

**AN ANALYSIS OF FIGURATIVE LANGUAGE IN SELECTED  
CHILDREN POEMS BOOK *DOGS & DRAGON TREES & DREAMS* BY  
KARLA KUSKIN (1980)**

**THESIS**

*Submitted as Partial Fulfillment of the Requirement to  
Obtain Strata One (S1) Degree*



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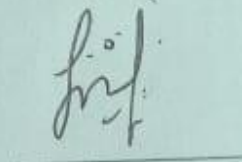

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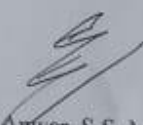
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## ABSTRACT

**Sitohang, Marta Rotua. (2023). An Analysis of Figurative Language in Selected Children Poems Book *Dogs & Dragon Tree & Dreams* by Karla Kuskin (1980). Thesis. Padang: English Department. Faculty of Language and Arts. Universitas Negeri Padang.**

Poems can convey concepts, feelings, and emotions. Language is used to communicate in two different ways: orally and in writing. People occasionally use figurative language when speaking. Language is vital to our life, then. Sometimes the writer of poetry uses figurative language. Poem is one of several models of literary works and it contains elements of beauty the most. In this study, the varieties of figurative language employed in poems, particularly children's poems, were examined. The poems by Karla Kuskin that entitled Book *Dogs & Dragon Tree & Dreams* By Karla Kuskin (1980) as the data by the researcher. There 20 poems chosen by that book. The basic theory behind this research is Laurence E. Rozakis (1995) theory of the sorts of figurative language utilized. The researcher has found 71 data that contain figurative language. The findings indicate that, there are 7 different varieties of figurative language. It is 33 lines personification with 46%. The other are simile with 18 lines with 25%, apostrophe 8 lines with 11%, onomatopoeia 9 lines with 12%, hyperbole in 1 line 2 %, Metaphor 1 lines with 2%, and the last is symbolism 1 line with 2%.

***Keywords:*** *Figurative Language, Meaning, Children's Poems, Karla Kuskin*

## ABSTRAK

**Sitohang, Marta Rotua. (2023). An Analysis of Figurative Language in Selected Children Poems Book *Dogs & Dragon Tree & Dreams* by Karla Kuskin (1980). Thesis. Padang: English Department. Faculty of Language and Arts. Universitas Negeri Padang.**

Puisi dapat menyampaikan konsep, perasaan, dan emosi. Bahasa digunakan untuk berkomunikasi dalam dua cara yang berbeda: secara lisan dan tertulis. Orang terkadang menggunakan bahasa kiasan saat berbicara. Bahasa sangat penting bagi kehidupan kita. Terkadang penulis puisi menggunakan bahasa kiasan. Puisi merupakan salah satu dari beberapa model karya sastra dan paling banyak mengandung unsur keindahan. Dalam penelitian ini, ragam bahasa kiasan yang digunakan dalam puisi, khususnya puisi anak-anak yang akan dianalisis. Puisi karya Karla Kuskin yang berjudul *Book Dogs & Dragon Tree & Dreams* (1980) sebagai data peneliti. Ada 20 puisi yang dipilih dari buku tersebut. Teori dasar di balik penelitian ini adalah teori Laurence E. Rozakis (1995) tentang jenis bahasa kiasan yang digunakan. Peneliti telah menemukan 71 data yang mengandung bahasakiasan. Temuan menunjukkan bahwa, ada 7 jenis bahasa kiasan yang berbeda. Itu adalah 33 baris personifikasi dengan 46%. Yang lainnya adalah simile 18 baris dengan 25%, apostrof 8 baris dengan 11%, onomatopoeia 9 baris dengan 12%, hiperbola dalam 1 baris 2%, Metafora 1 baris dengan 2%, dan terakhir simbolisme 1 baris dengan 2%.

***Kata Kunci:* Bahasa Kiasan, Makna, Puisi Anak, Karla Kuskin**

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The researcher is aware that this thesis still has a lot of flaws. Therefore, the researcher humbly requests feedback and suggestions for ways to make the thesis stronger in the future.

Padang, 10 February 2023

The researcher



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## **CHAPTER I**

### **INTRODUCTION**

#### **A. Background of Research Problem**

Every day, humans cannot be separated from language. Language helps people to communicate their ideas, thoughts, feelings and etcetera. One of ways to communicate them is by the poem. Poems can convey concepts, feelings, and emotions. Language is used to communicate in two different ways: orally and in writing. People occasionally use figurative language when speaking. Language is vital to our life, then.

Poem is one of the media to express the feelings. The use of poems is interesting. The using of words or sentences in poems are beautiful. Sometimes the writer of poetry uses figurative language. Poem is one of several models of literary works and it contains elements of beauty the most. Poem communicates the thoughts in line by using diction, rhyme, rhythm, sound and meaning, figure of speech, imaginary, pattern, tone as components of the poems.

The most effective technique to express unilaterally is through figurative language. Simile, metaphor, hyperbole, and personification are the figurative language forms most frequently used in everyday speech. In poems, the researcher found the figurative language simile, hyperbole, personification. Figurative uses in poems are to make a different sense to the readers. A poet's use of figurative language is a reflection of his creativity. According to Perrine (1982:28), figurative language is more specifically defined as a way of stating

one thing while really meaning another. Figurative language is widely defined as any way of saying something other than the conventional way. It means that figurative language is how to communicate something the same with another way.

The researcher has found some pieces of research related to figurative language in some objects, such as song lyrics, advertisements, speech, and novels. There are thirty studies related to figurative language in five years that the researcher has read. This is to find the research gap of this research.

Firstly, it is about songs. The most study about figurative language was found in songs. There are adult songs analyzed by Dewi, Hidayat, and Alek (2020), Yastanti, Suhendar and Pratama (2018); Aryawan, Suarnajaya and Swandana (2019), this study analyzed the adult song.; Arditami (2017); Hulu, Sembiring, and Tarigan (2021); Nursolihat and Kareviati (2020); Siallagan, Manurung, and Sinaga (2017); Harmastuty (2016); Fajrin and Parmawati (2021); Fitria (2018) and the last, Amalia, Fitriasia and Silviyanti (2021). Then, the youth song that for school, there is Avillanova and Bram (2019).

Secondly, the research about figurative language found in speech by Nainggolan, Sinurat and Siahaan (2021), this study analyzed Joe Victory's speech. Then, Susatyo&Wardhono (2019),the study analyzed Hillari Clinton's speech. Thus, there are two studies related to speech.

Thirdly, the research of figurative language found in novels have been studied by Harun & Yusuf (2020), this study analyzed the novel by Arafat in Aceh conflict. that novel was in indonesian language. Then Harya (2017), this study analyzed in Paulo Coelho's novel in Paulo Coelho's novel. tle language

used in the novel is in English entitled “The Alchemist”. The last was André (2017), a research that examined the Nigerian author's book "The Rape of Shavi."

Fourthly, the newspaper, there are Rohani, Arsyad and Diani (2018). This study analyzed the Jakarta post. Then, Alnajjar&Toivonen (2019), this study analyzed headlines of news in English. In this field, the researcher just found two studies only.

Furthermore, Researchers have discovered at least three studies that deal with figurative language in poems. First, RismaHayani did the study (2016). The aims of her research were to find out the kinds of figurative language in the five selected poems of Maya Angelou. The second study was conducted by Dwi Nur Hasanah (2019). Her research's goals were to describe the many types of figurative language employed in Oscar Wilde's poetry and to describe the context in which each figurative phrase is utilized.. The third, study about figurative language in poetry is conducted by DewiSyafitri and Melissa Malinton (2018). To describe the types and meanings of the figurative language utilized in Edgar Allan Poe's poem is the aim of her research. The fourth, Pambudi (2016), this study analyzed the poems of Robert Frost.

The last study of figurative language that analyzed the children's poems is by Syahid (2018). The title is An Analysis of Figurative Language Used In The Poems On Love, On Marriage, On Children written by Kahlil Gibran in His Book “The Prophet”. The researcher did not only analyze the children’s poem, but the love and marriage poem too. In the study, there is no specific theory about children’s poems, because the study analyzes love and marriage

poems too. The poem entitled *On Children* is a poem that describes how children should be by parents. This contains message education in parentings for children that it should be done. So, this study analyzes three poems generally.

Different from the studies above, this study focuses on specifically examining the figurative language of children's poems. Due to a lack of prior studies, there is no study about figurative language in children's poems specifically. So, it is necessary to study more about figurative language in the children's poems.

Unlike adult poems, children's poems use language that adapts to the reach of children. Children's poetry is also different from others in terms of rhyme, rhythm, pattern, sound, repetition, and imagery. In using language too, Children's poetry tends not to use excessive language style. In order to be well understood by children, figurative language will be used only as necessary.

There are two reasons why this study is significant to be done. Firstly, children's literature is still a bit of research, especially children's poems. So, more needs to be done about children's poems. As all people know, literature can enrich knowledge, but not many parents or teachers care about this. Secondly, figurative language is still new and difficult for the children. This research is to prove that children's literature such as poems provide many nonliteral meanings or no. So, this research can be a guide to understand and practice the figurative language, especially poems.

Finally, the researcher chooses the children's poems by Karla Kuskin from her book entitled *Dogs & dragons, tree and dreams* (1980). The researcher

chooses this book because it provides children's poems that have many figurative languages, but never researched. Karla Kuskin is known as the writer of children's poetry, who was known as an illustrator and reviewer of children's books too. It is necessary to analyze this book. This children's book has several themes such as, nature, plants, animals, weather, feelings and arts. So, the researcher gives this title **An Analysis of Figurative Language in Selected Children Poems Book *Dogs & Dragon Tree & Dreams* by Karla Kuskin (1980).**

## **B. Identification of Research Problem**

After reading the background above therefore it can be said that analysis of figurative language in poems is still lacking. Furthermore, studying in children's poems, it is just one but not specific. So, the researcher will analyze the figurative language in children's poems specifically.

In the poems, there are many aspects that researchers can analyze. Some of those aspects are the use of adjectives, adverbs, and verb words or clauses, the slang words, the ambiguities of the lines, the using of figurative language, moral values, and so on. The researcher decides to examine the usage of figurative language in this study from selected children's poems by Karla Kuskin.

## **C. Limitation and Scope of the Research Problems**

The limitation of this research is the use of figurative language in Karla Kuskin's poem. There are 20 poems that researchers will analyze. In this study, the researcher focused the analysis of the types of figurative language used in



Karla Kuskin's poems by the theory of Rozakis as personification, metaphor, simile, hyperbole, irony, metonymy, paradox and so on.

The collection of selected children's poems by Karla Kuskin consist of Full of the moon, Thistles, Lewis has a trumpet, Days that the wind takes over, The snake, Moon, The middle of the night, Leander, Snow, The porcupine, Around and around, Beaches, When I when out, Sitting in the sand, The tree and me, This cat, Take a word like cat, It is gray out, Knitted things and Me. Poems with various themes, they are nature, plants, animals, weather, feelings and arts.

#### **D. Formulation of Research Problem**

Based on the limitation above, the formulation of the problems is: What kinds of figurative language are expressed in Karla Kuskin's poems? (2020)?"

#### **E. Research Questions**

This study is important to answers the question as follows:

1. What kinds of figurative language are expressed in Karla Kuskin's poems?
2. What is the most prominent kind of figurative language used in the 20 chosen poems by Karla Kuskin?

#### **F. Purpose of the Research**

1. To find kinds of figurative language are expressed in 20 of Karla Kuskin's Poems.
2. To find the most prominent kind of figurative language used in the 25 poems chosen by Karla Kuskin.

## **G. Significance of Research**

This study is expected to have contributions for other researchers or linguists who are interested in analyzing figurative language. Many theories in this research to be references. This study is hoped to prove that there is figurative language in children's poems.

## **H. Definition of the Key Terms**

### **1. Figurative Language**

Figurative language is a deviation from what speakers of a language apprehend as the ordinary or standard, significance or sequence of words, in order to achieve some special meaning or effect, Abrams (1981:63).

### **2. Meaning**

According to Nordquist (2018), meaning is an explanation of the thing or idea that a sound, word, sign, etc.

### **3. Children's poem**

Children's poetry is poetry written for, appropriate for, or enjoyed by children.

### **3. Karla Kuskin**

Karla Kuskin was a well-known American writer, poet, artist and critic of children's books. She is from New York, who is known as poetic. She graduated from Yale School of design with a fine arts degree.