

**THE ANALYSIS OF FIGURATIVE LANGUAGES USED  
IN THE NOVEL *THE BOOK OF FORBIDDEN FEELINGS*  
WRITTEN BY LALA BOHANG**



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***The Book of Forbidden Feelings* Written by Lala Bohang**

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**ABSTRACT**

In the study of language, people sometimes use figurative languages in communication. Figurative language is not only found in everyday life, but also in the novel. The aims of this research are to find the types of figurative languages, describe the meanings, and the dominant type of figurative language in the novel *The Book of Forbidden Feelings* Written by Lala Bohang. This study focused on simile, metaphor, personification, apostrophe, hyperbole, metonymy, symbol, and irony. The data are analyzed by applying descriptive qualitative method. It is done by identifying, classifying, describing, and explaining the meaning of every figurative language. From this analysis, the researcher found that there are 5 types of figurative language used in the novel. They are simile, personification, metaphor, apostrophe, and hyperbole. The meanings of figurative language are described based on the clue of every sentence they belong into the types and the contextual meaning of figurative language. Metaphor is the dominant used of figurative languages in the novel. The use of figurative language is to make the sentences more vivid, expressive, and has deep meanings. Those are to add clarity, to give color to the novel, to persuade, and make the sentences more dramatic and beautiful.

Key words: analysis, figurative languages, novel.

**ABSTRAK**

Dalam pembelajaran bahasa, orang terkadang menggunakan bahasa kiasan dalam berkomunikasi. Bahasa kiasan tidak hanya ditemukan dalam kehidupan sehari-hari, tetapi juga dalam novel. Tujuan dari penelitian ini adalah untuk menemukan jenis-jenis bahasa kiasan, menggambarkan makna, dan jenis bahasa figuratif yang dominan di dalam novel *The Book of Forbidden Feelings* yang ditulis oleh Lala Bohang. Penelitian ini berfokus pada simile, metafora, personifikasi, apostrop, hiperbola, metonimi, simbol, dan ironi. Data dianalisis dengan menggunakan metode deskriptif kualitatif. Ini dilakukan dengan mengidentifikasi, mengklasifikasikan, menggambarkan, dan menjelaskan arti dari setiap bahasa kiasan. Dari analisis ini, peneliti menemukan bahwa ada 5 jenis bahasa kiasan yang digunakan dalam novel. Mereka adalah simile, personifikasi, metafora, apostrop, dan hiperbola. Arti bahasa figuratif dideskripsikan berdasarkan petunjuk dari setiap kalimat yang mereka masuk ke dalam jenisnya dan arti kontekstual bahasa kiasan. Metafora adalah bahasa kiasan yang dominan digunakan dalam novel. Penggunaan bahasa kiasan adalah untuk membuat kalimat lebih jelas, ekspresif, dan memiliki makna yang dalam. Hal-hal itu untuk menambah kejelasan, memberi warna pada novel, membujuk, dan membuat kalimat lebih dramatis dan indah.

Kata kunci: analisis, bahasa figuratif, novel.

## **1. Introduction**

Figurative language is one way to make the languages have more beautiful words and rich in meaning. Abrams (1999:96) stated that figurative language is used as the indicator or utterance of word with purpose to gain special meaning of words. It means the words with figurative language cannot be understood and interpreted in literal form. It uses figures of speech to be more effective, persuasive, and impactful. In another side, Keraf (1985:113) said “Figurative expression is the way of expressing mind through language characteristically which shows the writer’s (language user) spirit and personality. The writers usually use it to express their heart. The writers want the readers or listeners can feel the emotion by heart, not only the eyes or ears.

## **2. Research Questions**

This study would try to answer the following research questions:

1. What types of figurative languages are used in the novel *The Book of Forbidden Feelings*?
2. What are the contextual meanings of figurative languages used in the novel *The Book of Forbidden Feelings*?
3. What is the dominant type of figurative language used in the novel *The Book of Forbidden Feelings*?

## **3. The Purpose of the Study**

In relation to the research questions, this study intends to:

1. Identify and describe the types of figurative languages used in the novel *The Book of Forbidden Feelings*.
2. Describe the contextual meaning of the figurative languages used in the novel *The Book of Forbidden Feelings*.
3. Identify and describe the dominant type of figurative language used in the novel *The Book of Forbidden Feelings*.

#### **4. Review of Literature**

Literature is an amusement. It is an art form that is expressed by the thought and feelings of the beauty of language and depth of message. Wellek and Warren (1949:9) stated that one way to define 'literature' is everything in print. They also said another way of defining literature is to limit it to 'great books', books which, whatever their subject, are 'notable for literary form or expression'. According to Spiller in Nuriadi (2016:2) said that literature is a portrait and record of certain notion's experiences. Due to its large scope, literature of course deals with thoughts, rationality, logics, vision, mission, principles of life, besides applying the emotion and imagination.

Literature is made based on what men have seen in life, what they have experienced of it, what they thought and felt about those aspects of it. In other words literature represents human's experiences of life using language. Then, Nuriadi (2016:4) stated that it is really true that a literary work exists due to a language. Meanwhile, Hornby (1995:662) defines language as a system of sounds and words used by human beings to express their thoughts and feelings. Language also refers to the systematic creation, maintenance and use of system of symbols, which dynamically reference concept and structured patterns to form expressions and communicate meaning.

Figurative language is words, phrases or expressions in which the meaning of the words or phrase or expression are different from literal language. Abrams (1999:96) said that figurative language is divided into two classes, figure of thought and figure of speech. Figure of thought is a figure in which words used have an extension in their standard meaning. Meanwhile, figurative of speech is a figure of which the words have a rhetorical effect. Figure of speech is also named figurative expression.

There are four main reasons of using figurative language (Perrine, 1982:x). First, figurative language affords readers imaginative pleasure of literary works. Second, it is a way of bringing additional imagery into verse, making the abstract concrete, making literary works more sensuous. The third, figurative is a way of adding emotional intensity to otherwise merely informative statements and conveying attitudes along with information. And the last, it is a way of saying much in brief compass.

## 5. Previous Related Studies

The first researcher is Mbele. Mbele in 2013 has analyzed the figurative languages in a novel *The Harry Potter and the Prisoner of Azkaban* which is written by J.K Rowling. She only focuses on analyzing the use of personification. In the analysis data, she used descriptive qualitative method.

The second study is taken from Trisna. Trisna in 2016 has also analyzed the figurative language used in Paulo Coelho's novel entitled *The Alchemist*. She analyzes seven types of figurative language. They are irony, hyperbole, metaphor, metonymy, litotes, simile, and personification. She used documentation method to describe the types of figurative language and the contextual meaning. This study was conducted by collecting any relevant data and information about the topic or problem of the study from novels and internet that are available for the analysis.

While in this study, the researcher is going to do the same research or analysis as the previous researchers. However, the researcher aims to find particular things that are different with the previous study. It is also taken from different novel that is *The Book of Forbidden Feelings*. The focus of this study is not only on seven types of figurative language like the previous study, but it focuses on eight kinds of figurative language, they are; simile, metaphor, personification, apostrophe, hyperbole, metonymy, symbol, and irony.

## 6. Methods

This study used descriptive qualitative design. It means that the data are not measured using statistic but explained by numbering every sentence which indicates figurative language expressions. It is to find the types of figurative languages, describe the meanings, and the dominant type of figurative language in the novel *The Book of Forbidden Feelings Written by Lala Bohang*. This study focused on simile, metaphor, personification, apostrophe, hyperbole, metonymy, symbol, and irony. It is done by identifying, classifying, describing, and explaining the meaning of every figurative language.

## 7. Discussion

There are 5 types of figurative language found in the novel. The total number of figurative language is 24 numbers. The researcher hopes that this study can give new insights in understanding about figurative language further.

### 1. Simile

A simile is a figure of speech that makes a comparison, showing similarities between two different things. It is designed to create an unusual, interesting, emotional or other effect often using words such as “like”, “as”, and “than”, or by a verb as “appears” or “seems”. It is a comparison of one thing with another.

For example :

- “I want to grow up but my soul doesn’t *seem* to be *very excited* about it.”

Based on the type of simile, the quotation above is categorized as simile because the author intends to compare “I” and “Soul”. I and Soul have the same characteristic. “I” is the author itself, the one who is writing. Someone who is doing the activities to get her goals. The author has characteristics such as she has character, thought, and feeling. On another side, “Soul” has characteristic like a spiritual part of human. It consists of mind, character, thought, and feeling. It doesn’t have a shape. But, they have different perception about grow up in life.

The meaning of the quotation tells about growing up for a beautiful future. The sentence tells that the author wants to grow up, but the soul doesn’t want. The soul just wants to keep in that situation without want to become better, stronger, smarter, and etc. Here, the author tries to tell that the author (she) wants to grow up in order to get a better life as human, but her soul seems doesn’t want. The soul just want to be in that condition and still kids without thinking about future plans like goal, job, husband, etc.

*Table 1. Simile found in the novel*

1. “I want to grow up but my soul <u>doesn’t seem to be very excited about it.</u> ” (P:35)
2. “She is too busy <u>like wind in December.</u> ” (P:35)
3. “Every struggle felt important almost <u>like a giant.</u> ” (P:47)
4. “It’s just <u>like running, breathing, cooking, living, and working.</u> ” (P:68)
5. “Success and happiness only make you feel more like a failure and more unhappy. They are <u>like air.</u> ” (P:138)

## 2. Metaphor

A metaphor is the expression of an understanding one concept in terms of another concept, where there is some similarity or correlation between the two. Metaphor compares two unlike things, but metaphor does not use the words “like” or “as”. It is implicit comparison.

For example :

- “Hell is other people.”

The sentence above is categorized as metaphor. The author is describing hell with people. In fact, hell is not a people. The author tries to compare hell and people to understanding the meaning. Hell has characteristic like a place of misery, torment, or wickedness. It is unpleasant place. Meanwhile, “people” are human beings that making up a group and linked by a common interest. In society, people also has characteristic like as a bad people, judge, torment, and punish other people. It makes hell and people have correlation between each other.

The meanings of the quotation are closely related to attitude, torture, and punish. Hell is displayed has similarities with people. Hell is unpleasant place. It is a place of a place of misery, torment, or wickedness. A place is used to punish people. In fact, it is not only hell can do that. Here, the writer tries to tell that people can also be bad, punish each other, torment other people, do crime, etc. People also like to burn and ruin other people happiness and then make his / her day become like in a hell.

*Table 2. Metaphor found in the novel*

1. “Hell is other people.” (P:31)
2. “Body is just a shelter for the soul.” (P:63)
3. “Time is a mere illusion.” (P:63)
4. “Win-win solution is a myth.” (P:73)
5. “You are a piece of blank paper.” (P:83)
6. “Contradiction is the most important ingredients for the soul.” (P:99)
7. “I want my death to be another door to more amazing things.” (P:110)
8. “One hundred is nothing.” (P:138)

### 3. Personification

Personification is a figure of speech in which subjects or nonhuman organisms are given human characteristics. In this case something that is not human such as animals or the other objects is given personality like human beings.

For example :

- “Life threw me into a big black hole.”

The sentence above is considered as personification. “Life” is represented to have ability like human being. Life is given value as it can throw someone to the black hole. In fact, life has characteristic like the existence of an individual or human being. It is the periods of time during people are alive.

The quotation tells the meaning about loneliness in the hard situation. Life can pull us into big problems. Hole has darkness inside and takes everything we have. Here, the author tries to tell that sometimes life takes everything that we love, we care, and we keep, and then destroys it. We became helpless. It happens because the negative things around and has not understand the meaning of life and purpose of life.

*Table 3. Personification found in the novel*

1. “Eat until happiness hit your dust.” (P:42)
2. “Life threw me into a big black hole.” (P:47)
3. “The present time already swallows all those memories moments and feelings and faces into a cloudy space.” (P”63)
4. “They will fill the pages of this book.” (P:66)
5. “The universe welcomed you to the world for the first time.” (P:80)
6. “Days remind you of the word forever.” (P:84)
7. “The sun is finally awake.” (P:110)

### 4. Hyperbole

Hyperbole is a figure of speech in which statements are exaggerated to create an impact and are not supposed to be interpreted in literary. It contains exaggerate statements of amount, size, or characteristics. It is aimed to emphasize the statements or the situation to create special effect and influence to its meaning. Hyperbole focuses on exaggeration in order to emphasize the point.

For example :

- "I'm gonna explode into pieces."

The sentence above is categorized as hyperbole. "Explode" is used for exaggeration the statement of I. It is aimed to create a special effect. In this sentence, "I" is a human. I is represented as it can explode like a boom. Meanwhile, boom has characteristic like a deep and loud hollow sound. Boom needs a time to explode. The fact is human cannot be exploded. It is to exaggerate the statement of the author.

The meaning of the quotation is about over thinking, stresses, and hopeless. When people in those conditions, people can be like a boom and then explode into pieces. It attacks the mind. Here, the author wants the reader to think that human can also be like a bomb. It needs a time just to explode. If they cannot control their selves in solving the problems, they can get stress, frustrated, and kill themselves.

*Table 4. Hyperbole found in the novel*

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|---|
| <ol style="list-style-type: none"><li>1. "I'm gonna explode into pieces." (P:38)</li><li>2. "I could hear the sound of the ice breaking and the wind and the bird chirping (not the good are) and the bad weather from my chest." (P:45)</li><li>3. "Attachment destroys the purity level to the bottom and heaven under the earth." (P:83)</li></ol> |
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## 5. Apostrophe

Apostrophe is a device in which some absent or nonexistent person or thing in addressed as if alive, present, listen, and capable of understanding. It also states in apostrophe the speaker, instead of addressing directly his proper hearer, turn himself to some other person or thing, either really or only in imagination present. There is only 1 apostrophe found in the novel.

For example :

- "Their bodies already left my bed and my life a long time ago, but their smell weirdly stays."

Based on the figurative above, it belongs to apostrophe. "Their smell" is referred to all of the authors' ex boy friend. Nonexistent person is addressed as he is alive and present. Their body (All of the authors' ex boy friend) is represented as it is stays and alive in the author's bed, so the author still feel their presents. In fact, they have left a long time ago.

The sentence above tells the meaning about existence. The body of all of the authors' ex boy friend has gone, but the memories stay. It is because the author loves him so much. Here, the author tells that she still can smell and feel the present of her ex boyfriends on bed because they have been spent many activities together. Even, they are just memorable but the feeling is still strong.

## **8. Conclusion**

Figurative language is an expression commonly used in literary work. It requires cognitive process in interpreting its meaning. It needs an understanding about the characteristics of every symbol. In this analysis that have been done, the total number of figurative languages is 24 numbers. There are 5 types of figurative language found in the novel. The first is simile, there are 5 numbers of simile that the author used. The second is metaphor, there are 8 numbers of metaphor that are used by the author. The third is personification, there are 7 numbers of personification that the author used. The fourth is hyperbole, there are 3 numbers of hyperbole that are used by the author. The fifth is apostrophe, there is only 1 apostrophe that the author used. And then, the most dominant type of figurative language that is used in the novel is metaphor.

Figurative languages have important rules in this novel. The author uses figurative languages to explain circumstances, to describe the feeling, to express emotion of the author, and make the writing more vivid and entertaining. In this novel, the author tried to describe something by comparing the object to the something that we have already known. This makes the novel more interesting to read. It also helps the readers to imagine the statements and life story of the author. The figurative languages can also help the students in learning about figurative itself. The simple sentences and illustrations can help them to imagine the story. So that the imagination created by the reader is still in context of the story.

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