An Analysis of Figurative Language on Joe Biden's Victory Speech

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ABSTRACT

This research deals with the use of figurative language on Joe Biden victory speech. In this research, the problems are arisen about what types of figurative language are used on Joe Biden's victory speech and what is the meaning of each figurative language used on Joe Biden's victory speech. The methodology, which used in this research, is the qualitative research and the researchers used content analysis method. The document or content analysis is a research method applied to written or visual materials for the purpose of identifying specified characteristic of the material. The data in this research is Joe Biden's victory speech. After investigating the types of figurative language on Joe Biden's victory speech, the researchers found the total 86 sentences that contain examples of figurative language on Joe Biden's victory speech. There are 5 types of figurative language used on Joe Biden's victory speech from 7 types of figurative language proposed by Leech. The 5 types of figurative language used on Joe Biden's victory speech are metaphor, personification, hyperbole, simile, and litotes. Among the 5 types of figurative language often appear used on Joe Biden's victory speech is metaphor. Metaphor consists of 44 sentences, personification consists of 34 sentences, hyperbole consists of 5 sentences, simile consists of 2 sentences, and litotes consists of 1 sentence.

Keywords*: Figurative language, semantics, meaning, speech.*

1. Introduction

Language can be defined as a means of communication of human life. Language is used as means of communication, by language we can talk to our friends, express our ideas, and feelings. Language is also a mirror of the mind, through language we can understand what is in the brain of a human being (Herman, 2017:77; Butarbutar, Sinurat, Herman, and Purba, 2020). According to Sapir (1921:8) as cited in Herman (2017:77), language is purely human and non- instinctive method of communicating ideas, emotions and desires by means of a system of voluntarily symbols. According to Herman (2016:1), language is tools in communication, it is used by people to express their thoughts, feelings, ideas, and experiences toward others. It means that, language is tool to deliver the information to the others which can be expressed in spoken or written form through communication (Herman, 2015; Sinaga, Herman and Siahaan, 2020; Pasaribu, Herman, and Hutahaean, 2020)

Communication has always been the most significant part of human expression and interaction. Making a communication is usually performed by conducting a conversation. The study of communication is important, because every administrative function and activity involves some form of direct and indirect communication. Communication can be defined as the process of

transmitting information and common understanding from one person to another (Keyton, 2011; Sinaga, Herman, and Pasaribu, 2020). A communication can not work if it does not have meanings. It means that, communication is an activity to express ideas, feelings and to give some information and meaning through an interaction.

The way to understand meaning is known as semantics. Semantic is needed because it is a branch of linguistics that studies about meaning and it use to get the meaning of words or sentence. According to Sitanggang, Hutahaean, and Herman (2019:1), semantics is the systematics study of meaning in language. It means that, Semantics is the study of meaning in language and basically, figurative language is part of semantics.

Literature mostly is defined as the entirely of written expression. Literature is a beautiful written work, containing expressions of human expression wrapped in an imaginative form. The purpose of literature is in order to readers can enjoy, appreciate, and also get expression from a literary works use language in written form. According to Roberts (1993: 1) as cited in Dzikra (2014:1), literature refers to compositions that tell stories, dramatize situations, express emotions, and analyze and advocate ideas. In other words, by reading literature the reader can feeling deep and enjoy the emotional of the beauty of the elements exposed in literary texts. It means that, literature is the imaginative work that pictures the human life in society which can be enjoyed, understandable, and used by the society also.

Speech is an activity of public speaking or giving speeches to express their opinions, or give you an idea about something. The speech is usually delivered by who gives speeches and statements of a thing / event that is important and should be discussed. According to Engleberg (2007:1) as cited in Morgan & Nelson (2019:5), the term *speech* often connotes a public speech, that is, a presentation to a large public audience. Speeches became an important media for a president like Joe Biden to deliver messages, persuade people, influence audience. The speech making process involved a long discussion between Joe Biden and a particular team since they should consider some language aspects such as lexical choices and sentence structure in order to achieve certain goals. With regard to this, languages in speeches became important to be analyzed. The study emphasizes on the analysis of figures of language.

It is difficult to understand the meaning that a speaker/writer wants to convey to a listener or to a reader. Sometimes delivering meaning to listener or reader raises misunderstanding because they are different in interpretation the meaning. It is important to understand the meaning of figurative expression in order to fully understand what the speakers try to convey because the speaker/writer use a variety of types of figurative language in order to convey their message. According to Dancygier and Sweetser (2014:1), figurative language is thought related to one aspect of what gives a text in expressing the idea in particular language and a poetic text-special esthetic value. Figurative language is a language that is used imaginatively and not literary because the use of the words diverging from its usual meaning. Figurative language uses words or expressions with a meaning that is different from the literal interpretation. The difficulties to study figurative language is figurative expression introduces an ambiguity meaning between literal and figurative interpretation. Thus, when having to understand it people have to think deeply. The statement occurred when people are looking at figurative language obviously has an ambiguity meaning in it. In addition to that, Figurative language is not intended to be interpreted in a literal sense but it appeals on to the imagination. Then, the difficulties to study figurative language is many people do not know the variety types of figurative language so it is important to study figurative language because figurative language talks about a very distinctive way how a person uses his or her own language consistently to express his or her ideas. In order to be different from others. Figurative language is also widely used in the form of speech. Related to the phenomena of figurative expression as explained above, the researchers are interested to analyze figurative expression that often used in speech, which in this case is represented by Joe Biden.

To fully understand the using of figurative language, we can see the using of figurative language in Joe Biden's speech. Here are part of speech text by Joe Biden :

And we're reminded tonight of those who fought so hard for so many years to make this happen. Once again, America's bent the arc of the   moral   universe   more   toward   justice. Kamala, Doug, like it or not, you're family. You become an honorary Biden, there's no way out. All those of you who volunteered and worked the polls in the middle of a pandemic, local elected officials: You deserve a special thanks from the entire nation.

From the speech text above, we can see the underlined sentence as the example. Once again, America's bent the arc of the moral universe more toward justice. This sentence uses figurative expression and it is personification because it consists of giving human characteristics to an object. It makes the animals and the animate objects talk or behave as humans do.

From the example and explanations above, in this study, the researchers use the transcript of Joe Biden's victory speech to analyze the using of figurative language. The similar research has been done before by another researchers. They are   Fadilah, S., & Rohaniyah, J., their research entitled "The Analysis of Hyperbole and Synecdoche in Jokowi's Political Speeches On 2014 And 2015 Live On Metro TV". This research is different from the previous research because its focus to the 7 kinds of figurative language by Leech theory. Whereas, the research by Fadilah, S., & Rohaniyah, J. (2018) analyzed about figurative language, their research focused on analyzing the kinds and meanings of figurative language especially hyperbole and synecdoche that occur in Jokowi's political speech. It was considered as an important thing to understand what actually the meanings which contain within the speech. Because it is useless, if people just read the speech without understanding what actually the speech want to convey to the readers.

Based on explanation above, the researchers are interested in analyzing figurative language on Joe Biden's Victory Speech. This research will help the readers to understand of the figurative language in speech, especially Joe Biden's victory speech that contains some figurative language, because the researchers want to find out the types of figurative language in Joe Biden's victory speech. However, before found it, the researchers must be able to understand the meaning of the speech so that can classify types of figurative language in Joe Biden's victory speech. In this research, researchers focused on analyzing the types of figurative language used in in Joe Biden's victory speech.

2. Method

A. Research Design

This research used qualitative research as the research design. According to Creswell (2007, 2010), qualitative research is an approach for exploring and understanding the meaning individuals or groups a scribe to a social or human problem. Besides that, Bogdan and Biklen (2007:5) as cited in Silalahi (2015:63) said that qualitative research is a research pictures rather than number. According to Ary et al. (2010:29), there are types to do qualitative research, they are basic interpretative studies, case studies, document or content analysis, ethnography, grounded theory, historical research, narrative inquiry, phenomenological studies.   In this research, the researchers used document or content analysis. Specifically, this research used content analysis method. According to Ary et al. (2010:457), document or content analysis is a research method applied to written or visual materials for the purpose of identifying specified characteristic of the material. The material may be public records, textbook, newspaper, letters, films, diaries, themes, reports, or other document. Furthermore, according to Kibiswa (2019:2059), content analysis is a research methodology or procedure of systematic analysis of content text (words, phrase, statements, communication documents, etc. (Thao and Herman, 2020; Hutahaean et al, 2021)

From the explanation above, it can be concluded the research is a way to discuss the object of the research objectives. In this study, the researchers analyze the figurative language on Joe Biden' Victory Speech. In this qualitative study, the researchers did finding, collecting data, classifying, and making conclusions.

B. Source of the Data

The researchers should determine the data source that is relevant to the research problem. According to Arikunto (2006:172) as cited in Prasetyo (2019:7), data source is the subject from which the data can be found (Thao et al, 2021). So in this research, the researchers took the data of Joe Biden's Victory Speech on November 7, 2020 at 9:56 p.m. EST from google website(https://www.washingtonpost.com). The researchers chose this topic because it was the latest election news that stated Joe Biden as the elected president of the United States.

In data source, the technique used is purposive sampling, which according to Sugiyono (2017:85), purposive sampling is a sampling technique with certain considerations. The reason for selecting the sample using purposive sampling was because not all samples have the appropriate criteria that the researchers had specified. Therefore, the selected sample is purposely determined based on certain criteria that have been determined by the researchers in order to obtain a representative sample. Joe Biden Speech was selected as a data source because it was the newest and latest and controversial speech to claim the victory of Biden as elected president of United States. Mr Biden delivered his victory speech to a crowd in a convention centre car park in Wilmington, Delaware, after the decision desks of multiple US networks projected his election win.

C. Instrument of the Research

Research instrument are tool that used by researchers to collect research data. According to Sugiyono (2017:148), research instrument is a tool used to measure observed natural and social phenomenon. Arikunto (2013: 134) revealed that instrument in collecting data is a tool that is used by researchers to help them in collecting data in order to make it more systematic and easy (Thao and Herman, 2021). The instrument deal with how the data relevant to do the theories given in this research. Therefore, the researchers used the website of Washington Post as an instrument to searched the data, because it was easy to find the speech in this website. Besides that, the researchers needed some media as tool to collecting data, such as mobile phone, notebook, text book, journals, e-book, and newspaper online. The data was from website of Washington post. Researchers used the transcript speech of Joe Biden's Victory Speech on November 7, 2020 to analyzing based kinds of figurative language.

D. Techniques of Data Collection

According to Creswell (2014), data collection step included setting the boundaries for the study, collecting information through unstructured or semi structure observations and interviews, documents, and visual materials, as well as establishing the protocol for recording information. There were many ways to collects the data, such as: documents, observations, tests, interviews, and questionnaires. The researchers used documentary as a technique to collect data. According to Sukmadinata (2011:221), documentary is a technique to collect the data based on documents can be transcripts, books, newspaper, magazines, and many more. In this research, the researchers collected the data from the transcript.

In this research, the technique collective data in qualitative is used document method, the documents is the quickly and simple way to common block prior to a method components of the method then systematical procedure for reviewing or valuate in document. Therefore, in this research the researchers used method documentation with reading the text, analysis and collecting. Some steps by researchers to collect data by doing following:

1. Browsing the website *www.washingtonpost.com*
2. Searching the topic concerning Joe Biden's Victory Speech in website of Washington Post Newspaper
3. Copying the article concerning Joe Biden's Victory Speech from the website of Washington Post

E.   Techniques of Data Analysis

According to Flick (2013:5), qualitative data analysis is the classification and interpretation of linguistic material to make statement about structures of meaning-making in the material. After getting and collecting the data then the researchers took the next step which in to analyzing the data. The steps that researchers took in analyzing the data are as follow:

1. Reading and identifying figurative language
2. Analyzing types of Figurative language used Leech theories
3. Collecting all types of figurative language
4. Classifying types of figurative language used Leech theories into table
5. Analyzing the meaning of figurative language
6. Drawing the conclusion

F.   Triangulation

Triangulation is a data validity checking technique that utilizes something other than the data for checking purposes as a comparison to the data. Triangulation is one method by which the researchers analyzed data and then presents the results to others to understand the experience of a common phenomenon (Fusch et al., 2018:20; Simbolon et al, 2021). In this research, the researchers used two or more techniques in collecting the data to get the validity triangulation. Fusch et al. (2018:22) stated that there are four types of triangulation, namely data triangulation (collecting data by using different sampling strategies), investigator triangulation (data collection and analysis is done by at least two researchers), theory triangulation (data is interpreted by using at least two theoretical positions), and methodological triangulation (collecting data by using at least two methods).

This research used data triangulation. In data triangulation, it involved different sources of information in order to increase the validity of the study. So, this research used the documents as source of the data because source of the data was transcript of Joe Biden victory speech from the website of Washington Post. The researchers also used observation and took the supporting data from many sources of document, like journal, e-book, newspaper online, and articles and the researchers observed the video concerning the use of figurative language on Joe Biden's victory speech in the website of YouTube.

3. Results

Based on the analysis of the Joe Biden victory speech, the researchers have found types and total use of figurative language which are applied to the material as follows:

Table 1. Table of Figurative Language

No.	Types of Figurative Language	Data No.	Sum	Percentage
1.	Personification	1, 2 ,4, 5 , 7, 12, 15, 18, 24, 25, 33, 36, 38, 39, 40, 41, 44, 47, 48, 55, 56, 61, 66, 68, 69, 70, 71, 72, 73, 74, 78, 79, 85, 86	34	39,5%
2.	Metaphor	3, 6, 8, 10, 11, 13, 16, 20, 21, 22, 23, 26, 27, 28, 29, 30, 31, 32, 34, 35, 37, 42, 43, 46, 50, 51, 52, 53, 54, 57, 58, 59, 60, 62, 63, 64, 67, 75, 76, 80, 81, 82,83,84	44	51,2%
3.	Hyperbole	9, 14, 17, 19, ,45	5	5,8%
4.	Simile	65, 77	2	2,3%
5.	Litotes	49	1	1,2%
Total	5	86	86	100%

After the analysis on the table 8. the researchers represented the table of figurative language in figure 1. as follows:
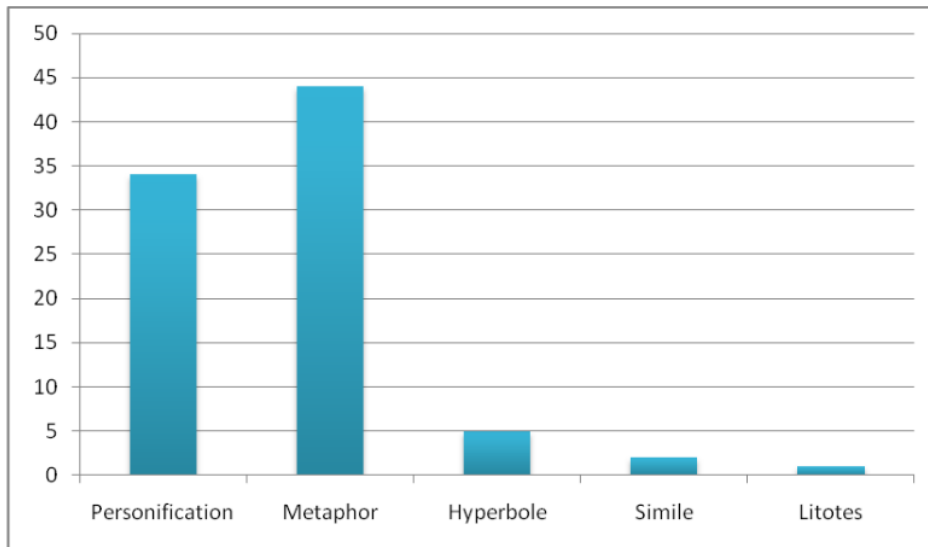

Figure 1. Types of Figurative Language found on Joe Biden's Victory Speech

Based on the analysis of the figurative language on the figure 1. there are 86 numbers of figurative language are used and applied on Joe Biden victory speech. In the figure 1. it can be seen that there are 5 types of figurative language used on Joe Biden's victory speech from 7 types of figurative language proposed by Leech. The 5 types of figurative language used on Joe Biden's victory speech are personification, metaphor, hyperbole, litotes, and simile. The total of figurative language are used on Joe Biden's victory speech are 86 kinds of figurative language which consist of personification 34, metaphor 44, hyperbole 5, simile 2, and litotes 1. Among the 5 types of figurative language often appear used on Joe Biden's victory speech is metaphor. On the other hand, litotes is the least appear kind of figurative language. This is because the researchers assumed litotes seldom to use in this speech and metonymy and irony does not use on Joe Biden's victory speech.

The researchers assumed metaphor became the main character on Joe Biden's victory speech. It is because the use of word or phrase denoting kind of idea or object in place of another word or phrase for the purpose of suggesting a likeness between the two. So, the appearance of metaphor became more appear that other. Then the use of personification and hyperbole are on second and third position. It uses figurative expression of personification because it refers to the attribution of a personal nature or human characteristics to something nonhuman, or the representation of an abstract quality in human form. It consists of giving human characteristics to an object. It makes the animals and the animate objects talk or behave as humans do. Then it uses figurative expression of hyperbole because the expression of exaggeration which used by a writer depicted as being better or worse, or larger or smaller that actually the case. It is used for emphasis or as way of making a description more creative and humorous. On the other hand, simile and litotes are the least appear kind of figurative language. This is because the researchers assumed simile and litotes seldom to use in this speech and metonymy and irony does not use on Joe Biden's victory speech. As we know, simile is a figure of speech involving the comparison of one thing with another thing of a different kind and litotes is a figure of speech in which, rather than making a certain statement directly, a speaker expresses it even more effectively, or achieves emphasis, by denying its opposite. It is all about the generally explanation of each figurative language, for the reader who want to know the meaning of each figurative language on Joe Biden's victory speech, reader can see table 7. So it helps the reader to know the meaning of figurative expression on Joe Biden victory speech without misunderstanding.

4. Discussion

After analyzing the data, the researchers would like to discuss some topics about the research. The researchers summarize the discussion as follows:

This section discusses the analysis of types of figurative language and the meaning of each figurative language. In this research, the researchers found the types of figurative language and the dominant of figurative language on Joe Biden's victory speech. The explanation is described there are 86 sentences that used figurative language found on Joe Biden's victory speech. There are 5 types of figurative language used on Joe Biden's victory speech from 7 types of figurative language proposed by Leech. The 5 types of figurative language used on Joe Biden's victory speech are metaphor, personification, hyperbole, simile, and litotes. Among the 5 types of figurative language often appear used on Joe Biden's victory speech is metaphor. Metaphor consists of 44 expressions, personification consists of 34 expressions, hyperbole consists of 5 expressions, simile consists of 2 expressions, and litotes consists of 1 expression.

This research has similarities and differences with some other research like from research completed by Fadilah and Rohaniyah (2018) entitled "The Analysis of Hyperbole and Synecdoche in Jokowi's Political Speeches On 2014 And 2015 Live On Metro TV". The similarity is that these two research focus on analysis figurative language in speech and the researchers also using the same method of qualitative descriptive to analyzing the data. While the differences of this research with the previous study is used the hyperbole and synecdoche theory in analyzing the types of

figurative language in the speech and this research used theory of Leech (1981). The objectives of previous research to describe kind and utterances of hyperbole and synecdoche used in in Jokowi's Political Speeches On 2014 And 2015 Live On Metro TV and the objectives this research to find out the types and the meaning of each figurative language are used on Joe Biden's victory speech. From the results of the research, previous researchers found the dominant in the speech was synecdoche with sum 10 expressions and the total use of figurative language is 18 expressions and the figurative language consist of 5 expressions of hyperbole, 6 expressions of synecdoche on 2014 and consist of 3 expressions of hyperbole, 4 expressions of synecdoche on 2015. Then the result of this research found the dominant figurative language in the speech was metaphor consists of 44 expressions with total use of figurative language is 86 expressions, then personification consists of 34 expressions, hyperbole consists of 5 expressions, simile consists of 2 expressions, and litotes consists of 1 expression.

5. Conclusions

After determining, identifying, classifying and analyzing all the data the researchers concluded that Joe Biden's victory speech used figurative language. Thus, the analysis has two objectives; first, to identify the types of figurative language that occurs in the speech, and the last is to explain the meaning of figurative language that occur in the speech. The conclusions of this research are:

1. Based on the analysis of the figurative language, there are 86 numbers of figurative language are used and applied on Joe Biden victory speech. There are 5 types of figurative language used on Joe Biden's victory speech from 7 types of figurative language proposed by Leech. The 5 types of figurative language used on Joe Biden's victory speech are personification, metaphor, hyperbole, litotes, and simile. Metaphor consists of 44 expressions, personification consists of 34 expressions, hyperbole consists of 5 expressions, simile consists of 2 expressions, and litotes consists of 1 expression. Among the 5 types of figurative language often appear used on Joe Biden's victory speech is metaphor. It can be said that the dominant types of figurative language in the speech is metaphor. The second dominant figurative language is personification, then hyperbole, simile and litotes. On the other hand, litotes is the least appear kind of figurative language.

2. Figurative language is a language that uses words or expressions with a meaning that is different from literal meaning. In this research the author uses metaphor to explain a thing regarded as representative or symbolic of something else, especially something abstract. The second figurative language is personification, then hyperbole. It uses figurative expression of personification because it refers to the attribution of a personal nature or human characteristics to something nonhuman, or the representation of an abstract quality in human form. Then it uses figurative expression of hyperbole because the expression of exaggeration which used by a writer depicted as being better or worse, or larger or smaller that actually the case. On the other hand, simile and litotes are the least appear kind of figurative language. As we know, simile is a figure of speech involving the comparison of one thing with another thing of a different kind and litotes is a figure of speech in which, rather than making a certain statement directly, a speaker expresses it even more effectively, or achieves emphasis, by denying its opposite. In the speech, the author mostly used figurative language to describe the situation and condition, the character's feeling, the character's actions, and to describe internal conflict that happens.

From the analysis, it can be concluded that figurative language has important roles in this speech. That is why the author used sentences that have figurative language in the speech. It makes the speech more interesting to read, and also helps the readers to imagine a word or phrase, to imagine the meaning based on illustration that the author has already given in the speech. So that the imagination created by the reader is still in context of the speech.

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