AN ANALYSIS OF METAPHORICAL EXPRESSIONS USED IN FORREST GUMP MOVIE: A FORMALISM STUDY

Wahyu Sunandar[1*] Nuriadi Nuriadi[2], Muh. Isnaini[3]

[1][2][3] English Education Department, Faculty of Teacher Training and Education,University of Mataram, Indonesia

*Corresponding Author: wahyucom428@gmail.com

Abstract: This thesis is entitled "An Analysis of Metaphorical Expressions Used in Forrest Gump Movie: A Formalism Study". The aims of this research are to find out the types and meanings of metaphors in the script of Forrest Gump. The researcher used formalism study as a theoretical framework to analyze the metaphors. In this research, the researcher applied the descriptive qualitative method. The method used is content analysis, which involves examining the contents of a document. The Forrest Gump film script is the document that means in this study. Based on data analysis conducted on the Forrest Gump film script, it contains 66 expressions from four types of metaphor according to Ullmann's theory, those types of metaphor are consisting of 20 anthropomorphic metaphors, which use of figurative language to give inanimate things or natural events humanlike features, 10 animal metaphors, which depict the relationship between animal traits and human traits or anything closely related to them, 29 metaphors from the abstract to the concrete known as non-physical to physical metaphors, and 7 synesthetic metaphors, which are the combination of different sensory perceptions to provide fresh and compelling descriptions. Based on the findings, the researcher concludes that the type of metaphor that moves from abstract to concrete is the most frequently used. All of these metaphors are meant to convey ideas about humor, hope, life, and other things.

Keywords: *Metaphor, Movie, Formalism Study, Forrest Gump.*

INTRODUCTION

Developments in technology have a big effect on people's everyday lives. According to Gerbner (1967, p. 53) mass communication is the technologically and institutionally based production and distribution of the most broadly shared continuous flow of message in industrial societies. The form can be everything, even a film/movie. Some people regard movies as merely pieces of literature and fun, as well as a space for audience learning through free speech, while others regard movies as factual realities that accurately document social values that exist in a culture. According to Lado (1974, p. 201), movie is motion pictures that consist the most powerful of visual aids; it combines pictures with movement, color and sound. There are some filmmakers who create films with simple stories that have an impact.

Forrest Gump is a 1994 film that needs to be considered one of the greatest films of

all time because it shows the viewer that everybody has many benefits concealed under their weaknesses. The smash-hit movie is based on Winston Groom's 1986 novel of the same name, which has a similar storyline but features a Forrest that is quite different from the one played by Tom Hanks. Originally, the writer was inspired by a tale told by his father about a neighbor's child who, despite having mental disabilities, but exhibits intelligent behaviour. Winston Groom's novel, in fact, ignited interest among his readers later on. This film is interesting to watch, especially the moral values from the social and psychological aspects of the characters. For example, the way commanders deal with the stress and despair of being disabled after fighting and becoming a beggar.

Sometimes in movies, there are unique types of language that are rare or widely used every day, and others are associated with beautiful and poetic language because the language type is intended to have an amusing impact in addition to expressing feelings or ideas by the movie makers. Therefore, the language in song lyrics or movies is often as ambiguous as poetry, and it often employs figurative language (Baharuddin, 2017, p. 1). One of the most well-known figurative language is the metaphorical language, which is often used to complete literary works. Metaphors occur in a number of ways, including novels, music, poetry, presidential speeches, and even well-known movies. Wynne (1989, p. 521) argues that metaphor is a figurative language in which different objects are compared to one another to emphasize one or more aspects of their similarity." The metaphor does not use a connecting word when contrasting or equating something.

Based on the above description, the writer decides to focus his research on a metaphor in one of Robert Zemeckis' films, Forrest Gump. By using metaphor, a movie can transmit its thoughts to the viewer and help them grasp the implicit message it contains through the author's comparison or representation, which makes the movie more enjoyable to watch and also helps viewers visualize the movie. The researcher recognizes that the film uses metaphors to explain the realities of life, such as the beauty of love, heartbreak, and so on. Furthermore, the researcher attempts to apply the formalism, which emphasizes the close reading system, which entails reading and analyzing a literary work as a whole without incorporating aspects outside of the text itself, because the Forrest Gump movie incorporates metaphors.

Nuriadi (2016, p. 11) explains that the meaning of formalism refers to the fact how literature or literary works are performed or presented visually, which means that literary work is always presented by language. In the other word, the definition of literature is framed in the sense of the language uses as the main tool of literature. It is the language serving as the main object in evaluating certain literary work so that it can be named as a work of art.

The dichotomic definition on literature set on the sense of fictionality or factuality is very tricky if it cannot be said as an applicable one. He says so because both fictional and factual aspects are always present in any kinds of writing. Therefore, he suggests that the definition of literature should be put in a formalistic view by saying: "Perhaps literature is definable not according to whether it is fictional or 'imaginative', but because it uses language in peculiar ways" (Eagleton in Nuriadi, 2016, p. 11-12).

According to Nuriadi (2016, p. 13) the concept of literature in the formalistic

perspective was pioneered by Russian Formalist experts in 1920s figured by Roman Jakobson, Victor Shklovsky, Osip Brik, Yury Tynyanov, Boris Eichenbaum and Boris Tomashevsky. The main concept is focused on the uses of the language which is known as 'literaturnost or the literariness. This happens because the language has series of linguistic devices which are then applied in the language of literature so that they make literary or poetic language. In other words, the formalism started out by seeing the literary work as a more or less arbitrary assemblage of 'devices', and only later came to see these devices as interrelated elements or 'functions' within a total textual system. Those devices are, for example, sound, imagery, rhythm, syntax, metre, rhyme, narrative techniques, figurative languages, and so on (Eagleton in Nuriadi, 2016, p. 13). These are applied in the literary work so that the language of the work becomes estranging or defamiliarizing. To understand the words or expressions of the work needs more times. It means that a reader cannot automatically understand what the idea or message of the expression really means and refers to. He or she is sometimes triggered to consult some references. This moment is then mentioned by the Formalists as a term 'de-automatization'

RESEARCH METHOD

The researcher employed a descriptive qualitative method in this research. Marquerite (2006, p. 264) explained that qualitative research focuses on the study of social phenomena and on giving voice to the feelings and perceptions of the participants under study. Since there are no numbers in the study's object, this method is taken by the researcher. The qualitative descriptive approach of this research aims to reveal and explain the data obtained by the researcher relating to the classification of the types of metaphor and the meaning of the metaphorical expressions by using theory of formalism study. The source of the data is the script for the film Forrest Gump, while the data are presented in written form to describe the results of the analysis related to the metaphorical expressions used in the movie. By employing the script in the form of words, phrases, and sentences from the movie Forrest Gump, the researcher also demonstrates the minute or time at which the data are shown.

The methods of collected data in this study are documentation. The method of documentation is to find data about the things or variables in the form of notes, transcripts, books, newspapers, magazines, inscriptions, minutes of meetings, agendas, and so forth (Arikunto, 2006, p. 231). This technique aims to provide some information relevant to this research topic from documents such as:

1. Downloading

    Through this technique, the researcher collects by browsing script on the internet. The researcher also download the movie for the Forrest Gump as the object of the study.

2. Watching

    After that, the researcher watch the movie while read the script in order to make sure that the script agree with the movie.

3. Printing

   Then, after making sure that the script is correct, the researcher print out the script.

4. Underlining

   In this step, the researcher first read the script, then underlines and codes the parts of the script that have metaphors, such as W for word, P for phrase, and S for sentence.

5. Note Taking

   After underline and assign a code to the words, phrases, and sentences that use metaphor, the researcher then writes notes on every metaphor expression in order to determine about the type and the meaning of those expressions.

The researcher uses formalism study as theoretical framework for the data analysis. This theory concentrates on the text of literary works. In terms of data analysis, the researcher solely concentrate on the language that contains metaphor in the script. This study analysis as descriptive. The researcher employs fifth steps to provide description. The researcher uses procedures as follows:

1. Identification

   The identification of data is the initial stage in data analysis. The researcher identify each metaphor based on the types of metaphors found in the form of words and sentences expressed by the characters in script of the Forrest Gump film.

2. Classification

   The second step is classification. The metaphors found will be classified in terms of types of metaphor in a way by grouping, dismissing unnecessary data, and arranging data in such a way that it can be collected through the characters' dialogues in the film script.

3. Description

   In this step, the researcher describes the metaphors in terms of types of metaphors that applied in the script.

4. Analyzing

   Next is the analyzing step. The researcher will analyzing the meaning behind the metaphors in terms of formalism that contain in the script. The researcher will concentrate on meaning in this step, particularly on the literal and connotative meanings of those words, phrases, and sentences.

5. Conclusion

   The conclusion is the last step in the data analysis process. The researcher will come to a conclusion by providing a brief explanation of the analysis findings

FINDINGS & DISCUSSION
FINDINGS

This part about the findings of data analysis of Metaphor by using the theory that is proposed by Ullmann (1972). In the study that was carried out by the researcher, the researcher found that there are 4 types of metaphors and their meaning that is used by the characters in Forrest Gump movie.

Types of Metaphor in Forrest Gump Film

A metaphor is a comparison between two things. In this movie, the researcher found metaphors in the words and sentences spoken by the characters in the film Forrest Gump.

No.	Utterances	Types of Metaphor	Meanings
1.	Lieutenant Dan was always getting these *funny feelings about a rock, or a trail, or the road*.	Anthropomorphic metaphor.	Lieutenant Dan who was always careful about his surroundings.
2.	That *uniform is a trip*, Forrest.	Anthropomorphic metaphor.	His uniform is a symbol of his hard work.
3.	You're not even a low-life, scum-sucking maggot!	Animal metaphor.	Someone who is verbally berating another
4.	You think I could *fly* off this bridge?	Animal metaphor.	Someone who has suicidal ideation.
5.	I got an air strike inbound right now	Abstract to Concrete metaphor.	A military strike by the Air Force is coming soon.

6.	Well, maybe you should just *pray for shrimp*.	Abstract to Concrete metaphor.	Someone who hopes to make it easier to catch shrimp.
7.	That *smells wonderful*.	Synesthetic metaphors.	Someone who smell something satisfying

DISCUSSION

This part discussed about the data analysis of Metaphor by using the theory that is proposed by Ullmann (1972).

Types and Meanings of Metaphor in Forrest Gump Film

This part states and clarifies the types of metaphors and their meaning that is used by the characters in Forrest Gump movie.

1. Lieutenant Dan : Hold it up!
   Forrest : It wasn't always fun. Lieutenant Dan always getting these *funny feelings about a rock or a trail, or the road*, so he'd tell you to get down, shut up!
   (00:44:54-00:45:02)

According to Ullmann (1972, p. 214), the use of metaphorical language to give inanimate objects or natural occurrences humanlike features is known as anthropomorphic. Therefore, the dialogue above is categorized as an anthropomorphic metaphor because the word "funny feelings" is part of the anthropomorphic metaphor, which is taken from a mood or emotion owned by humans and then compared to an inanimate object. It is treated as a human being with feelings. The meaning is Lieutenant Dan who was always careful about his surroundings.

2. Jenny : That uniform is a trip, Forrest. You look handsome in it. You do.
   Forrest : You know what? I'm glad we were here together in our national capitol.
   (01:10:18-01:10:35)

The dialogue above can be categorized as an anthropomorphic metaphor because the word "trip" is part of the anthropomorphic metaphor, which is taken from the behavior or human ability of someone who can travel from one place to another. The reference to "trip" in the dialogue above is applied to uniform. "Uniform" is equated with humans who can travel from one place to another. His uniform is a symbol of his hard work, according to the intended meaning of the dialogue.

3.   Forrest   : Hello, I'm Forrest, Forrest Gump

Army Bus Driver   : Nobody gives a hunk of shit who you are, fuzzball! You're not even a lowlife scum sucking maggot!. Get your faggoty ass on the bus. You're in the Army now!

(00:31:40- 00:31:45)

Animal metaphors are metaphors that show comparisons between the characteristics of human nature and those of animals. This type of metaphor is also often attached to humans with images of humor or irony (Ullmann, 1972, p. 215). This dialogue is categorized as an animal metaphor because "maggot" refers to an animal that is an insect larva, especially young flies before turning into their adult form. It is equated with someone because of their ignorance of something to the point of being considered trash like a maggot. Forrest is considered lower than maggots in the preceding dialogue. So the preceding metaphorical dialogue describes someone who is verbally berating another.

4.   Jenny   : You think I can *fly* off this bridge?

Forrest   : What do you mean, Jenny?

(00:38:49-00:38:59)

This dialogue is categorized as an animal metaphor because having the ability to "fly" is a feature only found in animals with wings, like birds. "Fly" in the sentence above applies to humans. This dialogue has the meaning of someone who has suicidal ideation.

5.   Lieutenant Dan   : I got an air strike inbound right now. They're gonna nape the whole area.

Forrest   : I gotta find Bubba!

(00:53:46-00:53:52)

A metaphor from abstract to concrete is a type of metaphor that arises as a result of moving from concrete to abstract experiences, or vice versa, and has a basic tendency to transfer abstract experiences into concrete forms (Ullmann, 1972, p. 215). An abstract-to-concrete metaphor is used in this sentence. In this expression, "air" is an abstract thing that is used to describe a concrete thing, "strike." Air is the invisible gaseous substance surrounding the earth, a mixture mainly of oxygen and nitrogen. A strike is to aim and usually deliver a blow or thrust (as with the hand, a weapon, or a tool). The dialogue that follows describes a military strike by the Air Force is coming soon.

6.   Forrest   : Well, how we gonna find them?

Lieutenant Dan   : Well, maybe you should just *pray for shrimp*.

(01:34:11- 01:34:14)

An abstract-to-concrete metaphor is used in this dialogue. In this expression, "pray" is an abstract thing that is used to describe a concrete thing, "shrimp." Praying is making a solemn request or expression of thanks to a deity or other object of worship. Shrimp are small animals that live in water, especially rivers, seas, or lakes. This dialogue can be used to infer that someone who hopes to make it easier to catch shrimp.

7.   A White Woman   : Ma'am!

Mrs. Blue   : That *smells wonderful*!
(01:42:55- 01:42:58)

Synesthetic metaphor is a metaphor that combines a variety of sensory senses to create unique and engaging descriptions: from hearing to seeing, from touching to hearing, etc (Ullmann, 1972, p. 216). This sentence employs a synesthetic metaphor. Because the word "smells," which is the sense of smell, is used in this dialogue, there is a transfer between the sense of "smell" and "wonderful," which is usually synonymous with the sense of sight. Thus, there is a transfer from the sense of smell (smells) to the sense of vision (wonderful). That smells wonderful, describing someone who smell something satisfying.

CONCLUSION AND SUGGESTION

CONCLUSION

The problem in this research is the type of metaphor and the meaning of the metaphor. All these problems are discussed in Chapter IV. As guidance, the researcher used Formalism Study as the theoretical framework of the research which the focus of the theory is the use of language in literary work, without taking into account any outside influence like social and cultural background, content or authorship. Based on the data analysis conducted on the drama script in the film Forrest Gump, researchers can conclude that there are four types of metaphorical language styles according to Ullmann's theory contained in this film, which consists of 66 words or sentences that use metaphors.

There are 20 types of anthropomorphic that use metaphorical language to give inanimate objects or natural phenomena human characteristics, 10 types of animal figurative language describing metaphorical conditions with animal elements, 29 types of figurative language diverting abstract phrases to more concrete expressions, and the type of figurative language synesthesia metaphor is one that combines several sensory impressions to create unique and engaging descriptions, there are 7 data. The most used type of metaphor in this film is "abstract to concrete," because in this film there are many sentences or words that show how to explain something abstract to something concrete or real. As for other metaphors, there are anthropomorphic, animal, and synesthetic metaphors.

The researcher analyzed the meaning of each metaphor that was used by the characters in the film after analyzing the types of those metaphors. The metaphorical meanings contained in each dialogue have different meanings with different images. Every dialogue that contains metaphorical meaning has a certain meaning, to the point where, basically, almost all of them have different meanings. Each dialogue contains a metaphorical meaning, which can be concluded as follows: In the sentence, "Lieutenant Dan always gettin' these funny feelings about a rock or a trail, or the road," has humor meaning, "Dear God, make me a bird, so I can fly far.", has hope meaning, and the last sentence, "That uniform is a trip, Forrest" has life meaning. It can be inferred that the metaphor's meaning is about humor, hope, life, and other things.

SUGGESTION

The researcher identified two statements about metaphor in this study: types and

meaning. Using film as a learning medium is a very interesting thing because films are very close to our lives, especially for those who have a hobby of watching films. Another movie genre, such as action, science, epic, horror, and others, may be used by the next researcher.

The increasing number of studies on metaphors conducted by researchers means that the development of metaphors develops and produces more accurate data. This research can be used as reading material and a reference for future researchers regarding metaphor analysis, especially research that tries to examine the types and meanings of metaphors in films. The next researcher might examine metaphor in both verbal and visual terms.

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