



#### Research article

# Figurative Meanings in Scott's Classic Poetry Series

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#### Abstract.

Poetry is a part of literary work which the expressions of the content are made by an aesthetic of diction language of the poets, having much meaning and understanding itself. Every poem is formed with different rhyme, tone, and meaning. The goal of this research was to find out more about types of figurative meanings found in Scott's classic poetry series. The method which was used in this paper consisted of three steps, they were data source, data collection, and data analysis. The result of this analysis showed that there were nine types of figurative meaning that were found in Scott's classic poetry series; metaphor, simile, personification, apostrophe, metonymy, synecdoche, symbols, paradox, and hyperbole. Figurative meaning which was mostly found in this data source was Personification.

Keywords: figurative meaning, semantics, poetry

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# 1. INTRODUCTION

Poetry is a part of literary work which the expressions of the content are made by an aesthetic of diction language of the poets, having much meaning and understanding itself. Every poem is formed with the different of rhyme, tone, and meaning. In a poetry, there are two elements that build the poetry itself, they are intrinsic and extrinsic elements (Baldick, 2001). Intrinsic elements of poetry are the elements that build the poetry from inside which the analysis of the literature itself without looking the relation of the external aspects. Whereas, the extrinsic elements of poetry are the supporting elements of poetry that build from the outside of the poetry.

Figurative meaning is a part of semantics. Semantics is a study about meaning which is involved the understanding of using language, diction, and connotative meaning. Figurative meaning is also the use of specific meaning of word that be able to create an interesting expression and having much of meaning in poetry (Leech, 1981). Figurative meaning is very different with the literal meaning which the meaning of figurative meaning is not directly refers to the literal meaning.

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There are many kinds of the use figurative meanings in poetry. They are personification, hyperbole, paradox, synecdoche, metonymy, irony, simile, metaphor, and etc. for all kind of figurative meanings surely have a different how to use and understanding the meaning each other.

The analysis of figurative meaning which is found in the poetry is chosen as the topic. In analyzing a poetry, the ability of appreciating poetry is an ability and skill of many people to know and understand poetry in detail that including the physical and inner structure. Therefore, it can be a result to get a feel of good sense and the aesthetic of poetry itself. The understanding about the figurative meaning is one of ability to appreciate the poetry. The use of figurative meanings in a poetry can be able to make poetry itself have much meaning (Livingston, 1991). The ability of understanding figurative meaning is an ability of person to understand the use of language by the poet that say something in unusual way or announcing the language in figuratively.

The applied of figurative meaning in poetry uses the component and variation word of the diction that exaggerated or alter its usual meaning and it can be compared to animals, trees, and many kinds of nature. In reading poetry, it is important to know and understand the figurative meanings that are used and found in the poetry (Orwell, 2009). The use of figurative meanings in poetry can made a communicative sense and it can be able to influence the interest of the readers. Therefore, it is an important part to analyze the figurative meanings in a poetry.

Related to the background, there are several previous studies are used as references in this study. (Habibi, 2016) conducted a study entitled An Analysis of Figurative Language in Edensor Novel by Andrea Hirata demonstrate that there are 6 types of figurative language in the Edensor novel. There are 20 sentences of simile, 8 sentences of metaphor, 6 sentences of personification, 5 sentences of hyperbole, 1 sentence of synecdoche, and 4 sentences of symbol. Moreover, (Hasanah, 2018) also conducted a study which entitle An Analysis of Figurative Language Used in some Poems by Oscar Wilde which found results based on analysis the data, they were the poems are A Lament, A Fragment, Sonnet on Approaching Italy, Symphony in Yellow, To My Wife, The 93 New Remorse, Requiescat, Desespoir, Madonna Mia, and Impression - Le Reveillon. Most of types of figurative language used in those ten poems is visual imagery. The second types of figurative language mostly used in those poems are hyperbole. The third types of figurative language mostly used in those poems are personification. Then simile are the fourth dominant, there are fourteen sentences in those ten poems. Simile is the fifth dominant, there are eleven sentences in those ten poems. While the other types of figurative languages used in these poems almost has the same frequency.

Then, the contextual meaning was explained in each parts of poems in the previous chapter. Some of them was 'Requiescat' poem, one of the sentence was 'the daisies grow' it means that the writer associated the woman with flowers like daisies and the kind of figurative language is symbol. On the other hand, (Magfiratirrahmah, 2018) also doing similar study entitled *An Analysis of Figurative Language on the Lyrics of Raef's Selected Songs*. In her research, the finding show there were 24 lines of lyrics that contained of figurative language. There were six types of figurative language found from nine types of figurative language in Kennedy's concept they were hyperbole and personification (21%), paradox (8 %), metaphor (42 %), simile and synecdoche (4 %). In conclusion metaphor comes as the most dominant type of figurative language used, while simile and synecdoche show a very little number of usage.

Moreover, based on previous study above, this research is different from those previous study that has been explain before. This research analyze what types of figurative meanings are found in Scott's classic poetry series and what figurative meanings are mostly found in Scott's classic poetry series. In addition, this research aim to know more about types of figurative meanings are found in Scott's classic poetry series and knowing of what figurative meanings are mostly found in Scott's classic poetry series.

# 2. METHOD

The classic poetry series of Sir Scott (2004) was taken as the data source in this scientific paper. In collecting the data, this paper used the method of library research. It consists of the three steps, firstly, the data were read to find the sentences and then marking those sentences related to the topic of analysis. Then the sentences or the data analysis were classified referring to the kind of figurative meanings. The data which had been collected and classified based on the type of figurative meanings that were analyzed by the qualitative descriptive methods based on the appropriating theories of figurative meanings.

# 3. RESULT AND DISCUSSION

In this chapter, the data that have been collected and classified are analyzed by the appropriate theory of figurative languages by L. Perrine as the main theory of this scientific paper and it is also supported by explaining and understanding of the supporting theory entitled Meaning-Based Translation by Larson (1998).

Types of Figurative Meaning in Scott's Classic Poetry Series



There are many classic poetry series of Sir Walter Scott and the analysis of figurative meanings from those poem's lyric are described in detail in the following the discussion. The analysis is presented systematically based on the types of figurative meanings that are found in the data source.

Metaphor

Metaphor is a figure of speech that describes an object or action by the use of comparison the other object in figuratively. Below is one of the lyrics about the metaphor that were found in classic poetry series of Scott.

**Examples:** 

Despair is treason towards man,

And blasphemy to the heaven (Data 1, Stanza 2, Line 3)

Examples above have been considered as a metaphor. In example above, 'despair is treason towards man', it is part of figurative meaning specifically of metaphor that was found in poem entitled *As Lords their Labouerer's Hire Delay* in stanza 2, Line 3. The theme of this poem describes about a struggle of laborers to reach a justice about what have done by their hardworking and what they have achieved within lost hope to the employer. As explained previously about the theory use to analyze this paper, Perrine had stated that metaphor is a comparison between two things which the comparison is implied the figurative term is substituted for or identified with literal term. It also means that which the expression of one concept of thing is compared with other thing which both are unrelated, but there are some similarities and correlations. In this data, the word *despair* is compared with a *treason towards man* which both have a relation and meaning unlike. *Despair* refers to the something about a surrender, default, and none of purpose of the people. In this poem, this comparison has a meaning that the disappointed to the injustice of work-right is considered as the treason towards man.

Simile

Simile is a comparison figure of speech which showing the similarities between two different things by the using signifier of simile 'as or like'. Below is one of the lyrics data of simile that have been found in the data source.

Examples:

As home his footsteps he hath turned'

From wandering on a foreign strand! (Data 4, Line 6-7)

In example above, 'as home his footsteps he hath turned, from wondering on a foreign strand', it is the data of simile. This poetry lyric was found in a poem of The Lay of The Last Minstrel, canto Six by Scott entitled *Breathes There the Man*, line 5. It narrates



about patriotism or love of one's country. As explained previously by theory of Perrine, the comparison between *home his footsteps* with *he hath turned, from wandering on a foreign strand* is showing the explicit comparison between one thing with another thing by use the connective word 'as'. The lyric as home his footsteps, he hath turned, from wandering on foreign strand means that the writer refers to the man who is returning to his native land from a foreign country, he has an idealistic nationalism of commitment and having loyalty to his country. The using of rhyme 'Strand' in sentence *from wandering on foreign strand* as a figurative term is substituted the literal term of 'Land'.

#### Personification

Perrine had stated that personification consists in giving the attributes of human being to an animal, an object, or a concept. Personification differ in the degree which asking the reader actually to visualize the literal term in human form.

#### Examples:

But distant winds began to wake (Data 18, Stanza 2, line 1)

In example above, 'But distant winds began to wake', it was found in poetry classic series of Scott entitled *Waverly* in stanza 2, line 1. This poem storied about a rebellion period of Jacobite (1745) that attempted back the Stuart dynasty. It involved a young English dreamer and soldier, Edward Waverley. Based on the theory of analysis this paper, Perrine had stated that personification consists in giving the attributes of human being to an animal, an object, or a concept. Here, *but distant winds began to wake* is considered as a personification because of using the figurative term of *distant winds* which is personified by stating that it wakes like a mortal or human being. We have known that the wind just blows, but none to wake. *But distant winds began to wake* have a literal term that refers to indicate the enemies have a bugle sound to come and beginning to war.

#### **Apostrophe**

Perrine had stated that apostrophe is defined as addressing someone absent or dead or something non-human as if that person or thing were present and alive and could reply to what is being said (Perrine, 1987). Below are the examples about the apostrophe that were found in Scott's classic poetry series as the data source of this paper.

# Examples:

Ah, County Guy, the hour is nigh,

The sun has left the lea (Data 11, line 1-2)

In example above, Ah, 'County Guy, the hour is nigh, the sun has left the lea', it is considered as an apostrophe. This lyric was found in a poem entitled *County Guy* in



line 1 and 2. Based on understanding of the theory applied in this paper, Perrine had stated that apostrophe is a figure of speech which addressing someone absent or dead or something non-human as if that person or thing were present and alive and could reply to what is being said. Here *County Guy* that the words from Sir Walter Scott that dedicated to Lady Alexina Duff is the point of apostrophe. It specifically doesn't have a meaning or doesn't mention the someone alive.

#### Metonymy

Metonymy is a figure of speech that replaces the name of one thing with the name of something else which it is closely associated and it is not its part. Below is one of the examples of metonymy.

#### **Examples:**

County Guy, the hour is nigh (Data 11, line 1)

In example above, 'county Guy, the hour is nigh', it is found in a poem entitled *County Guy* in line 1. It is considered as a metonymy because there is a figurative term of using word *hour* to replace something meant. As explained above, metonymy is the use of something closely related to the thing actually meant. Here, *the hour is nigh* have been identified of containing the metonymy of the use of words hour which it is actually meant to the time. Hour is very related with name of time.

#### Synecdoche

Perrine had stated that synecdoche is the use of part for the whole (Perrine, 1987). Synecdoche may also use the things to refer the larger class of group. Below are the examples of synecdoche.

### Examples:

must give the word, above the storm (Data 14, Stanza 2, line 3)

In example above, the poem lyric 'must give the word, above the storm' that found in a poem entitled Cleveland Song in stanza 2, line 3. This poem was adopted from the novel entitled The Pirate that narrated about the arrival of captain Claveland spoiled the relation of young Mordaunt with the Troil girl and storied that they went back from the journey. Based on theory by Perrine, synecdoche refers to the whole of a thing by the name of any one of its parts. The use of word is considered as a synecdoche. Here, it is the use of figurative term where word refers to the words. The poet in his poem mean giving a saying thing that actually more than one word.

Symbol



Perrine had stated that a symbol may be roughly defined as something that means more than what it is. Below is one of examples of symbol that had been collected from the data source.

#### **Examples:**

Uprise his locks of silver white (Data 8, stanza 2, line 14)

In example above, 'Uprise his locks of silver white', it was found in a poem entitled *Bruce and Abbot* in stanza 2, line 14. As explained previously, Perrine had stated about the symbol, it is defined as something that means more than what is it. Here, silver white indicates the symbolism of new beginnings and reflected the power of where they encounter back to where they came from. Based on the story of Bruce and Abbot that tell about the respect of Bruce which he was ostracized and felt alienated. Here, 'Uprise his locks of silver white' means that Bruce need to rise up on the fate to restore a fame and gain the honor that have been lost and expect to end all debates.

#### **Paradox**

Perrine (1987) had stated that paradox is an apparent contradiction that is nevertheless some of how true. Paradox is a situation that arises from a number of premises as a truth base of the conclusion and it refers to the contradiction which it controverts with the intuition. Below is the example of paradox.

#### Example:

De Bruce! I rose with purpose dread (Bruce and The Abbot, Stanza 3, line 1)

From the example above, it is considered as a paradox. 'De Bruce! I rose with purpose dread', it is found in poem lyric entitled Bruce and Abbot in the stanza 3, line 1. Based on the theory, Perrine had stated that paradox is an apparent contradiction that is nevertheless some of how true. This lyric indicates the paradox because using of words that have a contradiction between the premise and the true of feeling. Here, the word rose as the premise is contradicted with the word dread which it refers to the feel of the Abbot that attempt to bring back the honor of Bruce. Rose identified with the situation of rising up, but the true of dread identified with the feel of afraid, doubt, and having none a braveness.

# Hyperbole / Overstatement

Perrine (1987) had stated that the overstatement or hyperbole is simply exaggeration, but exaggeration in the service of truth. Below are the examples of overstatement or hyperbole that had been found in Scott's classic poetry series as the data source in this paper.

# Examples:



All night long he heard you scream (Data 16, line 4)

In example (1), 'all night long he heard you scream', it is found in a poem entitled Ancient Gaelic Melody in line 4. Based on the theory of analysis this paper, Perrine had stated that overstatement is simply exaggeration, but exaggeration in the service of truth. In this poem, it is told about the ancient story depict the owl as a harbinger of death and a bird of ill omen. From the data above, it contains the exaggeration expression which there are not people or creature can scream along the all night. Therefore, 'all night long he heard you scream' is considered as an overstatement or hyperbole.

#### **Data List**

Here, below are the data of figurative meanings that were found in Scott's classic poetry series. All data that have been discussed in this chapter is presented in a form of table, the data are the part of Scott's classic poetry series, and they would be shown along with the name of the song they belong to, what the stanza and line they belong to, and their types of figurative meanings:

As can be seen from the data list in the table above, there are 26 figurative expressions that were discussed in this chapter from the data source. It appears that personification is a type of figurative meaning that appeared the most from the data discussed with the number of 5.

# 4. CONCLUSION

Based on the data analysis in previous chapter, it can be concluded that there are many types of figurative meanings found in Scott's classic poetry series as the data source in this paper. Types of figurative meaning which have been discussed in this paper which dominate use in the poetry are metaphor, simile, personification, apostrophe, synecdoche, metonymy, symbol, paradox, and overstatement. As per as the types of figurative meanings that were proposed by Perrine (1987) as the main theory of this paper, types of figurative meanings that were not found in the classic poetry series of Scott are allegory, understatement, and irony. There are some conclusions which could be taken from this writing.

As can be seen from the data list in the table above, there are 26 figurative expressions that were discussed in this chapter from the data source. It appears that personification is a type of figurative meaning that appeared the most from the data discussed with the number of 5, following with the hyperbole as the second most with the number of 4, following with the metaphor, simile, synecdoche and symbols with the number of



# TABLE 1

No	Lyric	Poetry	Stanza	Line	Figurative
1	Despair is treason towards man, And blasphemy to the heaven	As Lords Their Labourers' Delay	2	3	meanings Metaphor
2	A Scottish knight the lord of all	It Was An English Ladye Bright	4	4	Metaphor
3	For love is heaven, and heaven is love	Love	1	7	Metaphor
4	As home his footsteps he hath turned', From wandering on a foreign strand!	Breathes There The Man	1	6-7	Simile
5	How sound is thy slumber! Like the dew on the mountain	Coronach	3	3-4	Simile
6	Come as the winds come, when Forests are rended	gathering Song of Donald the Black	4	1-2	Simile
7	His breathing came more thick and fast	Bruce and Abbot	2	11	Personification
8	And revel sped the laughing hours	Cadyow Castle	1	4	Personification
9	Corruption claims her kind	Funeral Hymn	1	5	Personification
10	In that sad place	Funeral Hymn	3	1	Personification
11	Again that light has fired his eye	Bruce and Abbot	4	1	Personification
12	Ah, County Guy, the hour is nigh, The sun has left the lea	County Guy	1	2-1	Apostrophe
13	Sound, sound the clarion, fill the fife!	Answer	1	1	Apostrophe
14	County Guy, the hour is nigh	Country Guy	1	1	Metonymy
15	The British flag shall bear the grie,	(For A' That And A' That	6	3	Metonymy
16	must give the word, above the storm	Cleveland Song	2	3	Synecdoche
17	the knee on the ground, And the hand on the sword	Here's A Health To King Charles	3	3-4	Synecdoche
18	To speak my curse upon thy head	Bruce And Abbot	3	2	Synecdoche
19	Uprise his locks of silver white	Bruce And Abbot	2	14	Symbols
20	And from his pale blue eyes were cast	Bruce And Abbot	2	12	Symbols
21	from the red gold keep the finger;	Lucy Ashton's Song	1	6	Symbols
22	De Bruce! I rose with purpose dread	Bruce and The Abbot	3	1	Paradox
23	All night long he heard you scream	Ancient Gaelic Melody	1	4	Hyperbole
24	Thy soul hath flown	Funeral Hymn	2	2	Hyperbole
25	Thought love was still the lord of all	lt Was An English Ladye Bright		2	Hyperbole
26	And years will break the strongest bow;	Major Bellen- den's Song	2	2	Hyperbole



3, following with the apostrophe and metonymy with the number of 2, and the last one is paradox that appeared in just a time.

Data that were collected and classified, the classic poetry series entitled Bruce and Abbot is the most poem that have many figurative terms which the number of 6. The number of figurative terms that were found in poem entitled Bruce and Abbot are type of metaphor and symbols with 2 data, and following the synecdoche and paradox with 1 data.

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