

## METAPHORICAL EXPRESSIONS USED IN EMILY DICKINSON'S POEMS

Oleh :

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### *Abstract:*

The aim of this research was to analyze the metaphorical expression used in Dickinson's Poems and the function of the metaphor used. In analyzing the data, the researcher used the metaphor theory that was introduced by Newmark. Metaphor was divided into six types of metaphor they were dead metaphor, cliché metaphor, stock or standard metaphor, adapted metaphor, recent metaphor and original metaphor. The result of this research was done by researcher in documentation form in library. This research was descriptive qualitative research because the researcher applied the data in the term words and sentences. In analyzing the data the researcher applied the technique of data analysis they are data organizing, memoing, coding and Presenting. Conclusion could be drawn that from the ten chosen poems there are twelve metaphorical expression used by her that divided into four types from six types of metaphor they are dead metaphor, cliché metaphor, adapted metaphors and original metaphor. The researcher found that the meaning of metaphor in the chosen poems talk about life and sadness. The poems convey various message. There is social life message behind the poems. The researcher suggest in reading poem, it is important for students to understand more about metaphor, since understanding a poem cannot be separated in figurative language especially metaphor. It is emphasized that teacher has responsibility in explaining the metaphorical expression to the students in order to avoid the misinterpretation

**Keywords :** *Metaphor; Poems; Meaning*

### 1. PENDAHULUAN

In process of human communication, language is a crucial tool to convey feeling, opinions, ideas, and emotions from one person to others. In other words, deliverance of any messages is carried on through the use of language. Then, through the use of language, communication among human being can be done smoothly.

Linguistics is scientific study of language which explores the sound system, the meaning, and the rules of expression construction. It has many branches. One of linguistics branches is semantics. Saeed (2016:3) stated "semantics is the study of meaning communicated through language". It investigates and analyzes the meaning of messages delivered during communication processes.

In delivering messages, some ways can be used. For instance, message can be delivered explicitly, it is called as direct deliverance, where message is delivered directly through the use of ordinary languages without resulting onfusion on the listeners or readers' mind because of ambiguity of meaning and message can also be delivered implicitly or called as indirect deliverance, where the message is delivered not by ordinary language but resulting ambiguity on listeners or readers' mind, such as when using figurative languages.

Wicaksono (2017:285) tells :

*Bahasa figuratif merupakan penyimpangan yang mencolok dari pengguna bahasa dalam memahami arti kata-kata atau urutan baku kata-*

*kata dalam rangka mencapai pengertian atau efek tertentu yang kadang-kadang di deskripsikan sangat penting terutama untuk jenis puisi.*

Which means figurative language is a way of saying something other than literal meaning words. It is explained that figurative language is non standard language that arranged in order to get the certain meaning. In other words, figurative language is the use of language whose intended meaning is not literal meaning and cannot be understood by comprehending the words based on the lexical meaning but by looking at the setting and the context of communication. For instance, after a long way walk over downtown in the evening, someone says, "It's getting hot" when she means 'Let us go home'. The figurative meaning does not fit the concept of the expression but there is still relation between them when they are deeply comprehended.

There are various kinds of figurative language, such as metaphor, simile, hyperbole, irony, synecdoche, litotes and etc. Among of those kinds, there is a kind that is often used in daily communication, namely is metaphor. Study of modern metaphor is encumbered by the fact that it is carried out in the shadow of Aristotele's defenition of metaphor in Kjærgaard (1986:11) explained "metaphor consists in giving the thing a name that belongs to something else; the transference being either from genus to species, or from species to genus, or species to species, or on

ground of analogy". In addition, metaphor is something used to replace "normal" or "ordinary" words in order to achieve some artistic and rhetorical effect. For example in "*He is a lion*". Literally, in the expression, "He is a lion", a man is compared to an animal 'lion', but as we can see a lion and a man are physically not the same. In contrast, the expression intends a non-literal meaning or figurative meaning. Someone is compared to a lion probably because of having something in common, such as bravery and strength. There were six types of metaphor dead, cliché, stock, adapted, recent, and original metaphor". They should have been used in writing poetry by every poet due to its category as a literature part which is built up on the stylistic features.

Literature is inseparable from human life. Poem, whose texts meaning are built up by using figurative languages, is part of literature that is always used to teach students when introducing figurative languages". A poem is regarded as insightful or perceptive poem only if with creative or original metaphor which makes it fresh and intriguing. Creativeness is the unclear and crucial feature of poetical metaphor.

One of the most famous poets was Emily Dickinson. She was born in Amherst on December 10, 1830 and dead on May 15, 1886. In nineteenth century, she was the most famous poet in United States, Massachusetts to a prominent family known for support of the local educational institutions whose poems have so many published around the world through medias.

Emily Dickinson was an American poet whose only fewer of a dozen of nearly eighteen hundred poems were published during her lifetime. The most interesting thing of Emily Dickinson's poems is the unique of writing style for the era in which she wrote poems the themes that deal with death and immortality.

Among thousands of Emily Dickinson's poems, there is a classic poetry series collection that was published by The World's Poetry Archive in 2012. In this collection, there are hundreds title of poem. They are all written in English. This is the collection of unpublished poems of Dickinson from periods of her lifetime. Most of the poems share educational values and cultural values of human both personal life or of a group of society. Those poems have many lines. They are better to learn and to teach to students to introduce reflection of essence and the divine source human being life.

The previous parts illustrate that metaphorical expressions can be learned through poems. Furthermore, the conduction of this research is aimed at identifying metaphorical expressions found in poems. Hence, metaphorical expressions found in the poems of Emily Dickinson are the focus of the conducting this research, particularly, to find out the kinds and the functions

of metaphors that consist of structural metaphor, ontological metaphor, and orientational metaphor.

## 2. METODE PENELITIAN

The object of this research is analyzing metaphorical cases realization in the writing of poems by Emily Dickinson. Hence, this action including as gaining understanding toward narrative literary phenomena. For this reason, this research is designed employing a descriptive qualitative research. Tavakoli (2012:503) stated "qualitative research is a research methodology that places primary importance on studying small samples of purposely chosen individuals; not attempting to control contextual factors, but rather seeking, through a variety of methods, to understand things from the informants' points of view; and creating rich and in-depth picture of the phenomena under investigation".

In line with the view above, Taylor et. al. (2016:7) stated "qualitative research methodology refers in broadest sense to research that produces descriptive data, people's own written and spoken words and observable behaviour". Kothari (2004:3) argued "qualitative research is concerned with qualitative phenomenon, i.e., phenomena relating to or involving quality or kind".

In conclusion, qualitative research is a research methodology that concerns on understanding phenomena of people's language, things, and people's point of view through analyzing and describing. The essence of qualitative research is producing descriptive data rather than quantitative data or statistical data. Therefore, it is argued that this type of research is suitable to be employed in conducting this research in order to achieve good understanding from the application of metaphor in Emily Dickinson's poems, including identifying the types and functions of the metaphor.

## 3. TEMUAN PENELITIAN

This kind of metaphor is often used in daily conversation and lost its meaning of image as mataphor expression, not only that but also were not aware of its presence because it is already in common use. From the poem entitle 'I can wade grief'

### **I can wade grief**

From the poem entitle 'The rail way train'

### **Stop to feed it self at tanks**

From the poem entitle 'Victory comes late'

### **Victory comes late**

Wade grief on metaphorical expression "I can wade grief" above showed the author experience of deepest pain feeling. The author used the comparison between experience and human activity. While base on its literal meaning its impossible for human to wade grief because "Wade" is one of human activity that only can do in water. The sentence of "I can wade grief" is

metaphorical expression that has lost its original imagery because its including as most popular used and often heard in conversation.

The word “feed” and “come” on the phrase above is one of dead metaphor because the meaning can be understood directly without compares it to another language. It in the expression “and stop to feed it self on tanks” refers to the train who feed it self on the tanks in reality one who can feed it self is human. The author used the comparison between human and the vehicle. The expression “and stop to feed it self on tanks” means the train were getting filled by the oil. The use of expression “victory comes late” is the common metaphorical expression used in conversation and used for so long time by the speaker. it almost heard like the standard language and lost its metaphor meaning in conversation. The expression “victory comes late” means that the glory that waiting for is late to appear. the author compare the victory and human who are waiting for but its come late. The victory has been waited but its late to come.

#### a. Cliche metaphors

This kind of metaphor used as a substitute for clear thought, often emotively but without corresponding to the facts of matter.

- From the poem entitle ‘Hope is the thing with feathers’
- **I’ve heard it in the chilliest land**
- From the poem entitle ‘I meant to have but modest needs’
- **A smile suffused Jehovah’s face**

Based on its meaning cliché metaphors is a collection of words in phrases or sentences that are often pronounced so that the term becomes common. Its an expression that has been overused and emotional to the extent that it loses its original meaning or novelty. Such as “chillest land” in the sentence “I’ve heard in the chilliest land” the author compare the land and her feeling, she describe the condition of the land as cold as her heart that may be she feel the place can not bring the joy for her life. That’s why she call the place the chilliest land. In expression “a smile suffused Jehovah’s face”, the author use word suffused to express her strong impression of Jehovah big smile. The smile that covered Jehovah’s face means a big smile in Jehovah’s face.

#### b. Stock or standard metaphor

Stock or standard metaphor is an established metaphor which in an informal context is an efficient and concise method of covering a physical and or mental situation both referentially and pragmatically a stock metaphor has a certain emotional warmth - and which is not deadened by overuse.

#### c. Adapted Metaphors

Adapted metaphor an adapted stock metaphor should, where possible, be translated by an equivalent adapted metaphor, particularly in a

text as 'sacred as one as one if it were translated literally, it might be incomprehensible.

- From the poem entitle ‘who never lost are unprepared’
- **Who never climbed the weary league**
- **The purple territories**

This poems explain that winner may be less prepared for a crown than losers. Perhaps this is because losers will have been struggling and visualizing a prize or a better life whereas those for whom life has been so easy that they have “never lost” may simple be content to take life as they find it. Likewise, those who are not thirsty are not going to go seeking flagons of exotic tamarind. Consequently when the coronet and flagon appear, the deprived and struggling folk will go for it with spirit.

A spanish explorer known for conquering the Inchan Empire. Unsurprisingly his great victories are not as celebrated or romanticized today as they were in Dickinson’s. Her christian milieu regards those who affected the often brutal defeat and colonizing of the new world as bringers of civilization of the heathen and missionaries to save the Indian soul. But it was hard work for the spaniards and so the poet suggest that those who had not worked for it, “climb the weary league would be unfit to surmount the peruvian andes with Pizaro.

In the expression ‘who never climbed the weary league can such a foot explore’ the author use the comparison between the league and the trees that can be climbed by human. In the expression above climbed league does not means climbed as someone climbed the trees but it means to described someone who never do the struggle in the weak condition. In the expression ‘the purple territories’ the author compare the color and the place in royalty. Purple territories here means royalty territories does not means the territories color is purple.

#### d. Recent metaphor (not found)

By recent metaphor, I mean a metaphorical neologism, often 'anonymously' coined, which has spread rapidly in the SL. When this designates a recently current object or process, it is a metonym. Otherwise it may be a new metaphor designating one of a number of 'prototypical' qualities that continually 'renew' themselves in language.

#### e. Original Metaphors

There is a principle, since original metaphors (in the widest sense): (a) contain the core of an important writer's message, his personality, his comment on life, and though they may have a more or a less cultural element, these have to be transferred neat; (b) such metaphors are a source of enrichment for the target language, Tiesek and Schlegel's translations of Shakespeare's great plays have given German many original expressions, but many more metaphors could have been transferred.

- From the poem entitle 'Hope is the thing with feathers'

(Third stanza)

I've heard it in the chilliest land,  
And on the strangest sea;  
Yet, never, in extremity,  
It asked a crumb of me.

The personal pronoun 'I' appears for the first time in the third stanza, indicating a personal connection to this subject. The author compare his self to the little bird when she gone through hardest, coldest times, when emotions are churning and life surreal. She compare her condition to the little bird that trying to keep alive in hard condition in the chilliest. But even when things are extreme hope is still there and ask for anything. Hope give us much but never asks for crumb in return.

- From the poem entitle 'I can wade grief'

(Firs stanza)

I can wade grief,  
Whole pools of it,-  
I'm used to that.  
But the least push of joy  
Breaks up my feet,  
And I tip-drunken.  
Let no pebble smile,  
'T was the new liquor  
That was all!

This poem opens with the speaker's declaration at the first stanza that she "can wade grief", that is used to pain ("i'm used to that") and so she has no problem getting through it, and surviving it, even large amounts of it ("whole pools of it"). But surprisingly, even only a small amount of happines ("But the least push of joy") makes her metaphorically stumble ("Breaks up my feet") and fall ("And I tip-drunken"). She tells the pebbles as the witness of her fall not to mock her ("Let no pebble smile"), for it is just that she has no tolerance for the alcohol of happines, not having had any experience with it ('T was the new liquor-That was all!). In the expression 'let no pebble smile' the author compares the pebble to the human that can laugh watching someone fall.

- From the poem entitle 'I mean to have but modest needs'

(first stanza)

I mean to have but modest needs  
Such as content, and heaven;  
Within my income these could lie,  
And life and I keep even.

At the first stanza the speaker telling her desire to have something simple in her life. The simple thing she need is a happines and all things in it that she convey metaphorycally as content and heaven but she realize that having the happines within her own income is impossible but because its life so she must getting through the impossibility.

- From the poem entitle 'God gave a loaf to every bird'

(first stanza)

God gave a loaf to every bird,  
But just a crumb to me;  
I dare not eat it, though I starve,—  
My poignant luxury

'God gave a loaf to every bird' is a short yet extremely deep poem. This statement "God gave a loaf to every bird, but just a crumb to me;" the author is saying how God blessed every other person but left me with so little. She continues to say about how a little crumb is her every thing it makes her happy and it is her prize possetion for she "dare not to eat it".

This research was carried out based on theory by Kövecses in Katz (2013: 22) explain "metphor is a figure of speech that implies a comparison between two unlike entities though with linking common features".

Kjörgaard (1986: 11) metaphor consist in giving the thing a name that belongs to something else the transference being either from genus to species or from species to genus or species to species or on ground of analogy". Which means one can understand something through the process of his understanding about things his already know for long time from his experience in daily life.

It was in line with research finding that found that the metaphoricall expression used the comparison of two things that has similarity of characteristic for example "God give a loaf to every bird". In the sentence the characteristic of loaf as a kind of food that can filling human and in reality human can not survive without eat was used by Dickinson to described the charecteristic of God kindess to His creations and how the creation was very depend on His kindness.

Dickinson's poems deliver some message about life and her connection to God. Some of her poems showed us her deepest feeling figuratively that she tried to tell reader bring the reader mind to realize about life and God existance in it.

There are twelve metaphoricall expression exist in her ten choosen poems divided into four types of metaphor found. One of them, First, expression of 'stop to feed it self at tanks' including as dead metaphor. This type of metaphor is common use and often found in daily conversation. The listener did not realize its existance but they can understood directly to what the speaker mean.

Second, expression of 'I've heard in the chilliest land' including as cliché metaphor. The reason is because as what had been explain before in previous chapter that cliché metaphor is a kind of metaphor use as substitute for clear thought, emotively but without corresponding to the facts of matter. The words chilliest land is so emotively, the writer tried to figured out her feeling about place that not bring the joy to her life at all. She conveyed her sadness in emotive expression and draw the reader to the deep emotion.

Third, expression of 'climbed the weary league' including as adapted metaphors. This poems explain that the winner may less prepared for a crown losers. Perhaps this is because losers will have been struggling and visualizing a prize or a better life whereas those for whom life has been so easy that they have. In the expression of 'who never climbed the weary league' can such a foot explore the author use the comparison between the league and the trees that can be climbed by human. Adapted metaphor is an adapted stock metaphor should, where possible be translated by an equivalent.

Fourth, expression of 'I mean to have but the moodiest need' including as original metaphor. It contain the core of an important writer's message, his personality, his comment on life. In this poem the speaker telling her desire to have something simple in her life. The simple thing she need is happiness and all things in it that she convey metaphorically as a content and heaven but she realize that having the happiness within her own income is impossible but because its life so she must getting through the impossibility.

The researcher found that from the ten choosen poems there are four types of metaphor appear use by Dickinson they are dead metaphor, cliché metaphor, adapted metaphor and original metaphor. But the most used by the writer is original metaphor, because the poems of dickinson is contain by her comment about life, God and social matter.

#### 4. KESIMPULAN

Based on research finding and discussion conclusion could be drawn metaphor is a device for seeing something in terms of something else or Metaphor is device of seeing the secondary meaning or terms of words which means metaphor contains of the secondary meaning of the words hold literally.

From the ten choosen Emily Dickinson's poems there are 12 metaphorical expression used that divided into four types from six types of metaphor they are dead metaphor, cliché metaphor, adapted metaphors and original metaphor. The function of metaphor expression used are first, to describe the object or person, events, qualities and concepts or states of mind more comprehensively, concisely, vividly and in a more complex way. Second, to amuse or to draw attention to technical and physical subject. Third, to indicate a resemblance between two more or less diseparate objects.

The researcher found that most of metaphor in Dickinson's poem talk about life and sadness. The poems convey various message. There is social life message behind the poems.

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