

GAYA BAHASA FITZGERALD DALAM THE GREAT GATSBY

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Abstract

The aims of this study were to observe the language style often used in textual appearance in literary works, and the figures of speech function in mediating the variables to produce the language style of Fitzgerald's novel. The research was descriptive qualitative approach. The source of the data in this research was the novel *The Great Gatsby* written by Fitzgerald. The data were collected by using note-taking technique and were analyzed by listing and categorizing figures of speech based on stylistics approach proposed by Geoffrey Leech and Mick Short's theory. The results of the research indicated that this research has seven categories of figures of speech. The mostly used is simile which has 38 data, metaphor which has 4 data, personification which has 25 data, irony which has 15 data, hyperbole which has 14 data, litotes which has 6 data and the last is synecdoche which has 3 data. In those figures of speech, the researcher found that the author used animals, other living objects, inanimate objects, visible and invisible things to express human feeling, attitude, and characteristic toward something in certain situation and condition so that the readers can understand clearly the objective of the author expression. The use of figures of speech in mediating the variables to produce the language style of Fitzgerald's novel has function to increase the readers' taste, to persuade the readers, to increase the artistic effect, to clarify idea, to influence the readers' feeling and thinking and to emphasize idea of the author.

Keywords: Language style, *The Great Gatsby*, stylistics analysis

INTRODUCTION

Literary world has been enriched by the works of the authors who use variety of language. The skill to put language as a way to convey ideas and imagination in the process of creating literary work is needed by each author because language interpretation in literary work is always bound with aesthetics of language. Without the esthetics of language, literary work becomes flat. According to Clavo and Weber (1998), beautifulness in literary works built by the words arts, and those words and language arts manifest on special words come from expressions of soul.

The way in which the author uses language and choice of words to present his thoughts to the readers is called style. The author's style affects the manners how

it is interpreted. Style also depicts author's personality. So that, every author has his/her own style of writing. Thus, Leech and Short (2007) describes style as characteristics of using language in writing prose, as pattern of linguistics features that distinguishes one work from another through words choices. The study of style variation in use of language is called stylistics. Stylistics is a critical approach which uses the methods and findings of linguistics science. Figure of speech is one part from the field of language. The use of appropriate figure of speech will give the effect of aesthetic in literary work. Figure of speech is a way of expressing thoughts or feelings in spoken or written form by using figurative words, so it can produce a clear understanding, of interest to the reader.

A number of studies have been done on language style. The first of them belongs to Khan *et al* (2014), focused on *Stylistic Analysis of the Poem "The Onset" by Robert Frost*. This study proved that apparently the poem reveals deeper meanings like death and life, by using the symbols of winter and spring. Different with the above findings, Hajam (2014), in talk show context research about *The Language Style Used by Mario Teguh in His Motivational Pictures about Love* shows the findings that from 20 motivational pictures analyzed based on diction, the researcher found out that there were eleven texts categorized into formal language style, seven texts categorized into informal language style and two texts categorized into the combination of formal and informal language style.

Another context, aimed at describing the language aesthetic elements of didek is an oral tradition that is presented in the form of song of unrequited-reply. Dafirah *et al* (2015), utilized the view of Roman Jakobson to investigate *Language Style of Didek Text in the Islands of Selayar, South Sulawesi Province*. This research is focused on a discussion of the aesthetic language of the didek text including the use of language style: diction and figures of speech. They found out that, the use of language style is not only found in written texts but also on oral works, such as the didek. The speakers of didek beyond their awareness have made use of linguistics elements in their speech. These elements become the particularities of didek itself. One of the peculiarities of this oral tradition is the emphasis on aesthetic elements or beauty. The speakers / singers are required to always use a beautiful language while singing. Rasyidin (2016), carried out research *An Analysis of Language style in "Fury" Movie*. The results of this study suggest that the researcher found four types from five types of language style. The second, from those four types, casual style is the dominant

type, while frozen style is not found in "Fury" movie. By detail as follows: formal style contains 29 data, consultative style contains 97 data, casual style contains 102 data, and intimate style contains 13 data. In another study, Thaib (2016), focused on language style used by Jokowi in his inaugural speech. She found that there are ten rhetorical styles found in Jokowi's inaugural speech; alliteration, assonance, anastrophe, asyndeton, pleonasm, tautology, periphrases, prolepsis, hyperbole, and paradox. Furthermore, there are eight figurative styles occur in Jokowi's inaugural speech, namely simile, metaphor, allegory, personification, metonymy, antonomasia, irony, and synecdoche.

To complete the case of language style, Raharjo (2017), on *Language Style Used in Line Conversation*. The results revealed that the research data are from conversation which has relation with four kinds of language style. The mostly used is casual style which has 169 data, consultative style which has 14 data, formal style which has 5 data, and the last is intimate style which has 26 data.

It is clearly reflected in various researches on language style carried out in distinctive languages and objects including the language style in poetry, political figures of speech, social media, talk show, movie and song.

Those studies above, however, did not portray a specific kind of literary work such as novel. This research, then, intends to fill in the gap. This research is intended to view how the language style is used by Fitzgerald in *The Great Gatsby* by using stylistics analysis. Moreover, what has been done by the previous researchers have strongly differ from what the researcher is going to do in this research, especially in searching the specific performance of Fitzgerald's language style. Besides that, Fitzgerald has its own way of making style of language. His

strategy is definitely influenced by generation which is known as the jazz age.

METHODOLOGY

Research Design

The research is a descriptive qualitative method. It aimed to analyze the data and make a description about the language style used in Fitzgerald's novel *The Great Gatsby* seen from its figures of speech categories. The study applied the descriptive qualitative method because the analysis is about discussing, analyzing and finding the language style used in the text of the novel. Besides, the researcher chose descriptive qualitative method because the data were in form words in the text rather than number. In addition, descriptive qualitative is actually a combination of descriptive and qualitative research involves data collection procedures that result primarily in open-ended, non numerical data which is then analyzed primarily by nonstatistical methods. Dornyei (2007: 24).

Source of Data

The data of this research was the text of *The Great Gatsby* novel written by F. Scott Fitzgerald (1925). This novel consists of 193 pages and 9 chapters, published by Charles Scribner's Sons.

Procedures of Collecting Data

In collecting data, the researcher did the following steps: firstly, the researcher read Fitzgerald's novel *The Great Gatsby* comprehensively in order to understand the content of it. Secondly, the researcher made written document which express the language style of Fitzgerald in *The Great Gatsby*. Thirdly, the researcher identified the collected data according to the good elements of language style in terms of figures of speech categories. Fourthly, the researcher classified the data based on the

categories of language style in order to get appropriate information related to the topic.

Procedures of Analyzing Data

Data analyzing techniques are always in a line with theory, concept and method used. The aimed of this research by using stylistics was to figure out language style of Fitzgerald in *The Great Gatsby*. A number of techniques used in analyzing the data to answer the research question in chapter one. In the beginning, analyzing the main data the novel *The Great Gatsby* written by Fitzgerald using stylistics approach proposed by Geoffrey Leech and Mick Short's theory. The second was establishing categories of the findings in relation to the theories, namely stylistics approach. The third was presenting the data findings and the last was drawing conclusion.

FINDINGS

The researcher uses *The Great Gatsby* novel by Fitzgerald as the object of a research. The researcher wants to propose only seven types of figures of speech which dealing with the language styles often used in textual appearance in literary works are figures of comparison (simile, metaphor, and personification), figures of contrast (irony, hyperbole, and litotes), and figures of association (synecdoche). Then, the researcher categorizes data as further elaborated below.

Simile is a comparison that is explicit that implies the same thing with another thing. To that end, it requires an effort that explicitly indicates that similarity, the words that are usually used are: like, same, as, just as and as if.

Example: (1) It was the kind of voice that the ear follows up and down as if each speech is an arrangement of notes that

will never be played again.
(Fitzgerald, C-1/P-12/D-06)

The simile above evokes the reader's mind to cause special effect in the above sentence; figure of speech found in the above sentence shows the comparison between two things 'it was the kind of voice that the ear follows up and down' and 'an arrangement of notes that will never be played again' by using comparison words 'as if'. In this condition the writer tells about that something has happened. His cousin ask some questions and she looks like hiding her family's condition by putting smile in all time when she speaks to him. This is unusual thing. This situation describes the condition around his cousin, that she is seriously unhappy.

Metaphor is a kind of analogy that compares two things, but in the form of a short. Metaphor as a comparison is not using the word: like, as, such, and so on, so that the first subject directly connected to the second principal.

Example: (2) And the Ismays and the Chrysties (or rather HubertAuerbach and Mr. Chrystie's wife) and Edgar Beaver, whose hair they say turned cotton-white one winter afternoon for no good reason at all.
(Fitzgerald, C-4/P-67/D-41)

The above sentence is categorized as metaphor. Semantically, hair is impossible like cotton-white because the appearance of the hair usually is black and cotton-white is colourless identically, but both of them has the same characteristic that the old woman's hair will be changed from black become white and this change will be the same colour with cotton-white. Moreover, by using cotton-white in the sentence, the author tries to create imagination of colour to the reader's mind. It evokes the readers to feel how cotton-white represents old woman's hair.

Personification is a kind of figure of speech that describes inanimate objects or goods lifeless as if it has characteristics humanity. In other words, personification is attributing or applying human qualities to inanimate object, animals, or natural phenomena by describing a non-living object as if there are and lives like human being.

Example: (3) For a moment the last sunshine fell with romantic affection upon her glowing face; her voice compelled me forward breathlessly as I listened—then the glow faded, each light deserting her with lingering regret.
(Fitzgerald, C-1/P-17/D-48)

The sentence above is a form of figures of speech used by the author in personification form. Personification is a figure of speech in which an inanimate object or abstraction is endowed with human qualities or abilities. In sentence above, 'each light deserting her with lingering regret' was only a dad thing but it has an ability which is left like a really human.

Irony (cynicism and sarcasm) is a figure of speech represents a particular kind of extended reference: extension in a direction opposite to the normal one. It is an expression shown ironically.

Example: (4) After that I lived like a young rajah in all the capitals of Europe—Paris, Venice, Rome—collecting jewels, chiefly rubies, hunting big game, painting a little, things for myself only, and trying to forget something very sad that had happened to me long ago.
(Fitzgerald, C-4/P-71/D-75)

As a figure of speech, irony is utilized to express one's complex feelings without truly saying them. However the sentence above, in fact, it is known that a king/rajah is a strong and great one that

must be followed by its people. Thus, in the real condition it is impossible if the king/raja is a young/small. Here, Fitzgerald brought the readers to real social status deep written expressions of irony uttered by the characters in the novel. Undoubtedly, the novel had left an impact to the United State of America society at the time. It has function to emphasize idea of the author through his choice of irony made sense as he intended to criticize the Jazz Age which the social class was become an important thing to put distance between them.

Hyperbole is a figure of speech that contains an exaggeration, by exaggerating something or discussed style containing an overstatement.

Example: (5) That's what I get for marrying a brute of a man, a great big hulking physical specimen of a——
(Fitzgerald, C-1/P-15/D-86)

The sentence above is a form of figures of speech that used by the author in hyperbole form. Hyperbole is an extravagant statement; the use of exaggerated terms for the purpose of emphasis or heightened effect. In sentence above, 'great big hulking' is nonsense because how can a person have tons of weights and like a giant? In reality, it just an extravagant description. The author wanted to make a strong, forceful, and bad figure of Tom.

Litotes is a figure of speech consisting of an understatement in which an affirmative is expressed by negating its opposite. Litotes can also be defined as an understatement employed for the purpose of enhancing the effect of the ideas expressed.

Example: (6) 'It's libel. I'm too poor.'
(Fitzgerald, C-1/P-23/D-101)

The sentence above can be categorized as litotes. Litotes is a figure of speech in which, rather than making a certain statement directly, a speaker

expresses it even more effectively, or achieves emphasis, by denying its opposite. By its nature, litotes is a form of understatement, always deliberate and with the intention of subtle emphasis. However, the interpretation of litotes can depend on context, including cultural context. As in the sentence 'It's libel. I'm too poor,' meaning that Nick was in fact a rich person.

Synecdoche is a figure of speech that consists of the use of a thing to stand for the whole of it or vice versa.

Example: (7) After a moment, that other eyes were regarding us with peculiar intensity from less than twenty feet away.
(Fitzgerald, C-7/P-132/D-104)

The sentence above is a form of figure of speech in synecdoche form. It includes into synecdoche pars pro toto is a kind of figure of speech that uses a part of something to state the whole of it. It is known that they were not only seeing eyes, instead the man. Therefore, it can be concluded that, 'other eyes' which is a part of the man's body belongs to a synecdoche expression as it stands for the whole the man whom has a full body. The author chose this kind of figure of speech has function to emphasize idea of the author of the story in the novel. Thus, the readers could imagine the other eyes as a part of the man's body.

Example: (8) I began to like New York, the racy, adventurous feel of it at night and the satisfaction that the constant flicker of men and women and machines gives to the restless eye.
(Fitzgerald, C-3/P-62/D-105)

The above sentence is a form of figure of speech in synecdoche form. It includes into synecdoche totem pro parte is a kind of figure of speech that uses the whole to state a part of it. It is known that

the word 'New York' is used for replacing the woman. The author chose this kind of figure of speech has function to increase to increase the readers' taste of the story in the novel.

DISCUSSION

The results of this research indicates that the language styles often used in textual appearance in literary works are figures of comparison (simile, metaphor, and personification), figures of contrast (irony, hyperbole, and litotes), and figures of association (synecdoche). The styles used confirm the categorization of the checklist of linguistics and stylistics which had been made by Geoffrey Leach and Mick Short (2007) and figures of speech by Vivian and Jackson (1961).

Based on the findings above, there are some different styles of language used by the researchers in terms of stylistics. It is clearly reflected in various researches on language style carried out in distinctive languages and objects including the language style in poetry, political figures of speech, social media, talk show, movie and song.

Thus by considering the finding of this research in which it is contrary with Xiangqi Liu which also research about stylistic in *The Great Gatsby* by using the same theory that was Leach and Short's theory under the title *Stylistic Analysis of The Great Gatsby from Lexical, Grammatical and Context Categories* uncovered this kind of figures of speech. It is known that Leach and Short places the categories for the checklist of linguistics and stylistics under four general headings: lexical categories, grammatical categories, figures of speech categories, and cohesion and context categories. Here, Xiangqi Liu was only chose three categories to be researched and he did not choose figures of speech categories. This research, then, intends to fill in the gap. Therefore, this research is present language style used by

Fitzgerald in *The Great Gatsby* seen from its figures of speech.

In figures of comparison (simile, metaphor, and personification), simile mostly appear in the novel. This style is the first rank because it appears thirty eight times from sixty seven data in the novel. Simile is kind of figures of speech that compare two things that is explicit that implies the same thing with another thing. To that end, it requires an effort that explicitly indicates that similarity, the words that are usually used are: like, as and as if. This style is simple and interesting because it used to persuade, influence the reader's attention, give the artistic effect by describing another beautiful one without simply said the sentence. Thus, this kind of figures of speech could make the readers imagine and fell the beautifulness of this literary work.

It is in line with the research of Dafirah et al (2015), which showed that didek is an oral tradition that is presented in the form of song is the emphasis on aesthetic elements or beauty. In other words, the speakers/ singers are required to always use a beautiful language while singing. It is also supported in data (6), (26), (41) and (48). The data shows the comparison between two things 'voice and notes, Daisy and flower, white hair and cotton-white and light and children' by using comparison words 'as if and like.' It is known that they are two things that absolutely different. Semantically, voice is not like notes, Daisy is not like a flower, white hair is not like a cotton-white and light is not like children', but the characteristic of them are the same that they are very beautiful. Thus, the author chose one word to substitute the other word because characteristically they are remaining the same. Those data then show consistent with Leach and Short's statement (2007) that the style of an author conveys the relationship between the uses of language and its artistic function. In

most of data, Leech and Short's statement is still effective where the author chose the kinds of figures of speech to increase the artistic effect in the novel.

The second one is figures of contrast (irony, hyperbole, and litotes), irony mostly appear in the novel. This style is the first rank in terms of figures of contrast because it appears fifteen times from thirty five data in the novel. Irony as figures of speech represents a particular kind of extended reference: extension in a direction opposite to the normal one. That is, a word or expression used ironically takes on a meaning which sharply contrasts with or even in effect contradicts its ordinary meaning. This style is quite unique because it used are to increase the readers' taste, to persuade the readers, to increase the artistic effect, to influence the readers' feeling and thinking and to emphasize idea of the author by describing the contrast one without simply said the sentence. Thus, this kind of figures of speech could make the readers enjoy reading this novel.

The last is figures of association (metonymy and synecdoche). In addition, in this research, the researcher has found only one kind of figures of speech in terms of figures of association that synecdoche which has divided into two kinds of synecdoche are *pars pro toto* means a part taken for the whole and *totem pro parte* means the whole for a part. In contrast, there is no data found about metonymy. Synecdoche *pars pro toto* mostly appear in the novel. This style is the first rank in terms of figures of association because it appears two times from three data in the novel. The use of this style has function to increase the readers' taste, to increase the artistic effect and to emphasize idea of the author.

In summary, Fitzgerald's brilliant achievements were not just born. He lived his life as a romantic, equally capable of great dedication to his craft and reckless squandering of his artistic capital. He was

talented, perceptive and gifted. His writings are insightful and stylistically brilliant. His ability to choose words in telling a story could make the readers enjoy reading this literary work. Today he is admired both as a social chronicler and a remarkably gifted artist. He left us one sure masterpiece, *The Great Gatsby*.

CONCLUSONS AND SUGGESTIONS

Based on the analysis of the data which have been presented above, the researcher would like to draw some conclusions. They are: first, the language styles often used in textual appearance in literary works are figures of comparison (simile, metaphor, and personification), figures of contrast (irony, hyperbole, and litotes), and figures of association (metonymy and synecdoche). In addition, in this research, the researcher has found only one kind of figures of speech in terms of figures of association that synecdoche which has divided into two kinds of synecdoche are *pars pro toto* means a part taken for the whole and *totem pro parte* means the whole for a part. In contrast, there is no data found about metonymy. Second, the function of figures of speech in mediating the variables to produce the language style of Fitzgerald's novel described through its character, characterization, setting of place and social setting are to increase the readers' taste, to persuade the readers, to increase the artistic effect, to clarify idea, to influence the readers' feeling and thinking and to emphasize idea of the author. Based on the conclusions above, the researcher expects that the similar research on language style will rise more in the future. It will be beneficial to show the importance of language style as a tool in interaction and communication. The researcher also hopes to the next researcher who would like to conduct the same research could complete this research not only about the kinds of language style

used and the function of the language style, but also about how they used the language style and the context of the sentences. In addition, the next researchers are suggested to use different data and the other theory of language style.

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