

# **AN ANALYSIS ON FIGURATIVE LANGUAGE IN ROBERT FROST'S POETRIES BY ROLAND BARTHES AND JULIA KRISTEVA THEORY**

**Deti Lismayanti<sup>1</sup>**

**FeniAryensi<sup>2</sup>**

**English Education Study Program , Institute Agama Islam Negeri Bengkulu**

**Email<sup>1</sup>: [dettilis@yahoo.co.id](mailto:dettilis@yahoo.co.id)**

**Email<sup>2</sup>: [eniaryensi@gmail.com](mailto:eniaryensi@gmail.com)**

## **ABSTRACT**

Lack of understanding of people about the analysis of poetry and considered analysis is a difficult thing. Researcher focus on three poems, love, and question; Fire and ice, and stopping word in Snowy Evening. This poem is chosen because his poetry work and is built by various figurative language than any other poetry. In addition the poem also give advice on responsibility and respect. There are four research questions in this study to discuss: 1) the types of figurative language used in the chosen point 2) the meaning of the select poem. 3) the theme of poetry 4) the message that can be drawn from the poem. The dominant figures of speech used in Robert Frost's poem are selected? To conduct this research, researcher used the theory of Roland Barthes and Julia Kristeva with a structural approach that analysis figurative language in Robert Frost poem. 1) the research find the figurative language used in the select Robert Frost poem; such as symbol, parallelism, climax, personification, metaphors, repetition, inversion, and hyperbole. In addition, researchers also found the dominant figurative language. The dominant figurative language the Robert Frost uses in poetry is a symbol. 2) the meaning contained in the poetry of Robert Frost has a certain meaning and purpose to be conveyed to the reader according to what is going on at that time. 3) Robert Frost's poetry is Frost who stands at the intersection of 19<sup>th</sup> century American poetry and modernism. 4) Robert Frost's poetry message to be conveyed in the form of how our attitude chooses the way of life.

**Keywords : *An Analysis on Students' Ability in Applying modulation Technique, Translation, and Collocation***

## **Introduction**

There are many ways for human to express the ideas or situations which are happening. Those things can be expressed directly by using the communication or by the writing media. Writing is also known effective to show what someone thinks or feels. Literature can be defined as the attempt to describe human experience by means of written language. One of the way to

express the ideas by writing media is literature. Literature is an imagination of fact to express human feelings. There are many definitions of the literature. One of them “Literature is a creative activity and art without artistic values literature would be just another kind writing, along with scientific, works, reports, etc”<sup>1</sup>.

Literature make us grow, both personally and intellectually. It provides an objective base for knowledge and understanding. It links us with the broader cultural, philosophic, and religious world of which we are a part. Literature has three main divisions, they are drama, poetry and prose. In this thesis I am going to analyze of poetry.

Literature makes us grow, both personally and intellectually. It provides an objective knowledge base and understanding. It connects us with the broader world of culture, philosophy and religion in which we belong. Literature has three main divisions, namely drama, poetry and prose. In this thesis is focused to perform poetry analysis. Researchers analyze this poem by using structuralism theory. Structural approach departs from the view of the structuralism that considers literary works as structures whose elements are closely intertwined and relate to one another. Literary work is a unified whole. As a complete unity, literary works can be understood by its meaning when understood by its parts or its constituent elements, the mutual relation between the part and the whole. In the writing of poetry by using the theory of structuralism then we must consider the elements of poetry, because the study of structuralism theory is the elements of the formation of literature, and on this occasion the literary works in the review is a poem.

Writing poems with the basis of structuralism theory means that in poetry writing attention to the elements of poetry form both intrinsic elements and extrinsic elements of poetry. Extrinsic element of poetry is the theme, feeling, tone and atmosphere, as well as the mandate, while the intrinsic element of poetry is diction, concrete word, figurative language, rhythm / rhyme and format or typography.

To give the originality of this study the authors wanted to present previous studies that deal with, mainly, of figurative language in general. Previous research conducted by Eni Anawati (2010) in "Analysis of Figurative Language Used in Selected from Emily Dickinson Poem". His

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<sup>1</sup> Rene Wellek and Austin Warren. *theory of literature*. New York: harcourt brace and company. 1956.  
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focus of the figures used in the poem. In addition, his study also focuses on the meaning and message of figurative language used in the poem.

Previous research above is only focused on figurative, meaning and message of the poem. Actually, the poem has some aspects that can be analyzed. In analyzing the poem, we can not only find meaning and messages used in poetry, but also we can find the theme used in the poem. So we will know clearly the purpose of the poem. On the basis of previous studies, in this study, the authors intend to analyze a poem by focusing on the presence of figurative language, meaning, message and theme of poetry. Meanwhile, the objects of the poems to be studied differently, those of previous studies.

Researchers interested to analyze the poem because it is seen from the observation of the analysis is still a lot of people who are less interested and consider the analysis is a task that is difficult to do, let alone to analyze the poetry for most people analysis of a literature is difficult because the contents of poetry contained therein Difficult to understand and sometimes unreasonable. In IAIN Bengkulu majoring in english in the 5th semester there are courses of prose and poetry, the researcher observed the students who have completed the course, and the researcher finds the difficulty to understand the intention or the message to be conveyed by the poet through figurative language which is used and concluded that the analysis of poetry is a difficult thing to do.

In this paper the author intends to solve the problem by analyzing the poetry of robert forst so know the theme in general, the general message to be conveyed through figurative language, the types of figurative language used by poets, knowing and classifying the detail meaning and general meaning of the poem.

As an amplifier of the observation of the problem, the researcher gave one of the robert forst poems entitled STOPPING BY WOODS ON A SNOWY EVENING to a student named kesma hidarsi who has completed the course of prose and poetry to analyze the poetry with the ability that has been studied. This simple study resulted in that the results of the student's analysis differed from what had to be the exposure of the message to be conveyed by the poet. "Kesma argues that this poem tells of a person who is enjoying the beauty of the forest in the evenings."

This poetry actually invites readers, to stay focused on the purpose of travel, the promise that must be kept. Sometimes, whether recognized or not, we are enamored of something or someone during the trip. Finally, we turn away. No longer moving with determination to a determined destination. On a spoken promise.

Related to the above description, the study authors figurative language used in selected poems of Robert Frost. the author intends to find some kind of figurative language is used. He also learns the meaning and message of figurative language used in the selected poems of Robert Frost, and the theme of the poem is selected.

### **Statement of the Problems**

1. What kinds of figurative language are used in the selected poems of Robert Frost's poem?
2. What is the detail meaning of the poem containing figurative language used in the selected poems of Robert Frost's poem?
3. What is the theme carried by the poem of Robert Frost's selected poems?
4. What messages are found the poems through understanding figurative language used in the selected poems of Robert Frost's poem?

### **Conceptual Theory**

#### **A. Theoretical Review**

Authors interested in analyzinng poetry, for several reasons, the first because there is no students of faculty Tarbiyah and Tadris program study English education to analyze poetry, both as interested to see if the theory of poetry structural approach able to facilitate researchers to analyze three detail the meaning and message and theme in general to be delivered by the structural approach , there researchers selected 3 poems from robert frost because in his poetry is full of symbols, and is very famous poet in the 20th century through the works created by him based on circumstances at the time that most of these social-themed poetry and philosophy.

## B. Literature

Literature is writings that are valued as works of art, such as fiction, drama, and poetry (in contrast with technical books and newspaper, magazines, etc)<sup>2</sup>. Literature is simply another way we can experience the world around us through our imagination<sup>3</sup>. Literature, in its broadest sense, includes all written materials. Into this general grouping fall history books, philosophical works, novels, poems, plays, scientific articles, dictionaries, magazine, and school textbooks.

Literature is a creative activity and an art.<sup>4</sup> And also defines literature as an art form, like painting, sculpture, music, drama, and the dance<sup>5</sup>. Literature is distinguished from other art forms by the medium in which it works: language. Insofar as speech forms occur in other arts, sung words in music, speaking as well as action in drama, these other arts have literary aspect.

From the explanations above, it can be concluded that, literature is a literary work which there is a beautiful art that comes from human life. Literary work is the result of the expression of feelings and describes imagination of the author's.

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Literature is a description of human experience that has personal and social dimensions at once and the knowledge of humanity that equal with the shape of life itself. Important literature studies as means of sharing experiences (sharing) in the search for and find the truth of humanity. There is not much literature related to writing, but with the language used as a vehicle to express certain experience or thoughts.

A new creation can be said to have literary value in it if there is equivalence between form and content. The form of language is good and beautiful, and its structure and its contents can cause feelings of emotion and impressed in the hearts of readers. The form and content of literature must complement, which can cause a deep impression in the hearts of

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<sup>2</sup>Oxford Advanced Learner's Dictionary (1995: 687)

<sup>3</sup>Jones.1966.*literature*.New york:Oxford university press. page.1

<sup>4</sup>Wellek and warren.1990.*Theory of literature*.New york:Brace and company. page.3

<sup>5</sup>Meanwhile Bailey.1965.*critical to literature*.New york: oxford university press.page. 239

his readers as the realization the values of works of art. If the content is good but the way to express the language is bad, these works can not be as a creation literary, and vice versa.

There are a number of different branches of literary works such as drama, novel, short story, and poetry. In this study, the writer chooses poetry because poetry is a literary work full of imagination which is very entertains.

### C. Poetry

Poetry is the expression of ideas and feelings through a rhythmical composition of imaginative and beautiful words selected for their sonorous effects<sup>6</sup>.

Definition of poetry is also stated that poetry (from the Latin *poeta*, a poet) is a form of literary art in which language is used for its aesthetic and evocative qualities in addition to, or in lieu of, its apparent meaning<sup>7</sup>.

Poetry may be written independently, as discrete poems, or may occur in conjunction with other arts, as in poetic drama, hymns, lyrics, or prose poetry. It is published in dedicated magazines (the longest established being *Poetry* and *Oxford Poetry*), individual collections and wider anthologies. Poetry and discussions of it have a long history. Early attempts to define poetry, such as Aristotle's *Poetics*, focused on the uses of speech in rhetoric, drama, song, and comedy. Later attempts concentrated on features such as repetition, verse form and rhyme, and emphasized the aesthetics which distinguish poetry from more objectively informative, prosaic forms of writing, such as manifestos, biographies, essays, and novels. From the mid-20th century, poetry has sometimes been more loosely defined as a fundamental creative act using language.

Poetry is as one of the pieces of literature that can be studied from various aspects. Poetry can be studied from its structure and its elements, given that the poem is a structure composed of various elements and means of allegory. Through out the era, poetry always experienced changes and developments. This is because the essence as works of art that always happen the tension between convention and innovation. Poetry is always change according to the evolution of taste and aesthetic concept of change<sup>8</sup>.

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<sup>6</sup>Tomlinson.1999.*poetry*.Chicago : chicago perss. page.38

<sup>7</sup>[www.artikelsiana.com](http://www.artikelsiana.com) 2015

<sup>8</sup>Pradopo. *Telaah Sastra*. Jakarta: *Pustaka jaya*. 2003. page.3

Watts-Dunton says that poetry is the concrete expression and artistic nature, while Lescelles Abercrombie said that poetry is the expression of the experience that is imaginative, which is just as well apply in a speech or statement that is expressed with a language community, who take advantage of every plan with a mature and efficient. Therefore, each poem is an imaginative expression of human experience, the first time that we got, when we read a poem, is experience. More people read poetry so the reader will get more experience, particularly experience of imagination.

#### **D. Figurative language**

In expressing or describing something, an author conveys a way that is different. An author in conveying feelings and thoughts also uses language in different way too. It makes expression of varied thoughts and feelings. Variations in the use of the word, the wording or language, are called figurative language.

Figurative language is a matter of choosing and using words in accordance with the contents of which would be submitted<sup>9</sup>. Figurative language also comes to how to compose sentence effectively and aesthetically, and it can give a concrete description in mind of the reader. On the other hand explains that everyone will want to issue thoughts and opinions with others as clearly as possible<sup>10</sup>. Sometimes only use words are unclear to explain something; therefore the equation uses comparison, allusion, and other words.

Figurative language is the use of variety of language that represents or describe something by choosing and arranging of the words in the sentence to obtain a certain effect<sup>11</sup>. The existence of this figurative language causes rhyme becomes attractive attention that causes the freshness of life. This figurative language makes an analogy or likening something to something else so that image becomes clear, more interesting, and more life.

Frost also explains that figurative language uses “figures of speech” a way of saying something other than the literal meaning of the words. For example, “All the world's a stage” Frost often refers to them simply as “figures”. Frost says, “Every poem I write is

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<sup>9</sup>Tjahjono, 1988, *basic poetry*, Nusa perss: jakarta. page 201

<sup>10</sup>Tarigan, 1986, *Figurative language*, Erlangga : Bandung. page. 32

<sup>11</sup>Zainudin. 1992. *puisi*. erlangga: Bandung. Page. 51

figurative in two senses. It will have figures in it, of course; but it's also a figure in itself a figure for something, and it's made so that you can get more than one figure out of it".<sup>12</sup>

According to Alfiah and Santosa (2009: 27), figurative language is the use language style by the poet to describe, issue, and express feelings and thoughts in writing poetry. Figurative language of poetry is causing a lot of meaning. Because figurative language to produce the imagination in poetry so that it becomes clear.

There are many kinds of figurative language, such assimile, metaphor, personification, hyperbole, Irony, personification, etc. According to Tjahjono in general figurative language is divided into four types: a comparison, assertion, innuendo and contradiction. All the styles of language are already known by many people. And in fact, figurative language is also used in education to teach language. Starting from elementary school through high school, and university levels<sup>13</sup>.

From the explanation above, it can be concluded that, every person uses language that shows the style of his or her own language. Figurative language is language which employs various figures of speech. It is the way that reveals thoughts through a specific language and it shows inner feelings of the writer or language user. Figurative language is not intended to be interpreted in a literal sense.

## **E. structural approach**

According to experts define structural approach is as follows :

### **1). Ferdinand de Saussure**

It lays the foundation for modern linguistics through its established school, the school of Geneva. According to Saussure the basic principle of linguistics is the distinction between signifiant (form, sign, symbol) and signifie (signified), between parole and langue (language), and between synchronous and diachronic. With this clear and clear classification linguistics may develop into an autonomous science, in which the phenomenon of language can be explained and analyzed without dirt based on anything outside the language.

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<sup>12</sup>Frost Friend Online: 2016

<sup>13</sup>Tjahjono.1988,*basic poetry*.Nusa perss:jakarta.page 201



Saussure brings a radical perspective rotation from the diachronic approach to the synchronic approach. Linguistic systems and methods began to develop scientifically and produced widely accepted theories. The success of linguistic studies is then followed by various other branches of science such as anthropology, philosophy, psychoanalysis, poetry, and story analysis.

2). Jan Mukarovsky

Introducing the concept of artefacta-object-aesthetic twin. Literature is considered as a fixed fact of semiotics. Literary texts are regarded as a compound mark in a broad context that includes both literary and social systems.

3). Sklovsky

Developed the concept of automation and deotomatization, similar to Roman Jakobson's concept of familiarization and defamiliarization. Their premise is that literary language often brings out different styles of everyday language styles and scientific language styles. This language structure also often presents a variety of deviant and unusual patterns.

**F. Meaning of Robert Frost's poetry**

Meaning is what is referred to or indicated by eg sounds, words or signals.<sup>14</sup> Meaning as use refers to speaker meaning and particularly the intention of the speaker or the desired communicative effect of the utterance.

Language used for various activities and purposes in life, then the meaning of language is also a variety when viewed from different point of view. The meaning of a word or term is confusing. Each word is used sometimes to have wide meaning. That is why sometimes people are not satisfied with the meaning of words contained in the dictionary. These issues arise when people meet or deal with the idiom, figurative language, metaphors, proverbs, and phrases<sup>15</sup>.

From the explanation above can be conclude that the meaning is expresses of language by the writer or speaker to intention the reader or speaker in different point of view.

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<sup>14</sup>Oxford Advanced Learner's Dictionary 1995: 726

<sup>15</sup>Robert.2008.*an introduction ficion*.Pustaka belajar:jogja. Page 22

## G. Theme

Theme is the subject of talk, a piece of writing or a person's thoughts; a topic<sup>16</sup>. States that theme is the main idea (subject matter) presented by the poet. All the work of literature must have a theme which is the principal issues raised in the written works of literature.

Theme is a main idea, moral, or message, of an essay, paragraph, movie, television program, book or video game. The message may be about life, society, or human nature<sup>17</sup>. Themes often explore timeless and universal ideas and are almost always implied rather than stated explicitly. Along with plot, character, setting, and style, theme is considered as one of the fundamental components of fiction.

The controlling idea of a poem is the idea continuously developed throughout the poem by sets of key words that identify the poet's subject and his attitude or feeling about it. It may also be suggested by the title of a poem or by segment of the poem. It is rarely stated explicitly by the poet, but it can be stated by the reader and it can be stated in different ways. The controlling idea is an idea, not a moral; it is a major idea, not a minor supporting idea or detail; and it controls or dominates the poem as a whole<sup>18</sup>.

Based on the statement above, it can be concluded that the theme is the description of the soul of a poem. It is clear that in a poem a poet wants to express something to readers. The poet wants to describe his feelings, his thoughts, with a view or experience the event and write it into words.

## H. Message

Message is a written spoken request, piece of information, etc. that is passed from one person to another indirectly<sup>19</sup>. Message is stated as conveyed in speech or writing from one person to one or more other people, the message may not always be stated in verbal form but can be conveyed by other means, e.g. wink, and gestures<sup>20</sup>.

Message or purpose is the thing that encourages poets to create poetry. Message can be found after knowing the theme of poetry. Message or advice is captured by readers

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<sup>16</sup>Oxford Advanced Learner's Dictionary, 1995: 1273

<sup>17</sup>[roiman.generasi.net](http://roiman.generasi.net) 2016

<sup>18</sup>Vabiola, 2014, blogger, retrieved on November 24 11 2016 from <https://www.reference.com>

<sup>19</sup>Oxford Advanced Learner's Dictionary, 1995: 733

<sup>20</sup>In Longman Dictionary 1992: 227

as the impression after reading the poem. How the reader to conclude message poetry is closely related with the point of view of the reader toward something. Message is different from the theme. In poetry, the themes related to the meaning, while themes sagerelating to the meaning of literary works<sup>21</sup>.

## **I. Frame of Thinking**

This research was designed with a structural approach to know in detail the meaning of Robert Frost poetry as well as an overview of the theme and message of poetry and see the beauty of figurative language.

The structural approach is concerned with the role of the reader. This approach gives attention to the new shift and functionality of the reader. The structural approach takes into account indicators and accent readers in the literature, both synchronous and diachronic.

Concept The theory of pure structuralism is the most important point is the role of elements in forming the totality, the connection functionally among these elements, so that the totality is not by itself equal to the number of element-the element. The procedure (method) theory used is a structural method that is a methods that work structurally dismantle the interistic elements of literary works that include in it roundness of meaning, diction, rhyme, sentence structure, theme, plot, setting, character, and others. In the elements described earlier serve as the forming of totality, then there is mutual interrelations between the elements (transformative) and the last self regulation (self regulating) that elements are mutually self-regulate

## **Method of Research**

Research is a more systematic activity directed toward discovery and the development of an organized body of knowledge. Research can be defined as the systematic and objective analysis and recording controlled observations that may lead to the development of generalizations, principles, or theories, resulting in prediction and possibly ultimate control of events.<sup>22</sup>

This research uses library research with qualitative approach to analyze of Robert Frost's selected poems. This study attempts to provide answer of the research problems of

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<sup>21</sup>Saefuzaman Online, 2014

<sup>22</sup>Best.1981.*methodology research*.chicago: chicago press. page.18

the study in analyzing the figurative language of the poems, the meaning and the message used in the poems, and the theme of the poems. In line with the description above, the design is categorized into semantic content analysis. Content analysis is research technique formaking inferences that can be replicated and valid data by considering the context.

Content analysis in the literature is based on three important assumptions of literature works which covert communication messages, in which the content is valuable to the readers<sup>23</sup>. This kind of literary study, the epistemological is alot of research using positivistic understanding. The analysis should be based the principle of objectivity, systematic, and generalization. Objectivity is pursued through the building of theoretical constructs of the existing analysis. Systematic is indicated by the use of steps clearly. Generalization is based on the context of literature as a whole to obtainin ference.

NO	Figurative language	Love and a question	Fire and ice	Stopping by woods on snowy evening
1	Symbol			
2	Paradox			
3	Parallelism			
4	Climx			
5	Personification			
6	Repetition			
7	metaphor			
8	Inversion			
9	hyperbole			
10	conotation			

## Finding

This chapter presents the analysis of Robert Frost"s selected poems. In this chapter, the researcher would like to answer the research questions which have been stated in the chapter one by presenting the data and analyzing them.

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<sup>23</sup>Endraswara.2004.*analysis*.Nusa indah:jakarta. page.162

In these findings, the researcher finds the types and the meaning of figurative language used in the four poems of Robert Frost dealing with the figurative language using Roland Baerthes and Julia Kristeva's theory.

## Analysis

The speaker in the poem is traveling at night through the snow and pauses with his horse near the woods by a neighbor's house to watch the snow falling around him. His horse shakes his harness bells, questioning the pause; perhaps this place isn't on their usual route, or he is curious that there doesn't appear to be a farmhouse nearby.

The speaker continues to stand near the woods, attracted by the deep, dark silence of his surroundings. He feels compelled to move further into the snowy woods, but he ultimately decides to continue, concluding with perhaps the most famous lines of the poem: 'But I have promises to keep, and miles to go before I sleep, and miles to go before I sleep.'

Based on the data presentation above, the first analysis is to find the type of figurative language. Then, in this research, the researcher finds out the several types of figurative language used in Robert Frost's poems :

NO	Figurative language	Love and a question	Fire and ice	Stopping by woods on snowy evening
1	Symbol	3	2	1
2	Paradox		1	
3	Parallelism		1	1
4	Climx		1	
5	Personification			
6	Repetition			
7	metaphor			
8	Inversion			1
9	hyperbole			2
10	conotation	4		

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