AN ANALYSIS OF FIGURATIVE LANGUAGE USED IN SOME

SPOKEN WORD POETRY BY HOTEL BOOKS

THESIS

BY

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ENGLISH EDUCATION DEPARTMENT

FACULTY OF LANGUAGE AND ARTS EDUCATION

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APPROVAL SHEET

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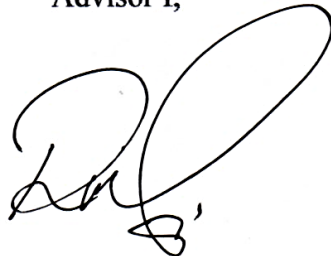
SPOKEN WORD POETRY BY HOTEL BOOKS

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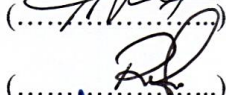
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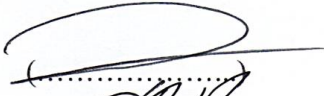
AN ANALYSIS OF FIGURATIVE LANGUAGE USED IN SOME SPOKEN WORD POETRY BY HOTEL BOOKS

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I solemnly declare that the thesis that I have written is really my own writing and does not constitute plagiarism either in part of in whole.

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Bojonegoro, 31 July 2023
The Researcher

Zahrotun Nisa Aulia

ABSTRACT

The purpose of figurative language is to enhance the poetry's beauty and artistry and make it more engaging and distinctive. The study set out to explain the various types of figurative language used in Hotel Books' spoken word poetry and the contextual meaning of each type of figurative language. This research seeks to recognize some figurative language by gaining comprehension of its general meaning when used in poetry. Data may be interpreted by reading it, and figurative language could be uncovered using the descriptive analysis method. After selecting the audio recordings of spoken word poetry, the researcher identified the figurative meanings within their respective contexts to analyze figurative language's general meaning. The researcher began by collecting Hotel Books' spoken word poetry, then read and understood two of Hotel Books' spoken word poetry audios, and finally collected the figurative language found in Hotel Books' spoken word poetry. While evaluating the data, the researcher analyzed every instance of figurative language present in spoken-word poetry. In the last step, the researcher drew a conclusion based on the data analysis findings. As a result of the finding and discussion, the meaning in the context of two pieces of spoken word poetry from Hotel Books was discovered and analyzed. In the end, it is hoped that the findings of this study will be useful to a wide audience, and in particular to the students of the English Department at IKIP PGRI Bojonegoro who are interested in conducting similar studies.

ABSTRAK

Aulia, Zahrotun Nisa. 2023. An Analysis of Figurative Language Used in Spoken Word Poetry by Hotel Books. Skripsi, English Education Department, Faculty of Language and Arts Education, IKIP PGRI Bojonegoro, Advisor (I) Dr. Refi Ranto Rozak, M.Pd., (II) Meiga Ratih Tirtanawati, M.Pd.

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Tujuan dari bahasa kiasan adalah untuk meningkatkan keindahan dan kesenian puisi serta membuatnya lebih menarik dan khas. Penelitian ini bertujuan untuk menjelaskan berbagai jenis bahasa kiasan yang digunakan dalam puisi kata yang diucapkan oleh Hotel Books dan makna kontekstual dari setiap jenis bahasa kiasan. Penelitian ini berusaha untuk mengenali beberapa bahasa kiasan dengan mendapatkan pemahaman tentang makna umumnya ketika digunakan dalam puisi. Data dapat ditafsirkan dengan membacanya, dan bahasa kiasan dapat diungkap dengan menggunakan metode analisis deskriptif. Setelah memilih rekaman audio dari puisi yang diucapkan, peneliti mengidentifikasi makna kiasan dalam konteksnya masing-masing untuk menganalisis makna umum dari bahasa kiasan. Penulis memulai dengan mengumpulkan puisi kata lisan Hotel Books, kemudian membaca dan memahami dua audio puisi yang diucapkan, dan akhirnya peneliti mengumpulkan bahasa kiasan yang ditemukan dalam puisi yang diucapkan oleh Hotel Books. Saat mengevaluasi data, penulis menganalisis setiap contoh bahasa kiasan yang ada dalam puisi kata yang diucapkan. Pada langkah terakhir, penulis menarik kesimpulan berdasarkan temuan analisis data. Sebagai hasil dari temuan dan diskusi, makna dalam konteks dua buah puisi kata yang diucapkan dari Hotel Books ditemukan dan dianalisis. Pada akhirnya, diharapkan temuan penelitian ini dapat bermanfaat bagi khalayak luas, dan khususnya bagi mahasiswa Program Studi Bahasa Inggris di IKIP PGRI Bojonegoro yang tertarik untuk melakukan penelitian serupa.

MOTTO

"And do good as Allah has done good to you."

Qur'an (28:77)

"How rare and beautiful it is that we exist"

Sleeping at Last (Saturn)

DEDICATION

Thank you, Allah SWT, for allowing me to live long enough to complete this thesis and for the grace and kindness you have bestowed upon me thus far. I was granted the chance to complete this thesis despite all of its flaws. I am honored to dedicate my thesis to:

1. My beloved people who have meant so much to me, although they are no longer exist in this world. First, to my lovely mother, Hj. Sunikah, in memoriam, thank you for letting me be by your side in your last breath. I always cherish how you teach me to be an independent woman. It is not just about cleaning up the houses or cooking a meal; it is more than that. Secondly, I pay tribute to my father, H. Jubaedi, whose life was cut short while I was surviving the middle stages of this thesis. Thank you for the support, wise words, kindness, and for teaching me the meaning of 'sincerely'. My hardest part is letting both of you go and knowing that I will never touch or see you anymore. I appreciate all of the opportunities that both of you gave me to be by your side in your last moments of life. Your smiling faces and happiness, your skin texture, the way you see me while I am eating lunch, the way you woke me up in the morning—I miss both of your voices and everything about you more than the words I can say. I want to meet both of you sooner, talking and laughing, like it will never end. Though you are no longer with me, I solemnly swear you will never be forgotten. In another lifetime, may heaven and happiness be your gifts.

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The contributions of many people who served as great inspiration made it possible to complete this final project. In this instance, the researcher would like to express gratitude to:

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Bojonegoro, 31 July 2023
The Researcher

Zahrotun Nisa Aulia
19120035

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CHAPTER I

INTRODUCTION

A. Background of Study

       Literature has the capacity to enlighten and assist us in gaining a deeper understanding of the world and ourselves. Literature offers an insight into the human life and helps us better understand one another. By listening to someone else's perspective, we can start to recognize how that person thinks. The connection between the reader and a piece of literature are interesting. A work of literature can frequently engage us to the point that we feel as though we are a part of it. Bennet and Royle (2016) state the definition of literature as a whole could be summed up as the discourse of the strange: literature is the genre of writing that most consistently and provocatively explores the strange aspects of experience, cognition, and feeling.

       Poetry may be the most challenging of the several literary genres to comprehend. The characteristic of poetry in general are the figurative expression which involves the use of particularly beautiful or rare words to convey the author's interpretation. These concealed meanings of figurative language are the primary reason why poetry would be more difficult to comprehend than other literary genres (Pradipta, 2009). The difficulty of translating poetry is due to the fact that a certain1 language has its own phonological and visual aspects (Preiss, Lynch, McKay, & Kaufman, 2020).Moreover, it makes people unconcerned in poetry. Novels and other short works of literature will attract more readers because novels are typically

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portraits of human life with a variety of characters and dialogue that make the storyline more engaging.

We live in an age when many of us are see the spoken word poetry as a social movement with the goals of youth empowerment and social justice. Although this literary genre did not achieve widespread attention until the 20th century, it continues to exist in hip-hop music, particularly rap (Waliaula, 2018). Rap, hip-hop, storytelling, theater, jazz, rock, blues, and folk music are all elements that can be found in spoken word poetry. Popularized by poetry slam contests, which have been held in a variety of nations throughout the world, this genre of poetry is also known as performance poetry.

Spoken word poetry or poetry slam is a literary genre designed for public performance that combine by wordplay, rhythm, sounds, meter, and more by using selected and structured language in an endeavour to evoke an emotional response from audience. Poets who deliver their poetrys orally aim to captivate listeners by making emotional connections with them. A work of literature can frequently engage us to the point that we feel as though we are a part of it (Bennett, 2016). This is accomplished mostly through the use of literary or rhetorical aesthetics.

A performance may also include the use of song, body movement, musical instruments, or even drama. All of these actions are taken to ensure that the message the poets wished to convey to its intended audience is conveyed. Poetry, like stories and songs, is meaningless if it fails to evoke an emotional response from its audience (Philip, Johnson-Laird, & Oatley,

2022). Speaking your poetry aloud allows us to narrate it with feeling and style, which inspires and moves our audiences (Agarwal, 2020).

The average audience considers that spoken poetry more accessible than written poetry. Poetrys created in the spoken word style are intended to be read out loud, therefore the way the poetry sounds is equally as significant as the meaning behind the words. A more rhythmic sense can be introduced to the words that you write through the use of poetic elements such as onomatopoeia, alliteration, and assonance. People in the audience were able to understand spoken word poetry a lot better because our culture is mostly oral. We are good listeners, but writing and reading are still pretty separate skills. However, spoken word is possible to bridge the gap between written and spoken word poetry (Kijiner, 2014).

When we start talking about music, people will inevitably become attracted in because it is composed of a poetry lyrical that is spoken in accordance with a particular rhythm, rhyme, and melody in order to produce a harmony. Musics contain the details for instance the storyline, the scenes, the metaphors, and the feelings. Music serves the same function as a medium for expressing personal emotion and moral values. Therefore, when we listen to a song, we often interpret its meaning by analyzing the lyrics that the researcher wants to convey. Nevertheless, not all song lyrics are easily comprehensible, especially if they use figurative language or poetic phrases with hidden meanings.

The use of figurative language by the artist not only provides to achieve a more meaningful expression but also assists the audience in

interpreting the song. The artist has their own unique and enigmatic phrase structure, which is distinct from those of the others. Songwriting style is inseparable from the methods that the composer uses to convey meaning and emotion. Hence, it might be quite difficult to understand figurative language accurately and properly at times. Due to this, figurative language can be a little mysterious.

To interpret the song lyrics, it is crucial for the listener or reader to grasp the essence of figurative language. If readers or listeners are unable to do so, they may not comprehend what the artist are meant to be. Additionally, the ability to detect figurative language is essential for readers and listeners. These two aspects, identifying and comprehending figurative language, are essential if readers or listeners wish to completely understand the material that contains figurative language in a song.

In *Hotel Books* the artist aims to make the listener feel as low as possible by evoking the deepest possible levels of grief, frustration, and stress through the spoken word poetry. The artist uses spoken word poetry in their music to exaggerate the sensation they have in order to offer the listeners a certain impression or to demonstrate the depth of their feeling. In addition, he believe that through spoken word poetry, listeners and readers of *Hotel Books* spoken word poetry would feel what the musicians feel.

Hotel Books is the project that spoken word poet Cameron Smith has been working on since it was formed in 2011 in Porteville, Tulare Country, California, United States. They are well-known for the unique vocal style of Smith, which is frequently the primary emphasis of the band's work. Cam

Smith and his bandmates have performed widely tours across the United States, Europe, Asia and Australia, delivering his powerful, cathartic poetrys over a musical blend of ambience, post-hardcore, and emo. They have shared the stage with several other well-known bands like Counterparts, Defeater, and I Prevail. Smith was interested in spoken word poetry because it was different and it gave him the freedom to focus on writing lyrics without having to worry about a melody.

They released a series of tour EPs, beginning with *Call Me Human*, including a double EP titled *I'm Almost Happy Here, But I Never Feel at Home*, which was published in July in the same years. In 2015, *Hotel Books'* debut album, *Run Wild, Young Beauty*, and Smith's poetry collection, *Most Nights*, *I Wish It Were You*, were both released via InVogue. The book served as a sort of companion sequel to *Run Wild, Young Beauty* and contained 2011 short stories and poetry drawn from both new and old *Hotel Books* songs. The next summer, *Run Wild, Stay Alive* was released as a follow-up album. *Equivalency*, Smith's third LP, was released in 2017.

Poetrys can produce concrete, condensed, and intriguing meaning through figurative language. It is essential to understand the actual meanings contained inside the poetrys, as this is believed to be crucial. It is meaningless if you only read the poetry without comprehending what they are trying to say to the audience. We need to look into imagery and figurative language more deeply. The researcher chose Hotel Books' spoken word poetry in figurative language because it grabbed the researcher's curiosity in learning about poetry

and its aspects so that the researcher and the reader could be more clearly understood.

B. Research Problems

Based on the previously mentioned brief review of the research background, the research question for this study can be phrased as follows:

1. What kinds of figurative language used in some spoken word poetry by Hotel Books?

2. What is the contextual meaning of each figurative language in some spoken word poetry by Hotel Books?

C. Objective of the Study

In this study, the result of discussion about the statements of the problem have the objectives below:

1. To explain the kinds of figurative language that are used in some spoken word poetry by Hotel Books.

2. To explain the contextual meaning of each figurative language in some spoken word poetry by Hotel Books.

D. Significance of the Study

After this research, the researcher hopes the discussions' outcomes will have the positive impact described below:

1. Theoretically

    This research is anticipated to enhance the study of English, particularly figurative language, and facilitate a deeper comprehension of the messages conveyed in poetrys.

2. Practically

   It is hoped that the research findings from the study will be beneficial to:

   a. Students

      As a result of reading this study, students at IKIP PGRI Bojonegoro will be more motivated to invest time and energy into learning literature. They will develop the habit of reading poetrys. This study should be useful to anyone interested in figurative language or Hotel Books' spoken word poetry.

   b. Teachers

      The outcome of this study is expected to provide new information regarding figurative language. In addition, after reading this research, teachers will have access to additional resources for teaching poetry.

   c. Researcher

      This study is really important and valuable. It will provide some beneficial experiences that can be applied to the researcher's training as a teacher candidate.

   d. Reader

      This study helps people understand figurative language better because, when we study language, particularly poetry, we discover several forms of figurative language that make words more fascinating and various interpretations that help the reader or listener comprehend how to use the words.

E. Definition of Key Terminologies

a. Spoken Word Poetry

Spoken word poetry is a poetry performance that encourages the performer to focus on gestures, rythm, and originality who requires the performer to "show" him or herself to the audience; that is, to be seen (Dooley, 2014). According to Sari (2020) spoken word poetry is an art form performance that is accessible to all individuals, places, styles, and subjects. Poetry is the manifestation of something previously undiscovered. You're writing to make that happen, to transform yourself into an assembly of the bizarre and possibly the unimaginable (Haupt, 2014).

b. Figurative Language

There are many different ways of looking at figurative language in literature. Figures of speech and metaphors are easy to use in figurative language, according to McArthur (1992). Additionally, he explains that figures of speech are a type of rhetoric that involves the use of words in unusual contexts with the purpose of creating an impression. Sequences of common words are employed in figurative language to convey meaning or create unusual effects (Abrams & Harpham, 2013). According to him, figures are occasionally described as essentially poetic; this is necessary for capital discourses to integrate the function of language. The use of figures of speech is a departure from literal wording. It creates a special effect, makes an idea clearer, and makes literature more colorful and powerful (Giroux & Williston, 1974).