: *figurative language, hyperbole, metaphor, personification, symbolism*

INTRODUCTION

Literature is identical with the words: the expression of human feeling, imaginative process and creativity (Wellek, 1973:2). Literature is a words that can be interpret as something big, charm and powerful. Literature consists of those writing which interpret the meanings of nature and life, in words of charm and power, touched with the personality of the author, in artistic forms of permanent interest (Henry Van Dyke, 1920). Literature is a way for people to express their thoughts and feelings using words. In literature, there are three main types of writing: poetry, prose, and drama. In prose, it can be split into different kinds of writing like short stories, novels, and movie.

In this study, the writer will make the analysis about how the novel use language. The novel is *"Romance of the Three Kingdoms"* by Luo Guanzhong. One of the most important book from China that talk about the events and people from a long time ago when China was divided into three kingdoms. This book is chosen by the writer to be analyzed because The "*Three Kingdoms*" by Luo Guanzhong is literary masterwork. It was praised for its profound mastery of classical Chinese, elegant dialogue, and harmonious integration of historical accuracy with literary imagination. The story's lasting influence on Chinese literature highlights its lasting linguistic power, making it a rare example of timeless classical prose. Their rich descriptive

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language creates a great imaginative scene, satisfy the readers in the world of the Three Kingdoms. These are the reasons why this book is special.

"Romance of the Three Kingdoms," which is a book written by Luo Guanzhong, is a story about history that came out many years after, during the Ming dynasty. This book combines drama, romance, and folklore with a historical story, making it a well-known Chinese literary classic. This study wants to focusing on investigate this one of the most important work in history. By studying the way language use from looking at the figurative language in *"Romance of the ThreeKingdoms."*

The Approach for this study, the writer chose linguistic, specifically focusing on the semantics. Semantics (English: semantics) means the theory of meaning or theory of meaning, namely the systematic branch of language that investigates meaning or meaning (J.W.M Verhaar; 1981:9). Talking about meaning there are many types of words that needs meaning, and cannot be always the literal meaning of the words. For example is figurative language. Figurative language is a language using figure of speech.

Many previous studies related to figurative language in the novel have been carried out by previous researchers such as qualitative research conducted by Monny et al (2023) which analyzed *It Starts with Us* by Collen Roover. Other research, conducted by Juanda et al (2022) which analyzed the types of figurative language in the novel *Little Women* by Louisa May Alcott. Research was also conducted by Nirmawati et al (2022) who analyzed figurative language in Mark Twain's Novel *The Adventure of Tom Sawyer*.

Although there are many previous studies that are related to analyzing figurative language in the novel, none have used figurative language as the focus of the study on analyzing the novel *Romance of the Three Kingdoms.* This gap motivates the writer to explore the use of figurative language in Luo Guanzhong's novel *"Romance of the Three Kingdoms"* in order to show the reader of how figurative language enriches the story of the novel.

The objectives of this study are to analyze the types of figurative language and how they used in the novel *"Romance of the Three Kingdoms"* by Luo Guanzhong.

Figurative language is often used in literary works so that literary works can be more lively and not boring (Manuaba and Tika, 2019). Figurative language is used to conveysomething in a different way and it sounds more beautiful. Syafitri and Marlinton, (2018) say that figurative language enhances the effect thatwill give many meanings to words, emphasize their meaning and beautify them.Therefore,figurative language is an important element in literary works, including songs. Generally, figurative language is formed based on similarities or comparisons. Comparing or equating something with something else, will expand the meaning of the word.

Although figurative language gives the impression of beauty and expands the meaning of literary works, not everyone who receives messages containing figurative language understands the meaning of the message conveyed. Improper understanding can lead to misunderstanding and miscommunication.

Semantic

Semantics is a branch of linguistics that studies the meaning of language words. Semantics is a part of linguistics that studies themeaning of words or sentences that are separatedfrom the context of their use (Griffiths, 2006). Meanwhile, according to Leech (1981:2) says that semantics is the study of the meaning of words, phrases and sentences in the language. Semantics is a branch of linguistics that researcher use to study language that discusses meaning.

One of the branches in semantics is figurative language. According to Keraf (2009), figurative language is formed based on comparisons or similarities. It is formed by comparing or equating an object with another object to find characteristics that indicate the similarity between the two things, giving rise to a figure of speech. It can be interpreted that figurative language is a way of expressing something in a different way from the original.

Figurative Language

According to Larson (1984:11), figurative meaning cannot be translated into literal word forms. That means in interpreting figurative language it is necessary to imagine another translation of the word. Figurative language is often used by everyone to interact with others to add special effects in conveying messages. It is used to create an impression of being effective, persuasive and emphasizing. In addition,figurative language is most often used in a literary work such as songs,

novels, poetry, etc. Figurative language is a language that has a connotative meaning so that it gives the impression of beauty in a literary work.

According to Daniswara et al (2016), figurative language is a word or phrase that is different from literal language which contains hidden meanings behind it. Figurative language is a way of using language specifically to get an aesthetic impression so that literary works have artistic value (Christiano, 2017), while according to Petel (2014) it can be interpreted as a literary unit commonly used by authors to gain freshness and strength in expressing their literary works. Figurative language style is often used to enhance the aesthetic effect by comparing an object with certain objects more generally. With figurative language, the writers can express their feelings or ideas in different ways so that they can express the emotions to the readers.

However, to produce figurative language, must use high imagination for better results. According to Arditami (2017), states that for literary lovers, the use of figurative language aims to make their literary works more beautiful and to control the emotions of the audience or readers. In addition, the reason for using figurative language in literary works is because figurative language gives a high imaginative impression that provides additional information on words, phrases, poems, or sentences. Figurative language is sometimes used to add emotional satire, persuade, convince, etc.

According to Keraf (1991) in Harya (2016) figurative language is divided into four main categories, namely: Figure of speech of comparison or equation (personification, metaphor, euphemism, allegory, hyperbole, litotes, parables), figure of speech of opposition (antithesis, paradox.), figure of speech of satire (irony, sarcasm), figure of speech of affirmation (pleonasm, repetition, climax).

Based on the explanation above, it can be concluded that figurative language is a part of the style of language in which to express a meaning is used comparison to make meaning winden so that the reader becomes more interested. There are thirteen types of figurative language described by Keraf (2009), they are: hyperbole, simile, metaphor, personification, irony, metonymy, synecdoche, litotes, symbol, paradox, allegory, antithesis, and sarcasm.

Hyperbole

Hyperbole is a language style that contains an exaggerated statement by exaggerating something. What is exaggerated is the nature, size or number. Taken from Priyoto & Armando, P (2018), hyperbole is intentional exaggeration-saying more than is actually meant. For instance: Sophia is the most beautiful girl in the world.

Simile

Comparison or simile is an explicit style of language. That is, is directly stating something is the same as another thing, for that it requires an explicit effort to show that similarity. The comparison usually uses the words like, as, and for example. Simile is a figure of speech in which a comparison is expressed by the specific use of a word or phrase such as: like, as than, seems or as if (Priyoto & Armando, 2018). For instance: the weather is as cold as ice.

Metaphor

Metaphor is a style of language that compares two things directly, but in a short form. Metaphor is when an imaginative comparison between two unlike items does not include like or as that is, when it says "a is b" rather than "a is like b" (Priyoto & Armando, 2018). For instance: the golden sky is approaching, this is our time!

Personification

Personification is a language style that describes inanimate objects or inanimate objects as if they have human nature. Personification is a special kind of comparison, closely related to metaphor that gives life or human characteristics to inanimate objects or abstract ideas (Priyoto & Armando, 2018). For instance: the grasses are dancing.

Irony

Irony is word using that say something other than what we mean actually. Irony is one of type of figurative language that declare the opposite meaning or contradiction with the fact ideas (Priyoto & Armando, 2018). Irony is a style of language that wants to say something with a different meaning or purpose from what is contained in the series of words. This meaning can be expressed by: Contradictory meaning to the real, the incompatibility between the atmosphere presented and the actual reality and the incompatibility between hope and reality. For instance: this rock on the rice makes the food tasty.

Metonymy

Metonymy is figure of speech consists of using the name one thing for something else with which associated (Priyoto & Armando, 2018). Metonymy is a style of language that uses a word to express something because it has a very close relationship. For instance: White House (The president of the United States and advisors).

Synecdoche

Synecdoche is a figure of speech that mentions a part of something to suggest the whole or contrary (Priyoto & Armando, 2018). Synecdoche is a style of language that uses part of a thing to state the whole (pars pro toto) or uses the whole to state some things (totum pro parle). For instance: 15 head of sheep ("Head" is used to mean whole animals).

Litotes

Litotes is a style of language used to express something with the aim of demeaning oneself. Something is stated less than the actual situation or a thought is expressed by denying the opposite. For instance: he wasn't the smartest.

Symbolic

Symbolic is a style of language that describes something using a symbol to convey a specific purpose (Mc Arthur, 1992). The symbols used are usually symbols that are easy and are familiar. For instance: he is a snake ("snake" symbolizes trickery person).

Paradox

A statement or situation containing apparently contradictory incompatible elements, but not closer inspection may be true ideas (Priyoto & Armando, 2018). Paradox is a style of language that contains a real contradiction with the facts. Paradox can also mean anything that attracts attention because of its truth. For instance: the more you know, the more you don't know.

Allegory

Allegory is a short story that contain of figurative language. In allegory, the names of the perpetrators are abstract traits and their purpose is clearly stated. For instance: No one believes more firmly than Comrade Napoleon that all animals are equal. He would be only too happy to let you make your decisions for yourselves. But sometimes you might make the wrong decisions, comrades, and then where should we be?

Antithesis

Antithesis is a style of language that contains opposing words or ideas but is still balanced. For instance: *keep your ear open and your mouth closed.*

Sarcasm

Sarcasm is a style of language that is expressed more hardly that cynicism and irony. This style of language is often unpleasant to hear and hurtful (Keraf, 2009). For instance: he's the greatest football player of all time.

METHOD

The research of this study the writer decided to use qualitative method. Research is a structured enquiry that utilizes acceptable scientific methodology to solve problems and create new knowledge that is generally applicable (Kumar, 2005). Qualitative research is characterized by its aims, which relate to understanding some aspect of social life, and its method which generate words rather than number, as data for analysis (Cochran, 2002).

Qualitative method is using the factual data that is collected from the literary work; the novel, the theory and quotations from experts. Studying figurative language in *Romance of the Three Kingdoms* by Luo Guanzhong using qualitative research methodology presents a rich opportunity to explore the nuanced linguistic elements that shape this epic historical novel.

The writer would begin by knowing what is going to be analyzed, which the focus in this study is to find what kinds of the figurative language used in the novel, what type of figurative language used often and what type of figurative language used least by using qualitative research methodology. The writer has to read the novel first before going into data collection process.

Secondly, the writer would going into the data collection process. The writer would select specific chapters or sections of the novel for close reading and textual analysis. This deep examination would involve identifying all types of figurative language and find what types of figurative language that are found by the writer to be analyzed. Qualitative data collection also involve read or finding the perspectives in journal or article from experts to gain additional insights. After collecting the data, the writer would show the analysis about the results of the writer's findings. The results of the findings will be in the table to make clearer analysis to the reader. What

will be shown in the table are the types of figurative language that are found by the writer,the total of number sentences of each typesfigurative language that are found and the percentage of each types of figurative language.

In the end, the writer will discuss the findings by analyzing each types of figurative language that are found with a short analysis thattaken from the novel and draw a conclusion .

FINDING AND DISCUSSION

Finding

In this study, the writer will give the results in this finding session. The results of the figurative languages could be seen clearly through the following table:

No.	Types of Figurative Language	Frequency (Sentences)	Percentage
1	Hyperbole	49	33.79%
2	Personification	38	26.21%
3	Symbolism	16	11.03%
4	Metaphor	42	28.97%
	Total	145	100%

Table 1. Figurative languages found in the novel "*Romance of the Three Kingdoms*"

Discussion

In this study, the writer will analyze the meaning of each types of figurative languages that are found in the novel *"Romance of the Three Kingdoms"* by taking one example of many sentences that are found in the novel. The writer only found 4 types of figurative language to be analyzed in the novel *Romance of the Three Kingdoms* from 13 types of figurative language. Upon further analysis, there are 49 sentences (33.79%) of hyperbole, 38 sentences (26.21%) of personification, 16 sentences (11.03%) of symbolism and 42 sentences (28.97%) of metaphor. Here are the analysis of each figurative language:

1. Hyperbole

Hyperbole is a language style that contains an exaggerated statement by exaggerating something. What is exaggerated is the nature, size or number. Hyperbole is intentional exaggeration-saying more than is actually meant (Priyoto & Armando, 2018). The writer chooses one from many examples of hyperbole taken from the novel to be analyzed:

"Among men, Lu Bu; among horses, Red Hare."

(Chapter 1, Page 14, Paragraph 4, Line 2).

The context of this sentence is about one of the most important characters in this novel named Lu Bu and his horse, Red Hare. This hyperbole explains their exceptional skills. Lu Bu, a man who could take down 100 men with his halberd and Red Hare known for its speed surpassing that of an average horse's speed.

Personification

Personification is a language style that describes inanimate objects as if they have human nature. Personification is a special kind of comparison, closely related to metaphor that gives life or human characteristics to inanimate objects or abstract ideas (Priyoto & Armando, 2018). The writer chooses one from many examples of personification taken from the novel to be analyzed:

"...the blue sky brought them together and unites them all."

(Chapter 1, Page 5, Paragraph 4, Line 1).

The context of this sentence is about three people who share a common dreams; Liu Bei, Guan Yu and Zhang Fei, where they are officially become a sworn brothers. The personification in this sentence focuses on "the sky" because it is inanimate object that described as if it were a human because it could "brought them together

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and unites them all". The intention of the author to use this words is to show the reader of the imagery of the author to illustrate that it is their destiny to meet each other.

Symbolism

Symbolic is a style of language that describes something using a symbol to convey a specific purpose (Mc Arthur, 1992). The symbols used are usually symbols that are easy and are familiar. The writer chooses one from many examples of symbolism taken from the novel to be analyzed:

> *"Turning the blue sky into a golden sky."*
> (Chapter 1, Page 2, Paragraph 8, Line 3)

This statement is coming from the yellow turban rebellion's leader named Zhang Jiao. He wanted to declare war against the emperor of Han dynasty. The key point that motivates Zhang Jiao decided to start this rebellion is because he thinks that Han dynasty does not care anymore about their people. The phrase "turning the blue sky into a golden sky" means they want alterations or desire for change from their current situation under corrupt dynasty, into a better place to live. "Blue sky" symbolizes as the cuurent times they're facing which troubled times they are experiencing right now, and "golden sky" symbolizes as good future or the hope for a brighter future.

Metaphor

Metaphor is a style of language that compares two things directly, but in a short form. It is when an imaginative comparison between two unlike items does not include like or asthat is, when it says "a is b" rather than "a is like b" (Priyoto & Armando, 2018). The writer chooses one from many examples of metaphor taken from the novelto be analyzed:

> *"I am Liu Bei, son of heaven!......"*
> (Chapter 1, Page 4, Paragraph 2, Line 2)

This statement is coming from one of the most important character in *Romance of the Three Kingdoms* novel, Liu Bei. The underlined statement from Liu Bei is actually has many meanings. However, because this novel was made from China, the writer will only use the interpretation from Chinese literature. From Chinese literature perspective, the meaning of the underlined above is "an emperor". This interpretation is actually makes sense because, later in the story, specifically in the middle of the story he will declares himself as an emperor of a kingdom named Shu.

From these findings and discussion, it can beseen that how the figurative language use and how these devices enhance the storytelling in"Romance of the Three Kingdoms." The writer's analysis of finding these four types of figurative language sheds light on the author of Luo Guanzhong's skillful use of language to make thestory to be more interesting and exciting.

Figurative language serves as a powerful toolfor authors or writers to engage readers, evoke emotions, and create memorable literary experiences. It adds depth and complexity to the storytelling, allowing readers to immerse themselves in the world of the novel. From this analysis it shows that Luo As we continue to explore the world of literature, it is important to appreciate the artistry and impact of figurative language.

By analyzing and understanding the various types of figurative language used in novels like "Romance of the Three Kingdoms," we gain a deeper appreciation for the author's creative choices and the profound effects they have on thereader's experience.

CONCLUSION

After analyzing the book of "*Romance of the Three Kingdoms*," the writer analyzed four types of figurative language out of thirteen, revealing hyperbole, personification, symbolism, and metaphor. Hyperbole accounted for 33.79% of the sentences, personification for 26.21%, symbolism for 11.03%, and metaphor for 28.97%. Hyperbole as the figurative languagethat used often in this novel. In the other hand, symbolism is the figurative language that used least. The findings showcased the author's skillfuluse of language, it can be seen through the analysis in a findings and discussion session.

With hyperbole emphasizing characters' emotions, personification highlighting destiny and unity, symbolism conveying deeper meanings, and metaphor foreshadowing future events. These analyses underscored the richness of figurative language in enhancing storytelling. The study invites readers to delve into the world of figurative language, appreciating its impact on narrative depth and reader engagement.

Figurative language is a powerful tools for authors or writers to engage readers, evoke emotions, and create memorable literary experiences. It adds depth and complexity to the storytelling, allowing readers to immerse themselves in the world of the novel. As we continue to explore the world of literature, it is

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