



AN ANALYSIS OF MINOR FIGURATIVE LANGUAGE USED IN STAND-UP COMEDY PERFORMED BY HASAN MINHAIJ ENTITLED *HOME COMING KING*

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Abstract

Figurative language is a way of delivering a message which has an unreal meaning. The use of figurative language usually found in everyday conversation, in literary works, and in public speaking. Most of the speaker stand-up comedy use figurative language in their performance. The purpose of this study is to find the types of minority majors used in stand-up comedy by Hasan Minhaj. This research is descriptive research which consists of exploring the depth of meaning in each figurative language. The researcher uses scanning techniques on the transcription of the appearance video that the researcher got from a trusted site. The results showed that minority figurative language was divided into metaphors, similes, metonymy, irony, allegory, personification and hyperbole. This study also intends to help stand-up comedy audiences in understanding the intentions and objectives of the speaker or comics with the material presented.

Keywords: figurative language, stand-up comedy, homecoming king

1. INTRODUCTION

Language is used by humans as a tool to communicate in social life. There are two kinds of language use in communication. One is the figurative language which conveying ideas without mentioning the real meaning. On the other hand, literal language conveying ideas as what the speaker wants to convey to the listener. Figurative language usually found in many cases and situations such as daily conversation and public speaking. In public speaking, figurative language could be found in motivational speech and stand-up comedy.

Figurative language is the way of conveying the idea that utilizes words or articulations with an indicating that is unique concerning the extracting meaning.

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Figurative language cannot be separated from language and the knowledge of both speaker and listener nor to the writer and the reader. As Yuri and Rosa (2013) state that the figurative language has the indirect implication or as another statement the figurative language carries the meaning as to the awareness of knowledge. To use Figurative language, the speaker needs an ability of word sense to make a figurative language suits the whole sentence. Figurative language is different from literal language (Putri et al, 2016). When the speaker uses literal language, the fact or the thing that the speaker wants to convey is already stated as the reader needs to know. Putri et al (2016) add that the main determination is to strengthen the audience's imagination through communication. So the audience's knowledge has a great impact on their result in receiving the message.

There are sixteen figurative languages based on Keraf's (2006) theory, which is metaphor, simile, personification, metonymy, synecdoche, allegory, allusion, euphemism, epithet, antonomasia, hypoplasia, irony, sarcasm, satire, innuendo, antiphrasis, and pun. Afrina et al (2016) explain that figurative is also mentioned as a style of put an extra emotion into true information. This is the way of telling information that given a special mark in the information so the receiver gets another meaning by getting information and get the side purpose of the information. They also explain that figurative language appearance is to give accessories to words and give another meaning through the message. It can also be mentioned as a way of conveying a message through another message. Ekasani (2015) reports that figurative language is a word or expression that cannot be accepted in the literal meaning. So it is an indirect meaning that the receiver will get or not get from the conveyer. Stand-up comedy is a monologue that usually conveys real life's tragedy, jokes, politic, parody and senses of humor to entertain the audience.

Filani (2015) states that stand-up comedy is a type of popular culture that focuses on convey and receive humorous material. This means stand-up comedy is a culture that well-known by people and focuses on how a comic conveys their humor. Firmansyah and Rokhmawan (2016) state that Stand Up Comedy is clever humor because most of the comic has a good study background (intellectual society) which bring out the national problem covered by humorous material. It means that the conveyer of the stand-up comedy has a good intelligent in knowledge. It can also be concluded that the stand-up comedy performances are not only for entertainment but also bring a deep message inside every performance.

The tendencies of language in stand-up comedy are the language itself that uses free-form language, no limitation of rude language, and every topic could be triggered into humor. Carter (2005) explains that the speaker is the one who controls the laughs, they have to briefly do the exaggerating, and use enough sarcasm perfectly in making the material. The speaker is free to use everything as material even it has over the limit of using taboo and racist language. Sjöbohm (2008) emphasize that the stand-up comedy must have no regulation, so the speaker is free to use profane language, ethnic insults, and sexually categorical

material. So far, the trends of stand-up comedy do not consist of humor, but it has an important message or oration with strong message.

Fadilah (2015) states that stand-up comedy usually performed by one person (sometimes performed by the form of a group). It presents original material or the material is made by themselves (sometimes it common material). The comic usually performs at the *café*. Wijayanti (2016) states that the way of humor in stand-up comedy different than the common comedy. To consume the funny side of comedy in stand-up comedy, the audience needs to have the same common knowledge of the material. Stand-up comedy usually only use stories to tell the audiences. If the audience does not get the story of the material, they will not understand the funny side of the comedy. Different from the other comedy which has property, body language, or bullying the comedy partner as the material. Even for some cases, the comic also bring a property to the stage as a mediator to make the audiences easily get what the comic wants to convey

Figurative language used in stand-up comedy is usually to bring out the reader's imagination or to make the parody related to the theme or topic of the material. In western stand-up comedy, most of the comics bring out some topics in one performance. In one topic brought by the performers, it can be found three or more figurative languages whether it is the same kind of figurative language or not. From the material, the figurative language is not fully revealed because it is not conveyed as it should be. So, the researcher is interested in classifying the figurative language found in the text. Furthermore, it is important to dig out the meaning of figurative language found in the material to gain the audiences' understanding and imagination.

People gain proficiency with the importance of words in context and the memory records of words which produce comprehensive connotation took from the context which human have encountered and from a social connection. In the investigation of meaning, there are two parts of importance. They are denotative and connotative meanings. Rao (2017) clarifies that denotative suggests the most central or unequivocal meaning of a word. On the other hand, a connotation is an idea that is proposed by or identified with a word. The connotation relies upon the indication. This infers we can use the denotative interpretation to examine, interpret or produce feelings on visual material that cannot finish up denotative pieces of visual material on the irrelevant intention of connotative depictions.

Two studies related to figurative languages are stand-up comedy and song lyrics. First, the study is conducted by Putri, Oktoma, and Nursyamsu (2016) which purpose of this research is to find out the types and functions of figurative language used in stand-up comedy. It is found that there are functions of the figurative language in stand-up comedy: 'to amuse people in comedic situations, to expand meaning, to explain abstract emotions, to make sentence interesting represented and give creative additions'. Then, Khairani (2017) conducts a study that explores the types and meanings of each figurative language found in the material. The result of this research is nine figurative types found in the material

based on her research. Hyperbole is one of figurative language that appears the most in the material. The focus of these two research is to find out the types of figurative language in stand-up comedy and the appearance's rate of kinds of figurative language.

In this study, the latest Netflix TV special performance by Hasan Minhaj who is one of the famous stand-up comedy performers in the United States of America is explored. Minhaj got some awards related to his performance category. He is also a famous presenter and comedian around the entertainment world of the United States of America. The material of this Indian-American comedian got 8.3 over 10 in IMDb sites with "Homecoming King" Netflix TV special in the stand-up comedy category. The performance is not safe for all ages because it contains many negative issues. Even the contents usually contain negative issues, but for some reason, he uses the language varieties such as figurative language to keep up the comedy. The aim of this paper is to analyze the types of figurative language found in this stand-up comedy entitled "Homecoming King" on Netflix TV special through the semantic field.

3. RESEARCH METHOD

The type of research is descriptive research. According to Dharminto (2007), descriptive research analyzes and shows facts systematically to avoid difficulties in understanding which purpose to accomplish the right data about the phenomena. The purpose of descriptive research is to describe systematically the facts and characteristics of a given area of interest, factually, and accurately. One of the attributes of descriptive research is utilized in the exacting feeling of depicting circumstances or occasions. The data of this research are utterances that consist of words, phrases, and sentences that contain figurative language used in stand-up comedy performed by Hasan Minhaj in Netflix. The sources are performance video and its transcription. First, the video source is from site <https://www.netflix.com/title/80134781> which has duration 1:12:39. Then, the researcher uses transcription from <http://scrapsfromtheloft.com/2017/10/21/hasan-minhaj-homecoming-king-2017-full-transcript/> as the main guide of transcribing data. Processes of collecting the data begin with the researcher read the transcription by scanning the data in the transcript. Then, the researcher was classified as the data based on types of figurative language. The data are grouping into the right category systematically. The analysis had been followed the theory related to the data. The researcher had revealed the meaning of each data of the figurative language used in the material. To complete the research, the researcher concluded. The purpose is to explain the information that the researcher found after analyzing the data. The work had been included researcher opinion after the result based on the related theories. The final step was to draw the result related to the findings.

4. RESULT AND DISCUSSION

4.1 Data Description

There are sixteen figurative languages based on Keraf's (2006) theory, which is a metaphor, simile, personification, metonymy, synecdoche, allegory, allusion, euphemism, epithet, antonomasia, hypoplasia, irony, sarcasm, satire, innuendo, antiphrasis, and pun. In this research, the researcher limits the figurative language that will be analyzed into the minority data found by the researcher as in Table 1 as follows:

Table 1. The percentage of Figurative language occurrence in Stand-up comedy

No	Types of Figurative Language	Frequency	Percentage
2	Metaphor	10	13%
3	Simile	9	12%
4	Metonymy	9	12%
5	Irony	4	5%
6	Allegory	2	3%
7	Personification	1	1%
8	Hyperbole	1	1%
	Total Data	76	100%

From the table of data above, metaphor appears with 13% occurrences. Simile and metonymy are found with 12% occurrences both. Irony and allegory are almost rare to appear with 5% and 3% appearances each. The researcher also found that hyperbole and personification are rarely used in this transcription with 1% occurrences each.

4.2 Analysis of Minor Figurative Language in Stand-up Comedy Performance by Hasan Minhaj

1. Metaphor

A metaphor is a way of comparing the thing to another and mentioned the thing is that another thing. This comparison then becomes easier to identified when they are something different with opposite meaning is carried by both of the things. For example:

*Remember how I told you that immigrants love secrets? This is a secret that nobody told me! He says, "Hug her." "You brought her out like Maury for immigrants." "Hasan, you are the brother." I'm like, "No, no!" **She was breakdancing**, and I'm like, "Who the fuck are you?" "You don't know me?" "I've no idea who you are." I hated that brown girl so much.*

The utterance "She was breakdancing" shows that the speaker's purpose is to explain that his sister was showing herself by doing something simple such as come close to him or anything else. It is a simple thing but the speaker exaggerating the situation by telling the audience that his sister does "breakdancing" before asking the target. It is starting by the question "Remember how I told you that immigrants love secrets?" which brought the situation into flashback story. From the utterance *He says, "Hug her."*, the situation is clear that

the speaker's father wants to introduce the girl to the speaker. Besides, the utterance "Hasan, you are the brother." supported the introducing situation followed by rejecting answer from the speaker. It is clear that the speaker did not agree to the situation by telling the audience "I hated that brown girl so much." So, the datum shows that there is a comparison between "she" and the situation that does not apply to the real context in this situation.

2. Simile

A simile is used to compare something that is in the different action, adjectival, form, etc. with another kind of thing. Simile has specific indicators such as like, as, compare, resemble, and so on.

She was like the iPhone 8. "Have you heard of Seema? She's slim. Her family owns a camera."

In the utterance "She was like the iPhone 8", the speaker uses the word "like" to compare two things that indicate it is a simile. In this datum, the speaker refers to the story of his father in the past when he met his mother. The comparison of humans to a tool in the present. The word 'she' refers to Seema who was his father wants to meet. To explain Seema, the speaker compares her with iPhone 8 which has to explain as follows: slim, it has a camera. The similarities come from the slim body and her possession of a thing that is a camera. In this datum, the comparison is showed with a specific indicator "like" and could refer as one of simile.

3. Metonymy

Metonymy is used to describe a thing with another thing that closely associated with each other. Metonymy is the utilization of something firmly related to the thing implied. It is the figurative language in which the name of one protest is supplanted by another which is nearly connected with it. Below is the example of the sentence using metonymy that was taken from the transcript:

I crushed it like a Voldemort Horcrux.

The example "I crush it like Voldemort Horcrux" can be explained as the name of something refer to another thing, in this context is an adjective, such as "too excited". The context of this datum comes from the Harry Potter film that the main character was too excited about finding an item called Voldemort Horcrux which could change the world condition. The context is the Harry Potter movie. To get the real meaning, the knowledge of the movie should require. In this datum, the metonymy is described to imaginatively "excite" into a character in the movie.

4. Irony

Irony is a figurative language that makes a differentiation between a referent setting and the strict importance of the amusing explanation. The non-literal importance of irony commonly relates to the opposite has been said. In this

way, the incongruity will be fruitful if the audience is likewise mindful of the strict meaning behind the arrangement of words. Below is the example of the sentence using irony that was taken from the transcript:

*I recently got married, you guys. Thank you, thank you. Thank you. I need the claps. It's a very heavy ring. Very heavy. It was a reverse Lord of the Rings situation. **I got a ring and then lost my powers**, which is a very different Lord of the Rings.*

The utterance "I got a ring and then lost my powers" explain the irony of this example is after getting married, the speaker can only do limited things because he is restricted by his wife. The fact of the speaker's marriage is conveyed in the utterance "I recently got married, you guys." The life of the speaker changes after got married and builds a new family, he has a big responsibility that he was never done when he was single. The speaker says "It was a reverse Lord of the Rings situation." which means when someone got the ring, it will give enormous power. The comparison of the datum is close to metaphor but the purpose is to make an ironic story and it has a good plot to convey the real meaning by using the metaphor.

5. Allegory

Allegory is one thing reliably being introduced in the appearance of something unique. In a symbolic sonnet, everything is said in reality in regards to the characters, the activity, and so on it is truly being said in regards to what the character or activity speaks to. Below is the example of the sentence using allegory that was taken from the transcript:

I hated that brown girl so much. I was like, "Build that wall." I was like a **little Republican**. I was like, "I get it." I remember leveling with my parents at the dinner table. "Look, Mom, Dad, let's just be real. Oh, my God, these brown people... Oh, jeez. Coming into our house... eating our Fruit Roll-Ups... they don't speak the language... I say we tell them to go back where they came from." He's like, "You can't say that. We're family.

The way of conveying in this example looks like a simile because the indicator "like" is appeared, but the word used in this sentence closer to allegory than a simile. Further, the example "I was like a little Republican" has unique meaning when closely search out for the meaning, it is focusing on explaining something by using a symbol rather than similarities. The other reason is the word "little republican" is not well-known to everyone as a phrase with meaning but it close to the symbol of something happens that well-known by people.

6. Personification

Personification is giving human attributes into the thing, animal or idea to create it seems alive. The purpose is to make a non-human thing seems likable to do or act like a human. Keraf (2006) states personification is a special style of metaphor that gives a dead thing ability to act, do something, and even talking and thinking like the human. Simply, the thing is a human-like creature which has the

human ability. Below is the example of the sentence using personification that is taken from the transcript:

Pocket were acknowledging that.

In the example “Pocket were acknowledging that”, the word “acknowledging” is human brain activity which means it is one of the human attributes working while the human is conscious. The focus object in this example is “pocket” which not alive and it is got human attribute, in this example is the word “acknowledging”. The relationship between two words is personification where a non-human object (pocket) got a human-like attribute (acknowledging). The speaker tells the audience that the pocket has consciousness like a human. So the pocket is the only thing that knowing about how much money in it to buy something.

7. Hyperbole

Hyperbole contrasts from exaggeration that it is outrageous. Sometimes it is utilized for a comic reason, however more frequently it is utilized genuinely. Hyperbole can deliver an exceptionally emotional impact. Hyperbole is the utilization of distortion for additional impact. Hyperbole can be utilized to give additional show or parody to a circumstance or notwithstanding with the end goal of promulgation. Below is the example of the sentence using hyperbole that is taken from the transcript:

Kids were losing their minds.

The utterance “Kids were losing their minds” shows the thing is not mentioned as the real meaning. In this example, the phrase “losing their mind” refer to people who become mentally ill. The subject is “kids” that can be classified as a sensitive aged. When the idiom “mentally ill” feels too narrow, then it uses the phrase “losing ‘ones’ minds” to make it polite. So, the datum could be referred to as hyperbole.

This finding shows that the figurative language used in this stand-up comedy performance did not purpose to make the language safe for anyone. The speaker wants to convey everything in his performance with his true feeling. There is no polite-purpose in his performance because all he said was sharp.

5. CONCLUSION AND SUGGESTION

Based on the analysis, the figurative language meaning has to be used in the context inside and outside of the transcription. From the inside, it could be a sentence, a part of the paragraph, the whole paragraph, or another paragraph. It is could explain most of the data such as sarcasm, metaphor, simile, irony, allegory, hyperbole, personification. From outside of the transcription, the data should be related to film, drama, advertisement, actor, idiom and another popular topic. It is could explain mostly the data of metonymy and metaphor.

As a conclusion, the figurative language is a part of stand-up comedy that has an important role in the performance. The use of figurative language in stand-up comedy mostly to beautify the way of conveying the content. The purpose of the research is to dig out the real purpose of the speaker, to make the online audience interested, and to make the audience understand the imaginary of the speaker.

From the research that has been done by the researcher, it is not all of the figurative languages are explained in this research. The reason is the limitation of types of figurative language explored by the researcher. The researcher only focuses on ten types of figurative language. From the limitation, it is only eight types of figurative language found in this transcription. One of the figurative languages, euphemism has not found in the data because the stand-up comedy usually uses straight words, even uses a mocking word such as sarcasm. Stand-up comedy is not often become polite because it is a free-to-say anything public speaking. There is no limitation of words that have to use euphemism as a medium to make it polite. Based on the explanation before, the researcher suggests that future research has come with other types of figurative language which has the related source. The researcher also suggests that future research also use popular media so the research can also be continuing in other aspect and theories also the media.

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