

**AN ANALYSIS OF FIGURATIVE LANGUAGE AS COMPARISON  
FOUND IN *OPINION* COLUMN OF *SINGGALANG* NEWSPAPER**

***PAPER***

***Submitted as a Partial Fulfillment of the Requirements for  
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**An Analysis of Figurative Language as Comparison Found In *Opinion*  
Column of *Singgalang* Newspaper**

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## **HALAMAN PERSETUJUAN MAKALAH**

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## ABSTRAK

**Amraini, Yasserly. 2011. An Analysis of Figurative Language as Comparison Found in *Opinion* Column of *Singgalang* Newspaper. Makalah. Jurusan Bahasa dan Sastra Inggris. Fakultas Bahasa dan Seni. Universitas Negeri Padang.**

Bahasa merupakan media komunikasi yang memiliki peranan penting dalam kehidupan manusia. Penelitian ini dilatar belakangi karena adanya permasalahan yang menarik dalam hal gaya bahasa. Penggunaan gaya bahasa ini kadang-kadang membuat pembaca kesulitan dalam menangkap makna kalimat, karena bentuk gaya bahasa tidak dapat diketahui maknanya secara harfiah. Penulisan makalah ini bertujuan untuk mengidentifikasi jenis dan makna dari gaya bahasa yang digunakan penulis dalam kolom *opini* pada koran *Singgalang* edisi Juli 2010. Makalah yang berjudul *An Analysis of Figurative Language as Comparison Found in Opinion Column of Singgalang Newspaper* ini difokuskan pada jenis dan makna dari gaya bahasa sebagai perbandingan. Dalam menganalisa data, penulis mengelompokkan data berdasarkan jenisnya, yaitu: metafor, simili, personifikasi, alegori dan antitesis. Kemudian penulis menterjemahkannya ke dalam bahasa Inggris dan mengulas maknanya berdasarkan teori Keraf. Dari hasil penelitian ini ditemukan sebanyak 34 data. Data tersebut dikumpulkan dari kolom *opini* pada koran *Singgalang* terbitan 1 - 3 Juli 2010. Dari 34 data tersebut, ditemukan 2 buah termasuk dalam kategori metaphor, 3 buah simili, 21 buah personifikasi, 4 buah alegori, dan 4 buah antithesis. Dari hasil tersebut disimpulkan bahwa gaya bahasa yang dominan digunakan dalam koran *Singgalang* adalah gaya bahasa personifikasi.

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## **CHAPTER I**

### **INTRODUCTION**

#### **A. Background of the Problem**

Figurative language is a form of language that has meaning not only in literal meaning but also in connotative meaning. According to Abcarian (1980: 700) figurative language is the general phrase used to describe many devices of language that allow us to speak non-literally. It is also supported by Barnet (1993: 420) he says that figurative language which is literal in compatible terms forces the reader to attend to the connotations of one of the terms. It can be concluded that the figurative language is a language in which its meaning is connotative or imaginative meaning not literal meaning.

Figurative language is a kind of language style that is commonly used by the writers in literary works such as in novels, poems, and short stories. They used it to make their sentences become more interesting and creative. As source information, the presence of newspaper has very important role in delivering the news toward the readers. By reading the newspaper, the reader can increase their knowledge; they can follow the progress of the world that is developing rapidly. Newspaper gives the newest and the factual information that can be trusted its validity. In conveying the news the journalists used many techniques to make their news interesting to read. One of these techniques is the use of what is called figurative language. That is why the journalist applies figurative language in the newspaper.



The writer is interested to find out the figurative language that is used in *Singgalang* newspaper. Tarigan (1986: 5) states that there are four types of figurative language; they are contradiction, comparison, reduplication, and relationship. On this occasion the writer choose the figurative language as comparison to be investigated. By using the figurative language as comparison, the journalists describe something with unusual comparison in order to give strong effect and interest.

Comparison is the act of comparing or the process of being compared, an examination of two or more objects with the view of discovering the resemblances or differences. Nordquist (Retrieved on November 1, 2010) defines comparison as a rhetorical strategy and method of organization in which a writer examines similarities and/or differences between two people, places, ideas, or things.

For example: *He has a brain of stone.*

The example above is a kind of comparison (metaphor), that a kind of implicit comparison between two different items which give the point of similarity. It can be seen that the word *stone* describe the word *brain* which means that his mind is hard to think, just like a stone that is hard to break. It does not mean that his brain is a stone but the way of his thinking is as hard as a stone.

In Indonesian language, there are also comparisons found in literature and media, for example: *seperti air dengan minyak* ‘like water and oil’. The word *air* ‘water’ is compared with *minyak* ‘oil’ that cannot be united (always separate). It can be said that they cannot get along with each other. This is a kind of comparison in

form of simile, which compare two items by the use of words; *ibarat, seperti, laksana, umpama, dll* (in English *like* or *as*).

In this paper, the writer tries to analyze figurative language in *opinion* column of *Singgalang* newspaper. According to Kumke (Retrieved on February 12, 2011) opinion column is a belief or conclusion held with confidence but not substantiated by positive knowledge or proof. Opinion column is also known as an opinion article or editorial. The journalist takes a stance on an issue and then defends it, ideally using facts, data, anecdotes, etc. Another important aspect of column writing is to keep things short and interesting. Writers should not write in long paragraphs or the reader will get bored easily.

There are several reasons that make the writer chooses to analyze figurative language used as comparison in *opinion* column of that newspaper. First, the writer found many news and opinions are frequently written by the journalists in the form of figurative language as comparison. Second, the writer feels that not all of the readers understand the meaning of figurative language used as comparison in the newspaper. The writer will choose *Singgalang* newspaper because there are many statements containing figurative languages used as comparison, especially on *opinion* column. Besides that, *Singgalang* is also one of a popular local newspaper in West Sumatra Indonesia which has been read by the readers for many years.

## **B. Identification of the Problem**

There are some aspects that can be researched in figurative language such as semantics aspect, morphological aspect, and pragmatics aspect. In this paper the writer will only focus on semantics aspect. Semantics is the study of linguistic meaning. This paper is conducted to analyze the meaning of figurative language especially the connotative meaning. There are five types of figurative language used of comparison; they are metaphor, simile, personification, allegory, and antithesis that found in *Singgalang* newspaper.

## **C. Limitation of the Problem**

In this paper, the writer will be limited on the study of the figurative language used as comparison found in *opinion* column of *Singgalang* newspaper which is only three editions of newspaper, from date 1 until 3 that published on July 2010. There are five types of the figurative language in comparison, and they are simile, metaphor, personification, allegory, and antithesis.

## **D. Formulation of the Problem**

From the problem that have been limited, the writer formulated the problem as follow: what are the types and meanings of figurative language used as comparison found in *opinion* column of *Singgalang* newspaper?

### **E. The Purpose of the Paper**

The figurative language widely used in mass media especially in newspaper. This paper is a kind of small research that study about the figurative language. By doing this small research, the writer hopes that this research can give description about the use of figurative language in newspaper. The writer also hopes that this paper can enrich the linguistic data in order to develop semantics study as well. In addition, by having the result of this paper, both the writer and the reader can increase their knowledge of the figurative language used in *Singgalang* newspaper.

### **F. Technique of Data Collection and the Data Process**

The data of this paper will be collected through the following steps:

1. The writer read the newspaper to find out the figurative language as comparison found in *opinion* column of *Singgalang* newspaper which is published on 1 - 3 July 2010.
2. Underline the data which are related to this small research. The data will be in the form of phrases or sentences that contain figurative language as comparison.
3. Writing all the data in the notebook.

## **G. Method and Technique of Data Analysis**

After collecting the data, the writer will use descriptive method to analyze data that are found in *Singgalang* newspaper. In analyzing the data the writer use steps as follows:

1. Classifying all the data based on the types of figurative language: metaphor, simile, personification, allegory, and antithesis based on Tarigan's theory.
2. Translating the data into English.
3. Determining the meanings of figurative language based on Keraf's theory.
4. Drawing conclusion from the analysis.