



An Analysis of Hyperbole in Drama “Romeo and Juliet” By William Shakespeare

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Abstract

Language is a medium that can build human relationships with one another or the media to communicate. This research concerns to analyze hyperbole found in drama entitled “*Romeo and Juliet*” by William Shakespeare. In this study, the researcher focuses on the total of hyperbole and the meaning of hyperbole in drama “*Romeo and Juliet*” by William Shakespeare. The researcher used the theory by Knickerbocker & Reninger (1963:367) to analyze the total of hyperbole and used theory by Leech (1981) to analyze the meaning of hyperbole found in drama “*Romeo and Juliet*” by William Shakespeare. The steps in collecting the data in this study are by found, reading, understanding, taking note and classifying the drama script are contain of hyperbole. In this study, the researcher applied descriptive qualitative method. The total of hyperbole found in drama script “*Romeo and Juliet*” by William Shakespeare was 8 data and three meaning found were conceptual meaning with 1 data and 12.5% of percentage, connotative meaning with 6 data and 75% of percentage and affective meaning with 1 data and 12.5% of percentage. The highest occurrence meaning of hyperbole in this drama script is connotative meaning with 6 data (75%).

Keywords: *hyperbole, meaning, drama*

Abstrak

Bahasa merupakan media yang dapat membangun hubungan manusia dengan sesamanya atau sebagai media untuk berkomunikasi. Penelitian ini bertujuan untuk menganalisis hiperbola yang terdapat dalam drama berjudul “*Romeo dan Juliet*” karya William Shakespeare. Dalam penelitian ini, peneliti fokus pada total hiperbola dan makna hiperbola dalam drama “*Romeo dan Juliet*” karya William Shakespeare. Peneliti menggunakan teori Knickerbocker dan Reninger (1963: 367) untuk menganalisis total hiperbola dan menggunakan teori Leech (1981) untuk menganalisis makna hiperbola yang ditemukan dalam drama “*Romeo dan Juliet*” karya William Shakespeare. Langkah-langkah pengumpulan data dalam penelitian ini yaitu dengan menemukan, membaca, memahami, mencatat dan mengklasifikasikan naskah drama yang mengandung hiperbola. Dalam penelitian ini, peneliti menerapkan metode kualitatif deskriptif. Total hiperbola yang ditemukan dalam naskah drama “*Romeo dan Juliet*” karya William Shakespeare sebanyak 8 data dan tiga makna yang ditemukan adalah makna konseptual dengan 1 data dan 12.5% persentase, makna konotatif dengan 6 data dan 75% persentase dan makna afektif dengan 1 data dan 12.5% persentase. Makna hiperbola tertinggi dalam naskah drama ini adalah makna konotatif dengan 6 data (75%).

Kata kunci: *hiperbola, makna, drama*

Introduction

The existence of language is very important in human being whether in politics, trade transaction even in social interaction in society where by language the ideas or thought is conveyed. In everyday life, language is used as a tool to communicate with others and it conveyed in any forms and functions whether it for giving information, requesting something, commanding and stating something. Language is a tool to convey messages, whether by oral or written messages (Ibrahim et al., 2019). Language has a function to convey opinions, ideas, thoughts and feelings. The development of the language makes the language have its own color, but the meaning of color here is not like the primary or secondary color that we already know is still the color in this language is a figurative language. Figurative language is used not only in all kinds of writing but also in spoken language (Putri & Sutrisno, 2017).

Regarding from its function, figurative language has a very important role to create a literary work and to express human linguistic thoughts, so for that figurative language has always been an interesting language learning topic and style to study. Magdalena (2016) stated that, figurative language is often used by writers in writing in the form of prose or nonfiction, such as novels, drama scripts and song lyrics. Figurative language is often influenced by emotional reactions and the social environment with regard to cultural meanings and influences. In communication system language and meaning is something that related each other where the ideas or thought is conveyed and it usually contains a meaning where people can interpret based on the context used. Communication is the process of delivering information from one person to another with a specific purpose (Lusiawati, 2019).

Figure of speech is a figurative language that expresses thoughts or feelings with the author's soul and personality which is conveyed in oral and written form, resulting in a clear and attractive understanding for both readers and listeners (Padilah et al. 2016). One of figurative language that is exist in song, novel and poetry is hyperbole. Hyperbole aims to emphasize about something and make it more dramatic or tragic and exaggerated but no one will believe that it is true. Hyperbole is a type of figurative language that has excessive pronunciation in order to emphasize certain statements or situations so that their impression and influence is greater and more valuable (Ruminda & Kharimah, 2017). In the form of literary works, so many writers use hyperbole in their literary works, one of which is William Shakespeare.

In this study, the researcher is interested in analyzing hyperbole found in drama script. Conducting the research about figurative languages in the drama script would give the positive contribution for the learner because it is very easy to find and can increase the learner's knowledge of figurative language, especially hyperbole. The usage of the hyperbole in drama script is very important as a tool to convey the messages as well as beauty and to give a color, particular effect to the readers and make the drama interested. Drama is a mode of fictional representation though dialogue and performance. Furthermore, drama is also play for the theater, radio, or television. When we're watching the drama, sometimes we found some sentences that very strenuous to understand that we have never heard, it might be has the stylistic of sentence. In other hand, drama script literal and figurative meanings are often found, so the writer needs to analyze the various figurative languages contained in drama

scripts to understand them more deeply. Therefore, we can get the entertainment and knowledge through the drama. In daily conversation people convey their ideas in various ways and express it denotatively, so that people easily understand what is meant by these words. Hyperbole is part of speech which has important role in drama that is written by the writer because it will make people curious and interested with that drama. Rani & Refnaldi (2020) stated that hyperbole is a type of language with statements that are often exaggerated. Hence, it is principle for those who loves the drama to figure out what are the literal meaning of hyperbole which found in the drama script.

The drama script analyzed was the drama script of "Romeo and Juliet" by William Shakespeare. Romeo and Juliet drama is written by William Shakespeare that was released on 2011. William Shakespeare is a famous writer and there are some drama tragedy he wrote such as Othello, King Lear, Macbeth and many more. Romeo and Juliet drama is drama that is telling about the love life of teenager couple namely Romeo and Juliet, but not approved by their families because of hostile each other. They have to struggle to unite their love but in the end their love ends with death.

Regarding to this research background, there are two problems raised by the researcher are: What are the total of hyperbole in drama "Romeo and Juliet" by William Shakespeare? and the second, what are meaning of hyperbole in drama "Romeo and Juliet" by William Shakespeare? Based on the problems, the aims of this study are to find out hyperbole in drama "Romeo and Juliet" by William Shakespeare and to find out meaning of hyperbole in drama "Romeo and Juliet by William Shakespeare? This research specifies to analyze of hyperbole using the theory by Knickerbocker & Reninger (1963:367) and meaning of hyperbole using the theory by Leech (1981) which found in drama script by William Shakespeare.

There are some reviews of previous study regarding to hyperbole that was done by some researchers which has related to this study, there are written by Altikriti (2016) entitled *A Pragmatic Analysis of Hyperbole in John Keats Love Letters to Fanny Brawn*. The aims of his study was to investigate both the pragmatic role of hyperbole and detect the use of politeness strategies in seven Love Letters written by John Keats. The theory used to identify the politeness strategic in his study was from Brown and Levinson (1987). The result of the study, Keats uses hyperbole in his letters to express positive or negative emotions that make the intended speaker more effective. The other research was conducted by Fatimah (2016) entitled *The Analysis of Hyperbolic Expression Used in Lyrics of Bruno Mars's Songs*. In her study, she focused on analyzing the total of hyperbole expression used in Bruno Mars song lyrics based on the theory by Claridge (2011) and to find out the kinds of hyperbole expression. The result of her study, she found 28 terms of hyperbole expression they were seventeen single word of hyperbole, ten clausal hyperbole, one phrasal hyperbole, and one comparison found in Bruno Mars songs. The similarities in this research and her study is the aim to analysis the total of hyperbole. The last research was written by Adrian (2018) entitled *An Analysis of Hyperbole in Song Lyrics of Paramour in Brand New Eyes Album*. The aim of his research is to understand the types of hyperbole and the meaning that exist in the song lyrics of Paramour in Brand New Eyes Album. In his study, he used the theory by Claridge (2011) to explain the kinds of hyperbole. In analyzing the data, he used qualitative method. The result of

the study researcher found thirty-seven terms of data with some classification were; seven single words of hyperbole, thirteen phrases of hyperbole, twelve clause, one comparison, and four repetition of hyperbole.

Method

The data in this research were taken from drama script entitled “*Romeo and Juliet*” by William Shakespeare. In this study, the method used to analyze the data was descriptive qualitative method. Descriptive research is a type of research which uses paragraphs to analyze the data (Moleong 2007: 3). There are four steps in collecting and processing the data were; 1) finding the drama script of drama “*Romeo and Juliet*” by William Shakespeare, 2) reading and understanding the drama script, 3) taking note the data which is contains meaning and form of hyperbole in drama script, 4) classifying the data to find out meaning of hyperbole in drama “*Romeo and Juliet*” by William Shakespeare. The steps to analyze the data was identifying the hyperbole found in drama script by using the theory of figurative language by Knickerbocker & Renger (1963:367) and used the theory by Leech (1981) to identify the meaning of hyperbole. This study was presented through formal method were using table to make the data clearly and easy to be understood and informal method to explain the data descriptively. Descriptive method was used to describe the meaning of hyperbole found in William Shakespeare’s drama script *Romeo and Juliet*.

Result and Discussion

This section, the researcher analyses the total of hyperbole found in drama script “*Romeo and Juliet*” by William Shakespeare. The total of hyperbole found in drama script “*Romeo and Juliet*” by William Shakespeare was eight data and there three meanings of hyperbole found, they are: conceptual meaning, connotative meaning and the last affective meaning based on the theory of figurative language which proposed by Knickerbocker & Renger (1963:367) and supported by Leech (1981) to found meaning of hyperbole. In the table below we can see the detail number of the research finding regarding to the total of hyperbole found in drama script “*Romeo and Juliet*” by William Shakespeare that was released on 2011.

Table 1. The Meaning of Hyperbole in drama script “*Romeo and Juliet*” by William Shakespeare.

Meaning of Hyperbole	Total	Percentage
Conceptual Meaning	1	12.5%
Connotative Meaning	6	75%
Affective Meaning	1	12.5%
Total	8	100%

Based on the table of data 1 as shown above, there are eight data which of hyperbole and the three meaning of hyperbole there are: conceptual meaning with occurred 1 and 12.5% of percentage, connotative meaning with occurred 6 and 75% of percentage and affective meaning with occurred 1 and 12.5% of percentage. By seeing the list of the total in the table, the meaning of hyperbole widely used in drama script is connotative meaning with occurred 6 and 75% of percentage.

This section analyzed the data with small description how the hyperbole defined. According to Knickerbocker & Reninger (1963:367) hyperbole is an exaggeration used for special effect. Hyperbole is one of figure of speech that full of entity politics to create imagination which has the function to carry the meaning based on the condition that might has happened.

The eight data of hyperbole was explained by writer as bellow:

Data 1

Lady, by yonder blesses moon.

I vow that tips with silver all these fruit-tree tops.

(William Shakespeare’s drama script 2011. ACT TWO, Scene II Capulet’s orchard, P.89.)

In data above categorized as hyperbole because the sentence clearly exaggeration. Hyperbole is emphasizing a point with statement containing exaggeration, proposed by Kennedy (1983:481). Meanwhile Knickerbocker & Reninger (1963:367) proposes hyperbole is an exaggeration used for special effect. This sentence is clear exaggeration by define the phrases “I vow” and “silver all these fruit-tree tops”, because no fruit-tree is silver. Tree is the tall plant with a wooden trunk and branches, while “silver” is shiny white precious metal. It is just propaganda by the author. In fact, people never vow and the all fruits-tree tops is silver and it is impossible happened in life because “vow” is the formal and serious promise, a religious one to do something. Hence, the sentence above means that Romeo wants to convince Juliet and promises to always love him. Thus the sentence above describe Romeo wants Juliet to believe that he really loves her.

The meaning of the data above defined as connotative meaning because the meaning is beyond from the literal meaning. The sentence is illogical since when Romeo vow, the all of fruit-tree tops change with silver. Vow is serious promise to do something. The sentence does not describe the “silver” itself, but describing that identical with the “silver”. Connotatively the sentence “silver all these fruit-tree tops” represent the feeling love by Romeo, because silver as shiny white precious metal which has a very expensive value. Thus the meaning of the sentence above is Romeo want Juliet trust with him that he always love Juliet and he promise about that.

Data 2

Her eyes in heaven would through the airy region stream so bright.

That birds would sing and think it were no night.

See how she leans her cheek upon her hand!

(William Shakespeare’s drama script 2011, Scene II Capulet’s orchard, P.83)

The data above categorized as hyperbole because the exaggerated that eyes in heaven would through in airy region stream so bright. It is distinctly exaggeration by seeing the phrases "her eyes in heaven" and "airy region stream so bright" because no eyes were flowing in such a bright airy area. Eyes is either of the two organs of sight while 'heaven' is the place believed to be the home of God and of good people after death and 'region' is the large area of land. Eyes flowing in that sunny field were impossible because is the part of human body which serve to see. The sentence "heaven would through the airy region stream so bright" describe the expression a sense of admiration Romeo for the beauty of Juliet that makes the men in Verona fall in love with her beauty. Hence this sentence describe Romeo fall in love with the beauty of Juliet who always he loves.

The sentence above has conceptual meaning, because the meaning is literal meaning. Conceptual meaning is considered to be the central factor in linguistic communication and also called denotative or connotative meaning (Leech, 1981). Eyes is either of the two organs of sight while 'region' is the large area of land. Here the speaker used eyes to explain the whole face of person. The word eyes of the sentence above is describe the face, because eyes is the part of human body and heaven is to represent the beautiful of a Juliet because heaven is place believed to be the home of God. The meaning of the sentence above is describe Romeo admiring the beautiful face of Juliet.

Data 3

With love's light wings did I o'erperch these walls, for stony limits cannot hold love out and what love can do that dares love attempt.

(William Shakespeare's drama script 2011, Scene V Capulet's house, P. 87)

The sentence above categorized as hyperbole because there are exaggeration things between the words "love's light wings" and "walls". As we know the human has no wings except the birds and there is no wings of love that can make humans split a wall, because that things are something impossible that human doing. Wing is the parts of bird body or insect that is uses for flying while "wall" is the long upright solid structure of stone, brick, etc. that surrounds, divides or protects. Thus it is kind of exaggeration by the author to express his feeling. "Love's light wings" in this sentence describe that Romeo has the ability. Hence the sentence above describe that Romeo finds love as expected, therefore he is able to forget from his sad love story with Rosaline.

The meaning of the sentence above is connotative meaning because the meaning beyond from the literal meaning. In literal meaning 'light' is the energy from the sun, lamp, etc. that makes it possible to see things while 'wing' is the one of the parts of the body of a bird or insect that is uses for flying. But in this sentence 'light' represent the happiness of Romeo, because the bright is beautiful and 'wing' represent the Romeo's attempt to forget Rosaline who does not love him. Light and wing in this sentence describe the soul and the characteristic by Romeo. The author wants to explain that even human can get and create everything. The message of this sentence is every human right to be loved and happy.

Data 4

Being purged a fire sparkling in lovers’ eyes.

Being vexed a sea nourish with loving tears.

(William Shakespeare’s drama script 2011. ACT ONE, Scene I Verona. A Public place, P.35.)

This sentence classified as hyperbole because the author exaggerating that clears the fire sparkling in lovers’ eyes. This sentence is clearly exaggerated because the human cannot be cleaned the fire unless put out. Fire is the burning that produces light and heat while ‘eyes’ is the either of the two organs of sight. Eyes when exposed to fire will definitely burn and will make an impression. Connotatively, the sentence ”being purged a fire sparkling in lovers’ eyes” is represents by the Romeo’s feeling that he wants to move on from Rosaline who is always in his mind, because Rosaline doesn’t love Romeo. In this case, the message of the sentence is when we fall in love with someone and that person does not love us, try to let go and forget about him before we love him deeper because it will make us sad and hurt.

This sentence is identifying as connotative meaning because the meaning beyond from literal meaning. Fire define in dictionary as the burning that produces light and heat while ‘eye’ is the either of the two organs of sight. But in other case, fire describe a passionate love from Romeo, because fire is a light that generates heat. Thus the sentence above describe Romeo wants to forget his love story that was obsessed with Rosaline before he met Juliet.

Data 5

*Take him and cut him out in little stars and **he will make the face of heaven** so fine that all the world will be in love with night and pay no worship to the garish sun.*

(William Shakespeare’s drama script 2011. ACT THREE, Scene 2 Capulet’s orchard, P.151)

The data above showed as hyperbole because there is an exaggeration of the sentence “he will make the face of heaven”. Face is front part of the head and “heaven” is place believed to be the home of God and of good people after death. Human make the face of heaven is impossible because the human is not the God. God as a marker and ruler of the universe and human make the face of heaven is impossible. Connotatively, the sentence “he will make the face of heaven” means that Juliet was nervous hoping that Romeo would do something good and never do anything wrong, because in this scene Juliet hears news from Nurse that Romeo has killed Tybalt and as a punishment Romeo is exiled from Verona. Hence Juliet hopes that Romeo never committed a crime and all the information she heard is not true, because Juliet knows that Romeo is a good person and never hates Juliet’s family even though Juliet’s family hates Romeo.

The meaning of figurative above defined as connotative meaning by Leech (1981). Heaven is the place believed to be the home of God and of good people after death. In this sentence ‘heaven’ describe the kindness of Romeo, because the heaven is the place where a good person death. In this case, Juliet wants Romeo to always do

something good. The message that conveyed by the author in this sentence is if we always do something good we will always be remembered by others, even though sometimes many people do not appreciate our good intentions

Data 6

I am too sore unpierced with his shaft to soar with his light feathers and so bound I cannot bound a pitch above dull woe. Under love's heavy burden do I sink?

(William Shakespeare's drama script 2011. ACT ONE, Scene IV A Street, P.55)

This sentence classified as hyperbole because the speaker exaggerating that he sore because his shaft to soar with his light feathers. Sore is painful and often red, esp. because of infection. People sore by shaft with light feathers is impossible and it could not happen in real life, because feather is one of the many light part that cover a bird's body. In this case the Romeo feeling sad because Rosaline he loves secretly doesn't love him. As we know, the people cannot sore because of light feathers. In this sentence sore is not explain about people diseased but explains about the speaker sadness, because the woman she loves doesn't love him. Connotatively, the sentence "sore unpierced with his shaft" is the way to convey his feeling where Romeo very sad about the fact that the woman he loved had never loved him. In this case, Romeo wants to tell that Rosaline whom Romeo loved, never loved him so he felt very sad.

This data categorized as connotative meaning because it beyond from literal meaning. In literal meaning the phrase 'sore' is painful and often red, esp. because of infection. In this sentence "sore" it represents sadness of Romeo because woman he loves doesn't love him. The meaning of the sentence above describe Romeo feels very sad because Rosaline that he loves apparently does not love him. The message of this sentence is releasing someone who really doesn't love us is the right action, because if we keep trying to love him sometimes we will feel hurt.

Data 7

*I have night's cloak to hide me from their eyes and but thou love me, let me them find me here. **My life were better ended by their hate than death prorogued wanting of thy love.***

(William Shakespeare's drama script 2011. ACT TWO, Scene II Capulet's orchard, P.87)

In data above categorized as hyperbole because the sentence clearly exaggeration. In reality, 'life' is the ability to breath, grow, reproduce, etc. which makes people, animals and plants different from object while 'death' is being killed. It is just propaganda by the author. In fact, people never death by the hate and love and it is impossible happened, because 'hate' is have a great dislike for something or someone while 'love' is strong feeling of deep affection for something or someone. 'My life were better ended' in this sentence doesn't real defining of 'die' but it is to expression the feeling of Romeo that he really loves Juliet. As we know Juliet is the daughter of the Capulet family and Romeo is son of Mr. Montague, these two families were enemies for a long time until Romeo and Juliet grew up. Hence, the sentence

above means that Romeo loves Juliet very much even though their two families are enemies. Thus, Romeo thought that he doesn't care about the fact that their families are hostile to each other, but what he thinks is how much he loves the girl from the enemy of his family.

The sentence above complicated affective meaning, based on the theory of Leech (1981) affective meaning refers to the feeling and attitude of the speaker via use of language that is conveyed. Love will make human to change the attitude, without love in our heart we cannot show our humble feeling to others. Affectively "my life were better ended" in this sentence are to express the emotion of Romeo, because he wants to prove that he really loves Juliet who able to make his partner happy whatever happened in their lives. The message that convey by the author in this sentence is love the people who hate you even though they think you are their enemy.

Data 8

These grief's, these woes, these sorrows make me old.

Shame come to Romeo!

(William Shakespeare's drama script 2011. ACT THREE, Scene II Capulet's orchard, P.157)

The sentence above, showed as hyperbole because the sentence clearly overstatement by seeing the words "grief's, woes, sorrow" and "old". Grief's is great sadness and 'woes' is the great unhappiness while sorrow is telling of great sadness because very bad has happened. This sentence is clearly exaggerated because it is impossible for human to grow old because of grief, sorrow and woes. When we woes or sorrow it has nothing to do with human growth, because sorrow and woes is just expression the feeling of human. Hence this sentence describe that Nurse is very saddened when she had to deliver a message to Juliet about Tybalt's death and Romeo's exile.

Leech (1981:12) proposes that connotative meaning is an expression that has communicative value based on what is referred to, and exceeds its pure conceptual meaning. Conceptually the words 'sorrow, woes and grief' is to express feeling by the speaker. But in other case, connotatively "sorrow, woes and grief" in this sentence is represent feeling of Nurse where she feels hurt when she hears news of Tybalt's death and Romeo's exile. Thus the meaning of the sentence above is the author wants to describe that Nurse felt devastated by the all incidents that befell Tybalt and Romeo so that she was unable to tell Juliet.

Conclusion

This study focused on hyperbole found in drama "Romeo and Juliet" by William Shakespeare. To analyze the total of hyperbole in drama script, writer used theory by Knickerbocker & Reninger (1963:367) and to analyze meaning of hyperbole used the theory by Leech (1981) which found in drama script "Romeo and Juliet" by William Shakespeare. The result of the study shows that the total of hyperbole in drama script is eight data and the meaning of hyperbole, writer found three meaning there are; 1 of conceptual meaning, 6 of connotative meaning and the last 1 of affective meaning. From all the meaning of hyperbole that are performed by the drama script 'Romeo and

Juliet” by William Shakespeare, the most dominant data that appear in the drama is connotative meaning with the total 6 data.

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