

## Conference Paper

# Onomatopoeia in Raditya Dika's Novel "Manusia Setengah Salmon"

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## Abstract

This study aimed to describe and explain the types of onomatopoeia found in Raditya Dika's novel *Manusia Setengah Salmon*. Onomatopoeia refers to a word whose phonetic structure mimics a natural sound to represent the sound or action of the object that produces it. Onomatopoeia behaves differently in comparison to other processes of word formation. Its meaning lies outside the language itself due to its nature which is adopted from the natural sound. The data analysis technique was used in this research with descriptive qualitative analysis. The descriptive research attempted to describe and explain the data according to the theory proposed by Thomas (2004) who divides onomatopoeia into four groups based on the source of the sound: calls of animals, sounds of nature, sounds made by human, and sounds of other objects. Based on the result, the four types of onomatopoeia were found in the novel under research: human onomatopoeia, animal onomatopoeia, object onomatopoeia, and daily life onomatopoeia. From the word class, onomatopoeic words used in the novel consists of adverb, adjective, noun, and verb.

**Keywords:** onomatopoeia, human sound, animal sound, sound of object, sound of daily life.

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## 1. Introduction

Onomatopoeia is a word which is formed from the imitation of natural sounds. At the first glance it looks like a long word and it may seem to be hard to pronounce and spell as in such words as *buzz* and *murmur* that imitate the associated objects or actions they refer to. Onomatopoeias are thus imitative words of these natural sounds. They are found in all languages of the world, and some linguists, in fact, believe they were the first words human spoke when language was developed. Since direct imitation allows the hearer to understand the meaning most easily, it is the most obvious way to describe actions (e.g., punch, boom) and animals (e.g., cock, dodo), which constitute the most parts of the conversation between primordial human (Modje et. al., 2018).

Onomatopoeia behaves differently in comparison to other processes of word formation, its meaning lies outside of language itself due to being from natural sounds.

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Onomatopoeia in some languages can express mood, emotion and actions besides labeling objects. Onomatopoeia may form words of various classes such as verb, adjective, adverb, and noun (Dofs, 2008).

In the Indonesian novel *Manusia Setengah Salmon* which was written by Raditya Dika belongs to a comedy fiction genre novel which contains several types of onomatopoeia so that it makes the story natural, real, alive, and can be enjoyed directly by the readers. Furthermore, it is more interesting as it can make the readers feel involved in the story. Therefore, the novel which constitutes the author's twenty-sixth series, published in 2018 with 258 pages, was adopted as the main source of data in this study. This study aims to describe and explain the types and the word classes of onomatopoeia found in the novel. The data analysis technique used in this research is descriptive qualitative.

The reason for choosing the subject matter on the linguistic aspect of onomatopoeic is that it is challenging in terms of its various types involving various word classes. Some words are adopted from the sounds of objects, sounds of everyday life, sounds of natural events, human sounds, and animal sounds.

## 2. Literature Review

Onomatopoeia is a form of auditory icon sign, a name for an object which is made from an imitation of the sound produced. Some languages are more iconic than others since the use of onomatopoeia is limited by the number of phonemes in the language (Elin Dofs, 2008). Onomatopoeia refers to imitative words such as *zig-zag* and *tick-tock*. Almost all onomatopoeic words represent the texture of materials, the state of things and emotions (Keisuke et. al., 2010).

Khademi et. al. (2014: 505) notes that many onomatopoeic (or mimetic) words found in various languages have evolved to their present form recently and often rapidly. Once a part of a language's lexical structure, they are subjected to the same evolutionary process that other words undergo.

According to Leonardi (2013: 2), onomatopoeias are words whose phonetic structure mimics a natural sound to represent the sound or action of the object that produced it. The word 'onomatopoeia' was derived from two Greek words *onoma* 'name' and *poeieo* 'making'. Onomatopoeia is defined as a sound that someone makes by imitating the sound or the naming of a thing or action by a vocal imitation of the sound associated with it.

Furthermore, on the way of interpretation of the origin of the sounds, Ullman (1994: 83-84) classifies onomatopoeia into two types: primary onomatopoeia and secondary

onomatopoeia. On the other hand, Thomas (2004) in his book entitled *Characteristics of Onomatopoeia* divides onomatopoeia into four groups based on the source of the sound: calls of animals, sounds of nature, sounds made by human, and sounds of other objects.

Akita (2013) introduces five grammatical classes of English onomatopoeia: verbs, usages as quotations, nouns, gerundives, and adjectives as in the examples below.

1. The duck *quacked*. (Verbs)
2. The road *zig-zagged*. (Verbs)
3. The duck went “Quack”. (Quotations)
4. The ice-cream cone fell “Splat”. (Quotations)
5. The pen fell on the floor with a *splat*. (Nouns)
6. The *quacking* of the duck broke the silent night. (Gerundives)
7. The fur of the cat is so *sleek*. (Adjectives).

Kambuzya & Zeinolabedin (2014: 220) categorized the functions of onomatopoeia into four categories: sounds of animals, sounds of nature, sounds made by human, and miscellaneous sounds.

### 3. Research Method

The research designs of this study cover the plans and the procedures conducted in the research beginning from broad assumptions to detail methods of data collection and analysis. The main data of this research were the types and the word classes of onomatopoeia adopted from the novel *Manusia Setengah Salmon* written by Raditya Dika. This research used qualitative method as it involved the characteristics of qualitative procedure which explored social or human problems. The researcher played a role as the key instrument in the research and made interpretations of the data. The data obtained from the novel were analyzed and described so that this is also called descriptive research. The analysis was conducted by classifying the obtained data into two main categories: types of onomatopoeia and word classes of onomatopoeia used in the novel under research.

### 4. Result and Discussion

## 4.1. Result

### 4.1.1. Types of onomatopoeia

The types of onomatopoeia found in the novel under research include human onomatopoeia (sounds made by human), animal onomatopoeia (sounds of animals), onomatopoeia of objects and onomatopoeia in daily life.

#### 1. Human Onomatopoeia

Human onomatopoeia is a word which is derived from the sound replica produced by human beings, such as farting sounds, waiting, people confused, people in pain, screaming, complaining, clearing their throat, and so on. There are 63 data of human onomatopoeia found in the novel and here are two of them.

##### Data 1: 'piyuuuuuuut'

The word *piyuuuuuuut* is the sound made by human, which is from the sentence “*tetapi di hari yang baik, bokap biasa mengeluarkan bunyi ‘piyuuuuuuut’ yang panjang*” (page 3). The sound of someone who is farting is caught by the senses of human hearing and forming the word *piyuuuuuuut*.

##### Data 2: 'Hoooeeeeek!'

The word *hoooeeeeek* is found from page 78 of the novel in the phrase: “*Hoooeeeeek! sehingga, seperti hendak muntah*” ‘The sound of someone who is about to vomit, forming the word *Hoooeeeeek*.

#### 2. Animal Onomatopoeia

The type of animal onomatopoeia is an imitation of sounds originating from animals, such as cow sounds, squirrel sounds, cat sounds, bird sounds and others. Animal onomatopoeia words are also found in the novel in 4 data. Here is one of them.

##### Data 1: moooooo

The word *moooooo* is an animal onomatopoeia as found in the clause “Kata si sapi *Moooooo*” from page 220. The word is an imitation of the depiction of animal sounds, namely cows. The cow’s voice is caught by human sense of hearing, forming the word *moooooo*.

#### 3. Onomatopoeia of Object

Onomatopoeia of object is a word which is derived from the imitation of sound originating from some objects such as firecrackers, telephone sounds, music

sounds, bird sounds and others. There are two data of onomatopoeia of object found in the novel under research.

**Data 1: “dor”**

The word *dor* is an object onomatopoeia found in the phrase “*Gue ngebayangin gas di dalam perut gue makin gendut oleh kentut, makin gede, makin gede, lalu tiba-tiba suatu hari “dor!” gue akan pecah berkeping-keping*” (page 10). The word is a copy of the sound of an exploding object captured by the sense of human hearing, forming the word *dor*.

**Data 2: ‘Dhuarr!!!!’**

The word *Dhuarr!!!!* is an object onomatopoeia, which is from the clause “*Petasannya nyala yeah! Petasannyanya... ‘Dhuarr!!!!’*” (page 241). The word is an exploding sound of firecrackers. Then, the sound of the firecrackers exploded and it was captured by the senses of human hearing and forming the word *‘Dhuarr!!!!’*.

#### 4. Onomatopoeia in Daily Life

The type of onomatopoeia of daily life is a replica of sounds that come from daily life, such as eating sounds, drinking sounds, writhing sounds, spiciness and others. There are 4 data of onomatopoeia which are derived from the natural sound of daily life.

**Data 1: ohok-ohok-ohok...**

The word *ohok-ohok-ohok* is an onomatopoeia of everyday life as found in the sentence “*Ohok-ohok-ohok...tutup jendelanya ohok-ohok-ohok.. sekarang!’ jerit gue sambil terbatuk dan menundukan kepala, mencoba menyelamatkan nyawa sendiri*” on page 51. The word is an imitation of the depiction of the sounds of everyday life, which is the sound of coughing. The sound of a cough caught by the senses of human hearing forms the word *ohok-ohok-ohok*.

**Data 2: “Hehehehe. Hehehehehehe. Hehehehehe”**

The word *Hehehehe. Hehehehehehe. Hehehehehe* is a class of onomatopoeia in daily life, which is from the phrase “*Tidak ada respon lain yang bisa gue keluarkan, selain: Hehehehe. Hehehehehehe. Hehehehehe.*” (page 93)”. Such an expression is an imitation of the sound depiction in daily life; that is the sound of people laughing. The sound of people laughing which is captured by the human auditory senses makes the word *Hehehehe. Hehehehehehe. Hehehehehe*.

#### 4.1.2. The word class of onomatopoeia

The following description is a presentation of onomatopoeia based on the word classes found in the novel under research. Based on the research findings it can be seen that the word classes of onomatopoeia include: adverb, noun, adjective, and verb.

##### 1. Adverb

Adverb is a class of words that gives information to a circumstance in terms of space, temporal, manner, condition, concession, etc. Onomatopoeia words which function as adverbs in the novel are found in eight data and here is one of them.

###### **Data 1: "Errghhhh!!!!"**

The word class of the sound '*Errghhhh!!!!*' is an adverb as found in the clause "*Errghhhh!!!!* *Gue ngeden sekuat tenaga*" from page 11. This word is an imitation of the condition of a person who is contracting buttock to pass water or stool. The word '*Errghhhh!!!!*' is a category of words that give information how someone does something. Thus, the word '*Errghhhh!!!!*' includes the adverb word class category.

###### **Data 2: "Hehe. Hehehehe. Hehehehehehe"**

The word class of the onomatopoeia *Hehe. Hehehehe. Hehehehehehe* is an adverb as found in the clause "*Gue lalu ketawa nervous. Hehe. Hehehehe. Hehehehehehe.*" (page 92)" The word is an imitation of the depiction of how someone is laughing; and therefore, it belongs to the category of an adverb.

##### 2. Adjective

Adjective is a class of words that describe the trait of a noun related to quality, condition, colour or state. There are 4 data of onomatopoeia found in the novel which belong to adjective word class.

###### **Data 1: E-enwaahk...ewnwakhh!!!**

The word *E-enwaahk...ewnwakhh!!!* is a class of adjective as found in the clause "*Dengan kupang lontong yang masih penuh di mulut, gue menjawab, 'E-enwaahk ...ewnwakhh!!!'*" on page 88. The word is an imitation of the description of someone who is enjoying food. The description of a person whose mouth is full of food and when he is asked he will answer it *E-enwaahk...ewnwakhh!!!*, which functions as an adjective, explaining that the food is delicious.

###### **Data 2: Duh**

The word '*Duh*' is an adjective as found in the clause "*Duh, ini rujak pedas banget.*" (page 198). The word is a sound imitation of someone who complains about the spice of food which is very hot.

### 3. Noun

Noun is a class of words that describes an object, both animate and inanimate, such as man, book, earth, etc. There are 49 data of onomatopoeic words which function as nouns in the novel. Here are two of them.

#### Data 1: Preeet!

The word "*Preeet!*" is a noun as found in the clause "*Gue dan Bokap kentut bersama-sama, 'Preeet!'*" from page 12. The word '*preeet*' is used as an imitation of fart sound coming from Raditya Dika and his father who are farting together. The word describes the name of an object, referring to fart.

#### Data 2: 'HahahahahaHAAAARGGGHHH!!!!'

The word class of the expression *HahahahahaHAAAARGGGHHH!!!!* is a noun; that is, from the sentence "*Gue jadi biasa nonton – tertawa- mengerang, seperti ini: HahahahahaHAAAARGGGHHH!!!!*" (page 240). Such an expression belongs to the class of noun as it refers to the name of laughter.

### 4. Verb

Verb is a class of words that describes an activity or an action such as *scream, run, beat, and clean*, etc. There are 25 data of onomatopoeia words which function as verbs found in the novel as discussed below.

#### Data 4: "Ummm.."

The word *Ummm..* explains an activity as found in the sentence "*Ummm.. aku pikir-pikir dulu ya. Tiga tahun.*" from page 43. The word "*Ummm...*" is a pause when someone is still thinking about what is going to do next. Thus, the word "*Ummm...*" is a verb, waiting for a new idea.

#### Data 1: 'Aaah! Aaah!'

The expression '*AAAH! AAAH!*' is an onomatopoeia as found in the clause "*Memukuli kepala gue bertubi-tubi sambil menjerit 'AAAH! AAAH!'*" on page 31. Such an expression belongs to the word class of a verb to indicate a scream or shout.

## 4.2. Discussion

A style to present a story is a very important thing to make the readers enjoy the storyline and 'hypnotize' them to involve in the moments of the story. Onomatopoeic words used in a story can function to make a vivid story. Onomatopoeia is a way to make a story more natural as everyone feels so that it is interesting to read as it looks alive by activating all the emotions and feelings that the author is supposed currently writing the ongoing activities. In addition, it may also avoid the readers' boredom as they will be sunk in the flow of the story. Onomatopoeic words used in the novel cover four types and four kinds of word class. Those natural sounds of language were originally captured by the human senses and then replicated to form new onomatopoeic words.

## 5. Conclusion

Onomatopoeias are words whose phonetic structure mimics a natural sound to represent the sound or action of the object that produced it. Based on the data derived from Raditya Dika's novel entitled "*Manusia Setengah Salmon*", it is found that onomatopoeias are commonly used in daily life. The result indicates that the four types of onomatopoeia were found in the novel under research namely: human onomatopoeia, animal onomatopoeia, object onomatopoeia, and daily life onomatopoeia. From the word class, the onomatopoeia found in the novel consists of adverb, adjective, noun, and verb. Raditya Dika is known as a humorous writer and he maintains the typical characteristics through his other novels which contain a lot of comedy presented with the combination of romance and family life.

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