

FIGURATIVE LANGUAGE IN BRIDGERTON SERIES SEASON 2 SELECTED EPISODES

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ABSTRAK

Tujuan dari penelitian ini adalah untuk menjelaskan bahasa kiasan yang memiliki makna dalam Bridgerton Series Season 2 Episode Pilihan. Metode penelitian kualitatif digunakan dalam penelitian ini. Identifikasi dilakukan dengan meninjau dialog yang telah ditranskrip dan memeriksa bahasa kiasan dalam setiap dialog. Hasil dari penelitian ini terdapat delapan jenis bahasa kiasan, yaitu 21 ujaran (40,38%) untuk eufemisme, 9 ujaran (17,31%) untuk ironi, 7 ujaran (13,46%) untuk ironi, 7 ujaran (13,46%) untuk ironi, 7 ujaran (13,46%) untuk idiom, dan 7 ujaran (13,46%) untuk idiom. 46%) untuk idiom, 6 ujaran (11,54%) untuk hiperbola, 3 ujaran (5,77%) untuk litotes, 3 ujaran (5,77%) untuk metafora, 2 ujaran (3,85%) untuk simile, dan 1 ujaran (1,92%) untuk personifikasi. Berdasarkan penelitian tersebut, dapat disimpulkan bahwa jenis bahasa kiasan yang paling dominan adalah eufemisme, yaitu sebanyak 21 ujaran (40,38%).

Kata Kunci: Bahasa Figuratif, Eufemisme, Ironi, Idiom, Hiperbola, Litotes, Metafora, Simile, Personifikasi.

ABSTRACT

The purpose of the study is to explain figurative language with meaning in the Bridgerton Series Season 2 Selected Episode. The qualitative research methods were used in this study. Identification is accomplished by reviewing the transcribed dialogue and examining the figurative language in each dialogue. The result of this study there are eight types of figurative languages, such as 21 utterances (40.38%) for euphemism, 9 utterances (17.31%) for irony, 7 utterances (13.46%) for idiom, 6 utterances (11.54%) for hyperbole, 3 utterances (5.77%) for litotes, 3 utterances (5.77%) for metaphor, 2 utterances (3.85%) for simile and 1 utterance (1.92%) for personification. Based on the study, it can be deduced that the most dominant type of figurative language is euphemism, with 21 utterances (40.38%).

Keywords: Figurative Language, Euphemism, Irony, Idiom, Hyperbole, Litotes, Metaphor, Simile, Personification.

1. INTRODUCTION

Language is an important instrument for human communication and expression since it incorporates both form (speech flow) and meaning (content). Understanding language entails not just knowing its structure and pronunciation, but also its

meaning, which can be subjective and open to interpretation. Language is an essential tool for human communication, allowing us to express our thoughts, feelings, ideas, and more. It can be expressed orally as well as in writing, with written forms including newspapers, novels, poems, journals, and screenplays, and spoken language including

discussions, dialogues, speeches, and songs. Perry (2008) highlights the importance of language in society, claiming that it is important to human achievements and our perception of the world.

Linguistic proficiency is necessary in the field of linguistics; however, it is critical to distinguish between "language" and "linguistics." Linguistics is a scientific discipline that investigates language. Because language and linguistics are inextricably linked, language serves as the foundation for linguistics. Linguistics investigates numerous aspects of language, such as phonetic alterations, changes in word meanings across time, and so on. Linguistics is divided into four subfields: phonology, morphology, syntax, and semantics. The emphasis of this text switches to semantics, particularly in the context of figurative language.

Figurative language is a literary method that uses words or phrases with meanings that go beyond their literal readings to convey ideas in a meaningful yet indirect way. It creates new viewpoints and emphasizes the literal meanings of the words. Figurative language is frequently found in literature, including poetry, theatre, prose, and speeches, to enhance interaction and emotion. It is also used in speech, narrative prose, and cinematic dialogues to make the discussion livelier and to keep the audience's attention. Figurative language is used in a variety of film genres to enhance the overall meaning and impact of the plot.

The writer is fascinated by the use of figurative language in the British-Regency period film series "Bridgerton." Set in Regency-century London, the series uses obsolete words and phrases from that era, portraying not only the era's lifestyle and fashion, but also its language. The writer chose an episode from the second season of "Bridgerton" for a deep examination with the goal of uncovering the implications of

the metaphorical language used in the film and assisting viewers in comprehending the language used in the context of the plot. This study dives into how the film's characters used figurative language in the historical setting, offering insight on its function in enriching the viewer's experience.

2. THEORETICAL FRAMEWORKS

a. Semantics

Semantics, a subfield of linguistics, investigates the complexities of meaning inside language. It is concerned with distinguishing distinct sorts of meanings and systematically integrating them into a comprehensive theory of language. Semantics is primarily concerned with the exploration of the intrinsic, literal meanings of words that comprise a language, emphasizing the importance of comprehending concepts that are not directly perceptible through the senses.

The essence of language is meaning, and language's primary goal is to express meaning. When a sequence of sounds or letters has meaning, language becomes legitimate; otherwise, it is just sounds or motions. Language's core is meaning, and without it, language loses its essential quality.

Meaning consists of two major components:

- 1) The intention underlying the speaker's or writer's communication, which the message recipient must infer.
- 2) Utterance meaning, also known as literal meaning, is a linguistic construct that conveys the meaning that an utterance is likely to communicate when understood by people who are familiar with the language, aware of the context, and have the requisite background knowledge.

Geoffrey Leech (1983) further categorizes meaning into seven separate sorts, including conceptual, connotative, social, affective, reflected, colloquial, and

thematic meanings, showing language's vast richness.

Understanding sentence meaning is critical since each word in a language is closely related to anything outside of the realm of language itself. Through conversation and writing, people use language to express ideas, events, qualities, and opinions. Understanding the meanings of words is part of mastering a language, and even seemingly basic phrases contribute distinctively to meaningful speech.

However, not all sentences are necessarily meaningful. Even the most common and basic words, such as "the," "not," "of," or even exclamations like "ouch!" contribute distinctively to meaningful communication and so have their own meanings.

b. Figurative Language

Figurative language is a type of expression in which words have meanings that go beyond their literal interpretation. Writers use figurative language to create vivid images and convey ideas in a unique and innovative manner. It amplifies the power of words by comparing specific objects or concepts to others, changing and eliciting specific implications. Figurative language can be found in a variety of types of communication, including speeches and advertising, as well as regular conversation, literary works, and films.

Anderson (2005) defines figurative language as language that is utilized creatively rather than literally. It has the potential to substantially improve the style and meaning of language, making it more elegant, engaging, and compelling. Figurative language refers to phrases or statements that have secondary, figurative meanings, relating one item with another, and hence reflect the author's personality and style.

According to Stanford (2003), figurative language is defined as words or sentences that carry meanings other than their literal interpretations. It is used by authors to express ideas, feelings, and themes through diverse linguistic strategies. There are various varieties of figurative language, each having its own qualities and examples, such as hyperbole, litotes, euphemism, simile, metaphor, personification, irony, and idiom.

1. Hyperbole

Burgers et al. (2016:166) define hyperbole as an expression that is more extreme than justified given its ontological referent. Hyperbole can provide great emphasis to something spoken in an exaggerated manner of language. Depending on how it is used, it can convey a comical or dramatic impression. In the movie *Titanic*, Jack's exclamation, "I'm king of the world!" is a hyperbolic expression that conveys his overwhelming sense of excitement, despite not being literally true.

2. Litotes

Litotes is a figure of speech that emphasizes the magnitude of a statement by denying its opposite (Hotben, 2006). It is a form of understatement that downplays reality with the intention of being modest. Litotes is meant to be a form of understatement by using negation to express the opposite meaning. It is a clever use of language in the combination of negative terms as a function to express a positive sentiment or statement. Litotes is often used in everyday speech, literature, movies, and political rhetoric. It can be used to express modesty or arrogance, irony or sincerity, compassion or invective. Litotes works by making its understatement obvious, usually by negating a statement that is either extreme or involves words that are

superlative. Examples of litotes include "This is no ordinary lamp" from *Aladdin* and it means that the lamp has magical powers.

3. Euphemism

Euphemism is the practice of using a more nuanced term during communication to refer indirectly to unsuitable, unpleasant, or embarrassing issues in order to make them appear more acceptable. Hornby (2005) defines euphemism as words or expressions that serve a good goal by having a good connotation. It is a figure of speech used to convey information in a more delicate manner, with the goal of keeping the listener or recipient from being irritated by what is being said. Euphemisms can be found in various forms of communication, including literature and movies. In the movie *Forrest Gump*, Forrest's mother tells him that his father is "up there," referring to heaven. She uses this euphemism to avoid directly saying that his father died, as it would upset him. Another example is in *The Hunger Games*, where "the reaping" is a euphemism for the annual sacrifice of children, serving to downplay the gruesome nature of the event.

4. Simile

Simile is a literary device used to compare objects that are fundamentally dissimilar using phrases like or as to establish equivalence. According to Perrine (2012), a proper simile establishes an unambiguous connection between two objects that are so unlike that their likeness appears impossible. Similes are used to create vivid imagery and enhance the meaning of both poetry and prose. Similes are often used in literature and movies, such as in *Forrest Gump's* line, "Life is like a box of chocolates." Simile is a subset of

metaphor and is distinguished by the presence of the words like or as.

5. Metaphor

According to Perrine (2012), a metaphor is a figure of speech that creates an implicit comparison between two fundamentally dissimilar objects or ideas without using the words "like" or "as." This distinguishes metaphor from simile, another literary device used for comparison. Here is an example of metaphor: "It is beauty that kills the beast": This metaphorical line from the movie *King Kong* suggests that King Kong's love for the beautiful woman ultimately leads to his downfall. Metaphors are widely used in everyday language and various forms of writing. They serve to create vivid imagery, convey complex ideas, and evoke emotional responses in the audience.

6. Personification

According to Keraf (2002: 22), personification is the assignment of human attributes to non-humans. It is a type of metaphorical language in which human features are attached to non-living things or animals to make them appear human. Non-living objects can be personified by performing human qualities such as thinking, accomplishing things, or behaving like humans. Personification is comparing the non-living as if it were alive, using human adjectives or actions, and utilizing all five senses. We can see the example of personification also from the character's line in the movie *Die Hard*, "Now I know what a TV dinner feels like." In films, personification is often used for one-liners, like this quip from the character, crawling through a vent in the Nakatomi Plaza. Obviously, TV dinners don't really have the human capacity to feel.

7. Irony

Irony is a figure of speech that has been described in various ways, but no universally accepted definition exists. Wilson and Sperber (2002) describe irony as an echoic speech that conveys a negative feature of another person's perspective, while Utsumi (2000) and Veale and Hao (2010b) describe it as a type of pretense. Irony is often used in literature and movies to create an implicit comparison between two fundamentally dissimilar objects or ideas. Verbal, dramatic, and situational irony are the three different varieties of irony. Verbal irony occurs when a speaker says one thing while really meaning something else. Dramatic irony occurs when the viewer is aware of information that the characters are unaware of. Situational irony occurs when the outcome differs from what one might anticipate.

8. Idioms

According to Rakoczy in Polikarenko (2011), idioms are a combination of words that have a different meaning when used together than the separate words. Idioms are used to express something that other words cannot describe clearly or creatively. People frequently use visuals or symbols to express things in the simplest and most efficient way possible. Idioms are frequently employed in both official and casual speech and writing. Examples of idioms include "age your age," "a bird in the hand is worth two in the bush," "a drop of a hat," "a piece of cake," and "a penny saved is a penny earned."

c. Movie

People enjoy watching movies as a form of entertainment, and the majority of people have seen a movie at some point. Movies are a medium that uses storylines to deliver diverse messages to their audience,

and they can also be viewed as an aesthetic medium for artists and filmmakers to express tale ideas and themes. When an actor or actress plays the lead role in a film, the number of ratings it obtains from its audience is a measure of its success. A film's success is usually determined by the performance of its cast, and the genre in which a film is exhibited may also influence its success. A film can be either fiction (made up) or documentary (based on true occurrences), and despite the fact that hundreds of films are made each year, only a small percentage of them focus on a particular theme or plot.

The goal of movie analysis is to expand and improve the viewing experience. As a result, every aspect of the film becomes visible and understandable. We can also comprehend the entire film by examining it. According to Boggs and Petrie (2008: 6), analysis assists us in locking an experience in our thoughts so that we may remember it. Analyzing a film engages us intellectually and creatively, allowing us to make the film our own. There are some obvious advantages to film analysis. It enables us to form valid judgments about the meaning and worth of a film, assists us in capturing the experience shown on screen, and sharpens our overall critical judgment.

3. RESEARCH DESIGN

A qualitative research method used by the writer. Qualitative research is a method for investigating and comprehending the significance that individuals or groups ascribe to a social or human situation. Mason (2022) states that qualitative research should give explanations or arguments rather than attempting to provide just descriptions. There are several sorts of qualitative research, including basic interpretative studies, case studies, document or content analysis, ethnography, grounded theory, historical research, narrative inquiry, and

phenomenological studies. The writer used document or content analysis in this thesis, which is a research method used to detect certain characteristics of textual or visual resources. In this study, the writer analyzed the figurative language in Bridgerton Series Season 2 selected episode. The writer founds, collected data, classified, and made conclusions in this qualitative study.

In collecting the data, the writer did some steps, such as:

1. Downloading the selected episode of *Bridgerton Series Season 2* from Netflix with English subtitles.
2. Downloading the script from google.
3. Watching the series and comparing the finding script with the subtitles to make sure they are the same.
4. Watching several times to ensure that writer understood what's the meaning of every word and sentences that spoken by the character.
5. Compiling a list of figurative word from the script which would be evaluated for figurative language types.

The analysis of the collected data was done by the following steps:

1. Analyzing the data from the result of comparing the script with the subtitle.
2. Classifying data based on the types of figurative language, focusing on each type of figurative language to make categorizing data easier.
3. Determining the most dominant type of figurative language that is found in the series by using formula as follows:

$$X = \frac{F}{N} \times 100\%$$

X = The percentage of the types of figurative language

F = Frequency of the types of figurative language

N = Total number of figurative languages

4. Analyzing and giving the reasons of figurative language that used in the movie.

5. Drawing the conclusions based on result of the study.

4. DISCUSSION

The writer provides the data collection and analysis of the figurative language used in Chris Van Dusen's historical fiction-romance series *Bridgerton Series: The Viscount Who Loved Me*, which aired in 2022. In order to gather the information required for this study, the writer identified every dialogue in the episode. She then looked for any instances of figurative language, such as hyperbole, litotes, euphemism, simile, metaphor, personification, irony, and idiom, and explained their meaning and the context in which they are used. The writer will only present a small selection of the facts from the movie as examples.

Hyperbole

Data 1

Lady Portia Featherington: Very well. Do you not think it time for us to spend some of our earnings? Our coffers are **overflowing**.

[3:12]

Data Analysis: The word 'overflowing' here is hyperbole and it means having a lot of money. The Featherington family does have a lot of money, but that doesn't mean they don't have a lot of chests to store it in. In this era, people kept their wealth in chests.

Data 2

Lady Portia Featherington: So that we may finally celebrate all of us. Varley, I want **luster and glitter and gold**. I want the best of everything. And we will call it "The Featherington Ball." [3:29]

Data Analysis: The bolded word in the sentence above is hyperbole. Lady Portia wants luxury at the ball she is going to be hosting. She uses words like luster, glitter and gold that represent luxury.

Data 3

Lady Portia Featherington: Well, the ball is coming together delightfully. **Gold flowers, gold drinks, gold everywhere.** Do you not like gold? [12:35]

Data Analysis: The bolded sentence is hyperbole. This is due to the use of the word 'gold' in every noun spoken by the speaker as if all objects are made of gold.

Litotes

Data 4

Miss Cressida Cowper: Perhaps she had nothing more to say about that **radical ruffian**, Eloise Bridgerton. [2:27]

Data Analysis: This sentence's use of the phrase 'radical ruffian' shows that it is a litotes. Radical ruffian can be interpreted as a rebel, but the radicalism of one of the actors is more about changing for the good.

Data 5

Lady Violet Bridgerton: Eloise, uh, perhaps a stroll with Penelope might help **clear your mind.** [4:53]

Data Analysis: Litotes in this sentence is 'help clear your mind'. This remark is intended to make a person feel more calm and less troubled by thoughts.

Data 6

Miss Kate Sharma: You do know there **will never be a day where you do not vex me.** [1:1:59]

Data Analysis: The underline words are litotes because Kate accepted Anthony's proposal, which often annoyed her. Therefore, she said that sentence when accepting his proposal.

Euphemism

Data 7

Miss Eloise Bridgerton: I deserve more than that. She seems to have stopped writing at all. Which is why now is the perfect time to find her, when she is unsuspecting, and with your knowledge of her methods and my

endeavors, I'm sure together we can finally **unmask her.** I must know everything you know. [9:03]

Data Analysis: The term 'unmask her' shows that this long sentence is a euphemism. 'Unmask', this word is interpreted as revealing who Lady Whistledown really is, someone Eloise is looking for because she wrote about her scandal.

Data 8

Lord Jack Featherington: Colin Bridgerton **has taken the bait.** [12:21]

Data Analysis: The euphemism in this sentence is 'has taken the bait'. The meaning of this sentence refers to a person who has entered into a fraud committed by another person.

Data 9

Sir Rupert Norton: I am glad to see you **blossoming**, Bridgerton. I think many of us at the Academy assumed you'd be all drink and no paint. [22:44]

Data Analysis: The word 'blossoming' is a euphemism. It means almost similar to blooming like a flower because it turns out that Benedict developed his skills at the Academy.

Simile

Data 10

Miss Edwina Sharma: But once you knew, why did you not tell me? Why wait for **me** to put it together on my own **like a fool?** [30:03]

Data Analysis: The word like here explained that this question is a simile. Someone expressed his/her disappointment with the other one for lying to him/her and being unaware of the surroundings.

Data 11

Lord Jack Featherington: This entire scheme was **as much your idea as mine.** If not more. [57:19]

Data Analysis: This sentence contains a simile. It expresses a frustration, upset of the scheming that had planned together but turned into his scheme alone.

Metaphor

Data 12

Lady Violet Bridgerton: There's nothing worse than **rotting flowers** when **someone is unwell**. [4:32]

Data Analysis: This sentence contains metaphor. Flowers that have rotted are usually caused by lack of water or things that are essential for growth. Equally, a person who is unwell is usually not getting enough of the things that need to be consumed into the body.

Data 13

Miss Eloise Bridgerton: "**Madame Delacroix is old**, but at least she is capable."Not often Whistledown throws out a compliment. [20:02]

Data Analysis: This sentence is a metaphor. 'Old' here does not refer to the physical appearance or age of a person, but rather the work of that person.

Data 14

Sir Colin Bridgerton: The meaning is that **this necklace is a fraud**, made of glass. Just like you. How dare you take advantage of these poor ladies Featherington, without a father or a husband to protect them? It is out of concern for their reputation alone that I will only address this matter in private. But I expect you to return all of the funds you have collected, and leave town at once. [44:06]

Data Analysis: Because the necklace in issue is a forgery made of glass, this line is a metaphor.

Personification

Data 15

Society Papa: You there. What've you done with our **scandal sheet**? [2:33]

Data Analysis: The personification of this sentence is scandal sheet. No sheet can get scandalized. It is the writing on the sheet that can be scandalous.

Irony

Data 16

Miss Penelope Featherington: Or perhaps she was done **ruining the lives of others**. Mama, I wish to visit Eloise. It has been a week. [2:53]

Data Analysis: She here refers to Lady Whistledown who has been writing about scandals in society. So, this sentence is an irony because the life of the person gossiped about in Lady Whistledown's sheet has been the subject of much gossip.

Data 17

Lady Philipa Finch: Everyone does love a **touch of drama**. [3:51]

Data Analysis: The irony of this sentence is 'a touch of drama'. This phrase means that every event has an element of drama that could have been caused by the people involved in the event.

Data 18

Sir Rupert Norton: I am glad to see you blossoming, Bridgerton. I think many of us at the Academy assumed you'd be **all drink and no paint**. [22:44]

Data Analysis: 'All drink and no paint' are an irony because someone is considered by his college friends' to just drink and will not be able to create any paintings during his time at the Academy.

Idiom

Data 19

Miss Prudence Featherington: I do hope Whistledown **picks up her pen** again in time to write about my forthcoming nuptials. [2:43]

Data Analysis: 'Picks up her pen' is an idiom. It refers to a writer returning to her writing.

Data 20

Lady Philipa Finch: Perhaps she **rested her pen** so she did not have to write about such an uninteresting affair. [2:48]

Data Analysis: An idiom in this sentence is 'rested her pen'. The meaning of this sentence is that she is not writing. In this movie, we are told that Lady Whistledown has stopped writing since she wrote the gossip about Eloise.

Data 21

Theo Sharpe: I should have known. That you could not be any different from all other ladies. It's all right, Miss Bridgerton. You **dipped your toe into my waters**, trying to make yourself feel better about the unearned advantages of your birth. Now you can go back to your life, and I can go back to mine. I'm sorry I couldn't help you find your writer. Best of luck. [27:57]

Data Analysis: 'Dipped your toe into my waters' is an idiom. This sentence means that someone has entered into someone else's life.

5. CONCLUSION

The writer draws a final conclusion regarding figurative language after studying the evidence. There are eight types of figurative language found in Chris Van Dusen's Bridgerton Series Season 2: The Viscount Who Loved Me Episode in 2022, namely hyperbole, litotes, euphemism, simile, metaphor, personification, irony, and idiom. According to the data that the writer discovered, there are 61 utterances that contain figurative language, including one utterance using personification, two utterances using simile, three utterances

each for two types of figurative language such as litotes and metaphor, six utterances using hyperbole, seven utterances using idiom, nine utterances using irony, and twenty-one utterances using euphemism. According to this analysis, euphemism, which is used 21 times in Bridgerton Series Season 2: The Viscount Who Loved Me Episode and has a frequency of 40.38% in percentage, is the most dominant type of figurative language. And the most common figurative language in the examined Bridgerton script is euphemism for three reasons. The first is that using euphemisms can help to defuse tense situations in conversations. Second, euphemisms make uncomfortable situations more bearable. Finally, euphemism is often thought of as a kind of deception that presents something as beautiful when it isn't.

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