THE INVESTIGATION OF FIGURATIVE LANGUAGE IN "THE COUNT OF MONTE CRISTO" MOVIE

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Keywords	Abstract
Figurative Language, Movie, Semantics	*This research aimed to investigate the use of figurative language in "The Count of Monte Cristo" movie. In this research, qualitative descriptive used as the research method. The researchers examined the script from "The Count of Monte Cristo" movie as the data source. In collecting the data, the method was observation and the technique was non-participant. Meanwhile, in analyzing the data, the method was identification and the technique was matching to the theory. The utterances from the transcript of the movie which were taken as the data were analyzed narratively. The researchers used the theory of (Abrams & Harpham, 2013) to discover the use of figurative language. The researchers discovered 22 utterances from the movie's script that show the use of figurative language. There were simile, metaphor, hyperbole, and personification. The topic was dicussed because there was no any research that studied figurative language found in this movie specifically and it is hoped that this research helps the reader to understand how people use creative language to express ideas, feelings, and thoughts in a deeper way.*

1. INTRODUCTION

Nowadays, language isn't just spoken but can be also formed in written (Herman et al, 2022). When people talk face-to-face, they can quickly ask questions if they don't understand something, allowing the speaker to clarify the meaning on the spot. However, when it comes to written language, this immediate clarification isn't possible. If readers misunderstand what's written, it can lead to confusion or even incorrect interpretations (Niswa et al, 2023). This problem can be especially common in texts where words may have multiple meanings or be open to interpretation. To reduce these misunderstandings, people can study a branch of linguistics called Semantics.

Semantics, a branch of linguistics, studies the meaning of words, phrases, and sentences in a language. Semantics focuses on the meanings of words, phrases, and sentences, helping us understand not just what is being said, but the intended meaning behind it (Riemer, 2010). In semantic analysis, people are trying to articulate what it is understand, when act in agreement about the meaning of a word, phrase, or sentence in a language (Yule, 2020). By learning about semantics, readers can improve their ability to interpret written language accurately and understand what the writer intended to convey. This knowledge can make communication clearer and help prevent misinterpretations between speaker and hearer.

Semantics, or the study of meaning in language, is closely connected to everyday lives. Researchers noticed this when a student at school was about to go to a karate competition. In this situation, words used by teachers and classmates carried deeper

meaning. They didn't just describe the event but also shared feelings of support, excitement, and encouragement. This example shows how the meaning of words shapes how we understand and connect with each other, turning ordinary conversations into moments that build confidence and bring people together.

Student   : "Sir, I will go to the competition now"
Teacher   : "Okay, break a leg!"

From the teacher's utterance above, the teacher spoke an idiom, which is part of semantics. The idiom "break a leg" is a common expression used to wish someone good luck, especially before a performance or undertaking a challenging task. It might seem confusing at first because breaking a leg is typically considered a negative event. However, in the context of this idiom, it is meant to convey a wish for success or a great performance.

In semantics, there is also a figurative language that cannot be taken literally or should not be taken literally only (Johnson & Arp, 2017). One of the phenomenon that the researchers found in The Count of Monte Cristo movie that related to the figurative language. It was found in the movie when Edmond Dantes as the main character is talking to his best friend, Albert Mondego in an island.

Edmond Dantes: "Time, dear friend, time brings round opportunity"

In the utterance "Time, dear friend, time brings round opportunity," Edmond Dantès uses personification by attributing human qualities to "time." In Dantes' line, "time" is treated as if it were a friend capable of actively bringing "opportunity." The phrase "dear friend" gives "time" a relatable, almost companion-like character, as if it is something to trust or be patient with. Additionally, saying "time brings round opportunity" suggests that time has the power to act intentionally, presenting opportunities when the moment is right.

There was some previous research that had discussed the use of figurative language. Ambalegin & Arianto (2020) identified briefly the use of figurative expressions on Donald Trump's Twitter post. The data mostly found in the comments of Donald Trump's Twitter post. The theory by (Abrams and Harpham's, 2012) was adopted in this research. In collecting the data, the researchers used the observational method and non-participant technique. In equalizing, the semantic identitiy method and semantic-competence was applied to analyze the data. Based on the data that has been found, the researchers found the expressions of simile, metaphor, allusion and personification.

Derki (2023) presented the comparative analysis of metaphorical expressions used for conceptualizing women in both in English and Arabic. In this research, the qualitative research method was adopted. The researchers used the theory by (Lakoff and Johnson, 1980) and made a cross-cultural comparison by using the framework by (Barcelona, 2001). From the data that had been analyzed, the researchers revealed that in conceptualizing women, English and Arabic shared several basic metaphors. The differences might because the different of sociocultural interpretations of the source and target domains in each language.

There is a similarity between this study and the previous studies. This study and the previous studies discussed the same topic, figurative language. The data source is different between this study and the previous research. The researchers discussed this topic because there was no any research that studied figurative language found in this movie specifically, the previous studies only discussed one type of figurative language that was found in this movie.

2. LITERATURE REVIEW

2.1. Simile

In a simile, a comparison between two distinctly different things is explicitly indicated by the word "like" or "as" (Abrams & Harpham, 2013). Similes make descriptions more vivid by linking something familiar with something new. This helps the reader form a clearer mental image or understanding of the subject.

2.2. Metaphor

In a metaphor, a word or expression that in literal usage denotes one kind of thing is applied to a distinctly different kind of thing, without asserting a comparison (Abrams & Harpham, 2013). Metaphors allow readers to see deeper layers of meaning by treating one thing as if it were something else entirely. This often conveys complex emotions or abstract ideas in a relatable way.

2.3. Personification

Personification, or in the Greek term, prosopopoeia, in which either an inanimate object or an abstract concept is spoken of as though it were endowed with life or with human attributes or feelings (compare pathetic fallacy) (Abrams & Harpham, 2013). Personification allows readers to connect emotionally to non-human elements, often creating empathy or adding a human perspective to concepts or objects.

2.4. Hyperbole

Hyperbole is an intentional exaggeration used to emphasize a point, create humor, or express strong feelings (Abrams & Harpham, 2013). It is not meant to be taken literally. Hyperbole intensifies a description, making an impression on the reader by highlighting a characteristic to an extreme degree. It can add emotional intensity or drama to a statement.

2.5. Synedoche

Synecdoche (Greek for "taking together"), a part of something is used to signify the whole, or (more rarely) the whole is used to signify a part (Abrams & Harpham, 2013). Synecdoche allows for concise, vivid expressions by narrowing down a concept to a single detail or feature. It often makes writing more impactful by focusing attention on a significant aspect.

3. RESEARCH METHOD

The qualitative research method was applied in this study. As proposed by (Litosseliti, 2018), the qualitative method used words and utterances, whereas the quantitative method used numbers. The researchers examined the transcript from "The Count of Monte Cristo" movie to find the types of figurative language. This study employed the observational method and (Sudaryanto, 2015) methodology in collecting the data. The steps in collecting the data are watching the movie, noting the transcript, and identifying the types of figurative language. Furthermore, this study used a non-participant technique which the researchers were not the participants. The researchers just paid attention to every word of the movie transcript. The qualitative method of analysis is carried out by identification (Catherine & Rossman, 2014) and the technique was matching to the theory by identifying the types of figurative language. The figurative language was compared to the theory. Finally, the outcome of qualitative research is a descriptive narrative paragraph (Taylor et al., 2016).

4.   RESULT AND DISCUSSION

The researchers discovered 22 utterances based on the findings from transcript of the movie that show the use of figurative language. There were simile, metaphor, hyperbole, and personification:

1. "His eyes shone like stars in the night sky."

Explanation: This simile compares his eyes to stars, suggesting they are bright and captivating, standing out in a way that is almost charming. Stars are known for their beauty and luminosity against the darkness of the night sky, so describing his eyes in this way implies they might be full of life, hope, or even mystery. It could also suggest a feeling of admiration or wonder, as if his gaze brings light into dark spaces or conveys depth and intensity.

2. "The waves crashed against the rocks like thunder."

Explanation: This simile compares the crashing of waves to the sound of thunder, emphasizing the power, intensity, and possibly the danger of the waves. Thunder is loud, sudden, and often associated with storms, so likening the waves to thunder gives a sense of violent impact, creating an atmosphere of raw, untamed nature. It suggests the waves are forceful and relentless, possibly evoking a sense of foreboding or awe in the face of nature's strength.

3. "His smile was as cold as ice."

Explanation: By comparing his smile to ice, this simile suggests his smile lacks warmth and friendliness. Ice is physically cold and can even be uncomfortably chilling, so an "ice-cold" smile conveys an impression of detachment, insincerity, or even hostility. It could imply he is being distant, unfeeling, or harsh, showing that the smile does not come from a place of kindness but from a sense of cold, perhaps calculated, control.

4. "The Count moved through the crowd like a shadow."

Explanation: This simile describes the Count's movement by comparing it to that of a shadow, giving an impression of quietness, stealth, and mystery. Shadows are intangible, often unnoticed, and suggest something elusive or hidden. Comparing the Count to a shadow implies he is slipping through the crowd unnoticed or unrecognized, perhaps with a sense of secrecy, stealth, or even danger. It may also hint at an air of darkness or mystery surrounding him.

5. "The castle loomed on the hill like a dark fortress."

Explanation: Comparing the castle to a "dark fortress" emphasizes its imposing and possibly foreboding appearance. The word "loomed" suggests it stands high and appears threatening or ominous. Fortresses are built for defense and are often associated with battles and secrets. By describing it as "dark," it evokes a sense of fear or unease, as if the castle holds unknown dangers or is connected with something eerie or unsettling.

6. "Her voice was as sweet as a nightingale's song."

Explanation: This simile compares her voice to the song of a nightingale, a bird known for its beautiful and melodious sound. The nightingale's song has been associated with romance, serenity, and pure beauty. Describing her voice in this way suggests it is pleasing to hear, gentle, and has a quality that might soothe or enchant others. It implies her voice carries warmth, kindness, or an inherent charm that draws people in, much like the allure of a bird's song at night.

7. "His laughter echoed through the room like a peal of thunder."

Explanation: This simile compares his laughter to the sound of thunder, suggesting it is loud, resonant, and possibly overwhelming. Thunder is powerful and

commands attention, so his laughter likely filled the room, grabbing everyone's focus and leaving an impact. Describing it as an "echo" implies it reverberated through the space, hinting that his laughter was joyful, hearty, and perhaps contagious, with a presence strong enough to fill the silence, just as thunder breaks the quiet before a storm.

8. "The Count's eyes glittered like diamonds in the candlelight."

This simile suggests that the Count's gaze is striking, bright, and captivating. Diamonds reflect light brilliantly, especially under a soft glow like candlelight, so this imagery implies a sense of mystery, and possibly wealth or power. The "glitter" evokes a sense of liveliness, giving his eyes an almost hypnotic or enchanting quality, as if they hold secrets or reveal something precious and intriguing about his character.

9. "The sea stretched out before him like a vast, endless canvas."

Explanation: Comparing the sea to a "vast, endless canvas" creates an image of openness, possibility, and boundlessness. A canvas is often blank, waiting to be painted or filled with meaning, suggesting that the sea represents freedom, adventure, or unexplored potential. The words "vast" and "endless" emphasize the enormity and continuity of the ocean, evoking a sense of awe and perhaps a little humility. It gives the impression that the sea holds many mysteries, waiting for someone to experience or "paint" a story on it.

10. "The fortress walls rose up like giants guarding the entrance."

Explanation: This simile describes the fortress walls as "giants," suggesting they are tall, imposing, and protective. Giants are powerful, often intimidating figures, so comparing the walls to them implies that they are formidable barriers, meant to defend or intimidate anyone approaching. The idea of the walls "guarding" the entrance creates a sense of protection or defense, as if these walls are sentient or deliberately keeping intruders away, adding a feeling of security, strength, and perhaps some unease about what they might be hiding or defending.

11. "Her smile was as bright as the morning sun."

Explanation: Comparing her smile to the morning sun suggests warmth, positivity, and the promise of a new beginning. The morning sun is associated with light, hope, and the start of a new day, so this description implies her smile has a similarly uplifting and energizing effect. It likely brightens the mood of those around her, making her presence feel welcoming and joyous. It also suggests a sense of sincerity and optimism, as if her smile is something people would naturally be drawn to, much like they are drawn to sunlight after darkness.

12. "Time is a thief, stealing moments from our lives."

Explanation: This metaphor describes time as a "thief," suggesting that time takes away moments from us, often without our noticing. A thief typically acts quietly and without permission, emphasizing how quickly and subtly time passes, taking precious memories or experiences along with it. This metaphor conveys a sense of loss, as if the fleeting nature of time deprives us of opportunities, youth, or cherished moments, leaving us unable to reclaim what has been "stolen." It evokes a bittersweet or even sorrowful recognition of life's impermanence.

13. "The Count's vengeance was a double-edged sword, cutting both his enemies and his own soul."

Explanation: This metaphor compares the Count's desire for revenge to a "double-edged sword." A double-edged sword can inflict harm both on others and on oneself, suggesting that while his vengeance hurts his enemies, it also brings him pain or regret. This imagery reveals that his actions in pursuit of revenge may lead to

unintended consequences, possibly hurting his integrity, morals, or inner peace. It implies that his pursuit of vengeance is self-destructive, wounding his soul or spirit as much as it harms those he seeks to punish.

14. "The prison walls were a tomb for the Count's hopes and dreams."

Explanation: Describing the prison walls as a "tomb" for his hopes and dreams implies that the Count's aspirations have metaphorically "died" within the confines of his imprisonment. A tomb is a place for the dead, suggesting that his ambitions and desires have been buried and cannot thrive or be realized within the prison walls. This metaphor emphasizes the despair, loss, and hopelessness he feels, as if the prison has robbed him of his potential and future, turning his dreams into memories of things lost and beyond reach.

15. "Time is a gentle stream that carries us along."

Explanation: This metaphor presents time as a "gentle stream," suggesting that it moves quietly, calmly, and continuously, carrying us through life without haste or resistance. The image of a gentle stream implies a sense of peace and acceptance, as if time is a natural force we float along with rather than something we must struggle against. Unlike more intense metaphors for time, this one evokes tranquility and the inevitability of life's journey, with time acting as a comforting guide that moves us steadily forward, carrying us through experiences without urgency.

16. "The sea of life stretched out before him."

Explanation: By describing life as a "sea," this metaphor suggests life is vast, unpredictable, and full of unknowns, much like the ocean. The sea is often associated with both opportunity and challenge, implying that life is an expansive journey with both smooth and turbulent experiences. The phrase "stretched out before him" conveys that he stands on the edge of his future, looking at all the possibilities life holds. It evokes a sense of awe and perhaps a little apprehension about the journey ahead, with life's "sea" representing endless experiences, choices, and challenges.

17. "The Count's heart was a stone, cold and unyielding."

Explanation: This metaphor describes the Count's heart as a "stone," suggesting that he has become emotionally hardened, unfeeling, or even ruthless. Stone is naturally cold and unchangeable, implying that he is closed off from warmth, compassion, or vulnerability. The words "cold and unyielding" reinforce the idea that his heart is resistant to change and devoid of empathy, likely a result of hardship or betrayal. This creates an image of someone who is emotionally guarded and perhaps driven by anger, resentment, or a single-minded purpose, unable to feel or be moved by others' emotions.

18. "Fernand's betrayal planted seeds of bitterness in Edmond's soul."

Explanation: This metaphor compares Fernand's betrayal to "seeds" that are planted in Edmond's soul, with "bitterness" being what grows from them. Seeds, once planted, take root and grow over time, suggesting that the bitterness caused by betrayal slowly develops and deepens in Edmond's heart. It implies that the betrayal has left a lasting mark on him, one that will continue to grow and affect his thoughts and feelings. This metaphor captures the idea that betrayal has set in motion a process of hurt and resentment within Edmond, one that will be difficult to uproot or move past.

19. "Mercedes was a beacon of light in Edmond's darkness."

Explanation: Describing Mercedes as a "beacon of light" in Edmond's "darkness" suggests she brings hope, guidance, or comfort to him during difficult times. A beacon is a guiding light, often used to help those lost or struggling find their way, so Mercedes' presence likely provides Edmond with a sense of hope, strength, or moral clarity when

he feels consumed by despair or challenges. The "darkness" represents his struggles, hardships, or inner turmoil, and her "light" symbolizes her positive influence, giving him a reason to endure and possibly inspiring him to keep going or find peace.

20. "I've told you a million times to be careful!"

Explanation: This hyperbole exaggerates the number of times the speaker has reminded someone to be careful by saying "a million times." Of course, it's unlikely the speaker has actually repeated this warning a million times, but the expression emphasizes their frustration or exasperation. The exaggeration conveys that the speaker has given this advice repeatedly, and possibly feels ignored or tired of needing to repeat it. This kind of hyperbole often appears in casual speech to intensify emotions, showing that the speaker wants to make an impression and underscore the importance of their message.

21. "I will have my vengeance, and the world will tremble at the power of my retribution!"

Explanation: Here, the speaker uses hyperbole to convey the magnitude of their vengeance by claiming that it will be so powerful that "the world will tremble." This statement exaggerates the impact of their retribution, suggesting that it will be fearsome or even earth-shattering. By using such grand language, the speaker communicates the depth of their anger or determination, as if their revenge will be vast and impactful enough to affect everyone. This hyperbole expresses an intense thirst for justice or retribution, aiming to make the listener understand the extreme seriousness of their resolve.

22. "The wind whispered through the trees, sharing its secrets."

Explanation: In this phrase, the wind is described as "whispering" and "sharing its secrets." By attributing these actions to the wind, the author personifies it, giving it human-like qualities as if it has something to communicate or a mysterious essence. The verb "whispered" suggests the sound of a gentle breeze rustling through the leaves, implying a sense of quiet intimacy, as if the wind has a story or knowledge it's passing along in confidence. "Sharing its secrets" adds to this by hinting that the wind knows something hidden or profound, perhaps about nature or the passage of time, which it subtly "tells" to the trees as it moves through them.

5. CONCLUSION

This research has investigated the figurative language in "The Count of Monte Cristo" movie. The research used the theory of (Abrams & Harpham, 2013), as the guide in identifying and analyzing the data. This research used the transcript from "The Count of Monte Cristo" movie as the data source. Thus, the researchers discovered the data of figurative language in the transcript of the movie. The researchers discovered 22 data based on the findings that show the use of figurative language. There were the use simile, metaphor, hyperbole and personification.

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