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ANALYSIS OF THE MEANING OF SYLVIA PLATH'S POEMS WHICH REFLECTED TO HER LIFE AND DEATH : A LANGUAGE STYLISTICS ANALYSIS

Amelia Yuli Astuti, Chalesti

Fakultas Sastra, Universitas Ekasakti, ameliayuli127@gmail.com

Fakultas Sastra, Universitas Ekasakti, lestycha@gmail.com

Corresponding Author

Chalesti

Fakultas Sastra, Universitas Ekasakti, lestycha@gmail.com

Abstract

This research uses literary work as the object of research. The literary works analyzed in this research are five poems by Sylvia Plath entitled Daddy, Ariel, Poppies in October, Lady Lazarus, and Edge. The aims of this research to showing the language features in Plath's poem and revealing the meaning through language features using in Plath's poem. To find out the language feature in the Plath's poems it used level language in Stylistics consist of phonological level and semantic level. The phonological level consist of alliteration, assonance, and consonance. And semantic level consist of simile, personification, methapor, imagery, hyperbole, and symbol.

This research using pragmatic approach to revealing the meaning in Plath's poems and features language as a reference to help in finding meaning in each stanza of the poem.

This research uses descriptive qualitative method and the technique use content analysis technique. This is because this research will analyses the all content in Plath's poems.

Keywords: Stylytics, Phonology, Semantic, Pragmatic, Meaning

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I INTRODUCTION

Literary work is a work in the form of writing that has value poured into beautiful language full of aesthetics. Literary work can be defined as a branch of literature dealing with word as raw material to create a picture, an idea or a story in a meaningful pattern. Literary work is valued as work of art with literary style which is different form that we use in daily life. This research analyzing literary work that is poem using stylistics. Stylistics is the same as the style

of language used in a text. Stylistics is the research of literary discourse from a linguistics orientation which differs stylistics from the literary criticism and considers linguistics as it is linking technique. Stylistics is a field of science that bridges two disciplines that is linguistics and literature. Stylistics is essentially a means of connecting the two and cannot say that stylistics is an autonomous domain of its own. Widdowson (2013:117) defined that stylistics occupies the

middle ground between linguistics and literary criticism and its function is to mediate between the two. Stylistics aims to prove that through a language style that is in the text it has a concept of meaning which is sometimes difficult to understand if it is not analyzed properly. This relates to the benefits of analyzing literary texts using the stylistic analysis. It can help to understand a text better because in stylistics to analyze literary texts uses values and tools from linguistics which will clarify the content of the text to be analyzed. The aims of this research is analyzing poem by using stylistics analysis where the style of language in poem will be grouped through the level language of linguistics which based a in stylistics analysis. Based on Chapman & Clark (2014: 2), literary texts can be discussed as descriptive and analytical developed using tools in linguistics, related to semantic, grammatical, phonological. This research was made to prove that poem is not just a short literary work but there is a meaning contained it. Everyone who reads poem does not immediately understand the meaning of the poem. Some people who do not understand about poem as well, they will think that poem only a short literary work. It can considered easy to understand and to analyzed.

1.1. Level of Language in Stylistics Analysis

According to Simpson (2004: 5), there are seven levels of language in linguistic that can be used for stylistic analysis. This research only use two levels that is phonology and semantic.

1.1.1. Phonological Level

Phonology is the research of the sound system of language and also describes the formal rules of pronunciation. Phonological analysis focuses on analyzing the sound patterns, speech of different words. Included in the phonological device are alliteration, assonance, consonants, and consonants. The function of repetition of vowel sounds in poem, be it alliteration, assonance, consonance, serves to add value to the aesthetic of sound in poem.

- Alliteration : Alliteration is the repetition of the initial consonant in two or more words.

- Assonance : Assonance is the repetition of similar vowel sounds takes place in two or more words in a line.

- Consonance : Consonance is the repetition of the same consonant sound in line of text.

1.2. Semantic Level

Semantic is the research of meaning in a language. Meaning is assessed through analysis of context, social and individual points of view. According to Simpson (2004: 7) says that, semantic analysis is concerned with meaning and will be interested, among other things, in those elements of language which give the sentence.

- Simile: Simile is a figure of speech in which two concepts compared imaginatively and descriptively expressed by prepositions and conjunctions such as the words 'like' or 'as'.

- Personification: Personification figure of speech puts human behavior and uses it through inanimate objects so that inanimate objects have the like properties of living things because they are used to compare inanimate objects so that they appear to be animate.

- Methapor: Metaphor has sometimes been used as a very general label for different kinds of figurative meaning or verbal transference.

- Hyperbole: Hyperbole is a figurative expression or statement that is conveyed exaggerated or over reacher.

- Imagery: Imagery is a description of the poet's imagination in a poem.

- Symbol: Symbol is a form of comparative figure of speech that compares something, by describing the meaning of a thing in the form of figures, animals, or objects.

1.3. Poet's biography

Sylvia Plath was born in Boston on October 27th 1932. She is child of Otto Emil Plath and Aurelia Plath. She has a younger brother named Warren who was born on April 27, 1935. Bassnet (2005) says Plath was one of the most famous female poets of the 20th century but her fame in the world was unlike other famous poets where they were famous while they were a live whereas Plath rose to fame gradually after her death in 1963. She shows the worst situation of women in the mid-20th century where at the beginning of this period was known as the Nazi regime.

Plath credited with advancing the genre of confessional poem. Confessional poem is a style of poem that emerged in the United States during the late 1950s and early 1960s.

Confessional poem describes an extreme event that comes from individual experiences, psychology, and personal trauma such as mental illness, including taboo things such as suicide. The title of the poems in this research related with poet's life that is Daddy, Ariel, Poppies in October, Lady Lazarus, and Edge. This poems describe with Plath's life where Plath feels depressed while living her life and judges that death is the best solution to change a new and better life.

II RESEARCH METHODS

2.1. Method of Collecting the Data

Bogdan and Taylor (in Khoiri, 2018: 145), qualitative research is one of the research procedures that generate data descriptive in the form of speech or writing and people behavior observed. The data generated from the qualitative method in this research is based on the writings that have been observed.

2.2. Method of Analyzing the Data

This research uses descriptive analysis method, namely by describing all the data contained in the poem followed by the analysis stage. It is said to be a descriptive research because this research is an attempt to describe the level of language of stylistics including the figure of speech, the structure of the poem and the meaning contained in every word in the stanza spoken by the poet.

2.3. Technique of Collecting the Data

1.4. Pragmatic Approach

Based on Simpson (2004: 5) pragmatic is the way words and sentence are used in everyday situation in the meaning of language in context. Pragmatic as one the field of linguistics but pragmatic can analyses literary work through approach pragmatic. Pragmatic stylistics as an approach in this research helps to reveal the meaning in poem and then related it to the poet's life. It makes the purpose of the reader to understand the meaning of a poem that is read will be conveyed.

This research collect the data obtained from books, journals, bioghrapy, and other appropriate sources such as the internet. This is related to the data collection techniques in this research, namely using reading and note-taking techniques. To obtain data, the reading stage was used, namely reading accompanied by observations. The reading technique aims to gain an understanding of the content of the poem through the words used in Plath's poem. the note-taking technique is done after reading and understanding the contents of the poem.

2.4. Technique of Analyzing the Data

The technique used in data analysis in this research is content analysis techniques. According to Wuradji (2001: 6) content analysis is a research to analyze documents to find out the content and meaning contained in the data. One type of document that can be analyzed is a written essay.

III RESULTS AND DISCUSSION

3.1. Data Analysis Phonology Level

- Phonological Level in Daddy Poem

In this poem "Daddy (1962)" there are ten alliteration. The alliteration consist of /h/, /b/,

and /m/. The assonance consist of /æ/, / aɪ/, / ɪə/, /ʊ/, /e/, / ɒ/, / ə/, and /i/. the kind of consonant consist of four consonance that is /t/, /r/, /n/, and /d/.

Alliteration	Assonance	Sentence
I have h ad to kill you. (Stanza 2, line 1).	Barely d aring to breathe or A ch oo. (Stanza 1, line 5)	Put your fo ot, your ro ot (Stanza 5, line 3)
I may b e a bi t of a Jew. (Stanza 8, line 5)	I have h ad to kill you. (Stanza 2, line 1)	It stuck in a barb wire snare (Stanza 6, line 1)

And your Aryan eye, bright blue. (Stanza 9, line 4)	You died before i had time—(Stanza 2, line 2)	Brute heart of a brute like you (Stanza 10, line 5)
The boot in the face, the brute (Stanza 10, line 4)	Where it pours bean green over blue (Stanza 3, line 2)	I was ten when they buried you. (Stanza 12, line 2)
I made a model of you, (Stanza 13, line 4)	Put your foot, your root, (Stanza 5, line 3)	At twenty, tried to die (Stanza 12, line 3)
	I never could talk to you. (Stanza 5, line 4)	I made of model of you (Stanza 13, line 4)
	I think i may well be a Jew. (Stanza 7, line 5)	The black telephone's off at the root (Stanza 14, line 4)
	The clear beer of Viena (Stanza 8, line 1)	There a stake in your fat black heart (Stanza 16, line 1)
	I have always been scared of you (Stanza 9, line 1)	
	And your Aryan eye, bright blue (Stanza 9, line 4)	
	Not God but a Swastika (Stanza 10, line 1)	
	Every woman adores a Fascist, (Stanza 10, line3)	
	You stand at the blackboard, Daddy, (Stanza 11, line 1)	
	But no less a devil for that (Stanza 11, line 4)	
	Bit my pretty red heart in two. (Stanza 12, line 1)	
	At twenty i tried to die ((Stanza 12, line 3)	
	And get back, back, back to you (Stanza 12, line 4)	
	Daddy, you can lie back now (Stanza 15, line 5)	
	There a stake in your fat black heart (Stanza 16, line 1)	
	They are dancing and stamping on you (Stanza 16, line 3)	

- Phonological Level in Ariel Poem

In this poem "Ariel (1962)" there are two kind of alliteration and all total is four alliteration. The two kind of alliteration consist of /k/ and /b/. There are four kind of assonance

and all total is 12 assonance. The four assonance in this poem consist of /ɔɪ/, /i:/, /i/, /æ/. The kind of consonant consist of four consonance that is /s/, /w/, /k/, /l/.

Alliteration	Assonance	Consonance
Of the neck i cannot catch, (Stanza 3, line 3)	Pour of tor and distances. (Stanza 1, line 3)	Stasis in darkness (Stanza 1, line 1)
Black sweet blood	Pivot of heels and	How one we grow (Stanza

mouthfuls, (Stanza 5, line 1)	knees!—The furrow (Stanza 2, line 3)	2, line 2)
	Splits and passes, sister to (Stanza 3, line 1)	Splits and passes, sister to (Stanza 3, line 1)
	Of the neck i cannot catch, (Stanza 3, line 3)	Of the neck i cannot catch (Stanza 3, line 3)
	Am the arrow,(Stanza 9, line 3)	Berries cast dark (Stanza 4, line 2)
		Dead hands, dead stringencies. (Stanza 7, line 3)
		Melts in the wall. (Stanza 9, line 3)

- Data Analysis Phonological Level in Lady Lazarus Poem

In this poem “Lady Lzarus (1962)” there are two kind of alliteration and all total is five alliteration. The two kind of alliteration consist

of /f/ and /h/. there are seven the kind of assonance. The assonance consist of /æ/, / aɪ/, /ie/, /e/, /ei/, / ə/, and /i/. The kind of consonant consist of seven consonance that is /m/, /s/, /k/, /l/, /dʒ/, /t/, and /ŋ/

Alliteration	Assonance	Consonance
My face a featureless, fine (Stanza 3, line 2)	As a Nazy lampshade (Stanza 2, line 2)	At home on me (Stanza 6, line 3)
For the hearing of my hearts. (Stanza 20, line 2)	Will vanish in a day (Stanza 5, line 3)	And i a smiling woman (Stanza 7, line 1)
	The grave cave ate will be (Stanza 6, line 2)	These are my hands (stanza 11, line 1)
	And i smiling woman. (Stanza 7, line 1)	Nevertheless, i’m the same, identical woman (Stanza 13, line 1)
	I am only thirty. (Stanza 7, line 2)	And the pick the worms off me like sticky pearls. (Stanza 15, line 3)
	And like the cat i have nine times to die (Stanza 8, line 3)	I do it so it feels like hell. (Stanza 17, line 1)
	The big strip tease. (Stanza 11, line 2)	A very large charge (Stanza 21, line 1)
	Nevertheless, i am the same, identical woman (Stanza 13, line 1))	Do not think i underestimate your great concern (Stanza 24, line 3)
	To the same place, the same face (Stanza 18, line 2)	A wedding ring, (Stanza 26, line 2)

- Data Analysis Phonological Level in Poppies in October poem

In this poem “Poppies in October (1962)” there are five kind of alliteration. The

alliteration consist of /m/, /s/, /i/, /t/, and /f/. In this poem only have 2 kind of assonance is /ai/ and /s/.

Alliteration	Assonance	Consonance
Morning cannot manage (Stanza 1, line 1)	Whose red heart (Stanza 1, line 3)	By a sky (Stanza 2, line 3)
Such skirts (Stanza 1, line 1)	Whose red heart Blooms through her coat so astoundinglly--- (Stanza 1, line 3)	Palely and flamily (Stanza 3, line 1)
Igniting its (Stanza 3, line 2)		Carbon monoxides, by eyes (Stanza 3, line 2)
That these late mouth (Stanza 4, line 2)		
In a forest of frost (Stanza 4, line 3)		

- Phonological Level in Edge Poem
 In this poem “Edge(1962)” there are three kind of assonance and all total is 11 assonance. The three assonance in this poem

consist of /i/, /ɒ/, and/æ/. The kind of consonant in this poem consist of three consonance that is /s/, /n/, and /r/.

Alliteration	Consonance
Feet seem to be saying: (Stanza 4, line 1)	Flows in the scrolls (Stanza 3, line 1)
From the sweet, deep throtas (Stanza 8, line2)	When the garden (Stanza 7, line 2)
Staring from her hood of bone (Stanza 9, line 2)	Stiffens and odors (Stanza 8, line 1)
Her blacks cracle and drag. (Stanza 10, line 2)	Staring from her hood of bone (Stanza 9, line 2)
	She is used to this short (Stanza 10, line 1)

3.2. Data Analysis Semantic Level

- Semantic level in Daddy Poem

Simile	Personification	Metaphor
In which I have lived like a foot	So black no sky could squeak through	Any more, black shoe
Big as a Frisco seal		In which I have lived like a foot
Chuffing me off like a Jew		Ghastly statue with one gray toe
I began to talk like a Jew		Panzer-man, panzer-man, O you---
Brute heart of a brute like you		The vampire who said he was you
And the villagers never liked you		

Imagery	Symbol
Barely daring to breath or achoo	Frisco Seal
The tongue stuck in my jaw	Polack
I could hardly speak	Dachau,Auschwitz, Belsen
	Luftware
	Panzer Man
	Meinkampf

- Semantic level in Ariel Poem

Personification	Symbol
The dew that flies	Ariel
	God's Lioness
	The brown arc
	Godiva
	The arrow
	Cauldron

-Semantic level in Lady Lazarus

Simile	Methapor	Hyperbol
Bright as a Nazy lampshade	My skin, Bright as a Nazy lampshade	My skin, Bright as a Nazy lampshade
And like the cat i have nine times to die	My right foot A paperweight	I do it so it feels like hell.
And pick the worms off me like sticky pearls	And like the cat i have nine times to die	I eat men like air
Is an art, like everything else		
And i eat men like air		

Imagery	Symbol
My fae a featureless, fine Jew Linen	Lady lazarus
I may be skin and bone	Nazy lampshade
	Seashell
	Herr
	Red hair

- Semantic in Poppies in October Poem

Imagery	Symbol
That these late mouths should cry open	Poppies
	Carbon monoxides
	Cornflowers

- Semantic in Edge Poem

Simile	Imagery	Personofication in poem
Them back into her body as petals	Stiffens and odors bleed	Feet seem to be saying
		The moon has nothing to be sad about

3.3. Summary Meaning in Five Plath's Poems

- Daddy Poem

In the poem Daddy implies a very deep hatred for the figure of a father. However, if analyzed more deeply through language features, it has the opposite meaning. In this poem the poet feels sad and disappointed with life because her father died when she was 8 years old. Maybe for people who live in the present poet will be considered excessive. Unfortunately, the poet lived during the second war and was famous for Hitler's cruelty. At that time the male figure was needed because the position of women was at the bottom. The poet compares her father as a Nazi only for the symbol of the suffering he endured as the Jews were tortured by the Nazis. Then at the end of the stanza the poet compares a man to a vampire. The man in question is the husband who betrayed her. The husband who was considered a protector turned out to be someone who had betrayed her for years.

- Ariel Poem

Ariel's poetry describes a journey of life that ultimately chooses death as the best thing. In this poem the poet describes himself riding a horse through various situations. Ariel's poetry can be defined that during the course of poet life there was only darkness. Although sometimes sweet, but sweet is what makes the poet destroyed. Until finally the poet tried to continue living her life until finally all her body was not able to survive. Then, the poet again imagines that death is the best way. The poet considers that death is not the end of everything but is a new birth. It can proof in last stanza. The last stanza has only one line: "Eye, the cauldron of morning." This line shows a mixture of destruction and rebirth. Mornings are generally considered to be positive i.e. as a new beginning. Then this statement is strengthened by the word "the couldron" which means a large cauldron used for cooking using a large fire. In mythology it is a symbol of power and birth.

- Lady Lazarus Poem

The poem details the poet's life and several suicide attempts. She said that she had attempted suicide many times, but had surprisingly survived each time. Sh asked those who saved her when they saw the poet's wounded soul. She compares her suffering with Nazi prisoners to make the reader understand the reasons for her dissatisfaction with her life. As

the poem progresses, she provides graphic details about the physical and mental effects of suffering in a life that ultimately leads to suicide. The last line of the poet says "in a forest of frost, in a cloud of cornflowers". This indicates that the poet's world has turned cold, and different flowers have sprung up to interest her. In this line the poet inserts the word "cornflowers" at the end of the stanzas and lines. Cornflowers are annual plants native to Mediterranean Europe. This plant has a symbol representing positive hope for the future. Cornflowers are a simple reminder of the simple beauty of nature and the fullness of the cycle of life. This could be another clue that his interest in the division of life and death has begun to gravitate toward a more urgent interest in death itself. Because the poet assumes that the cycle of life exists. This can be proven by the fact that after 4 months this poem was written that Plath was found dead by suicide.

- Poppies In October Poem

This is a poem where meaning can easily be lost in description, but at its core, it seems to be about the contrast between life and death. Essentially, this work shows Plath's diminishing interest in life and her continued interest with death, with death gaining lasting attention and focus. This creates a sad atmosphere for 'Poppies in October' which can make readers react as values are forgotten and hopelessness is overcome, as if the reader wanted to see these negatives beforehand to prevent Plath from enduring them. As the reader is unable to shake off his despair, the sad mood and the melancholic message remain.

Poppies in October is a melancholic poem that focuses on the beauty of nature centered on the beauty of poppies. In this poem the poet describes the contrast between life and death. The poet notices the bright red poppies in October, when flowers usually don't bloom. The poet compares the beauty of poppies with the ugliness of the world around them, contrasting them with images of pollution, blood, and human indifference. Poets see poppies not as a sign of happiness, but as a reminder that behind beauty there is gloom and sadness. The poppy flower symbol used in this poem can imply that there is a poet's desire to end his life because the poppy flower is a common symbol that has been used to represent everything from peace to death. When

used on tombstones, poppies represent eternal sleep since ancient times.

- Edge Poem

This is Sylvia Plath's last poem, written just days before she committed suicide. It's a short, dreary, brutal passage that reflects the depths of her depression. As with the previous poems, the theme of death is quite striking in this poem. There is a sense of hopelessness, defeat, and hope that has faded. But the fact that the poet inserts the word 'perfect' in the poet's stanza shows that her suicide is a sign of courage, not cowardice. The poet also inserts the word "Greek illusion of necessity". This adds a strong desire to end a life. In Greek myth it is said that

the Greeks did not believe that suicide was really that bad, in most cases, it was considered honorable. There is only one mention of what might be considered pleasure after reaching death. The stanza of the poem says the woman smiled with a sense of accomplishment, perhaps because she herself had died, or perhaps because she had brought her children to death with her. Obviously, this pleasure is very ironic and the meaning of the poem is slightly out of touch with reality. Due to the fact that before the poet committed suicide she first saved her children. Maybe this is a mother's inability to end her child's life.

IV CONCLUSION

In this research, the found the meaning of poem to be conveyed is obtained by finding the level language characteristic first. Then the identify the meaning expressed by these features. This research analysis 5 poem by Sylvia Plath. The title is Daddy (1962), Ariel (1962), Lady Lazarus (1962), Poppies in October (1962), and Edge (1963). The first problem, to determine the linguistic elements in expressing the meaning of

poem is answer by using two levels of language stylistics that is phonology, and semantic. The results of this research show the total number of language features in Plath's five poems, namely in Phonology there are: 29 alliterations, 106 assonances, and 85 consonances. While in Semantic consist of: 12 similes, 4 personifications, 8 metaphors, 7 imageries, 2 hyperboles, and 20 symbolism.

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