



## **Analysis of Syntactical Stylistic Devices on Poems in Hello Magazine**

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### **Abstract**

This paper aims at describing syntactical stylistic devices used in the poems published in Hello magazine. This study was conducted using a content analysis method. Five editions of Hello magazine published from February 2010 to December 2010 were taken as the source of data. Based on the data analysis, the poems in Hello magazine use seven types of syntactical stylistic devices, they are inversion, parallelism, climax, repetition, asyndeton, rhetorical question, and question in narrative. The syntactical stylistic device mostly used by the writers of the poems published in Hello magazine is parallelism and the least frequent devices used are climax and question in narrative. By using parallelism in poems, the writer is able to catch reader's attention to focus on the content of the poem.

**Key words:** Stylistics, syntactical stylistic devices, poems

### **A. INTRODUCTION**

One of many forms of written texts is poetry. Poetry is a record of personal emotion and experience that has universal values. However, the form does not limit its universal value. It means that, in addition to a wide variety of subjects, a poem represents a wide variety of spoken and written forms, styles and patterns. Thus, it can reach the readers' imagination and can bring them into the universal thought for it has something broader beyond the line. In addition, poem is a piece of writing in which the words are arranged in separate lines, often ending in rhyme, and are chosen for their sound and for the images and ideas they suggest. According to Egudu (1977: 4), poetry is a literature and as literature it is "a method of expression". According to Ogungbesan and Woolger (1978: 7) poetry is "a vital and meaningful form of expression by which the individual poet may convey his thoughts and feelings on experience". From the description above,

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poetry is the expression of thoughts which converts the feeling and sense impression into rhythmical arrangement.

Style is involved in both, spoken and written, literary and nonliterary types of language but it is particularly associated with written form of the literary texts. Leech and Short (1981) further elaborates that style is the dress of thoughts. It is the way of the writer to convey the message to the readers. It is upon the writer that how he makes his text understandable that the meanings are conveyed. Style or stylistic variations may also be analyzed in linguistic terms for example sentence types, phonological devices, lexical varieties, morphological varieties, rhetorical terms, semantic terms, and even semiotic terms and utterance.

Poems can be found in various media, either in printed media (e.g. newspapers, magazines, books) or in online media (e.g. blogs, social media, e-books). One of the printed media in which poems are found is Hello magazine. Hello is a celebrity magazine published in Indonesia since 2010. The magazine is published in Indonesia by PT Media Paramita. In fact, this magazine comes from England. It was first published in Britain in 1988. The content of hello magazine is about celebrities, nobles, and other stories. It aims at providing quality content that provides monthly magazines in a focused, weekly news format.

Poems in Hello magazine are written by Indonesian teenagers who try to write poems in English. Poems in Hello magazine use simple words and phrases but through syntactical stylistics such as inversion, parallelism, climax, repetition, etc. that make the poems have deeper meaning. The purposes of using simple words and phrases in the poems written by Indonesian teenagers are to avoid ambiguous meaning in their poems, so the readers will understand them easily and directly. The actual process of writing those poems involves personal reflection and imaginative relieving of significant moments of life. In addition, another characteristic of poems in Hello magazine is short (on average of 80-100 words, 10-25 lines, 5 stanzas, and 6 words a line).

The following is one of the examples of poems published in *Hello* magazine:

**Ridiculous**

When i want to hate you  
 I love you more  
 When i want to forget you  
 I remember you more  
 When i want to stay away from you  
 I want to be beside you even more  
     Why do i feel this way?  
     I feel so weird and ridiculous  
     It makes me crazy  
     And even crazier because of thinking of you  
 I hate this feeling  
 But i enjoy it  
 I'm sick of all this  
 But i like it

I've lost my mind  
 And i am but a crazy one  
 Crazy for feeling like this  
 That is ridiculous

From example above, it can be seen that the poem uses simple words and phrases to avoid ambiguous meaning in poetry that facilitates easy understanding to the readers. The writer of that poem uses a simple present tense. Besides, the poem is short containing only 4 stanzas, 100 words, 18 lines and 6 words in a line.

The poem above can be analyzed through stylistic devices used in it. Stylistic devices play a greatest role in analyzing any kind of language used in poems because they make poems more interesting and livelier. They help to get and keep reader's attention. Rosa (2008: 30) states that stylistics studies how language is employed in literary works. In addition, Abubakre (2012: 263) states that stylistics does not only explain the features of a text, but also enhances interpretation of a text. Identifying features of a text and their function will facilitate better appreciation for a text. There are some types of stylistic devices that include phonological stylistic devices, lexical stylistics devices, and syntactical stylistic devices.

Syntactical stylistic devices are chosen in this study to investigate and show styles of language used in the poems published in *Hello* magazine. The analysis on syntactical stylistic devices would reveal styles of language used in the poems more deeply than would other stylistic devices.

There are some reasons why the writer is interested to work through syntactical stylistic devices in analyzing the poems in *Hello* magazine. First, the poems in *Hello* magazine have a lot of kinds of figurative language. The poems do not have the real meaning because the poets use figurative language to beautify the language. Second, by using syntactical stylistic devices, the differences of language styles used between Indonesian teenager's and English teenagers (the native speakers of English) can be known. Third, *Hello* magazine is a fine magazine among Indonesian teenagers and has been published in a large number of editions.

There are several previous studies on stylistic devices that have been done by researchers. Stella and Agemo (2011) studied stylistic analysis of some selected poems of Wole Soyinka. They found that lexico-syntactic patterns and choices, phonological, morphological and graphological devices as the main stylistic elements used to prove their claims. In addition, they also found identifiable functions which contribute to the effective meaning of the poems. They concluded that these elements triggered and played important roles in passing the intention of the writer to the readers.

Then, Adebayo (2013) studied stylistic analysis of some selected poems in Niyi Osundare's *Random Blues*. Based on his findings, he concluded that the primary motive of Niyi Osundare in *Random Blues* was to bring about social reform by adequately painting the picture of the contemporary Nigerian society used various rhetorical means to influence the common man in Nigeria to bring about the change. This study has contributed to the field of stylistics by showing

that it is possible to link stylistic features with specific happenings in the society and that stylistics is reliable in establishing the meanings expressed in literary texts.

Furthermore, Zheng (2014) studied about a stylistic analysis on a speech entitled “I Have A Dream”. He applied the theories and approaches typified by Leech and Short. This research shows a comprehensive stylistic analysis of the speech “I Have a Dream” delivered by Martin Luther King. This research finds out how King makes his speech a remarkable delivery and how the style of the speech addresses his tone, attitude and intention, which can provide some implications for pedagogical application and enrich the techniques in English writing and making speeches.

In addition, there was a study conducted by Ahmed and Batool (2014) who investigated stylistic devices used in William Black’s poem: “Night” and the analysis were made under graph logical, phonological, syntactical and semantic aspects. In this analysis, they described the author’s message delivered through the poem. They found that the basic concept of the poem is an awareness of environmental crisis, concerning a strong sense of possible death nature.

Moreover, Syarif, Anita, and Wahyuni (2018) did stylistic analysis on Mama Dedeh’s program. They only focus on lexical and syntactical stylistic devices used in her speeches. They found that Mama Dedeh’s speeches use seven types of lexical stylistic devices, those are interjection, simile, proverb, epigram, oxymoron, metaphor, and quotation and also uses eight types of syntactical stylistic devices, those are inversion, chiasmus, parallelism, repetition, climax, asyndeton, question in narrative and rhetorical question.

This present study has some similarities with some of those previous studies. The studies conducted by Stella and Agemo (2011) and Ahmed and Batool (2014) that discussed stylistic devices in poetry have similarities with this present study in terms of analyzing types of stylistic devices used in poems. However, their studies used all of stylistic devices, while this present study focused only on syntactical stylistic devices. Besides, the study conducted by Zheng (2014) studied stylistic devices used in the lyrics of westlife song, while this study analyzed stylistic devices used in poems.

Stylistic device is part of stylistic. Stylistics is a study of style of language usage in different contexts, either linguistic, or situational context. Stylistics concerns with the use of grammar, lexis, semantics, phonological properties, and discursive devices. Simpson (2004:2) states that “stylistics is a method of textual interpretation in which primacy of place is assigned to language”. Then he added that “stylistics is interested in language as a function of texts in context, and it acknowledges that utterances (literary or otherwise) are produced in time, a place, and in a cultural and cognitive context”. Based on these statements it can be said that stylistics concerns the textual interpretation of language usage in text or utterances based on context.

Stylistic devices plays greatest role in analysis of any kind language used. They make literary and non-literary works to be more interesting and lively. They help to get and keep reader’s/listener’s attention. Abubakre (2012:263) states that stylistics is not only explaining features of a text, but also

enhancing interpretation of a text. Identifying features of a text and their function, they facilitate for a better appreciation of a text.

Stylistic devices have some classifications. The first linguist that describes about classification of stylistic devices is Galperin. In his manual *Stylistics* published in 1997, he mentions three classifications of stylistic devices. Galperin (1997) describes three classifications of lexical stylistic devices. The first one is lexical stylistic devices. Lexical stylistic devices function to denote the word. Additional meanings of the words can be obtained which are not fixed in dictionaries. The second one is phonological stylistic devices. Phonological stylistic devices are the study of linguistic systems, specifically the way in which sounds represent differences of meaning in a language (Lodges, 2009:8). It means that phonological stylistic devices describe the ways in which speech sounds are organized in language into a system. Third, syntactical stylistic device, syntax deal with the patterns of word arrangement and formulates rules for correct sentence building. This research focuses on only one classification of stylistic devices; syntactical stylistic devices.

Syntactical stylistic devices are used to analyze the internal structure of sentences in a language and the way they function in syntactical sequences; clauses, phrases, words, nouns, verbs, etc (Shakoor, 2015). Syntactical stylistic devices are also divided into 4 groups. Khukarenko (2003) explains what those 4 classifications of syntactical stylistic devices are. The first group is the juxtaposition of the parts of an utterance and its stylistic devices are inversion, chiasmus, parallelism, detachment, enumeration, climax, antithesis, suspense and repetition. The second group is particular ways of combining parts of the utterance (types of connection). Stylistic devices that belong to this group are polysyndeton, asyndeton, and gap sentence-link. The third one is peculiar use of colloquial constructions and it has ellipsis, aposiopesis, and represented speech as stylistic devices. In the last group is transference of structural meaning and its stylistic devices are rhetorical question and litotes.

Based on the explanation above, the purpose of this research is to find out types and aims of syntactical stylistic devices on poems in *Hello* magazine. By using stylistic devices, the poems in *Hello* magazine become interesting and attractive. They create some effects in poems so the readers would feel enjoyable reading poems and also it is helpful for them to catch ideas or messages from the writer of the poems.

## **B. RESEARCH METHOD**

This study was conducted using a content analysis method. Content analysis is a method of analyzing written, verbal or visual communication messages (Cole, 1988). The written messages analyzed in this study are poems published in *Hello Magazine*. In addition, content analysis is a research method for making replicable and valid inferences from data to their context, with the purpose of providing knowledge, new insights, a representation of facts and a practical guide to action (Krippendorff, 1980).

The data of this research are poems that contain syntactical stylistic devices in *Hello* magazine. The source of data is 29 poems published in five editions of *Hello* magazine of the 2010 edition. The first edition was published in February 2010, the second edition was published in April 2010, the third edition was published in May 2010, the fourth edition was published in August, 2010, and the fifth edition was published in December 2010. The titles of those 29 poems are: Ridiculous, Miracle, My precious friend, Stupidity, To my friend, The wind, Pain, Alone, I love you mom, The shadow of you, Please stop it, Cant bear to say love, Coz I love you, All about me, GB, I still want you, Lost, Wide my heart, I want you, Loving you, distance, stars, the falling leaves, About you, Music, Gone, Night, When love seems so far away, and The sound of this heart.

### C. RESULTS AND DISCUSSION

#### 1. Research Finding

The syntactical stylistic devices used in the poems were grouped into 7 types as presented in Table 1.

**Table 1. The Types of Syntactical Stylistic Devices**

No	Types of syntactical stylistic devices	Frequency	Percentage
1	Juxtaposition of the Parts of an Utterance	60	78.94%
2	Particular Ways of Combining Parts of the Utterance	5	6.58%
3	Peculiar Use of Colloquial Constructions	0	0.0%
4	The transferred use of structural meaning	11	14.48%
Total		76	100%

The data presented in Table 1 show that the three types of syntactical stylistic devices used in the poems of Hello magazine include juxtaposition of the parts of an utterance (78.94%), particular ways of combining parts of the utterance (6.58%), and the transferred use of structural meaning (14.48%). Meanwhile, none of the poems uses the peculiar use of colloquial constructions as their syntactical stylistic devices.

In addition, among several types of juxtaposition of the parts of an utterance, four out of nine syntactical stylistic devices are used in the poems, they are inversion, parallelism, climax, repetition. In other words, the other five devices (chiasmus, detachment, enumeration, suspense, antithesis) are not used in the poems. Among three syntactical stylistic devices of particular ways of combining parts of the utterance, only one of them is used in the poems (asyndeton). This means that polysyndeton and gap-sentence-link are not used in the poems. Meanwhile, all the syntactical stylistic devices of transferred use of structural meaning (litotes, rhetorical question, and question in narrative) are used in the poems. The detailed type of syntactical stylistic devices used in the poems is presented in Table 2.

**Table 2 The detailed types of syntactical stylistic devices used in the poems**

No	Types of syntactical stylistic devices	Frequency	Percentage
<b>Juxtaposition of the Parts of an Utterance</b>			
1	Inversion	7	9.21%
2	Parallelism	41	53.95%
3	Climax	2	2.63%
4	Repetition	10	13.16%
<b>Particular Ways of Combining Parts of the Utterance</b>			
5	Asyndeton	5	6.58%
<b>The transferred use of structural meaning</b>			
6	Rhetorical Question	9	11.84%
7	Question in Narrative	2	2.63%
Total		76	100%

Furthermore, according to the theory of Galperin, the researcher found two syntactical stylistic devices which are most frequently used in the poems of Hello magazine. The syntactical stylistic device most frequently used in Hello magazine are repetition and parallelism. The use of repetition is to emphasize the logical meaning and to state the writer's mind which is required to attract reader's attention on key-word or key-phrase. And the use of parallelism is also to emphasize the meaning of the poem, to make clear the idea of the poem and to prevent the poem from being monotonous. The third frequent use of syntactical stylistic device is rhetorical question. Rhetorical question is used to elicit thought and understanding on the part of the listener or reader and also to emphasize the point.

## 2. Discussion

From the findings elaborated above, it can be seen that the writers of the poems published in Hello magazine use parallelism (53.95%) and repetition (13.16%) as the most frequent syntactical stylistic devices. The writers use parallelism mostly because through which they can transfer the idea of their poems to the reader easily because parallelism has syntactical pattern that is repeated several times in a line. Employing parallelism affects the rhythmical organization of poems. It makes the poem more attractive and it could attract reader's attention. Galina (2009) defines parallelism as the repetition of similar syntactic construction in the text in order to strengthen the emotional impact or expressiveness of the description. Parallel strongly affects the rhythmical organization of the paragraph, so it is useful to use in poems. However, this finding is different from Duboviciene and Skorupa's (2014) research findings that show comparison as the most frequent type of syntactical stylistic device used in the English advertising slogans.

Furthermore, repetition is the second syntactical stylistic device used in the poems of Hello magazine. The writers of the poem use repetition frequently because they want to show logical emphasis and the state of their mind which are

required to attract reader's attention on the key-word or key-phrase. Repetition is able to create the preach become attractive and prevent from being monotonous. By employing the repetition, the reader would get the meaning or the message of the poem easily and clearly. Giving a logical emphasis to the poem is very necessary in the case of repetition because it helps the writers to remind the readers of their importance, making them key-words, key-phrases or key-sentences of the next. When used as a stylistic device, repetition acquires quite different functions. It does not aim at making a direct emotional impact. On the contrary, the stylistic device of repetition aims at logical emphasis, an emphasis necessary to fix the attention of the reader on the key-word of the utterance.

However, this finding is in contrast with Duboviciene and Skorupa (2014) who found that repetition was the most frequently used syntactical stylistic device in the English advertising slogans. The frequent use of repetition in the English advertising slogans is motivated by the fact that a slogan is a short catchy phrase related to a specific brand which needs repetition to make the brand always remembered by the consumers. In addition, repetition is also frequently used in proverbs as found by MacCoinnigh (2015). The difference is that poems usually use repetition at the level of sounds or words; meanwhile, they do not usually use sentence or phrase repetition very frequently.

Meanwhile, climax and question in narrative (both used 2.63% in the poems). Climax is seldom used in the poems of Hello Magazine because most of poems do not have a story climax like a narrative. Many poems pay attention to the beautiful words but do not focus on the plot of story. Furthermore, a question in narrative is also infrequently used in the poems because it is very often used in oratory or speech; meanwhile, the source of data of this study is poem. This is explained by one of the leading features of oratorical style – to induce the desired reaction to the content of the speech (Galperin, 1997).

#### **D. CONCLUSION AND SUGGESTIONS**

The researcher described types of syntactical stylistic devices used in Hello magazine poems. In this research, the researcher found three principles syntactical stylistic devices; the juxtaposition of the parts of an utterance (inversion, parallelism, climax, repetition, simile), particular ways of combining parts of the utterance (asyndenton), and transference of structural meaning (rhetorical question, litotes, and question in narrative). The dominant position is the juxtaposition of the parts of an utterance; repetition and parallelism. However, peculiar use if colloquial constructions (ellipsis, aposiopesis, represented speech) which is a part of syntactical stylistic devices is not found in this research.

Furthermore, there are seven syntactical stylistic devices used by the poem writers published in Hello magazine. They are inversion, repetition, parallelism, climax, asyndenton, and question in narrative, and rhetorical question. The syntactical stylistic device mostly used by the writers of the poems published in Hello magazine is parallelism and the least frequent devices used are climax and question in narrative. By using parallelism in poems, the writer is able to catch reader's attention to focus on the content of the poem. The use of parallelism is to



emphasize the logical meaning and to state the writer's mind which is required to attract reader's attention on key-word or key-phrase. It could transfer the idea of the poem to the reader easily and clearly.

Note: This article is written based on the Rini Safitri's paper under the supervision of Dr. Rusdi Noor Rosa, S.S., M.Hum

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