

THE ANALYSIS

4.1 Types of Figures of Speech in Three Poems of Emily Dickinson

Emily Dickinson (1830-86). Complete poem. 1924

IV

*If certain, when this life was out,
That yours and mine should be,
I 'd toss it yonder like a rind,* 15
And taste eternity.

*But now, all ignorant of the length
Of time's uncertain wing,
It goads me, like the goblin bee,
That will not state its sting.*

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Table 1.0 The Types of Figures of Speech which is occurred in “*IF You were Coming in the Fall*” Poem

Stanza	Sentences of Figures of Speech	Types of Figures of Speech
1	<i>IF you were coming in the fall (1)</i>	Metaphor
	<i>I 'd brush the summer by (2)</i>	
	<i>With half a smile and half a spurn (3)</i>	Oxymoron
	<i>With half a smile and half a spurn (3)</i> <i>As housewives do a fly (4)</i>	Simile and Metaphor
2	<i>I'd wind the months in balls (6)</i>	Apostrophe
3	<i>I'd count them on my hand (10),</i> <i>Subtracting till my fingers dropped (11)</i>	Hyperbole
	<i>Subtracting till my fingers dropped (11)</i>	Archaism
	<i>Into Van Diemen's land (12)</i>	Metonymy
4	<i>I'd toss it yonder like a rind (15)</i>	Simile
5	<i>It goads me, like the goblin bee (19)</i>	Simile

In saying figure of speech in stanza one, there are consist of some figures of speech. The figure of speech in *IF you were coming in the fall (1)* and *I 'd brush the summer by (2)*, is “metaphor” because it compares between the phrase “coming in the fall” and “brush the summer” (*see also: Lee and Galati, 1977:*

449). The speaker is waiting someone and then she will give something special for the person.

On the other hand, there is “oxymoron” in *With half a smile and half a spurn* (3) because there are two opposite words between *smile* and *spurn* which is contradictory word. Based on an Alm-Arvius’ view, an oxymoron is a paradoxical combination of words or expression with opposite, that is more or less straightforwardly antonymic senses (2003: 134). Smile shows that something happiness, proud, and comfortable. But, spurn is rejecting or throwing something.

In line four *As housewives do a fly* (4) consist of “simile” and “metaphor”. In this line uses connector *as*. In Kennedy and Giogia’s view, simile is a comparison of two things, indicated by some connective, usually *like*, *as*, *than*, or a verb such as *resembles* (2005: 121). In this case, *half a smile and half a spurn* compares with *housewives*. The speaker is genuine women who is waiting her lover. However, there is also “metaphor” in this line between *housewives* and *a fly* but it does not use connective (*see also: Lee and Galati, 1977: 449*). The speaker changes a summer as a housewife ejects a fly away.

Continues to stanza two, *I’d wind the months in balls* (6) is “apostrophe” because it is personified an inanimate object. According to Odle’s view, apostrophe is a figure of speech in which the speaker addresses an inanimate object, an abstract idea, or a person who is not present or not living (2012: 2). Wind the months as for can dance in balls.

The discussion in stanza three contains “hyperbole”, “archaism”, and “metonymy”. The figure of speech in *I’d count them on my hand* (10), and *Subtracting till my fingers dropped* (11) is “hyperbole” (*see also: Odle, 2012: 2*).

In fact, it is impossible if someone counts centuries by using the fingers. Thus, one can say that this line is an exaggeration statement.

On the other hand, *Subtracting till my fingers dropped* (11) also contains “archaism”. The form *till* for *until*. Archaism is a term to show what is old of the poem such as *thou, ruth, als, etc.*

In line *Into Van Diemen's land* (12), the phrase *Van Diemen's land* indicates “metonymy” because it is substituted for Tasmania in Australia (*see also: Kennedy and Gioia, 2005: 130*). According to Ann.(n.d.)'s view, Van Diemen land is the original name for Tasmania (now part of Australia), discovered as a result of a voyage ordered by Anthony van Diemen, Governor-General of the Dutch West Indies. During Dickinson's time, it was a British-ruled penal colony where more than 75,000 convicts were imprisoned (2013).

The following stanza, fourth stanza, containing “simile” in *I'd toss it yonder like a rind* (15). It compares two things between *it* and *a rind* using the word “like” (*see also: Little, 1966: 154*). It refers to “life”. The speaker expects that she will meet the person afterlife. Thus, she lets herself be thrown in the afterlife as the rind thrown by someone.

The last stanza or stanza five. There is “simile” in *It goads me, like the goblin bee* (19). It compares between *it* and *the goblin bee* using connector “like”. The word *it* means uncertainty. In this case, the speaker feels uncertainty because she does not know when she will meet him. Her sense feels the stinging pain same as the goblin bee.

4.1.2 Types of Figures of Speech in “I cannot Live with You” Poem

“I Cannot Live with You” (640)

*I cannot live with You –
It would be Life –
And Life is over there –
Behind the Shelf*

*The Sexton keeps the Key to – 5
Putting up
Our Life – His Porcelain –
Like a Cup –*

*Discarded of the Housewife –
Quaint – or Broke – 10
A newer Sevres pleases –
Old Ones crack –*

*I could not die – with You –
For One must wait
To shut the Other's Gaze down – 15
You – could not –*

*And I – could I stand by
And see You – freeze –
Without my Right of Frost –
Death's privilege? 20*

*Nor could I rise – with You –
Because Your Face
Would put out Jesus' –
That New Grace*

*Glow plain – and foreign 25
On my homesick Eye –
Except that You than He
Shone closer by –*

*They'd judge Us – How –
For You – served Heaven – You know, 30
Or sought to –
I could not –*

*Because You saturated Sight –
And I had no more Eyes
For sordid excellence 35*

As Paradise

*And were You lost, I would be –
Though My Name
Rang loudest
On the Heavenly fame –*

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*And were You – saved –
And I – condemned to be
Where You were not –
That self – were Hell to Me –*

*So We must meet apart –
You there – I – here –
With just the Door ajar
That Oceans are – and Prayer –
And that White Sustenance –
Despair –*

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Table 2.0 The Types of Figures of Speech which is occurred in “*I Cannot Live with You*”

Stanza	Sentences of Figures of Speech	Types of Figures of Speech
1	<i>And Life is over there (3) Behind the Shelf (4)</i>	Metaphor
2	<i>Our Life – His Porcelain (7) Like a Cup (8)</i>	Simile
3	<i>Discarded of the Housewife (9)</i>	Understatement
4	<i>I could not die – with You (13)</i>	Hyperbole
5	<i>And see You – freeze (18) Without my Right of Frost (19)</i>	Metaphor
6	<i>Because Your Face (22) Would put out Jesus' (23)</i>	Hyperbole
7	<i>On my homesick Eye (26)</i>	Personification

8	<i>For You – served Heaven – You know (30)</i>	Hyperbole
	<i>I could not (32)</i>	Understatement
9	<i>Because You saturated Sight (33)</i> <i>and And I had no more Eyes (34)</i>	Understatement
	<i>For sordid excellence (35)</i>	Oxymoron
	<i>For sordid excellence (35)</i> <i>as paradise (36)</i>	Simile
10	<i>Though My Name (38),</i> <i>Rang loudest (39),</i>	Hyperbole and Personification
11	<i>That self—were Hell to Me (44)</i>	Hyperbole
12	<i>So We must meet apart (45)</i>	Oxymoron

First stanza, it is containing “metaphor” in *And Life is over there (3)* and *Behind the Shelf (4)*. These lines compare two unlike things between *Life* and *Shelf* omitting the connective to compare it. According to Odle’s view, metaphor is an implicit comparison between two essentially unlike things. He further states that good metaphors help readers see old things in new and different ways (2012: 2). In these lines indicate that there is a secret life. The speaker describes a secret life like a shelf in the corner.

Second stanza, the figure of speech in this stanza is “simile”. There is containing “simile” in *Our Life – His Porcelain (7)* and *Like a Cup (8)*. The speaker compares two phrases *Life—His porcelain* and *a Cup*. Simile is figure of speech that compares one noun to another noun by using word *like, as, though,*

and *than*. In this case, the speaker describes that her life is locked up or not free without a passion like a porcelain cup.

Third stanza, the figure of speech is “understatement.” The “understatement” is in *Discarded of the Housewife* (9) because the speaker makes a situation unimportant than the reality (*see also: Little, 1966: 165*). A housewife throws away a cup seems like a thing unused.

Fourth stanza, there is containing “hyperbole” especially in *I could not die – with You* (13). This line shows exaggeration. In Alm-Arvius’ view, exaggeration is very common in language, and hyperbole is the term used for this kind of figure of speech (2003: 135). Only God determines our death but in this case as if the people themselves can determine. It is impossible thing.

Fifth stanza, the figure of speech in this stanza is “metaphor” *And see You – freeze* (18) and *Without my Right of Frost* (19). These lines compare unlike thing between *freeze* and *frost* (*see also: Odle, 2012: 2*). Freeze and frost means cold for death. The speaker hold that the death is privilege and right.

Sixth stanza, the figure of speech is “hyperbole” in *Because Your Face* (22) and *Would put out Jesus’* (23). The speaker explains that her face’s lover more handsome than Jesus. Thus, it can be concluded that this is hyperbole which is exaggerated.

Seventh stanza, there is containing “personification” in *On my homesick Eye* (26). This line show that inanimate object is giving human character. Based on Kennedy and Gioia’s view, personification is a figure of speech in which a thing, an animal, or an abstract term (truth, nature) is made human (2005: 128). In

this case, homesick is an inanimate object but it has eyes same as human character.

Eight stanza, the figures of speech are “hyperbole” and “understatement.” The “hyperbole” is in *For You – served Heaven – You know* (30). The phrase *served heaven* contains exaggeration. It means that the speaker tries to serve God. The “understatement” is in *I could not* (32). Although, the speaker wants to serve God but the other side the speaker unable to do.

Nineth stanza, the figure of speech in this stanza consist of three types. They are “understatement,” “oxymoron,” and “simile”. The “understatement” is in *Because You saturated Sight* (33) and *And I had no more Eyes* (34). Understatement is figure of speech which is a writer or a speaker makes situation seem less important than it is. Her lover’s sight makes her does not see clearly. In *For sordid excellence* (35) is containing “oxymoron” because it combines two contradictory words between *sordid* and *excellence*. Sordid means something dirty and untidy but excellence means something that a good quality. Thus, this line is oxymoron. The next line, *as paradise* (36) is contaning simile because it is using “as” (see also: Kennedy and Gioia, 2005: 121). The speaker compares sordid and excellence as a paradise to the joys with her beloved.

Tenth stanza, there are “hyperbole,” and “personification.” The “hyperbole” is in *Though My Name* (38), *Rang loudest* (39). This is mentioned hyperbole because it shows exaggeration. The name can be smelled fragrant in the heaven. The “personification” in *Though My Name* (38) and *Rang loudest* (39). The name is inanimate object but it can be rang like a human character.

Eleventh stanza, the figure of speech is “hyperbole” especially in *That self—were Hell to Me* (44). Hyperbole or overstatement is the use of exaggeration for effect. It is producing a more striking effect than a really are. In this case, the speaker will not accept heaven without her lover. It is impossible thing, every people expects heaven in afterlife.

Twelveth stanza, there is “oxymoron.” The “oxymoron” is in *So We must meet apart* (45). The phrase *meet apart* is the combination of two words contradictory between *meet* and *apart*. According to Odle’s view, oxymoron is a figure of speech in which two opposite or apparently contradictory words are juxtaposed (2012: 3). Meet means come to the presence but apart means separated by a distance. Thus, this is containing oxymoron.

4.1.3 Types of Figures of Speech in “I’m wife—I’ve finished that”

“I’m wife—I’ve finished that”

*I’m “wife” – I’ve finished that –
That other state –
I’m Czar – I’m “Woman” now –
It’s safer so –*

*How odd the Girl’s life looks, 5
Behind this soft Eclipse –
I think that Earth feels so
To folks in Heaven – now –*

*This being comfort – then
That other kind – was pain – 10
But why compare?
I’m “Wife”! Stop there*

Table 3.0 The Types of Figures of Speech which is occurred in “I’ve Finished That” poem

Stanza	Sentences of Figures of Speech	Types of Figures of Speech
1	<i>I’m Czar—I’m “Woman” now— (3)</i>	<i>Metonymy</i>
2	<i>I think that Earth feels so (7) To folks in Heaven—now (8)</i>	<i>Personification</i>
3	<i>This being comfort – then (9) That other kind – was pain (10)</i>	<i>Oxymoron</i>

First stanza, the figure of speech is “Metonymy” in *I’m Czar—I’m “Woman” now (3)*. Metonymy—at least in Odle’s view—is a figure of speech which something is referred to by something commonly associated with it (2012: 3). Thus, the word Czar is associated with woman..

Second stanza, there is “personification” in *I think that Earth feels so (7)* and *To folks in Heaven—now (8)*. Based on Kennedy and Gioia’s view, personification is a figure of speech in which a thing, an animal, or an abstract term (truth, nature) is made human (2005: 128). An earth is an abstract term but it can be felt the heaven. It is giving human attributes.

Third stanza, the figure of speech is “oxymoron” in *This being comfort – then (9)* and *That other kind – was pain (10)*. According to Odle’s view, oxymoron is a figure of speech in which two opposite or apparently contradictory words are juxtaposed (2012: 3). The word *comfort* is the opposite *pain*. Comfort is something relax and enjoyable but pain means something is tragic and illness.

4.2 Analysis of the Significance of Figure of Speech in Revealing the Total Meaning

Actually, every poem is consisting poetic devices, one of them is figure of speech. Figures of speech have important thing to express a powerful feeling in reality. The poets use figures of speech in their poems to increase the beauty of language to the readers. Moreover, figures of speech can communicate the meaning clearly. Actually, the reader cannot approached the intended meaning of the poet wants. In this case, the researcher tries to analyze on three poems of Emily Dickinson because these poems contain many types of figures of speech. They are explained as follows:

4.2.1 Analysis of the Significance of Figure of Speech in Revealing the Total Meaning in “IF You were Coming in the Fall” Poem

This poem tells about love, loyalty, and hesitation. The using word “If” in this poem indicates that there is a uncertainty and far from the reality. First stanza, the poet uses metaphor and simile. Those are making a comparison side by side. The speaker is waiting her lover but she does not know when her lover is coming. She expects that someday he will come and she will give something for him. On the other hand, it occurs complicated problem that she feels confuse about it. Thus, the poet uses oxymoron between smile and spurn.

Second stanza, the speaker would do if her lover is really coming in a year. The poet is using apostrophe to personify an inanimate idea. The speaker follows to a wind the month look likes dancing in balls. They are dancing together with

her lover in balls. She will keep him and never break his heart. It is indicated that her love is very strong for him.

Third stanza, the word delayed means she makes sure eventually her lover will come. She is disposed to count time backwards on her fingers. The reference “Van Diemen’s land” means one of island in Australia names Tasmania indicates some place far away.

Fourth stanza, the speaker introduces the eternity in afterlife. She uses metaphor and simile to compare life like a rind. A rind means her body contains a power and spirit to continue her life after death. The speaker expects that she will meet her lover in the afterlife.

The last stanza or fifth stanza, the speaker changes her thought by indicated “but now” means this stanza tells the reality in the world. This is the opposite with the previous stanza. The poet uses “the goblin bee” means that is something ugly but it does not know if the creature, evil, or not. The goblin bee is a comparison of time as though the bee will attack her with its painful sting. She is frightening. The researcher’s opinion, those all is the speaker is still waiting her lover until the end of time.

In brief, from first stanza until the last stanza one can say that this poem is about love and uncertainty. There is a woman who is waiting her lover. She does not know when her lover will come. But, her imagination state that her lover will meet her. Suddenly, she awares from her imagination that she really feels pain because there is uncertainty when her lover will come. This poem contain various types of figures of speech such as metaphor, oxymoron, simile, hyperbole,

archaism, and metonymy. Those figures of speech has related to the total meaning in this poem. By using figures of speech, the poet can express her message of poem. The total meaning is the power of communication between the poet and the reader of the poem.

4.2.2 Analysis of the Significance of Figure of Speech in Revealing the Total Meaning in “I can not Live with You” Poem

The first stanza until third stanza describes about life in real life. There is a couple cannot live together because of life is complicated. Living together would be real life but the woman has an other life over there. The used of metaphor in line “Behind the Shelf” means there is a life wich is hidden away. The second stanza, the reference “sexton” related to religious way. It may suggests the woman in this poem is falling in love with someone on the church which is cannot be married. The poet uses simile to compare their life is like a porcelain cup. Life is very hard, restrictiveness, and narrowness. Continuing in third stanza, the housewife suggest that the condition and value of society as their conflict.

Fourth and fifth stanzas explain about death. She cannot die together with her lover because she realizes that death is a mysterious act. The phrase “gaze down” means when the death will come and she is closing her eyes. The phras “Right of Frost” is her lover. She thinks in her mind “could she die without her lover?”

Stanza six to seven are about resurrection day. The poet uses hyperbole in “Because your face would put out Jesus.” Her lover’s face would more shine than Jesus. When her lover is next to her, she does not fell homesick to him. Therefore,

the resurrection together between the speaker and her lover is impossible. The religion is overlooked because the other is delightful.

Eight to eleventh stanza, beginning “They’d judge Us” and separated with the dash “How”, it contains a question posed by the speaker then answered to the next lines. She judges that she would not serve God. Only her lover shines brighter in the heaven so she unables to see clearly. Paradise is sordid compare with excellence means the joy relationship with her beloved. Even if her name rang loudest in the heaven, she will not accept heaven without him. If both of them are saved, but saved in apart it same as they are in hell.

To summarize, the last stanza is conclusion argument. This love cannot be shared by the couple and they have to be apart. Support in their love is despair. The ends of this poem “White sustenance” means heavenly. Both of them can be in the heaven or hell. All of figure of speech that contain in this poem has related to the total meaning. The poet uses comparison such as metaphor, simile, understatement, and personification to express the emotion and imagination. The figures of speech provide emphasis, freshness of expression, and has specialized meaning of it.

4.2.3 Analysis of the Significance of Figure of Speech in Revealing the Total Meaning in “I’m Wife, I’ve Finished That” Poem

The quotation “I’m wife” in the first line means the speaker is a wife and the wife is an identity social value. The line “It’s safer so” means that she has a label as a woman and to be more secure on her identity. The researcher thinks this poem tells about her identity in the society.

The second stanza is reflecting when the speaker was young as a girl. A girl's life is beginning from "behind soft eclipse", it is so natural and look like innocent. It is described the contrast between girlhood and womanhood.

The last stanza, the speaker being a wife, she is comfortable because she has achieved social status as "Wife." Moreover, sometimes she gets the pain because of problem in her life. The ending of this poem "I'm Wife! Stop there!" means the speaker feels comfortable as a wife and she is ready to receive whatever the risk.

In short, the speaker is a wife as her identity in the society. She remembers when she was a girlhood. She was innocent. But now, she feels comfortable with her identity because as a wife becomes a perfect woman. The relationship between all of figures of speech in this poem and the total meaning are figures of speech carry the poet's emotion and a poem uses language which results in concentration of total meaning because a poem does not use the literal meaning.