

TRANSFERENCE OF MEANING IN THE FIRST CHAPTER OF COMPLETE POEMS OF ROBERT FROST ENTITLED A BOY'S WILL : A STYLISTIC ANALYSIS

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Abstract

This research applied the descriptive qualitative research. The data source of this research was taken from the poems line in the first chapter of *Complete Poems of Robert Frost* entitled *A Boy's Will*. The data were in the forms of lines that were collected based on the relevant theories. To achieve data trustworthiness, some peers and the thesis consultants were asked to check, verify, and discuss the data that were collected by the researcher. The results of the research showed that there were four types of transference of meaning which appeared in the chapter; they were metaphor, metonymy, simile, and personification. Meanwhile, there were only two language functions found through the use of the figure of transference of meaning in the chapter. They were poetic and phatic.

Keywords: Robert Frost *A Boy's Will*; transference of meaning; language functions

INTRODUCTION

There are many things that can be learned from stylistics. Semantic deviation is one of the most interesting topics in stylistic study. There are three types of semantic deviation: *semantic oddity*, *transference of meaning*, and *honest deception*. Semantic deviation, commonly called as "figurative language", creates new and unusual meanings. It is used by authors to ensure that their words have an impact on readers. It cannot be taken literally. This happens because words or phrases that form figurative language have a particular meaning instead of literal meaning. Figurative language refers to words, and groups of words, used in a way that is different from the usual meaning, in order to create a particular mental image (Hornby, 2000: 494).

Figurative Language can be found in literary works such as poetry where the writing appeals to the senses. It can do this by giving a word with a specific meaning, by comparing two things in such a way that people find the

comparison interesting or by using words that have unusual constructions or sounds. Figurative language investigates the language exploration of irregularities of formal patterning or deviations from linguistic codes. It analyzes phonological schemes, grammatical and lexical schemes, and tropes (Leech & Short, 1981: 77). Many authors use figurative language to create their own distinct style, not only to set their words and ideas apart, but also to set themselves as writers. These authors have used language play to break literary conventions and create their own literary trademarks, especially in poetry.

People know poetry as one of literary works which uses many figurative languages. It is characterized by the use of language chosen for its sound and suggestive power and by the use of literary techniques such as meter, metaphor, and rhyme in every line of each stanza. The author made poetry to convey experiences, ideas, or emotions in a vivid and imaginative way. It is a lot of things for a lot of people. Mostly poems are

adapted from many kinds of phenomena in the real world. Through a poem, someone can also present an opinion about something that happened in the society

This research analyses the use of transference of meaning as one type of semantic deviations and the function of that usage based on Leech and Jakobson theories found in the first chapter of *Complete Poems of Robert Frost* entitled *A Boy's Will*. The book was published on December 1964. Robert Lee Frost (March 26, 1874 – January 29, 1963) was an American poet. His work was initially published in England before it was published in America. He is highly regarded for his realistic depictions of rural life and his command of American colloquial speech. His work frequently employed settings from rural life in New England in the early twentieth century, using them to examine complex social and philosophical themes. One of the most popular and critically respected American poets of the twentieth century, Frost was honored frequently during his lifetime, receiving four Pulitzer Prizes for Poetry. He became one of America's rare "public literary figures, almost an artistic institution." He was awarded the Congressional Gold Medal in 1960 for his poetic works. The reason of choosing collected poems by Robert Frost is that the poems give some illustrations of figurative language related to transference of meaning in literary works especially in poem.

RESEARCH METODE

Study Type

This research was conducted under qualitative approach. A qualitative approach is a research procedure bringing about the descriptive data in the form of written or oral data from the subjects of research being observed. Since this research tends to describe the phenomena of the figurative language, qualitative approach is the most appropriate approach. In-depth analysis which is strongly emphasized in the approach can support brief discussion about this topic.

In descriptive-qualitative approach the data obtained are described in words as the interpretation of the findings. In this research the phenomena being described were the figurative language applied in the first chapter of *Complete Poems of Robert Frost* entitled *A Boy's Will*. All steps of procedure in this research were carefully inducted to answer the research objectives. The Objective of this research are to identify transference of meaning and the language functions.

Data and Data Sources

From this research, the data are the poems' lyrics which contain the figurative language. This decision was taken in order to make certain that all data under analysis were carefully observed and interpreted in detail by the researcher. The form of data is the expression expressed by the writer of the poems belonging to Robert Frost: *A Boy's Will*. The context of the data is taking from all lines in the first chapter of *Complete Poems of Robert Frost* entitled *A Boy's Will* which contains 30 poems. The source of data

is taking from reading the poems and finding the lines from the book. The writer use the theory of Leech to analyze the figurative language and the writer also use the theory of Roman Jakobson to analyze the functions of using the language.

Research Instruments

Since the primary method in this research is the qualitative method, the research instruments are designed based more on the qualitative method. Here, the researcher is the main instrument whose role is to describe and explain the data. The other instrument is the data sheet. All of the data collection and the analysis were done by the writer himself based on the poems line.

Another instrument used during the research was the table of transference of meaning and language function. This table became the device to categorize and classify the data into some types of transference of meaning (synecdoche, metonymy, metaphor, simile, and personification), and some language functions, i.e. Emotive, Poetic, Conative, Phatic, Referential, and Metalinguistic.

Data Collection Technique

This study requires appropriate data collection techniques to obtain the appropriate data. The data collection technique in this study was the divining manual technique, *baca* and *catat*. *Baca* and *catat* technique means that researcher as a key instrument must carefully obtain the data, and be meticulously directed to the target data source of research in the form of expression found in poems. The goal is to obtain

the information that supports the analysis and interpretation of data.

The data about the poems line are collected through documentation following some steps. First, the researcher read the poems to understand the content. Second, the researcher analyzed the lyrics that contain the example belong to the figurative language. And the last, the collected data is drawn to be analyzed.

Data Analysis Technique

Bogdan and Bicklen (1982 : 145) define qualitative data analysis as working with data, organizing it, breaking it into manageable units, synthesizing it, searching for patterns, discovering what is important and what is to be learned, and deciding what the researcher will tell the others. In other words, Wiersma (1995: 281) says that data analysis in qualitative study is a process of categorization, description and synthesis. Therefore, the creative, active, and accurate process of organizing data to draw analytic scheme were the main focus of the steps. The data analyzed into following steps: classifying the data, encoding the classified data, describing all the appearing categories, and drawing conclusion

FINDINGS AND DISCUSSION

Description of the Techniques

There were two cases found in this research. The researcher found both cases in the first chapter of *Complete Poems of Robert Frost* entitled *A Boy's Will* by Holt, Rinehart and Winston. They were (1) transference of meaning and (2) language functions.

Table 1. Transference of meaning used in the Robert Frost's poems

No.	Transference of Meaning	Frequency
1	Metaphor	4
2	Metonymy	1
3	Simile	10
4	Personification	15
Total		30

1. Metaphor

Datum 9 by in the following poem entitled *Wind and Window Flowers*.

Lovers, forget your love,
 And list to the love of these.
 She a window flower,
And he a winter breeze. (Datum 9)

The line 4 which says *And he a winter breeze* contains *metaphor*. The *metaphor* is explained by describing the man (*he*) as a winter breeze. The author makes comparison between living things with an unanimated thing. The author makes the comparison to make the reader feel the character of the man (*he*).

In this poem, the author tells about lovers. The author tends to say that their relationship does not work. It is clarified in line 1: *Lovers, forget your love*. The author suggests the lovers to forget their love to one another. The author is convinced that the lovers are not suitable one another. The statement is strengthened by giving a comparison between the lovers. The author makes comparison deliberately as inconspicuous

as possible. It is clarified in line 3 (*She a window flower*) and line 4 (*And he a winter breeze*). The author describes the woman as something nice and mostly wanted because her presence makes the environment look more beautiful (*the window flower*), which is not synchronized and does not fit with the description of the man which is represented as the winter breeze. As people know that the winter breeze is something cold. When people think about winter breeze, they could feel so cold only by imagining. It can be said that only by imagining the winter breeze, it directly makes sense gone cold and therefore it is the unwanted thing by human in general. Also it can be clearly seen by the logic that there is a big difference between *she* and *he*. That is the reason why the author suggests them to end their relationship

2. Metonymy

The example of the data was found in following line on a poem entitled *The Demiurge's Laugh*.

It was far in the sameness of the wood
I was running with joy on the Demon's trail, (Datum 25)
 Though I knew what I hunted was no true god.

It is clarified by using word *Demon's trail*. In this line, the use of *metonymy* is clarified by representing the unwanted and wrong path as the demon's trail. The word *demon* itself draws a negative thought in the readers' imagination. Even in general, people perceive demon as an evil entity and usually deny its existence. *Demon's trail* is not the real meaning but it refers to the

unwanted path. The wrong path is strengthened in line 3 “*Though I knew what I wanted was no true god*” and line 4 “*It was just as the light was beginning to fail*”.

Based on the poem entitled *The Demiurge’s Laugh*, the author describes someone who gets the wrong way but he still follows the way. The author knows that he was wrong to choose that way. The author knows that there are some sounds from the opposite laughing at him. It tends to explain that he does not really run on the demon’s trail, but the author describes the demon’s trail as a wrong and an unwanted path. It is called demon because all of the things on it is judged wrong by the circumstance as all people know in general that demon itself is an evil thing and represents a bad thing. The author feels so lost in his way for he does not realize the truth but he is enjoying the way he took. The author just ignores the circumstance even though he already knows that he is in a wrong way.

3. Simile

The use of *simile* on this following line was found in the poem entitle *Stars*.

And yet with neither love nor hate,
Those stars like some snow-white (Datum 5)
 Minerva's snow-white marble eyes
 Without the gift of Sight.

The author tends to describe that the stars are similar to the white snow. It is clarified by using the word *like* for comparison. The white snow with its sparkling white color is compared

to the stars which are glowing in the sky. The beauty of the white snow is also penetrated in the glowing stars.

The use of simile was also found in one of A Boy’s Will poem entitled A Prayer in Spring. The datum was found in line 6.

Oh, give us pleasure in the orchard white,
Like nothing else by day, like ghosts by night (Datum 12)
 And make us happy in the happy bees,
 The swarm dilating round the perfect trees.

This line contains simile. The simile is indicated by the word like. In this case, like is used to compare the pleasure with something else. The subject tends to beg for getting a pleasure and it seems like a big pleasure because he asks the pleasure with the comparison. The word like indicates the importance of his begging because he says like nothing else by day. He begs the pleasure in the orchard white so hard as if there would be no day left. It is strengthened by the next line which says And make us happy in the happy bees. This line shows that the author really wants to get the happiness even the overwhelmed happiness. So, the simile is shown by comparing the thing which is really wanted by the author with something which can strengthen the aim.

4. Personification

The use of *Personification* was found in the poem entitled *Ghosts House* in line 7.

O'er ruined fences the grapevines shield
The woods come back to the mowing field,
 (Datum 3)
 The orchard tree has grown one copse
 Of new wood and old where the woodpecker
 chops,
 The footpath down to the well is healed.

The stanza above contains *personification* within the sentence *The woods come back to the mowing field*. The words *come back* which are usually used by the human as a human ability to do *coming back* is used by unanimated thing *the woods*. In this case, *the woods* represent as something which has a human ability for their ability to do coming back to the mowing field.

The use of *personification* can also be found in the poem entitled *The Vantage Point*. The datum was found in line 4.

There amid lolling juniper reclined.
 (Datum 16)
 Myself unseen, I see in white defined
 Far off the homes of men, and farther still,
 The graves of men on an opposing hill,
 Living or dead, whichever are to mind.

The use of *personification* is shown through the way the author gives the human ability (lolling) to juniper. He makes the figure of juniper as if it has a soul like a human so it can do such a human's ability. In this case, the use of human's ability is placed as the adjective followed by the inanimate subject. The inanimate subject is the juniper which has no soul like what

human does. So, by giving this adjective (lolling), the author uses the figure of *personification* to build such an image of the tree which lying lazily like usually human does.

Table 2. Language Functions used in the Robert Frost's poems

No.	Language Functions	Frequency
1	Poetic (without Phatic)	19
2	Phatic (with Poetic)	11
Total		30

1. Poetic Function

The use of some figures of transference of meaning shows that the writer wants to deliver the message in an unusual way. It means that the figures are used to stress the message of the line. Also, they can be used to indicate the occurrence of the poetic function. The example of transference of meaning that has poetic function can be seen in the poem entitled *Into My Own* in line 8.

I should not be withheld but that some day
 Into their vastness I should steal away,
 Fearless of ever finding open land,
Or highway where the slow wheel pours the sand. (Datum 1)

In this line, the use of personification can be indicated by the word pours which is done by the unanimated thing the slow wheel. The human ability like pouring is something which cannot be done by unanimated thing except with the human help. But in this line, the human ability is used by the slow wheel. The style by using this kind of sentence is to make the line catches more readers' attention.

Another example of transference of meaning which has poetic function can also be found in the following datum.

The same leaves over and over again!
They fall from giving shade above
To make one texture of faded brown
And fit the earth like a leather glove.

(Datum 24)

In the poem *In Hardwood Groves*, the author tries to describe the situation in those hardwood groves. The author tries to describe the appearance of the place which is covered with faded brown leaves on the ground. The bolded words in datum 27 shows that the author tends to compare an activity with something else which is believed has the similarity according to the author's point of view. In this case, the author uses simile to complete the comparison. The poetic function in this line is shown by the writer by making the line looks different and unusual, so the message can be delivered deeper in meaning to the reader.

2. Phatic Function

The example of *phatic* function usage was found in this following poem entitled *Ghost House* in line 1.

I dwell in a lonely house I know (Datum 2)
That vanished many a summer ago,
And left no trace but the cellar walls,
And a cellar in which the daylight falls,
And the purple-stemmed wild raspberries
grow.

The use of *phatic* function is found in this line by using pronoun *I*. The author tends to say that he is the one who has such an experience which is written down in the poem. The possessive pronoun *I* is used by the author to make a contact with the readers as if the author were in front of or just beside the readers.

The phatic function is also found on the poem entitled *The Vantage Point* in the line 12.

And if by noon I have too much of these,
I have but to turn on my arm, and lo,
The sun-burned hillside sets my face
aglow,
My breathing shakes the bluet like a
breeze, (Datum 16)
I smell the earth, I smell the bruised plant,
I look into the crater of the ant.

This line contains the phatic function which is shown by using *my* as the possessive pronoun. In this case, the use of "my" is to make a contact with the readers. The author tends to catch the attention by telling that the breathing belongs to him. By using *my*, the readers would feel that the story which has been told in the poem is for them and relates to them, the author also compares the breathing with the breeze to catch the reader's attention.

CONCLUSSION AND SUGGESTIONS

Conclusion

Based on the findings and discussion, this research can be concluded into several points. First, there are four types of transference of meaning that commonly appear in literary works

which were found in the first chapter of *Complete Poems of Robert Frost* entitled *A Boy's Will* by Holt, Rinehart and Winston, i.e. *Metaphor*, *Metonymy*, *Simile*, and *Personification*. Transference of meaning deals mostly with the comparison that makes the writer focus on the object rather than the writer or the addresser himself. Second, there are two types of language function found in the first chapter of *Complete Poems of Robert Frost* entitled *A Boy's Will* by Holt, Rinehart and Winston. They are *poetic* and *phatic* function. The *poetic* function is mostly used in almost all the lines as the literary objects are poems.

Suggestions

The main focus of this research is a challenge for the readers to widen their perspective in seeing language phenomena. The researcher asks his readers, who usually consider language style as a trivial matter that implies the dramatization of language use in literary works,

to change their opinion. This research reveals that there are more than just dramatic effects behind the use of transference of meaning. There are some complex functions of language based and theme on the context which can be analyzed through it.

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