

# **THE STUDY OF METAPHORICAL EXPRESSION IN THE KAHLIL GIBRAN'S POEMS**



**Research Paper**

**Submitted as a Partial Fulfillment  
of The Requirement for Getting  
Bachelor Degree of English Department**

**by:**

**Yuli Eka Sundawati**

**A.320.040.071**

**ENGLISH DEPARTMENT  
TEACHING TRAINING AND EDUCATION FACULTY  
MUHAMMADIYAH UNIVERSITY OF SURAKARTA  
2009**

## CHAPTER I

### INTRODUCTION

#### A. Background of the Study

Language is an important thing in our life. We can communicate with other people through language. Communication has purposes to send a message to other human. In sending the message, the sender not only uses an explicit message or direct expressions but also uses an implicit message or indirect expressions, where the meaning of message is different from its message, such as using figurative language. Figurative language is the language that has more than one meaning

Figurative language is language which is not real meaning. The figurative meaning is not fit again with the concept in that word. It is transfer from the real meaning, how ever there is still relation between them, if we want to understand it deeply.

There are many kinds of figurative language, such as metaphor, simile, hyperbole, irony, synecdoche, litotes and etc. Dealing with the figurative language, there is one kind of figurative language that often used in daily activity, that is; metaphor. Metaphor derived from the Greek. It means to transfer. Metaphor is defined as a figure of speech, or something that we use to replace "normal" words in order to help others understand or enjoy our message.. Making comparison in metaphor, it doesn't employ the word *like* or *as*, instead, likeness is suggested. It

needs deep understanding in order to get the meaning of it by interpreting the distinction between the two objects, for example: *Life is rollercoaster*.

The words *life* and *rollercoaster* are different thing. Rollercoaster is a kind of extreme games in which it is different from life. In this case, the implicit meaning life can change any time and fast. We can recognize it, as like as rollercoaster. It can be fast go up and down.

Metaphor is a distorting reality, so the metaphor has a relation with the human perceptual system which influences the production of metaphor. In creating metaphor; the writer has desire to explore and to figure out the clues of meaning. The meaning is hidden in the metaphor words itself. So, in searching the clues of meaning in metaphor words, the writer uses her high imagination in order to find the clues of the metaphor's meaning based on human perceptual system. Then, finding the inside meaning we use semantics because by using semantics, the metaphor words will be clearly and immediately revealed.

The metaphor cases can be found in the poem. Poem often has difficult word to understand, because sometimes the author used the implicit sentences. Poems usually have themes but the poem also tries to create an emotional effect and make an association between things and idea that are not related.

In this research, the writer focuses on the form and the meaning of metaphorical expression used in Kahlil Gibran poems. He is a poet, philosopher and artist, who was born in Lebanon. His fame and influence spread far away beyond the near east. He produced many famous poems in which it is very

memorable. The writer takes Gibran's poems especially in metaphorical expression because it makes the writer understands about the meaning of the poems that contain metaphorical expression. That is the reason for the writer intends to conduct a research on analysis of poems especially Kahlil Gibran's poem entitling "The Study of Metaphoric Expressions on Kahlil Gibran's Poems."

## **B. Previous Study**

There are some researchers who have conducted the study on metaphoric sentences. The first one belongs to Ratna Puspita Sari (2005) entitled "A Semiotic Analysis of English Love Songs Toward Metaphoric". She classified the data based on human perceptual systems by Michael C. Haley. Then she applies the semiotic theory of judging the inside meaning. The object of the study was metaphorical expression in English Love Song. The data for this study are taken from the English Love Song that contain metaphor. There are namely MCALMONT and Butler's song "falling", Phillip Collin's song "Thru My eyes" and Counting Crows and Vanessa Carlton "Big Yellow Taxi"

The other researcher are Nur Fatmawati Sutrisno (2006) entitle "A Semantic Study of Metaphorical language Used in the Josh Groban Closer Album". This research aimed at describing the metaphorical expression in Josh Groban's song lyrics. She classified the data based on Human perceptual System by Michael C.Halley. Then she applies semantic approach in order to get the inside meaning.

Based on the above studies, it is obvious that all studies use human perceptual system in which those are under the scope of pragmatics and semiotics. Related to those studies, researcher presents her study use human perceptual system and compare the grammatical form of metaphorical expression in Kahlil Gibran's poem. The researcher still concern with the metaphor expressions too since the researcher uses the poems of Kahlil Gibran.

### **C. Limitation of the Study**

In conducting this study, the writer focuses on the Kahlil Gibran Poems. This study is limited to the characteristic of metaphorical expression based on Michael C.Halley Human Perceptual System and compares the form of Metaphorical expression.

### **D. Problem Statement**

Based on the background of the study, the writer proposes the problem statements as follow:

1. What are the forms of metaphorical expressions used in Kahlil Gibran poems?
2. What are the types of metaphorical expressions based on Human Perceptual System used in Kahlil Gibran poems?

### **E. Objectives of the Study**

Based on the problem of the study mentioned above, the writer has the following objectives:

1. To describe the forms of metaphorical expressions in Kahlil Gibran Poems.
2. To describe the type of metaphorical expression based on Human Perceptual System used in Kahlil Gibran Poems.

### **F. Benefit of the Study**

#### **1. Theoretically Benefit**

This study will give contribution to the larger body of knowledge especially in metaphoric expression.

#### **2. Practically Benefit**

This research will improve the reader's knowledge of understanding the metaphorical expression used in Kahlil Gibran Poems collection.

### **G. Clarifications of Terms**

#### **1. Types**

It will deal with the types of metaphorical expressions based on Human Perceptual System based on Michael C. Halley's Theory.

## **2. Form**

It will discuss the grammatical form of metaphorical expression which found in the Kahlil Gibran's poem collection and connected it with Halley's Theory Human perceptual System.

## **H. Paper Organization**

In order to make this research is easy to follow. The writer organizes this as follow:

Chapter I is introduction. This chapter consists of background of study, previous study, limitation of the study, problem statement, objectives of the study, and benefits of the study.

Chapter II is Underlying Theory. This chapter consists of notion Semantics, the linguistic form theory, notion of figurative languages and types of metaphorical based on Michael C. Halley.

Chapter III is research methods. This chapter deals with type of research, object of the study, methods of collecting data and technique of analysis data.

Chapter IV is data analysis. This chapter is focuses on data analysis and the discussion of the data.

Chapter V is dealing with conclusion and suggestion.