



An Analysis of Figurative Language Used in Noor Unnihar's Poems

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Abstract

This research aims to examine the figurative language used in Noor Unnihar's poems, its meaning, and the dominant kind in her work. This research is qualitative research with the data collection technique using document or content analysis. The data were obtained from Noor Unnihar's poems book entitled *Yesterday I was the Moon*. The findings of this research show that there are eight kinds of figurative language used in Noor Unnihar's poem. They are metaphor, personification, simile, symbol, hyperbole, metonymy, paradox, and allegory. There are 116 sentences that contain figurative language. Out of 116 sentences, there are 36 items or 31% of metaphor, 33 items or 28% of personification, 21 items or 18% of simile, 9 items or 8% of symbol, 7 items or 6% of hyperbole, 5 items or 4% of metonymy, 4 items or 3% of paradox, and 1 item or 1% of allegory. Thus, it can be indicated that the dominant figurative language used in the poems is metaphor. This research supports poetry instruction in education and enriches literary analysis through its examination of figurative language in contemporary poetry.

Keywords: *Poetry analysis; Figurative language; Pakistani literature*

Introduction

Language is extremely vital in human life as a means of communication. Language is an important factor to take into account when communicating (Durga & Mehrotra, 2022). It is the primary tool people use to communicate with others and express thoughts and emotions. Without language, humans are unable to communicate with one another. According to Finegan (2008), language is frequently regarded as a thought vehicle, a system of communication that mediates the transmission of ideas from one person to another. In addition, language also has immense significance in shaping people's thoughts and perceptions. Literature, for instance, is a form of art that has the power to influence people's thoughts and perceptions.

Literature is a form of art that utilizes language as its medium of expression. It is not just an art form, but a means of expression that can inspire, entertain, and educate readers. Literature is the outcome of human works or written and spoken expressions of emotions that utilise language as a medium and possess the beauty of the existing language (Nurcitrawati, Kareviati & Atmawidjaja (2019). The relationship between literature and language is intricately intertwined. Through the mastery of language, writers are able to convey complex ideas, emotions, and narratives, resulting in the creation of rich and captivating literary works. Language serves as the vessel through which the beauty and depth of literature can be effectively communicated to all audiences.

Literature plays a significant role in many aspects of human life, primarily in education. It is an essential part of education that can provide students with valuable skills and knowledge that they can use throughout their lives. Literature is one of the effective methods for improving students' English proficiency, which is extensively used in both English-speaking and non-English-speaking nations (Ananda & Adristi, 2024). Literature enhances students' critical thinking, analytical, and communication skills, while also fostering empathy through exposure to diverse perspectives and cultural experiences. Castel (2013) agrees that literature is writing that captures life in the most fascinating, inventive, imaginative, and transformative ways. It provides a critical lens for understanding and experiencing the world, fostering deeper insight through its diverse genres and narrative forms. Therefore, it is important to appreciate and engage with literature in all its forms.

Poetry is one of the forms of literature. Poetry is a literary form that has persisted throughout history (Rejeki, Yulianti, & Kustantinah, 2022). Poetry is a creative and artistic form of writing that has been written, read, and listened to by people of all ages around the world. Poetry is a type of literature that employs language to evoke feelings and express ideas (Adiwangsa & Sakinah, 2023). In poetry, words are organised and chosen according to their meaning, tone, and rhythm in order to evoke a certain emotional reaction or a focused imaginative understanding of experience. According to Ariangga, Kardana, and Umiyati (2022), poetry is a part of literary work where the content is expressed through the esthetic language choice of poets, holding rich meaning and understanding. Poets use poetry as a way of expression to help readers to view life from different or more profound angles. It can serve as a means of expression, a portrayal of the world's beauty, a source of entertainment, or even an educational instrument.

Poetry is essential in education, especially in English language teaching and learning. Poetry is typically studied as a specialized subject within certain college majors, including English education. University students who is majoring the English education is required to study compulsory courses related to English literature, such as poetry. Poetry provides remarkable chances for English learners to practice reading, writing, speaking, and listening. Utilizing poetry as a tool for teaching and learning English offers several benefits, including its use of authentic content, its

capacity for emotional expression, its role in preserving cultural heritage, and its potential to enhance students' linguistic knowledge and skills (Syed & Wahas, 2020). This is also supported by Nur and Miranti (2018), who said that students can improve their reading comprehension, expand their vocabulary knowledge, and refine their skills in critical analysis by studying and understanding poetry.

However, many students feel intimidated when they hear the word 'poetry'. It is frequently seen as something confusing and difficult to grasp. According to Ogbonnaya (2022), students view poetry as a challenging subject that can be difficult to interpret, and as a result, they have formed a negative perception of the subject and dislike it. Poems are more difficult to understand than other types of literature. Poetry is challenging to understand because, in contrast to stories, which are simple to comprehend, the reader must rely on their senses, emotions, and imagination in order to fully comprehend the poem (Ichsan & Riyadi, 2024). This may happen because poetry has its unique and distinctive language features, which often deviate from ordinary conversation. Hutaaruk (2019) explains that while poetry has several defining features, its most notable characteristic is the distinctive use of language—crafted and deliberately different from everyday speech. Figurative language is commonly found in poetry, adding to its complexity and depth.

Figurative language is an essential component of poetry. As noted by Herlinawati and Mufidah (2024), the beauty and depth of poetry are enriched through the use of figurative expressions. Unlike literal language, figurative language involves words, phrases, or sentences that convey meanings beyond their direct definitions. Basuki and Saputri (2021) emphasize that figurative expressions should not be interpreted literally. Poets often rely on this form of language to convey their emotions and thoughts in an indirect, yet powerful way. In many cases, figurative language communicates ideas more effectively than straightforward statements. Through the use of figurative language, poets can elicit emotions and imagery in their writing that cannot be achieved with literal language (Wibowo & Akbar, 2017). It helps the readers to build images of what the writer means in the expressions. However, using figurative language carries the risk of being misunderstood, as its meaning can sometimes be unclear or open to multiple interpretations, making it challenging to fully comprehend.

The researcher takes a book of poetry collection entitled *Yesterday I Was The Moon* by Noor Unnihar as the object of the study. The book was published in March 2018. Noor Unnihar is a contemporary poet and visual artist from Pakistan. Her work has gained global recognition and continues to expand worldwide. *Yesterday I Was The Moon* is one of her best-selling works. It has held a place in the Amazon's bestseller charts for Poetry by Women, Global Poetry, Asian Poetry, and Middle Eastern Poetry. It was also awarded first place in the General Trade Quality Paperback category of New York Book Show 2019. In addition to English, the book has been translated into a number of languages, including Dutch and Chinese.

The poetry book was selected as the subject of the study for several reasons. One key reason is that the poet consistently employs figurative language throughout her work. Poetry contains more figurative language than other literary devices, therefore, it often requires deeper interpretation to grasp the intended message conveyed to the reader. The second is the themes of the book revolve around self-discovery, identity, culture, religion, language, love, loss, acceptance, and resistance. The students can discover valuable lessons of life through this poetry. It nurtures students' senses, critical thinking, attitudes, social and religious insight, and values that are essential for life in society. Consequently, the researcher aims to explore it more deeply to gain a comprehensive understanding of its meaning.

Several prior studies have examined figurative language in poetry. One such study was conducted by Nur and Miranti (2018), who investigated the types of figurative language found in Maya Angelou's poem *Still I Rise*. The aim of their research was to identify the various figurative expressions used in the poem. Utilizing a qualitative approach and a content analysis method, their findings revealed that metaphor was the most frequently used figurative device. Additionally, they identified personification and simile as other prominent types. The poem largely reflects the poet's personal experiences, closely tied to the historical discrimination faced by African Americans.

Secondly, Anggraini, Aryanika, and Indrasari (2022) carried out research on the use of figurative language and contextual meaning in the poetry of Thomas Hardy. The aim of this study was to explore the use of figurative language and its contextual meaning in Thomas Hardy's poems. A qualitative research method with a content analysis approach was employed. The results revealed ten distinct types of figurative language present in the poems. The figurative devices include personification, hyperbole, synecdoche, simile, irony, metaphor, symbolism, allusion, paradox, and apostrophe, with personification being the most prominently used by Hardy.

Thirdly, Laimena and Que (2022) also conducted a similar study about the analysis of figurative language in poems by Laksmi Pamuntjak. The objectives of the research are to explain the kinds of figurative language used in selected poems by Laksmi Pamuntjak and the use of figurative language in Laksmi Pamuntjak's poems. To conduct this study, the researcher used qualitative research approach with content analysis design. They explored three selected poems from a book of poem collection by Laksmi Pamuntjak entitled *There are Tears un-Things*. From the result, it was found eight kinds of figurative language. The poems feature various figurative devices, including personification, synecdoche, hyperbole, paradox, symbolism, metonymy, metaphor, and simile. In terms of meaning, the chosen poems explore themes such as love, struggle, freedom, survival, and hope.

Considering these explanations, the researcher is motivated to carry out a study analyzing the use of figurative language in Noor Unnahar's poetry. There has been limited comprehensive scholarly study dedicated specifically to the poetic works of Noor Unnahar. While some researchers have explored figurative language

in selected poems by other contemporary poets, Unnahar's work remains largely overlooked within academic literary discourse. Furthermore, existing studies tend to focus on a small number of poems. To address these gaps, this research undertakes a systematic analysis of all the poems in one of Noor Unnahar's published poetry books. Specifically, it aims to identify the types of figurative language employed, interpret their meanings, and determine the most frequently used figurative devices. A qualitative research design was adopted, utilizing content analysis as the method of data collection.

Figurative Language

Figurative language refers to expressions or words whose meanings differ from their literal definitions. Perrine et al. (2018) explain that figurative language should not be interpreted literally, as it goes beyond the standard meanings of words. The terms used in figurative language convey meanings that are distinct from their direct interpretation. Similarly, Faristian, Lestari, and Hawa (2021) state that figurative language occurs when someone expresses something, but the intended meaning differs from the literal words spoken. In essence, figurative language is used to convey meanings that are different from the actual, surface-level meaning.

Additionally, Arditami (2017) states that figurative language is a way of saying something in a different way than it would normally be said in order to make the language sounds more attractive. Because the words are utilized in a non-literal way, it cannot be interpreted literally. Figurative language refers to the nonliteral use of words, phrases, or sentences, frequently to evoke a strong feeling or express a deeper meaning (Khasan & Chofan, 2024). It is apparent that figurative language is uncommon from the language usually used on a daily basis. Figurative language is a stylistic form of expression that can be challenging to understand or learn, as its meaning often leads to confusion about the intended message. According to Muhammad, Hidayat, and Alek (2021), figurative language is used in various contexts to convey deeper meanings, requiring individuals to use their imagination to interpret its often-ambiguous meaning. According to the description above, figurative language is a language that employs figures of speech to say something while actually means another. This is a way to show the hidden meaning in the writer's thoughts and feelings through words.

The Kinds of Figurative Language

There are many kinds of figurative language expressions such as simile, metaphor, personification, hyperbole, irony, symbol, paradox, metonymy, synecdoche, allusion, alliteration, apostrophe, allegory, oxymoron, litotes, and onomatopoeia. Carrol (2008) said that the different kinds of figurative language enable a person to communicate a broader spectrum of meanings than would be possible if it were limited to literal language. In this study, however, the researcher concentrated on the kinds of figurative language based on Perrine's theory. According to Perrine et al. (2018), there are eleven categories of figurative language,

including simile, metaphor, personification, apostrophe, metonymy, symbol, allegory, paradox, hyperbole (or overstatement), understatement, and irony.

1. Simile

A simile is a kind of figurative language that compares two unlike things by highlighting their similarities, typically using connecting words or conjunctions. A simile is an outright comparison of two things that are fundamentally different (Palupi, 2021). A simile illustrates the similarity between two things and is signaled by the use of the conjunctions "like" or "as." Simile is used to compare things that are essentially dissimilar and is expressed by the use of certain words or phrases, such as "like," "as," "than," "similar to," "resembles," or "seems" (Perrine et al., 2018).

2. Metaphor

A metaphor is a type of figurative language that compares two different things implicitly which is not using conjunction in every case. "Metaphor is used to compare things that are essentially dissimilar and the comparison is implied or not expressed but is created when a figurative term is substituted for or identified with the literal term" (Perrine et al., 2018, p.774). In contrast to similes, metaphors do not include the words "like" or "as" in their structure. A metaphor directly equates one thing with another, whereas a simile suggests a resemblance by stating that something is like something else.

3. Personification

A personification is a kind of figurative language in which an object is given a human essence so that it appears as though it may act in human ways. "Personification consists of giving the attributes of a human being to an animal, an object, or a concept" (Perrine et al., 2018, p.776). It implies that human qualities are attributed to non-human objects or beings, including actions, traits, physical features, emotions, and thoughts.

4. Apostrophe

An apostrophe is a kind of figurative language where the speaker directly speaks to someone absent or to an object or idea that cannot actually respond. According to Perrine et al. (2018), apostrophe is used to address a nonhuman object or someone who is absent or dead as though they were present, alive, and capable of responding to what is being said. It often involves direct address and is characterized by the use of the second person, even though the intended audience is not actually there or cannot respond.

5. Metonymy

A metonymy is a form of figurative language where an object or idea is identified by the name of something closely related or connected to it. According to Perrine et al. (2018), metonymy is a figure of speech in which a notable feature or element of an experience is used to stand in for the whole experience. As explained by Abrams and Harpham (2012), metonymy involves applying the literal term for one thing to another that is closely linked to it through recurrent relation in common usage. In essence, metonymy substitutes something closely connected for the actual

thing being referred to.

6. Symbol

A symbol is a type of figurative language that using of animal, plants or things for substitute something. According to Zaimardiansyah, Heriansyah, and Inayah (2019), a symbol is a representation of something by using objects, animals, or plants as a substitute for the word that is intended to express. Perrine et al. (2018) explained that a symbol is an object, person, situation, or action that represents more than its literal meaning, implying deeper or additional interpretations beyond its surface definition. Symbols are often recognizable and commonly understood by the reader, including representations through objects, animals, plants, colors, people, and similar elements.

7. Allegory

An allegory is a kind of figurative language where the characters or events represent or symbolize abstract ideas and concepts. Perrine et al. (2018) state that "Allegory is a narrative or description that has a second meaning beneath the surface" (p.801). The real meaning is implicit and not stated explicitly. An allegory is a story with two levels of meaning. The characters and plot make up the surface level of the story, while the deeper meaning that all the surface-level elements represent is known as the symbolic level. According to Williams (2013), allegory is an extended metaphor where the events and actions within a narrative imply a distinct series of events and actions that take place of outside the poem. An allegory operates similarly to an extended metaphor, but while a metaphor uses symbols to represent broad or abstract ideas, an allegory features symbols that correspond to specific individuals, concepts, events, or situations. An allegory operates as a hidden story within a story, allowing the reader to discover underlying themes or moral lessons.

8. Paradox

A paradox is a form of figurative language that presents a statement appearing to contradict reality or itself, yet may reveal a deeper truth or hold validity despite the opposing elements it contains. According to Perrine et al. (2018), a paradox is an obvious contradiction that is nonetheless somehow true. Its apparent contradiction seems logically impossible but turns out to be interpretable in a way that makes sense, which reveals some truth on a different level of meaning. Paradox is implied in literary works primarily as a device of emphasis, drawing attention to something.

9. Hyperbole

A hyperbole is a figurative language that states something excessively. According to Perrine et al. (2018), hyperbole is essentially an exaggeration, but it is an exaggeration used to convey a deeper truth. Hyperbole conveys something exaggeratedly so that sometimes it does not make sense. Hyperbole is employed to produce a dramatic impression and to affirm something that is completely different (Anggiamurni, 2020). It is not meant to be taken literally or seriously; it is merely adding emphasis to what is really meant.

10. Understatement

Understatement is a kind of figurative language in which the writer or speaker deliberately represent something as less significant or lesser in magnitude than it actually is. According to Perrine et al. (2018), understatement involves expressing less than what is actually meant, either through the content of the statement itself or the manner in which it is conveyed. It involves downplaying or minimizing the importance of a situation, event, or idea for various effects, such as humor or emphasis. Wibisono and Widodo (2019) state that understatement is a presentation that underemphasizes something in order to convey a stronger message or suggest more than is said. Understatement, the opposite of hyperbole, is used by poets to downplay a situation, making it seem less significant than it actually is.

11. Irony

An irony is a type of figurative language that conveys something with the opposite meaning.

Irony is a condition of using words that are contrary in a way to conveys the opposite meaning. Irony describes a circumstance when appearance and reality diverge (Syafitri & Marlinton, 2018). Irony arises when the words spoken convey the opposite of the speaker's actual intention, creating a meaning that contrasts with the literal expression. Perrine et al. (2018) note that irony is a form of figurative language that can be used to express sarcasm or ridicule, though it is not always intended for that purpose.

Method

This study adopted a qualitative research design. The researcher chose this approach because the data is presented in the form of words rather than numbers. As stated by Berg and Lune (2017), qualitative research focuses on the meanings, concepts, definitions, characteristics, metaphors, symbols, and descriptive elements of the subject being examined. It emphasizes assessing the nature and quality of phenomena through language, imagery, and detailed descriptions. According to Ary (2010), the objective of qualitative research is to attain a comprehensive perspective and in-depth comprehension rather than conducting a numerical analysis of the data. It means that qualitative research focuses on a description and tends to use non-numeric data. From those explanation, qualitative research design is suitable for this research. This type of design is intended to make an accurate systematic description related to the types of figurative language used in the poems.

The data source of the research was the poetry book from Noor Unnahar entitled *Yesterday I Was the Moon*. It was published on March 27, 2018. This book consists of 192 pages. It contains a collection of poems that consists of 108 poems. The researcher chose the poem book because of the frequent use of figurative expressions and the meaningful values of love, loss, self-discovery, courage, language, culture, and religion. The book is the best-selling book among Noor Unnahar's collection.

The unit of analysis refers to the main parameter, component, or entity being studied in research. The unit of analysis can be understood as a specific unit that is considered the focus or component under study (Pujileksono, 2015). The unit of analysis is the material related to the research focus. Units of analysis typically being subjected to analysis include individuals, groups, organizations, objects, and such. In this research, the unit of analysis is lines of the poems which contain figurative language in the poem book entitled "Yesterday I Was the Moon" by Noor Unnahar. The book consists of 906 lines of poems.

The technique of data collection is a method or procedure used to gather information for research or analysis. In this research, the researcher applied content analysis as the technique for collecting the data. Content analysis is a research method that involves systematically examining existing documents, records, texts, or any other written or visual materials as a primary source of information for research. Content analysis is used to determine the presence of certain words, themes, or concepts within some given qualitative data (i.e. text). Using content analysis, researchers can quantify and analyze the presence, meanings, and relationships of certain words, themes, or concepts.

In content analysis, the text must be coded by dividing it into manageable segments or code categories for examination. After this initial coding, the codes can be grouped into broader "code categories" to further condense and summarize the data. The researcher thoroughly read the textbook of the poems to look for the words, phrases, or sentences that belongs to figurative language as well as take some notes or highlights on the words, phrases, or sentences that indicate figurative language.

Tools of data collection refer to the instruments or devices used to collect the data. In this research, the tool for gathering the data was a table of indicators of figurative language. The table consists of the definition, characteristics, and examples of each type of figurative language. The type of figurative language was determined by looking at a table of indicators. It helps the researcher to identify and determine the relevant research data.

Table 3.1 Table of Figurative Language Indicator

No.	Figurative Language	Characteristics/Indicators	Example
1	Simile	Words or phrases that express a comparison between two clearly different objects include "like," "as," "than," "similar to," "resembles," or "seems." The comparison is explicit or implied similarity where one thing is "like" another thing or one thing does something "as" another thing does it.	Example: "Your fingers are like sausages." Here, the look of sausages is compared to the appearance of one's fingers. It means the fingers are long and puffy.

2	Metaphor	Two distinct items are implicitly compared without the use of the conjunctions "like" and "as." Instead of being expressed, the comparison is made when a metaphorical phrase is used in place of or associated with the literal one. (is, are, etc.). It implicitly asserts an exact equivalent by saying something "is" something else.	Example: "Her voice is music to his ears". This indicates that her voice is something that the man pleasant to hear and makes him happy.
3	Personification	A human being's qualities are applied to an inanimate object, animal, or abstract idea as if it were endowed with life, human traits, or human emotions. The behaviour, character, physical attributes, emotions, and thoughts of humans are transferred to non-human objects or creatures.	Example: "The sun smiled down at us". It meant to express the idea that sun rays feel friendly and warm.
4	Hyperbole	Excessive exaggeration of the reality or probability, or forceful overstatement.	Example: "I have asked you the question a million times already." It is impossible to person to tell a question a million times. It is an exaggeration expression to show the fact that the question has previously been asked many times.
5	Irony	A figure of speech where the intended meaning is not the same as what is spoken. The meaning that is supposedly expressed and the meaning that a speaker conveys are very different.	Example: "You did a job so quickly, I had to wait a long time." It indicates that one needs a lot of time to complete the task, which causes his friend to wait a long period as well. It is merely a way of expressing his dissatisfaction with the situation.

6	Paradox	A paradox is a claim or circumstance that, although it appears illogical or irrational at first glance, may be understood in a way that makes sense and is even true.	Example: "He is rich but also poor." Rich and poor are contradictory. The meaning is he has a lot of money, but he lacks moral values.
7	Symbol	A person, object, circumstance, or action that suggests connotations beyond its original definition. It using animals, plants, or things for substitute something.	Example: "He lifted his pinky". The word "pinky" refers to little finger that symbolize a common gesture used when making a promise. Therefore, the sentence means he makes a promise.
8	Apostrophe	The speaker addresses something or someone that is not there or unable to answer in reality, for example, a deceased person or a nonhuman entity, as though they were there and could respond. This often involves direct address and is characterized by the use of the second person, even though the intended audience cannot actually respond.	Example: "Oh, Coffee, you are my morning savior!" The speaker directly addresses "Coffee" as if it were a person capable of understanding and providing comfort. The speaker expresses a sense of reliance and appreciation for coffee in a way that attributes human-like qualities to the non-human entity.
9	Metonymy	The thing that is literally meant is replaced with something that is closely related. It refers to the name of something that is closely related to an object or idea.	Example: A king can be referred to as "the crown" or "the scepter," the film industry as "Hollywood," and the president and his or her administration as "the White House."

10	Allegory	An allegory is a story or narrative that has a deeper second meaning beneath the surface that gives a group of people, things, or events more significance. Frequently, the pattern connects each literal item to a similar abstract notion or moral ideal. Abstract ideas and concepts are symbolized or represented by the characters or events.	Example: In <i>The Wizard of Oz</i> , the scarecrow represents careless panic, and the lion represents cowardice.
11	Understatement	A figure of speech that involves stating less than one means. It represents something as less significant or lesser in magnitude than it actually is. It involves downplaying or minimizing the importance of a situation, event, or idea for various effects, such as humor or emphasis.	Example: “The storm brought us a little bit of rain today.” It is possible to utilize this understatement to downplay the intensity of the downpour. This sentence would be deemed humorous during a deluge.

Data analysis is the systematic process of organizing and examining field notes, interview transcripts, and other collected materials to enhance understanding. In this study, the researcher analyzed the data using the qualitative data analysis procedure outlined by Miles, Huberman, and Saldana (2014). This procedure consists of three main steps: data condensation, data display, and conclusion drawing and verification.

First, data condensation involves summarizing and streamlining extensive data into a more concise and manageable format. As stated by Miles et al. (2014), it is the process of selecting, highlighting, compressing, abstracting, and transforming information found in field notes, transcripts, documents, and other empirical sources. The researcher read and selected the phrases or sentences that contained figurative language. The data were then classified according to the types of figurative language based on Perrine’s theory (2018), and the lines containing figurative language were identified using the figurative language indicator table (Table 3.1).

Then, data display is an organized, compressed assembly of information that permits conclusion drawing and action. In this step, the researcher displayed the data in the form of a table. The table included phrases or sentences from Unnihar’s poems that contained figurative language, along with the corresponding type of figurative language. Following this, to identify the most frequently used type of figurative language in the poems, the researcher created a pie chart showing the frequency and percentage of each type of figurative language (Figure 4.1).

The final step involved drawing conclusions and verifying the findings. The researcher interpreted the results presented in the data display and formulated conclusions. This process included revisiting and reviewing the data to reflect on the significance of the analyzed information and evaluate its relevance to the research questions. Ultimately, this step aimed to provide answers regarding the types of figurative language used, the most frequently occurring type, and the meanings conveyed through the figurative language.

Results

After thoroughly reading and analyzing the poetry collection, the researcher discovered that the author employs a variety of figurative language throughout her poems. A total of 116 sentences containing figurative expressions were identified. Out of the 11 recognized types of figurative language, 8 were found in the poems. These include metaphor, personification, simile, symbolism, hyperbole, metonymy, paradox, and allegory. The types of figurative language identified in this study are outlined as follows:

A. Simile

P17/Pg37/L3 Collapse like a glass building. (Simile)

The use of simile is identified in the sentence since it contains the comparison of "collapse" and "a glass building", with the use of the connection word "like". This simile draws an analogy of the collapse of a glass building and relates it to a magnificent event a situation that is susceptible to failure. The sentence implies meaning about a striking and remarkable failure or breakdown.

P59/Pg107/L3 My mind: chaotic like its traffic jams. (Simile)

The sentence contains simile that involves comparing two different things using the words "like" or "as." In this case, the simile is used to compare the author's mind to traffic jams, suggesting a likeness or similarity between the chaotic nature of the mind and the disorderly situation often associated with traffic congestion. The meaning of this sentence could be that the author is having a stress and her mind is full of many thoughts. It implies a sense of mental chaos, perhaps with numerous thoughts, ideas, or emotions and causing a sense of disorder or confusion within the author's mind.

B. Metaphor

P4/Pg15/L1-3 I am the rage left unspoken unheard. (Metaphor)

The sentence is a metaphor. The sentence compares the author "I" and "the rage". Here, "rage" refers to an intense and suppressed emotions, possibly anger, frustration, or resentment. The use of "unspoken unheard" implies a lack of recognition or understanding of the emotion within the author. The sentence conveys a sense of the emotional experience being overlooked or ignored. The meaning of the sentence suggests that the author hides intense emotions or

frustration that have not been expressed or acknowledged by others.

P16/Pg36/L5 Whether you're home. (Metaphor)

In this phrase, the author uses metaphor because there is a comparison of two unlike things, "you" and "home", without the use of connective words. The word "home" is used to depict someone as a source of comfort. The phrase figuratively conveys the idea that the presence or characteristics of someone could make one feel at home. The meaning of this phrase suggests a sense of comfort, security, and belonging that a person provides.

P91/Pg161/L1 Confidence is the greatest armor (Metaphor)

The use of a metaphor is found in this sentence. It contains a comparison between "confidence" and "armor". "Armor" is the metal coverings that soldiers or warriors wear to protect their bodies during battle. This definition illustrates how confidence is like the armor that keeps us safe from harm and guards us when we face challenges and obstacles in the battlefield called life. The meaning of the sentence is that confidence is the best protection against fear, self-doubt, or hesitation.

C. Personification

P88/Pg156/L1,2 Time has woven courage on my skin. (Personification)

The sentence employs personification, attributing human qualities to time. In this case, time is portrayed as it capable of "weaving" or creating courage on the author's skin. It suggests that as time passes, the author has developed courage through their experiences, trials, and growth, and this courage has become ingrained within them and is now a part of them as if it were woven into their skin. The meaning suggests that over time, the author has faced challenges and developed courage through their life experiences and grown stronger as a result.

D. Metonymy

P14/Pg31/L6 Find peace on a mat. (Metonymy)

From the sentence above, the use of a metonymy is found. Metonymy is a type of figurative language in which a concept is represented by the name of something that is closely related or commonly associated with it. In this context, a "mat" is closely associated with a prayer mat which is related to Islamic prayer. A prayer mat is a piece of cloth or occasionally a small carpet used by Muslims as a surface for performing their prayers. The phrase uses metonymy by suggesting that the act of finding peace is akin to being on a mat, typically associated with the activity of Islamic prayer. The sentence conveys a meaning about how prayer offers an opportunity to attain inner peace, tranquility, and spiritual fulfillment."

E. Symbol

P102/Pg180/L1 With every sunset (Symbol)

The phrase indicates a symbol. Sunset occurs at the close of the day, marking the conclusion of a daily cycle. While sunrise represents a new beginning, sunset signifies closure and a sense of completion. Therefore, the "sunset" serves as a symbol of endings, closure, transition, and the end of the day. The implication is that the end of the day naturally leads to the beginning of a new one, symbolizing renewal and fresh starts.

F. Allegory

P68/Pg122/L3,4,5 It's a shapeshifter. It looks like a face I do not want to remember. Then suddenly it is a face I cannot forget. (Allegory)

This sentence uses allegory. An allegory is a form of figurative language in which characters, events, or narrative elements symbolize abstract concepts, ethical values, or historical occurrences. A "shapeshifter" is a mythical or supernatural being that has the ability to change its physical form or appearance at will. In this context, the use "a shapeshifter" highlights the emotional complexity of the sudden change in perception from not wanting to remember to being unable to forget. The meaning of the passage suggests the difficulty to get over and completely forget the past memories of someone that still linger.

G. Paradox

P21/Pg45/L1,2 We belong nowhere and everywhere. (Paradox)

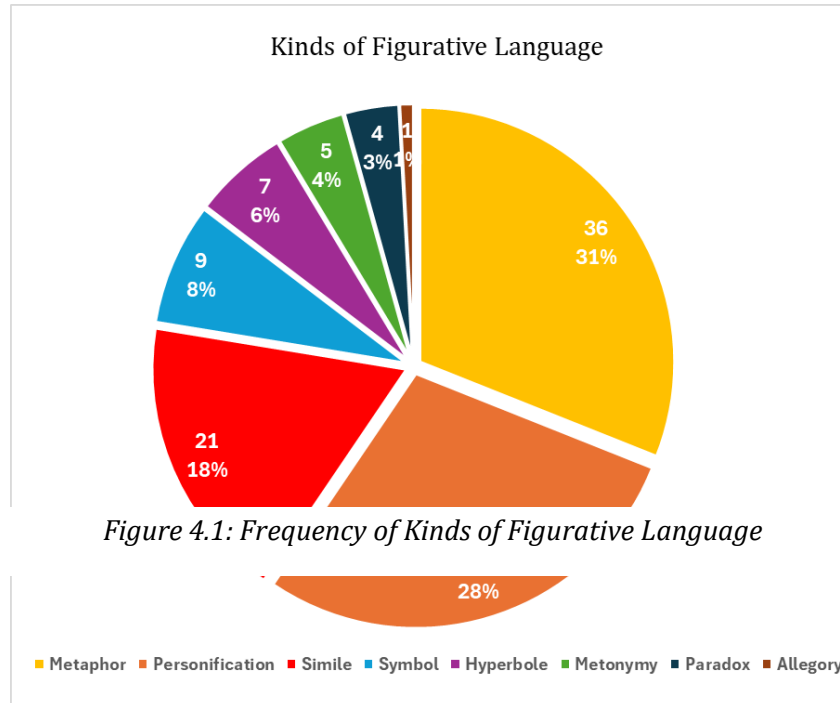
The words "everywhere" and "nowhere" are contradictory. "Everywhere" refers to being present in all places, while "nowhere" refers to being in no place at all. It might imply a lifestyle or mindset that is not confined to a particular place. The meaning of this sentence is about a nomadic way of living that is moving from place to place but not confined to one particular place.

H. Hyperbole

P89/Pg157/L4,5 Their one little smile has saved many lives. (Hyperbole)

The sentence contains a hyperbole. The use of "saved many lives" is hyperbolic, exaggerating the impact of a small gesture of a smile, to uplift spirits, bring hope, and save lives. While it may not literally rescue people from life-threatening situations, it implies that the positivity and warmth conveyed through people's smiles impact others, perhaps by providing comfort or encouragement. The meaning suggests that even seemingly minor acts of kindness or positivity can have powerful effects to bring joy, comfort, or support to those around them who may be going through difficult times.

The researcher found 116 sentences that contain figurative language from the poems. Based on the analysis, the researcher finds that there are eight kinds of figurative language found in the poem book, namely metaphor, personification, simile, symbol, hyperbole, metonymy, paradox, and allegory. The complete findings are presented in Figure 4.1



The figure above presents the total frequency and the percentage of figurative language in Noor Unnihar's poems. There are 116 sentences that contain figurative language in the poems. The most dominant kind of figurative language which is used in Noor Unnihar's poems is metaphor with 36 items or the percentage of 31%, the second is personification with 33 items or the percentage of 28%, the third is simile with 21 items or the percentage of 18%, the fourth is symbol with 9 items or the percentage 8%, the fifth is hyperbole with 7 items or the percentage 6%, the sixth is metonymy with 5 items or the percentage 4%, the seventh is paradox with 4 items or the percentage 3%, and the last is allegory with 1 item or the percentage 1%.

Discussion

Following the data collection and analysis process, the researcher must interpret and discuss the findings to address the research questions. The primary question in this study concerns the types of figurative language present in Noor Unnihar's poetry. In this research, the researcher only focuses on eleven kinds of figurative language by Perrine's theory. The poems do not use all kinds of figurative language. The researcher only found eight kinds of figurative language that are used in Noor Unnihar's poems, they are metaphor, personification, simile, symbol, hyperbole, metonymy, paradox, and allegory. Three kinds of figurative language,

namely apostrophe, understatement, and irony are not found in the poems. It implies that the author does not employ figurative language in every instance of poetry writing.

The second problem is the dominant kind of figurative language in Noor Unnahar's poems. There are 116 sentences that used figurative language appeared in Noor Unnahar's poems. The metaphor appears in 36 sentences, personification in 33 sentences, simile in 21 sentences, symbol in 9 sentences, hyperbole in 7 sentences, metonymy in 5 sentences, paradox in 4 sentences, and allegory in 1 sentence. It can be said that the dominant kind of figurative language in the poems is metaphor.

This research is supported by Nur and Miranti (2018), who discussed the kinds of figurative language in *Still I Rise* Poem by Maya Angelou. The study aimed to find out the kinds of figurative language in the selected poetry of Maya Angelou, entitled *Still I Rise*. The researcher used a qualitative approach and content analysis design. The result of this study showed that the dominant type of figurative language used in the poems was metaphor. The researcher found three kinds of figurative language such as metaphor, personification, and simile.

This research is also similar to Laimena and Que (2022) who conducted a study about the analysis of figurative language in poems by Laksmi Pamuntjak. The objectives of the research are to explain the kinds of figurative language used in selected poems by Laksmi Pamuntjak. The researcher used a qualitative research approach with a content analysis design. They explored three selected poems from a book of poem collection by Laksmi Pamuntjak entitled *There are Tears in Things*. From the result, it was found eight kinds of figurative language. The poems contain personification, synecdoche, hyperbole, paradox, symbolism, metonymy, metaphor, and simile.

Building upon the findings of previous research, it can be concluded that figurative language is a prevalent feature in literary works, particularly in poetry, where it plays a vital role in enhancing aesthetic appeal and reader engagement. Moreover, the use of figurative language facilitates students' ability to visualize and interpret narratives, enriches their vocabulary, supports the development of reading skills, and aids in the conceptualization of abstract ideas.

Conclusion

Based on the findings and discussion, there are two major conclusions. First, the researcher found various kinds of figurative language used in Noor Unnahar's poems. Precisely, there are eight kinds of figurative language out of eleven kinds of figurative language found in Noor Unnahar's poems. The eight kinds of figurative language found in Noor Unnahar's poems are metaphor, personification, simile, symbol, hyperbole, metonymy, paradox, and allegory. Second, the findings reveal that among the eight kinds of figurative language, the dominant figurative language used in Noor Unnahar's poems is metaphor with a frequency of 36.

Based on the data, out of 116 sentences that contain figurative language, there are 36 metaphors, 33 personifications, 21 similes, 9 symbols, 7 hyperbole, 5 metonymy, 4 paradox, and 1 allegory.

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