AN ANALYSIS ON FIGURE OF SPEECH IN JOHN DONNE POETRY

ABSTRACT

Keywords: Literature, Poetry, Figure of Speech

The Writer does this research entitled An Analysis on Figure of Speech in John Donne Poetry. The number of poetries selected is three, which include, Hymn to God my God, In My Sickness, a Hymn to God the Father, and Death, be not Proud. The problem of this research is what types of figure of speech are used in these poems. The aim of this research is to describe the kinds of figures of speech which used in the poems. The writer is interested in choosing this research because figure of speech is one of important elements in poetry, besides it does not have literal meaning. In this research, the writer uses a qualitative method. After analyzing the poetry, the writer found some figure of speech which uses in each poetry. In Hymn to God My God, In My Sickness poem, the writer found Personification, Metaphor, and Metonymy. In Hymn to God the Father poem, the writer found Hyperbole and Metonymy. In the last poem of Death, be not Proud, the writer found Personification, Metaphor, Synecdoche, and Paradox.

INTRODUCTION

Poetry is written to be enjoyed because in poetry a poet usually uses supporting elements to enrich the meaning and bring the readers imagination to his or her mind. The point about poetry and the other forms of literature is that the choice of words and elements inside. In reading poetry, we often meet comparison between two things whose similarity we ever notice before. It is called figures of speech, symbol, and imagery that often used in poetry. To understand poetry is not easy to work because poetry usually uses in usual words that are seldom used in daily conversation. Unusual words like figurative words that are called figure of speech. This research focuses on analyze the figures of speech on poetry. The writer is interested in analyzing figure of speech because figures of speech is one of important elements of poetry. Figure of speech is a form of expression used to convey meaning or heigthen effect, often by comparing or identifying one thing with another that has a meaning or connotation familiar to the reader or listener. Most of
poetry use figure of speech to make poetry more beautiful.

In this research the writer wants to analyze the figures of speech which are used in John Donne’s poetry. The Donne’s poems that have been selected are *Hymn to God my God*, *In My Sickness, a Hymn to God the Father*, and *Death, be not Proud*. The title taken by the writer is *An Analysis on Figure of Speech in John Donne Poetry*.

**Problem Formulation**

The problem of the research is:

1. What types of figure of speech are used in these poetry?

**Aim of the Research**

The aim of this research is:

1. To describe the what kinds of figures of speech which used in the poetry.

**THEORETICAL REVIEW**

**Definition of Figure of speech**

figures of speech is an important thing in knowing the ordinary form of expression and the ideas to produce greater effect in poetry for the reader knowledge and entertainment. According to Perrine (1992 : 61), figure of speech may be defined as any way of saying something other than the ordinary way. Figure of speech is one of the important intrinsic elements in a poem which is more dominant than other element. Poets feel, that by using figure of speech in their poetry they can say more vividly and forcefully than they can say it directly.

Wren and Martin (1981:488) state, Figure of speech is a departure from the ordinary form of expression or the ordinary course of ideas in order to produce a greater effect. “This definition explained that figure of speech related what we called connotative meaning. A figure of speech is a words are used to create an effect, ofterm where they do not have their original or literal meaning.

**Figure of Speech Devices**

Graham Little (1985: 164-166) divided Figure Of Speech into three
classification, which are respectively based on:

1. **Comparison:**
   - Simile, Metaphor,
   - Personification, Analogy, and
   - Hyperbole

2. **Association:**
   - Metonymy,
   - Symbolism

3. **Other Figure of Speech:**
   - Apostrophe, Irony,
   - Paradox, Synecdoche, Allegory,
   - Euphemism, Exclamation

The figure of speech which would be explained in this research are:

**Metaphor**

Martha Pardede states, “Metaphor in an analogy identifying one object with another and ascribing to the first object one more of the quality of the second”. Metaphor maybe simple, that is, may occur in the single isolated comparison or a large metaphor may function as the controlling image of the whole work. Meanwhile, Charles Barber (1985: 42) defines that metaphor is one of the powerful tools that poets use, but it is but no means confined to poetry: it is also occurs in prose and speech.

**Personification**

Personification is treating something as human being by giving the attribute of human being to inanimate object, to animal, concrete abstract things. A poet usually uses personification to make great effect and bring the reader imagination to his/her minds.

**Hyperbole**

Hyperbole is a rhetorical figure which consists in an exaggerated statement that is not meant to be taken literally. It means, the understatement passes beyond realistic and logical thinking, but actually has logical meaning, it used to emphasize something. Hyperbole is used with redundantly pressure to get insentive effect.
Sometimes poets also overstate the truth as a mean of showing enthusiasm, but they of course find fresh and original ways of revitalizing tired hyperbolic formulas.

**Metonymy**

Metonymy is a figure of speech that uses concept closely related to the think actually meant. The substitution makes the analogy more vivid and meaningful.

**Synecdoche**

Synecdoche is a figure of speech in which a part is used for the whole (as hands for sailor) the whole for a part (as the law for police officer), the specific for the general (as cutthroat for assassin) the general for the specific (as the thief for pickpocket), or the material for the thing made from it (as steel for sword).

**Paradox**

Paradox is a seemingly true statement or group of statements that lead to a contradiction or a situation which seems to defy logic or intuition. Typically, however, quoted paradoxical statements do not imply a real contradiction and the puzzling results can be rectified by demonstrating that one or more of the premises themselves are not really true, a play on words, faulty and/or cannot all be true together.

**RESEARCH METHODOLOGY**

**Research Design**

This research used qualitative research. Generally, qualitative research is a research method for a problem which is not designed or arranged used statistical procedure. The use of this method is due to the problem of the research and aim of the research.

**Source of the Data**

The sources of data in this research are the selected poems written by John Donne. The numbers of poem selected as the source of the data are three, which includes: 

*Hymn to God my God, In My Sickness, a*
Hymn to God the Father, and Death, be not Proud.

Articles from books and the internet that related to this research are taken to support the source of data.

RESULT OF STUDY

Figure of speech in Hymn to God My God, in My Sickness poem

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>No</th>
<th>Figures of Speech</th>
<th>Line</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>1</td>
<td>Personification</td>
<td>(13) What shall my west hurt me?</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>(15) So death doth touch the resurrection</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2</td>
<td>Metaphor</td>
<td>(7) Cosmographers, and I their map, who lie</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>(14) In all flat maps (and I am one) are one.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>3</td>
<td>Metonymy</td>
<td>(26) So, this purple wrapp’d receive me lord</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

1. Personification

The phrase that categorized as a personification is my west hurt me. In this line, after the word west there is the word hurt, it makes the word west has meaning as a human character.

2. Metaphor

Cosmographers, and I their map, who lie

In all flat maps (and I am one) are one.

In the lines above, the use of word Map as Metaphor to describe the speaker’s insight on death. The map is used to represent the speaker’s body as he is on his death bed. The map describes the speaker’s views of death as being connected with life, as oppose to being a separated and painful event.

3. Metonymy

So, in this purple wrapp’d receive me Lord.

The word that categorized as metonymy is purple. If it is translated literally, purple is the name of color. But, after the writer analyzed the
whole of the poem, the writer can conclude that purple is metonymy for Christ’s salvation obtained through his death, because at christ crucifixon, a purple robe put on him, a symbol of royalty.

**Figure of speech in A Hymn to God the Father**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>No</th>
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<th>Line</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>1</td>
<td>Hyperbole</td>
<td>(10) A year, or two: but wallowed in, a score?</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>(16) Shall shine as he shines now, and here heretofore;</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2</td>
<td>Metonymy</td>
<td>(13) I have a sin of fear, that when I have won?</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

1. **Hyperbole**

   *A year or two: but wallowed in, a score?*

   The word that writer calls as a hyperbole is *wallowed*. If it is translated according to Oxford dictionary (1991: 464), the word wallowed has meaning roll about in mud. Based on explication point of view the speaker feels that he has a lot of sins like in wallowed in his body. The poem chooses to describe this condition with *wallowed in a score*.

   *Shall shine as he shines now and here heretofore.*

   The word that categorized as a hyperbole in this line is *Shall shine as he shines now*. This line has exaggeration implication, because after the writer analyzes the real meaning of this line is condition of the speaker’s hope to God the Father should swear by Himself to allow His Son Jesus to shine like the sun. The poet describe this condition with *shall shine as he shines now*.

2. **Metonymy**

   *I have a sin of fear, that when I have won.*
In this line we can find one word that metonymy is the use of something closely related for the thing actually meant.

After the writer analyzes and finds the meaning the whole line of the poem, the word fear has meaning a feeling condition. Donne uses word ‘fear’ to describe his afraid about his sins. Fear is a word that related with anxiety feeling, bad experience and frightened condition. Based on that analysis the writer concludes that fear is a metonymy of the speaker’s feeling to face his death.

**Figure of speech in Death, be not Proud**

<table>
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<tr>
<th>Figures of Speech</th>
<th>Line</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Personification</td>
<td>(1) Death be not proud, though some have called thee (2) Mighty and dreadful, for, poore death, nor yet canst thou kill me.thou art not so, (3) For, those, whom thou think'st, thou dost overthrow, (4) Die not,</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Metaphor</td>
<td>(5) From rest and sleep, which but thy pictures be, (5) From rest and sleep, which but thy pictures be, (13) One short sleep past, we wake eternally. And death shall be no more</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Synecdoche</td>
<td>(4) Die not, poore death, nor yet canst thou kill me (8) Rest of their bones, and soul delivery (11) And Poppy, Charms can make us sleep as well,</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Paradox</td>
<td>(14) And death shall be no more; death, thou shalt die,</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

1. **Personification**

Here the speaker said that Death where it is a non human thing is not powerful or mighty because he does
not kill, but simply a peaceful escape from life. In these line, Death do some human character likes feel proud, mighty, and Dreadful.

The personification of death is evident from the initial line of the sonnet “Death, be not proud, though some have called thee”. This first personification shows the attitude of the poet towards death throughout the poem by making the audience immediately aware that death is not above being addressed by a mortal. Using “thee” and “thou” that represent to death puts death on the same level as the speaker.

2. Metaphor

From rest and sleep, which but thy pictures be.

The metaphor explains that a sleep is such a pleasurable activity, death must be even more pleasurable, since Donne believes that death is simply a deeper form of sleep.

The same metaphor also refers to the “pictures” of death, the pictures being sleep, which tells the readers that sleep during life is simply a short experience of death, in which case, death is obviously not as terrible as is generally believed. This metaphor very effectively expresses the theme because it entirely removes the mystery from death, and makes it seems simple and understandable.

One short sleep past, we wake eternally, and death shall be no more.

The metaphor in this line is we wake eternally. Donne compares the relationship of death to the afterlife to that of sleep to waking up. This metaphor encompasses the religious aspect of the enemy by showing that death is not everlasting, but is merely
a break between one life and the next.

3. Synecdoche

Die not, poore death, nor yet canst thou kill me

The word categorized as a synecdoche is me, in the actual meaning, me is represent the singular person, the speaker. In this poem, me is represent not only the speaker, but the all people who read this poem.

Rest of their bones, and soul’s delivery.

The word that writer categorizes as a synecdoche is bones. The speaker uses bones as a part of our body. It means that our body getting to the rest (in the grave).

And poppy, or charms can make us sleep as well,

The synecdoche in this line are poppy and charms. It refers to the use of opium and magic to produce sleep, or, ambiguously, to produce a gentle death.

4. Paradox

And Death shall be no more; Death, thou shalt die.

Paradox in this line is “Death, thou shalt die” the final statement of the poem, displays Donne’s stands against death, and his wish for societies to stop fearing death and accept it as a ‘Rest of their bones, and their soul delivery” as they depart from one life into another.

The writer concludes this line uses paradox.

CONCLUSION AND SUGGESTION

Conclusion

After analyzing the three poems of John Donne in the previous chapter, The writer conclude that Hymn to God My God, in My Sickness, A Hymn to God the Father,
and Death, Be not Proud use the same theme.

In his Hymn to God My God, in My Sickness, the writer conclude that this poem tells about the preparation of the speaker to face the death, the day where is the final moment comes. The figure of speech which writer found in this poem are personification, symbol, metonymy, and metaphor. From those figure of speech, In the Hymn to God the Father poem, the writer conclude that the poem tells about asking for forgiveness to God is important before we die. The writer found two figure of speech which uses in the poem. They are metonymy and hyperbole.

The last poem is Death, be not proud. In this poem the writer found four figure of speech, they are Personification, Metaphor, Synecdoche, and Paradox. The writer conclude that This poem clearly tells that death is not mighty and dreadful. Death that it is not powerful as it believes, but simply a peaceful escape from life, and an entity dependant on others to accomplish the wishes.

Suggestion

The writer hopes that the readers are interested in analyzing poetry, because by analyzing poetry we can find the real meaning about the poetry. And to the reader who are interested to analyzing poetry, you should read the poem repeatedly because the language of the poem is usually different from the daily language. Besides, explore the author’s life and focus the study on poet’s bibliography. It is because the writer ensures that there is significant relation between the poet’s poem.

BIBLIOGRAPHY


