



A Study of Onomatopoeia in *Wonder Woman* Comic

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Abstract

This study was about the onomatopoeia words in *Wonder Woman* Comic. Onomatopoeia is a sound that replicate the sound made by an entity in everyday life. The aims of this study are to find out the types of onomatopoeia words in comic. The data source were taken from the comic entitled *Wonder Woman*. This study used the theory of onomatopoeia by Elizabeth (2013) to find out the types of onomatopoeia words and also the meaning of onomatopoeia in the comic *Wonder Woman*. This study used descriptive qualitative method. The data were collected by using observation method and the steps are reading the comic, identifying the onomatopoeia words and taking note the onomatopoeia words. The result of this study show that the types of onomatopoeia that occurred in this comic can be divided into four namely, mechanical, Fast Motion, Animal and Fighting. There are 49 onomatopoeia found in the comic *Wonder Woman*, and fighting dominantly occurs with 23 data or 46.9% and followed by mechanical 12 data or 24.6%, then animal 8 data or 16.3% and fast motion 6 data or 12.2%. The meaning of onomatopoeia can be classified into contextual and lexical meaning.

Keywords: *Types, meaning, Onomatopoeia, Comic*

Abstrak

Penelitian ini menganalisis tentang *onomatopoeia* pada komik *Wonder Woman*. *Onomatopoeia* merupakan suatu tiruan suara yang dibuat oleh suatu entitas dalam kehidupan sehari-hari. Penelitian ini bertujuan untuk mengetahui jenis-jenis *onomatopoeia* yang muncul dalam bentuk kata di komik dan maknanya. Sumber data diambil dari komik *Wonder Woman*. Penelitian ini dianalisis menggunakan teori *onomatopoeia* dari Elizabeth (2013) untuk mengetahui jenis *onomatopoeia* dalam komik *Wonder Woman*. Penelitian ini menggunakan metode deskriptif kualitatif. Pengumpulan data dilakukan dengan menggunakan metode observasi melalui beberapa tahapan yaitu membaca komik, mengidentifikasi kata-kata *onomatopoeia* dan mencatat kata-kata *onomatopoeia*. Hasil penelitian ini menunjukkan jenis-jenis *onomatopoeia* yang terdapat pada komik *Wonder Women* yaitu *mechanical, fast motion, animal and fighting*. Dari 49 data yang terdapat pada komik *Wonder Woman*, jenis *onomatopoeia fighting* merupakan yang terbanyak dengan 23 data atau 46.9% dan diikuti *mechanical* 12 data atau 24.6%, kemudian *animals* 8 data atau 16.3% dan *fast motion* 6 data atau 12.2%. Makna yang terkandung dalam *onomatopoeia* di

komik ini dapat dilihat dari makna sesungguhnya atau makna kamus dan juga makna secara kontekstual.

Kata Kunci: *tipe, makna, Onomatopoeia, komik*

Introduction

Language is a means to express ideas concepts that exist in human. The study that learn about language is Linguistics. Studying language helps us understand the structure of language and how language is used. Puschmann (2008) explains that linguistics to seeks establish explicit knowledge of language, by sending it to systematic and objective studies. Linguistics also learn about sounds that related to our life. Furthermore, Sugahara (2010) explains that onomatopoeia is a certain language expression. Dofs (2008) defines onomatopoeia as a form of sound that named by its object that imitates the natural sound in producing. As a part of language, onomatopoeia plays a very important role because its form is directly related to its meaning. Onomatopoeia is able to express various meanings, imaginations and descriptions of something more clearly than other types of informal language such as slang, jargon, and others.

The onomatopoeia sometimes was difficult to be understood without example, because it can make the readers easy to understand about onomatopoeia words. Its help the reader to illustrate the sounds of the words that they pronounce. According to Elizabeth (2013) onomatopoeia words divided into six types, there were mechanical, fast motion, musical, food preparation and eating, fighting and the last one animals. There were some examples of onomatopoeia, expressing animal like 'meow', 'grrrr', 'hiss', 'neigh', and 'oink' are categorizes as onomatopoeia animal words.

These words can be found in literary work. Literary works can a lure their readers to a certain level of happiness that no other art can possess such as comics. Comic is a picture book that tells about many stories, which have texts to describe the roler mean to do a certain sequence in order concisely communicate messages about certain situations or events in order to provide the reader with facts or entertainment. In its text, the author often used many onomatopoeia to express the roler's feeling. Dofs (2008) suggested that in comics, onomatopoeia phrases are commonly used to describe sound, represent a sound community of people and physical works.

This study analyzed about onomatopoeia in the *Wonder Woman* comic because Wonder Woman is the first female superhero character to appear in an American comic book published by DC Comics. Apart from the fact that onomatopoeia words are necessary for English learners learning a foreign language to understand the contextual

meaning, it also makes the reader think about the meaning, and there are some sorts of onomatopoeia utilized in that comic. This study aimed to find out the types of onomatopoeia and the meaning of onomatopoeia in the comic *Wonder Woman*. Lexical meaning is referred to dictionary definition. A lexical is a lexeme that has the same meaning as vocabulary or dictionary and is connected to the term lexical. As a result, lexical meaning refers to a words meaning. It indicates that the dictionary definition is used to determine the meaning of onomatopoeia terms and the lexical meaning based on the Oxford Dictionary. On the other side there is also contextual meaning that influence the occurrence of each type of onomatopoeia in this comic.

Method

The data were taken from the dialogue in the comic entitled *Wonder Woman*, start from chapter 1 until chapter 4 because this chapter was connected each other and this comic were chosen because in this comic contain some types of onomatopoeia. This research used observation method in collect the data that consist of 3 steps: the first is reading the comics and trying to understand the types of the onomatopoeia words, second is identifying onomatopoeia and the last is taking note the onomatopoeia found in the *Wonder Woman* Comic. A descriptive qualitative method was used to analyse the data. In analysing the types of onomatopoeia found in the *Wonder Woman* Comic, this study used the theory that was proposed by Elizabeth (2013), and the result of this study is presented by using formal and informal method for formal method, the data of this study is supported by using a table to make the data clearly presented meanwhile informal method was used narrative form to explaining the types of onomatopoeia word.

Result and Discussion

This research analysed about the types of onomatopoeia words found in the comic entitled *Wonder Woman*. According to the theory proposed by Elizabeth (2013) there were 6 types of onomatopoeia, namely Mechanical, Fast Motion, Musical, Food Preparation and Eating, Fighting and Animals. In this study only got four types of onomatopoeia in the comic *Wonder Woman*. The occurrence of each type can be seen in table below.

Table 1. Types of Onomatopoeia in Wonder Woman Comic

Types of Onomatopoeic Words	Total Data
Mechanical	12
Fast Motion	6
Animal	8
Fighting	23
Total	49

Based on table 1, *Wonder Woman* comic contained 49 onomatopoeia words with 12 data for Mechanical, 6 data for Fast Motion, 8 data for Animal and 23 data of Fighting. Fighting is the dominant type of onomatopoeia occurred in this movie because the story of *Wonder Woman* about superhero with a lot of fighting scenes inside the comic. Furthermore, to make clearly, the occurrence of each type were presented by using graphic. The percentage in graphic can give detail information about the types of onomatopoeia in *Wonder Woman comic*. The graphic can be seen as below:

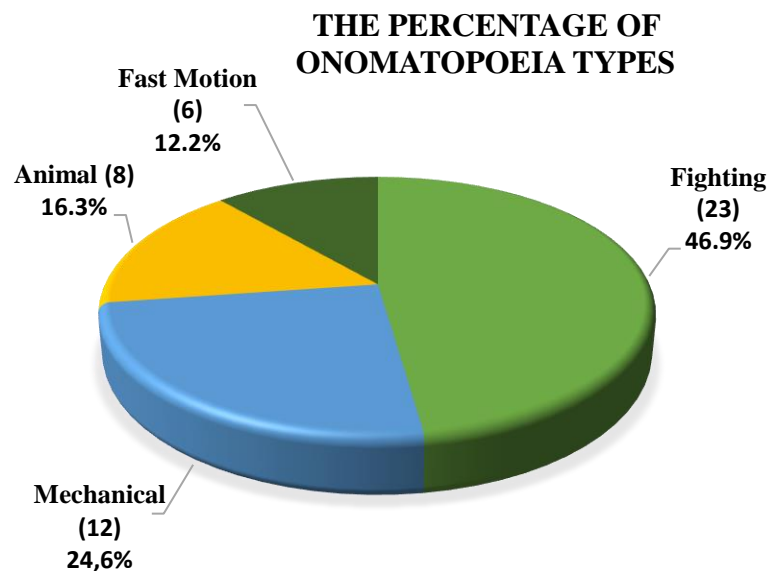


Figure 1. Percentage of Onomatopoeia Types in *Wonder Woman* Comic

Figure 1 described the percentage of onomatopoeia types. The researcher found 23 data for Fighting or 46.9% as the most dominant types present in the comic, 12 data for Mechanical or 24.6%, 8 data for Animal or 16.3% and the last for Fast Motion got 6 data or 12.2%.

Types of Onomatopoeia in Wonder Woman Comic

In this comic they are only four types of onomatopoeia occurred, namely fighting, mechanical, fast motion and animal. The example of analysis can be seen as follow:

1. Mechanical Onomatopoeia

According to Elizabeth (2013), the mechanical onomatopoeia sounds appear to be present in a large number of frequent nouns that resembling the sound of machine. *Honk, beep, vroom, clang, boing buzz, beep, whirr, click, clack, clunk, clatter, clink* are some examples. *Kraka boom* sound is categorized as a type of mechanical onomatopoeia because it represents the sound of the explosion from the museum after Diana came out of the museum where she had a fight with the magician. Based on the Oxford dictionary the sound "boom" has a lexical meaning of making a loud deep sound, so the meaning of the sound "boom" is very similar to the visualization in figure 1 below because as we can see a loud explosion coming out from the museum and definitely it makes a very loud sound. The occurrence of this sound in comic can be seen in figure below.



Figure 1. Visualization of Kraka Boom\

2. Fast Motion Onomatopoeia

Based on the theory proposed by Elizabeth (2013) Words with the sound of speed frequently start with the letters s or z. Examples include *boing*, *varoom/vroom*, *whoosh*, *swish*, *swoosh*, *zap*, *zing*, *zip*, and *zoom*. The word *splash* is categorized as a type of fast motion onomatopoeia because this word represents the sound of splashing water when something or someone falls into the water.

The sound occurred when Princess Diana and her friends came to the river to swim. From the visualization of the sound *splash*, it was conclude that the sound *splash* appear after Diana falls into the water then the sound *splash* appear. According to the Oxford dictionary the sound of a “*splash*” occurs because of the movement through the water that makes the droplets fly everywhere. It can conclude that the lexical meaning from word *splash* is quite similar with the context in Figure 2 below. In this figure can be seen clearly that there is a water splash caused by someone jumping into the water. The occurrence of word *splash* in the comic can be seen in Figure 2 below.

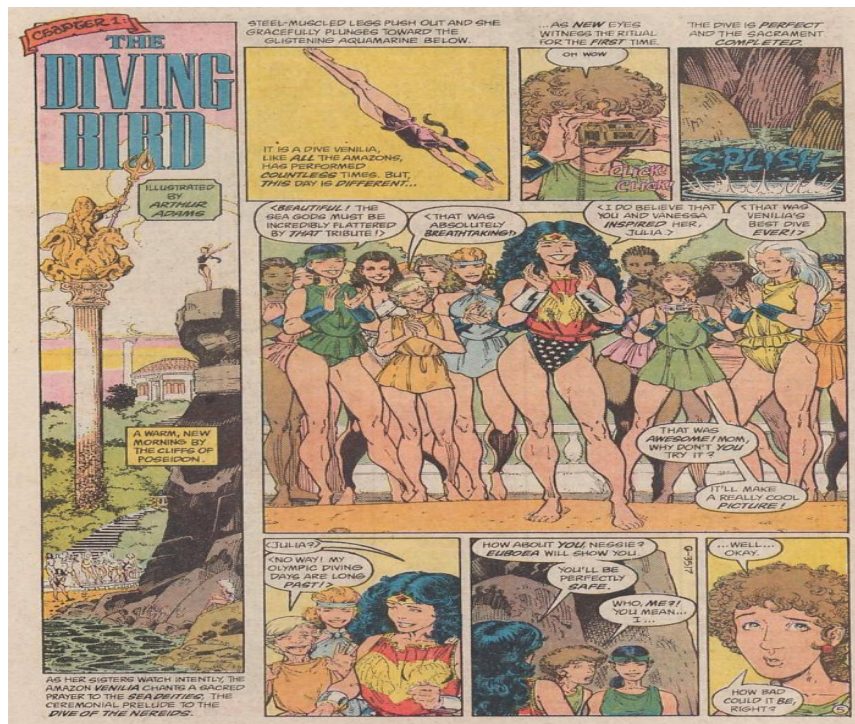


Figure 2. Visualization of SPLISH

3. Animal Onomatopoeia

Elizabeth (2013) mention that even if the sounds that animals make are complex in English, it's crucial for people to be aware that, contrary to popular belief, the terms for animal sounds in different parts of the world are rather diverse. Cat do not always meow, and pig do not always oink everywhere.

In this comic the word *rrowr* is categorized as an animal onomatopoeia because the word *rrowr* represents the sound of an animal, namely a tiger. It was a cursed tiger or Cheetah who wanted to loot artefacts in the city of Tzichilan. The sound occurred when the cheetah attacked Wonder Woman because Wonder Woman wanted to save Gilbert from the Cheetah attack. From the above explanation, it was conclude that the sound *rrowr* appear during the attacked from the Cheetah. Based on the Oxford dictionary the sound “*rrowr*” has a meaning that making a loud sound, the lexical meaning that the loud sound of “*rrowr*” it comes from the tiger or Cheetah. The occurrence of sound “*rrowr*” in this movie can be seen as follow:



Figure 3. Visualization of RRROWR

4. Fighting Onomatopoeia

Based on the theory proposed by Elizabeth (2013), *Pow, bam, whomp, smash, zowie, boom, and wham* are just a few of the onomatopoeic action words that appear in comic books during battle scenes. Fighting as the most dominant onomatopoeia types that occurred in the comic.

The word *Wwaaahhoong* can be categorized as fighting onomatopoeia, because the word *Wwaaahhoong* is made by the destructar action when he beat Mei-Mei. It happened when Mei-mei and Han were playing, then the destructar came to chase Mei-Mei and made an attack by hitting her. It was conclude that the sound *Wwaaahhoong* appear during the action by the destructar when beats Mei-Mei. The sound of *Wwaaahhoong* has no lexical meaning found in the dictionary. The occurrence of *Wwaaahhoong* in this movie can be seen as follow:



Figure 4. Visualization of WAAAHOOONG

Conclusion

Based on the discussion above, it can be concluded that there were 49 onomatopoeia word in *Wonder Women* Comic. It can be classify into four from six types which proposed by Elizabeth (2013). The four types of onomatopoeia are Mechanical, Fast Motion, Animal and Fighting. The occurrence of Fighting with 23 data was the most frequent types of onomatopoeia, Mechanical types of onomatopoeia with 12 data, Animal types of onomatopoeia with 8 data and Fast Motion types of onomatopoeia with 6 data. Based on this finding, it can be seen that the onomatopoeia plays an essential part in the meaning of sentences in a narrative book, and that the presence of onomatopoeia can assist the reader in better understanding the storyline's meaning and make the story come alive in the reader's imagination. Onomatopoeia can help readers visualize the events in a comic and especially onomatopoeia can help us understand the roles that characters play in the story. The meaning of onomatopoeia sometimes similar with lexical meaning and it can also consist of contextual meaning. The type of mechanical and fast motion has a similar meaning between the lexical and the contextual meaning, meanwhile in animal and fighting types only has contextual meaning.

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