

AN ANALYSIS OF FIGURATIVE LANGUAGE IN THE WISH MOVIE

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Abstract

Figurative language plays a significant role in enriching storytelling and enhancing the emotional impact of animated films. Wish, as a fantasy-animated film, incorporates various forms of figurative language to convey deeper meanings and strengthen the narrative. This study aims to analyze the types, meanings, and effects of figurative language used in the film Wish. Using a qualitative descriptive method, the research identifies and classifies different figurative expressions, including metaphors, similes, personifications, and hyperboles, within the film's dialogues. The findings indicate that figurative language serves multiple functions, such as character development, emotional engagement, and thematic reinforcement. Moreover, it enhances viewers' comprehension and emotional connection with the story. The study also highlights how figurative language contributes to the moral and philosophical messages conveyed in the film. The results suggest that the creative use of figurative language in animated films not only improves aesthetic appeal but also aids in effective communication with audiences, particularly children. This research provides valuable insights for linguists, educators, and filmmakers on the importance of figurative language in cinematic storytelling. Future research can further explore audience reception and cross-cultural interpretations of figurative language in animated films.

Keywords: Figurative Language, Animated Film, Wish, Metaphor, Simile, Personification, Narrative Analysis

INTRODUCTION

The use of figurative language in films plays an important role in building linguistic aesthetics and creating a profound emotional experience for the audience. Figurative language, such as metaphors and similes, not only serves as decoration but also as a tool to convey deeper and more complex meanings. In the film "The Kingdom" (2007), for example, the use of various types of figurative language such as metaphors and hyperbole provides imaginative pleasure and enriches the imagery presented to the audience. Research shows that metaphors can enhance emotional intensity and concretize meaning in a brief context, thereby strengthening the audience's connection with the story being told.

Furthermore, figurative language also serves to create engaging depictions and stimulate the audience's imagination. In the film "Aruna and Her Palate," the use of metaphors depicts the characters' life experiences in a unique way, such as comparing life to the taste of food. This shows how figurative language can bring the atmosphere to life and convey a deeper message to the audience. Thus, figurative language is not merely an aesthetic element, but also an integral part of the narrative that enriches the overall cinematic experience.

Figurative language plays an important role in conveying moral messages and emotions in films. In the film "Aruna and Her Palate," the use of figurative language such as metaphors and similes helps to depict the characters' life experiences in a more profound and engaging way. For example, when the character Bono compares life to the taste of food, he conveys that the bitter and sweet experiences in life can be better understood through a concrete analogy. This not only enriches the narrative but also stimulates the audience's imagination, allowing them to feel deeper emotions (kompasiana, 2022).

Furthermore, figurative language serves to concretize meanings that are often abstract, making the moral message intended to be conveyed clearer and easier to understand. For example, in the film "The Kingdom," the use of various types of figurative language not only provides imaginative pleasure but also intensifies the emotions experienced by the audience. Those metaphors help create a more vivid picture and strengthen the audience's connection to the film's theme, so the moral message can be conveyed more effectively (Dewi & Meidariani, 2024).

Research on figurative language in films, such as the study "The Play of Irony in the Film Gara-Gara Warisan by Muhadkly Acho," has significant relevance to linguistic and literary studies. In the context of linguistics, this research highlights how figurative language, particularly irony, can be used as a tool to convey deeper and more complex meanings. Through the analysis of dialogues in films, researchers can identify various types of linguistic styles and connotative meanings contained within them, which in turn enriches the understanding of how language functions in specific social and cultural contexts (ERVINA, 2024).

From a literary perspective, this research contributes to the understanding of how narrative elements and dialogue in films can create an aesthetic experience for the audience. The language style used in the film not only serves to entertain but also to convey moral messages and relevant life values. By analyzing the figurative language in films, researchers can explore broader themes such as family conflicts and interpersonal relationships, as well as how these issues are expressed through dialogue rich in irony (Ritama, 2022).

Furthermore, the relevance of this research is also evident in its application to education. The research findings can be used as a reference in teaching Indonesian at the high school level, helping students understand the use of figurative language in a more practical context. Thus, this research not only contributes to the fields of linguistics and literature but also has practical implications for the development of educational curricula (Lase et al., 2024).

LITERATURE REVIEW

Figurative Language in Linguistic Studies

Figurative language is a form of language expression that does not use literal meaning, but rather conveys a deeper meaning through metaphor. In this context, figurative language serves to enrich the language and provide beauty in communication, both in writing and everyday conversation. The use of figurative language often involves connotation, where the meaning conveyed is not directly visible from the words used, but rather from the imagery or feelings that the speaker wants to capture.

There are several types of figurative language commonly used, including metaphor, simile, personification, and hyperbole. Metaphor is a form of direct comparison between two things without using a conjunction, as in the expression "the flower of the nation," which describes someone who is very valuable to the country (Sardani, 2018). Simile, on the other hand, is an explicit comparison that uses words like "like" or "as," for example, "her lips are like a blooming pomegranate." Personification gives human traits to inanimate objects or abstract concepts, for example, "the waving palm leaves," where the leaves are depicted as if they have the ability to move like humans.

In addition, hyperbole is a figure of speech that exaggerates a situation to create a dramatic effect, such as in the expression "I have been waiting for a thousand years." These types of figurative language not only beautify the language but also help convey ideas and emotions in a more engaging and easily understandable way. By understanding these various types of figurative language, we can enhance our language skills and communicate effectively.

Language Analysis in Film

The use of language in films, especially figurative language, has a significant impact on building characters and emotions. In animated films, figurative language such as metaphors and similes is often used to add depth to characters and situations. For example, when a character is described with an expression like "his heart as white as snow," it not only depicts the character's good nature but also creates a strong visual image in the audience's mind. Figurative language helps the audience to better understand and feel the emotions experienced by the character, thereby increasing their emotional engagement with the story.

In the context of animated films, the use of figurative language also serves to convey moral messages and values that are intended to be communicated to the audience, especially children. Films like "Upin & Ipin" use language rich in figurative expressions to depict the values of friendship and bravery. Research shows that shows like this not only enrich children's vocabulary but also shape the way they understand social relationships and interact with their surroundings

(Qomariyah & Mulyono, 2024). Thus, figurative language in animated films plays an important role in educating young viewers about positive values through engaging stories.

Furthermore, the language style used in animated films often reflects the culture and social context in which the story takes place. The use of regional languages or specific terms in the dialogue can enhance the authenticity of the story and make it more relatable to the audience. For example, the use of local terms in dialogue can create a more familiar atmosphere and bring the audience closer to the cultural background of the characters (Novera et al., 2023; Tabina et al., n.d.). This shows that language is not just a tool for communication, but also a means to build cultural identity in films.

Overall, the influence of figurative language in animated films is significant in building characters and emotions. Figurative language not only enriches the narrative but also provides the emotional depth needed to capture the audience's attention. Through the use of creative and meaningful language, animated films can convey important messages while still entertaining, making them an effective medium for education and character development for their audience.

METHOD

Research Approach

Research methods encompass a systematic process of data collection, analysis, and interpretation conducted by researchers to investigate specific phenomena. In other words, this method serves as a scientific approach to gathering information with clear objectives and applications. In this study, the researchers used a qualitative descriptive method, which focuses on providing an in-depth understanding and nuances about the subject being studied. The qualitative descriptive method is very effective for exploring complex issues in depth, allowing researchers to collect rich descriptive data through interviews, observations, and text analysis. This approach emphasizes understanding the perspectives and experiences of participants, making it suitable for studies aimed at capturing the intricacies of human behavior and social contexts. By utilizing this method, researchers aim to generate informative insights that reflect the participants' realities, as well as facilitate a comprehensive exploration of themes and patterns in the obtained data.

Research Design

This study employs a descriptive research design with a qualitative approach, which is particularly effective for obtaining in-depth data that encapsulates meaning. According to (Sugiyono, 2015), qualitative methods are aimed at gathering data that reflects the underlying values and significance behind observable phenomena. This approach emphasizes understanding the

subjective experiences of participants rather than making broad generalizations. As such, qualitative research focuses on the richness of meaning inherent in the data, allowing researchers to explore complex social realities and human experiences in detail. By utilizing this method, the research aims to provide a comprehensive understanding of the topic under investigation, highlighting the importance of context and individual perspectives in interpreting findings (Doyle et al., 2020).

In this study, the researcher recorded sentences from both dialogues and song lyrics found in the “Wish” movie. Subsequently, the researcher identifies the meaning and classifies these sentences into one of the rhetorical styles. Afterward, the researcher describes the meaning and reasons that support this identification and classification. Once all these sentences are categorized into data form. The researcher gives a percentage of each of the data that has been found and makes conclusions from the data produced.

Focus and Sub-Focus

In order for this research to be more focused and detailed, it is necessary to determine the focus and sub-focus of the research. The focus of this research is analyzing types of figurative language, more focusing on Metaphor, Personification, Irony and Simile in the movie entitled “Wish”, which is studied through an expressive approach in literature analysis and descriptive qualitative methods. The sub-focus of this research is the selected sentences contained in the “Wish” movie

RESULT AND DISCUSSION

Data Information

In this research, the researcher will analyze the types of figurative language in the selected sentences in the “Wish” movie. To accomplish this research, the researcher also uses the expressive approach in the analysis of literature. The expressive approach is usually used to interpret the meaning of the sentence’s feelings and thoughts. As a result, the researcher decided to use the expressive approach in literature and descriptive qualitative methods to analyze types of figurative language by using The arrangement of the aesthetic words. Keraf mentioned sixteen types of figurative language, those are Simile, Metaphor, Allegory, Parable and Fable, Allusion, Personification, Synecdoche, Epithet, Eponym, Metonym, Atonomasia, Irony, Sinicism, Sarcasm, Satire, Hypallage, Innuendo, Antiphrasis, and Paronomasia.

The “Wish” movie is an American animated musical fantasy film released in November 2023 and produced by Walt Disney Animation Studios and distributed by Walt Disney Studios Motion Pictures. It was written by Jennifer Lee and Allison Moore and directed by Chris Buck and Fawn Veerasunthorn, who was directing her

first feature film. The visual aesthetic blends the appearance of traditional animation with computer animation. Ariana DeBose, Chris Pine, Alan Tudyk, Angelique Cabral, Victor Garber, Jennifer Kumiyama, Harvey Guillén, Evan Peters, Ramy Youssef, and Jon Rudnitsky are among the actors who lend their voices to the movie.

Data Description

In this research, the researcher will present the data that the researcher obtains as a result of this research. The researcher's data are types of figurative language and the meaning of each selected sentence contained in the "Wish" movie. Based on the descriptive qualitative method and expressive approaches used in analyzing the selected sentences in the "Wish" movie, the researcher hopes to reveal the types of figurative language by using Keraf's theory.

Identify the Types of Figurative Language in the Film Wish Concrete examples of each type of figurative language in the film

In the Disney film "Wish," the use of figurative language becomes an important element in building the narrative and conveying the theme. Metaphor is one type of figurative language that is often used, where characters or situations are compared to something else to provide deeper meaning. For example, when the main character Asha says that "desire is the star that guides us," it illustrates hope and dreams as something that can provide direction in life, even though they are not physically visible (Febriyanti et al., 2022).

Besides metaphors, this film also uses personification, where objects or concepts are given human traits. For example, when Asha talks to the magical star, she brings the star to life as if it has the ability to listen and give advice. This dialogue creates an emotional closeness between Asha and the star, which serves to emphasize the sense of loneliness and the search for support in facing challenges. This personification helps the audience feel the emotional tension experienced by the character.

Next, hyperbole also appears in character dialogue to emphasize certain feelings or situations. For example, when Asha expresses that "I will fight against the whole world for my dream," this statement is an exaggeration that shows her strong determination. This hyperbole not only adds drama but also inspires the audience to see strength in their own struggles. Lastly, similes are used to create a clear comparison between two things. In the film, there is a moment when Asha describes her friendship with her friends as "strong as a rope," which shows the importance of social support in her life's journey. This simile provides a strong visual image and helps the audience understand the value of interpersonal relationships in the context of pursuing dreams. Thus, the various types of

figurative language in "Wish" not only enrich the narrative but also convey a profound moral message to the audience.

Meaning and Function of Figurative Language

The use of figurative language in the film "Wish" plays an important role in conveying a profound moral message. Figurative language, such as metaphors, similes, and personification, helps create more vivid and emotional imagery, making it easier for the audience to connect with the characters and the story. For example, when Asha struggles to realize her dreams, the expression that describes desire as a "guiding star" not only provides a strong visualization but also emphasizes the importance of hope and aspiration in facing life's challenges (Nurcitrawati et al., 2019).

Metaphors and similes in character dialogue are often used to express their feelings and inner states. For example, Asha describes her friendship with her friends as "strong as a rope," which shows how important social support is in her life's journey. This shows that interpersonal relationships are key to achieving dreams, as well as underscoring the theme that we cannot achieve our goals alone. The use of this figurative language not only enriches the narrative but also adds emotional depth that makes the audience more engaged.

Overall, the relationship between figurative language and the moral message in "Wish" is very close. Figurative language not only beautifies the narrative but also serves to convey important values such as courage, friendship, and personal responsibility. Through the effective use of figurative language, this film successfully creates a profound experience for the audience, encouraging them to reflect on the true meaning of desire and struggle in life.

The Influence of Figurative Language on Audience Comprehension

The use of figurative language in films like "Wish" can trigger significant emotional and cognitive responses in the audience. Figurative language, such as metaphors and personification, adds emotional depth to the story, allowing the audience to connect with the characters on a deeper level. Children tend to respond to figurative language in a more emotional way because they often relate elements of the story to their personal experiences. For example, research shows that the introduction of emotions through narratives can help children understand and manage their feelings, as seen in children's stories where the characters are taught patience and self-control through loving parental dialogue (Jalal et al., n.d.).

For adult audiences, figurative language often triggers deeper cognitive reflection. They can grasp the symbolic meaning of figurative language and connect it with life experiences or certain values. For example, the cognitive restructuring technique in the context of narratives helps adults manage their

emotions better, such as self-motivation or overcoming frustration through understanding the symbolism in the story. This shows that figurative language not only serves as an aesthetic tool but also as a means of emotional learning (“Teknik Cognitive Restructuring Untuk Meningkatkan Kecerdasan Emosi Dan Forgiveness,” 2017).

The implication for children is that figurative language can be an educational tool to help them recognize and express emotions in a healthy way. In the context of emotional education, children exposed to stories with figurative language tend to learn about empathy, patience, and self-control more easily. For example, the rapid emotional shifts in children's stories demonstrate how narratives can be used to train their emotional intelligence (Priyambodo et al., 2022).

CONCLUSION

The use of figurative language in the film *Wish* is very effective in enriching the narrative and conveying the moral message. Metaphors, similes, personification, and hyperbole are used to create emotional depth that allows the audience to connect with the story. For example, the metaphor "desire is the guiding star" depicts hope as a life guide, emphasizing the importance of believing in oneself when facing challenges. This figurative language not only beautifies the narrative but also helps the audience understand the film's main theme: the courage to act for one's dreams. The relevance of figurative language to the story is evident in the way it reinforces the moral message. Hyperbole like "fighting against the whole world for a dream" highlights the determination of the main character, Asha, inspiring the audience not to give up on their goals. Similes and personification also provide strong visualizations of interpersonal relationships and the wonders of hope, making the message easier to understand for various ages. For children, figurative language helps them recognize emotions and learn values such as friendship and courage. Children can identify with the characters and understand the importance of effort in achieving their dreams. Meanwhile, for adult viewers, figurative language triggers deep reflections on life's struggles and social relationships. Overall, the figurative language in *Wish* not only enriches the viewing experience but also conveys universal values that are relevant to all audiences. This film shows how hope and action can go hand in hand to realize dreams.

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