

Chapter One

Introduction

The researcher divides this chapter into seven important parts. The first part is the background that contains the elucidation of the research topic and the reason why the researcher selected this topic. The second part is the identification of the problems, followed by delimitation of the problems which highlights the research that is studied and focused by the researcher. The next part is the research questions, used to guide the research. The following parts are the objectives and the significances of the research which propose the benefits of this research. The last part is the organization of the chapters.

Background of the Study

Language is a tool or system used to convey information and to express humans' feelings and emotion, both in spoken and written forms. When talking about a form of language, it is determined by its function (Wang & Li, 2021). Therefore, in relation to research, language study, including the structure of language, is discussed in linguistics that is the study of all things about language. Typically, Wulandari and Indriani (2021) assert that the study of a word's form and structure is in the field of linguistics. In addition, semantics often performs the task of analyzing the meaning of the statement (Nafisa, 2021). Thus, writers who want to write books or literary works are supposed to pay attention and choose the use of good and correct words.

In literary works, writers usually choose and pay attention to the use of words. Hence, words are carefully selected to represent the messages, feelings, and emotion which the writer wants to express. The words are used to beautify literary works, such as poems, drama, novels,

and prose. For instance, in poetry, writers will maximize the use of all elements of poetry, such as figurative language. Figurative language can be interpreted as a figure of speech, for works that are made using figurative language in which this aims to make narratives come alive with the presence of figurative language. In figurative language, the used words are difficult to understand and complicated when those are seen by the naked eye. Figurative language consists of figurative words or beautiful words that are not clearly conveyed into the text by the author, but words are made in such a beautiful way to imply a certain message in a sentence. Moreover, usually in figurative language, there is a delivery of feelings, added by the author of the literary work. Therefore, figurative language is usually found in poetry, short stories, novels, song lyrics and dramas.

Figurative language implies words that have many meanings in it. Consequently, the author also has the aim that readers can interpret words contained in literary works. Figurative language also plays an important role in writing poetry. It is also highly recommended to be used in poetry because it makes poetry much clearer. Likewise, it serves to sharpen readers' perception and to allow for a more complete understanding of what is in poetry that gives pleasure while also creating form and meaning.

As a further example, poetry is a literary work that is formed briefly and beautifully. In poetry, the lines of rhyme, rhythm and lyrics are chosen in such a way by poets. Famous poets in ancient times made poetry to convey criticism of social change. Apart from criticizing, poetry can also be used to motivate readers. Moreover, poetry has a wealth of meaning in it. Thus, the choice of words is very diverse and imaginative. Usually in poetry, an author expresses their feelings and thoughts in a written form Rejeki, Yulianti and Kustantinah (2022) say that readers who can analyze a meaning of words or sentences in their minds will understand poetry more

easily. Additionally, Wibowo and Akbar (2017) mention that poets employ figurative language to make their poems more interactive for readers.

Furthermore, poetry might be an interesting thing to read for all ages, including students. It is also taught as one of teaching materials in English language classroom. Students are required to understand poetry and the elements of poetry in it, including figurative language. However, some students still have difficulties in understanding poetry which usually contains figurative language. Many students who study figurative language in poetry often feel difficult and bored. Poetry that should be a refreshing thing for students might make them bored and might not want to expand the discussion of figurative language in poetry. Palmer, Shackelford, Miller and Leclere claim that ELL students have trouble understanding academic and social expressions that use figurative language (2006, p. 259) because students might lose interest in reading poetry. Therefore, the researcher is interested in analyzing poetry, especially the use of figurative language in poetry.

Poetry was written by many famous poets a long time ago. One of the most famous poets is Emily Dickinson. Emily Dickinson wrote a lot of famous poems. Three of famous poems are A Narrow Fellow in the Grass, Tell All the Truth but Tell It Slant, and I Had No Time to Hate. The researcher likes and chooses these three poems because the main topic is about the meaning of human life. In addition, the relation between the human life meaning and education in three selected poems can be taken as a lesson and more importantly can be used as the learning media in literature class. The researcher needs to analyze the use of figurative language in these three poems as it contributes to comprehend the message that Emily Dickinson wanted to express in her poems. It is not accurate and meaningful to read poetry without knowing its meaning.

Therefore, this topic is worth researching and is considerably important because analyzing the types of figurative language and the implicit meaning cannot be omitted in understanding poetry.

Identification of the Problem

Based on the background, there are some problems which can be identified and are related to the research theme. First, the language for poetry is not the daily language. Most writers specifically Emily Dickinson used figurative language. It brings some potential problems to students when it is used for teaching materials because they are not accustomed to understanding figurative languages in daily life. Second, figurative language is difficult for many students because they must distinguish one figurative language to another because there are many kinds of it. Third, figurative language is only discussed in a limited way, in which is literary appreciation in education even though in daily contexts, people may be able to find figurative language in everyday life.

Delimitation of the Problem

Based on the elucidation above, the researcher focuses on two problems in this recent study. Firstly, figurative language is difficult for many students to understand because they should differentiate one to another figurative language because there are many kinds of figurative language. Moreover, the researcher highlights that figurative language is discussed only in literary appreciation though the context of figurative language can be found in daily life.

Research Question

Based on the delimitation of the problems, it is necessary to formulate the research problem. The research question is: What types of figurative language are found in Emily Dickinson's selected poems?

Research Objective

Based on the research question, the purpose is to find out the types of figurative language in A Narrow Fellow in the Grass, Tell All the Truth but Tell It Slant, and I Had No Time to Hate poems by Emily Dickinson.

Significance of the Research

This research is expected to provide benefits both directly and indirectly for some parties, including teachers, students, and other researchers.

The teachers. The findings of this study are expected to give a fruitful idea for teachers when using poetry with figurative language as their teaching materials. They can use it as the additional material for further study and for providing knowledge of linguistics to anyone in analyzing the meaning of words in Emily Dickinson's poems, especially A Narrow Fellow in the Grass, Tell All the Truth but Tell It Slant, and I Had No Time to Hate.

Students. The students are expected to be aware of the figurative language in the poetry, so it could enrich their knowledge about the types of figurative language and the meaning of words contained in A Narrow Fellow in the Grass, Tell All the Truth but Tell It Slant, and I Had

No Time to Hate poems by Emily Dickinson. They also are expected to recognize the figurative language used in the poetry, so they can be more interested in reading the poetry.

Other researchers. For other researchers, this research can be used as a reference for further studies related to analyzing the types of figurative language and the meaning of the words contained in other poems from other poets. The findings might inspire other researchers to analyze deeper on A Narrow Fellow in the Grass, Tell All the Truth but Tell It Slant, and I Had No Time to Hate poems by Emily Dickinson related to another language forms. The analysis of the figurative language in this research with qualitative research methods can be used as the basis for the other researchers to do similar research or they might be able to accomplish some limitation of this study.

Organization of the Chapters

The study is presented into five chapters. The first chapter is about the introduction. It discusses the background of the study, the identification of the problem, the delimitation of the problems, the research question, the research objectives, the significance of the problems, and the organization of the chapters. The second chapter consists of the literature review. It encompasses the important terms, including the definition of figurative language, the kinds of figurative language, definition of poem, elements of poem, definition of meaning and kinds of meaning. Moreover, it portrays the review of related studies and provides the figure that conceptualizes this study. The third chapter discusses research methodology. The researcher describes the research design, source of data, data collection method and procedure, and data analysis. The fourth chapter deals with the findings about the types and meaning of figurative language in Emily Dickinson's poem. The fifth chapter is the conclusion and recommendation.

The conclusion provides a summary of the research. Additionally, the recommendation is addressed to the teachers, students, and other researchers.