

Figure Of Speech Analysis On *I Am Human Too* Poem By Godsplan K. Ugwuja

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Abstract: This research is about figure of speech analysis on "I am Human Too" poem by Godsplan K. Ugwuja. The purposes of this research are; 1) To describe the types of figure of speech that found on "I am Human Too" poem by Godsplan K. Ugwuja. 2) To describe how do the figure of speech convey the messages through the poem "I am Human Too" poem by Godsplan K. Ugwuja. The datum of the research is taken from words, phrases, lines or stanza of the I am Human Too poem that contain the figure of speeches. The method of this research is uses descriptive qualitative method and figure of speech theory proposed by Perrine (1992). Data are explained by find the meaning and described them based on the kinds of figure of speech through four procedure, they are: identifying, classifying, analyzing and making the conclusion from the data. The result of this research are the writer found about 9 data of figure of speech of the poem, they are; 6 data for figure of speech of hyperbole, 2 data for figure of speech of simile and 1 data for figure of speech of symbol. Hyperbole is the dominant kind of figure of speech in the poem, because hyperbole is the appropriate of figure of speech by the author to express his feeling about soldier's lamentation. Beside, figure of speech also convey some messages through the poem, they are; 1) Informative message, it mean that we often don't remember that our soldiers put their live on the line to protect us but we still criticize, vilify and attack them without keeping in mind that they are human too. 2) Persuasive message, it mean that let's support them not only by good weapons but also by moral.

Keywords: Figure of Speech; I am Human Too Poem.

Abstrak: Penelitian ini adalah tentang analisa bahasa kiasan pada puisi *I am Human Too* oleh Godsplan K. Ugwuja. Tujuan dari penelitian ini adalah: 1) Untuk menjelaskan tipe-tipe bahasa kiasan yang ditemukan pada puisi *I am Human Too* karya Godsplan K. Ugwuja. 2) Untuk menjelaskan bagaimana bahasa kiasan menyampaikan pesan-pesan melalui puisinya *I am Human Too* karya Godsplan K. Ugwuja. Data pada penelitian ini diambil dari kata, prasa, baris atau bait dari puisi *I am Human Too* yang berisikan bahasa kiasan. Metode dalam penelitian ini adalah metode deskriptif kualitatif dan teori bahasa kiasan yang diperkenalkan oleh Perrine (1992). Data dijelaskan dengan menemukan artinya dan menguraikannya berdasarkan jenis-jenis bahasa kiasan melalui empat prosedur, yaitu: identifikasi, klasifikasi, analisa dan membuat kesimpulan dari data. Hasil dari penelitian ini adalah penulis menemukan 9 data bahasa kiasan pada puisi tersebut, diantaranya adalah 6 data untuk bahasa kiasan Hiperbola, 2 data untuk bahasa kiasan simile dan 1 data untuk bahasa kiasan Simbol. Bahasa kiasan Hiperbola adalah yang lebih dominan dalam puisi tersebut, karena bahasa kiasan Hiperbola sangat tepat bagi pengarang untuk mengekspresikan perasaannya tentang penderitaan tentara. Disamping itu, bahasa kiasan juga menyampaikan beberapa pesan melalui puisi tersebut, diantaranya adalah; 1) Pesan informatif, artinya kita seringkali tidak ingat bahwa tentara kita mempertaruhkan hidupnya dibaris paling depan untuk melindungi kita semua akan tetapi kita masih saja mengkritik, menuduh dan menyerang mereka tanpa memikirkan bahwa mereka juga manusia. 2) Pesan persuasif, artinya mari kita dukung mereka dengan tidak hanya memberi senjata yang canggih namun kita dukung juga mereka dengan moral.

Kata Kunci: Bahasa Kiasan; Puisi I am Human Too

INTRODUCTION

Literature is cannot be separated from social life because literature and society are two things that are interconnected, it can be said that literature as reflection of the society both form its good and bad values and literature as an imitation of human action, often society. Thus what happens in a society is reflected in literary works, through literary works people can learn about the condition of the society in particular time. Poetry is type of literature that written by a poet which has aesthetic and deepest meaning. The writer of a poetry called as a poet. A poet usually writes a poetry to expressing his or her various emotions and feeling. A poet uses to expressed his or her modes in a poem by variety of

technique. Barnet (1961) States that poetry can be thought of as a verbal, written art form that uses a heightened sense of language to convey experience, feeling, or modes of consciousness.

Every people has their own way to convey their experience and the poets use poetry for cover them. Poetry written to be enjoyed because a poet usually uses supporting elements to enrich the meaning and bring the readers imagination to his or her minds in poetry. To get great poetry, a poet has to creat a poem by putting some supporting elements that is called by intrinsic elements such as figure of speech, rhyme, rhythm, imagery and tone to enrich the meaning and make the every reader feels easy to understand what the poet want to say in his

or her poem. Gill in Efendi (2010) also said that the point about poetry and the other form of literature is that choice of words and elements inside used by the author. It means that a literary work can be called as a poem if the author put some intrinsic elements such as figure of speech, rhyme, rhythm, imagery and tone in it.

Figure of speech is a language that a poet uses to create an image, association, or other effect in the mind of the listener or reader that goes beyond the literal meaning or expected use of the words involved. According to Perrine (1992) states that figure of speech is a language that does not use language in general or is another way of saying something other than the usual way or in this case the language used. While Abrams (1999) said that figure of speech is a habit of speculating in understanding a language as an understanding of standard sentences or result. For example, Randy Batiquin put some of figure of speech through his poem with title Let Me to describe his feeling about love to someone that he met in his life even though he can tell his feeling directly to the girl that he loves so much. Besides, figure of speech as one of literary elements, it creates the sense or power to describe things in unique ways. The readers or literary lovers can explore the words in fiction or non-fiction which are expressed by the author.

In this research, the writer is interested in finding and analyzing about the experiences and feeling of the author through his poem. The main reason why the writer is interested in analyzing the figure of speech of the poems is because there are many figures of speech with deepest meaning found in the poem and each meaning also conveys some great messages for the readers of the poem. Another simple reason why the writer is interested to analyze the poem is because the poem created by a Nigerian poet named Godsplan K. Ugwuja. The poet has his own feeling about a soldier's lamentation. He wants all of the readers of his poem to appreciate the soldier's duty. For example, when the writer read the poem for the first time, the writer found the first very interesting stanza of the poem:

I am a public servant,
Forced to constantly
put my life on the line,
dance with death,
And dine with danger.
You forget; I'm human too.

In the first time the writer read the poem above the writer is very surprised that the author put in more than one figure of speech in his poem. The first figure of speech easily can be seen in line three of the first stanza, it's "*put my life on the line*". Another figure of speech are in line four and five, but the writer tries to describe the first figure of speech of line three. "*put my life on the line*" contains connotative meaning. It does not mean that

the author put his body in real line, but it is a symbol that he is ready to obey all of the rules in military since he signed the military agreement, he is ready to protect his country and other people in his country. Based on Barnett's statement that poetry is a verbal, written art form that uses a heightened sense of language to convey experience, feeling, or modes of consciousness, so the writer concludes that the word "line" in the phrase "*put my life on the line*" is as a figure of speech or symbol. It also supports Perrine (1992) who states that a symbol may be roughly defined as something that means more than what it is. It means that a symbol uses a word or phrase which is familiar in society and has one meaning. Figure of speech also conveys a message in this line, it is an informative message. According to A.W. Widjaja (1987) states that an informative message is to provide the information based on data and facts then the communicant draws his own conclusions and decisions. So, here the author wants all of the readers to see the data and facts about a soldier's duty without vilify them.

As a civil society, it is very interesting to know more about a soldier's duty and how they give their responsibility to their country. Soldiers also have to sign a loyalty agreement to his country even they have to die for their country and they are also a human being who need love and support but they may not complain for that even though they got some criticism from society. From some simple reasons above the writer is interested to analyze and to find more figures of speech of the poem, then the writer rises the research with title: ***figure of speech analysis on I am Human Too poem by Godsplan K. Ugwuja.***

METHOD

Method is a way or a strategy to understanding of realities, steps of systematic to analyzed of the problem. In this research the writer uses qualitative method for analysis. According to Strauss and Corbin (1998) states that qualitative research is achieved not by means of quantification or statistical technique. It can give complex detail about particular phenomena which are difficult to be expressed with quantitative method.

This adding opinion by Vanderstoep and Johnson (2009), this method focuses on cultural, social, personal identity and its goal is more descriptive than predictive. Moreover, Bodgan and Biklen (1982) who state that qualitative research is descriptive; the collected data is in form of words as picture rather than numbers. Therefore, from some definition above, it can be concluded that qualitative research will be in the form of sentence, rather than statistic and numbers to comprehend phenomenon.

In this research, the writer uses some ways to get information as the data in this research. So, the writer classifies the source of the data into two categories, namely primary data and secondary data. Primary data is the source of data that it is most important sources in

order to get information that the writer wants to be analyzed in this research. The primary data in this research are some words, phrases, lines or stanza of the poem of *I am Human Too* poem by Godsplan K. Ugwuja. While, the secondary data is the supporting information that can help the writer in analyzing this poems. The writer takes the secondary data from other sources to support this research, such as journal, etc.

Collecting the Data

In collecting the data, the writer will uses library research. According to Abdul Rahman Saleh, (2005) states that in library research, the research activity is conducted by gathering the data from various literatures either in library or in other places. The writer uses library research to get information and to collect data by selecting written sources which are relevant to the topic that the writer analyzes. It is clear that, descriptive qualitative method is a method that usually used by the other writers in doing this library research.

Technique of Analyzing Data

The inquiry consists of type of research, data resources, method of collecting data, and method of analysis. Each of the data is briefly described as follows. After collecting the data, the researcher analyzes the data by using some procedure, such as :

Identifying

The researcher identifies the data both from primary data: a poem from *I am Human Too* poem by Godsplan K. Ugwuja and secondary data: books, journals, articles, and other sources. The researcher identifies the content of the poem that relates with the research object.

Classifying

The researcher classifies the data, for instance, the words, phrases, lines or stanza of the poem of *I am Human Too* poem by Godsplan K. Ugwuja. The researcher also classifies books, theories, and journal which appropriate the research.

Analyzing

The researcher analyzes the words, phrases, lines or stanza of the poem by using the Perrine theory about figure of speech and also secondary data such as the journal and articles related to the research object.

Conclusion

The last step, the researcher makes the conclusion of all the data. This step is the final step in finishing this research.

RESULT AND DISCUSSION

In this research, the data is presented in writing by explain the kind of figure of speech in *I am Human Too*

poem and also . The writer uses informal method to present the research because the data that analyze in the form of words, phrases, lines or stanza of the poem based on the finding. The writer presents as an introduction outlining the background of the problem that relates with figure of speech of *I am Human Too* poem by Godsplan K. Ugwuja. Then, the writer has limit to discuss only about several problems through two research questions:

1. What kind of figure of speech that found in *I am Human Too* poem by Godsplan K. Ugwuja?
2. How do the figure of speech convey the messages through the poem *I am Human Too* poem by Godsplan K. Ugwuja?

Kinds and meaning of figure of speech in *I am Human Too* poem by Godsplan K. Ugwuja.

I am Human Too poem is a poem about a soldier's lamentation and it create by a Nigerian man named Godsplan K. Ugwuja in 2020. The poem is talk about two side story about soldiers in Nigeria. In Nigeria a soldier never get the high respect from it people, but they often get the critic and vilify and sometimes they got some attack. He is a writer, poet, author, blogger, professional editor and engineer from Nigeria. The poem contain by six stanzas and each stanza contain by six lines. The poem is very beautiful written and emotional in two side of story. The purpose of the poem is the author wants to tell to all of the readers that how we often don't remember that our soldiers put their lives on the line to protect us but unfortunately we still criticize, vilify and attack them without keeping in mind that they are humans too. The poem is divided into 6 stanzas and each stanza divided into 6 line.

I AM HUMAN TOO

I am a public servant,
Forced to constantly
put my life on the line,
dance with death,
And dine with danger.
You forget; I'm human too.

To gain employment,
I literally have to sign a
Life or death waiver.
I go out daily knowing
It could very likely be my last.
You forget; I'm human too.

The forest has become my home;
I haven't seen my family in months.
My son, born in my absence,
My young daughter barely knows her father.
I feel like a visitor in my own home.
You forget; I'm human too.

I protect everybody but
Who protects me?
Those who gave me this job
Don't care if I live or die;
My salary says as much.
You forget; I'm human too.

I stand under the sun all day,
My uniform and fatigues absorbing
All the heat from the sun.
My blood boiling, my brain frothing;
Tell me why I won't be angry?
You forget; I'm human too.

Today I'm being laid to rest,
I'm given a state funeral and
A medal for dying in the line of duty.
Why couldn't I receive a medal for living?
Why are we only celebrated when we go down?
You forget; I'm human too.

By Godsplan K. Ugwuja

Symbol

Line 3 of the first stanza : ***put my life on the line***

The first figure of speech in this poem can be seen in line three of the first stanza "put my life on the line". In this line does not mean that he lay down his body on a line, it can't be translate by literally. In this line the author would like to say that he is ready to obey all of the rules in military since he join it, he is the first person who will confront the enemy to protect and to save his country and other people in his country.

The word "line" in line three of this first stanza is called as symbol by the writer. His argument support by Perrine (1992) state that a symbol may be roughly defined as something that means more than what it is. It means that a symbol uses a word or phrase which is familiar in society and has one meaning. Based on Perrine explanation above, the writer conclude that the word "line" in line "put my life on the line" categorize as a symbol due to it gave deepest meaning for the author. It is a symbol how a soldier ready to stand fo his lovely country.

Hyperbole

Line 4 of the first stanza : ***dance with death,***

Hyperbole is the dominant figure of speech in *I am Human Too* poem. The first figure of speech of hyperbole that writer found in this poem is can be seen in line four of the first stanza "dance with death". In this line the author wants to convey that how dangerous his life as a soldier is. He has to guerrilla for safe his own life. He could say that his life as soldier is like dance with death, he is too close to death. As a soldier he could be dead in everywhere and everytime.

The line of "dance with death" of the poem is writer include into figure of speech of hyperbole because the author put an overstatement or exaggeration for his condition in military's duty. This explanation also supported by Perrine (1992). Overstatement or hyperbole is simply exaggeration but exaggeration in the service of truth . Overstatement may be used with a variety of effects. It may be humorous or grave, fanciful or restrained, convincing or unconvincing. There is no body could dance with death In literally meaning, so the phrase of "dance with death" categorize as figure of speech of hyperbole.

Line 5 of the first stanza: ***And dine with danger.***

The second figure of speech of hyperbole that writer found in the first stanza is in line 5, it is "And dine with danger". In this line the author of the poem try to explain his condition by giving the illustration. He make an illustrate a conditon that his duty as a soldier is like surrounded by danger in the whole time, even he dine with danger. He need to alert in 24 hours a day, No matter day or night, morning or afternoon.

In this line, the writer also put the phrase of "And dine with danger" of the poem into figure of speech of hyperbole, because in this line the phrase of And dine with danger is contain by word of "dine and danger". As we know that, every team of soldiers has their time to take arest and another team is stay awake. But, in this line the author explain it by uses overstatement in his line of the poem.

Line 13 (the 1st line of the third stanza) : ***The forest has become my home;***

The third figure of speech of hyperbole in *I am Human Too* poem is can be seen in line 13 of the poem or the first line of the third stanza, it is "The forest has become my home;". If we read the line carefully, we will find another one of figure of speech of hyperbole. In this line the author would like to say that the hardest duty of a soldier is when he has to stay at the forest, he sleep, eat and doing everything at the forest for long time by said "The forest has become my home;".

The line "The forest has become my home;" is also contain by exaggeration statement, it is figure of speech of hyperbole. Eventhough a soldier has to confront a war in a forest but he will not stay at the forest for the whole life. Its mean that a soldier will be back to his real home. So, based on the explanation above the writer conclude that "The forest has become my home;" is as an overstatement or hyperbole.

Line 25 (the 1st line of the fifth stanza) : ***I stand under the sun all day,***

Another figure of speech of hyperbole that writer found in *I am Human Too* poem is can be recognized in line 25 of the poem or the first line of stanza 5, it is "I stand under the sun all day;". In this line the author

would like to say that since he has sign his agreement to be a soldier automatically he must obey any kinds of rules, any kind of orders from his country. The author also wants to say to us that don't forget he is not a robot, he can feel what other people feel. He may be makes some mistakes in his duty but he do hope that we do not attack him without keeping in mind that his is a human too.

The figure of speech of hyperbole in this line is showed in phrase "stand under the sun all day". This phrase is also categorize as figure of speech of hyperbole because in literally meaning mean that the soldier spend the whole time of his all day by standing under the sun, but based on analyze of the poem by detail the phrase "stand under the sun all day" mean that the soldier has to fight for his country eventhough he should stand under the sun in the whole day. So, the phrase "stand under the sun all day" is the writer conclude into figure of speech of hyperbole.

Line 28 (the 4th line of the fifth stanza) : ***My blood boiling, my brain frothing;***

My blood boiling, my brain frothing is the fifth figure of speech of hyperbole that writer found in this *I am Human Too* great poem. The use of figure of speech by the author for this line very beautiful and so meaningful. In this line the author try to decribe his lamentation by illustrate his pathetic condition, he describe that his blood is boiling and his brain is frothing. It illustrate is to convey that his does not always happy with status as a soldier. There are some heavy burden for soldier responsibility.

My blood boiling, my brain frothing is also include into figure of speech of hyperbole because the phrase of My blood boiling and my brain frothing are exaggeration statement. It is very impossible for a human who still alive, he/she can see his/her blood boiling and his/her brain frothing. The phrase My blood boiling, my brain frothing is the way of the author to convey his message to the readers that to do not judge him by vilify and attack him for his fault or mistake.

Line 31 (the 1st line of the sixth stanza): ***Today I'm being laid to rest,***

The last figure of speech of hyperbole that writer found in this great poem is can be seen in line 31 of the poem or the first line of the last stanza, it is "Today I'm being laid to rest,". In this last figure of speech of hyperbole the author emphasize that he just like a dead body. The author wants to describe that how he got a medal just when he go dwon, but why there is no a celebration, there is no medal for his living. Why he got appreciation just when he died, but there is no support when fight for his country, for all of people in his country.

The phrase of Today I'm being laid to rest is also include into figure of speech of hyperbole by writer because the death is not really happened to the author. He

is just try to illustrate what become his lamentations in his status as a soldier. As we know that, a person can not request to get his/her death then come back again to live. This phrase is contain by exaggeration statement because the author does not really died. The author just try to inform the readers how bad of his feeling when he got critic, vilify and attack them without keeping in mind that they are humans too.

Simile

Line 17 (the 5th line of the third stanza) : ***I feel like a visitor in my own home***

Perrine, (1992). Said that Simile is a means of comparing things that are essentially unlike. In simile, the comparison is expressed by the use of some words or phrases, such as like, as, than, similar to, resembles, or seems. In the *I am Human Too* poem, the first one of simile that the witer found is in line 17th or the fifth line of the third stanza, it is I feel like a visitor in my own home. In this line, the author would like to compare his feeling like a visitor at his own home. The author did not feel comfortable when he come back home. His status as a soldier is become. So, based on the explanation above the writer categorize the phrase into figure of speech of simile.

Line 23 (the 5th line of the fourth stanza) : ***My salary says as much***

The other one of figure of speech of simile that writer found in this amazing poem is in line 23 of the poem or the fifth line of the fourth stanza, it is "My salary says as much". The highly strong reason why the writer categorize this line into figure of speech of simile is because in this line the author would like to compare his salary to and the amount of he got every month. The author would like to describe that he can not spend his salary to buy anything due to he spend his life for protect his country. But, in otherwise when he come back to home he get any critic, vilify and attack them without keeping in mind that they are humans too.

figure of speech convey the messages through the poem *I am Human Too* poem by Godsplan K. Ugwuja

Peter (2002) said that figure of speech is a language which has figurative meaning and incorporates the speaker's desire to touch the emotion, to cause shock and to persuade into action. Based on Peter's opinion above, the writer concludes that there are some purpose of the author when he/she set some figure of speech in his/her poem, one of them is figure of speech use to convey messages through each of figure of speech meaning for all of the poem readers. Weltek and Warren (1997) also said that literature as a social institution that uses the medium of language, in conveying messages is channeled in the form of symbolism in the form of conventions and social norms.

Message in communication is something that the sender conveys to the recipient. Message is a set of meaningful symbols conveyed by the communicator. Messages can be in the form of ideas, opinions, and so on that has been outlined in a form and through communication symbols are passed on to other people or the communicant A.W. Widjaja (1987). According to A.W. Widjaja there are three kind of messages, they are; informative message, persuasive message and koersive message. After analyzing 9 data of figure of speech of the poem above and understanding one by one the meaning of them, here the writer present some message that writer found in the poem.

Informative message

Informative message is provide information on data and facts then the communicant draws his own conclusions and decisions, A.W. Widjaja (1987). Based on A.W. Widjaja's opinion above, the writer found some informative messages in *I am Human Too* poem. The first message is can be seen in stanza 1 I am a public servant, Forced to constantly put my life on the line, dance with death, And dine with danger. You forget; I'm human too. Here, the author give the readers information about himself that he is a soldier, he is public servant, he put his life to defend his country and all of people in his country, eventhough he is close to death but we may not forget that he is a human too, it means that its is possible he will make a mistake too.

Another informative message in this poem is can be found in stanza 3, The forest has become my home; I haven't seen my family in months. My son, born in my absence, My young daughter barely knows her father. I feel like a visitor in my own home. You forget; I'm human too. In this stanza the autor would like to inform the readers that since he join the military and he got his duty to protect his country, so forest is suddently become his home because he stayed at forest for long time, he even haven't seen his family in months, even his daughter never met him since she was born and unfortunately when he come back home he feel like a visitor at his own home.

Persuasive message

Persuasive message is contains persuasion, which raises human understanding and awareness that what we convey will change attitudes, A.W. Widjaja (1987). In this amazing poem persuasive message can be seen in the whole stanza, especially in stanza 5, I stand under the sun all day, My uniform and fatigues absorbing All the heat from the sun. My blood boiling, my brain frothing; Tell me why I won't be angry? You forget; I'm human too. The stanza 5 above tell us about the author lamentation and as a soldier he got many pain in his life, his is suffer for every critic, people vilify and people attack without keeping in mind that they are humans too,

forget that they too have feelings and emotions like everyone else.

CONCLUSION

After analyzing all of the data, here the writer makes summary or the result of this research. The summary is contain the kinds of figure of speech and messages that found in *I am Human Too* poem. I am Human Too poem is a poem about a soldier's lamentation and it create by a Nigerian man named by Godsplan K. Ugwuja in 2020. The poem is talk about two side story about soldiers in Nigeria. In Nigeria a soldier never get the high respect from it people, but they often get the critic and vilify and sometimes they got some attact with no reason.

In this research the writer found 9 data of figure of speech of the I am Human Too poem. All of the data analyzed based on Perrine theory. There are eleven kinds of figure of speech were introduced by Perrine and the writer found three kinds of figure of speech in I am Human Too poem, they are; symbol, hyperbole and simile. From three figure of speeches that writer found in the poem, figure of speech of hyperbole is the dominant figure of speech in the poem, the writer found 6 data because figure of speech of hyperbole is the appropriate of figure of speech for the author to express his idea, feeling and lamentation about two side story of a soldier in Nigeria. Another figure of speech found in the poem is figure of speech of simile and symbol, the writer found 2 data for simile and 1 data for symbol.

Beside, another important poin of this research is how the author convey some messages for the readers especially Nigerian people through his great *I am Human Too* poem. After analyzing the the poem carefully, the writer founds at least 2 important messages were pinned in the amazing poem, there are; 1) infromative message, it mean that we often don't remember that our soldiers put their lives on the line to protect us but we still criticize, vilify and attack them without keeping in mind that they are humans too. 2) Persuasive message, it mean that let's support them not only by good weapons but also by moral due to soldiers are human like any of us too.

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