



## Analysis of Personification and Its Meaning Found in Victor Hugo Poems

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### Abstract

Figurative language often used in literary works, especially poems. It beautifies the language used in the poems. This study discusses about one of figurative types, that is personification, with its meaning found in Victor Hugo Poems. Personification is found mostly in the poems. There are two theories used in the study. The first is the theory of figurative language from Knickerbocker and Reninger (1974), and the second is the theory of meaning by Leech (1974) to analyze the meaning of figurative language. The method used in this study is a qualitative method. The researcher found 6 data of personification. Meanwhile for the meaning that the data have are categorized as conceptual meaning and connotative meaning.

**Keywords:** *figurative language , song lyric , meaning*

### Abstrak

Bahasa kiasan sering digunakan dalam karya sastra, khususnya puisi. Penelitian ini membahas tentang salah satu ciri kiasan, yaitu personifikasi, dengan makna yang terdapat dalam puisi Victor Hugo. Personifikasi merupakan tipe Bahasa kiasan yang paling banyak digunakan dalam poem-poem ini. Ada dua teori yang digunakan dalam penelitian. Yang pertama adalah teori bahasa kiasan dari Knickerbocker dan Reninger (1974), dan yang kedua adalah teori makna oleh Leech (1974) untuk menganalisis makna bahasa kiasan. Metode yang digunakan dalam penelitian ini adalah metode kualitatif. Dalam puisi ini, ada 6 data personifikasi yang ditemukan. Sementara untuk makna, data-data tersebut dikategorikan dalam makna konseptual dan makna konotasi.

**Kata kunci:** *Bahasa kiasan, lirik lagu, makna*

## **Introduction**

Language is extremely vital in human life, and English is the language is one of them. English has become a prominent international communication language, and it is sometimes referred to as an international language. The most important thing for humans is language as a tool of communication. It has the ability to express people's thoughts, information, and feelings in both written and spoken form. Language, according to Kreidler (1998), is "a symbolic framework through which humans communicate." The symbols might be spoken, written, or physically signed. According to Knickerbocker and Reninger (1974) a language is a vehicle of communication where by one person conveys message to another for a range of different, e.g. informing, ordering, persuading.. Language is an instrument or a medium or medium of communication which plays a vital role in human communication.. Without language human civilization would have remained impossible. According to Jakobson (1980) language can be divided in two group of ordinary language and literary language. Ordinary language refers to the word, and phrases we used in day to day communication and conversation. It is straight forward , it generally does not utilize complex vocabulary, and it is meant to be easily understood. Literary language is the language used by the poets, writer and scholars. It is more artistic form of ordinary language is simply to communicate a message or idea, the goal of using literary language is to convey a deeper meaning, feeling or image to one's audience.

According to Perrine (1970) figurative language can be defined as a words or expression uses that has a different meaning from the literal interoperation. In addition, figurative language used in any type of correspondence, for example, in conversation, assessment in paper, commercial, books, poems, etc. In paper here figurative language first, because it has connection which each other, commonly the figurative language used by people that has open minded, it is quite difficult to create something using figurative language, indeed the figurative language need people that has wide imagination. Literary language is related to the use of figurative.

Figurative language can be found in some literary works, one of them is the poems. The poems are expression of writer feelings or mind that containing the message. The use of figurative language in the poems is to make the poems interestin to be raed. Here is one of the examples of figurative language found in the poems *Watching The Angel* by The Victor Hugo "In the dusky nook, near the altar laid". The example of figurative language above is symbol, because it implies something that more than what it is and the figurative language above is "church" is something that always be missed when go fear away from something the loved, because perhaps someone go to somewhere even more beautiful place, that was always miss something that love.

Based on explanation above, this study focuses on the analysis of figurative language in the five poems by Victor Hugo. It is considered as an important thing to understand the meaning contained in poems. Because it is useless, if people just read poems without

understanding what the poet wants to convey to the readers. The aim of the study is attracting the attention of listeners to this poem because it contains message for human life and social criticism a smooth way.

According to Lyons (1984:136), semantics is a discipline of linguistics that studies language meaning, or, to put it another way, meaning is the most important element to consider while researching semantic terms. Meanings studies about ideas and concepts that can be conveyed from the mind of the speaker to the mind of the hearer by embodying them, as it were, in the form of one language or another, according to what has long been the most widely d recognized view of semantics. There are various elements to semantics, one of which is figurative language. A figurative language is one that uses figures of speech. Figurative language is used to describe something that uses a contrast for effect, interest, or clarity. Because of the use of figurative language, the sentences in this work appear to be distinct from other statements with the same literal meaning. According to Kennedy (1983:481), figurative language is used to express a different meaning from the speaker's literal interpretation. One type of figurative language is personification. According to Knickerbocker and Renninger (1974) personification is a figure of speech that give human characteristic to an object, animal or abstract idea, such as emotion, desires, sensation, physical movements, and speech. Figurative language gives an interesting way to deliver the message rather than direct statement. As one of the figurative language types, personification is commonly used in literary works, such as novels, poetry, and movie. Figurative language helps the author to deliver the message in various way.

According to Cuddon (1998:678) A poem is composition a work of verse, which may be in rhyme (q.v.) or may be blank verse (q.v.) or combination of the two. Analyzing figurative language in poems was important for some reasons. First, reading a poems and knowing the meaning of the poems was better than reading without an adequate understanding concerning the poems. Second, analyzing figurative language provides us more practices to better understand the meaning. The writer presented some previous studies about figurative language from these and other journals that would be explained below:

The first study was taken from a journal by Syafitri and Marlinton (2018) entitled *An Analysis of Figurative Language Used in Edgar Allan Poe's Poems*. This reseearch analyzed and described the kinds and meanin in the eight poems by Edgar Allan Poe entitled Annabel Lee ,The Sleppter A Dream Within A Dream ,Alone ,To one in Paradise Spirit of the Dead ,The Lake and Evening Star.In this research,the researcher use theory propose by Abrams ( 1999) about figirative language and applied the qualitative method because the object of the researchewas in the form of word not in numbers.After completing the study,the researcher concluded some finding as follow ;there were 96 figures in eight-poems by Edgar Allan Poe's that consist of 25 personifications,16 metaphors,1 hyperboles,2 irony,9 paradoxes,6 metonymies,and 21 symbolism.There were 42 connotative meanings such as 30 socials

meanings, 16 reflected meanings, and 8 collocative meanings found as figurative language meaning in the poems.

The second study was taken from an article entitled *The Use and Effect of Figurative Language in Consumer Review of Hedonic and Utilitarian Consumption* by Kronrod and Danziger (2013). The article investigates about the effectiveness and use of figurative language in consumer-generated content about consumption experiences and uses the theory proposed by Gibbs, Raymond, and Herbert L. Colston (2012) about interpreting figurative meaning because the theory supports the problem of the research that serves as one of user-generated content and to examine how linguistic aspects of user-generated content influence its impact on readers. Researchers study user-generated content through the lens of language philosophy and psycholinguistic reasoning. The result of this research is the consumer use of figurative language depends on the goal of consumption: consumers use figurative language more to describe hedonic consumption than utilitarian consumption. Our conversational norms analysis supports hypothesis 3b, which ties figurative language usage to conversational norm adherence. The replicating of the results of experiment 3 and supporting hypothesis 4, we also find in this experiment that the extremity of review significantly affects the figurativeness of language used to describe hedonic experiences, but not utilitarian experiences. The article contributes to research in language behavior and communication by investigating conversational norms as a possible antecedent of the use and effectiveness of figurative language in natural consumer communication.

The third was taken from a thesis by Maula (2013) entitled *“A Analysis of Figurative Language on the poems entitled ‘Classic poetry series’ by William Blake”* in this thesis he analyzes the figurative language on the poems entitled ‘classic poetry series’ by William Blake. His study used a descriptive qualitative method to classify and analyze the data based on the theory of figurative language proposed by Knickerbocker and Reninger (1963) and also the theory of meaning proposed by Leech (1881-9-23). The total types of figurative language that he found in this study were 5 of simile, 3 of personification, 5 of metaphor, 2 of synecdoche, 1 of hyperbole, 1 of paradox, and 1 of allusion.

The fourth was taken from a thesis by Hasanah (2018) entitled *“Analysis of Figurative Language Used in Some Oscar Wilde’s Poems”*. The purpose of this study is to explain the types of figurative language used in Oscar Wilde’s poem and to explain the contextual meaning of each figurative language in Oscar Wilde’s poem. His study used a descriptive qualitative method to classify and analyze the data based on the theory of figurative language proposed by Knickerbocker and Reninger (1963) and also the theory of meaning proposed by Leech (1981). The total types of figurative language that were found in this study were 3 of personification, 5 of hyperbole, 2 of synecdoche, 1 of metaphor, 1 of simile, 1 of symbol, and 1 of metonymy.

The last was taken from a thesis by Maria Racici (2020) entitled *An Analysis of Figurative Language found on Emily Dickinson Poems*. His study has two aims, namely to

describe the types and to identify the meaning of figurative language that is found on Emily Dickinson poems.

His study used a descriptive qualitative method to classify and analyze the data based on the theory of figurative language proposed by Knickerbocker and Reninger (1963) and also the theory of meaning proposed by Leech (1981). The total types of figurative language that he found in this study were 5 of simile, 3 of personification, 5 of metaphor, 2 synecdoche, 1 of hyperbole, 1 of paradox, and 1 of allusion.

## Method

The research method that was used in collecting the data: the writer used a qualitative method. The data that was used in this study were taken from the Victor Hugo poems. In collecting the data, the researcher did some steps, such as; reading the poems carefully and repeatedly to find the content, identify figurative language in the poems, and taking note of figurative language found. The theory of this study is divided into two parts: the first is to find out the types of figurative language by the theory of Knickerbocker and Reninger (1974), and the second is to analyze the meaning of figurative language proposed by Leech (1974).

## Result and Discussion

The poems of Victor Hugo use some figurative language. The most type found is personification. This figurative language also has certain meaning which can be categorized as conceptual meaning and connotative meaning. The results of this study are explained by the tables below:

**Table 1 the types of figurative language in Victor Hugo poems.**

No	Data	Meaning
1.	Laid the floral mar quoetry, Red and gold and blue	Connotative meaning
2.	Hand that are unconscious, Not afraid not worried	Connotative meaning
3.	From dragons squatting in green jungle	Connotative meaning
4.	And never mine then who was so happy, Looking for a bird that saluted that day	Conceptual meaning
5.	From you dark and lonely tomb, a haunted bird will gaze up on new sunrise as brightly	Connotative meaning
6.	Lying on curvy slipper	Connotative meaning

There are 6 data personification found in 6 poems. The objects that are given human characteristics are inanimate and living creature object, such as plant and animal. These data have 2 types of meaning, out of 10 types of meaning proposed by Leech (1974). Those meaning are conceptual meaning and connotative meaning. Meanwhile, for the types of meaning, the most dominant is the connotative meaning with occurrence of 5 data.

## **Discussion**

According to Knickerbocker and Reninger (1974). Personification is a figure a speech that gives human characteristics to an object, animal, or abstract.

### **Data 1:**

*Laid the floral mar quoetry,  
Red and gold and blue.*

(Medaline, line 8,9/ stanza 2)

This data belongs to personification because there is human attribute given in an object. The human attribute is laying and given to an object, flower. Flower according to cambridge means part of a plant that is generally beautiful in appearance and ives off and aromatic aroma and laid or it is infinitive ‘lay’ means wonderful person. This action is usually done by human.

Based on the theory proposed by Leech (1974: 14) this sentence was classified into connotative meaning. According to Leech (1974: 14) connotative meaning is the expression of communication value based on the signified, and hiher. The meaning of the line above that the poem writer describes the meaning of each person’s life.

### **Data 2:**

*Hand that are unconscious  
Not afraid not worried*

(The watching angel, line 1,2/ stanza 7)

Next, the above expression is so personification because the author gives the “hand” that has ability to “hold” with another human characteristic which is “unconscious” . In other words, the author give additional human abilities. The sentence is suggesting that the hand are

having an ability to unconscious. As it is known, hand is the human part of body that helps human to do the activities. The use of personification is to emphasize a point and much more powerful as well as interesting.

According to theory of meaning proposed by Leech (1974), the sentence above conveys connotative meaning. The sentence seems to conveys meaning as the writer express a statement which cannot be taken literally as in “Hand that are unconscious” since hand are organ of the visual system. The writer suggests that an hand can witness many about his life. Meanwhile, the writer tells more about the his love journey to his lover.

**Data 3:**

*From dragons squatting in green jungle*

( The Grandmother, line 1/stanza )

The poet personifies the “dragons squatting” by giving it human activity which makes dragons seems alive. Actually the dragons squatting or animals are the outermost green like leaves or brownish this section serves to protect the crown during budding and flee is run or hurry away from escape. Then, the word “squatting” is one of humans abilities. Hence, the writer uses personification in this line

This sentence was classified into connotative meaning, since the sentence above bring beyond from the literal. In this case the poet comparing dragons squatting away refers to his mother who had abandoned him. The dragon squatted from the meaning of this sentence is the poet describing his mother as dragon who always prays for those from heaven.

**Data 4:**

*And never mine then who was so happy*

*Looking for a bird that saluted that day*

(Morning life, line 3/stanza 2)

The expression above is considered personification it expresses that “bird” can share something with humans although we know bird can only share with their family or fellow bird. Then, the word “saluted” is also personified because it has ownership of a day, which is like a human quality. Based on the whole expression above, the author probably wants to convey that he is saluted in the of day.

Leech (1974: 13), stated that conceptual meaning is widely considered to be central factor in linguistic communication and can be demonstrated as an integral part of language part of the important function of language in such a way that other types of meaning are not.

Based on Leech's statement, the poem above classified containing conceptual meaning since the words "bird" above refers to the real bird or not to associate with other objects besides birds

**Data 5:**

*From you dark and lonely tomb, a haunted bird will gaze up on new sunrise as brightly*

(Morning life, line 3/ stanza 2)

The expression above is considered personification because it expresses that "haunted bird" cannot share something with humans even though owls can only share it with other haunted bird, in this case the word "sunrise" is one of the most beautiful sights that we can feel because of having a vivid color, which is like human quality. Based on all these expressions, the writer may have wanted convey that he shone brightly in the midst of nature.

This sentence was classified into connotative meaning, since the sentence above bring beyond from the literal. "a haunted bird will gaze up on new sunrise a brightly." The above sentence is illogical because outthinks that the moon always look at him. As we know that the moon is a celestial object that lights up the earth at noon, the above reference to the poet feels that the thinks the sun is always looking at him.

**Data 6:**

*Over the mountain pass, through the silence of the beautiful*

*And the crashing of the stricken river.*

(The lover's wish, line 1,2/stanza 4)

The line above considers as personification because it considers mountain which is an inanimate object can do human activity like "beautiful". The poem writer personifies the mountain like humans who can stare at it. According to Oxford dictionary "mountain" is part of the earth's surface that rise higher than those surrounding.

This sentence was classified into connotative meaning, because the sentence above brings beyond from the literal. "The mountain pass through the silence of the beautiful". The above is illogical because poet thinks that mountain is an object that adorns the earth daily, the above reference to the poet feels that he thinks of it as always putting beauty on him.



### **Data 7:**

*Lying on curvy slippers*

(The favorite sultana, line 1,2/ stanza 5)

The data 7 above is shown as personification because the author gives the “lying” that has ability to “body” with another human characteristic which is “slipper” that mostly done by “foot”. In other the words, the author gives lying additional human abilities. The sentence is suggesting that the ability r that it has the ability to pause from an activity to wish well in this line for the writer considers it as refreshing body and mind. As we know lying is to pause from routine or activity.

According to theory of meaning proposed by Leech (1974), the sentence above conveys connotative meaning. The sentence seem to convey meaning as the writer express a statement which cannot be taken literally as in “lying on curvy slipper” since lying are simply a break from a routine or activity in progress. The writer suggests that an lying can feel fresh in body and mind or hence, the writer assures the reader by such fanciful thoughts.

### **Conclusion**

Personification is mostly used in this poem compared to another types of figurative language. It is usually give human attribute to innimate object and living creature, such as plants or animals. The personification on the sentences have two meaning those are concetual meaning and connotative meaning. The types of meaning that mostly convey in the data is connotattive.

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