

CHAPTER I

INTRODUCTION

This chapter describes background of the study, problems of the study, objectives of the study, significance of the study, scope and limitation of the study and definition of key terms.

A. Background of the Study

Human beings spend a large part of their lives engaging in conversation and for most of them, conversation is among their most significant and engrossing activities. In conversation, language has important message from somebody to others. In language, there are many aspects that will make it meaningful or maybe senseless. One of the parts of language is literature.

Literature is the art of the works that can be in the forms of poetry, plays, short story, and novel. Those are interesting to read and to imagine the real situation that happens, even though in fiction. It also offers the readers amount of knowledge, experience, and feeling in the form of story and exciting narrative that can be read uncritically simply because they escape the problems and responsibility of everyday that differs radically from our own life.¹

One of the most compelling aspects of literature is its relationship to human experience. Literary characters offer us immediate access to a wide

¹Wiyatmi, *PengantarKajianSastra*, (Yogyakarta: PustakaPelajar, 2006) , Page 12

range of human experience that we might never know. Then, we can take moral message inferred in the literature. In the study of literature, there are many interesting subjects; one of the subjects of literature is poetry.

Poems are one of literature genres, which use connotative words and have hidden meaning. Poem could describe nature, culture, love, life and social reality. Many poems like to play with the sound of language or offer an emotional insight by describing what they see in highly descriptive language. In the literature, the media is the language. In the poem, the language uses figurative or metaphorical language. So, the reader must be clear about language that is used in poem.² There are many aspects in the poem, such as stanza, rhyme, and figures of speech. In this research, the researcher intends to analyze the kinds of figures of speech, the message in the figures of speech and what mostly used the kinds of figures of speech in the poetry.

Figure of speech is any way of saying something other than the ordinary way, a way of saying one thing and meaning another.³ Figures of speech are usually found in the poetry and in the music. In the study of figures of speech, there are many poetry writes. One of the most popular and greatest poetry writer is Mary Oliver.

Mary Oliver is renowned and beloved for her evocative and precise rendering of the natural world, offering gorgeous as well as disturbing and brutal images. Her many books-26 at present count-are essential to a wide spectrum of readers the world over. Practical awareness of the world as one of

²Mary Oliver, *A Poetry Handbook* (USA, Beacon Press Harcourt Inc 1994) page 2

³Laurence Perrine, *sound and sense an introduction to Poetry* (USA, Harcourt Brace Jovanovich, Inc.1956) page61

predators and prey."⁴A long-time resident of Provincetown, Massachusetts, Oliver is currently guest editor for *The Best American Essays*, 2009. That's why the researcher chooses Mary Oliver's poetry.

There are some aspects that we can analyze in the poetry like stanzas, rhyme, rhythm, figure of speech, and moral message. But in this analysis, the writer wants to discuss about figure of speech to analyze Mary Oliver's poetry. Figure of speech is figurative language, which can be growing of effect in specific connotative and the poem can be rich meaning.⁵ There are some kinds of figure of speech, for example, simile, a metaphor, synecdoche, metonymy, symbol, allegory, personification, and irony. Figure of speech produces enjoyment imaginative and makes a poem to be rich meaning. Figures of speech is used to describe the feeling intensity of the poet, it can be explain concentrated meaning which describes something that is used long language to be short language.⁶

This study concerns with figure of speech that are expressed in Mary Oliver's poems. In the poem, there are figures of speech to give more sense in the poem expression of its feeling or mood, and using figure of speech will not make the sentences senseless. There are several figures of speech that can be used as a reaction to an identical situation. The interesting view is that there are many figures of speech based on the same word but it shows many kinds of expression. It is according the context of figure of speech, for example:

⁴Bruce Bennet in the *New York Times Book*

⁵Soedjito, 1986

⁶Mary Oliver, *A Poetry Handbook* (USA, Beacon Press Harcourt Inc 1994) page 5

1. he embraced her a thousand times (Hyperbole)
2. The stars danced playfully in the moonlit sky (Personification)
3. "Men's words are bullets that their enemies take up and make use of against them." (Metaphor)
4. "He was like a cock who thought the sun had risen to hear him crow." (Simile).⁷

In this study the researcher analyzes the figures of speech by the stanza in the Mary Oliver's poems. Knowing the context of figure of speech is the basic need in understanding the function and meaning of figure of speech used by the writer. There have been several researches on analyzing figures of speech in the music, song, and poetry. For example, DessyMerlina investigates "The figures of speech and its figurative meaning used in the Language of cosmetics Advertisements in Cleo Magazine", she discusses about the used of figures of speech in the cosmetics magazine (Petra Christian University, 2006). SertiNatioSihombing who looked at a "figures of speech in Robert Frost's selected poems", he analyzed the kinds of figures of speech in the poems by Robert Frost's (University of North Sumatra, 2009). The focus of this study is to analyze the figures of speech, meaning and function in Mary Oliver's poems.

B. Problems of the Study

The research seeks to the kinds of figures of speech, the message of figures of speech and mostly used of the figures of speech as follows:

⁷Laurence Perrine, *sound and sense an introduction to Poetry* (USA, Harcourt Brace Jovanovich, Inc.1956) page64

1. What kinds of figures of speech used in *Mary Oliver's Poems*?
2. Why are the kinds of figure of speech used in the *Mary Oliver's Poems*?

C. Objectives of the Study

The objectives of this research are to find the answer or conclusion the researcher wants to get after research activity is completely done. In the line with the research problems, there are two objectives in this research, they are:

1. To find out the kinds of figures of speech used in Mary Oliver's poems
2. To know why figures of speech used in the Mary Oliver's poems.

D. Significance of the Study

The researcher takes a great hope that this study will be able to help the readers to understand the use of figures of speech:

1. Theoretically, the research would give contribution to anyone who is interested in the literature especially about the meaning of figures of speech, the function of figures of speech and kinds of figures of speech used by the writer, in this research the object is Mary Oliver's poems.
2. Practically, it could enrich our knowledge in understanding kinds of figures of speech, the meaning of figures of speech, and the function of figures of speech, especially that is used in the Mary Oliver's poems.
3. Pedagogically, somebody who has concern in educational study will be easier to understand about the kinds of figures of speech, the meaning of figures of speech. Actually in vocabularies study, there are many new

vocabularies that will be finds from those results of the research. And it would be a good reference for them to study vocabularies.

E. Scope and Limitation

In the study of literature, there are many kinds of expressions that are used. The researcher would take figure of speech as the object of this research. There are many kinds of figures of speech used by the sentences in the Mary Oliver's poems. Similarly, the researcher limits the problem in the kinds, message, and the mostly used of any kinds of figure of speech that is used in the Mary Oliver's poems. The writer limits the analysis on the three collected poetry of Mary Oliver.

F. Definition of Key Terms

The title of this research is figure of speech expressed in Mary Oliver's poems. In order to avoid misunderstanding between the readers and the writer, the researcher gives the definition of some key terms:

1. Poetry

Poetry (from the Greek poiesis with abroad meaning of a "making", seen also in such terms as "hemopoiesis" more narrowly, the making of poetry) is a form of literary art which uses aesthetic and rhythmic qualities of language such as phonaesthetics, sound symbolism, and metre to evoke meanings in addition to, or in place of, the prosaic ostensible meaning.⁸

⁸<https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Poetry>

2. Figure of speech

Figures of speech are organized into different categories such as alliteration, metaphor, similes, etc and used as a poetic device.⁹ These expressions use words or sounds which are arranged in a particular way to achieve specific effect.

⁹X.J Kennedy, *An introduction to Fiction, Poetry, and Drama* (USA, Scott, Foresman and company, 1987) page492