Figurative Meaning in Inaugural Speech of Joe Biden

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Abstract

This study aimed to discover and explain the types, lexical meaning and contextual meaning of figurative languages used in Joe Biden's Inaugural speech and this study is hoped to be utilized by further researcher. The data sources used in this study was the inaugural speech of Joe Biden. Inanalyzing the data, the writer used descriptive qualitative research method through semantic approach. Data were obtained by using the techniques of reading, noting, and analyzing. While inclassifying the data, the writer used Keraf's theory of figurative language. In this study, the writeranalyzed the inaugural speech of Joe Biden in order to find and classify the figurative language and the meaning. The results of this study indicate that there were 13figurative language used by Joe Biden. There were 6 types figurative language found in the speech consists of six metonym, one synecdoche, two simile, one epithet, two metaphor and one allusion. There were 26 meanings of the data consists of13 contextual meanings of the data which the meanings based from the context where the language is used. And 13 lexical meanings of the data were the meanings found in online dictionary.

Keywords; Types, Meaning, Figurative Language, Speech

1. INTRODUCTION

Language is the main medium for human communication. Language is something that everyone must know for their life. Owens (2006), describes that language can be defined as a conventional system or code which represent concepts using arbitrary symbols.

Human language can be studied through linguistics. Richards and Schmidt (2002) defines linguistics as a scientific study of human language and its function as communication tool. The term semantics itself has existed since the 17th century when considered through the phrase semantics philosophy.

Figurative language is a form oflanguage use whose meaning deviates from ordinary language usage, standard language, or word order in language for the purpose of obtaining a certain effect, is the effect of beauty Nurgiyantoro, (2014).Wibisono (2019) states figurative language is language which uses figures of speech (a way of saying one thing and meeting another).

In delivering a speech, a person must have some messages or known as coda that they wanted to tell to the audience. Figurative language is a device to make a language sound more beautiful and it is often used in speech in order to make it more interesting for the audience, to tell something in polite way, to make the language simple, to bring out emotions and help the listener form images in their mind and so on. The use of figurative language in speech is very important because through figurative language people will be able to express their intention with more style with beautiful language and clear so the listener will easily remember and understand the messages from the speech.

2.   LITERATURE REVIEW

In conducting this research, the writer used some previous studies as references and to support the research. The writer also utilized some other sources such as articles and books that related to this study.

2.1.   Previous Studies

In conducting this research, the writerselected five related previous study as references for this research.

Nurhaida, (2017) studied Online Padang Ekspres Newspaper.The writer collected data by downloading opinion column of online Padang Ekspres Newspaper. In analyzing the data, the writer groups the data into specific types and the result of this research, the writer only found three types of figurative language, they are metaphor, simile, and personification.

Hariyanto (2017) studied the lyric of firework by Katy Perry.The design of this research is descriptive qualitative research. The data of song is got from kapanlagi.com entitled fireworkand the result found that there were some kinds of figurative language used in Katy perry's song entitle firework, such as simile, metaphor, hyperbole, affiliation, symbolic, paradox, and personification.

Rohani (2018) studied the Jakarta Post.In this study the writer used descriptive qualitative research method. From the data analysis of figurative lexiconsfound in "feature", this study uncovered that the most type of figurative language used was simile at the frequency of use close to thirty five percent (35%).

Trisna(2016) studiedPaulo Coelho's novel Entitled "The Alchemist".The data collection used the following steps: reading the novel, and then selecting the data that used the types of figurative language. While the steps to analyze the data are identifying the types of figurative language according to Leech, identifying the contextual meaning of the figurative language, and the last is interpreting the data.The result are 30 or 42,9% of simile, 27 or 38,6% of personification, 12 or 17,1% of methapor, and 1 or 1,4% of hyperbole.

Marlinton (2018) studied Edgar Allan Poe's Poems.Descriptive qualitative method was used to classify and analyze the data and the technique used in collecting the data was library research. Meanwhile, in analyzing the data, the writer applied qualitative descriptive. There were 96 data of figurative language found in the poems. The meaningswere classified into 42 connotative meanings, 30 social meanings, 16 reflected and 8 collocative meanings.

From the previous studies above, the writerwere interested to conduct research in order to discover more about figurative languages especially from formal text such as speech in order to give more comprehension about figurative language to other students and the readers of this research.

2.2.   Research Theory

The word Semantics comes from Greek Sema (noun) 'sign': or from the verb Samaino 'to mark', 'to mean'. The term is used by linguists to refer to the part of linguistics that studies meaning.The term semantics itself has existed since the 17th century when considered through the phrase semantics philosophy. The history of semantics can be read in the article "*An Account of the Word Semantics*" Walker (1948).

In this research, the writeranalyzed the figurative language based on Keraf's perception. Keraf (2009) mentioned 16 kinds of figurative language, they were: simile, metaphor, allegory, personification, allusion, eponym, epithet, synecdoche, metonym, antonomasia, hipflask or hipalase, irony, satire, innuendo, antiphrasis, and paronomasia.

Speech is a feature of daily life that we rarely pause to define it. It seems as natural to man as walking, and only less so than breathing. Yet it needs but a moment's reflection to convince us that this naturalness of speech is but an illusory feeling.Sapir (1921)

3.   METHODS

The type of the research is qualitative research. The qualitativeresearch is procedure which results in descriptive data including written and oral word from the research objectives whether it was from society or books. The writer studied the meaning and classification of figurative meaning. The method wouldhelp the writer to describe the data in the form of words and then use the text of Joe Biden's speech as the object of analysis.

The data sources of this research was from Joe Biden's Inaugural Speech which was delivered in 20th January 2021. There are two data sourcesin this research. The primary data will be selected from Joe Biden's Inaugural Speech which is a video with twenty two minutes and thirty two seconds long, then secondary data is the relevant information which related to the topic.

The speech of Joe Biden was read by the writerand then, the words that were related to figurative language would be identified. In identifying the data, the writer used Keraf's theory about 16 kinds of figurative language they are simile, metaphor, allegory, personification, allusion, eponym, epithet, synecdoche, metonym, antonomasia, hipflask or hipalase, irony, satire, innuendo, antiphrasis, and paronomasia. The words that identified as figurative language were bolded then, finally identified the types of the figurative languages found in the speech.

4.   RESULTS

In accordancewith the objective of this study, the writer divides the data findingsinto two parts. The first is the types of figurative language foundin Joe Biden's inaugural speech. The following is a list of the types of figurative language

4.1   Types of Figurative Language In Joe Biden's Inaugural Speech

The writer found 13 data of figurative in this research. The data consists of 6 types of figurative language which were metonym, synecdoche, simile, epithet, Metaphor and allusion

4.1.1 Metonym

Data 1: *Democracy is fragile* usually the word fragile is used for things that made of glass but in this phrase, this word used to explain how sensitive democracy is and this is what makes it metonym. Contextually this phrase means that Democracy is something sensitive and could easily be broken.

Data 2: *Transfer of power*,the contextual meaning of this data is Change of a position and the power mentioned is a position as president of America. The word power is the metonym of position.thewriter concludes this because after reading and understanding the context that this speech is the initial speech for the new presidency which has replaced the previous president.

Data 3: *Restore the soul*, this figurative language is a metonym because the word Soulis closely related to something inside or internal. This figurative language means To fix what is wrong logically a country or a nation is not a living creature so it does not have a soul. Soul here means the internal of America and the whole meaning is to restore the messy internal of United States of America.

Data 4: *Ugly reality*, this figurative language is metonym because this phrase uses the word Ugly to explain a bad reality. The contextual meaning of this phrase is Bad reality

because the president mentioned racism after this phrase which indicates that the reality is about racism.

Data 5: *Red against blue*, this figurative language is metonym because the word Red and Blue represent two different sides in a civil war. This figurative language means Civil war between two sides of American citizens it can be racial, or any other sensitive aspects that could cause a civil war.

Data 6: *We need a hand*, this figurative language is a metonym because this phrase use the word Hand to replace Help. As a whole this phrase means We need a help. As what Biden said that there will be days when we need other person and others will need us.

4.1.2 Synecdoce

Data 7: *Comes from planet itself*, this data is a synecdoche totem pro parte because the word Planet, represents America. The word planet here only refers to whole America not the whole earth as a planet that's why this data is synecdoche. It can be said that the contextual meaning of this data is from the nation itself.

4.1.3 Simile

Data 8: *Like a foolish fantasy*, this data falls into the simile category. Simile is a figurative language that compares two things. Like a foolish fantasy means Something impossible or a foolish thought so the president biden gives a contrasting comparison for those who believe and do not believe that he will reunite America. So it can be concluded that the meaning of this phrase is something impossible to do.

Data 9: *Something like a song*, the type of this figurative language is simile because there is a comparison of two different things in this phrase. The contextual meaning of this phrase is something similar to. The meaning of this phrase can be seen clearly because the surface meaning is what the narrator is trying to deliver.

4.1.4 Epithet

Data 10: *Better angels*, this figurative language is an epithet because the word Angels represents human kindness. The contextual meaning of this figurative language is Better behaviour. The president were talking about humanity and how it always won when he mentioned this figurative language and after elaborating the meaning with the context, the writer come up with such a conclusion.

4.1.5 Metaphor

Data 11: *Lower the temperature*, this figurative language is a metaphor because the word Temperature represent the condition of America's chaotic democracy right before president Biden got elected. The contextual meaning of this phrase is To Make the situation more calm. It can be proves by what easily because the figurative meaning can be interpreted easily from the lexicall meaning

Data 12: *Be a raging a fire*, this type of figurative language is a metaphor because this figurative language ilustrates how dangerous politics can be just like a raging fire which can burn anything that is how dangerous politics is andthats the characteristic of metaphor which used words that were not closely related to the realmeaning. The contextual meaning of this figurative language is Violent. President Biden explains that politics should not be something dangerous and destroying everything on its path and ilustrating it with the phrase Raging fire.

4.1.6 Allusion

Data 13: *Broken land*, the type of this figurative language is an allusion because an allusion used other word with similar conditions to the real word. In this data, the word Broken is the word that made the data allusion. The use of the word Broken here is to replace the word poor. This figurative language consists of two words the first is Broken, a verb means having been fractured or damaged and no longer in one piece or in working order. The second is Land a noun means the part of the earth's surface that is not covered by water, as opposed to the sea or the air. The word that makes this data an allusion is Broken. After analyzing the data and read the context, the writer concludes that the contextual meaning of this phrase is Poor Land.

4.2   Meaning of the Figurative Language in Joe Biden's Inaugural Speech

The data were found that delivering his speech, Joe Biden used 13 figurative language in order to make his speech more polite. It can be seen from how he changed some rude words with other words similar to it. There were 6 types figurative language found in the speech consists of six metonym, one synecdoche, two simile, one epithet, two metaphor and one allusion. There were 26 meanings of the data consists of 13 contextual meanings of the data which the meanings based from the context where the language is used. And 13 lexical meanings of the data were the meanings found in online dictionary.

5.   DISCUSSION

The result of analysis shows that there were 6 types of figurative language from 13 data. The writer found that metonym was the most dominant data that appear in Joe Biden's inaugural speech with 6 data which are: *Democracy is fragile, Transfer of power, Restore the soul, Ugly reality, Red against blue, We need a hand*. Joe Biden used this figurative language to substitute some words with related words in order to illustrate things that are not supposed to be mentioned such as racial and explain situations in America.

Synecdoce (totem pro parte) with 1 data, the data is: *Comes from planet itself.* This figurative language used as explanation of a specific place which was America. According to the definition of synecdoce, this word represents a place as a whole which is the nation of America.

Simile followed with 2 data which are: *Like a foolish fantasy, something like a song.* This figurative language was used as a comparison of two different things. Joe Biden made some comparisons which illustrate how was his feelings to convince the audience about unity and to explain something similar to a song that he heard.

Epithet with 1 data which is: *Better angels.*This figurative language was used to illustrate human attitude. Joe Biden used this figurative language to make it sound more polite not to offend the audience because Biden were talking about attitude which is a sensitive thing.

Metaphor followed with 2 data: *Lower the temperature, Be a raging fire*. These figurative languages were used to describe rude things such as violence and bad situation by using the words that sound more polite.

And followed by allusion with 1 data which is: *A broken land*. This figurative language was used to substitute and explain the condition of America with its internal problems by using other word. This figurative language was used in order to show how Joe Biden felt and sees the condition of America.

Joe Biden used 6 types of figurative language for some intentions such as making his speech sounds polite, to describe things, to show feelings and to convince the audience.

Metonym was dominant among the six types of figurative language found in the inaugural speech of Joe Biden.

6.   CONCLUSION

After reading and analyzing the inaugural speech of Joe Biden, the writer found 13 data of figurative language from the speech consists of6metonym, 1 synecdoche (totem pro parte) , 2 simile, 1Epithet, 3 metaphor. The writer concludes that some of the figurative meaning can be seen from the constituent words or the surface meaning but some needs a deeper understanding about the characteristics of the figurative language itself and understanding the context where the language is used.

In accordance with what has been discussed in the previous chapters in determining a figurative language, it needs to first understand the characteristics of figurative language and the context of the sentence where the figurative language appears. The writer concludes that sometimes the meaning of figurative language relate to the sense or feeling and make a logical analysis. In delivering his speech, Joe Biden used some particular figurative language in order to make his speech more polite. It can be seen from how he changed some rude words with other words similar to it.

For the readers who were interested in studying the figurative language, especially in the literary work, theywere expected to define the meaning of figurative language not only based on the literally or lexically stated, but they have to consider based on the context where the figurative language are used,thereforetheycouldachive a good comprehension in understanding the figurative language.

There are many figurative language found in Joe Biden's inaugural speech but in this research it was limited only to Keraf's theory. Other theory can be used to identify more types of figurative language. There were also some idioms found in the speech that might need a deeper research.

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