

# SIMILE, HYPERBOLE, PERSONIFICATION AND METAPHOR USED IN GAYLE FORMAN'S *IF I STAY*

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## ABSTRACT

Novel is one type of literary works. Novel as a fiction offers an imaginative world that is not much different with the reality. In process of writing, the authors use figurative language to convey the ideas. The use of appropriate figurative language will give the effect of aesthetic, so the readers will be more interested to know and imagine what the actual meaning from that figurative language which is conveyed. This research focuses on investigating the four kinds of figurative language, they are simile (clear and unclear similarity), hyperbole, personification and metaphor in the novel entitled *If I Stay* by Gayle Forman. The aims of this research are to find out the characteristics of simile (clear and unclear similarity), hyperbole, personification, and metaphor and to find out the most frequently figure of speech category used in *If I Stay's* novel. The study uses a descriptive qualitative method in analyzing the figures of speech in the *If I Stay's* novel. As the conclusion, clear similarity has characteristics like there are vehicle, tenor, connector (*like, as such, etc*), and contain the details of the similarity, while unclear similarity has characteristics which there are vehicle, tenor, connector (*like, as such, etc*), and do not contain the details of the similarity. Hyperbole has the characteristic that is overstatement or say something much bigger than the real. Personification has the characteristic that is human being or gives human attributes to nonhuman. The characteristics of metaphor which there are vehicle and tenor but there isn't connector (*like, as such, etc*). From the four kinds of figures of speech are taken to be analysis, there are 169 times of figurative language occurrence, 74 times (44%) of simile, 72 times (43%) of hyperbole, 12 times (7%) of personification and 11 times (6%) of metaphor. The most dominant figurative language category used in this novel is simile.

**Keywords:** Figurative Speech, Simile, Hyperbole, Personification, Metaphor.

## 1. INTRODUCTION

### 1.1 Background of the Research

Novel is one type of literary works. In a novel, it is very closely related with the use of language which can interest of the reader and it has a very important role as a media for the author to convey the ideas. According to Fowler (in Waluyo, 1994:139) states that the element of language is the most important element in a novel. Figurative

language is one part from the field of language. The use of figure of speech in novel is an important factor for the authors to convey their ideas and make the readers will be more interested to read that novel. Because the use of appropriate figure of speech will give the effect of aesthetic in the novel. On wide definition, figure of speech can be said as a way to show something in the different way. But on the narrow-definition, figure of speech is a

language or expression which is different from what has been expressed.

Figure of speech is a way of expressing thoughts or feelings in spoken or written form by using figurative words, so it can show the soul and personality of the author, produce a clear understanding, of interest to the reader. Pradopo (in Endraswara, 2001:72) states that the value of art literary style is determined by figure of speech. The reach of figure of speech is very broad, not only words but also covers issues a series of words that include phrases, clauses, sentences, and discourse as a whole (Keraf, 2004: 112) including proficiency author in choosing expressions that determine the success of beauty, and the plausibility of literary work which is the result of the expression self (Suyuti, 1997: 110). Figure of speech uses in literary writing, should touch feelings, emotions based on image of things seen, and actions experienced.

Based on this background, the writer would like to analyze figure of speech in novel entitled "If I Stay" by Gayle Forman. It is a novel which presents story of romance, struggle, ambition, imagination and brings atmosphere of a modern fairy tales. It is the girl while in a coma following an automobile accident that killed her parents and younger brother, seventeen-year-old Mia as main character, a gifted cellist, weighs whether to live with her grief or join her family in death. The reason is selected from aspect figure of speech, because after reading this novel, the writer finds figure of speech is used by the author to convey every her idea. Figure of speech that is used to create a particular effect or give the imaginative impression to the reader or listener. There are many kinds figure of speech in novel entitled *If I Stay*. And the writer limits the figure of speech only on four kinds in this research. They are simile, hyperbole, personification and metaphor are going to analyze.

## 1.2 Previous Research

### 1.2.1 Regina Septianie (2012)

In her thesis in 2012 "Metafora Pada Judul-Judul Novel Teenlit". She analysed and described the meaning of metaphore on the titles of teenlit's novel by Gagas Media.

### 1.2.2 Lilis Suryani (2012)

In her thesis in 2012 "The Analysis of Figurative Language and Education Values on Marry Lynn Baxter's Novel Entitled Priceless", she analyses the kinds of figurative language in that novel, to find out type figurative language mostly used, and to discover the educational values in the novel "Priceless" by Mary Lynn Baxter. The types of figurative language which are found are simile, metaphor, personification, synecdoche, metonymy, symbol, allegory, paradox, overstatement and understatement, and irony. And the most frequently of figurative languages in that novel are synecdoche with twenty-two sentences in percentage 35.50%.

### 1.2.3 Asriyanti (2008)

In 2008, she analyzed about figure of speech of the T.S Eliot and Emily Dickinson's poems. The aim of her research is, to know further about figure of speech on both of poem. The research discusses about Eliot's poems and Emily Dickinson. Here, she studies three poems from Eliot and one poem from Emily Dickinson. As the object of the study, they are Aunt Helen, Cousin Nancy, Conversation Galante and If you were coming in fall. On Aunt Helen, Eliot uses hyperbole. On Cousin Nancy, he uses the hyperbole, symbol, and metaphor. Meanwhile, on Conversation Galante, he uses apostrophe, hyperbole, and allusion. Dickinson uses simile, hyperbole, and allusion on If you were coming in the fall.

## 1.3 Position of Research

After the writer read the previous research, it has inspired the writer to find out the characteristics of simile (clear and unclear similarity), hyperbole, personification and metaphor in *If I Stay's* novel and also to find out what the most frequently figure of

speech category that used. This thesis is hoped to give more understanding and more example about simile (clear and unclear similarity), hyperbole, personification, and metaphor to complete the research conducted before.

#### **1.4 Scope of the Research**

This research is focusing only on four kinds of figurative speech in the novel entitled *If I Stay*. They are simile, hyperbole, personification metaphor.

#### **1.5 Problem of the Research**

1. What are the characteristics of simile, hyperbole, personification and metaphor in the novel entitled *If I Stay* by Gayle Forman?
2. What is the most frequently figure of speech category that exist in the novel entitled *If I Stay* by Gayle Forman? Is it simile, hyperbole, personification or metaphor?

#### **1.6 Aims of the Research**

1. To find out the characteristics of simile, hyperbole, personification and metaphor in the novel entitled *If I Stay* by Gayle Forman.
2. To find out the most frequently figure of speech category in the novel entitled *If I Stay* by Gayle Forman.

#### **1.7 Purpose and Significance of Research**

This research is hoped to give some benefits for the readers. For English Department students, this findings are hoped to give a better understanding about figure of speech, especially of simile (clear and unclear similarity), hyperbole, personification, and metaphor in the novel entitled *If I Stay* by Gayle Forman based on explanations and the examples provided, and in this case is based on Gorys Keraf's theory. So, the readers will be able to identify those figures of speech which are taken based on their characteristics and can understand the actual meaning of sentences that contain figure of speech in this novel clearly.

## **2. LITERATURE REVIEW**

### **2.1 Theory of Figures of Speech**

This chapter consists of explanation about theories of figures of speech which found by the writer that are related into this research.

According to X. J. Kennedy (1991:584) gives the statement that "a figure of speech may be said to occur whenever a speaker or writer, for the sake of freshness or emphasis, departs from the usual denotations of words." Then, K. L. Knickerbocker (1963:366) noted that figures and symbol are images used in a particular way to explore the less known through the known. Wren and Martin (1981:488) state, "figure of speech is a departure from the ordinary form of expression or the ordinary course of ideas in order to produce a greater effect." This definition explained that figure of speech related what we called connotative meaning. A Figure of Speech is a word or words are used to create an effect, often where they do not have their original or literal meaning.

Based on all definitions above, the writer concludes that figure of speech are beautiful words, which are used in written language. Because the right use of figure of speech in novel, it can gives aesthetic effect, and also it can make reader to interpret the aim is conveyed by the author based on his literary work.

### **2.2 The Kinds of Figure of Speech**

The figure of speech is emphasized by Gorys Keraf (2001: 113) as a way to express of ideas by using distinctive language that showing of soul and personality's author. In a book Diksi and Gaya Bahasa (2001: 115), Gorys Keraf as the writer classifies the types of figurative language based on two categories namely; non-linguistic terms and in terms of language. In terms of non-linguistic category is divided into seven principal, namely: based on author, time, medium, subject, place, audience, and purpose. While in terms of language, distinguished on four category, namely:

1. The figurative language based on the choice of words.

2. The figurative language based on the tone that is contained in the discourse.
3. The figurative language based on the structure of the sentence.
4. The figurative language based on directly or not directly of the meaning.

In the chapters in, the writer only focuses the theories of figurative language based on the direct or indirect of the meaning which are related to this research.

### **2.2.1 Figurative Language Based on Direct or Indirect of the Meaning**

Stylistic meaning of directly measured from the direct or indirect of meaning, namely whether the referential meaning which is used still to defend the meaning of denotation existing or irregularities. The figure of speech in this section is divided into two categories, namely rhetorical style, which is merely a deviation from the usual construction to achieve a certain effect, and the style of figurative language which is further irregularities, especially in the field of meaning.

There are twenty-one type of figures of speech that included into category style rhetorical, namely: alliteration, asonasi, anastrof, apofasis or preterisio, apostrophes, Asyndeton, polisindeton, kiasmus, ellipsis, eufemismus, litotes, histeron proteron, redundancy and tautology, perifrasis, prolepsis or anticipation, erotesis, silepsis and Zeugma, corrections or epanortosis, paradox, oxymoron and hyperbole.

In this section, the writer only gives the explanation about the theory of hyperbole, which is associated with this research.

#### **2.2.1.1 Hyperbole**

According Gorys Keraf in the book entitled diction and style (2001: 135), *hyperbole is a figure of speech that contains an exaggeration, by exaggerating something or discussed style containing an overstatement.*

Example: - anger already rampant until almost blew me.

According to Wren and Martin (1981:491) state, "*In hyperbole a statement is made emphatic by overstatement*".

Based on explanations stated by the experts above, the writer concludes that hyperbole is kind of figurative language that is used to make the object become bigger than real object so it will give special effect and make the reader more imagine to understand the actual meaning from the sentences include hyperbole some of literary work, like in the novel which is related in this research.

The second category is the style of figurative language, this figure of speech was formed based on comparisons or similarities. Compare something with something else, try to find traits that show similarities between the two. In this category there are sixteen kinds of figures of speech at, namely: simile, metaphor, allegory (parables, and fables), personification, allusion, eponymous, epithet, sinekdoke, metonymy, antonomasia, hipalase, irony (cynicism and sarcasm), satire, inuendo, antifrasis and paranomasia. In this section, the writer only gives the explanation of the theory of simile, metaphor and personification related to this research.

#### **2.2.1.2 Simile**

According to Gorys keraf in the book entitled diction and style (2001: 138), *Simile is a comparison that is explicit.* What is meant by the comparison that is explicit is that it implies the same thing with another thing. To that end, it requires an effort that explicitly indicates that similarity, the words: like, same, as, like, like, and so on.

Based on explanations stated by the experts above, the writer concludes that simile is kind of figure of speech that compare two things conveyed obviously by words; like, as, such, etc. In one theory of simile, there are two categories of simile, they are clear and unclear similarity. The writer concludes that clear similarity is comparison between two things conveyed obviously that also contain the details of

similarity. While unclear similarity is comparison between two things conveyed obviously that doesn't contain the details of the similarity.

### 2.2.1.3 Metaphor

According to Gorys Keraf in the book entitled diction and style (2001: 139), "*metaphor is a kind of analogy that compares two things, but in the form of a short*", for examples the words or sentences which are in Gorys Keraf's book: *bunga bangsa, buaya darat, buah hati, cinderamata*, and so on. Metaphor as a comparison is not using the word: *like, as, such, and so on*, so that the first subject directly connected to the second principal.

Based on the explanations stated by the experts above, the writer concludes that metaphor is one kind of figure of speech that as comparison between things that are not conveyed obviously.

### 2.2.1.4 Personification

According to Gorys Keraf theory in the book entitled diction and style (2001: 140), "*personification is a kind of style of figurative language that describes inanimate objects or goods lifeless as if it has characteristics-humanity*." Personification is a special feature of metaphor, which make an analogy of inanimate objects act, talk, like humans.

Examples:

*The wind roaring in the middle of a dark night it adds another of our fears.*

As with simile and metaphor, personification contains an element of the equation. If the metaphor (as a general term) to make a comparison with something else, then the personification other things that are inanimate objects that act and act like a human being, or human disposition. Principal who compared it as if the human form, both in behavior, mood, and other human disposition.

The point of the personification is to express the abstract ideas to inanimate objects, or aspects of nature is described as if it were human.

## 2.3 Language and Style

Language is a system of words and rules for their use in speaking, reading, and writing. Besides, language is a systematic use of vocabulary set, including the set rules for the formation and transformation admissible expression. According to LA Richards in the book 'Literary Terms and Criticism' written by John Peck and Martin Coyle (1993:150), he said that there are distinction between 'ordinary' language which can be defined as language that refers to such things as newspaper reports, where the emphasis on conveying information; and the other is 'literary' language which is language that used in an 'emotive' way - that is, in a skillful way to arouse and emotional response in the reader.

## 2.4 The Elements of Figurative Language

### 2.4.1 Integrity

Integrity in language means; we follow the rules, rules are good and right in the language. The use of the words unclear and undirected, and also the use of convoluted sentences, is the way to get unintegrity.

### 2.4.2 Courteous

Courteous give an award or honor the people who talk to, especially the listener or reader. Respect in the style of language is manifested through clarity and brevity.

Clarity will thus be measured in following rules, namely:

1. Clarity in correspondence with the facts revealed through words or sentences earlier;
2. Clarity in sequencing ideas logically;
3. Clarity in the use of metaphors and comparisons.

Brevity is often far more effective than also the use of convoluted sentences. Brevity can be achieved through efforts to use words efficiently, eliminating the use of two or more words are synonymous loosely, to avoid tautology; or hold unnecessary repetition.

Between clarity and brevity as a measure of courtesy, the principle of clarity still far more than the principle of brevity.

### 2.4.1 Interesting

Therefore, a figurative speech should also be interesting. An attractive figure of speech can be measured through the following parts: variation, that healthy humor, the sense of excellence, {vitality} and fanciful imagination.

From the explanation above, it can be concluded that language define things of what someone is trying to express to someone else. While style itself represent the writer's characteristic to others. So there points which get from learn figurative speech, it can be a concrete image and sensuous, figurative speech be expression that's not only as informative but make it has the strong emotion and also has attitude, then figurative speech shows the beauty of imaginative. Perrine (1977:69) states that figurative speech be a language is different with prose language and daily language.

## 3. RESEARCH METHODOLOGY

### 3.1 Research Method

The method design of this research is descriptive qualitative to collect, analyze, interpret, explain of data and ended with a conclusion which does refer on that analyzing of datas. The descriptive qualitative research that is qualitative research. The data will be interpreted with words or sentences and explanation. Based on the method is used that purpose to discuss the problem of research in this research, which intends describing the characteristics of figure of speech in novel entitled *If I Stay* by Gayle Forman and relation of those figures of speech with the elements of figures of speech based on theory., and also finding which is the most frequent figure of speech that exist in the *If I Stay's* novel.

### 3.2 Source of the Data

The source of the data is taken from the novel entitled *If I Stay* by Gayle Forman that published by the Penguin Group (USA) LLC 375 Hudson Street, New York, 2014.

### 3.3 Techniques of Collecting Data

In collecting data, the writer took the following steps:

- Reading the novel entitled *If I Stay* by Gayle Forman.
- Finding the sentences or words which include as figure of speech. In this part the writer limits four kinds of figurative language. They are simile (divided into clear and unclear similarity), hyperbole, personification and metaphor.
- Underlining those figures of speech sentences or words.

Putting all sentences which use the figure of speech sentences that have been concluded into simile (clear and unclear similarity), hyperbole, personification, and metaphor into big table.

### 3.4 Techniques of Analyzing Data

The following points are steps of analyzing the data:

1. Classifying the collected data according to its characteristics, whether they are included into simile (clear and unclear similarity), hyperbole, personification, or metaphor.
2. Classifying the collected data according to the good elements of figurative language, whether they are included into integrity, courteous or interesting.
3. Analyzing the data based on Gorys Keraf's theory.

Presenting those figures of speech by chart to know which is the most frequent that exist in the novel of *If I Stay*.

## 4. RESULT AND DISCUSSION

### 4.1 Introduction

This chapter provides the findings of the research, they are example of figures of speech sentences that have been collected and analyzed from every figure of speech's characteristics. From the data available, then the writer only focuses on four kinds of figurative language which are analyzed. They are simile, hyperbole, personification and

metaphor. For simile, based on theory the writer divide the data into clear and unclear similarity.

## **4.2 Analysis the Characteristics of Simile, Hyperbole, Personification and Metaphor in Gayle Forman's Novel which is entitled *If I Stay***

Clear similarity has the characteristic that there are vehicle, tenor, connector (like, as such, etc) and contain the details of the similarity. Then unclear similarity has the characteristic that there are vehicle, tenor, connector (like, as such, etc) and don't contain the details of the similarity. Hyperbole has the characteristic that overstatement or say something much bigger than real. Personification has the characteristic that like human being. Metaphor has the characteristic that there are vehicle and tenor but there isn't connector (like, as such, etc).

### **4.2.1 Simile**

#### **4.2.1.1 Clear Similarity**

*I find Mom next. There's almost no blood on her, but her lips are already blue and the whites of her eyes are completely red, like a ghoul from a low-budget monster movie. She seems totally unreal.* (Page 16)

The above sentence is categorized as simile, figure of speech is found in the above sentence shows the comparison between two things "There's almost no blood on her, but her lips are already blue and the whites of her eyes are completely red (vehicle)" and "a ghoul (tenor)" from a low - budget monster movie by using comparison word 'like.' The comparison itself is an explicit comparison the word 'like' has function as connector which compare those two different things. And the above sentence can be classified into clear similarity, because the point of similarity is mention explicitly meaning in the above sentence. The point of similarity is 'she seems totally unreal', this statement make clear that position a ghoul related with something which seems totally unreal.

#### **4.2.1.12 Unclear Similarity**

*"Dad," I call, but as I walk toward him, the pavement grows slick and there are gray chunks of what looks like cauliflower.* (Page 16)

The simile above evokes the reader's mind to cause special effect in the above sentence; figure of speech found in the above sentence shows the comparison between two things "the pavement grows slick and there are gray chunks" and "cauliflower" by using comparison word 'looks like'. In this condition the writer tells about that accident has happened. The car is eviscerated, it tore off the doors, sent the front-side passenger seat through the driver's-side window. It tossed wheels and hubcaps deep into the forest. And there was so much noise, an aria of exploding, and finally, the sad clapping of hard metal cutting into soft trees. Then it went quiet, except for this; Beethoven's Cello Sonata no 3, still playing. The car radio somehow still is attached to a battery and so Beethoven is broadcasting into the once again tranquil February morning. The shape of car isn't even a car anymore, it's a metal skeleton, without seats, without passengers. Which means the rest of her family must have been thrown from the car like her. The she saw Dad first, even from several feet away, she can make out the protrusion of the pipe in his jacket pocket. But when she walks toward him, the pavement grows slick and there are gray chunks of what looks like cauliflower. That describe the condition around her father, that he is seriously injured. Her father's blood in every side of road and that's make the pavement grows slick, before he took to hospital to get medicine.

#### **4.2.2 Hyperbole**

Here are some analysis of hyperbole in the novel entitled *If I Stay* by Gayle Forman.

*I wake up this morning to a thin blanket of white covering our front lawn.* (Page 3)

The above sentence is categorized as hyperbole, because the sentence of a thin blanket of white covering our front lawn shows an overstatement sentence. In the true meaning it was on morning at

07.09 pm, Mia just got up and when she opened the window she saw snow on everyplace like on her front lawn. Even though it isn't even an inch, but in this part of Oregon a slight dusting brings everything to a standstill as the one snowplow in the country gets busy clearing the roads. A thin blanket of white covering that's another words for Mia expresses of snow. The hyperbolic sentence catch attention to show something with said more the reality. That sentence doesn't tell the purpose directly.

#### 4.2.3 Personification

*Dad has to turn the ignition over a few times before the car chokes to life.* (Page 13)

In the above sentence, "car chokes" is personified as having emotion as human that can feel as if it can hope and has feeling. Logically, the car doesn't chokes, it means to describe the condition of car. It is kind of car which is a rusting Buick that was already old when Grand gave it to them after Teddy was born. This sentence just to show how is old that car so even want to turn on , their Dad has to turn the ignition over a few times before that car is ready to drive. "The car chokes" is an abstract and it is inanimate in that sentence. Because as we know based on theory, figurative speech of personification that express the abstract ideas to inanimate objects, or aspects of nature is described as if it were human. In the true meaning the above sentence just to mentioned the condition of old car, so the driver has to carefully when turn on that car.

#### 4.2.4 Metaphor

*"Drama queen," is how Kim puts it.* (Page 64)

In the above sentence, the writer describes implicit comparison, by comparing "Kim's mother" with "Drama queen". In this case, the word 'drama queen' describes Kim's mother, she doesn't let Kim drive long distance , and Mia guesses that after what's happened, there's no way she'd make an exception today. That sentence also

tells Mrs. Schein is red-faced and blotchy, like she's been crying or is about to cry. She knows this because she has seen her cry many times. She's very emotional, so Kim called her 'drama queen'. It's the Jewish-mother gene. She can't help it. Kim supposes she'll be like that one day, too.

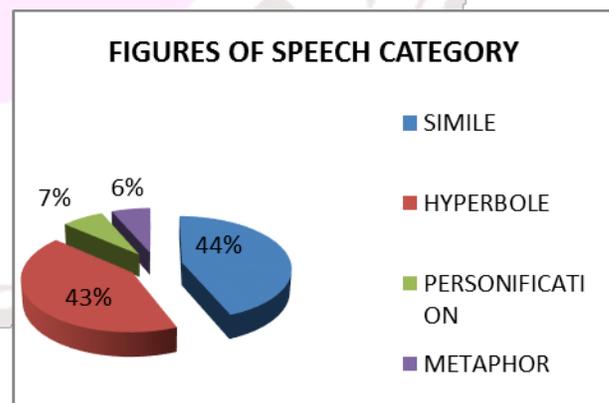
The figure of speech describes about Kim's mother, sometimes Kim's mother is kind and another times she isn't good. So why Kim give that comparison old drama queen to her Mom. Her mom often forbid to something what Kim done.

#### 4.3 Figurative Speech Category

Figurative Speech Category	
Simile	74
Hyperbole	72
Personification	12
Metaphor	11
Total	169

Based on the findings, the most figurative speech often used in Gayle Forman's *If I Stay* is simile with 74 times.

Then this chart below presents the frequency of figurative speech words and sentences occurrence found in the novel entitled *If I Stay* by Gayle Forman.



## 5. CONCLUSION AND FUTURE RESEARCH

### 5.1 Conclusion

Figure of speech can be recognized through several characteristics. From the four kinds of simile, hyperbole, personification, metaphor figure of speech which are analyzed, the writer gives conclusion that clear similarity has the characteristic like there are vehicle, tenor, connector, (*like, as such, etc*) and contain the details of the similarity. While unclear similarity has the characteristic which there are vehicle, tenor, connector (*like, as such, etc*), and do not contain the details of the similarity. Hyperbole has the characteristic that is overstatement or say something much bigger than the real. And the personification has the characteristic that is human being or gives human attributes to nonhuman. And the last the characteristic of metaphor, there are vehicle and tenor but there is not connector (*like, as such, etc*).

After giving conclusion about those characteristics, the writer also knows and understands the actual meaning of those sentences that contain figures of speech in the novel entitled *If I Stay* by Gayle Forman.

-There are three elements which include on figure of speech. They are integrity, courteous and interesting. In this part, the writer analyzes the sentences from the novel entitled *If I Stay* that contain those element.

-From the four kinds of figures of speech which are taken to analyze, there are 169 times of figurative speech found 74 times of simile, 72 times of hyperbole, 12 of personification and 11 times of metaphor. The most frequent figure of speech category used in this novel is simile.

### 5.2 Future Research

For the next research, the researcher can analyze other kinds of figures of speech in the novel entitled *If I Stay* by Gayle Forman, because there are still other kinds of figure of speech. So he or she can find kinds of figures of speech which are often used in that novel besides simile, hyperbole, personification and metaphor have been analyzed.

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