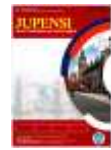




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SOCIAL COMMENTARY IN A FAIRY SONG POEM BY WILLIAM SHAKESPEARE: A STRUCTURALISM STUDY

Tasya Komariah Hrp¹, Bima Prana Chitra², Hidayati³

^{1,2,3}English Department, Faculty of Language and Communication,

Harapan University, Medan

Correspondence E-mail tasyahrp9@gmail.com

ABSTRACT

Social commentary is one aspect related to society in seeing a phenomenon that occurs. The researcher see a phenomenon that occurs in a community environment and is represented by poem. Where poem used figurative language to beautify writing. The object in this research is a poem by William Shakespeare entitled A Fairy Song. This research aims to explain the figurative language contained in A Fairy Song and also to analyze the social comments are found in A Fairy Song. This research used the structuralism theory proposed by Strauss, Wellek and Warren. The sociological literary criticism proposed by Marx and Lukacs. The methodology that used in this research is qualitative method approach with the phenomenological approach by Husserl. There are five figurative language contained in A Fairy Song poem such as alliteration, hyperbole, simile, metaphor and personification. The figurative language here is also used as a social commentary which generates criticism of this poem. Social comments are found because of the words that use figurative language to interpret a meaning. The researcher found the social comments from the used of figurative language such as injustice, discrimination and exploitation.

Keywords: Social Commentary, Figurative Language, Poem

ABSTRAK

Komentar sosial merupakan salah satu aspek yang berkaitan dengan masyarakat dalam melihat suatu fenomena yang terjadi. Peneliti melihat fenomena yang terjadi di lingkungan masyarakat dan diwakili oleh puisi. Dimana puisi menggunakan bahasa kiasan untuk memperindah tulisan. Objek dalam penelitian ini adalah puisi karya William Shakespeare yang berjudul A Fairy Song. Penelitian ini bertujuan untuk menjelaskan bahasa kiasan yang terdapat dalam A Fairy Song dan juga untuk menganalisis komentar sosial yang terdapat dalam A Fairy Song. Penelitian ini menggunakan teori strukturalisme yang dikemukakan oleh Strauss, Wellek dan Warren. Kritik sastra sosiologis dikemukakan oleh Marx dan Lukacs. Metodologi yang digunakan dalam penelitian ini adalah pendekatan metode kualitatif dengan pendekatan fenomenologis oleh Husserl. Ada lima bahasa kiasan yang terkandung dalam puisi A Fairy Song yaitu aliterasi, hiperbola, simile, metafora dan personifikasi. Bahasa kiasan di sini juga digunakan sebagai komentar sosial yang menimbulkan kritik terhadap puisi ini. Komentar sosial ditemukan karena kata-kata yang menggunakan bahasa kiasan untuk menafsirkan suatu makna. Peneliti menemukan komentar sosial dari penggunaan bahasa kiasan seperti ketidakadilan, diskriminasi dan eksploitasi.

Kata kunci: Komentar Sosial, Bahasa Figuratif, Puisi

INTRODUCTION

Poem is a literary work that emphasizes beauty in its writing. Poets interact through the medium of poetry as a form of commentary or just to express their thoughts. Poem expresses thoughts that evoke feelings that stimulate the imagination of the five senses in a rhythmic arrangement. So poem is an experience that is explored in beautiful words with many poetic elements such as figurative language or other speech acts such as rhyme, tone, thyme, and symbols (Pradopo, 2005).

To analyze a poem in a research, at least two mutually supportive elements, such as tone and metaphor/figurative language, must be present. Tone and metaphor are two important and necessary elements in a poem. Tone is the speaker's or writer's attitude toward the subject matter. Meanwhile, a metaphor is a comparison that is not made explicitly—that is, it is not made clearly and directly, and it is not made with signals like "like" or "as." It is instead an indirect comparison of two things that are fundamentally different.

Figurative language used to beautify a sentence structure that primary purpose is to obtain a certain effect in order to create an imaginative impression to listeners or audience, both orally and in writing. Each author has a different style to express their writing ideas, each article produced will have a writing style that is influenced by its author. Figurative language is used to creating and making a literary work to be better, look more alive, and creating more quality literary works.

One of the most popular poem is by William Shakespeare. The poem *A Fairy Song* is one of his works which was popularized in Act II of Scene I of the comedy theater entitled *A Midsummer Night's Dream*. It was published in 1596. The type of this poem is Sonnet with 14 lines. This poem tells about the fidelity of a fairy who serves her fairy queen, she is willing to fulfill all the requests of the fairy queen. There are several things that can be commented on socially contained in this poem.

Social commentary is a way for people to judge phenomena that are not appropriate in social life. Social commentary is a theme in literary works about the existence of injustice in society, with the aim of tapping the reader's conscience so that social justice is upheld and fought for (Waluyo, 1987).

Social commentary occurs because of a phenomenon that is not appropriate in social life. The purpose of this analysis is to find out what social comments are contained in this *A Fairy Song* poem.

In this research, the researcher used the theory of structuralism proposed by Wellek, Warren and Strauss. And the support theory of sociological literary criticism proposed by Marx and Lukacs. Regarding structure, Wellek and Warren (1992: 56) limit that the structure of understanding is included in content and form, as long as both are intended to achieve aesthetic goals. Structural is a way of working on a scientific approach to literary works, namely an approach in which there is an attitude of objectivity, certainty, and an attitude of not being involved (Wellek, 1989:43).

Although Strauss's theory of structuralism departs from linguistics, the focus of this theory is not on the meaning of words but on the form (pattern) of words. According to Levi-Strauss word forms have a close relationship with the form or social structure of society. Meanwhile, binary opposition is considered the same concept as the organization of human thought and culture.

Strauss took some of Saussure's concepts in applying structuralism in the field of cultural anthropology. The concept of a language sign, which consists of a signifier in the form of sound and a signified which is a concept or thought, is the most important thing. The relationship between the signifier and the signified is arbitrary or arbitrary based on a society's traditional relationship (Susanto, 2012: 98).

This research also uses the sociological literary criticism theory proposed by Marx and Lukacs. Sociology of literature is an approach in literary studies that understands and evaluates literary works by considering social or societal aspects (Damono, 2013).

The essence of the capitalist system is the multiplication of money. With money the capitalists buy labor and production machines to produce commodities. After the commodity is produced the capitalists sell it again for more money. The surplus value taken by the capitalists from the workers is basically an act of theft of the rights of the workers called Marx as an act of exploitation. If society is seen as a whole there will be two classes that often face each other in an economic order formed by the capitalists (Marx, 1976).

Based on Marx's definition, Lukacs presented his idea that if a class wants to understand society, then that class must look at society as a whole. The consequence is that each class will be both the subject and the object of knowledge. Thus, then theory and practice become possible (Lukacs, 2011:24).

The researcher interested in discussing this topic because researchers often see phenomena that occur in society that are often inappropriate and also poetry as a medium for conveying aspirations which is very interesting to analyze. The objectives of this research are, to explain the comments can be commented on in *A Fairy Song* and to analyze the social comments are found in *A Fairy Song*.

The significance of the research is expected in theoretical are: (1) readers can understand the study of structuralism contain in poem that can useful in daily life, (2) readers can understand about the social commentary contained in a poem and being able to apply it in social life can also develop community aspirations which can be seen through poem. The practical significance are: (1) the results of the research are expected to add perception to the reader about the social commentary contained in *A Fairy Song*, (2) readers can give their point of view about the social comments found in society through poem or others.

METHOD

The method of this research used qualitative research method that produced a description of the research. The aim of qualitative research is to describe a phenomenon as thoroughly as possible by collecting the most detailed data, emphasizing the relevance of the data being studied's depth and detail (Kriyantono, 2008). The data source used in this research is a poem by William Shakespeare entitled *A Fairy Song*. The data collection technique in this study is a library technique, which using written sources to obtain data. The technique used to analyze the data is content analysis technique. From the results of data collection in the form of expressions, then analyzed to obtain an understanding and description. Therefore, the researcher use phenomenological approach by Edmund Husserl that will support the perceptions that emerge from researcher. Husserl's phenomenology emphasizes that to understand a phenomenon, one must examine the phenomenon as it is. Husserl wanted phenomenology as a scientific approach used to describe phenomena as pure as possible without any process of interpretation (Crotty, 1996).

RESULT AND DISCUSSION

The process of analyzing the data of this research was conducted mainly in two sections, namely: (1) Sonnet as criticism, (2) Sense of injustice. In analyzing the *A Fairy Song* poem, the researcher found out several points. This several point will be discussed in the Discussion section. In the discussion, the researcher will explain about two sections, The section are: (1) Figurative language as social commentary and (2) Figurative language as introspective wisdom. In figurative language as social commentary analysis, the kinds of figurative language

which are used in the *A Fairy Song* poem were analyzed. And in the poem analysis, the analysis focused on analyzes the messages which are expressed by the meaning of figurative language in *A Fairy song* poem.

RESULT

1. Sonnet as Criticism

A sonnet is a poem which contains 14 lines with 10 syllables in each line (Bull, 2008:395). According to Abraham in Siswanto, a sonnet is lyrical poem which is written in stanza. The object of the research is english sonnet by Shakespeare entitled *A Fairy Song*. Shakespeare's sonnets are unequal.

A Fairy Song

Over hill, over dale
Thorough bush, thorough brier
Over park, over pale
Thorough flood, thorough fire!

I do wander everywhere,
Swifter than the moon's sphere;
And I serve the Fairy Queen,
to dew her orbs upon the green;

The cowslips tall her pensioners be;
In their gold coats spots you see;
Those be rubies, fairy favors;
In those freckles live their savours;

I must go seek some dewdrops here,
And hang a pearl in every cowslip's ear.
(*A Midsummer Night's Dream*, 1596: 35)

In this sonnet *A Fairy Song*, there is a moral message, namely loyalty. The researcher sees that there is a phenomenon where loyalty is seen very clearly in this sonnet. That phenomenon is when The Fairy will always be loyal to The Fairy Queen and willing to do anything to give Fairy Queen what she wants and to make Fairy Queen feel fulfilled. As stated by Robbin and Coulter (2007) that loyalty is a willingness to protect and save one's physical and feelings. Implied in the sentence the fairies will keep the feelings of the fairy queen to stay happy. In the first stanza, the poet wrote that fairies would fly over hills and valleys, past bushes and thorns. The poet also describes loyalty by expressing their willingness to climb the hill until they passes the fire.

In the second stanza, the poet states that for the sake of loyalty, the fairy is willing to wander and even fly faster than the rotation of the moon to collect every dew drop. In the third stanza, the poet states that by giving the fairy queen what she wants, the fairy queen will give something in return to the fairy who is loyal to her. Cowslips or yellow primrose flower that usually grows in spring, in the fairies mind it is the guardian of the fairy queen that can look in the expression "her pensioners be". In the couplet (the last two lines), the poet states that the fairy will give whatever the fairy queen needs or wants to be happy.

2. Sense of Injustice

In this poem there is an injustice that can be seen in the second stanza, where it says:

I do wander everywhere,
Swifter than the moon's sphere;
And I serve the Fairy Queen,
to dew her orbs upon the green;

Based on the poem, the expression, "I do wander everywhere", the researcher can interpret this expression with injustice and discrimination. It is because she (fairy) will go anywhere to fulfill the wishes of the fairy queen. Researcher also interpreted this expression as a discrimination because they could get hurt at any time while going to fulfill the fairy queen's wishes and would be ignored by the fairy queen. According to Sihombing in *Memahami Diskriminasi* (2009), discrimination is differentiating treatment. The difference in treatment can be due to skin color, class or ethnicity, and can also be due to differences in gender, economy, religion, and so on.

Then, researcher also interpret this expression as an unfair treatment. This unfair treatment appear on the way the fairy queen treat the fairies, it is because they (fairies) always follow the fairy queen's wishes whereas they have no right to ask anything of the fairy queen. Just like Suseno said, justice is a state where everyone gets what is just being rights, and everyone gets an equal share of our common wealth (Suseno, 2001: 50). It will be equal or balance if the fairies get their right for themselves, ut in this sentence the researcher does not see the balance.

Moreover, the researcher found the expression "serve" that has a meaning in this sonnet. From a book of Public Service Management in Indonesia, which says that service/serve is a process of meeting needs through the activities of other people directly (Moenir, 1992: 16). Where the emphasis on the definition of service above is the service provided because it involves all the efforts made by a person in order to achieve the goal in order to be able to get satisfaction in terms of meeting needs. Not only that, the researcher saw an injustice that occurred with the word serve. If it continues to happen without realizing it will eventually become a habit that will cause a sense of wanting to restore the situation.

This can also be interpreted as exploitation as seen in the words contained in the poem to make the fairies serve the fairy queen. Such exploitation makes the fairies who do anything to make the fairy queen happy not have the freedom to choose what they want. In this sonnet, there is also a class difference between the Fairy Queen and the other fairies. When viewed in social life, this social class also still looks like in a company between boss and employees. And often it becomes a distance between people to live social life.

As in social life, we often see things like this happen. For example the poor who cannot send their children to school due to financial constraints. So that their children have no other choice but to help their parents earn money, they should go to school, socialize with children their age. Indirectly parents can be said to be exploiting their own children, and most people are not aware of the things experienced by many of the lower class society.

DISCUSSION

1. Figurative Language as Social Commentary

In the poem *A Fairy Song*, there is a figurative language. The figurative language can be classified according to its type. In this section, the researcher will explain the meaning

contained in the social commentary and the figurative language that exist in this poem in a table way.

A Fairy Song	Figurative Language	Social Commentary
Over hill, over dale Thorough bush, thorough brier Over park, over pale Thorough flood, thorough fire!	Alliteration Hyperbole	The fairies is willing to go through all odds to achieve their goal of making the fairy queen happy.
I do wander everywhere, Swifter than the moon's sphere; And I <u>serve</u> the Fairy Queen, to dew her orbs upon the green;	Hyperbole	These fairies will go anywhere as soon as possible to be able to serve the fairy queen.
The cowslips tall her pensioners be; In their gold coats spots you see; Those be rubies, fairy favors; In those freckles live their savours;	Metaphor	The fairies assumed that it was their gift to the fairy queen and they hoped that the scent of the flowers would emerge and remind to the fairies hard work.
I must go seek some dewdrops here, And hang a pearl in every cowslip's ear.	Simile	The fairies will always do the same thing in every cowslip.

Not only that, the researcher also found the class difference that can be seen in stanza 2. In the second stanza the researcher interpreted that these fairies will go anywhere as soon as possible to be able to serve the fairy queen. In the expression “serve” it can be interpreted that these fairies are not equal to the fairy queen which can be said to be social inequality like in society. As stated by Marx and Lukacs that there are two classes in social life. It's the same with the fairies and fairy queen in this poem, fairies are the lower class and the fairy queen is the upper class.

With this class difference, there can be injustice that will harm the lower class and benefit the upper class. The fairies can be harmed because their time and energy are used up to serve the fairy queen. While the fairy queen feels benefited by the results of the service of the fairies. Not only injustice, in the delivery of this poem the poet also wants to convey that the occurrence of this injustice can trigger discrimination in social life as seen in today's easy discrimination by the upper class to the lower class.

2. Figurative Language as Introspective Wisdom

William Shakespeare conveys an important message in his poetry. He conveyed the message implicitly. From the researcher's interpretation, Shakespeare wrote this poem to tell readers at that time that there were injustices that occurred in social life. But packaged in beautiful poem and using figurative language so that people are interested in reading it. In this section, the researcher will discuss self-introspection that can be done through oneself.

Self-introspection is defined as thinking seriously and carefully or contemplating one's own character, behavior, emotions and motives. Self-introspection is done to look back at the things that have been done and the impact on life now. In social life, it helps us to treat others as we would like to be treated. If we look at how the fairy queen treats fairies, people should be aware that through this poem, injustice is a very bad thing when it happens in the midst of society.

After reading this poem which shows us that the injustice done by the fairy queen to the fairies is a very bad injustice. Moreover, if the relationship between fairy queens and fairies is analogized, they are as bosses and employees in a company. Employees must of course carry out what is ordered by their superiors and they must also be responsible for orders that employees do. However, here there is a difference between the story of a fairy queen and fairies with the analogy of a boss and an employee in a company. The employee will carry out all the orders he receives from his superiors, in return, the employee will get wages from his company for working well, while fairies get nothing after fulfilling the fairy queen's wishes. This of course can be a self-introspection to ourselves, that we must appreciate the efforts or actions that other people have for us, especially if it is to fulfill our desires.

The figurative language that has been found in the sonnet A Fairy song reminds us that in this social life we must care for and respect each other to avoid unwanted things as described in the previous subtitle. Real class differences in society should also be minimized at this time starting from ourselves to not discriminate against humans.

In addition, from the fairies we can learn that, in life we can choose whatever we want on the basis of our own volition consciously and without coercion from anyone.

CONCLUSION AND SUGGESTION

First the researcher analyzed the poem A Fairy Song where the researcher criticized the meaning contained in the poem, namely loyalty. It shows when the Fairies will always be loyal and willing to do anything to give Fairy Queen what she wants. After analyzed the poem and find out the meaning contained in the poem, the researcher found the figurative language which used in the poem. The figurative language contained in this poem is alliteration, hyperbole, simile, metaphor, and personification. Not only that, the figurative language in this poem is also used as a social commentary which generates criticism of this poem.

Moreover, Social comments are also found in this poem. Social comments are appeared because of the words that use the figurative language to interpret a meaning. The section in findings which contained of the result of analyzing the poem is the point of view of the researcher. In this section, the researcher describe the implied meaning of the use of language

in this poem. Last, the researcher found that the figurative language can use as introspective in our social life.

This research can be used as a comparison and reference for future researchers. And as a consideration for further research using the same theory and different objects. There are still many poems that describe social commentary that need to be dissected by literary critics to be able to see the phenomena that occur in social life.

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