

**A Learning Scenario on Figurative Language in Gita Savitri Devi's
Novel *Rentang Kisah***

Mulkan Andika Situmorang
mulkanandika217@gmail.com
Universitas Medan Area

Izmawal Pebriani Nasution
izmawalpebrianinasution@unprimadn.ac.id
Universitas Prima Indonesia

Meliana Br Gultom
gultommeliana18@gmail.com
Universitas HKBP Nommensen Pematang Siantar

Mastari Ramadhani
tari.bgt@gmail.com
Universitas Nahdatul Ulama Sumatera Utara

Muji Endah Palupi
muji.mji@bsi.ac.id
Universitas Bina Sarana Informatika

ABSTRACT

The purpose of this study is to explain that a novel can be used as a learning scenario for figurative language that is easy to understand. This research employs a qualitative approach using descriptive methods. The data in this study is derived from a novel titled *Rentang Kisah* written by Gita Savitri Devi. The data source comes directly from the novel *Rentang Kisah* by Gita Savitri Devi. The results of this study indicate that a novel is not only meant to be enjoyed as a literary work but can also be developed into a learning scenario. By creating a learning scenario, it becomes easier to explain the figurative language found in *Rentang Kisah* by Gita Savitri Devi.

Keywords: Learning Scenario; Figures of Speech

INTRODUCTION

Literature is a form of expressing one's ideas through reflections on the surrounding social environment using beautiful language. Literature emerges as the result of an author's contemplation of life phenomena. One type of literary work is the novel. A novel is a form of literary prose that contains various structural elements, one of which is figurative language. Figurative language refers to expressions that convey meanings beyond the literal and often reflect the author's personality. For example, the figurative language used in *Rentang Kisah* by Gita Savitri Devi reflects the author's personal character. This novel is particularly remarkable, especially when viewed from its use of language.

This research focuses on analyzing the figurative language found in the novel *Rentang Kisah* by Gita Savitri Devi. The purpose is to describe the use of comparison figures of speech, emphasis figures of speech, contradiction figures of speech, and satire figures of speech. This study aims to contribute to the field of literary knowledge.

The novel *Rentang Kisah* by Gita Savitri Devi tells the story of Gita's childhood and various life phenomena, presenting many valuable life lessons. As a child, Gita was not someone who easily got along with her parents, especially her mother. Gita viewed her mother as a dictator who demanded obedience to her directions and desires. If Gita disobeyed, her mother would become very angry. One of her mother's demands was that Gita attend courses of her mother's choosing and be accompanied to and from those classes. Gita rarely spent time socializing with friends because of these obligations.

After finishing school, Gita faced a difficult decision about her higher education. She initially wanted to attend the Bandung Institute of Technology (ITB), but her mother disagreed and suggested she study in Germany instead. Gita eventually followed her parents' wishes to pursue her studies in Germany. However, the universities there only accepted students who were at least 18 years old, while Gita was only 17 at the time. Processing the administrative requirements would have required her father's signature, which would have been complicated. Therefore, Gita decided to wait one year until she turned 18 to go to Germany. Through her hard work, Gita was eventually accepted into Germany's most prestigious university, Freie Universität Berlin, majoring in chemistry. Her journey continued in Germany, and before she realized it, she had spent seven years abroad. All of these experiences transformed Gita into a more mature and improved person, very different from who she was before.

LITERATURE REVIEW

The term *novel* originates from the Latin word *novellus*, derived from *novies*, meaning "new." It is called *new* because, compared to other literary forms such as poetry and drama, the novel emerged later (Tarigan, 1984, p. 164). In English, the word *novel* entered from the Italian *novella* and the German *novella*, both of which literally mean "a small new thing" and later came to refer to "a short story in prose" (Nurgiantoro, 2013, pp. 11–12). A novel presents fragments of human life over a longer time span, often depicting conflicts that lead to significant changes in the characters' lives (Esen, 1978, p. 12). In other words, a novel is a reflection of human experiences, portraying various life issues and conflicts that drive character development and transformation. Aminudin (2002, p. 38) further explains that a novel is a literary creation that contains elements of life, thoughts, reflections on religion, philosophy, and social issues, conveyed through language structure, discourse, and intrinsic literary elements. In short, a novel is a literary work that explores the complexities of human life.

According to Sujiman in Rais (2012, p. 7), figurative language is an expression involving metaphorical words or phrases. It is used to convey ideas in non-literal ways. Similarly, Tarigan in Prasetyo (2012, p. 12) states that figurative language is a stylistic way of expressing thoughts through language that reflects the author's soul and personality. Harimurti in Prasetyo (2013, p. 12) outlines three definitions of figurative language. First, it refers to one's ability to utilize the richness of language in speech or writing. Second, it represents the collective stylistic traits of a group of literary writers. Third, it refers to oral or written forms of expression used to convey the author's emotions and thoughts in a way that evokes specific feelings in the reader. Similarly, Muljana in Pradopo (2010, p. 93) defines figurative language as the arrangement of words inspired by the writer's feelings, which then elicit certain emotions in the audience.

From these perspectives, it can be concluded that figurative language is either written or spoken expression composed in such a way as to represent the author's feelings and thoughts while also provoking a particular emotional response from the reader. Figurative language, also known as *majas* in Indonesian, enriches language by requiring the careful selection of words to accurately convey intended meanings. According to Rais (2012, pp. 7–9), the functions of figurative language include:

- a. clarifying ideas more vividly,
- b. emphasizing certain words, phrases, or parts of a sentence,
- c. conveying specific purposes or intentions,
- d. comparing two opposing things,
- e. using analogies or metaphors to explain ideas, and
- f. expressing intentions indirectly through alternative word choices.

In summary, the function of figurative language is to add aesthetic value and enhance clarity in communication. The novel is one of the most frequently analyzed literary works by literary researchers. Many novels are written based on the author's personal experiences or feelings. The enjoyment a reader derives from a novel largely depends on the author's ability to craft compelling language. The elements contained within a novel are often conveyed through characters and narratives that reflect life events.

In the case of *Rentang Kisah* by Gita Savitri Devi, the novel tells the story of Gita's life as a student in Germany, specifically at Freie Universität Berlin, where she studied Chemical Engineering. Gita gained public attention through her YouTube channel, where she uploaded videos documenting her life abroad. The author of this review, for instance, first learned about Gita through a NET TV feature on the lives of Muslims in Germany, in which Gita accompanied the show's host.

Types of Figurative Language in *Rentang Kisah*

Hyperbole

According to Lestari (2010, p. 127), hyperbole is an expression that exaggerates reality to the point of being unrealistic. Similarly, Rais (2012, p. 16) defines hyperbole as a figure of speech that amplifies or exaggerates facts beyond their actual state. In conclusion, hyperbole is a rhetorical device that deliberately overstates to create a dramatic effect.

Metaphor

Rais (2012, p. 11) describes metaphor as a type of comparison that directly expresses feelings through analogous comparison. Lestari (2012, p. 127) defines it as an implicit comparison based on shared characteristics or intentions. Thus, a metaphor is a direct expression of analogy between two seemingly unrelated things.

Personification

Lestari (2010, p. 127) states that personification is a style of language where inanimate objects are described as if they possess human qualities. Rais (2012, p. 16) similarly defines it as attributing human characteristics to non-human entities. Therefore, personification brings objects or ideas to life by giving them human traits.

Litotes

Lestari (2012, p. 127) defines litotes as an expression that deliberately uses understatement, often to convey humility. Rais (2012, p. 15) explains that litotes involve reducing the quality of a fact for the purpose of modesty. In short, litotes is a rhetorical device used to minimize or downplay a reality.

Metonymy

According to Lestari (2010, p. 128), metonymy involves using the name of one thing to represent another with which it is closely associated. Rais (2012, p. 14) elaborates that metonymy often involves using brand names or related terms to signify a broader concept. Thus, metonymy substitutes a term with another closely linked to it.

Apronym

Lestari (2010, p. 128) defines apronym as assigning a name that reflects a person's characteristics or profession. Rais (2012, p. 14) also states that apronym involves giving someone a name that matches their traits or occupation. Therefore, an apronym is a figure of speech where the name assigned to a person aligns with their identity or role.

Association (Simile)

Lestari (2010, p. 128) describes association as comparing one thing to another because of shared characteristics. Rais (2012, p. 23) explains that this involves comparing two different things by treating them as similar. Therefore, an association or simile likens one element to another to convey meaning more vividly.

Periphrasis

According to Lestari (2010, p. 131), periphrasis is a stylistic device that uses longer expressions to replace shorter, simpler terms. Rais (2012, p. 20) agrees, defining periphrasis as using extended phrases as substitutes for concise ones. In essence, periphrasis involves elaborating on simple ideas using more complex language.

METHOD

Design and Sample

This research employs a qualitative method, as stated by Sugiyono (2015), where the main instrument is the researcher themselves. To serve as a credible instrument, the researcher must possess a broad theoretical foundation and extensive knowledge, enabling them to ask relevant questions, analyze situations, capture details, and construct meaningful interpretations of the phenomena being studied. The primary data source for this research is the novel *Rentang Kisah* by Gita Savitri Devi. Secondary data are obtained from books, research documents such as theses and dissertations available in the library, and online sources that support the focus of the study. Informants in this research are not individuals, but rather various written sources that can provide comprehensive information about the object of study, particularly in analyzing the figurative language used in the novel.

Instrument and Procedures

In qualitative research, the researcher acts as the primary instrument. The data collection techniques used in this study follow the methods outlined by Sugiyono (2015), which include observation, interviews, documentation, and triangulation. Triangulation is applied in this research to collect data from multiple sources and validate the credibility of the findings. The steps taken in this study are: (1) reading and understanding the content of the novel *Rentang Kisah*, (2) identifying and recording data related to the use of figurative language found in the narrative, and (3) collecting supporting data from secondary sources such as books, theses, and online references relevant to the topic.

Data Analysis

The data analysis in this study uses an objective approach to examine the figurative language present in the novel. After collecting the data through reading, identifying,

and documenting relevant parts of the text, the researcher analyzes the findings by categorizing the types of figurative language and interpreting their meanings within the context of the story. The triangulation method is used not only to collect data but also to ensure the credibility of the results by comparing findings from the primary data (the novel) with secondary sources. This process allows the researcher to construct a detailed and accurate interpretation of the stylistic language features used in *Rentang Kisah* by Gita Savitri Devi.

RESULT AND DISCUSSION

Based on the research objective to describe a learning scenario for figurative language using the novel *Rentang Kisah* by Gita Savitri Devi the findings reveal that the novel contains various types of figurative language (*majas*) that can be effectively used as learning material in Indonesian language education. The figurative expressions found in the novel are diverse and offer valuable examples for teaching figurative language to students. The following are the types of figurative language identified in *Rentang Kisah*:

Comparison (Simile)

A simile is a figure of speech that compares two different things by treating them as if they are the same, often using the word *like* or *as*. In *Rentang Kisah*, a clear example of simile can be found in the following excerpt:

"Can you imagine how I feel right now? I have studied so hard, struggled day and night for this test, but suddenly, my mother casually offers me another option instead of congratulating me." (Rentang Kisah, p. 33)

The phrase *"jungkir balik"* (literally "turning somersaults") is used to illustrate intense effort and is an example of simile because it compares the author's struggles to physical exertion.

Hyperbole

Hyperbole is an exaggerated statement that goes beyond realistic facts, often to emphasize a feeling or situation. An example from the novel is:

"I've been sick for months for no clear reason, and now my body feels like a living corpse." (Rentang Kisah, p. 15)

The phrase *"like a living corpse"* is hyperbolic, as it exaggerates the condition to an impossible extent since a corpse cannot live.

Personification

Personification gives human characteristics to inanimate objects or abstract concepts. This can be seen in the following excerpt:

"I was quite shocked by my mother's question. She is not the type of person who easily offers congratulations. But at that moment, I was on cloud nine, hoping for a little more appreciation than usual." (Rentang Kisah, p. 33)

The phrase *"on cloud nine"* (translated as *sedang di atas awan*) personifies happiness by suggesting the narrator is physically above the clouds, implying extreme joy.

Climax

Climax is a figure of speech that presents ideas in an ascending order, from the simplest to the most complex, creating an emotional buildup. An example from the novel is:

"Feelings of disappointment, anger, and confusion all mixed together. I was deeply disappointed and furious because I was deceived by someone I trusted. The sadness was overwhelming because everything we went through seemed meaningless." (Rentang Kisah, p. 76)

The repetition and layering of disappointed, angry, and confused illustrate a climax in emotional intensity.

Repetition

Repetition is the repeated use of the same word or phrase to emphasize an idea. In the novel, this can be seen in the following passage:

"Even though our family is not the typical affectionate family, from my parents I learned one thing about love—love is not just sweet words, not just a hand stroking your head, not just a hug. Love is action and sacrifice." (Rentang Kisah, p. 136)

The repeated use of the word *love* emphasizes the narrator's reflection on the true meaning of love.

Anticlimax

Anticlimax is the opposite of climax. It presents ideas in descending order, moving from the most important to the least significant. An example from the novel is:

"People in Jakarta have always been more modern than those in other Indonesian cities. Now, life has become even more metropolitan—everyone owns a smartphone, both the old and the young." (Rentang Kisah, p. 146)

The phrase *"both the old and the young"* represents anticlimax, as it shifts from a general statement about modernization to specific examples of age groups.

Metonymy

Metonymy is a figure of speech that substitutes a word with another that is closely related or represents it, often using brand names or popular terms. In the novel, an example is:

"Trendy coffee shops and modern cafes are everywhere, filled with people having meetings or just busy with their laptops. Cute restaurants with modern food concepts are growing rapidly, and the prices are much higher than a few years ago. Even so, I still remain loyal to Hokben, Bakmi GM, and Ajo Ramon's Sate Padang." (Rentang Kisah, p. 146)

Here, *Hokben, Bakmi GM, and Ajo Ramon* represent the types of food or dining experiences, making this an example of metonymy.

Metaphor

A metaphor directly compares one thing to another without using *like* or *as*, suggesting that one thing is another. In the novel, an example is:

"Wow, your face is as red as a boiled shrimp! Why are you only going to the hospital now? Why not yesterday?" (Rentang Kisah, p. 14)

The phrase *"red as a boiled shrimp"* is a metaphor that vividly describes someone's flushed face due to illness.

The analysis of *Rentang Kisah* by Gita Savitri Devi demonstrates that the novel contains a rich variety of figurative language. These figures of speech comparison, hyperbole, personification, climax, repetition, anticlimax, metonymy, and metaphor are not only stylistic elements but also valuable resources for teaching figurative language in Indonesian language education. By using these examples from the novel, educators can design learning scenarios that help students better understand and appreciate the use of language in literature.

CONCLUSION

The novel *Rentang Kisah* by Gita Savitri Devi tells the story of her life from childhood to adulthood, portraying various life phenomena and offering many valuable lessons for the author herself. The novel is particularly commendable when

viewed from the perspective of its language use. Based on the analysis of figurative language, it can be concluded that *Rentang Kisah* employs several types of figurative expressions. These include: (a) comparison, (b) hyperbole, (c) personification, (d) climax, (e) repetition, and (f) metaphor. Among these, the most dominant figurative languages used in the novel are repetition and comparison.

REFERENCES

- Arikunto, S. (2010). *Prosedur penelitian: Suatu pendekatan praktik*. Jakarta: PT Rineka Cipta.
- Azzies, F., & colleagues. (2010). *Menganalisis fiksi*. Yogyakarta: Ghalia Indonesia.
- Jumiati. (2020). Analisis gaya bahasa novel *Rentang Kisah* karya Gita Savitri Devi. *Halaman*, 33–51.
- Lestari, S. (2010). *Kumpulan pribahasa terlengkap*. Yogyakarta: Publishing.
- Moleong, L. J. (2010). *Metodologi penelitian kualitatif*. Bandung: Remaja Rosdakarya.
- Novita, R., Rihi, & Amalia. (2018). Analisis gaya bahasa dan nilai-nilai pendidikan novel *Rentang Kisah* karya Gita Savitri Devi.
- Prasetyo, D. S. (2013). *Buku pintar segala jenis majas plus 3 ribu pribahasa*. Solo: Penerbit Laksana.
- Priyanti, T. E. (2010). *Membaca sastra dengan ancangan literasi kritis*. Jakarta: Bumi Aksara.
- Rais, P. (2012). *Panduan super lengkap majas, EYD, pribahasa*. Magelang: Buku Pintar.
- Savitri, G. (2017). *Rentang Kisah*. Jakarta: Gagas Media.
- Sugiyono. (2015). *Memahami penelitian kualitatif*. Bandung: Penerbit Alfabeta.