


## Pragmatic Analysis of Figurative Language in *The Moon and Her Secrets*

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### ABSTRACT

This study identifies and analyzes the types of figurative language in Leony Jardine's poetry collection *The Moon and Her Secrets*, interpreting their contextual meanings through a pragmatic perspective. Employing a qualitative descriptive method and Keraf's classification, the research reveals that metaphor is the most frequently used device, followed by simile, with limited occurrences of personification, allusion, eponym, epithet, hypallage, irony, satire, and innuendo. These figurative expressions serve not only as stylistic devices but also convey emotional, symbolic, and interpersonal meanings shaped by context and speaker intention. Through close reading and contextual analysis, this study demonstrates how figurative language acts as a pragmatic strategy in poetic communication, enhancing the reader's emotional engagement and understanding of the text. The findings indicate that poetic language fulfills both aesthetic and communicative purposes in expressing complex human experiences.

**Keywords:** *Pragmatics, Figurative Language, Metaphor, Poetry, Context*

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## INTRODUCTION

Language is an essential communication device for speakers and listeners to correspond in an effective way (Andhini et al., 2024). It plays an important part in socializing since it enables a person to express thoughts and feeling and become part of the relationship within society and Wening et al., 2024). Language attains beauty in literature through poetry: poetry communicates personal ideas and feelings, as well as those of the larger social and cultural experience (Noor, 2018). The imaginative figurative language used in bringing words into meaning, which include metaphor, simile, personification, and hyperbole, add extra weight and beauty by appealing to the imagination and causing emotional responses from the reader (Oktaviantina, 2020). Accordingly, poetry becomes both a message as well as a channel to relate its social functions with aesthetic power in expressing human experiences (Sintasari et al., 2025).

The Moon and Her Secrets by Leony Jardine is among those works that demonstrate the social and aesthetic functions of language. This collection uses figurative language to express feelings and reflections universal to the human experience; through the symbols of the moon, the night, and silence, Jardine reveals feelings-the widespread human experiences of love, loss, doubt, and hope. The diction chosen by the poet is connotative to enrich the reader's interpretation and create an emotional connect from the text to life (Mulziani, 2021). This makes The Moon and Her Secret an interesting example of how poetry uses the power of language to tie individual expression to social reality while talking about the role of figurative language in enhancing aesthetic and profound written communication.

With this background, the author pursues a study of The Moon and Her Secrets with the primary objective of establishing and classifying the types of figurative language used in

the collection. The study aims to investigate how figurative language is purposely used to create meanings that are both aesthetic and communicative. The study further seeks to fill the gap between the use of day-to-day language and literary expression since literary language is generally considered to be more complex or symbolic than ordinary social interaction (Fretty et al., 2025). The author intends that by analyzing instances of figurative language in *The Moon and Her Secrets*, he will be able to bridge this understanding and demonstrate that elements of poetic language reflect the dynamics of human expression found in daily life.

Figurative language is equally important in academia in clarifying abstract instances, enriching writing styles, and reinforcing arguments. This wording brings metaphors, similes, or analogies into comprehension and makes complex ideas understandable to the reader. Figurative language also creates an added flavor or zest in academic writing, which is critical in absorbing the audience. In an academic context, it serves as a very good device for making arguments with appropriate and convincing examples. At the same time, figurative language acts within interdisciplinary contexts, that is, constructing common ground within such diverse perspectives by bringing universal imagery into the interplay of fields. The impact of figurative language in academia subtends the realm of writing and is, therefore, important in learning and developing theories. In the teaching of complex subjects of understanding, the teacher can use an analogy creatively as a teaching strategy. In research, figurative language reflects creative thinking within the academic realm and promotes some innovative solutions to the challenges at hand. Certainly, figurative language is not just ornamental; it is an intellectual tool for the building and articulation of knowledge. Figurative language may enable extra clarity in academic discourse, cross-disciplinary understanding, and the creation of novel ideas.

In their studies on pragmatics, figurative language is considered a critical factor in the comprehension of the speaker's implied intentions (Eragamreddy, 2024). As Charles Sanders Peirce (1839-1914) postulates, pragmatic theory is concerned with the ways in which humans come to understand meaning through an evaluation of practical consequence and the interaction with signs in the ever-meaningful context of ordinary life (Lorino, 2014). Peirce was instrumental in building a theoretical understanding of the ways in which language, symbols, and signs serve to orient our consideration of the world. Ordinarily, the literal meaning of an utterance is insufficient to arrive at the intended message; hence, the context, intention of the speaker, and socio-cultural situations have to be brought into consideration. This creates an urgency to study how figurative language is used in different communicative situations and how understanding it influences the interaction.

In addition, even understanding figurative language in pragmatics contributes to language education (Scott, 2022). Giroux and Williston (1974) have defined figurative language as that language which diverts itself from the direct use of the word. For language learners, however, there is an opportunity for improvement of their linguistic competence in real-life communication by grasping the implicit meaning of figurative expressions (Hutauruk, 2019). This is equally important in translation studies, where translators need to understand and shift figurative expressions from one language to another for effective conveyance of meaning.

Thus, research in this area would open new vistas with reference to figurative language in pragmatics, for example, it could help in understanding how people use language to construct meaning within interpersonal as well as cross-cultural communication frameworks. The study, therefore, is expected to find a way about the language-meaning-social context relationship during human interaction.

The classification basis for various types of figurative language by the researcher is based on Keraf's theory. Keraf formulates types of figuratives into 16: simile, metaphor, allegory, personification, allusion, eponym, epithet, synecdoche, metonymy, antonomasia, hipflask or hipalase. Irony, satire, innuendo, antiphrasis, and paronomasia. The simile, a figure of speech explicitly comparing two different things, uses connecting words like like, as, as if, similar to, etc. to illuminate the comparison in clear imaginative terms. In a metaphor, an

implicit comparison one states that one thing is another without using the comparing words: it transfers the qualities of one to another to produce a symbolic meaning. An allegory is another name for an extended metaphor; in this case, the underlying principles are enunciated in terms of a story or narrative wherein characters and events symbolically embody individual or abstract moral concepts for the purpose of social-political commentary.

Personification is the attribute of human characteristics, emotions, or actions to non-human objects and abstract concepts. Normally, this type of speech creates a vivid image. Allusion is an indirect reference to a well-known person, event, myth, literature, or place. It enriches deeper meanings in a particular text with the assumption of audience awareness for the referred matter. An eponym is a famous person's name to denote certain qualities associated with that person. The name of this person becomes a figure for that trait. Then it was epithets that portray descriptive phrase or adjective highlighting connotative factors of personality or object. This lends emotional-symbolic weight to the noun.

Synecdoche is as a figurative representation where a part stands for the whole to signify *pars pro toto*; or it stands for the whole on behalf of the part, *totum pro parte*. Metonymy substitutes the name of something that is closely related to the actual subject like cause for effect, container for content, or brand for product. Antonomasia is a figure of reification that substitutes a common noun or descriptive word or phrase for a proper name or vice versa. It usually involves a title, an epithet, or a known reference to specify a person. A hipflask, or more rarely, a hipalase (hypallage), is a literary device whereby eleventh correct terms modifying some word shall be practically transferred to another one. This is a very imaginative displacement. Irony usually means saying something contrary to what one means; that is the gap between the expected and the reality, and therefore it is mostly a subtle form of criticism or humorous contrast. Satire is a severe and often exaggerative irony used, usually, to expose or ridicule folly, corruption, or social issues. Thus, it becomes quite common in political or literary criticism. Innuendo: a slight phrase or reference, often derogatory, that suggests criticism, insult, or suspicion without actually putting it into words, usually used to spoil someone's name without doing it openly. Antiphrasis- the opposite of what is said. It is often done ironically or sarcastically. Paronomasia- this also refers to a pun, that is, the use of two or more words having similar sounds but different meanings. It is usually used for humorous or rhetorical effects.

Analysis of Figurative Language in the Poems of Edgar Allan Poe by Dewi Syafitri and Melisa Marlinton (2018): This study aims to find out what are types and meanings of figurative language in the poems of Edgar Allan Poe. As a result, the study revealed that there are 96 figurative languages that consist of personifications, similes, metaphors, hyperbole, irony, paradox, metonymy, and symbol. The meanings of the figurative languages find to have connotative meaning, social meaning, reflective meaning, collocative meaning. In conclusion, his poetry is interesting and can raise the imagination of the reader because of their richness in using figurative languages.

This research discusses the analysis of the figurative languages employed in Edgar Allan Poe's poems by Dewi Syafitri and Melisa Marlinton (2018). This study tries to describe the types and meanings of figurative language contained in the poems of Edgar Allan Poe. The study found as a result 96 figurative languages including personification, simile, metaphor, hyperbole, irony, paradox, metonymy, and symbol. The meanings of figurative languages might be divided into connotative meaning, social meaning, reflective meaning, and collocational meaning. To conclude, it looks that his poems are interesting and full of arousal of human imagination since they are rich in figurative language.

Analysis of Images, Figurative Language and Themes in Modern English Poetry by Putra Fajar (2007). This research work is targeted to analyze three modern English poems created during the early to mid-20th century: "The Lake Isle of Innisfree" by William Butler Yeats, "Fern Hill" by Dylan Thomas and "The Horses" by Edwin Muir. A qualitative approach is employed, analyzing the intrinsic elements of the poems which include imagination, figurative language and their themes. Descriptive analysis will gain in-depth understanding

of those poems. From the findings such themes emerge: "The Lake Isle of Innisfree" speaks of escaping urban life and returning to nature; "Fern Hill" makes a journey of human life from childhood to death represented through nature; and "The Horses" alludes to a return to nature and a simple-form life of primordial humanity.

Dwi Nur Hasanah (2018) analyzes the figurative language in poems by Oscar Wilde, intended to explain the types of figurative language used in Oscar Wilde's poems and clarify the contextual meaning corresponding to each figurative language. This research aims to identify the figurative language with reference to its general meaning concerning poems. The finding illustrates how the descriptive analysis conducted for ten poems by Oscar Wilde enabled the researcher to identify and classify several types of figurative languages used. The contextual meaning of such figurative languages in these poems was also examined.

An Analysis of Figurative Language in Taylor Swift's song lyrics by Wilya Setiawati and Maryani Maryani (2018), the aims to know the types of figurative language that are used in Taylor swift lyrics and describe the contextual meaning of the figurative language used in Taylor's lyrics. The research data is obtained from two songs from one album of Taylor Swift.

## METHOD

Using qualitative description, this study analyzes the figurative language in the poetry collection *The Moon and Her Secrets* by Leony Jardine. The study focused on identifying and classifying types of figurative language according to Keraf's classification while analyzing meanings in a pragmatic framework.

This study's object consisted of a number of 15 poems that have been written by Leony Jardine, which are the only legitimately relevant texts. Humans were not used as respondents since data were based purely on literature. The primary research instrument was the researcher herself or himself, acting as a major instrument. A classification table based on Keraf's theory was used to record and classify the figurative expressions in the poetry.

The data were collected through a close reading of the poems that relied on skimming and scanning techniques. The different figurative expressions were underlined and interpreted contextually based on the pragmatic framework. The expressions were classified into types with reference to Keraf's 16 categories.

The data analysis involved identifying figurative language, classifying it according to Keraf's categories, and interpreting their contextual meanings pragmatically. This process included analyzing how figurative expressions served pragmatic functions such as emotional expression, symbolic representation, and indirect communication. The findings were presented in narrative form and supported by selected textual examples from the poems."

## FINDINGS AND DISCUSSION

Tabel 1. Classification of Figurative Language in *The Moon and Her Secrets*

No.	Phrase	Simile	Metaphore	Alegory	Personificacation	Allusion	Eponym	Epithet	Synecdoche	Metonym	Antonomasia	Hipflask or Hipalase	Irony	Satire	Innuendo	Antiphrasis	Paronomasia
1.	Falling in love is like discovering snowflakes in the middle of summer, or how your spring	√	√														

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	flowers still bloom even in autumn.			
2.	Bargain me hundreds, but I only know thousand	√		√
3.	I miss my home and my home is you	√		
4.	You are Florance and I am Rome we are both a masterpiece tourist could never fully understand of	√	√	
5.	I would keep you 1001 days hope our fairy tale would be true		√	
6.	I was tiptoeing to quit you noticed and let me	√		√
7.	He buys thousands of sweet words Keeps it in the storage Sells it to every girl Who needs the kindest reply	√	√	√
8.	There are times you fall in love And you are scared to give your 100% but there will be a time when you fall and you do not even known what less	√		

	than 100%																
	is																
9.	All the scars seem to become blood again When you lose yourself	√														√	
10.	10.24 a.m. Eight minutes left Until the train comes Takes you further from me Closer to your hometown  Six minutes left You pat my head lightly Saying "take care" With the energy left from your sleepless eyes															√	
	TOTAL	2	7	0	1	1	2	1	0	0	0	1	1	1	1	0	0

**Types of Figurative Language Found in the Poetry**

Based on the analysis of ten selected poetic expressions from *The Moon and Her Secrets*, several types of figurative language were identified using Keraf’s classification.

Metaphor: 70% (7 out of 10) of the analyzed expressions are metaphors, indicating a strong preference for this type of figurative language. This indicates that the poet frequently uses indirect comparisons to symbolize abstract feelings such as love, longing, and loss. For instance, in the phrase “I miss my home and my home is you,” the word "home" metaphorically stands for a person, representing comfort and belonging.

Similes: 20% (2 out of 10) of the expressions are similes, showing a lesser but still significant use. One notable example is “Falling in love is like discovering snowflakes in the middle of summer,” which compares the experience of unexpected love with rare seasonal events to create vivid emotional imagery.

Other Types: The remaining 10% (1 out of 10) includes various other types of figurative language such as personification, allusion, eponym, epithet, hipalase (hypallage), irony, satire, and innuendo.

These findings suggest a diverse but selective use of figurative language in the poet’s stylistic choices, with a preference for metaphorical construction to evoke emotional and reflective meanings.

**Contextual Meaning of Figurative Language in the Poems**

As poetic figurative expressions, they derive from context and aim to intensify the emotional atmosphere of each poem. For example, “You are Florence; I am Rome” carries more than symbolic reflections of two remarkable cities – it entails an involved romantic connection; “He buys thousands of sweet words, keeps it in the storage, sells it to every girl” describes the personified metaphor about emotional manipulation in a polished way. Such notional frames

would require readers to go beyond the literal and place themselves in an experience defined by emotion and social context.

The use of irony in "Bargain me hundreds, but I only know thousand" tacitly attacks shallow love, while other added elements such as satire and innuendo lend emotional depth and expressive embellishment. Such contextualized usages do not render figurative language decorative but place it in focus as an integral part of meaning construction in poems themselves.

### **Poetic Style and Communicative Function of Figurative Language**

They are said to be writing the poems in such a way that the figurative language will create creativity as well as giving communicative and emotional purpose without necessarily concentrating on the type of flow or meter. The metaphor might be one that shows the author's inclination toward abstraction and emotional symbolism as well.

The definitions indicate how the metaphor can be used for expressing the internal states and relational dynamics of the poet with respect to one person without saying it. There would be instances of irony, satire and innuendo seen in such kind of language used, which will be expressive of a muted yet deliberate use of figurative language to convey critique or hidden emotion.

Ability to most often carry out a pragmatic function has to this layered communication: meaning is built through implication, context and mutual agreement between poet and reader. The use of figurative language therefore serves as the conduit through which messages of emotion flow and conjure enthusiasm in the reader.

## CONCLUSIONS

The current study investigated figurative language from a pragmatic perspective in *The Moon and Her Secrets* by Leony Jardine that sees meaning as contextually constructed. Using Keraf's classification, various types of figurative language were identified, of which metaphor was shown to be the most dominant with simile, personification, allusion, eponym, epithet, hypallage, irony, satire, and innuendo emerging sparsely.

The finding is that the poems do not have their figurative expressions merely for decoration; they do something more than signal the emotional, symbolic, or interpersonal meanings they express. Such a figurative expression mirrors the poet's communicative strategy using figurative ways to convey abstract experience, e-mail sensitivity, and relationship dynamics in ways that the poet considers to be indirect yet very effective. The analysis shows that this use of language would be consistent with pragmatic principles because meaning is ultimately determined by the intention of the speaker and contextual interpretation.

To summarize, figurative language in the poems posed above is utilized as a pragmatic device to intensify emotional engagement and thus enhance mutual understanding between poet and reader. In turn, this study confirms the importance of figurative language for poetic discourse-as an inevitable element that brings appreciation and communication into union but adds no findings of itself.

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