



**RESEARCH PAPER**

**Analysis of Figurative Language of Heart of Darkness by Joseph Conrad**

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**ABSTRACT**

The aim of the present research is detailed analysis of different kinds of figurative language that is present in Joseph Conrad's novella, *Heart of Darkness* and to explore the vocabulary that shows emotions of different characters and different linguistics techniques used by the writer to represent emotions. Figurative analysis is a bridge between literature and linguistics that shows a pattern of using language in speech and writing. This study also provides that how meaning of phrases and sentences that use figurative language in the novel and how different kinds of emotions are described through figurative language. The study is qualitative in nature and the novel *Heart of Darkness* is analyzed descriptively. The words and phrases based on figurative language are identified, analyzed and explained descriptively. Figurative language also includes literary devices that can help a story gain deeper meaning, sometimes requiring deeper thought.

**Keywords:** Figurative Language, Figurative Analysis, Literary Devices, Deep Meaning / Thoughts

**Introduction**

Literature is the representation of human life and embodies its various dimensions. In the recent times, linguistic approaches are being used to study various forms of Literature. It is believed now that better understanding, of the various linguistic phenomena, leads to better understanding of a literary piece of work. The greatest works are selected on the basis of aesthetic excellence and beauty of expression through apt use of language that is the fundamental thing in literature.

Joseph Conrad made rapid progress through careful language devices in compact and broadly realistic tales, popular during medieval period. The study of the novella, *Heart of Darkness* by Joseph Conrad, presents lots of figurative language that is going to be evaluated and analyzed figuratively.

A written text can be said "good" if the reader can understand what the writers' intentions. However, sometimes the author uses words to embellish his writings in the form of a figurative language which is needed more understanding to analyze the meaning inside. Affirm that figurative language is a conspicuous departure from what users of a language apprehend as a standard meaning of words or the standard order of word, in order to achieve some special meaning or effect (Abrams, 1999).

Linguistic analysis of literature, everywhere, can be carried out through figurative and discourse analysis. Figurative language is the study and interpretation of text from a linguistic perspective. The preferred object of study in figurative language is literature. It also attempts to establish principles capable of explaining particular choices made by individuals and social groups in the use of language.

Good figurative language is word use non in literature sense but of what the writer's feel sense, taste, expression, and purpose. Figurative language has some elements, they are Metaphors, Simile, Personification, Paradox, Hyperbole, Apostrophe, and Metonymy (Kenned, 1983).

The goal of the present research is detailed analysis of different kinds of figurative language that is present in Joseph Conrad's novella, *Heart of Darkness* and to explore the vocabulary that shows emotions of different characters and different linguistics techniques used by the writer to represent emotions. Figurative analysis is a bridge between literature and linguistics that shows a pattern of using language in speech and writing.

According to Solomon, (2002) Literature has attracted the attention of linguistics for two quite contrasting reasons. One is that it represents data which can be accounted for in terms of models of linguistics' explanation and the other that it represents data which cannot be so accounted for. The description of the linguistic elements that occur in a piece of literary writing, are a part of the analysis of the piece of writing as a literary work.

Here, Conrad has presented emotions of characters through linguistic expressions to evaluate and analyse the choice and setting of emotion words in a specific order. A careful study of the text transpires the abundance of vocabulary representing emotional state of its characters. The novella reveals the insight and verbal beauty that marks Conrad's worth among great writers.

Bosma, and Kunnen, (2000) Words require classification to lessen their variety. Such classifications depend, for their value, on their success in expounding the nature of each emotion and its relationship to others. Words intensify the emotions to make them acceptable among the readers. These are the entities which enable us to love reading the text. We love and hate, we experience moments of joy and same time fall into suicidal depressions, we feel shame and guilt, we are righteous and we seek vengeance we are as distinctive as capacities for language and culture.

Figurative language in literature has a very important role in the creations of the image of the literary work because the beauty of the literary work can be supported with the use of figurative language. Figurative language in literary works can bring up and develop and appreciation of the reader. Readers can enter in a literary work with the figurative language being used.

This study only focuses on the sentences that used figurative language in the novella '*The Heart of Darkness*' by Joseph Conrad. The researcher limits the analysis on the description of types of figurative language and the contextual meaning of the figurative language used in the novella.

Figurative language analysis helps students to understand the text easily. It will be very important for students to know how to analyze a piece of literature with the help of figurative language i.e. Simile, Metaphor, Personification, Irony, Hyperbole, Oxymoron, Onomatopoeias, Symbolism, Alliterations, Pun, Idioms, etc. From this study the teachers of graduate and post graduate will get useful information about figurative language analysis of a literary piece of work.

It may prove helpful for the readers who have desire to know the figurative language analysis of a text. The research may provide information about figurative language to describe emotions.

## Literature Review

Literature review in this section is based on the research questions that this study seeks to answer. It is, therefore, kept in mind that only those research studies would be reviewed which are relevant and deal with the questions similar to those of this study. Here some of them are reviewed.

Prinz (2007) Association between language and emotion is to sight emotions from the starting point of language as how language forms, reflects or builds and what is commonly taken as an emotion. How different words create effect and stirs emotions of the character and readers as well. Language deeply affects the persons who are using it. It moves the passions to a great extent.

Chaplin, T. (2006) Aristotle saw emotions as being connection with pleasure and pain, and records a variety of definite emotions through figurative language. This is the best way to create specific feelings and sentiments. This language presents aesthetic touch to the text along with perfection of thoughts. Both tragic and pleasant emotions are found in literature due to required words which are skilfully used by the authors.

Vainik (2006) women have better competence in emotions with higher productivity in emotion words because of language choice. Fair sex can effectively exploit words than that of men as they are more sentimental and sensitive creature of God. They have great expertise on using emotion words that move the listeners deeply. The world of fiction is full of suitable words uttered by the female characters which develop emotions that have great impact on the male characters.

Bajgar, Ciarrochi, Lane and Deane's paper (2005) Men have lower emotions, there is more consciousness than women. Men are emotionally very strong so they cannot use sensitive words as compared to women. The very beautiful words have mostly been used by the women. The master pieces of literature witness this fact that women are more skilful users of language than men. Boys express more sadness and anger than girls who may be more anxious with pleasant relationships.

Pugmire, (2005) Emotions occur from unaware change over, and so we are often baffled by our emotional reactions. Sometimes, they are so unusual in strength and so long drawn out in their possessions that they make a psychological illness. The figures of speech describe purity of passions and their depth that is necessary to make the readers decisive regarding characters' actions and feelings.

Gasper, & Robinson (2004) Figures of speech express a favourable appraisal, desire, and a pleasant feeling and the emotions through them express a suitable approach, a pleasant feeling and deep sensitivity of the characters. Positive emotions are mixture of joy, and negative emotions of sorrow, Positive emotions are species of love, and negative emotions of hate. The figures of speech enhance the effect of emotions in a text.

O'Kearney (2004) In display of language especially, in figures of speech there are clear gender differences which are having some rules with males favouring behavioural style along with female preferring oral and facial communicative style. Emotion language, such as joy and fury, are used naturally. They are styles of the writers that distinguish them from one another through their different writing styles. Language deeply affects thought and style of a writer that becomes his identity.

Oatley, (2003) Art is the appearance of an emotion in a meticulous language words, statuette and paintings so that we come to understand the emotions better. Music is perplexing in its emotional effects, but we like the emotions, it creates. The words have also the same impact on the readers that convinces them to come on some decision about the

text. It is the true beauty of art. Selection of right figures of language is the skill that makes a text master piece.

Cupchik, (2002) the aesthetic emotions depends on the admiration of magnificence in the use of words. It calls for readers to attain an aesthetic detachment from the work and for them to have had enough knowledge with literature to expand an approval of its dexterous use. The grace of words plays potential role in the greatness of the work. The readers develop their opinions on the basis of these selective linguistic techniques.

Solomon, R. C. (2002) Literature has attracted the attention of linguistics for two quite contrasting reasons. One is that it represents data which can be accounted for in terms of models of linguistics' explanation and the other that it represents data which cannot be so accounted for. The description of the linguistic elements that occur in a piece of literary writing are a part of the analysis of the piece of writing as a literary work.

Oatley & Johnson-Laird, (1996) the communicative theory put forward basic emotions and complex emotions. Basic emotions are natural and have their own individual signals...they can be experienced for no known reason. Although the women's emotion words are more active, there is no important difference in the essential level emotional concepts of different genders.

After surveying researches on figurative language analysis it becomes obvious that there is no research conducted on *Heart of Darkness* regarding figurative language. No figurative analysis has been done on emotion words of this novella. Figurative language such as Simile, Metaphor, Personification, Irony, Hyperbole, Oxymoron, Onomatopoeia, Symbolism, Alliteration, Pun, and Idioms has not been presented in *Heart of Darkness*.

## Material and Methods

The current study is based on qualitative paradigm and the novel *Heart of Darkness* by Joseph Conrad is the sample which will be analyzed descriptively. The words and phrases based on figurative language will be identified, analyzed and explained descriptively.

The analysis is based on the following list of figurative language devices:

Simile	A simile is used to compare one thing against another.
Metaphor	A <u>metaphor</u> is a phrase describing something as something it is not in reality.
Oxymoron	A term which features two words which appear to contradict each other.
Hyperbole	which exaggerates the meaning of a sentence.
Idioms	An <u>idiom</u> is a phrase which bears no literal meaning to the situation it is describing but it implies the facts or story behind it.
Personification	A term used to give an inanimate object or item a sense of being alive.
Symbolism	Symbolism is used to express an abstract idea using an item or words.
Alliteration	In which the repetition of letters or sounds is used.
Onomatopoeia	is used to describe a sound actually resemble the sound they are referring to.
Puns	Puns add an extra meaning to a subject and are often seen as a form of joke or to be humorous.
Irony	When a statement made is directly contradictory to the reality.

The present study is a figurative language analysis of Joseph Conrad's novella, *Heart of Darkness*. Although, the researcher has limited the study to one novella yet in-depth investigation is undertaken as to analyse the writer's techniques used in the novel for the

presentation of figurative devices. The study explains the theme figuratively. It also explains the representation of emotions through figurative language.

## Results and Discussion

### Data Analysis

Figurative language analyzes language and can change the way you look at the world differently by enhancing your senses. A word usually has a deeper meaning and figurative language is often used in poetry. Figurative language also includes literary devices that can help a story gain deeper meaning, sometimes requiring deeper thought.

**The different types of figurative language used in the novel are described below:**

**Imagery (noun)** – An image formed by the mind or memory from what you read or hear

Example: The main characters you meet at the beginning of the book

**Simile (noun)** – a figure of speech that compares two things that have nothing in common, usually using the word "as" or "like"

Example: "Your room looks like a pigsty."

**Metaphor (noun)** – A word or phrase used to compare two different objects, thoughts, ideas, or feelings in order to describe a character.

Example: Time is money

**Alliteration: (noun)**- when two or more words in a row begin with the same pronunciation.

Example: "With the blade, the bloody accusatory blade He valiantly struck his bloody boiling breast" - A Midsummer Night's Dream

**Personification (noun)** – Assigning human characteristics to objects or other ideas

Example: "His last chance was to walk out the door."

**Onomatopoeia (noun)** – When you make the sound of the word you are trying to describe.

Example: "I'm so hungry, I could eat a horse."

**Foreshadowing (verb)** – Giving hints that do or warn of future events.

Slides: "Yes; I respected his collars, his huge cuffs, his combed hair. His appearance was decidedly reminiscent of a hairdresser's mannequin; but in the great demoralization of the country he preserved his appearance. That's the spine. His starched collars and shirt-fronts were achievements of character." Joseph Conrad used a lot of imagery to describe what Marlow saw and what he thought about it. The book described the characters well, I could imagine them well based on how the author described them.

**Simile:** A simile from the book is the line "They were bleached, just washing, and the whole line could be seen just under the water, just as a man's spine can be seen running down the middle of his back under the skin." Where the author is describing some patches in the river. This shows that the path was quite difficult due to these patches and the author also used "like" for comparison.

**Metaphor:** The most obvious metaphor in the book is the very title "Heart of Darkness". The title not only refers to the physical location of the story in Africa, but also the consequences of imperialism and the dark powers of the people.

**Personification:** "The wilderness patted him on the head.... "It took him, loved him, embraced him, entered his veins, ate his flesh, and sealed his soul." I think this quote is a great example of personification because the wilderness has qualities that you often find in humans, especially love, and that is what I think Joseph Conrad was trying to convey in this section.

**Onomatopoeia:** Tinkling is an onomatopoeia in the book when Joseph Conrad writes, "A soft tinkling behind me made me turn my head..." explaining that something was happening behind him because of the noise.

**Hyperbole:** I believe Mr. Kurtz is supposed to be hyperbole because his name belies his tall height. Mr. Kurtz is apparently seven feet tall, but his name means "short" in German, and Joseph Conrad lets it be known.

Analyzing the author's pattern of using figurative language affects the novel as a whole:

**Analysis:** Joseph Conrad uses literary devices to bring his story to life, which is to his advantage. It describes the characters and experiences in the story so well that you get a real visual picture of the story. He uses metaphors so that we as readers get the intensity of what he is trying to convey. Foreshadowing was also a big part of the book as Marlow was telling the story from the point of view of hindsight.

The literary devices that Joseph Conrad uses in the book are there to give an overall picture of the evil of imperialism, and all the little literary devices give a bigger picture of darkness that creates a very good mood and tone.

**Conclusion:** This novel covers the figurative language analysis of Heart of Darkness by Joseph Conrad through figurative language used in the text provides a platform to understand meaning of phrases and sentences that use figurative language in the novel. This study also help us to understand how different kinds of emotions are described through figurative language.

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