

## NON LITERAL MEANING IN EDGAR ALLAN POE SELECTED POEMS

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### ABSTRACT

This research is focused on non literal meaning used in Edgar allan Poe Selected Poems : Annabel Lee, The Raven, Alone, A Dream Within a Dream and A Valentine. The research was conducted by using descriptive qualitative method. The data was collected from every poems of Edgar Allan Poe. The findings of the research show that there are 76 lines of non literal meanings which classified into seven types non literal meaning. They are Metaphor (42), Hyperbole (15), Metonymy (12), Synecdoche (7), and there is no Litotes (0) and Irony (0). The most dominant type of non literal meaning that used in selected poems is Metaphor with 55,3%. It means that most of Edgar Allan Poe Works is fulfilled of the beautiful word that created by comparing two unrelated things that make a new word. Sometimes that new word is hard to find the real meaning because it can be interpreted differently according the imagination of each people.

**Keywords :** *Semantic, Non Literal, Meaning, Poem, Edgar Allan Poe*

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# INTRODUCTION

## The Background of The Study

Language can't be separated from the human life to express thoughts, feeling, desires and intention both in spoken and written way. The use of language, language functions and language structures discussed in the study of linguistics. Linguistics is the study of the nature and the structure of language. this studies aim to describe a language as it exists at a given time. There are four branches of linguistics study. They are phonology, morphology, syntax, and semantics.

*Katz (1972)* defined semantic is the study about meaning. It concerned with what sentences and other linguistics object express, not with the arrangement of their syntactic parts of their pronunciation. The phenomenal of semantics can be easily find in spoken or written language. Conversation is one of the example of spoken language and poem is one of example of written language. The poem usually has many an implicit meaning that we can not understand if we do not understand about semantics, especially about literal and non literal meaning.

*Holmes (1982)* proposed meaning is an idea that expressed by words, clause or sentences. Meaning is one of subject in semantics, and meaning divides as two they are literal meaning and non literal meaning.

*Siregar (1992)* says, "If we are speaking literally, then we mean what out words means". If a speaker is always speaking literally and means what his words mean, there will be no important difference between the linguistics meaning and the speaker meaning. However a speaker sometimes speaks literally, therefore, means what the words mean. Literal is based on the actual words or the real means not use figurative or symbolic. When the speaker speaks literal he or she does not have hidden meaning in his or her words. It is different with non literal meaning that need more knowledge to find the implicit meaning.

*Saeed* (2004:17) said that non-literal meaning require a different processing than literal meaning. People may find many non-literal meaning such as in speech, literature, play, words, etc. The non-literal meaning is very needed to make out sentence more beautiful and artistic and for other reason it might be the best way to substitute any offensive words or replacement for unpleasant for some people. Non-literal meaning always has different meaning from the literal one. It occurs when the sentence or word has hidden meaning besides the lexical meaning of the sentence or the word; when a speaker or a writer means something different from the lexical meaning of the word or the sentence. It can be found in literature and poetry where the writing appeals to the senses such as poem.

Poem is a piece of writing that usually use to express about the feeling. A poem usually use a chosen word to make a beautiful rhyme, and usually describe in non-literal word. In understanding a poem, people should know about what the content of the poem tell about and know about the meaning of the non literal word. One of famous poet is Edgar Allan Poe . He was an american author, poet, editor and literary critic, he was born on January 19, 1809 and dead in October 1849. Edgar Allan Poe was one of the earliest American practitioners of the short story, and is generally considered the inventor of the detective fiction genre. He is further credited with contributing to the emerging genre of science genre. He was the first well-known American writer to try to earn a living through writing alone, resulting in a financially difficult life and career. He also become a poet, and most of his works become the famous ones, In January 1845 Poe published his poem, "The Raven", to instant success.

From several poems of Edgar Allan Poe, the writer analyzed the types of non literal meaning that are Metaphor, Metonymy, Synecdoche, Hyperbole, Irony and Litotes. The most dominant types and the implication of dominant type analyzed on selected poems.

## **RESEARCH METHOD**

This study was conducted by using descriptive analysis with qualitative method, by analyzing non literal meaning in selected poems on Edgar Allan Poe, the dominant type and implication of dominant type. Descriptive Qualitative is a method based on subjective, interpretive and contextual data.

The subject of the study were selected poems from Edgar Allan Poe, they are The Raven, Annabel Lee, A Dream Within A Dream, Alone, A Valentine.

In this study, the writer collected data by found references related to study, collected poems from the internet and books, and selected poems that needed to study.

The data were analyzed to find the types of non literal meaning in selected poems by the following techniques. Firstly, identified and classified non literal meaning that found in selected poems. After that, tabulated and percentaged the types of non literal meaning in selected poems. Derived the dominant type and last describe the implication of dominant type.

## **DATA ANALYSIS AND RESEARCH FINDINGS**

### *Data Analysis*

The five selected poems were analyzed based on the types of non literal meaning. The writer analyzed the data by identifying and classifying the data into six non literal meaning they are : Metaphor, Metonymy, Synecdoche, Hyperbole, Irony and Litotes. The writer found 76 lines out over thousand lines in five poems. And most frequently applied non literal meaning is Metaphor. Here are some examples of non literal meaning from each selected poems:

## **1.The Raven**

### **1.1. Metaphor**

#### **- To the fowl whose fiery eyes now burned into my bosom's core (Stanza 13)**

This line is classified as Metaphor because comparing the gaze to a fire. It cannot be interpreted as the literally meaning of the bird's eyes can burn the bosom's core of the writer. In this line, the writer want to tell reader that a frightening image of the bird presents it with "fiery eyes" that "burned into" the writer's heart. The writer try to picture that is the raven's red eyes and also make it to associated the bird with the evil.

### **1.2. Metonymy**

#### **- What it utters is its only stock and store (Stanza 11)**

This become a non literal meaning because the word that is utters literally cannot be stock and store. This is metonymy because the word stock and store stand in for the only thing that the bird know how to say. From the poem, the bird only can say a word "nevermore". if the word "carrot" the bird's " only stock and store", then the bird only know the word "carrot". That's what the writer want to tell us in this line.

### **1.3. Synecdoche**

#### **- Darkness there (Stanza 4)**

Darkness interpreted the whole thing that writer seen is nothing only the dark of night. But it doesn't mean that he see the darkness only. This can be cause of the frightening of the writer so he seems nothing outside there.

## 1.4. Hyperbole

**- Dreaming dreams no mortal ever dared to dream before**

This line has an exaggeration something in dream, that writer want to tell us if his dreaming is very scary. He exaggerate his dream that no one including peoples, animals and all creatures in this world want to dream like his dream.

## 2. Annabel Lee

### 2.1. Metaphor

**- For the moon never beams, without bringing me dreams**

The word moon is the key of metaphor in this line. Because the writer compare it to the messenger that bringing something. Moon can't bringing something and dreams can't be brought by something. Dream happen when someone fall asleep. But the writer want to tell us that he never dreaming again although night is coming or the moon has rise.

### 2.2 Metonymy

**- I was a child and she was a child**

The word child interpreted as the young lover. This is not literally mean as a kid or a child but the writer want to tell that their love was happen since they are young.

### 2.3. Synecdoche

**- The stars never rise**

The stars in line is interpreted a night. Stars rises at night, so the word stars is only the small piece from the synecdoche word of the night. The writer use the stars to make sense of a bright night that never comes because the stars never rises.

## 2.4. Hyperbole

- With a love that the winged seraphs of heaven coveted her and me

This line is the best example from this poem about hyperbole because the meaning of its line is their love is very strong, very huge, make all people even angel in heaven jealous and want to covet them. The writer chooses the best supposition for the someone that is jealous of their love.

## 3. A Dream Within A Dream

### 3.1 Metaphor

- How they creep through my fingers to the deep

It can be implied that even though his life hasn't had happy moments, he swept out his fingers into the ocean. The depths of the beach could signify the death or loss. So his pleasures in life are always snatched away to a place where the writer cannot be retrieved.

### 3.2. Metonymy

- Kiss upon the brow

This utterance tells that the writer is parting with his lovers. The word brow is interpreted as the writer's face. So the meaning in his line is that the writer is kissed or gets a kiss by his lovers on his face because they are parting on their ways.

### 3.3. Synecdoche

- Can I not save one from the pitiless wave?

Pitiless wave is a part of the whole aspects in a beach. The wave can be interpreted of many things. But the writer wants to give imagination that the dream of the writer in some beach that is as pitiless wave.

### 3.4. Hyperbole

- **All that we see or seem is but a dream within a dream**

The exaggeration of this line can be found in the word “all”. Everything that writer see, everything that the writer feel, it’s only his dream in his dream. He is dreaming while he is still dream. That is the hard feel that no one wanna feel

## 4. Alone

### 4.1. Metaphor

- **My passions from a common spring**

In this line, the writer passion has been compare with a common spring. It doesn’t makes any sense because that is very different thing to be a sentence. But common spring here means that he saw people generally have passion or strong interest in spring. So he try to compare his passion as same as other people’s passion when the spring comes, but different from others feel at that time.

### 4.2. Metonymy

- **From childhood’s hour I have not been**

The childhood’s hour substitute the young age of the writer that has felt as if he cannot relate to the common feelings that people experience and has forever been different. The childhood, possibly a reflection of poe’s own life while the hour means the short time from every time in his life.

### 4.3. Synecdoche

- **My heart to joy at the same tone**

My heart interpreted that not only his heart, but the whole thing in his life. His life is so flat. The sadness comes from the beginning of his life and until the writer



make this poem, the sadness still there. So my heart in the non literal meaning of the writer itself.

## **5. A Valentine**

### **5.1. Metaphor**

#### **- Brightly expressive as the twins of Leda**

This line compare about the girl's eyes that brightly expressing with the Leda. Leda in the greek mythology was a wife of king tyndareus of Sparta. She has the beautiful eyes in the world. The beautiful of leda makes the writer compare with his girl as the twin of leda.

### **5.2. Metonymy**

#### **-as the twins of Leda**

Leda is substitutes of the beautiful eyes in the world. Leda in the greek mythology was a wife of king tyndareus of Sparta. She has the beautiful eyes in the world. Every people who has beautiful eyes, bright eyes always compare with the eyes of leda. In this line, the writer substitutes leda as beautiful eyes. Not a person named leda.

#### *Research Findings and Discussion*

After analyzing data and determining the types of non literal meaning in edgar allan poe selected poems, the findings are presented as follows:

that the six types of non literal meaning are occurred in Edgar Allan Poe Selected Poems: The Raven, Annabel Lee, A Dream Within A Dream, Alone, A Valentine. The most used is Metaphor 42 (55.3%), the second is Hyperbole 15 (19.7%), the third is Metonymy 12 (15.8%), and last is Synecdoche 7 (9.2%). There are two types of non literal meaning that didn't occure in every selected poems of

Edgar Allan Poe, they are Irony (0), and Litotes (0). The total number of occurrence of non literal meaning is 76. Metaphor as dominant type of non literal Meaning in most of Edgar Allan Poe poems because the writer compare two things that make a new word that more beautifully. Sometimes that new word is hard to findings the real meaning because it can be interpreted differently according the imagination of each peoples. No right meaning from every new word that created by the writer, that's why many researcher try to understanding and find the almost right meaning from his poem.

## **CONCLUSIONS AND SUGGESTIONS**

### *Conclusions*

Non literal meaning can be found in literature, especially in poetry. The writer found that there are an famous poet Edgar Allan Poe who has beautiful word in every his poem. After analyzed the data, Only four types from six types of non literal meaning are occurred in the poems, they are Metaphor (42),Metonymy (12),Synechdoche (7), Hyperbole (15).The most dominant type of non literal meaning is Metaphor written by author with 42 occurrences (55.3%) in five selected poem by Edgar Allan Poe. The writer on this poem want to make his writing more beautifully using metaphor dominantly.

### *Suggestions*

By Considering the research finding and the conclusions, there are some suggestions which are presented. For teachers need to improve their knowledge about non literal meaning so that they can teach students with more clearly word, for readers are suggested to enrich their knowledge of non literal meaning so they can become more interested in reading such as literary work and make the better understanding of non literal meaning in poem. For other researchers are suggested to make a more depth analysis of non literal meaning in other objects.

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