

SIMILE IN *AT FIRST SIGHT* NICHOLAS SPARKS'S NOVEL

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ABSTRACT

This study is concerned with simile in *At First Sight* novel. This study was conducted by using descriptive qualitative design as the research method. The objectives of this study were to find out the types of simile used based on Hassan and Halliday's theory and the reason for using simile in *At First Sight* novel. The data of this research were 272 sentences signed with simile that occurred in *At First Sight* novel. The research findings were four types of simile, they were "like" (119), "as if" (69), "as" (66), "as...as" (18), and five reasons were: to enhance all words by adding portrayal and original, to offer personal experience and emotional hook, to make the sentences more creatively and shorter, to add great depth and imagery, and to create a powerful mental pictures

Keywords: *Figure of Speech, Simile, At First Sight Novel*

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INTRODUCTION

All people have a story in their life, it could be a romantic, tragic, comedy story, and everything related to their experience could be a nice one. Eventhough, the writer should understand about some steps in making them to be an interesting story such as in novel. Story in novel interested the reader wants to read another story because novel allure us. A novel is about the world, novels are social: they are about people. Gill (2006 : 59) they are not about people in the way in which, say a television documentary or an article in a magazine is about people. People in novels are people, but they are not same the ones we meet everyday. They are fictional; they have been made up.

Writing a good novel is not as easy as read it. Creating a novel is not as easy making a notebook because the writer of the novel must be able to cover a beautiful story and wonderful language in their work. Wonderful language relates to create appropriate sentences, interesting and understandable. Language is able to influence the way of people think, to speak about anything in their daily life, that is why language can not separate from human's life. In expressing something like information, an opinion, suggestion, and to express anything, whether feeling of angry, happy, nervous, sorrow or many things could be expressed by using language. Language present in human's life it just like pin and yarn, related each other.

Not only writing novel, all literature students also must read novel to increase their insight in how creating beautiful language. Because, it's involving words to build the content, and arrange them into sentences to express what writer ideas or opinions. The researcher chosen *At First Sight* novel as the object of this research, caused this novel is image of our life which talks about love story happened around us. And the important things, this novel is able to influence the readers feeling the story is vivid or looks like truly happened beside the readers. Story about Lexie and Jeremy's love invite readers want to know the end of the story and felt it. Where they needed full strunggle to maintain their love from a lot of problems even friends, their environment also. All this events were made in a

beautiful sentence by using figure of language, so readers have a personal experience with the story. The novel made the readers fall down into imagination, This phenomenon related with figure of language used, one of it is simile.

The research question of this research are: what types of simile are used in *At First Sight* novel? and the last, what does Nicholas's reasons used simile in *At First Sight* novel?

Simile as a Figure of language

Figurative language is used to convey something in implicit purpose or meaning. Damon (1966: 87) says that figure of speech have a tendency to say too much, then: and they are often ambiguous, especially when abstracted from their context. There are two very common ways in which a writer may let their figure of speech get out of hand. The first is by dwelling on it so long that it no longer bears comparison with their main idea and the second way is let our figurative language run away with us.

Figurative language explains how we realize the figure itself by simile and metaphors. Every simile and metaphor consists of two parts: an x, or a main entity, and a y, or a secondary entity to which the main entity is compared. Example: *you look like a lumberjack*. Based on the example, "you", works as the element X or the main entity, and "a lumberjack" works as element Y or secondary entity. Simile and explicit metaphor keep the two parts separate; implicit metaphor fuses the two, sometimes, into a single word. Analysis of the figure consists first of identifying the two parts and then of explaining the basis on which the comparison is made, that is, the grounds are stated.

The other researchers also have an opinion about what is it simile itself like Frederik (1998 : 37) says a statement becomes figurative when it contains one of the figures of speech. A simile uses like, as, or than to express a resemblance between two essentially unlike entities. In figurative language a simile says that x is

like y. Because every simile consist of two parts: an x, or a main entity, and a y, or a secondary entity to which the main entity is compared.

Simile and Its Types

Simile

The word simile is derived from the latin word “simile,” meaning ‘resemblance, and likenesses’ technically it means the comparison of two objects with some similarities. Simile is much less investigated than metaphor, although it occurs as frequently in discourse.

Shamisa in Fadaee (2010 : 13) has said simile is the claim of likeness of two things in one or two attributes “simile is fundamentally a figure of speech requiring overt reference to source and target entities, and explicit construction connecting them.”

A simile is a direct comparison of two seemingly unlike things using a comparing word such as like or as. For example, the following are similes form “when the frost is on the punkin”. “thetangeld leaves, as golden as the morn” and “its set my heart a-clickin’ like the thicken’ of a clock.”According to Damon (1966: 77) a simile is an explicit figurative comparisons: that is, it is a statement that one thing is like another. Thus it contains a comparative word: “like,” “as,” “similar,” “same.” And we may distinguish further between two kinds of similes: closed similes and open similes. An open simile is one that makes no mention of the respects, or respects, in which two things are to be compared. Thus an open simile itself, doesn’t give any definite information. It put us in a frame of mind to note the points of likeness, but it leaves us in suspension. Thus an open simile is likely to be vague if it is not carefully handled. It might mean a good deal, or it might mean very little.

Gill (2006:183) states simile has the verbal/grammatical form of an explicit comparison. We say that something is “like”or “as” something else. Similes are close to ordinary speech: everyday we say something is like this or that one of the pleasures of simile in literature is that sense of the poet seeking and

finding an apt comparison. Similes therefore recognize an actual world and do justice to the imaginative efforts we make to understand it through comparisons.

Types of simile

Hassan and Halliday in Sabiha (2013: 15) state there are five simile : as, like, as...as, as if and as though.

1. **like** : is a preposition and is used before noun. *like* before noun works to compare two thing different, and describe person's character. But if *like* works as verb, it is not like.
2. **as** : is a conjunction and an adverb and is used before a clause. And used to describe something or somebody appearing to be something else. We use *as* with a noun to refer to the role or purpose of a person or thing.
3. **as...as** : used when you're comparing two people, two things or two situation. We use *as* + adjective/adverb + *as* to make comparisons when the things we are comparing are equal in some way
4. **as if and as though** : as if and as though are conjunctions. We use as if and as though to make comparisons. They have a similar meaning. We use as if and as though to talk about an imaginary situation or a situation that may not be true but that is likely or possible. As if is more common than as though. As if and as though commonly follow the verbs feel and look. After identifying types of simile, the writer classifying types of simile used in the novel and all types could be seen in below as the following tables:

Novel

Novel first appeared over two hundred years ago. Since that time the novel has developed and changed as society has. By reading a novel we learn about the world that the author describes. A novel, however, also helps us to understand ourselves and our own world.

Long (2003: 341) states that before novel could reach its modern stage, of a more or less sincere attempt to express human life and character, it had to pass through several centuries of almost imperceptible development. Among the early precursors of the novel we must place the collection of tales known as the Greek Romances.

Glencoe (1991: 485) asserts a novel is a long work of prose fiction that tells a story. Since it's longer than a short story, a novel may create a fuller picture of life. A novelist can capture a wide range of experiences-good,sad, funny-to make this fictional world seem lifelike. The same elements that help make a good short story are also present in a novel: plot characters, setting, and theme. Because of a novel length, an author is able to include more developments in the plot, to introduce more characters, to describe them more fully, and to present more settings than are usually in a short story.

Thornley (1984: 143) says the English novel of nineteenth century were written at a time of great confidence in British society, culture, and political organization, and although different novelist present groups of characters from writers of twentieth century could not share this confidence: the changes in beliefs and political ideas were influenced strongly by the events of the first world war and by the events across the world that led to the disappearance of the British Empire, but began even earlier.

***At First Sight* novel**

In *At First Sight*, Nicholas Sparks uses the theme of starting over to show the reader how starting a brand new life can be very difficult and hard to cope with. Both Jeremy and Lexie struggle with their situation but still don't ever give up. Jeremy said, "I don't know how well this husband thing is going to work, but I am sure going to try!" This tells the reader that Jeremy is not going to walk away from his problems and is not going to give up hope on coping with his new life. Nicholas Sparks shows the theme of the story through vivid descriptions, character dialogue, and character thoughts. What the author does well in his book

is tie the story in with reality so that the readers can relate to the events that take place in this novel. He makes the story seem like it is actually somebody's life story or as if it is an autobiography, except he writes this story in third person. Overall, the author makes a good choice about the way he chooses to write the novel *At First Sight*.

At First Sight is a book that really draws in the reader to where they won't want to put the book down and will read several pages before they finally decide to put the book down. For a reader that enjoys novels that really grab your attention and tell of a story that really relates to real life, then *At First Sight* is the book for you!

METHODOLOGY

This research was conducted by using descriptive qualitative method to identify and analyze simile in *At First Sight* novel. The data were taken from all sentences signed by simile that written in *At First Sight* novel text as the source of data, that consist of 20 chapters, and there 272 sentences.

Technique for collecting the data by applying documentary technique. Documentary technique means reading, studying and analyzing. All the steps applied in to *At First Sight* novel. And the novel's script was downloaded from internet.

After collecting the data, the researcher analyzed the data by using descriptive analysis based on Hassan and Halliday's theory. The technique for data analysis: identifying simile in all chapters of *At First Sight* novel. After finding sentences signed with simile, the researcher classified into five types of simile. Because of the last question research is to what does Nicholas's reasons used simile in the novel, so the last steps: described what Nicholas's reasons used it.

RESULT AND DISCUSSION

Result

After identifying each type of simile, the researcher found only four types of simile are used in the novel. The total finding simile in all chapters *At First Sight* novel can be seen as the following table :

The total number of the types of Simile

NO.	THE TYPES OF SIMILE	TOTAL NUMBER
1.	like	66
2.	as	119
3.	as...as	69
4.	as...if	18
5.	as though	0
TOTAL		272

The data from the table above shows the total number of types of simile used in *At First Sight* novel. After identifying and classifying simile in all chapters of the novel, the researcher found that *as though* did not found in the novel. Some reasons of Nicholas used simile found in the novel such as :First, simile work to enhance all words by adding effective portrayal and originality. Second, simile offers readers a more personal experience and have a better emotional hook. Third, simile makes the sentence more creatively and shorter. Fourth, simile add great depth and imagery in writing. Fifth, simile create a powerful mental pictures with a limited number of words. Nicholas used all that reasons to cover a beautiful story and interesting one.

Discussion

At First Sight's Novel involved simile in arrangement beautiful story. But not all similes were found in this novel, such as "as though" did not use in *At First Sight* novel. Based on Hassan and Halliday there are five types of simile, it was found only four of the similes were used. They are: as, like, as...as, as if. It indicates that *At First Sight*'s novel fully contains about simile, it means that simile having important role in making the story looks interesting. A simile is easy to spot because it typically includes the comparison words "like" or "as." These second simile "like and as" dominantly used in this novel. It because of both of this simile more familiar in expressing comparison between two entities

unlike. Simile's formula such as "x like y". Both of the elements are not always appear. Maybe the element x is hidden. So the conclusion, the x is compared with something or someone else, and comparison is not always provide us two entities that will be compared.

The existence of simile in *At First Sight* novel influences the language style, and one of the advantage of using simile is making something that is told or written more vivid. Beside that, simile in this novel make the reader feels the story happening around them when they read it.

Fourth types of simile are implemented in *At First Sight* novel help the reader in understanding of what the author wants to be announced or the purposes of the story to be described. Not only in writing text simile is utilized but also in daily communication. Indirectly, the readers also taught to use simile and applied them in their life when read novel or something related to simile. Similes add strength to a statement beyond a more direct approach.

CONCLUSION AND SUGGESTION

Conclusion

Based on the findings of this research, it can conclude that: story about *At First Sight* by Nicholas Sparks arranged by some simile such as: as, like, as...as, as if. As though is not found in Nicholas sparks, it because of as though resemble with as if, and in English as if more common than as though. The reasons why Nicholas Spark's used simile in his novel it caused that simile having important role in making his story interesting. One of important function of simile is offering readers a more personal experience and you a better emotional hook. This deliniation, as if asking us or invite us wants to read a story made by Nicholas. Directly he teach us to see and feel the story happened. Simile having important role in making an interesting story, even though from the shape, and the way of coveying the meaning. Every simile in the novel used to describe the way of person, quantity, character, imagination, feeling.

Suggestion

After doing this research, and finding the result, some suggestions are forwarding as follow: For students of English Department, this research is expected to be usefull for them, so they understand how to compare two entities unlike. For readers, this research will give information and enrich their knowledge about simile and how is the simile itself will apply in daily communication, learning simile is important like speaking in daily life, we don't need to say too much, or other explanations in longer because we make it simple in simile. So, understanding simile needed by all people who wants to encourage theirsself to be competent. For further researcher, this research can be used as a reference for further research about analysis of simile.

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