THE TYPES OF FIGURATIVE LANGUAGE FOUND IN TWITTER ACCOUNT "GREAT MINDS QUOTES"

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Abstract

This study discusses the figurative language and meaning used in the *Great Minds Quotes* Twitter account. The aim of this research is to determine the types of figurative language and the types of meaning used in the *Great Minds Quotes* Twitter account. Types of figurative language were analyzed using Keraf's theory and types of meaning using Leech's theory. Qualitative method used in this study to analyze the data and describe the findings. There were 70 quotes from five types of figurative language used in the *Great Minds Quotes* Twitter account. These types consist of 34 metaphors, 15 similes, 12 personifications, 6 ironies and 3 hyperboles. Metaphor appears as the most dominant type of figurative language used in the *Great Minds Quotes* Twitter account. Then, the types of meaning used by the *Great Minds Quotes* Twitter account were connotative meaning, social meaning, affective meaning and reflective meaning. The most dominant type of meaning used in the *Great Minds Quotes* Twitter account was connotative meaning.

Key words: Figurative Language, Meaning, Quotes, Social Media, Twitter.

A. INTRODUCTION

Language is a tool that people use to communicate with each other, whether in groups or individually. According to Burridge and Stebbins (2016), language is a basic human need and an essential tool for communicating ideas. To study language, we need linguistics which is closely related to language.

Linguistics involves the study of how humans produce, understand, and learn language. According to Fromkin (2000), linguistics is the study of human language. It examines how languages are structured, how they convey meaning, and how they are acquired and used by individuals and communities. Linguistics has various aspects related to language, including semantics. Sitanggang (2019) stated that semantics is the systematic study of meaning in language. In other words, semantics is a part of linguistics that studies the meaning contained in a language and is used to determine the meaning of words or sentences (Wardani et al., 2014).

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Semantics helps us understand how figurative language is used in everyday language. Keraf (2009) stated that figurative language is formed based on comparisons or similarities. It is usually formed by paying attention to the similarities in nature, condition, shape, color, place, and time between the two objects being compared. Comparing something with something else means trying to find characteristics that show similarities between the two things. So, figurative language is part of a style of language that uses comparisons to create a broader meaning so that the reader becomes more interested.

Nowadays, many people use social media to socialize with each other. One of the most widely used social media is Twitter. Twitter has recently become a popular social network where users exchange and discuss a wide range of topics, including news, jokes, opinions on current events, and their feelings (Magno and Rodrigues, 2010). On Twitter, we often find quotes posted by someone to motivate us. We can get it from special accounts that often create or post beautiful sentences that can motivate us. One example of an account that posts about quotes is the Twitter account *Great Minds Quotes*. This account specializes in sharing inspirational and soulful quotes. Many quotes use figurative language to convey their message more effectively, figurative language adds creativity, and emotional impact to the quote.

Researchers were interested in analyzing the types of figurative language and meaning found in the *Great Minds Quotes* twitter account. In this account, you can find many quotes that use figurative language to beautify and deepen the meaning of the quotes. Therefore, researchers were interested in knowing the types of figurative language and meaning used in these Twitter accounts. To analyze types of figurative language, researchers used the theory of Keraf (2009). In addition, to examine the type of meaning found in the Great Minds Quotes twitter account, researchers used Leech's (1974) theory.

B. RESEARCH METHOD

This research uses the method of descriptive-qualitative, which would describe the data that the researcher would collect in the form of quotes that contain figurative language. This research was descriptive because the data in the form of writing were described as they are without any reduction or addition and then analyzed to obtain general conclusions. Descriptive research is carried out only based on existing facts without considering the right or wrong use of language by speakers (Sudaryanto, 1992). So, the descriptive-qualitative method would be the appropriate method used in this research.

This research uses quotes that contain figurative language as data. The quotes were collected from Twitter accounts: https://Twitter.com/GreatestQuotes. Such accounts serve as a source of motivation and reflection for followers. The quotes shared often use creative and imaginative language, and contain the use of figurative or other language styles to present a deeper and more compelling meaning. The range of time for the object of this study is the tweets or posts on Twitter from January 2022 to July 2023 because the researcher considers looking for information on Twitter in the most recent tweets and posts.

The instrument of the study was researcher herself as the key instrument. The researcher also uses indicator tables. The indicator table was used as a tool to identify the figurative language found in Twitter account *Great Minds Quotes*.

C. RESULT AND DISCUSSION
1. Data Descriptions, Findings, and Analysis

In this research, researchers describe and analyze data obtained from the *Great Minds Quotes* Twitter account. There were two points that researchers answer in data analysis. The first research question was about determining the type of figurative language and the second question was determining the type of meaning found in the Great Minds Quotes twitter account.

1. Types of Figurative Language Found in Twitter Account *Great Minds Quotes*

Table1. Types of Figurative Language Found in Twitter Account *Great Minds Quotes*

No	Types of Figurative Language	The Number of Occurrences	Percentage
1	Simile	15	21,4%
2	Metaphor	34	48,6%
3	Hyperbole	3	4,3%
4	Personification	12	17,1%
5	Irony	6	8,6%
Total Data		**70**	**100%**

This study discovered 70 figurative languages in total, which were only divided into five types according to the table above. Those 70 figurative language consisted of 34 (48,6%) metaphor,15 (21,4%) simile, 12 (17,1%) personification, 6 (8,6%) irony and 3 (4,3%) hyperbole. Below are detailed explanations of the data analysis of figurative language found the *Great Minds Quotes* Twitter account:

a. Metaphor

A metaphor is a kind of analogy that compares two things directly, but in a short form. Metaphors as direct comparisons do not use the words "like" or "as", so that the first point is directly connected to the second point (Keraf, 2008). This type is most often found in this quote with a total of 34 times. The metaphor data in the quotes is as follows:

(Datum 4)

Love is a battlefield, and I'm ready for war.

Analysis:

The type of metaphor in the datum above is found in the comparison between *love* and *battlefield*. In this quotes there is a comparison between love and battlefield, showing that love involves conflict, challenges, and may even be emotional.

By using this comparison, the author explains that a love relationship can be like a battlefield, a place where emotions clash, conflict arises, and struggles occur. This metaphor also implies that love relationships are not always easy; they often require effort, commitment, and endurance as in fighting on the battlefield.

b. Simile

A simile is an explicit comparative language style. It is meant that it directly state that something is the same as another thing. For this reason, it requires efforts that explicitly show the similarity, namely the words: "like" or "as" (Keraf, 2008). The data of simile that showed in the quotes:

(Datum 12)

I want to fly like a bird high into the sky, so I could observe this world without its divides.

Analysis:

The type of simile in datum above is found in the statement *I want to fly like a bird*. A comparison is made between the desire to fly and the bird's behavior using the word "like". Thus, the comparison provides a visual depiction of the desire to experience freedom like a bird that can fly.

By stating "so I could observe this world without its divides," the author details the reasons behind this desire. By feeling able to fly like a bird, which often has a wide view from a height, the author wants to observe the world without boundaries. This simile brings a deeper understanding of the desire to see the world from a higher and freer perspective.

c. Personification

Personification is a figurative language style that describes inanimate objects or inanimate items as if they had human qualities (Keraf, 2008). The data of personification that showed in the quotes:

(Datum 27)

The stars danced playfully in the moonlit sky.

Analysis:

The type of personification in datum above is found in the statement *the stars danced playfully.* In this sentence, the stars are thought to be dancing with joy which stars literally cannot dance. The use of the word "danced playfully" gives the stars a human nature.

Personification gives human qualities to non-human objects or abstract concepts, and in these cases, the stars are given the attributes of an ecstatic dance. Through this personification, the author creates an imaginative visual image, depicting the stars as if they have a life and brightness of their own in the moonlit sky.

d. Hyperbole

Hyperbole is a style of language that contains something exaggeration (Keraf, 2008). The data of hyperbole that showed in the quotes:

(Datum 22)

I hugged the moon and felt you.

Analysis:

The type of hyperbole in datum above is found in the statement *i hugged the moon.* In this sentence, there is excessive use of hyperbole and cannot be interpreted literally. The use of "hugged the moon" describes an action that is physically impossible.

The use of hyperbole can be interpreted in a more abstract way, namely as an expression of the strength of one's feelings. By stating that someone "hugged the moon," the author wants to convey very deep and strong feelings for someone, creating a dramatic and expressive image. Hyperbole gives a deeper emotional dimension to the sentence.

e. Irony

Irony is a reference that wants to say something with a different meaning or intention than what is contained in the series of words (Keraf, 2000). The data of irony that showed in the quotes:

(Datum 11)

War does not determine who is right - only who is left.

Analysis:

The type of irony in datum above is found in the statement *War does not determine who is right - only who is left.* In this context, the statement implies irony because, in the context of war, one might expect that the stronger right side will win. However, the statement reverses this by stating that the only ones who win in a war are the ones who survive, regardless of whether they are morally or ethically right or wrong.

The irony in this sentence can also be interpreted as a comment about the injustice that may occur in a war situation. By using irony, the author may have wanted to highlight the moral uncertainty associated with war and how it is often impossible to clearly determine who is right or wrong.

2. Types of Meaning Found in Twitter Account *Great Minds Quotes*

Table2. Types of Meaning Meanings Found in Twitter Account *Great Minds Quotes*

No	Types of Meaning	The Number of Occurrences	Percentage
1	Conceptual meaning	0	0
2	Connotative meaning	51	72,9%
3	Social meaning	1	1,4%
4	Affective meaning	5	7,1%
5	Reflective meaning	13	18,6%
6	Collective meaning	0	0
7	Thematic meaning	0	0
	Total Data	**70**	**100%**

There were four types of meaning found in Twitter account Great Minds Quotes. Those four meanings consisted of 51 (72,9%) connotative meaning, 13

(18,6%) reflective meaning, 5 (7,1%) affective meaning and 1 (1,4%) social meaning. Below are detailed explanations of the data analysis of the types of meaning found in Twitter account Great Minds Quotes:

a. Connotative Meaning

This refers to the additional, implied meanings that words carry beyond their literal definition. It involves the emotional, social, or cultural associations of a word. The data about connotative meaning in the quotes is as follows:

(Datum 6)

Her spirit strong like the wind.

Analysis:

In this context, the expression is used as a comparison between a person's spirit and the strength of a strong wind. By describing a person's "spirit" as "strong like the wind", the sentence directly carries connotations of strength. Wind is often considered an uncontrollable and powerful force of nature, capable of overcoming obstacles. By using this comparison, the author uses wind which has a strong nature as an additional meaning to describe the spirit that a person has.

b. Social Meaning

This type of meaning considers the social context in which language is used. It involves the relationships between speakers, their roles, and the social factors that influence communication. The data about social meaning in the quotes is as follows:

(Datum 70)

The city is a jungle, and survival of the fittest is the law.

Analysis:

In this context, the phrase suggests that life in the city can be compared to a jungle, where only the strongest individuals win, illustrating the concept of "survival of the fittest" which is often used in social and political contexts to discuss the struggle and resilience that occurs in society.

This statement can reflect the social reality where individuals must compete to achieve success or survive in an urban environment full of competition.

c. Affective Meaning

Affective meaning is meaning that reflects the personal feelings of the speaker including his attitude towards the listener, or towards something being discussed. The data about affective meaning in the quotes is as follows:

(Datum 19)

To weep is to make less the depth of grief.

Analysis:

The sentence "To weep is to make less the depth of grief" has a deep affective meaning, because it describes a deep emotional experience in dealing with sadness. In this context, this statement suggests that crying or expressing sadness through tears can reduce the depth of sadness.

Its affective meaning lies in the understanding that the act of shedding tears is not just a physical expression but also a way to overcome and reduce the emotional burden of sadness.

d. Reflective Meaning

Reflective meaning is the meaning that arises in the case of conceptual meaning, meaning that arises as a result of the existence of these dual concepts. The data about reflective meaning in the quotes is as follows:

(Datum 5)
Action speaks louder than words but not nearly as often.
Analysis:

The sentence "Action speaks louder than words but not nearly as often" reflects a reflective meaning because it highlights the importance of actions compared to words in conveying messages or intentions. The sentence proposes a comparison between actions and words, stating that actions have a greater impact than words.

This may arise from someone's personal experience which states that consistent and convincing actions are often more effective in building trust than mere promises or words that are not followed by real actions. Thus, this sentence raises a reflection on the importance of consistent actions in communicating and interacting with other people.

3. Discussion

Researchers conducted research on the types of figurative language and the types of meaning used by quotes on the *Great Minds Quotes* Twitter account. There are five types of figurative language introduced by Keraf and seven types of meaning introduced by Leech. Researchers want to analyze the type of figurative language and meaning used by quotes in the Great Minds Quotes Twitter account.

The type of figurative language most often used in quotes on the Great Minds Quotes Twitter account is metaphor. Keraf (2008) stated that a metaphor is a direct comparison that does not use the words: "like" or "as", so that the first point is directly connected to the second point. In this case, this Twitter account uploads quotes that contain figurative language to deepen the meaning of the quotes. Metaphors are used in quotations to provide a more vivid and clear picture of an object or situation. Another reason metaphors are often used in quotes is that they can be used to describe complex feelings, experiences, or concepts in a way that is easy for readers to understand. For example, in the quote "Love is a battlefield," the use of metaphor creates the image that a love relationship has difficulties and challenges like on a battlefield. Metaphors help deepen meaning, describe emotions in relationships.

The second type of figurative language that is widely used in quotes on the *Great Minds Quotes* Twitter account is similes. Kreuzer and Cogan (1960) said that a simile is comparing two different things that have more similarities. In this Twitter account, similes are used to provide a clearer illustration and deepen the meaning of the quote by comparing two different things that have the same meaning. For example, in the quote "as brave as a lion," the simile is used to

compare courage to the strong and brave nature of a lion. The simile provides clarity by comparing courage with a lion which clearly also has brave qualities.

The results of this research are the same as the results of Fitratunnass (2017) research which examined figurative language in advertisements. This research states that metaphor is the most dominant type used in these advertisements. However, there are two types of figurative language that were not found in this research, namely irony and personification. Moreover, research conducted by Arditami (2017) illustrates that simile figurative language appears as the most frequently used type in Katy Perry's songs, appearing 10 times. These two researchers also use the same theory, namely Reask theory.

Based on the explanation above, it can be seen that metaphor is the most dominant type that is often found followed by simile. The use of metaphors and similes in quotes not only enriches the language, but also helps readers feel and understand the meaning of the quotes in a deeper and more memorable way. They make quotes not only as a series of words, but also as works of art that arouse the reader's feelings and imagination.

Researchers found connotative meaning to be the most frequently used in quotes on the *Great Minds Quotes* Twitter account. According to Leech, connotative meaning is the communicative value possessed by an expression based on what it refers to, beyond that possessed by its conceptual meaning. Because quotes often use deep words, connotative meaning is often found in quotes because it gives a deep meaning to the words. Words or phrases with connotations can have varying meanings depending on an individual's experiences and perceptions. This allows quotes to be more inclusive and can be resonated by a variety of readers in a personal way. Thus, the connotative meaning in quotes not only functions as a language sweetener, but also as a tool to increase imagination and deepen emotions in expression. They create quotes that are not just about words, but also about experiences and deep meaning

Meanwhile, conceptual meaning, collective meaning and thematic meaning are types that are not found in quotes on the *Great Minds Quotes* Twitter account. These three meanings are rarely found in quotes because quotes are generally designed to convey a message or meaning directly and briefly. Quotes often function as inspirational or motivational quotes that readers can quickly understand and absorb without requiring in-depth analysis. The use of conceptual meaning, collective meaning, and thematic meaning covering various aspects, may be too broad to be included in a simple and short quotation format. These meanings may be better suited to being developed in longer writing, such as essays or literary works, where there is more space to present and explore multiple meanings.

D. CONCLUSION AND SUGGESTIONS

Based on the first research finding, the quotes on the Twitter account *Great Minds Quotes* use five types of figurative language, such as metaphor, simile, personification, hyperbole and irony. Based on 296 quotes, only 70 quotes use figurative language. According to 70 quotes found, metaphor was the most

dominant type of figurative language used with 34 appearances on the Great Minds Quotes Twitter account. The use of metaphor in this quote is to present complex meanings in a way that is short, concise, and has deep meaning. By connecting two concepts that may feel different, metaphors enable readers to connect and unify their understanding of a concept or experience by presenting it in a unique and imaginative manner.

The second research finding concerns the type of meaning found in quotes on the Great Minds Quotes Twitter account. There are 5 types of meaning found in these quotes, namely conceptual meaning, connotative meaning, social meaning, affective meaning, reflective meaning. However, connotative meaning, collective meaning and thematic meaning are not found in these quotes. The dominant type of meaning found in quotes is connotative meaning with 51 occurrences. In this case, connotative meaning is used to provide an additional dimension to the words, allowing the quotes to have a deeper meaning.

So, we can see that connotative meaning has a strong relationship with metaphor. Connotative meaning refers to the implied meaning of a word or expression, which often goes beyond its literal meaning. Where, metaphor relies on connotative meaning to convey a comparison between two things whose meaning does not match the literal meaning. Without connotative meaning, readers will not be able to grasp the true meaning of the metaphor because it is interpreted literally.

For future researchers, it is recommended to conduct other research related to figurative language with different objects. Figurative language can also be analyzed in novels, poetry, songs, films, or other social media. Researchers also suggest conducting research on types of meaning in formal situations such as in speeches. Analyzing figurative language and meaning is important because it can give us deep insight into the way language is used to convey messages, especially when the use of words is not literal. Overall, analyzing figurative language and meaning allows us to explore the depth and complexity of language, avoid misunderstandings, and enrich our understanding of linguistic expressions in various contexts.

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