

HYPOCRISY AS SEEN THROUGH METAPHOR IN ANNE SEXTON'S "GHOSTS"

Tesa Lonika Barli Putri, Rr. Arielia Yustisiana

¹ English Study Program, Faculty of Letters, Catholic University of Widya Mandala Madiun
email: barli.putri@gmail.com

² Lecturer at Catholic University of Widya Mandala Madiun
email: lia.6606@gmail.com

Abstract

This research analyzes literary work which focused on a poem. This research aimed to describe the metaphor dealing with hypocrisy in the poem entitled "Ghosts" written by Anne Sexton. The research focused on two major purposes: first, to describe the lines which belonged to metaphor dealing with hypocrisy and second, to reveal the theme of bitterness in the poem. Moreover, there were some theories which were used in this research. They were theory of meaning, figure of speech, metaphor, theme, and bitterness. Furthermore, this research had two approaches, that is, structural and formalist approach. The method used in analyzing the data in this research is descriptive –qualitative method. The technique of collecting data in this research was library research. The analysis showed that: there are three hypocrisies which are seen through metaphor in the poem, hypocrisy related to women, men, and children. Moreover, the three metaphors constituted the same theme of the whole poem, that is, bitterness.

Keywords: *Metaphor, Hypocrisy, Theme, Bitterness*

1. INTRODUCTION

People usually can be hypocrite because of certain reasons. Hypocrisy appears is because of condition which is shaped by society. Hypocrisy is the art of survival to get inner desire by pretending as what people's want. Moreover, this research analyses hypocrisy which is revealed through one of poetic devices, that is, metaphor. Meanwhile, this research also reveals metaphor dealing with hypocrisy conducting the theme of bitterness of the poem. Metaphor is found in one of the most popular poems that is entitled "Ghosts" written by Anne Sexton. It is a poem which was published in 1962 as part of her "All My Pretty One" collection. It describes about ghosts who refer as women, men, and children. Furthermore, the writer likes to analyze Anne Sexton's poem entitled "Ghosts" because this poem has a lot of melodious metaphors which describes hypocrisy. Conclusively, the reason why the researcher is interested in Anne Sexton's poem entitled "Ghosts" is because it has special expression of metaphor related to hypocrisy.

Conducting the review of the study, this research uses five theories they are figure of speech, metaphor, meaning, theme and hypocrisy. Moreover, John J. De Boer says the vividness of language can be heightened through the use of figure of speech (1982: 50). It means that the use of figure of speech can explain the language more explicitly. Furthermore, Lakoff argues metaphor is a figure of thought (1994: 6). It means that metaphor is a picture of someone's mind. It also refers to a portrait of someone's cognitive. Meanwhile, Jeffries states that meaning is fundamental to human society and language is one of the primary ways to conveying meaning

(1998: 1). It clarifies that meaning is an essential thing in language to deliver the idea toward people. By meaning, people can understand each other while they deliver their own speech. Kennedy explains that theme is the center, the moving force, the principle of unity (1979: 91). Consequently, theme is a main idea which explains the whole story of the work. As literary device, theme is the central topic or idea explored in a text. Lastly, Hypocrisy is one of the results of emotion from social relationship. Hypocrisy is similar to lie. Unfortunately lie and hypocrisy are bad attitude, but they are often used for certain purposes.

Hypocrisy is the art of affecting qualities for the purpose of pretending to an undeserved virtue. Because individuals and institutions and societies most often live down to the suspicions about them, hypocrisy and its accompanying equivocations underpin the conduct of life. Imagine how frightful truth unvarnished would be (Benjamin F. Martin, "France in 1938," P1 of 1 <http://www.etymonline.com/index.php?term=hypocrisy>, accessed on 25th March 2017).

The explanation above means that hypocrisy is the dexterity of human being in which people can manipulate the other to achieve improperly goal. People use hypocritical approach to convince, yet they try to cover their inner desire. In conclusion, hypocrisy is not about bad attitude but also the way how to trick someone's slyly for achieving her or his goal.

2. RESEARCH METHOD

This research uses two approaches in analyzing the poem; they are structural approach and formalistic approach. The first approach is structural approach. According to Scott in *Five Approaches of Literary Criticism*, structural approach is used to analyze the word constituent. The appreciation and evaluation will be clear and easy to understand, so we will discover the truth (1962: 83). It means that it is necessary to analyze word by word, and also sentence by sentence by using metaphor. The second approach is formalistic approach. Formalistic approach is used to the meaning form a work by giving attention to the form or structure of the poem. Furthermore, Guerin in *A Handbook of Critical Approaches to Literature* states that formalistic approach, an approach with a methodology, with a history, with practitioners, and with some detractors (2005:93-93). It examines the exclusively literary aspects of the work, focusing on the internal workings of the text rather than its external influences.

Besides approach, this research also uses a method to analyze the poem. The method which is used in this research is qualitative method that focuses its explanation descriptively. Boeree explains that qualitative methods

“as the name indicates, are methods that do not involve measurement or statistics. Because the natural sciences have had such resounding success with quantitative methods, qualitative methods are sometimes looked down upon as less scientific. That is, of course, a mistake. Qualitative methods have been in use in philosophy, sociology, and history for centuries, and many of the famous studies we refer to in psychology classes every day were actually qualitative” {*Qualitative Method*. p1 of 1. <http://webspace.ship.edu/>, accessed on October 26th 2016}.

In addition, Glass & Hopkins (1984) argue that descriptive research involves gathering data that describe events and then organizes, tabulates, depicts, and describes the data collection. Here, this article uses qualitative method to analyze the data and uses descriptive way to describe the analysis gradually. This research method also includes data collection and data analysis. The

primary data of the analysis is a poem by Anne Sexton entitled “Ghosts”. This research uses a library research in collecting the data. Djajasudarma states that library research involves relations between a researcher and books as sources of the data (1993: 4). It means that library research is technique to collect the data in written form and printed material.

3. RESULT AND DISCUSSION

There are two kinds of the subchapters which are discussed in this research as follows:

3.1 Describing metaphor dealing with hypocrisy in Anne Sexton’s “Ghosts”.

In this subchapter, the researcher wants to describe the metaphor and its meaning dealing with hypocrisy in Anne Sexton’s “Ghosts”. The subchapter is divided into hypocrisy related to women, men and children.

3.1.1 Hypocrisy related to Women their breasts as limp as killed fish.

This line emphasizes one of hypocrite women’s characteristic that is, breasts. Breasts are the essential things of women. Literally, breasts are very important as the source of baby’s nutrition during infancy. However, breasts can be drawn as hypocrisy of women used as magnetism of people’ pleasure. It describes as sexual concepts which are made by hypocrite women to attract their victims. They use their body to distract people’s attention and get what they want. It is because hypocrite women know that men have imaginations which are strong about nasty mind so that men who saw these women’ breasts will be obsessed and distracted by their lustful consciously. Commonly, they love to seduce other men even they show off their body to catch men’ attention. They prefer to tease men who have mate. They lie to their best friends and seize their lovers heartlessly. So, the men who have been latched onto these women can leave their couple and fall into their embrace easily. Finally, they are cause of broken relationship

Furthermore, breasts are compared to killed fish. It describes women’ despicable which is always radiated from their body. Their betrayal that ruins the friendship is able to create their bad image. The way they seduce other men is regarded by society is very ignoble. Though society thinks that it is ignoble, these women are proud of their badness. It is clarifies that they are who are ignoble does not care about what people say about them even their first intention is to seduce other men. Moreover, their confidence makes their attitude becomes wilder. Their wildness is shown as their hidden betrayal that scrape their surrounding’s feeling. Consequently, these women are never trusted by people.

Moreover, the next line amplifies ghosts as women as follows:

Not witches, but ghosts

“Witches” in the line above are mentioned as the contrast of ghosts who are often taken as synonymous with hypocrite women. It considers that witches are human who have magical power which can transform everything that they want becomes worse than before. In other words, “witches” have bad purpose. Meanwhile, ghosts are the root of evil spirit. It means that witches are not worse than ghosts. Hypocrite women are more dangerous even they are more sadistic than witches. Relating to hypocrite women, it means that these women are the most evil human in the world because they have sly behavior. Hence, they also can be called as the beautiful liar because their sadistic attitude makes people believe that they are humans who are filled by stigma.

In relation to hypocrite women who have breasts, it shows that hypocrite women’s ignoble is their physical appearance such as their breasts to get what they want. They manipulate people by

camouflaging themselves who is looked attractive in surface but is horrific in the deepest heart. Their kindness is a mask to make people feel sympathy toward them. However, behind people's sympathy, these women have already plan to tease and grab their inner desire. Eventually, ghosts are the perfect name to describe hypocrite woman because witches do not have sadistic attitude which is more horrible than ghosts.

Moreover, the last line about metaphor dealing with hypocrisy related to women can be seen as follows:

who come, moving their useless arms

The word "come" in the line above means the situation of hypocrite women who come into their victims' life. Moreover, they come like a ghost who wants to kill every feeling which appears behind them. Further, their friends feel hurt when they see hypocrite women in a distance even they prefer to sheer away from these women. They come to get attentions then they seize everything that they want. The coming of hypocrite women means a resentment which is burning someone's heart. These women always stick out to their target even though they have been considered as the source of ugliness.

Furthermore, the line above describes the useless moving arms. It means that hypocrite women cannot do anything by themselves. They are not independent creatures even they use others as a media to achieve their awful wish. In this case, hypocrite women are the weak women. Because of their weakness, they hunt other people to catch what they dream. They exploit their body to attract people and spell them to do anything as their lust. It is so cruel because exploring other people is a disgraceful action. Furthermore, these kinds of vicious women are very perilous women in the world. Their action is an anathema for other to harm their feeling. Ultimately, hypocrite women become stigma in everyone's mind even their coming is misfortune for everyone who close with.

3.1.2 Hypocrisy related to Men

This subchapter focuses on metaphor portraying hypocrisy related to men in the poem entitled "Ghosts" by Anne Sexton. Metaphor portraying hypocrisy related to men can be seen in the second stanza of the poem as follows:

fat, white-bellied men

The line above is one of the characteristics of hypocrite men. The line emphasizes that hypocrite man is masher. It points out a man who is flirty and filled by lust toward other women. He cannot be side by side with one woman. He has to find another woman to fill his empty lust. His speech can kill women's heart because the words which are used are lethal flattery. Hence, there is no one who cannot spare from this hypocrite man.

Furthermore, the line emphasizes the hypocrite man that is greedy. His primary goal is to own more and more he wants. Because of his endless goal, he has to plan his vision slyly. Moreover, he is smart man who can persuade woman with his deadly mouth. His insincerity shows as his intrigue to seduce other women easily. After getting the women he wants, he gets the money from them briskly. He forces them to supply everything he wants by intimidating cruelly. They cannot do anything except weeping their sorrowful tears.

Moreover, the next line describes further characteristics of hypocrite man below:

wearing their genitals like old rags

The line above describes that hypocrite man usually uses his genital to latch his dupe. It means sexual appeal is used to manipulate his target. His words which are fashioned by his devil mouth persuade and manipulate other women. He obeys what the woman wants and

follows the game of woman's imagination. Then, he catches his victim and forces her to satisfy his lust. Furthermore, he covers his intrigue by making his dupe believe him. On the other hand, he tries to pierce his lover by cheating. Moreover, his intrigue which is described as "old rags" means that those rotten attitudes are common for hypocrite man. Eventually, it becomes the icon of hypocrite man who manipulates his lover by using sexual approach as his sexual organ.

3.1.3 Hypocrisy related to Children

This subchapter focuses on metaphor portraying hypocrisy related to children in the poem entitled "Ghosts" by Anne Sexton. Metaphor portraying hypocrisy related to children can be found in the third stanza of the poem as follows:

But that isn't all.

Some ghosts are children.

The lines above show that the speaker introduces other ghosts that are children. Commonly, children are the cute kids who love to play in the park. They usually are innocent and loudly kids. On the other hand, the lines above describe that the children are similar to ghosts in which it means that the lines point out the negative side of children. Children as ghosts can be called as naughty kids. It is because their behavior which is often unkind toward others. Normally, they are not obedient toward their parents even they like to disturb their friend ignorantly. That behavior makes them shunned by surrounding. Furthermore, they like to disturb other timelessly. So, their arrival in every place can annoy other's peace.

Moreover, the next line shows metaphor portraying hypocrisy related to children as follows:

Not angels, but ghosts;

The line above emphasizes that hypocrite children are not angels that are very kind and helpful but they are similar to ghost which can destroy the peace even hurt people who they think as their enemy. These children are ever called as angel because their sweet expressions are cute. Moreover, they have delightful attitude. They keep smiling to others and act weak helpless in which everyone who sees wants to take care of them. Beyond their cute face, there is monster inside in which they can hurt someone intentionally. There is any devil plan which is hidden behind their smile. It means that hypocrite children are children who can play naughty behind their pampered attitude. It is the reason why people get mad toward them. Their naughtiness becomes specter which is always shunned by their nearest people. Eventually, those things caused these children prefer to be equaled with ghosts.

Moreover, metaphor of hypocrite children is continued by the next line below:

Curling like pink tea cups

On any pillow or kicking,

The two lines above describe the naughtiness of hypocrite children. Hypocrite children prefer playing cute on surface but they become over ruthless when their inside beast start to appear. They play as normal children around their comfortable zone. They persuade their parents to do what they want even they pule as long as their desire fulfilled. It makes parents unable to eschew from hypocrite children's whimper and they trap into hypocrite children's games.

Furthermore, they not only pule but also force their desire. When the desire cannot be realized, these children like to destroy their surroundings. By throwing away everything or breaking some ornaments, they rampage their childlike wrath. Moreover, their river crying cannot be stopped. It makes everyone who heard it get frustrated. It can exhaust their

surroundings' empathy. Therefore, they do not get other's attention anymore. Hence, it can cause the mad of children and uncontrollable mood which is followed by their spoilt attitude. Consider the following lines:

Showing their innocent bottoms, wailing

For Lucifer

These hypocrite children are not controlled by their surroundings. It is because they do not want to interrupt by hypocrite children's mischief. So, these children become naughty and they harass their environment. However, people cannot blame them. They think that these children are too evil to guide. Moreover, these children do not blame themselves for their mischief. Their mischief is from their behavior which imitates their parents unconsciously. Hence, hypocrite children still do their mischief as long as they want to.

Moreover, their mischief becomes troublesome for others even they tie them up from resent desire. People become frozen stone which cannot move because of disadvantageous bond. It is hard for them to refuse hypocrite children's desire. It is caused by feeling of compassion in which hypocrite children utilize it to get their desire. Thus, they can tie up people easily without acting like bad boys or girls.

Furthermore, whole of the poem tells about hypocrisy in human being who is divided as women, men, and children. Each of the aspects describes how they act as hypocrite people. Hypocrisy dealing with women, they are seducers for others are supposed to utilize their body to attract their victims. The next is hypocrite men who love to play with some ladies and become greedy to own everything from others. The last, it is hypocrite children who love to demand innocently, use people to get their achievement and screw everything up.

4. Revealing metaphor dealing with hypocrisy constituting the theme in the poem, bitterness.

4.1 Bitterness Suffered by Women

Bitterness is a pool of deep suffering. Bitterness can be felt by someone who often suffers even tries to hide the bitter life because of his or her hypocrisy. Hypocrite women in the poem are described as the seducers who love to tease other couple. It indicates that hypocrite women are the women who are lonely. They try to fill their heart by seducing other men. Consequently, they never get their true love. It is like they never find their inner puzzle of sweetheart.

Moreover, their heart is also filled by deepest emptiness. The heart which is empty is like a flower without petals. Their heart is not perfect to life. It is so sad and hard to experience this situation. Therefore, these women do anything to fill the emptiness of their heart even they do the shoddy things. Because of their loneliness, these women try to blend in with their environment. They make friends with others. However, their first inner desire is not to make friends but it is to fill their emptiness by seizing other men. Finally, they are abandoned by their friends and society. Meanwhile, their heart has been filled by hypocrisy, they face the world by themselves. Hence, it makes these women suffer more.

4.2 Bitterness Suffered by Men

The second stanza shows the bitterness suffered by men by describing their shameless and ruthless like ghosts. These hypocrite men are used to manipulate others women by seducing other women. It pictures that hypocrite men are greedy. It means that they never be satisfied

with everything they done. They sacrifice everything they have and replace it with unimportant things. They sacrifice their love to find another woman. After playing with another woman, they get their karma. The karma is the deepest ignorable suffering from surrounding. They are left by their lovers secretly. Their treasures are gone. They become people who are excommunicated by surroundings.

Moreover, hypocrite men get their deep wound from their dreadful attitude. Their emotion is uncontrolled even they complain it to themselves about their unfair life. Their sadness of being betrayed creates their own misfortune. Their partner has left them accidentally which is the revenge toward these men. Eventually, their live become messy like broken glass which can pierce deeply.

4.3 Bitterness Suffered by Children

The bitterness of children can be found in third stanza. The third stanza explains that children are categorized as ghosts. Their evil attitude makes everyone who is close to them is filled by hatred. It creates their passiveness. Meanwhile, these children do not recognize that they have been ignored by their environments even their parents. Furthermore, because of this passiveness, it makes hypocrite children distrust toward them. They are able to pretend their inner evil. Their activities are aimed to destroy their environment. They do not want to follow the rule. Actually, they want to be children who need to be protected and loved. However, they only do ugliness which aims to catch people's attention. Hence, they deliver their desire by destroying their environment.

Moreover, Anne Sexton's "Ghosts" constitutes the theme "bitterness". The first stanza shows theme "bitterness" suffered by hypocrite women who cannot find their true love even feel emptiness throughout their life. Next, the second stanza bares the theme "bitterness" suffered by hypocrite men who are betrayed by their lovers and lose their property cruelly. Finally, the theme bitterness suffered by hypocrite children are shown in the third stanza ignored by their environment.

5. CONCLUSION

In conclusion, this research analyzes about hypocrisy as seen through metaphor in Anne Sexton's "Ghosts". The primary data of this research is the lines of a poem which is written by Anne Sexton's entitled "Ghosts". Hypocrisy is the art of survival to catch certain goal by pretend in good attitude. In the poem "Ghosts", there are three hypocrisies, that is, hypocrisy related to women, men and children. Moreover, metaphor dealing with hypocrisy constituting the theme bitterness in which it suffered by women, men, and children.

6. REFERENSI

Alternbernd, Lynn & Lewiss, L. L. (1996). *A Handbook for the Study of Poetry*. London: The Macmillan Company.

Crimon, J, M. (1967). *Writing with a purpose*. New York: Library Congress.

Djadjasudarma, & Fatimah. T (1993). *Metode Linguistic: Rancangan Metode Penelitian dan Kajian*. Bandung: PT. Eresco.

Gorge, L., & Johnson, M. 1980 *The Journal of Philosophy, vol. 77, Issue 8: Conceptual Metaphor in Every Language*. New York: *The Journal of Philosophy, Inc*

Guerin, W. L. (2015). *A Handbook of Critical Approaches to Literature Fifth Edition*. New York: Oxford University Press.

Holman, C. H, & Harmon, W. (1986). *A Handbook to Literature fifth edition*. New York: Macmillan Publishing Company.

Hudson, W. H. (1965). *An Introduction to the Study of Literature*. London: George G Harrap & Co. Ltd.

Hurlock, E B. (1976). *Personality Development*. New York: McGraw-Hill, Inc.

Jeffries, L. (1998). *Meaning in English. An Introduction to Language Study*. London: Palgrave Macmillan.

John J. De Boer. (1982). *Basic Language VI: Messages and Meanings*. New York: Harper & Row, Inc.

Miles, M. B., & Huberman, A.M. (1994) *An Expanded Sourcebook: Qualitative Data Analysis*. Thousand Oaks, CA: Sage

Kennedy, X. J. (1979). *An Introduction to Fiction, Poetry, and Drama*. Boston: Little Brown and Company Ltd.

Scott, W. (1962). *Five Approaches of Literary Criticism*. London: Collar Macmillan Publishers.

Steen, G. (1994). *Understanding Metaphor in Literature: An Empirical Approach*. New York: Longman.

Wellek, R and Warren .A (1960). *Theory of Literature*. New York: Mariner Books.

Wortman, C. B. (1985). *Psychology*. New York: Alfred A Knoff.

Yustisiana, A. Rr. (2014). *Poetry*. Madiun: Catholic University of Widya Mandala Madiun. Unpublished book.

Anne Sexton. applied Hello Poetry, accessed on 7th September 2016
<http://hellopoetry.com/anne-sexton/>.

Benjamin F.M.. *France in 1938*. applied Etymonline, accessed on 25th March 2017,
<http://www.etymonline.com/index.php?term=hypocrisy>.

Modern American Poetry. Applied English Illinois , accessed on 21st April 2017
http://www.english.illinois.edu/maps/poets/s_z/sexton/sexton_life.htm.

Qualitative Method. applied Shippenburg University, accessed on September 26th 2016,
<http://webspace.ship.edu/>.

What is A Metaphor. applied ThoughtCo. , accessed on 19th April 2017,
<https://www.thoughtco.com/what-is-a-metaphor-1691773>.