

# METAPHOR LANGUAGE PORTRAYED IN THE CULTURAL ASSIMILATION IN THE NOVEL THE VALENTINE HOUSE BY EMMA HENDERSON

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| Abstract   | Article Information   |
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| <p><i>This study explore the metaphor language portrayed in the cultural assimilation in the novel The Valentine House by Emma Henderson. There are two objectives of this research; 1) To find the types of metaphor language found in the novel "The Valentine House" by Emma Henderson, and 2) To explain the metaphor language that describes cultural assimilation in the novel "The Valentine House" by Emma Henderson. In analyzing the data, the researcher uses the theory of Metaphor by Aristoteles to find out the forms of metaphor language contained in the novel, then the researcher analyzes and explains the data from the novel. The methodology in this study is a qualitative research by taking data from quotations in the novel which the researcher then conveys descriptively. The results of this study, the researchers found that the types of metaphor language in the novel The Valentine House by Emma Henderson are standard metaphor, implied metaphor, visual metaphor, and extended metaphor. And the metaphor language that is described in the cultural assimilation that affects the metaphor language is culture as an idea and culture as an activity.</i></p> <p><b>Keywords:</b> Metaphor Language, Cultural Assimilation, Novel</p> | <p><i>Received:</i><br/>15/06/2024</p> <p><i>Revised:</i><br/>01/08/2024</p> <p><i>Accepted:</i><br/>13/08/2024</p> |

## INTRODUCTION

Figurative language is a type of language which have various meaning in order to deliver the meaning from speakers to touch the emotion and persuade action. Peter (2002) defines figurative language as a language that has figurative meaning and incorporates the speaker's desire to touch the emotions, to cause shock, and to persuade into action. Miller (1981) states that "figurative language is an indirect statement that says one thing in terms of another". Figurative language does not describe the meaning directly instead insists readers apprehend the meaning indirectly.

The use of figurative language could imply various expressions shown by people to be considered of other feelings instead of uttering them directly. Expression is used to express ideas and feelings by showing them through words, actions, or artistic activities. The definition above defines that an expression is not limited by actions, face expression, or gesture but expression could be considered by words. The researcher explains that the expression could be expressed by various forms consisting of face expression, expression of vocal and body mimic.

How to think and act of each individual is always related with the metaphor. A description of reality and everyday experience can be understood easily through metaphor since metaphors are related to human cognition. Metaphor is not enough seen as a comparison between two objects alone, but more than that. Metaphors cannot be separated from reality. A comparison word is something that is are often committed by humans. In daily life, people often compare one thing with the other through a parable. The parable is actually a process of review of the meaning of a concept to explain the matter to be conveyed through language.

The metaphor has two meanings that are narrow and broad sense. The narrow meanings are defined as forms of figurative language that are implied without using like, as for, such as, as, etc, while metaphor in a broad sense is all forms of semantic figurative extension such as metonymy, parable, personification, synecdoche, and allegory. Yob (2003) states that a metaphor is used when someone wants to explore and understand something abstract. It can be defined as an implicit analogy that imagines one object to another. Besides, from the metaphor, we can see the identity of the person.

Metaphor in the novel is an expression of the author in realizing his imagination through the medium of language. This study aims to determine the metaphor of language portrayed in the cultural assimilation in the novel "The Valentine House" By Emma Henderson. Regarding the process of expressing feelings, such as the work of an author, Emma Henderson expresses his feelings and thoughts through literary works in the form of novels in the form of metaphorical expressions.

Cultural assimilation refers to the process in which a minority group or culture assumes the behaviors, values, rituals, and beliefs of their host nation's majority group. People are often encouraged or pressured to culturally assimilate, but these changes are often forced. Indigenous, immigrant, and ethnic minority groups often change or hide elements of their own culture, including their language, food, clothing, and spiritual practices, in order to adopt the values and social behaviors of the dominant culture. Those who advocate for cultural assimilation believe that it decreased conflict, contributes to a more cohesive national identity, and improves the social and economic opportunities for minority individuals. While cultural assimilation is often presented as an easy solution, it contributes to other problems and difficulties.

The study aims to examine the forms of metaphors used by the author. As proposed by Aristoteles. The researcher is very interested in conducting a study on four types of metaphor, namely standard, implied, visual and extended metaphors used in the novel. Besides,

the researcher also explain the identity of the characters through the use of metaphor in the novel.

## **LITERATURE REVIEW**

To support the making of this thesis, theories related to the scope of the problem and the scope of discussion are proposed as the basis for making this thesis. For this research, the writer uses metaphor theory by Aristoteles (1996) and cultural theory by Stuart Hall (1997).

### **Figurative Language**

Figurative language refers to words or phrases that are meaningful, but not literally true. Figurative language refers to the use of words in a way that deviates from the conventional order and meaning in order to convey a complicated meaning, colorful writing, clarity, or evocative comparison. Fiction writers use figurative language to engage their audience using a more creative tone that provokes thinking and sometimes humor. It makes fiction writing more interesting and dramatic than the literal language that uses words to refer to statements of fact. There are several types of figurative languages that are used in modern writing. They include: simile, metaphor, hyperbole, personification, synecdoche, and onomatopoeia.

### **Definition of Metaphor**

Metaphor is defined as a figure of speech that one concept or thing is compared with another thing without giving comparison words explicitly "like" or "as" that is called a simile. Metaphor is not only figurative but also an important mechanism of the mind that allows modeling and verification of previous experience. Besides, a metaphor is sending images, meanings, or expressive qualities to other expressions that have the same purpose. Metaphor is often used by the people to analogy of a concept of objects to other concepts that still have similarities with each other, that Metaphor can be defined as an implied analogy with one object with another. The depiction can be in the form of objects, physical, ideas, traits, or deeds. The function of metaphor is to express one's imagination about something. Then, the researcher uses the theory adopted by Aristoteles. Aristoteles said the main function of metaphor is as a stylistic or ornament rhetoric, especially figure of speech. The figure of speech is used to beautify the expressions in novel. In other words, Aristotle is more concerned with metaphor as a concept the thought that produced the expression.

### **Theory of Metaphor**

Comparative theory, which is identical to the etymological definition above, was initiated by Aristoteles in the fourth century AD. According to Aristoteles, metaphor is a very effective means of thinking to understand an abstract concept, which done by expanding the meaning of the concept by compare it with other concepts that are already understood. Through comparison This is the transfer of meaning from concepts that have been understood to concepts abstract. Aristoteles said, the main function of metaphor is as a stylistic or ornament rhetoric, especially figure of speech. The figure of speech is used to beautify the expressions in novel. In other words, Aristotle is more concerned with metaphor as a concept

thinking that produces the expression. Since it was proclaimed by Aristotle, metaphor has become one of the fields of study major philosophy, linguistics and critical literature in the West. However, emphasis on the function of metaphor as ornament rhetorically resulted in these studies only focusing on efforts to distinguish between literal and figurative language. Aristoteles divide metaphors into three types, namely: standard metaphor, implied metaphor, and extended metaphor.

### **Standard Metaphor**

A standard metaphor states one idea is another, making a direct comparison as if the two ideas were synonyms. The template looks like this: X is Y so that Y is almost a metonym (substitute name for the close association) for X.

Example: Maria is my sunshine

Explanation: Maria is directly called sunshine. Of course, Maria can't be sunshine, so the reader has to understand that Maria is as important to the writer's life as sunshine is.

### **Implied Metaphor**

As its name suggests, an implied metaphor makes an implied comparison without ever making a direct comparison between two ideas.

Example: The commander barked an order to the troops to stand alert.

Explanation: With this implied metaphor, the commander's order is compared to that of a bark, suggesting it as harsh.

### **Extended Metaphor**

An extended metaphor uses descriptive language to elaborate a comparison. It's the type of metaphor that you find referenced throughout a stanza, a full poem, a couple of paragraphs, or an entire blog post.

Example: This post that explains how to use the Swiss cheese productivity method to get things done references food items throughout the piece.

### **Cultural Theory**

This theory is used because the researcher wants to analyze the cultural assimilation in the novel *The Valentine House*. Cultural theory is the branch of comparative anthropology and semiotics (not to be confused with cultural sociology or cultural studies) that seeks to define the heuristic concept of culture in operational and/or scientific terms (Stuart Hall:1997). Acceleration and amplification of these various aspects of culture change have been explored by complexity economist, W. Brian Arthur. In his book, *The Nature of Technology*, Arthur attempts to articulate a theory of change that considers that existing technologies (or material culture) are combined in unique ways that lead to novel new technologies. Behind that novel combination is a purposeful effort arising in human motivation. This articulation would suggest that we are just beginning to understand what might be required for a more robust theory of culture and culture change, one that brings coherence across many disciplines and reflects an integrating elegance.

## **Cultural Assimilation**

Cultural assimilation is a conceptual effort to understand how humans use culture to live their lives in groups, maintain their lives through cultivating the natural environment, and maintain their balance with the unseen world. Cultural assimilation is the mixing of two cultures with the loss of the original cultural characteristics to form a new culture. In this theory, the researcher explains about 2 forms of culture. That is, there is a *culture as an idea* and *culture as an activity*. Metaphorical conceptualization in natural situations occurs under two simultaneous pressures: the pressure of embodiment and the pressure of context. Context is determined by local culture. Context may be characterized by physical, social, cultural, discourse, etc. aspects, and it consists of such factors as the setting, topic, audience, and medium, which can all influence metaphorical conceptualization. For example, Boers showed that physical context may systematically shape the way we think metaphorically. Boers studied the economy is health metaphor in a ten year period, and found that the use of this metaphor is systematically more frequent in the winter than in the summer. Economy is health is a potentially universal metaphor whose use varies according to the physical context of metaphorical conceptualization.

## **RESEARCH METHODOLOGY**

This type of research aims to reveal descriptive qualitative information with researched and nuanced descriptions to accurately describe the characteristics of a thing, situation, phenomenon, and is not limited to data collection but includes data analysis and interpretation. This study uses an embedded research strategy because the problem and research objectives have been determined from the beginning of the research and case studies because they are focused on certain cases. This study focuses on metaphor language and cultural assimilation in the valentine house novel.

In this research, there are two types of data used, namely primary data and secondary data. The first is primary data, The primary data of this research is a novel entitled The valentine house by Emma Henderson. The second is secondary data, Secondary data used by researcher are books on literary science by experts, various books on literature and references regarding metaphor theory. Several previous researches are also used as reference material. In the process of collecting data, researcher breaks it down to several steps: First, the researcher reading the novel The Valentine House by Emma Henderson repeatedly to determine the sense of what to research. Second, the researcher identifies the novel as the data to conduct the research. Third, the researcher determines the type of research. The type of research that is used is descriptive research using literature studies whose data sources come from different types books and documents as references. Then, the researcher collected various supporting data, such as books on literary theory, about the of literary Metaphor by Aristoteles, and previous research. Then, the researcher conducts the research strictly within the theory of metaphor

## **FINDINGS AND DISCUSSIONS**

### **The Types of Metaphor Language**

Accordance with the grouping according to aristoteles, in this study researcher found 3 types of metaphor language that were dominant in the novel *The Valentine House*. Three of them are standard metaphor, implied metaphor, and extended metaphor. The use of metaphor language is very influential in making the story interesting. With the use of a variety of metaphor, and sentences that seem to contain hidden meanings give the impression that makes the reader curious and think or imagine the meaning.

#### a. Standard Metaphor

A standard metaphor states one idea is another, making a direct comparison as if the two ideas were synonyms. The template looks like this: X is Y so that Y is almost a metonym for X. There are excerpt of standard metaphor as follows:

As seen in the excerpt:

“Suddenly he wanted to ask a thousand questions, or say a thousand things, some of them unspeakable and terrible. He was sure that his face betrayed the emotions he was battling to control, and then in a flash of a second he shoved everything back into his **battered hearts** closet, locking the door on the way out.” (p:36)

The sentence above mentions that he kept his sadness in the cupboard of his heart and locked the door. As it is known, the wardrobe is an object that functions to store something, It can be a type of clothing and others. So what he means to store in his heart's cupboard is that he returns to storing all of his sadness in the deepest depths of his heart and locks it or buries it so that no one knows about the sadness that is being he feels.

#### b. Implied Metaphor

As its name suggests, an implied metaphor makes an implied comparison without ever making a direct comparison between two ideas. There are the excerpt of implied metaphor as follows:

As seen in the excerpt:

**"You can show black is white by argument,** but you will never convince me. But now you begin to see the object of my investigations into the geometry of Four Dimensions." (p:8)

In the sentence has the meaning that the concept of the time machine is a fact by the argument. The metaphorical expression above is categorized as a implied metaphor because the color "black and white" is structuring the symbol of impossible or possibly things. whereas in the literal meaning, black and white are the kinds of color.

#### c. Extended Metaphor

An extended metaphor uses descriptive language to elaborate a comparison. There are the excerpt of extended metaphor as follows:

The first finding is a extended metaphor, as described below:

"Our chairs, being his patents, embraced and caressed us rather than submitted to be sat upon, and there was that luxurious after dinner atmosphere **when thought roams gracefully free of the trammels of precision.**" (p:143)

The denotative meaning of the sentence is how the mind can think well because there is no burden or pressure. Meanwhile, digging into the hidden meaning of the underlined words, the sentence above can be categorized as an extended metaphor. It happens because the abstract concept of thinking is manifested using linguistic metaphoric lexical roam.

### **Metaphor Language Portrays Cultural Assimilation**

The excerpts taken is considered as the types of metaphor language by aristoteles among them are standard metaphor, implied metaphor, and extended metaphor which has metaphor language portrayed the cultural assimilation, with the theory by aristoteles, and will explain how metaphor language is used to describe, to portray cultural assimilation. Cultural assimilation is related to the cultures that exist in the novel because of differences in cultural assimilation. Cultural assimilation is the meaning of an assimilation of one culture which is accompanied by the loss of the characteristics of the original culture so as to form a new culture. In this case, the forms of cultural assimilation are culture as an idea, culture as an activity.

#### **a. Standard Metaphor**

The metaphor language in this novel is divided into several categories of describing cultural assimilation. According to the data obtained, the researcher found 1 excerpts of standard metaphors that relate to culture as an idea and 1 excerpt that relates to culture as an activity.

As seen in the excerpt:

**"Living unloved is like clipping a bird's wings** and removing its ability to fly." (p:28)

The sentence is explain that we as humans must have felt love. And if you're heartbroken, humans must feel pain like a bird whose wings are broken so they can't fly. The excerpt related to culture as an idea.

As seen in the excerpt:

**"He felt a creeping panic begin to penetrate his consciousness.** He had tried to avoid thinking about what he was doing and just keep putting one foot in front of the other, but like grass pushing through concrete, the repressed feelings and fears somehow began to poke through." (p:39)

The sentence is explain that ones fear sometimes cannot be hidden. However one way to hide the fear. Over time, you will definitely find out. This excerpt is related to culture as an activity.

#### **b. Implied Metaphor**

From the data that has been obtained, the researchers only found culture as an idea and culture as an activity that relate to cultural assimilation. According to the data obtained, the researcher found 1 excerpts of implied metaphors that relate to culture as an idea and 1 excerpt that relates to culture as an activity.

As seen in the excerpt:

**"I felt a Cleaving in my Mind As if my Brain had split I tried to match it Seam by Seam But could not make it fit."** (p:20)

The sentence is explain that in cultural assimilation, people's thoughts must be different and not all of them must be the same. So to unite everyones thoughts is a difficult thing. And even though his thoughts can be combined or matched, his thoughts are definitely not right or not. The excerpt is related to culture as an idea.

As seen in the excerpt:

**"I suppose it was *the* unexpected nature of *my* loss that maddened me. I felt hopelessly cut off from my own kind a strange animal in an unknown world."** (p:23)

The sentence is explain that in the cultural assimilation, everyone who loses something or someone will mostly feel hopeless. That is a very common thing. This excerpt related to culture as an activity.

### c. Extended Metaphor

From the data that has been obtained, the researchers only found culture as an idea and culture as an activity that relate to cultural assimilation. According to the data obtained, the researcher found 1 excerpts of extended metaphors that relate to culture as an idea and 1 excerpt that relates to culture as an activity.

As seen in the excerpt:

**"It has no future but itself its Infinite realms contain Its Past enlightened to perceive new periods of Pain."** (p:167)

The sentence is explain that in the cultural assimilation, everyone must have their own future and past. But for everyone, the past should not be remembered, it should only be remembered because there is a future that awaits. In this excerpt related to cultural as an idea.

As seen in the excerpt:

**"I felt a Cleaving in my Mind As if my Brain had split I tried to match it Seam by Seam But could not make it fit."** (p:20)

The sentence is explain that in cultural assimilation, people's thoughts must be different and not all of them must be the same. So to unite everyones thoughts is a difficult thing. And even though his thoughts can be combined or matched, his thoughts are definitely not right or not. The excerpt is related to culture as an activity.



## CONCLUSION

From the first research question, there are 33 metaphors used in the novel. The researcher finds the three types of metaphors used in the novel. Those data consist of 15 sentences of standard metaphor, 12 sentences of implied metaphor, and 6 sentences of extended metaphor. In the second research question, the researcher identified the metaphor language described in the cultural assimilation in the novel. From metaphor sentence, the researcher knows the cultural assimilation described in the novel, namely culture as an activity, culture as an idea, and culture as an artifact. From these metaphorical sentences, researchers only get sentences that contain culture as an idea and culture as an activity. Meanwhile, the metaphorical sentences containing culture as an artifact were not found by the researcher. After analyzing and discussing the metaphor language used in the novel, the researcher can conclude that there are several metaphor sentences found in novel. Metaphor sentences that are often found in novels are structural metaphors because they are depictions of abstract concepts for other concepts that are more concrete and familiar. Researchers also concluded that in the novel there are also several sentences describing cultural assimilation, namely culture as an activity, culture as an idea and culture as an artifact. But what the researchers found were only metaphorical sentences describing culture as an idea and activity.

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