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**THE USE AND MEANING OF METAPHOR IN ABU NAWAS'S HOMOEROTIC POEMS****Khaerul Yahya**

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**Abstract**

Homoerotic poems which are written by Abu Nawas, generally express about homo sexual, love interaction, and controversial discussion. This research aims to analyze the types and meanings of metaphor in homoerotic poems of Abu Nawas. There are six poems to be analyzed based on the problem and controversial discussion in the poem, the six poems are "In the bath-house", "A boy is worth more than a girl", "Wine of paradise", "Don't cry for Layla", "I die of love for him", and "O desire". The poems have several meaning and contain a hidden message. The message does not expressed directly by the poet. Therefore, purpose of the research is to identify metaphors in the poems, their types and meaning. This research uses qualitative method. Then, the researcher uses descriptive approach and identify method for the process of analysis. The researcher uses semantic theory of Ullmann adapted by Sumarsono focuses on the type and meaning of metaphor in analyzing. The result of analysis this research, the researcher finds 16 cases of metaphor in the poems. These cases are categorized, 6 cases of anthropomorphic metaphor, 4 cases of from concrete to abstract metaphor and 6 cases of not categorized as metaphors of Ullmann theory. The result of the research shows that in the Homoerotic Poems of Abu Nawas is dominated by the anthropomorphic metaphor type. Therefore, the metaphors in homoerotic poems of Abu Nawas generally show a sexual, love interaction and dandy of man which is more worth than a girl. Those show that love is not only for a woman but all pleasant things can be loved.

**Keywords:** *poem, metaphor, type, meaning, Abu Nawas***Abstrak**

Puisi-puisi homoerotic yang ditulis oleh Abu Nawas pada umumnya mengekspresikan tentang homo seksual, interaksi cinta, dan kontroversial. Penelitian ini bertujuan untuk menganalisa tipe-tipe dan makna-makna metafora dalam puisi-puisi homoerotic Abu Nawas. Ada enam puisi yang akan dianalisa berdasarkan masalah dan isi kontroversial dalam puisi, enam puisi tersebut yaitu "In the bath-house", "A boy is worth more than a girl", "Wine of paradise", "Don't cry for Layla", "I die of love for him", and "O desire". Puisi-puisi memiliki beberapa makna dan mengandung pesan tersembunyi. Pesan itu tidak diungkapkan secara langsung oleh penyair. Oleh karena itu, tujuan dari penelitian ini adalah untuk mengidentifikasi metafora dalam puisi-puisi tersebut, jenis dan maknanya. Penelitian ini menggunakan metode kualitatif. Kemudian, peneliti menggunakan pendekatan deskriptif dan metode padan untuk proses analisis. Peneliti menggunakan teori semantik Ullmann yang diadaptasi oleh Sumarsono berfokus pada jenis dan makna metafora dalam menganalisis. Hasil analisis penelitian ini, peneliti menemukan 16 kasus metafora dalam puisi-puisi tersebut. Kasus-kasus ini dikategorikan, 6 kasus metafora antropomorfik, 4 kasus dari metafora konkret ke abstrak dan 6 kasus tidak dikategorikan sebagai metafora teori Ullmann. Hasil penelitian menunjukkan bahwa dalam Puisi Homoerotik Abu Nawas didominasi oleh tipe metafora antropomorfik. Oleh karena itu, metafora dalam puisi homoerotik Abu Nawas umumnya menunjukkan interaksi seksual, cinta, dan pesolek laki-laki yang lebih berharga daripada perempuan. Mereka menunjukkan bahwa cinta bukan hanya untuk seorang wanita tetapi semua hal yang menyenangkan dapat dicintai.

**Kata kunci:** *puisi, metafora, jenis, makna, Abu Nawas*

## Introduction

People have goal or intention of communication. The intention of it such as to inform or get information, to say to another people, to know, to ask something needed, or to give interaction, all of them are a need in daily activity of people. Kridalaksana (1983) said as cited in Abdul Chaer "Language is a sound symbol system arbitrary that used by social group for collaborating, communicating, and self-identification" (2007: 32). It indicates that people cannot be known from their daily language because we do not know what are in people's mind. Through language people can deliver their mind to other. Moreover, we can find working through the message from literary works that amend speedy in it age such as poem.

Altenbernd says that poem is a literary works that keep developing abreast of civilization. Every civilization has its own poem production, it shows that the power of poem is not lost (1966: 1). The citation from *A Handbook for the Study of Poetry* by Lynn Altendbernd gives notice that poem is always go on and it has each power in every civilization an being history for each period. After examining the importance of language and poem, it will be useful to make research about metaphor.

According to Lakkof (2003: 4) "Metaphor is the imagination of people and rhetorical flourish a matter of extraordinary rather than ordinary language. Moreover, metaphor is typically viewed as characteristic of language alone, a matter of words rather than thought or action". It means that metaphor uses analogy to apply kind of object or idea implied by the words. This definition makes the researcher interested in analyzing the meaning of metaphor. Of course, hidden messages are important to know, so that the researcher would like to show through words. In literary works, expectation of the author can be in hidden messages by metaphor.

Ullmann states "Methapor is so closely intertwined with the very textute of human speech that we have already encountered it in various guises: as a major factor in motivation, as an expressive device, as a source of synonymy and polysemy, as an outlet for intend emotion, as a means of filling gaps in vocabulary, and in several other rules" (1983: 212). What Ullmann said shows us that metaphors are found in every literary works. People express their emotion in a language through metaphor in daily life. Not only in literary works, but also in speaking, writing, and thinking in their life.

This research is analyzing six poems of homoerotic Abu Nawas's. The six poems are In the Bath-House, [A Boy is Worth More Than a Girl, Wine of Paradise, Don't Cry for Layla, I die of love for him,](#) O Desire. Homoerotic poems are talking about homo sexual love, romantic, or sexual interaction and controversial content like talking about wine. His poems consist of spiritual, love, besides humanity and justice (Kennedy, 2005: 4).

This research is focusing on utilizing and meaning of metaphor in the poem proposed by the theory of Stephen Ullmann adapted by Sumarsono. The author of poems does not convey the message directly, so the research in the poems about metaphor is important. The researcher hopes throughout this research may help the readers in research related to metaphor. Hopefully, the readers understand the meaning of metaphors in literary works especially poems.

## Methods of Research

This research uses qualitative research method. Qualitative research is a method that explores and understands meanings that some individuals or groups of people consider from social or humanitarian problems (Creswell, 2013: 4). The focus of this research is exploring the types of metaphor and their meaning in Abu Nawas's homoerotic poems by using semantics theory.

Data is all facts and figures that can be used as material to compile information (Arikunto, 2002: 96). In this research, the main source of data is poems taken from Homoerotic Poems - Abu Nuwás (757 - 815) in the living room by [Matt & Andrej Koymasky](#) (2010). For collecting data the researcher uses documentation, because the main focus in this research is on the text and it is conducted by analysis the content. In conducting this research, the researcher uses library research, and observes several the documents related to the research to get data easily.

Data analysis is focus activity in focusing, abstracting, and organizing data systematically and rationally to give substance of meaning to the problem (Suryana, 2010: 53). The researcher uses descriptive approach and identify method. Identify method is a method used to determine the identity of certain lingual units using determinant outside the language in

relation (Zaim, 2014: 98). In this research, the determining tool is the fact pointed out by the language or language referent (the method is called referential). The data in this research is taken from the poem and analyzed descriptively. The researcher collects the data, afterwards analyze them in several steps. First, the researcher classifies the data based on the theory of metaphor and semantic by Ullmann. Second, the data is divided into two, categorized as metaphor and not categorized. Third, the researcher analyzes the meaning of metaphor that found from the poems metaphorically and literally. The last, the researcher finds all of research question answer in this research.

### Research Finding and Discussion

The researcher takes six poems to be analyzed as the data that have collected. The poems are analyzed by using metaphor theory that the researcher takes from Ullmann's book entitled *Semantics an Introduction to the Science of Meaning* adapted by Sumarsono in his book entitled *Pengantar Semantik*. The researcher classifies metaphor into two kind, those are categorized and not categorized. It said as the categorized metaphor is when it includes the types of metaphor intended by Ullmann. The other one, not categorized metaphor is when it not includes the types of metaphor intended by Ullmann. In this research, the researcher only discusses about the categorized metaphors. Then, the kinds of metaphor that the researcher finds in the six poems of homoerotic Abu Nawas's poems are 6 cases of anthropomorphic metaphor, and 4 cases of from concrete to abstract metaphor.

The data here are the result of researcher's classification from selected poems of homoerotic Abu Nawas's poems. The classification that researcher used is the data based on the kinds of metaphor. Afterwards, from the results of the data that have collected, then the researcher interprets the meaning of each type of poems. The researcher analyses the data based on theory that used. There are two types of metaphors found, anthropomorphic metaphor and from concrete to abstract metaphor. These two types of metaphor are the metaphor included in the category of metaphor proposed by Ullmann. Besides, the researcher does not find the types of animal metaphor and synesthetic metaphor in the selected poems of homoerotic Abu Nawas's poems.

Cases that found are categorized as anthropomorphic metaphors because of giving the nature or human feeling to objects, animals or other non-human objects in the stanza. Below are the six of cases and the meanings of anthropomorphic metaphor in the Abu Nawas's poems:

1. Are not this **child's eyes all fire?**

Literally, the researcher understands and gets the meaning of the sentence *Are not this child's eyes all fire?*, it means "there is question about the enthusiasm or the condition of child intended in the sentence". Metaphorically, the sentence "*are not this **child's eyes all fire?***" has meaning that "that a small child looks like he really wants to play". Small children are generally very happy when they play, they want to do whatever they like. In this case the wishes of a child are seen from their eyes when they see something interesting. Besides, the desire here is a hope of someone to dearest. He hopes dearest wants to fill his boyish with him just in playing. The indicator of homoerotic in this poem can be seen from the intention of the author addressed to dearest man.

2. You see **handsome buttocks**, shapely trim torsos.

Literally, the researcher gets the meaning of the sentence that "someone sees a beautiful body, that beautiful body can be seen from the buttock". Metaphorically, the sentence *You see **handsome buttocks**, shapely trim torsos* has meaning "a beautiful body that seen in the bath house is a buttock shapely in human body". the author compare a handsome with a buttock as parable of a beautiful thing he sees.

3. My eyes are fixed upon his **delightful body**

Literally, the researcher gets the meaning of this sentence that "someone or the author is amazed by a beautiful or pleasure man". Metaphorically, the sentence *my eyes are fixed upon his **delightful body*** means "someone that proposed by the author is amazed by a beautiful body of human". The beautiful body here described for a man. By seeing the beautiful of love for a man is becoming reason of it. So the author here gives parable of woman love.

4. His **waist** is a **sapling**.

Literally, the researcher gets the meaning that there is a piece of body like a tree. Metaphorically, the sentence *His **waist** is a **sapling*** has meaning "the body that someone

proposed by the author especially the waist is thin or sexy". Actually, there is no waist like a tree, but there is sexy waist in the body. The author here gives the parable of the young tree to a human body. In giving parable the author does not use direct speech but he uses the three singular person.

#### 5. His **face** a **moon**

Literally, the researcher gets meaning of the sentence that there is face of man resemble a moon. Metaphorically, the sentence *His **face** a **moon*** has meaning "the face of man in the poem is handsome". The author gives parable of moon as the word that describing condition of face.

#### 6. And loveliness rolls of his **rosy cheek**

Literally, the researcher gets meaning that the beautiful face has good cheek and pink. Metaphorically, the sentence *and loveliness rolls of his **rosy cheek*** means "the handsome or beautiful person in the poem described or can be seen from the beautiful cheek of person. The cheek that person has is pink, so it gives uniqueness and gracious itself.

In the type of from concrete to abstract metaphor, researcher finds 4 cases in the poems. These four cases are contained in Abu Nawas's poems entitled "*Don't cry for Layla, I die of love for him, wine of paradise*". Cases that found are categorized as From concrete to abstract metaphors because of giving the elaboration of concrete experiences into abstract thing. The concrete words are *wine, glass, die and jar*. The abstract words are *ruby, pearl, love and bright*. The cases and meanings are below:

#### 1. The **wine is a ruby**.

Literally, the researcher takes the meaning of sentence that wine is something hard. Metaphorically, the sentence *The **wine is a ruby*** means that the wine actually almost has pink color. The wine is danger for every one that can perilous the health of body.

#### 2. The **glass is a pearl**

Literally, the researcher takes conclusion meaning of the sentence that there is a glass resemble a shiny think that proposed by the author in the stanza. Metaphorically, the sentence *The **glass is a pearl*** means that the glass in the sentence that proposed by the author is the glass making on a shiny thing and the shiny here resembled by pearl.

#### 3. I **die** of **love** for you, but keep this **secret**.

Literally, the researcher concludes that the life of person that proposed by the author in the stanza is only for loving. Metaphorically, the sentence *I **die** of **love** for you, but keep this **secret*** means that all of affection that described in the stanza is given to someone totality. The affection is given as if living only to love. Someone that described by the author in the stanza has totality love that any person does not know.

#### 4. Wine of **jar bright**

Literally, the researcher concludes that the word *jar* as the author means is a tool for drinking made of glass so that it seems producing the light. Metaphorically, the sentence *Wine of **jar bright*** means that wine proposed by the author in the sentence has a special place, because according to the author the wine is something special so that it must be placed in special place. Jar bright is special place, it made of something shiny like a glass. This kind of poem is categorized as controversial poem among people because it discusses about wine. As known among people wine is something dangerous because it intoxicating. Something intoxicating like wine can make loss of self-awareness.

## CONCLUSION

This research has a purpose to describe and understand the types and meanings of metaphors of *homoerotic Abu Nawas poems*. Therefore, to find out the types and their meanings, the researcher uses Ullman's theory adapted by Sumarsono. After classifying and analyzing, the researcher finds out 10 cases of metaphors which consist of 6 cases anthropomorphic metaphor, and 4 cases of from concrete to abstract metaphor. Anthropomorphic metaphor becomes domain types of metaphor in homoerotic Abu Nawas poems. The domain of anthropomorphic metaphor means the author of the poems wants to share and show the expression using any lifeless objects which are juxtaposed by the human body or feelings.

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