

# **ANALYSIS OF FIGURATIVE LANGUAGES IN THE DARK KNIGHT MOVIE**

**SKRIPSI**



Present to  
IKIP PGRI Bojonegoro  
in partial fulfilment of the requirements  
for the degree of Sarjana in English Education

**By:**  
**Muhamad Iqbal Fachri Zulfani**  
**NIM 21120027**

**ENGLISH EDUCATION DEPARTMENT  
FACULTY OF LANGUAGES AND ARTS EDUCATION  
IKIP PGRI BOJONEGORO  
2025**

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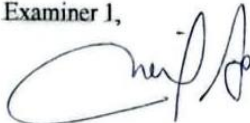
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## MOTTO AND DEDICATION

### MOTTO

*"Even if you're weak, there are miracles you can seize with your hands if you  
never give up."*

*(Asta-- Black Clover)*

*"My body can't use magic. So I'll make sure my body is stronger than magic."*

*(Asta-- Black Clover)*

### DEDICATION

There is no page more meaningful than this one. With deep appreciation and respect, I dedicate this work to:

1. Ms. Fitri Nurdianingsih, M.Pd., as my first advisor, and Mr. Refi Ranto Rozak, M.Pd., as my second advisor, for their patient guidance, valuable insights, and continuous support. Their constructive feedback played a significant role in the completion of this research.
2. My beloved parents, for their unconditional love, endless prayers, and unwavering encouragement that have become the foundation of my journey. You are my greatest source of motivation.
3. Someone with NIM 21120054, for her great dedication and contribution to my research, her enthusiasm in pushing me to finish this research. she is the only one who encourages me here. i have no other friends, only her, and only her stands firmly by my side.
4. To those who doubted me — thank you. Your skepticism fueled my determination, just like Asta from *Black Clover*, who proves that willpower can surpass limits when talent is not enough.

Thank you for all the time, energy, and support you have given. May this skripsi serve as a source of insight and benefit for others. Aamiin.

## **ACKNOWLEDGEMENT**

First and foremost, all praise and gratitude be to Allah SWT, the Almighty God, for His endless grace and blessings, which have enabled the researcher to complete this skripsi entitled “Analysis of Figgurative Language in The Dark Knight Movie.” Peace and blessings are also upon Prophet Muhammad SAW, the last messenger, who has guided humanity from the darkness into the light of knowledge and truth. On this occasion, the researcher wishes to sincerely thank:

- a. Dr. Junarti, M.Pd., Rector of IKIP PGRI Bojonegoro.
- b. Dr. Cahyo Hasanudin, M.Pd., Dean of the Faculty of Language and Arts Education, IKIP PGRI Bojonegoro.
- c. Ayu Fitrianingsih, M.Pd., Head of the English Education Study Program, IKIP PGRI Bojonegoro.
- d. Mrs. Meiga Ratih Tirtanawati, M.Pd., as the First Skripsi Advisor, for her invaluable assistance, guidance, and patience in supervising the completion of this skripsi.
- e. Mrs. Chyntia Heru Woro Prastiwi, M.Pd., as the Second Skripsi Advisor, for her continuous direction, motivation, and patient guidance during the preparation of this skripsi.

May all the kindness and support given be rewarded with the best blessings by Allah SWT. With all humility, the researcher remains open to any constructive suggestions and criticisms for the improvement and refinement of this work in the future. Finally, the researcher extends deepest gratitude to beloved parents for their endless prayers, love, guidance, and both moral and financial support. The researcher also extends thanks to all family members, friends, and everyone who has contributed to the completion of this skripsi, whose names cannot all be mentioned individually. It is the researcher’s hope that this skripsi may bring benefit, not only for the researcher personally but also for readers and all concerned parties. The researcher fully entrusts all results and expectations of this work to Allah SWT.

Bojonegoro, 09 July 2025  
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## STATEMENT OF AUTHENTICITY

I, the undersigned below:

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In order to uphold academic integrity, sincerely and without coercion from any parties, I hereby declare that the thesis entitled:

### ANALYSIS OF FIGURATIVE LANGUAGE IN THE DARK KNIGHT MOVIE

Is the result of my own original work, and all sources of information used have been clearly cited in the reference list according to the scientific and academic code of ethics. I am aware that if any violations of scholarly ethics regarding to the authenticity of this work are found, **I personally** accept the consequences in accordance with the applicable regulations and am prepared to bear legal sanctions.

Bojonegoro, 10 July 2025



Muhamad Iqbal Fachri Zulfani  
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## ABSTRACT

Zulfani, Muhamad Iqbal Fachri. 2025. The Analysis of Figurative Language in the Dark Knight Movie (2018). Skripsi, English Education Department Faculty of Languages and Art Education IKIP PGRI Bojonegoro, Advisor 1) Fitri Nurdianingsih, M.Pd., 2) Refi Ranto Rozak, M.Pd.

**Keywords:** movie analysis, figurative language, The Dark Knight.

This study aims to identify and analyze the types and contextual meanings of figurative language used in the movie *The Dark Knight*. Using a qualitative descriptive method, the researcher conducted content analysis and contextual interpretation based on relevant linguistic theories to examine the figurative expressions found in the movie. The results of the study reveal six types of figurative language: irony, metaphor, hyperbole, personification, symbolism, and comparison. A total of 22 figurative expressions were identified throughout the movie. Irony appears most frequently, especially in Joker's dialogue, to express hidden intentions and social criticism. Metaphors and hyperboles describe the emotional and psychological aspects of the characters. Personification and symbolism support the moral and thematic messages conveyed in the movie, while comparison adds variety and dramatic tone to the dialogue. Contextual analysis shows that the figurative expressions in the movie are closely related to the characters' roles, their emotional states, and the core themes of the movie, such as justice, fear, and moral conflict. The figurative language in *The Dark Knight* serves not only as a stylistic element, but also as a narrative tool that reinforces character development and thematic depth.



## ABSTRAK

Zulfani, Muhamad Iqbal Fachri. 2025. Analisis Bahasa Kiasan dalam Film Dark Knight (2018). Skripsi, Program Studi Pendidikan Bahasa Inggris Fakultas Pendidikan Bahasa dan Seni IKIP PGRI Bojonegoro, Pembimbing 1) Fitri Nurdianingsih, M.Pd. 2) Refi Ranto Rozak, M.Pd.

**Kata Kunci:** analisis film, bahasa kiasan, The Dark Knight

Penelitian ini bertujuan untuk mengidentifikasi dan menganalisis jenis-jenis dan makna kontekstual bahasa kiasan yang digunakan dalam film *The Dark Knight*. Dengan menggunakan metode deskriptif kualitatif, peneliti melakukan analisis konten dan interpretasi kontekstual berdasarkan teori linguistik yang relevan untuk mengkaji ekspresi kiasan yang terdapat dalam film tersebut. Hasil penelitian menunjukkan enam jenis bahasa kiasan: ironi, metafora, hiperbola, personifikasi, simbolisme, dan perbandingan. Sebanyak 22 ekspresi figuratif diidentifikasi sepanjang film. Ironi muncul paling sering, terutama dalam dialog Joker, untuk mengekspresikan niat tersembunyi dan kritik sosial. Metafora dan hiperbola menggambarkan aspek emosional dan psikologis karakter. Personifikasi dan simbolisme mendukung pesan moral dan tematik yang disampaikan dalam film, sementara perbandingan menambah variasi dan nada dramatis pada dialog. Analisis kontekstual menunjukkan bahwa ungkapan-ungkapan figuratif dalam film ini erat terkait dengan peran karakter, keadaan emosional mereka, dan tema-tema inti film, seperti keadilan, ketakutan, dan konflik moral. Bahasa figuratif dalam *The Dark Knight* tidak hanya berfungsi sebagai elemen gaya, tetapi juga sebagai alat naratif yang memperkuat pengembangan karakter dan kedalaman tematik.

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# **CHAPTER 1**

## **INTRODUCTION**

### **A. Background of the Study**

Language is a structured communication system that allows individuals to express thoughts, emotions and ideas. Language is defined as a set of symbols and rules that facilitate meaningful communication, allowing the exchange of information across different cultures. According to Sinha et al. (2024) language serves as a medium through which individuals express their identities and experiences, making it a fundamental aspect of human interaction. This function highlights how language is not only a tool for communication but also a means of preserving traditions, values, and beliefs within societies.

One of the essential aspects of language is figurative language, which refers to the use of words or expressions with meanings that go beyond their literal interpretation. It encompasses various forms such as metaphor, irony, and symbolism that enhance the expressiveness of language, making communication more vibrant and engaging. Figurative language is often used in literature and movie to elicit emotions and imagery, allowing for a deeper understanding of complex ideas (Fitria et al., 2023). The ability of figurative language to create powerful impressions enables it to play a crucial role in artistic and rhetorical expressions, influencing how audiences perceive and interpret messages.

Language can be categorized into various types, including spoken, written, and non-verbal forms. Each type serves different communicative

purposes and contexts, depending on the needs of the speaker and the audience. For instance, spoken language is often characterized by its immediacy and interaction, while written language allows for reflection and permanence, making it suitable for documentation and literature. Additionally, non-verbal language, such as gestures and facial expressions, complements verbal communication, enhancing the overall message being conveyed (Sinha et al., 2024). The integration of these different forms of language in daily communication demonstrates how human interactions rely on multiple modes of expression to achieve clarity and effectiveness.

Figurative language serves as a crucial tool in cinematic storytelling, enabling movie makers to convey complex ideas and emotions through symbolism, metaphor, and other rhetorical devices. In movies, these linguistic devices are often used to establish themes, develop characters, and create deeper narrative layers. According to Drobac, (2024) figurative language in movie is not only used for aesthetic purposes but also as a means to critique social conditions. This is evident in *The Dark Knight*, where the use of figurative language plays a significant role in the portrayal of characters and their moral dilemmas. For example, the Joker frequently employs metaphors to express his nihilistic worldview, portraying life as chaotic and meaningless. In contrast, Batman's symbolism represents his moral struggles and internal conflicts in upholding justice (Hämäläinen, 2020) . These elements contribute to the



movie's broader philosophical questions, prompting viewers to reflect on the nature of heroism and the complexities of moral choices.

The movie's exploration of heroism and villainy can be analyzed through the lens of modern and postmodern constructs, which provide different perspectives on identity and morality. Yilmaz & Fundalar, (2022) assert that the characters in *The Dark Knight* embody varying representations of these constructs, reflecting broader societal anxieties and ethical ambiguities. This aligns with the notion that figurative language encapsulates deeper meanings and societal critiques, making movies not just a medium of entertainment but also a platform for critical discourse. By examining these narratives through figurative language, viewers can uncover hidden messages about contemporary issues, such as justice, corruption, and personal sacrifice. The movie, therefore, serves as both a form of entertainment and a cultural commentary that challenges audiences to reconsider their perceptions of good and evil.

The methodology employed in this type of analysis aligns with Wahyuni, (2020) who emphasizes the importance of descriptive analysis in studying figurative language. This method allows researchers to examine the contextual meanings behind figurative expressions and how they contribute to the overall narrative. This research contributes to linguistic studies, particularly in analyzing figurative language in visual media, by highlighting the significance of language beyond traditional textual forms.

Additionally, it serves as a useful reference for movie makers and academics, demonstrating how figurative language can effectively convey moral and social messages. By understanding figurative language more deeply, audiences can develop a more critical perspective in interpreting cinematic messages, fostering constructive dialogue on complex social issues. Such an approach encourages a more analytical and reflective engagement with movies, enriching both academic discussions and general media literacy. Therefore, this study focuses on identifying the types and meanings of figurative language in *The Dark Knight* as a contribution to linguistic and media studies.

#### **B. Formulation of the Problem**

To ensure a clear direction in this research, it is essential to formulate specific research questions that align with the focus of the study. Since this study concerns the use of figurative language in spoken dialogue, the problems are formulated as follows:

1. What kinds of figurative language are used in the selected dialogues of *The Dark Knight*?
2. What are the contextual meanings of each figurative language found in the selected dialogues of *The Dark Knight*?

#### **C. Objectives of the Study**

In line with the problems stated above, this study aims to provide a linguistic analysis of the figurative expressions found in *The Dark Knight*. The specific objectives are:

1. To identify and explain the kinds of figurative language used in the selected dialogues of The Dark Knight.
2. To analyze the contextual meanings of each figurative language found in the selected dialogues of The Dark Knight.

#### **D. Significances of the Study**

This research has both theoretical and practical significance, as it aims to deepen the understanding of figurative language from a linguistic point of view and to provide practical support for analyzing how figurative expressions are used in the dialogue of the movie The Dark Knight.

##### **1. Theoretical Significance**

This study contributes to the field of linguistics, particularly in the study of figurative language, by providing an in-depth analysis of its usage in cinematic dialogues. By examining the types of figurative language present in The Dark Knight and analyzing their contextual meanings, this research enhances the understanding of how language functions beyond its literal meaning in visual media. Additionally, it supports existing theories on figurative language and rhetorical strategies in movie, offering new insights that may be useful for future linguistic and movie studies.

##### **2. Practical Significance**

###### **a. For Future Researchers**

This study can be a useful reference for future researchers who want to explore figurative language in movies or other visual media. The findings provide a basis for further research on how

figurative language affects character development, storytelling, and audience understanding. Future studies can expand on this research by analyzing different movie genres, comparing multiple movies, or using more advanced methods to better understand figurative language in movies.

b. For Readers

For general readers, especially students and movie enthusiasts, this study enhances their ability to recognize and interpret figurative language in movies. By understanding the contextual meanings behind figurative expressions, readers can develop a more critical approach to analyzing movie dialogues and their underlying messages. This study also encourages viewers to appreciate how movie makers use language creatively to convey complex themes and emotions, enriching their overall cinematic experience.

## **E. Definition of Key Terminologies**

### **1. Language**

Language is a means of communication that humans use to interact with their surroundings, allowing them to express ideas, thoughts, desires, and share opinions and information effectively (Sriwedani, 2023). In this study, language is defined as a structured system of symbols and rules that enables individuals to convey meaning, facilitating both personal expression and social interaction.

## **2. Figurative Language**

Figurative language is a form of expression in which words or phrases convey meanings that differ from their literal interpretation (Harya et al., 2016). Figurative language, in this study, is defined as a linguistic tool that enhances expression by adding depth and creativity to existing communication in movies, allowing speakers or actors to convey complex ideas in a more engaging and impactful way.

## **3. Movie**

A movie is a widely recognized form of visual entertainment that captures the audience's attention through storytelling and artistic expression (Nehe, 2022). In this study, movies not only provide entertainment and arouse emotions, but also function as a medium for cultural representation and language learning, as well as enriching the audience's understanding of various perspectives, especially in The Dark Knight Movie.