

Chapter 1: Introduction

The purpose of this chapter is to provide information to the reader about why the researcher conducts this research. Also, this chapter gives an illustration about background of study, research question, objective of this research, significant of this research, and scope of study.

Background of Study

Metaphor is figurative of language inherent in everyday life, especially in poem; metaphor also is figurative of language in poem. Besides that, metaphor can also be interpreted as a way of thinking in making meaning. In the other hand, people can say that metaphor is a media for humans to explore their ideas, opinions, feelings, and emotions to other people. Usually, people deliver the meaning of utterance indirectly in their communication. As a figurative of language, people also use metaphor to write novels, drama, poems, short stories, letter, etc.

Figurative language is used in particular way to explore the fake through the known. It is so accustomed to figure of speech in our everyday reading and conversation. Figurative language uses to changes the true meaning of a word or phrase. According to Kinckerbocker (1955, p.637) figurative languages is sometimes called metaphorical language or simply metaphor because it is Greek ancestor “metaphoric” means to carry meaning beyond it is literal meaning.

Figurative language has a variety types such as metaphor, simile, personification,

metonymy, symbol, allegory, paradox, hyperbole, and irony. Moreover, figurative language makes the common language becomes implicitly.

Metaphor is a part of figurative languages, which is the most common and widely used. Metaphor compares two different things which have similarities. There are different opinions about metaphors. According to Keraf (2004, p.139) metaphor is a kind of analogy that compares two things directly, metaphors as a direct comparison which does not use the words, *like*, *as if*, & *as so* that the first thing is directly to relate to the second. While “Tarigan (2009, p.141-183) stated that metaphor is a kind of figurative language of comparison which is simple”.

Besides that, according to Larson (1998, p.279) metaphor consists of three elements: topic which is the thing being compared, image which is the best thing that the topic is compared and point of similarity that is the same characteristic that topic and image share. It is shows that how important to identify the meaning of metaphors in poem. It would be better if we also well-known the elements or the important things of the metaphor.

The researcher chooses metaphors as the object of this research. It is because metaphors are usually used by authors in their literary works, especially in poem. Metaphor is used to deliver the message of the poem which wants to be conveyed by the author. Metaphor is a meaning of expressing one thing in terms of something else. It provides us with a mean of understanding the way language works, from the common phrase to the most complex. Moreover, metaphor is not only used in a literature but also used in daily life. It gives a life like quality to our

conversations and to the character of the fiction or poetry. Besides, metaphor is also ways of thinking, offering the listeners and the readers' fresh way of examining ideas and viewing the world.

There are many poets or authors in the world who have many literary works, including poems. One of the poets who use metaphor in their works is Sylvia Plath. Sylvia Plath is an American poet, novelist, and short story writer. She was born in Boston, she studied at Smith College and Newnham College at the University of Cambridge before receiving acclaim as a poet and writer. She was married to fellow poet Ted Hughes from 1956 until they separated in September 1962. They lived together in the United States and then in England and had two children, Frieda and Nicholas. Plath was clinically depressed for most of her adult life. She died by suicide in 1963. Plath is credited with advancing the genre of confessional poetry and is best known for her two published collections, *The Colossus and Other Poems* and *Ariel*. She also wrote *The Bell Jar*, a semi-autobiographical novel published shortly before her death. In 1982, she won a posthumous Pulitzer Prize for *The Collected Poems* (Biography Sylvia Plath <http://www.famousauthors.org/sylvia-plath>).

The researcher chooses Sylvia Plath's poem as the subject of analysis because it uses lots of metaphors. To get the meaning of metaphors, the word of those poems can be interpreted literally and metaphorically. The word can be interpreted literally to get the literal meaning of the word according to the dictionary, whereas it can be interpreted metaphorically to get the message that wants to be conveyed

by the author because the author does not convey the message directly. That is why the topic is interesting to be discussed and to be analyzed the metaphorical meaning in Sylvia Plath's poems. The researcher also thinks the readers have to understand the meaning of the poems, because there is a hidden meaning indeed. By analyzing the metaphor and its meaning, the researcher wants to make the reader know how the meaning of metaphor found in it.

Here an example of metaphor found in Sylvia Plath's poems:

- Poem1: *I'm a riddle in nine syllables*. (Metaphors, line 1)

In this line, there is metaphorical usage, because there are two things are compared. Namely, the word "*I*" compared to the word "*riddle*". Literally, "*I*" and "*riddle*" are different meaning but they have connections to refer to something else. The line "*I'm a riddle in nine syllables*" refers to mystery of person that have to solving in nine syllables. According to Knowles and Moon (2006, p.2) metaphor is the use of language to refer to something other than what it was originally applied to, or what it 'literally' means, in order to suggest some resemblance or make a connection between two things. Therefore, this line contains the figurative language, metaphor.

Research Questions

Based on the background above, the problems of research can be formulated as follow:

What is the meaning of each metaphor found in Sylvia Plath's poems?

Objective of Research

Based on the problems formulated above, the objective of this research is as follow:

To analyze the meanings of the metaphors found in Sylvia Plath's poems *Metaphors, Tulips, Morning Song, Mirror* and *Child*.

Significant of Research

This study is expected to give contribution in teaching and learning process in several fields.

For Teaching Language

This research can be a medium in studying the elements of language in poetry, that when talking about language, we will talk about language in the form of spoken or written. We also talk about language which we use everyday and language with elements of beauty in it. It is expected that this research can contribute both theoretically and practically for teaching language.

For Teaching and Learning English Literature

This research is expected to enrich the teaching of poetry courses in English Department specifically in metaphorical meaning that in teaching and learning English literature. The students can use the theory of Knowles and Moon, that is

more suitable in analyzing metaphor because its method which more structural and well arranged. So, the students can analyze the metaphor properly.

For Teaching and Learning Semantics

Since this research analyze the metaphor then it is also related to the semantics as study about meaning without using context. Then this research is accepted to contribute as a medium to the students to learn that in a poem, there is a comparison between two different things which refer to the same meaning. It is called metaphor. Then students who interested in study in the field of semantic particularly metaphor in different topic or object can take this research as a reference and a basic knowledge for a further research.

For Reader

This research is conducted to share information to readers about the metaphorical meaning of Sylvia Plath's poems based on Knowles and Moon's theory.

Furthermore, for them who want to analyze Sylvia Plath's poems especially *Metaphors, Tulips, Morning Song, Mirror* and *Child*. This research can help them to get the information of the interpretation of the poems especially in metaphorical meaning.

For Researcher

It is expected that through this research, the researcher would be able to improve his knowledge in poetry and the researcher himself in mastering metaphorical meaning in poem.

Scope of Study

As stated in the objectives of research above, the researcher would like to analyze the metaphorical meanings which are found in Sylvia Plath's poems. The researcher chose five poems, they are *Metaphors*, *Tulips*, *Mirror*, *Morning Song*, and *Child*. The researcher chose the poems because of the poems have used metaphor. So that is why the poems are interested to analyze especially in Metaphor. In this research, the researcher analyzed meaning of metaphor used in every line in poems by using new criticism approach and use the theory of Knowles and Moon about metaphor.