

AN ANALYSIS OF THE FIGURES OF SPEECH IN EMILY DICKINSON'S POEMS ON DEATH

THESIS

As Partial Fulfillment of The Requirements for
The Sarjana Pendidikan Degree in
English Language Teaching Faculty



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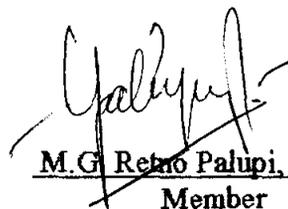
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ABSTRACT

Susanto, Audry. (1998). An Analysis of the Figures of Speech in Emily Dickinson's Poems on Death. unpublished S1 thesis. English department of Widya Mandala University, Surabaya. Advisor: Drs Antonius Gurito.

Key Words: figures of speech, symbolism, metonymy, simile, personification, and death

Literature specifically poetry is chosen as the object of this study since we can enlarge our scope of knowledge on human experience. Through poetry, we are led to be more sensible, not only to the experience of others, but also to understand ours. This is possible as poetry is a reflection of the dynamic phenomena of human life with its various aspects, either beautiful or ugly.

The multidimensional nature of the language of poetry becomes the focus of this study especially the figures of speech. The poems chosen come from one of the famous English poets, Emily Dickinson. She is a productive poet who has produced many poems with various themes. Therefore, Death is chosen among the other themes as to limit the scope of this study especially the physical death which continues to be an interesting topic to talk about as it continues to arise various responses among the society both positively and negatively.

Aiming to get the views of the author concerning the physical death which are reflected through the figures of speech in her poems, the writer has chosen fifteen of her poems on death. The research question which is answered through this study is: What figures of speech are used to represent Death in Emily Dickinson's poems? In getting the answer of the above question, three theories are used by the writer, they are: (1) Content Analysis, (2) Practical Literature Analysis, (3) Discourse Analysis.

With the use of the above three theories, the writer has found that Emily Dickinson poems specifically on Death are rich with figures of speech especially symbols, metonymies, similes and personification. The figures of speech are used by the author to represent her views on Death both positively and negatively. This ambiguous views are caused by the nature of death which can be frightening for those who are not prepared for it, but also it can be pleasant for those who believe that this is the beginning of a new life and the end of the sorrows in life.

By conducting this study, the writer can learn new sentence patterns and new vocabularies which can be applied later on, especially in writing. Furthermore, the writer can get a deeper understanding on figures of speech as a means to deliver a message implicitly. Therefore, it is suggested that a study on Emily Dickinson's poetry can be conducted also by the future researchers as there are many aspects that need to be explored or wait to be revealed.