

THE FIGURE OF SPEECH ANALYSIS OF JANE AUSTEN NOVEL “PRIDE AND PREJUDICE”

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Abstract: This study investigates the figures of speech used in Jane Austen’s novel ‘Pride and Prejudice and the messages implied on them. The subject is Jane Austen’s novel ‘Pride and Prejudice.’ The data were collected through several steps; reading, translating, and grouping. The results show that there are five figures of speech namely; Metaphor, Hyperbole, Irony, Sarcasm, and Personification found in Jane Austen’s novel ‘Pride and Prejudice.’

Key words: figure of speech, metaphor, hyperbole, irony, sarcasm, and personification.

Reading a novel is an interesting thing. It broadens our knowledge. It opens our mind to see the whole world. Some other people read a literary work to enrich their life because there are many kinds of experiences in literature. It is known that the story in literary works may also happen in the lives of the people living near us. Reading literature is widely believed to develop understanding and feeling of the reader as it contains moral values, aesthetic factors, social, religious values, philosophy, and ethics. The effect on the reader is inward and does not necessarily lead to physical movement or social action.

Novel can tremendously influence one’s mind. Consciously and unconsciously, some people can change their opinion of something or their personalities become better and wiser by reading a novel as they can draw a moral value of the story. The readers also get brain benefits since reading novel helps them exercise their cognitive skills and increases their vocabulary, it keeps our brain flexible and our mind sharp, helping to reduce the slowing of the thought

processes and the additional knowledge will also make us sound more worldly and intelligent.

Figures are most commonly used when the writer emotionally moves and his imagination is stirred. His language will be emotive, his words chosen for their color and melody, and figures will be frequent (Donald and Bell, 1995: 63).

Perrine (1970: 577) defines a figure of speech as any way of saying something other than the ordinary way.

Figure of speech is a sort of the style. According to Holman, cited in *The Encyclopedia Americana* (1986; 195), figures of speech are 'form of expression that depart from normal word or sentence order or from the common literal meaning of words, for the purpose of achieving a special effect.'

Johnson (1962; 119) defines that 'figurative language is those words and phrases which compares objects as possessing a like characteristic.' Then he states that 'tropes, or figure of speech, are thus a precise way of designating otherwise elusive qualities' (Johnson 1962; 119).

Figure of speech serves a variety of purposes; they are used to clarify meaning or word, to provide vivid example, to emphasize, to stimulate association and emotions, to give, to inanimate objects, to amuse or to ornament, they have an essential aesthetic purpose, widening and deepening the range of perception response to the world of objects and ideas (*Encyclopedia Americana*, 1995: 197). The purpose of figure of speech is more narrowly definable as a way of saying one thing and meaning another, and we need with no more than a dozen (Perrine, 1970: 57).u

In seeing the figures of speech used by the author, readers can recognize them from 'schemes' of construction in which the words are used in their meanings, but in which the sequences is of a distinctive pattern; and also recognize them from the 'tropes' in which the ordinary relationships of meanings are altered (Sheridan, 1996:12).

The examples from the 'schemes' of construction are such as parallelism, antithesis, inversion, parenthesis, omission or ellipsis, and repletion, while the examples from the 'tropes' are metaphor and simile, personification, hyperbole, etc.

Obviously one of the necessary abilities for reading poetry or novel is the ability to interpret figurative language. Every use of figurative language involves a risk of misinterpretation, though the risk is well worth taking. For the reason who can translate the figure, the dividends are immense. Fortunately all people have imagination to some degree, and imagination can be cultivated by practicing one's ability to interpret figure of speech can be increased (Perrine, 1970: 583-584).

Metaphor

Metaphor is used to compare essentially different things or metaphor is a figure of speech where a word or phrase that ordinarily designates one thing is used to designate another, thus making an implicit (figurative) comparison.

Metaphor according to David Crystal in *The Cambridge encyclopedia* (789:2004), Metaphor, a figurative device in language where something is referred to, implicitly in terms of something else; the moon is a goddess, life is dark word, and the world is a stage. Metaphor is considered essential to poetic expression.

Metaphor is a figure of speech which concisely compares two things by saying that one is other (Mc Arthur, 653:1992).

Hyperbole

This is deliberate exaggeration, sometimes for comic effect, sometimes serious. Hyperbole is rhetorical term for exaggeration or overstatement, usually deliberate and not meant to be taken (too) literally (Mc Arthur, 491:1992)

Personification

Personification is a figure that endows objects, animals, ideas or abstractions with human form, or sensibility (Holman, 1995:197). The similar definition given by Perrine (197): 197) personification consists in giving attributes of human being to an animal, an object, an idea.

Irony

Irony is one of the most complex forms of literary expression, more a habit of mind than a rhetorical figure, requiring continual alertness, on the part of the reader for proper interpretation, irony is not simply saying one thing and implying the opposite the name for this crude form is sarcasm (David Crystal, 621:2004)

Sarcasm

Sarcasm is simply bitter or cutting speech, intended to wound the feeling (Perrine, 1970:625) and sarcasm, a term in rhetoric and general use for sneeringly ironical remarks, sarcasm serves to taunt and deflate.

This study is intended to analyze one of the intrinsic elements of the novel, namely figure of speech. It is the significant point of the novel as it can make the story more colorful, more expressive, the author use figurative language in his written work as it has an emotional appeal.

‘Pride and Prejudice’ as the subject matter itself has consistently been Jane Austen’s popular novel. The writer found an interesting point of this novel. Through this novel Jane Austen explores her undoubtedly creative use of imagination.

This study attempts to present the intrinsic elements of Jane Austen Novel ‘Pride and Prejudice namely figure of speech which serves variety purposes; they are used to clarify meaning or word, to provide vivid example, to

emphasize, to stimulate association and emotion, to give, to inanimate objects, to amuse, or to ornament, they have an essential aesthetic purpose, widening and deepening the range of perception response to the world of object and ideas. This study is expected to contribute to the field of English Language Teaching because a novel is one of the genres which are now widely taught for high school students. 'Pride and Prejudice' hopefully enriches the students of university level in understanding literature.

METHODOLOGY

Subject Matter

Jane Austen's novel '**Pride and Prejudice**' first published in 1813. The novel portrays life in the genteel rural society of the day, and tells of the initial understandings and later mutual enlightenment between Elizabeth Bennet and the haughty Darcy. The title '**Pride and Prejudice**' refers (among other things) to the ways in which Elizabeth and Darcy views each other.

The original version of the novel was written in 1796-1797 under the title '**First Impressions**' and was probably in the form of an exchange letters. This title embodies the themes of the novel. The narrative describes how prejudices and first impressions (especially dealing with pride) of the main characters change throughout the novel, focusing on those of Elizabeth Bennet.

Procedure

Reading and Translation

Firstly, the writer read the novel many times in order to achieve a good understanding of the content of the story. The focus was on the figure of speech.

Secondly the writer tried to find out other sources (from the internet and references related to the study) supporting the study.

Grouping

After reading the novel many times, the writer began to analyze of how the figure of speech is described in Jane Austen's novel *Pride and Prejudice* and what messages are implied in each constructions which uses figure of speech.

Then, the writer makes conclusion from the result to answer the questions stated in problem formulation.

RESULTS OF THE STUDY

It was found that there are five figures of speech namely; *Metaphor, Hyperbole, Irony, Sarcasm, and Personification* found in Jane Austen's novel '*Pride and Prejudice.*'

METAPHOR

This can be seen from the following quotation;

“Oh, she is the most beautiful creature I ever say! But there is one of her sisters sitting down just behind you, who is very pretty, and I dare say very agreeable. Do let me ask my partner to introduce you.” (Chapter 3)

There is a comparison shown by the underlined sentence above. A woman is compared to the creature

HYPERBOLE

This can be seen from the following quotation

“Oh, single, my dear, to be sure! **A single man of large fortune; four or five thousand a year.** What a fine thing for our girls!” (Chapter 1)

The underlined sentence means a single rich man.

“Mrs. Long told me last night that he sat to her for half an hour **without once opening his lips.**” (Chapter 4)

The underlined phrase means the man spoke nothing.

“Her manners were pronounced to be very bad no conversation, no style, no taste, no beauty.” (Chapter 7)

The underlined sentence means someone’s unpleasant manner.

“He had a handsome face, a good figure, and very pleasing manners, and he was a ready talker.” (Chapter 12)

The underlined sentence means a charming man.

“My father was the late Mr. Darcy’s estate agent, and **gave all his time to the care of his property.**” (Chapter 13)

The underlined phrase means the man worked for Mr. Darcy.

.....and she turned with greater fondness to her sister Jane, **for whose happiness she grew daily more anxious.** (Chapter 19)

The underlined phrase means Jane was getting sadder.

Elizabeth heart was divided between sympathy for her sister and anger against the others. (Chapter 20)

The underlined sentence above means Elizabeth felt sympathy and anger at once.

All was joy and kindness. The day passed most pleasantly away; the afternoon in shopping, and the evening at one of the theatres. (Chapter 23)

The underlined sentences mean they had a nice day.

Elizabeth walked on, **her heart swelling with indignation.** (Chapter 28)

The underlined phrase means Elizabeth's heart was hurt.

With the strongest curiosity, Elizabeth opened the letter, and perceived two sheets written in **a very close hand.** (Chapter 29)

The first underlined phrase means Elizabeth really wanted to know.

The second underlined phrase means Elizabeth knew well whose handwriting was.

IRONY

This can be seen from the following quotation

It is a truth universally acknowledged that **a single man in possession of a good fortune must be in a want of a wife.** (Chapter 1)

The underlined sentence above is an allusion that a woman likes a rich gentleman as a husband.

“You must be surprised, very much surprised, as Mr. Collins was so lately wishing to marry you. But I am not romantic, you know. **I ask only a comfortable home.**” (Chapter 19)

The underlined sentence is an allusion that the speaker wanted a wealthy man who has a good house.

“Pray, Miss Eliza, have not he regiment removed from Meryton? **They must be a great loss to your family.**” (Chapter 40)

The underlined sentence is an allusion for Bennet's family that the speaker assumed that the ladies in the family cared nothing but property.

SARCASM

This can be seen from the following quotation

“They are all silly and ignorant like other girls: but Lizzy had something more.....” (Chapter 1)

The underlined sentence above is sarcasm.

“Nonsense, nonsense! **I am sick of Mr. Bingley.**” (Chapter 2)

“She is fair but not handsome enough to tempt me.” (Chapter 3)

“.....**you must be two of the silliest girls in the country.** (Chapter 6)

“She is a very foolish girl” (Chapter 17)

PERSONIFICATION

This can be seen from the following quotation

“His pride,” said Miss Lucas, **“does not offend me so much as pride often does,”**.....(Chapter 4)

The attribute human being is given to the word ‘pride.’

.....that it **was made uncommonly intelligent by the beautiful expression of her dark eyes.** (Chapter 5)

The eyes could create beautiful expression like a living thing.

The supposition did not pain her. (Chapter 8)

The attribute of human being is given to the word ‘the supposition.’

The next day opened a new scene at Longbourn. (Chapter 16)

The day could open is like a living thing does something.

CONCLUSION

Hyperbole could emphasize or dramatize a person's opinions or emotion. A brilliant novelist such as Jane Austen uses hyperbole to describe intense of emotion and mental states. Irony spices up a literary work by adding unexpected twists and allowing the reader to become more involved with the character and plot. Personification makes the objects and its actions easier to visualize for a reader. Jane Austen makes the novel more interesting and achieves a much more vivid image. A metaphor is able to uncover new and intriguing qualities of the original thing that we may not normally notice or even consider important. The use of metaphoric language is to increase stylistic colorfulness and variety, it is a contributor to 'Pride and Prejudice' when the reader understands a likeness between two essentially different things and sarcasm emphasizes the dialogue found in the novel intended to taunt and deflate or wound one's feeling more clearly and sharply, and the use of sarcasm depicts more the character's nature.

Figures of speech found in "Pride and Prejudice' could be one of the sources to teach Introduction to the literature for the English Program university's students. It could also be used for high school student to enrich their reading skill for narrative text. They could also learn the moral value of the story which hopefully opens their mind to see the world.

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