

**The Use of Hyperbole and Metaphor in Musthafa Luthfi al-Manfaluthi's  
Novel *Rembulan Merah***

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**ABSTRACT**

This study explores the use of hyperbolic and metaphorical language styles in *Rembulan Merah*, a novel by Musthafa Luthfi al-Manfaluthi, through a stylistic analysis approach. Language plays a crucial role in literature, serving as a medium for authors to convey emotions, themes, and artistic expression. By analyzing the stylistic choices in this novel, the research aims to uncover the effects, meanings, and intentions behind the author's use of hyperbole and metaphor. The findings indicate that these stylistic devices significantly enhance the novel's aesthetic and emotional appeal, making the narrative more engaging and impactful for readers. Hyperbole intensifies dramatic moments, emphasizing emotions and ideas in an exaggerated manner to create a lasting impression. Meanwhile, metaphor enriches descriptions, allowing abstract concepts to be conveyed through vivid and relatable imagery. Furthermore, these linguistic techniques contribute to the overall readability of the novel by making complex themes more accessible. The study highlights how al-Manfaluthi's writing style enables readers to immerse themselves in the story, experience the characters' emotions, and visualize events with greater clarity. Additionally, the use of hyperbole and metaphor helps maintain narrative dynamism, preventing monotony and enhancing literary appreciation. Through this stylistic analysis, the research underscores the importance of language in shaping literary works and engaging readers.

**Keywords:** Stylistics; Hyperbole; Metaphor

**INTRODUCTION**

Language is not merely a tool for communication but also a powerful medium for artistic expression, particularly in literature. Authors carefully craft their language to create specific effects, evoke emotions, and convey deeper meanings beyond the literal interpretation of words. The study of linguistic style in literary works, known as stylistics, examines how various elements such as phonology, lexical choices, syntax, and semantics contribute to the overall impact of a text. Among the many stylistic devices used in literature, hyperbole and metaphor stand out as essential tools that enhance a narrative's expressiveness, making it more engaging, imaginative, and thought-provoking. These figures of speech enable authors to intensify emotions, highlight important themes, and transform abstract ideas into more concrete representations.

This research focuses on the stylistic use of hyperbole and metaphor in *Rembulan Merah*, a novel by Musthafa Luthfi al-Manfaluthi. Set against the backdrop of the Ottoman-Balkan conflict, the novel was written during a period of growing nationalist movements, where literature played a crucial role in inspiring patriotism and resistance. Al-Manfaluthi's writing is known for its poetic and emotional depth, which captivates readers and immerses them in the historical and ideological struggles presented in the novel. His use of hyperbolic expressions amplifies the emotional weight of the narrative, exaggerating feelings of heroism, love, and tragedy to leave a lasting impression on readers. Likewise, metaphors are used to draw striking comparisons between characters, emotions, and events, enriching the text with layered meanings and symbolic significance.

Understanding the stylistic choices in *Rembulan Merah* provides valuable insights into how language functions in literature to shape meaning, evoke emotions, and influence readers' perceptions. This study aims to analyze how hyperbole and metaphor contribute to the novel's narrative structure, thematic depth, and artistic appeal. By applying stylistic analysis, this research will examine the specific linguistic patterns used by the author and their effects on the reader's engagement and comprehension. Additionally, this study seeks to explore how these devices contribute to the overall aesthetic quality of the novel, making it more immersive and emotionally compelling.

Moreover, this research will also highlight the broader role of stylistics in literary studies, emphasizing how linguistic features shape storytelling and reader interpretation. By analyzing *Rembulan Merah*, this study will contribute to the ongoing discussion on the intersection of language, literature, and historical context, demonstrating how stylistic elements can be used not only for artistic purposes but also as a means of ideological and emotional persuasion. Through this exploration, the study aims to deepen the appreciation of linguistic artistry in literature and its impact on shaping cultural and historical narratives.

## **LITERATURE REVIEW**

### **1. The Role of Stylistics in Literary Analysis**

Stylistics is an interdisciplinary field that bridges linguistics and literature, analyzing how language is used artistically in literary works. It examines linguistic elements such as phonology, lexis, syntax, and semantics, which contribute to a text's overall meaning and emotional impact. According to Gorys Keraf (2006), stylistics focuses on language choices that create distinct literary effects, helping to reveal the author's intentions, narrative tone, and thematic depth. In this regard, stylistic analysis serves as a critical tool for understanding the aesthetic and functional aspects of language in literature. Rahmat Djoko Pradopo (1996) also emphasizes the role of stylistics in uncovering the hidden meanings behind language choices, particularly in poetic and rhetorical expressions. His research suggests that stylistic analysis allows scholars to identify patterns, recurring themes,

and linguistic deviations that enhance the artistic quality of a literary work. This study builds on these foundational theories by applying stylistic analysis to the novel *Rembulan Merah*, focusing on the use of hyperbole and metaphor as key stylistic devices.

## 2. Hyperbole as a Stylistic Device in Literature

Hyperbole, a rhetorical figure of speech, involves intentional exaggeration for emphasis. It is commonly used in literature to heighten dramatic effects, intensify emotions, and capture the reader's attention. In Arabic literature, hyperbole aligns with the *badi' guluw* concept, which describes exaggerated expressions meant to evoke strong emotional responses. Several studies have examined hyperbole in literary works. Soeharto Mangkusudarmo (1991) highlights how hyperbolic expressions create an atmosphere of grandeur and heightened tension, particularly in historical and epic narratives. Similarly, Restu Sukesti (2003) analyzed hyperbolic language in short stories and found that it enhances emotional depth and reader immersion. In *Rembulan Merah*, Musthafa Luthfi al-Manfaluthi employs hyperbole to depict intense emotions, heroic struggles, and the grandeur of battle scenes. For instance, the novel describes characters' unwavering loyalty, love, and patriotism in exaggerated terms, reinforcing the thematic essence of nationalism and sacrifice. By analyzing these hyperbolic elements, this study aims to explore how exaggeration shapes reader perception and strengthens narrative impact.

## 3. Metaphor and Its Function in Literary Works

Metaphor is another essential stylistic device that enhances descriptive power and symbolic meaning in literature. As Harimurti Kridalaksana (1983) explains, metaphor allows abstract concepts to be expressed in concrete terms, enabling readers to visualize and emotionally connect with literary themes. Al-Hasyimi (2004) further defines metaphor as a form of *isti'arah*, in which one object or concept is directly substituted with another to create an implicit comparison. Studies on metaphor in literary works, such as those conducted by Syihabuddin Qalyubi (2006) in *Stilistika al-Qur'an*, demonstrate how metaphor transforms language into a rich tapestry of meaning, enhancing narrative depth and thematic exploration. Similarly, H.B. Jassin (1965) discusses metaphor's role in shaping poetic expressions, arguing that it allows authors to convey complex emotions and philosophical ideas with heightened aesthetic appeal. In *Rembulan Merah*, al-Manfaluthi utilizes metaphor to create strong symbolic associations between characters, emotions, and abstract ideas. For example, Constantin is described as "the morning star" among the youth, symbolizing hope, guidance, and heroism. This study will analyze how such metaphors function to reinforce character development, highlight ideological themes, and enhance the novel's artistic expression.

## METHOD

### **Design and Sample**

This study employs a qualitative descriptive approach using stylistic analysis to examine the use of hyperbole and metaphor in the novel *Rembulan Merah* by Musthafa Luthfi al-Manfaluthi. The sample consists of selected sentences, phrases, and expressions that exhibit stylistic features relevant to the study. To ensure a focused analysis, a purposive sampling method is applied, selecting instances of hyperbolic and metaphorical expressions that significantly contribute to meaning and aesthetic effects within the text.

### **Instrument and Procedures**

The primary instrument in this study is the researcher, who systematically identifies and analyzes stylistic elements. The data collection process begins with an extensive reading of the novel to gain familiarity with its linguistic style. This is followed by the identification and extraction of sentences and phrases that contain hyperbole and metaphor. These stylistic elements are then categorized based on their linguistic characteristics. Once categorized, they are analyzed in relation to their function and impact on the novel's overall meaning. The analysis also considers the historical and narrative context to better understand the author's intent behind using these stylistic choices.

### **Data Analysis**

For data analysis, a stylistic approach is applied, focusing on lexical and semantic examination to determine the meaning and function of hyperbolic and metaphorical expressions. The study also incorporates contextual interpretation, assessing how these stylistic devices contribute to the novel's themes, character portrayal, and emotional engagement. Furthermore, findings are discussed in relation to established stylistic theories and previous research on literary language, ensuring a comprehensive understanding of the novel's stylistic richness.

## **RESULT AND DISCUSSION**

The analysis of *Rembulan Merah* by Musthafa Luthfi al-Manfaluthi reveals the prominent role of hyperbole and metaphor in shaping the novel's narrative, emotional depth, and artistic expression. These stylistic elements are not only used to enhance the aesthetic appeal of the text but also serve as powerful rhetorical tools that influence readers' perception of characters, events, and underlying themes.

The use of hyperbole is particularly evident in moments of intense emotional expression, where characters convey their feelings in an exaggerated manner. One striking example is the statement, "Biarlah tanah air dan alam ini musnah. Bagiku, engkau lebih berharga dari kedua hal itu," which reflects the overwhelming intensity of personal devotion, surpassing even the value of one's homeland and the world itself. This hyperbolic expression underscores the depth of love and sacrifice,

portraying emotions in an almost surreal yet compelling manner. Other instances of hyperbole appear in descriptions of conflict, patriotism, and despair, reinforcing the novel's dramatic intensity. For example, the phrase, "Tidak peduli apakah langit akan runtuh atau tetap di tempatnya," signifies unwavering determination in the face of overwhelming odds, demonstrating how hyperbole is used to amplify themes of heroism and resilience.

Similarly, metaphor plays an essential role in creating vivid imagery and symbolic depth, allowing readers to perceive characters and events beyond their literal meanings. A notable metaphor is found in the phrase, "Putera pahlawan kita adalah bintang kejora pemuda-pemuda kita," where a character is compared to the morning star, symbolizing his brilliance, leadership, and inspirational role among his peers. Another example, "Ia menjadi tangan kanan ayahnya," is a metaphor for trust, loyalty, and strategic importance, emphasizing the character's crucial position in the unfolding events. These metaphors contribute to the novel's poetic richness, making its themes more impactful and its characters more memorable.

The combination of hyperbole and metaphor in *Rembulan Merah* serves multiple functions, including amplifying emotions, enhancing the narrative's dramatic effect, and reinforcing the novel's central themes. Hyperbolic expressions emphasize extreme devotion, patriotism, and internal conflict, while metaphorical language provides symbolic representations of power, loyalty, and destiny. This interplay of stylistic devices allows the author to craft a compelling and immersive reading experience, engaging the audience both emotionally and intellectually.

Furthermore, these findings align with existing studies on stylistics and literary language, reinforcing the idea that rhetorical devices play a fundamental role in literature's ability to evoke emotions and convey complex ideas. By skillfully integrating hyperbole and metaphor, *Rembulan Merah* exemplifies how language can be aesthetic, expressive, and persuasive, ultimately enriching the novel's impact on its readers.

The findings of this study highlight the significant role of hyperbole and metaphor in shaping the stylistic and thematic aspects of *Rembulan Merah* by Musthafa Luthfi al-Manfaluthi. These stylistic devices are not only used to enhance the novel's aesthetic appeal but also to strengthen its emotional depth, character development, and thematic expression. Through hyperbole and metaphor, the author effectively captures the intensity of emotions, the complexity of relationships, and the ideological struggles present in the narrative.

Several previous studies have explored the function of stylistic devices in literary works. For instance, Qalyubi (2006), in his study on stylistics in the Qur'anic narrative, found that the use of hyperbolic expressions and metaphorical language plays a crucial role in emphasizing moral and spiritual messages. Similarly, Sukesti (2003) analyzed Budi Darma's short story "Derabat", identifying hyperbole and metaphor as essential tools in constructing character psychology and enhancing

narrative cohesion. Another relevant study by Mangkusudarmo (1991) examined the stylistic elements of Javanese literature, highlighting how figurative language functions as both an aesthetic and persuasive mechanism. These studies collectively indicate that hyperbole and metaphor are fundamental in shaping readers' perceptions, creating deeper engagement, and reinforcing thematic elements in literature.

However, what distinguishes the current study from previous research is its focus on the interplay between hyperbole and metaphor in a translated work of Arabic literature within the context of Indonesian readership. Unlike Qalyubi's research, which emphasizes religious narratives, or Sukesti's and Mangkusudarmo's focus on Indonesian literary works, this study provides a stylistic analysis of an Arabic novel that has been translated into Indonesian, exploring how rhetorical elements influence both the aesthetic and ideological dimensions of the text. Additionally, while past studies have often examined individual stylistic elements in isolation, this research considers how hyperbole and metaphor interact within the same literary framework, offering a more comprehensive perspective on their combined effect.

The use of hyperbole in *Rembulan Merah* amplifies emotions and dramatizes conflicts, as seen in statements like "Biarlah tanah air dan alam ini musnah. Bagiku, engkau lebih berharga dari kedua hal itu." Such expressions heighten themes of love, sacrifice, and national identity, reinforcing the idea that exaggeration serves to intensify reader engagement and emotional response. This aligns with previous findings by Pradopo (2004), who argued that hyperbole in literary texts serves to evoke heightened emotional states and create a memorable narrative impact.

Similarly, metaphor in *Rembulan Merah* functions as a symbolic device to enhance descriptive quality and deepen character portrayals. The phrase, "Putera panglima kita adalah bintang kejora pemuda-pemuda kita," illustrates the metaphorical representation of heroism and leadership, making abstract concepts more tangible for the reader. This corresponds with the findings of Keraf (2006), who stated that metaphors play a crucial role in shaping narrative meaning by linking linguistic expression with conceptual understanding.

By comparing *Rembulan Merah* with these previous studies, it becomes evident that the novel's stylistic choices reflect broader trends in literary composition while also presenting unique characteristics due to its cultural and historical background. The integration of hyperbole and metaphor not only enhances the novel's poetic elements but also reinforces its socio-political commentary, making it a compelling case for stylistic analysis in translated Arabic literature. This study, therefore, contributes to the ongoing discussion on the impact of rhetorical devices in literature, emphasizing their role in both textual beauty and ideological expression.

## CONCLUSION

The analysis of *Rembulan Merah* by Musthafa Luthfi al-Manfaluthi demonstrates that hyperbole and metaphor play a crucial role in shaping the novel's emotional depth and narrative style. Hyperbole is used to intensify emotions, exaggerate conflicts, and highlight the characters' inner struggles, making the story more dramatic and engaging. Metaphor, on the other hand, enriches descriptions, adds symbolic meaning, and deepens character portrayals, allowing readers to connect with the story on a more profound level. The combination of these stylistic elements enhances the novel's poetic beauty, strengthens its themes, and makes the reading experience more immersive. By using hyperbolic expressions, the author captures the intensity of love, sacrifice, and patriotism, while metaphorical language helps convey complex ideas in a vivid and relatable manner. These stylistic choices not only make the novel more expressive but also leave a lasting impact on the reader. Overall, this study highlights how language can shape a story's atmosphere, influence emotions, and enhance meaning. The use of hyperbole and metaphor in *Rembulan Merah* shows that literature is not just about telling a story—it is about creating an experience that resonates with the audience. This analysis provides a deeper understanding of how stylistic choices contribute to the power of storytelling, making the novel a compelling and memorable work.

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