FIGURATIVE LANGUAGE IN “THE BROKEN WINGS” 
BY KAHLIL GIBRAN : A PRAGMATIC PERSPECTIVE 

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FIGURATIVE LANGUAGE IN “THE BROKEN WINGS” 
BY KAHLIL GIBRAN: A PRAGMATIC PERSPECTIVE

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Abstract

This study is about figurative language. This research is a descriptive qualitative research in which the objective is to describe the actual user of language for communication. The objectives of this research are: To identify the types of figurative language used in The Broken Wings by Kahlil Gibran; and to examine the intention of figurative language used in The Broken Wings by Kahlil Gibran. The data of the research is the sentence that contains a figurative language in Kahlil Gibran’s novel. The data taken from The Broken Wings by Kahlil Gibran. There were 70 sentences of figurative language. It shows Simile 40 sentences (57%), Personification 15 sentences (22%), Metaphor 2 sentences (3%), Metonymy 10 sentences (14%), and Synecdoche 3 sentences (4%). There are 51 sentences are Assertive (73%); 4 sentences are Directive (6%), content of advice; 3 sentences are Commisive (4%); 11 sentence are expressive (16%); and 1 sentence is Declaration (1%).

Key words: figurative language, the intention of figurative language.
A. Introduction

Language is symbol of communication. When people want to say something they always use the language as instrument of communication. Communication has a purpose to send a message to other human. In sending the message, the sender does not only use an explicit message or direct expressions but also uses an implicit message or indirect expressions, where the meaning of message is different from usual message, such as using figurative language. Figurative language is the language that has more than one meaning.

Figurative language is a conspicuous departure from what users of a language apprehend as the standard meaning of words, or else the standard order of words, in order to achieve some special meaning or effect. Figures are sometimes described as primarily poetic, but they are integral to the functioning of language and indispensable to all modes of discourse.

Figurative language can be found in the novels. Novels often has difficult words to understand, because sometimes the author used the implicit sentences. Poetic novels usually have themes but the novel also tries to create an emotional effect and makes an association between things and idea that are not related.

The figurative language, after all, belongs to a language of phenomenon, which is interested to analyze, because it’s the product of creative imagination. Figurative language with its compatible terms forces the reader to attend to the connotations rather than to the denotations. Using the figurative language can create a novel more concrete, condensed, and interesting.

Language employs various figures of speech, some examples are metaphor, simile, antithesis, hyperbole, and paradox. In general, figurative language is a kind of language which departs from the language employed in the traditional, literal ways of describing persons or object. Using figurative language is making imaginative description in fresh ways. It is usually
immediately obvious whether a writer is using figurative language (Reaske, 1966: 33).

This research takes pragmatics as an approach of analysis. According to Geoffrey Leech (1999: 7), pragmatics can be usefully defined as the study of how utterances have meaning in situations. Pragmatics is how the language is used in communication. The focus of pragmatics analysis is on the meaning of reader’s utterances rather than of the meaning of words or sentences. Pragmatics concentrates on those aspects of meaning that cannot be predicted by linguistic knowledge itself, but also takes to account our knowledge about the physical and social world (Leech, 1993: 1).

In this research, the writer focuses on figurative language that used in The Broken Wings by Kahlil Gibran. Kahlil Gibran, philosopher and artist, who was born in Lebanon. His fame and influence spread far away beyond the near east. He produced many famous books in which it is very memorable such as The Prophet, The Broken Wings, The Madman and many more. The Broken Wings can be termed as an autobiography of first and last love of Kahlil Gibran the great philosopher who met a girl named Selma Keremy at Beirut, Lebanon.

The writer takes Gibran’s novel in figurative language because it is very interesting, popular, and very familiar in society, but to understand the meaning of Kahlil Gibran’s novel is so difficult because it used implicit meaning or indirect expression. There are some figurative language that Kahlil Gibran used in this novel.

Related to the background of the study, the problems which are proposed by the writer are as the following: 1) What are the types of figurative language used in The Broken Wings by Kahlil Gibran? 2) What are the intention of figurative language used in The Broken Wings by Kahlil Gibran?

In this research, the writer proposes two major objectives to be described as follows: 1) To identify the types of figurative language used in The Broken Wings by Kahlil Gibran. 2) To examine the intention of figurative language used in The Broken Wings by Kahlil Gibran.
The writer uses Abrams’s theory to identify the types of figurative language used in The Broken Wings by Kahlil Gibran. According to Abrams (1999:96), figurative language consists of some figure of speech. They are simile, metaphor, metonymy, synecdoche, and personification. To examine the intention of figurative language used in The Broken Wings by Kahlil Gibran, the writer uses five basic categories of illocutionary acts by Searle, namely: assertive, directive, commissive, expressive, declaration.

B. Research Method

This research is a descriptive qualitative research in which the objective is to describe the actual user of language for communication. Object of this research is figurative language in The Broken Wings by Kahlil Gibran. The data of the research is the sentence that contains figurative language in Kahlil Gibran’s novel. There are 70 data that found. The data source is The Broken Wings by Kahlil Gibran. In this research, the steps of writer use to collect the data is as the following: reading and understanding Kahlil Gibran’s novel; The Broken Wings. Finding out all the words, sentences having figurative language as the data. Collecting data selected with figurative language in Kahlil Gibran’s novel; The Broken Wings. Noting down the data based on their classification.

C. Research Result and Discussion

There are two objectives in this research. The first part of this chapter, the researcher will classify the data base on the types of figurative language. The theory that used on this analysis is Abrams’s theory (1999). There are 70 data (sentences) that identified as figurative language. The data takes from Kahlil Gibran’s novel The Broken Wings. The following are the results of the research:

1. The Types of Figurative Language are Used in The Broken Wings by Kahlil Gibran
The first part of this chapter, the researcher will classify the database on the figurative language. The theory that used on this analysis is Abrams’s theory. There are 70 data (sentences) that identified as figurative language. The data taken from Kahlil Gibran’s novel The Broken Wings. The following are the results of the research:

a. Simile

Simile is the simplest figure of speech. It compares between two things which are not similar particular objects using the connecting words, such as like and as. The researcher finds out 40 sentences (57%) which belong to simile. Here is the example of simile in this research:

1) (3/F/V) My life was coma, empty like that of Adam’s in Paradise.

The sentence above compares of two unrelated things that are indicated by the word like. There is no similarity between my life was coma with Adam in Paradise.

b. Personification

Personification is kind of figure of speech that used by giving the attributes of a human being to an animal, an object, or a concept. There 15 sentences which belong to personification:

1) (2/F/V) I heard love whispered into my ears.

The author tells to the reader that love come to his by whisper. He tells that love can act like a human.

c. Metonymy

Metonymy is the use of something closely related to the thing actually meant. It can be considered that metonymy is the substitution of a word naming an object for another word closely associated with the researcher finds out three sentences which belong to Metonymy.

1) (52/BTTOD/XI) Under the protection of his ecclesiastical robe and the golden cross which he wore on his chest.

The expression “under the protection of his ecclesiastical robe and the golden cross” is a metonymy. It refers to a religion, especially Christian.
d. Metaphor

Definition of metaphor is more complicated than simile. The most helpful thing to know is when a sentence uses metaphor, there is always a comparison at the sentence. Metaphor is a figure of speech in which a comparison is made between two things essentially unlike without connecting words like simile. The analysis Metaphor in Kahlil Gibran’s novel are as follows:

1) (17/TWT/II) **She became a book whose pages i could understand.**

The sentence above belongs to metaphor because Kahlil Gibran compares Selma with a book. It is comparison between two unrelated things without connecting word like in simile.

e. Synecdoche

Synecdoche is the use of the part of the whole, or the whole is used to signify a part. Synecdoche substitutes a significant part of something for the thing itself. The analysis of synecdoche are as follows:

1) (27/TT/XXI)**We could see the beauty of Lebanon.**

Based on the sentence above, the author applies synecdoche because the whole to signify a part of something. The word Lebanon does not mean the entire of Lebanon but just a part of it.
The researcher finds some interesting data on analyzing this research. Firstly, there are five kinds of figurative language found in Kahlil Gibran’s novel The Broken Wings. There are Simile (57%), Personification (22%), Metaphor (3%), Metonymy (14%), and Synecdoche (4%). The result shows that Simile more frequently than others, because the author (Kahlil Gibran) like to compare of two unrelated things and there is no similarity between them, the comparison using the word as or like.

It is equal with Abrams’s theory (1999) that figurative language divided into five kinds, namely: Personification, Metaphor, Simile, Metonymy and Synecdoche.

2. The Intentions of Figurative Language Are Used in The Broken Wings by Kahlil Gibran

The second analysis of this research deals with the intention of figurative language used in The Broken Wings by Kahlil Gibran. There are 70 data of figurative language. The data are grouped into five categories. They are: Assertive, Directives, Commisive, Expressive, and Declaration. To find the intention or the illocutionary act of the utterance, the writer uses the speaking theory of Searle.
a. Assertive

Assertive is speech acts that commit a speaker to the truth of the expressed proposition.

1) (2/F/V) I was deeply engrossed in thought and contemplation and seeking to understand the meaning of nature and the revelation of books and scriptures when **I heard love whispered into my ears through Selma's lips.**

The setting of this utterance refers to time and place of speech act. The setting of place in this sentence is in the Selma's house, in the living room and the setting of time is on a day. The scene is a reunion Farris and the author that want to keep in mind the past event between Farris and the author’s father, and then Farris introduces Selma to the author for the first time, at the time they have some feelings at the first sight. The participants are the author, and the hearer is no one, because in this sentence the author speaks monologue with uncertain person. At the end, the author tells this sentence to asserting the reader that he was falling in love at the first sight. The author is falling in love with Selma on the first sight. Farris met the author in somewhere and then told to him to come into Farris’s house. When the author visits Farris’s house, he was very welcomed and then Farris introduced his daughter, Selma to him. From the sentence, it is known that the author is falling in love. The author speaks casually, because he was a monologue speaker not in conversation situation. The intention of this sentence is to asserting/informing the reader that the author was falling in love at the first sigh to Selma.

b. Directives

Directives is speech acts that are to cause the hearer to take a particular action, e.g. requests, commands and advice

1) (55/BTTOD/XIX) Speaking thus, she covered her face again with her hands as if she were shielding her eyes from the spectre of the past standing before her. I put my hand on her head and said, "**Come, Selma, come and let us be strong towers before the tempest.** Let us stand like brave soldiers before the enemy and face his weapons. If we
are killed, we shall die as martyrs; and if we win, we shall live as heroes.

Setting of place in this sentence is in Farris’s home. The setting of time in this sentence is at night. Scene of this sentence is Farris was ill. The participants of this sentence are Gibran, Farris and Selma. Selma feels sad when she saw her father sick, seems like no power. She always crying but the Gibran comes and gives support to Selma. She should be strong and brave like towers that always stand up sturdily although the tempest was strike. Gibran also gives some advices to Selma, so she can stronger when facing this problem. Intention of this sentence is to give some advice to Selma.

c. Commissives

Commissives is speech acts that commit a speaker to some future action, e.g. promises and oaths.

1) (40/TLOF/XXXIII) I shall you as a stranger remembers his beloved country.

Setting of place in this sentence is in the garden of Selma’s house. Setting of time is in the weekend. Scene of this sentence is Gibran visits to Selma house and sees Selma sitting on the bench in the shadow of jasmine tree, they talk about their heart. The participants of this sentence are Gibran and Selma. Gibran and Selma talk and promise each other. Gibran promises that he will remember Selma whatever he do. Intention of this sentence is he promises to Selma to always remember her.

d. Expressives

Expressives is speech acts that express on the speaker's attitudes and emotions towards the proposition, e.g. congratulations, excuses and thanks.

1) (17/TWT/II) Every visit gave me a new meaning to her beauty and a new insight into her sweet spirit, until she became a book whose pages I could understand and whose praises I could sing, but which I could never finish reading.

Setting of place in this sentence is in the Farris’s home. Setting of time of this sentence is after April. Scene of this sentence is Gibran
continues to visit the home of Farris Effendi and to meet Selma. The participants content of two, there are Gibran and Selma. Every single visitation gave him a new meaning to Selma’s beauty. Gibran fells that he knows Selma more and more. He compares Selma like a book that he understands page by page, but he could never finish reading. Because he loves Selma but he could never know that they can be one. Intention of this sentence is the author wants to Expressive that he is amazed with Selma.

e. Declaration

Declaration is speech acts that change the reality in accord with the proposition of the declaration, e.g. baptisms, pronouncing someone guilty or pronouncing someone husband and wife.

1) (11/SS/VII) Thus was my life before I attained the age of eighteen. That year is like a mountain peak in my life, for it awakened knowledge in me and made me understand the vicissitudes of mankind. In that year I was reborn and unless a person is born again his life will remain like a blank sheet in the book of existence.

Setting of place in this sentence is in the hometown of the author, Lebanon. Setting of time of this sentence is past time when the author was young. Scene of this sentence is the sorrow of the author. There are two participants, they are speaker and hearer (addressee and addressee). The speaker is the author and the hearer is my neighbor (people on the previous sentence). The intention of this sentence are to declare to the reader that the author feels like reborn. The previous sentence tell that the author is covets and unhappy with his youth before he attained the age of eighteen. After he attained the age of eighteen, it changes. He knows what is life, he is more broad minded all conditions that he gets. The intention of this sentence is to declare the reader that now he is adult.
The second analysis of this research is founded five kinds of intention, there are: Assertive, directives, commissive, expressive and declaration. From out of 70 sentences there are 51 sentences are Assertive (73%); 4 sentences are Directive (6%), content of advice; 3 sentences are Commisive (4%), content of promises; 11 sentence are expressive (16%), content of amazed 6 sentences (17, 19, 20, 21, 23, 28), doubt 2 sentences (22, 39), disappointed 1 sentence (45), worried 1 sentence (64), certainty 1 sentence (67); and 1 sentence is Declaration (1%). It is equal with Searle (1999:12-15), there are five basic categories of illocutionary acts: Assertive/informing, Directives, Commisive, Expression and Declaration.

D. Conclusion

Based on the research finding and discussion the researcher describes the conclusion as follows:

1. The types of figurative language are classified into five types. They are Simile (57%), Personification (22%), Metaphor (3%), Metonymy (14%), and Synecdoche (4%). From the finding above, the researcher conclude that Kahlil Gibran love to compare between two unrelated thing by using words like or as.
2. The intentions of figurative language used in The Broken Wings by Khalil Gibran are described by referring Saerle theory (1999: 12-15) in illocutionary term. There are divided into five categories. There are assertive (73%), directive (6%), commissive (4%), expressive (16%), and declaration (1%). From the result above, the researcher conclude that Kahlil Gibran almost uses an assertive as his illocutionary act because almost of his figurative language has a purpose to describe a state of affairs in the world.
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