

Figurative Language on a Wattpad Novel “Tempting Curse” By MsFolle

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ABSTRACT

This study contains the figurative language found in the novel Tempting Curse and the explanations of the meaning of these figurative languages. The researchers chose this study because the researchers felt that the figurative language in many novels sometimes made the readers cannot understand about figurative languages they read. So that this research is expected to help the readers understand the meaning of the figurative languages. For this study, the researchers used the theory from Montgomery et al (2007) as the basis for researching the types of figurative language studied. The research method used was qualitative research methodology and use semantic analysis to analyze the data. The results of this figurative language analysis research are found five types of the seven types of figurative language according to the theory of Montgomery et al (2007), namely metaphor, metonymy, simile, apostrophe, and irony. From the analysis, the researchers concludes that figurative language is used by the author only to beautify her writing and provide additional information on the phenomena that occur or the feelings experienced by the characters in detail.

Keyword : Semantics, Meaning, Figurative Languages, Novel, Wattpad

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1. INTRODUCTION

Figurative language, according to Merriam-Webster dictionary, is a form of expression (such as a simile or metaphor) used to convey meaning or heighten effect often by comparing or identifying one thing with another that has a meaning or connotation familiar to the reader or listener. This type of language can be found in many literary works; like novels, songs, movies, newspaper, and many others. But sometimes, figurative language is hard to be understood by readers because it is not literally written as it actually means. This is what drives the researchers to conduct this analysis, in hoping to help readers to understand more and easily about figurative language. For this occasion, the researchers use the novel titled “Tempting Curse” by MsFolle from the famous reading website called Wattpad. It is a romance fantasy novel where the main character named Rhea is a strangely strong succubus who was cursed to lose a part of her soul in exchange of her friends’ safety. But then her curse was lifted by the Demon King in exchange of taking care the Dukes of Hell. The novel progresses on how Rhea got her revenge on her betrayed master and found someone who is strong and worthy to be a source of strength to satisfy her hunger as well as a partner in the future. To understand further about figurative languages, we need to know about semantics. Semantics is the part of linguistics that is concerned with meaning (Sebastian, 2002). This branch of linguistics is able to study the meaning of a word, phrase, sentence, or larger unit of discourse as conveyed through signs and language. The word semantics itself came from Greek word *semantikos*, which means significant. The term semantics was coined by the French linguist Michel Bréal

(1832-1915), who is generally considered the founder of modern semantics. By studying semantics, it is hoped that we can analyze language well, especially for this research which is figurative language. Figure of speech is a non-literal way of saying something; that is, words must be interpreted to understand their intended meaning (Elder, 2004). Griffiths (2006) defines a figurative interpretation as an explicature that involves treating one or more words as if they had meanings different from their literal ones. Furthermore, a lot of studies classifies figurative language into a lot (more than 10) of types, but Montgomery et al (2007) explains that in literary studies today, critics and theorists tend to focus on just a handful of figurative devices: metaphor, simile, metonymy, synecdoche, irony, allegory, apostrophe and a few others. The first type of figurative language that is discussed by Montgomery et al is metaphor. Metaphor occurs when a word or phrase in one semantic field is transferred into another semantic field in order to talk about one thing as if it were another quite different thing (Montgomery et al, 2007). To interpret the metaphor, we look for the element of similarity between the non-literal word or phrase and the implied idea and transfer it into the new context. Also, metaphor can significantly affect how we perceive or respond to what is being described. Next, there is simile, in which according to Montgomery et al (2007) is a subdivision of metaphor in that, as its name suggests, it draws attention to a similarity between two terms through words such as 'like' and 'as'. Simile does not, strictly speaking, always entail figurative language, since both terms of a simile can often be understood literally.

Metonymy is another type of figurative language that works through other kinds of association (cause-effect, attribute, containment, etc.) and can be formed through many different kinds of associative link. Synecdoche is another type of figurative language which occurs when the association between the figurative and literal senses is that of a part to the whole to which it belongs. Allegory, according to Abrams (1993) quoted by Montgomery et al (2007) is a narrative fiction in which the agents and actions, and sometimes the setting as well, are contrived to make coherent sense on the "literal," or primary, level of signification, and at the same time to signify a second, correlated order of agents, concepts, and events. An apostrophe is a special variant on the poetic speech situation in that it involves the speaker addressing either someone who is not there, or even dead or something that is normally thought of as unable to understand language or reply (e.g. an animal or an object). Lastly, irony is a use of language where we do not literally mean what we say; instead we imply an attitude of disbelief towards the content of our utterance or writing.

There are several researches that is relevant to this research. Wahyuni in 2017 made a figurative language analysis for her thesis that also focuses on novel. Wahyuni used Cuddon's theory of figurative languages and found 6 types of figurative languages: metaphor, simile, irony, hyperbole, personification and symbol. Then, an article written by Aryawan et al in 2019 focuses on figurative languages in several songs. They used Perrine and Tarigan's theory and found 12 types of figurative languages in those songs. Another analysis of figurative language on songs was done by Arifah in 2016. She used Sharndama and Suleiman's theory and Hillaby's theory for understanding the linguist context from the song lyrics and found 9 types of figurative languages. Lastly, the relevant article for this research is by Rohani et al in 2018 which focuses on figurative languages on newspaper. They found 13 types of figurative language out of 20 types presented in their theory.

2. RESEARCH METHOD

In this research the researchers used qualitative research methods. The data is the novel from the website/application Wattpad titled "Tempting Curse" by MsFolle. To collect the data, the researchers read the whole story and then selected some sentences that are considered as figurative language. After collecting the data, the researchers divided those sentences according to Montgomery et al's type of figurative language. Then those sentences were analyzed one by one with semantic analysis to understand the real meaning of those sentences. Lastly, the researchers found the most figurative language type used by the novel author.

3. RESULTS AND DISCUSSION

From the analysis that has been done, the researchers found 24 sentences that has figurative language on them. The sentences found are presented in the table below:

Table 1. Figurative Languages Found in the Novel

(Alya Nadhilah Hutagalung)

No.	Type of Figurative Languages	Sentences
1.	Metaphors	<p>a) That feeling of safety slowly turn into chains, sweet chain, that submerge me into their tempting embrace, turning my fear into illusion and my demons into trivial matters.</p> <p>b) But that fleeting moment of respite always quickly disappear. Breaking my fantasy to leave only the sensation where the chains start to restrict anything I touch or sense, and even my next breath, imprisoning my soul with each passing second throwing me into my endless tumult.</p> <p>c) That's when I emerge from under the water. Savoring the pain from my lungs; a brute feeling that makes me feel alive, before all my senses turn numb again.</p> <p>d) The moonlight was reflected my naked silhouette, as the little droplet of water falling from my body to the lake created waves in the calm of its surface, disrupting the quietness of the forest.</p> <p>e) Murmur telling me indefinable words as scenes after scenes flashes in front of me, then disappear. A shadow turns into bloody corpses while screams echo in my head, and as the time goes the sound increase; as blood is shed on a rock, an incantation is repeated in a language far too familiar and then so foreign. Chains crackling, and a sky who shake and break as the shouting gets louder while the incantation gets stronger.</p> <p>f) I wake up drenched in sweat as I try to get oxygen in my lungs, power tingling under my skin wanting to emerge as a little firework as usual when I was hit with those dreams.</p> <p>g) Every time the pain got stronger more memories resurfaced, and the suffering in those memories was getting clearer as I was relieving them. For all those time that I lived locking those emotions away, the pain seemed to be the key to make them all resurge. My heart that was nothing more than an organ that didn't work anymore, was getting overwhelmed with all kind of feeling.</p> <p>h) I was expecting to hit the floor but instead, my head hit a warm and strong surface, and my body was enveloped into a comforting embrace. It definitely wasn't the ground. I looked up to find two grey orbs looking at me, as I leaned my head on his shoulder.</p> <p>i) Even if I could feel that to achieve my goal each bone of my body will have to be broken before I could accomplish it, and that thought only fanned the fire to my desire.</p>
2.	Metonymy	<p>a) "How dare you talk to us like that?! Don't you know who we are?" Inquired the redhead while his eyes glowed.</p>
3.	Simile	<p>a) Blurred vision of the moon. Hearing sounds like background noise. The world turn into an intangible dream for me, I can see it but not live it, I can touch it but not feel it. Sometimes this sensation makes me feel protected, not being able to be seen nor to be hurt.</p> <p>b) I woke up to my body aching and with a horrible headache, my senses were oversensitive I couldn't even open my eyes, and my iris felt like it was burning.</p> <p>c) The cold water hitting my body, like a collision between ice and fire; bringing my feverish body to a normal temperature, relaxing my tensed muscles.</p>

No.	Type of Figurative Languages	Sentences
		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> d) At first, I wasn't able to perceive the figure responsible for the explosion as the people running like a herd of bulls, made it impossible. e) Then two of his puppet flew toward Rhea like bullets f) Electricity started gathering in the ceiling, and as quickly as it appeared an electric attack hit the demon's arm, disintegrating it like a twig hit by thunder. g) Chax was like frozen on his place, the second she had put her eyes on him, he was like the prey of predator ready to be snacked on. h) But it wasn't without the pain that goes with it as I felt like my flesh was being torn apart.
4.	Synecdoche	-
5.	Allegory	-
6.	Apostrophe	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> a) "What have I gotten myself into again?" I said as I just kept looking around me, memories of carnage flowing in my head, and at the same time, I could feel my heart stinging which made me feel weird since I couldn't remember the last time I felt something other than an empty hole in my chest. b) "Seriously what the f**k is it again!" I shouted getting frustrated as I banged my head against the back door. c) "He's finally gone" I professed my gaze lost in the last ashes of Mammon that were disappearing, but nothing changed.
7.	Irony	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> a) I love this moment. Where I could tell myself that anyone who were to be in my place now, laying under the layers of water where I am, they would be able to feel the same. Even while knowing it is only to fool myself for a while to think that I was back to a time where everything seemed so much free. b) "I made myself at home and prepared some tea while I waited for you." he continued with a smile; that accentuated the innocence of the little boy. He seemed to be around ten and twelve. He had brown hair and the darkest eyes she has ever seen; it was the only feature that showed how dangerous he really is. c) She, on the other hand, stared blankly at him then said "I don't want to ruin my kitchen, so I'll give you 1 minute before I don't give a f**k anymore and destroy you with it", she professed calmly like she was discussing the weather.

Based on the table, it can be seen that metaphor is the most found type of figurative languages. Metaphor is used by the author for several things; explaining the circumstances around the character, providing a detailed description of what happened during an event in the story, and explaining the character's feelings and thoughts in detail. Here are some example of the analysis of metaphor:

Data 1:

"That feeling of safety slowly turn into chains, sweet chain, that submerge me into their tempting embrace, turning my fear into illusion and my demons into trivial matters." (Tempting Curse, Chapter 1: The Condition)

The 'chains' said by the character here was a feeling that 'hugged' her so that she felt safe and comfortable from all her fears. She felt protected from her fears and herself ('my demons' means herself since she is a succubus). But that feeling was not for long, as explained by the next datum:

Data 2:

"But that fleeting moment of respite always quickly disappear. Breaking my fantasy to leave only the sensation where the chains start to restrict anything I touch or sense, and even my next breath, imprisoning my soul with each passing second throwing me into my endless tumult." (Tempting Curse, Chapter 1: The Condition)

It was revealed that the 'sweet chains' that she felt was actually a 'trap', the 'sweet' implying that the trap did not feel like it was dangerous to the character. The 'chains' gave her comfort but in exchange was being kept there without being able to do anything, even breathing. Those two data can be counted as hyperbole; a type of metaphor that relies heavily on overstatement because the words used seem to exaggerate the feelings.

The second-most used figurative language type is simile. The author uses similes to give the reader an idea of what happened in an event using similar words. That is, the story of this novel is a fantasy genre so that in certain events it will be difficult for readers to imagine because it never happened in the real world. Here are some examples of the use of simile in the novel:

Data 9:

*"I woke up to my body aching and with a horrible headache, my senses were oversensitive I couldn't even open my eyes, **and my iris felt like it was burning.**" (Tempting Curse, Chapter 2: The Arrival)*

The bold sentence is a simile because the main character's condition was not okay and it doesn't mean her eyes were literally burning at that time, it was just a parable. The use of 'like'; is to allow the readers to imagine what it feels like to be in the character's condition.

Data 11:

*"At first, I wasn't able to perceive the figure responsible for the explosion as the people running **like a herd of bulls**, made it impossible." (Tempting Curse, Chapter 5: Target)*

Using the phrase 'like a herd of bulls' is to give the image to the reader of the condition of what was happening with that sentence. Herd of bulls in real life runs really fast and if in panicked state can crash to each other.

The next type of figurative language mentioned by Montgomery et al is metonymy, which works through other kinds of association (cause-effect, attribute, containment, etc.). In this novel, the researchers could only found one data:

Data 14:

*"How dare you talk to us like that?! Don't you know who we are?" Inquired **the redhead** while his eyes glowed." (Tempting Curse, Chapter 2: The Arrival)*

The word 'redhead' doesn't mean that the whole head is red, but it means that the character has red hair (or ginger hair as British people would say). Redhead counts as metonymy because it is a substitute for red/ginger hair. This is the only data of metonymy found because the author rarely used

other word to describe anything and at the same time uses a lot of pronoun 'the demon', but it doesn't count into metonymy since all the characters are literal demons.

Another type of figurative language found in the novel is apostrophe. Apostrophe is a rhetorical figure that occurred when the speaker addressing either to someone who is not there, or even dead, or something that is normally thought of as unable to understand language or reply. Here is one example of the analysis of apostrophe:

Data 17:

"He's finally gone" I professed my gaze lost in the last ashes of Mammon that were disappearing, but nothing changed. (Tempting Curse, Chapter 7: Core)

This quotation is an apostrophe because the character doesn't specifically address it whether to anyone or to herself, or she just verbally said whatever she was thinking.

The last type of figurative language found is irony, which is a use of language where we do not literally mean what we say; instead we imply an attitude of disbelief towards the content of our utterance or writing. There are rarely found irony in the story which is usually used a lot in other literary works and the researchers cannot figure out why. Here is one example of the analysis:

Data 19:

"I made myself at home and prepared some tea while I waited for you." he continued with a smile; that accentuated the innocence of the little boy. He seemed to be around ten and twelve. He had brown hair and the darkest eyes she has ever seen; it was the only feature that showed how dangerous he really is. (Tempting Curse, Chapter 1: The Condition)

The irony from this paragraph shown by the explanation of the boy who was shown to be nice and polite with a beautiful smile, but in truth the boy is actually the demon king in disguise. It is such an opposite imagination to the reader of a boy, written by the author, who is usually innocent, kind and polite in many other stories.

There is a type of figurative language that is similar to metonymy, which is synecdoche. It is actually a part of metonymy, but the difference is the word refers to a part of something is used to refer to the whole, or is the word for a whole to be used to refer to a part. After further analysis, there is no synecdoche found in the novel. The other type of figurative language that doesn't exist in the novel is allegory because this type of story does not use certain symbols to represent a character, such as fable stories that use animals as symbols to represent characters.

4. CONCLUSION

From the analysis that has been done, the researchers found 5 out of 7 types of figurative languages based on the theory of Montgomery et al (2007). Based on the theory, the types of figurative languages are metaphor, metonymy, simile, apostrophe, synecdoche, allegory, and irony. Based on the results of the study, of the 24 data found by the researchers, the most use of figurative language was metaphor, followed by similes that differed by 1 datum. Irony and apostrophe each have only 3 data. The metonymy only found 1 datum. There is no data were found for synecdoche and allegory.

The researchers concludes that figurative language is used by the author only to beautify her writing and provide additional information on the phenomena that occur or the feelings experienced by the characters in detail. Metaphors are used by the author to tell the feelings experienced by the characters or explain the situation around the characters and sometimes add hyperbole to give an interesting impression to the readers. Simile is used by the author to explain to the reader the situation that occurs in the character by comparing it with animals or non-living things. The apostrophe found in this novel is more about how the characters express their feelings verbally without directing those words to anyone. Metonymy is very rare in this novel because the author uses the pronouns of the characters according to their entities (demons, creatures, etc.). Irony is also rarely seen in novels. It is not clear why the author rarely uses irony which is usually found in other novels. Allegory does not exist in this novel because this type of story does not use certain symbols to represent a character, such as

fable stories that use animals as symbols to represent characters. Synecdoche which is a subsection of metonymy is also not found because there is no word referring to a part of something is used to refer to the whole, nor is the word for a whole to be used to refer to a part.

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