

## **CHAPTER V**

### **DISCUSSION**

This chapter presents the discussion of the finding. The discussion in this context is communicating the finding with the theory dealing with those finding. As presented in previous chapter that this research was intended to answer the three research questions: (1) what are the figurative languages found in Maya Angelou's selected poems? (2) what is the dominant figurative language used in Maya Angelou's selected poems? and (3) How does Maya Angelou use figurative languages that are frequently used in her poems?

#### **A. The Discussion on Figurative Language Found in Maya Angelou's Selected Poems**

Generally figurative language is a language style. Figurative language refers to the use of words in a way that deviates from the conventional order and meaning in order to convey a complicated meaning, colorful writing, clarity, or evocative comparison. It uses an ordinary sentence to refer to something without directly stating it.

According to Abrams (1999:96) Figurative language is sequences of standard words are used by the user language, to achieve the meaning or special effects. In figurative language there are ten types of figurative language. According to Arvius (2003), Pardede (2008), Dancygier &

Sweetser (2014), and Kneedy & Gioia (2002) they have classified figurative language into ten types: Metaphor, Personification, Hyperbole, Simile, Metonymy, Synecdoche, Irony, Antithesis, Symbolism, Paradox. Based on the result of analysis of the five selected poems written by Maya Angelou, there were seven kinds of figurative language used those are Metaphor, Personification, Hyperbole, Simile, Irony, Symbolism, Paradox. That's why, this part discusses those five findings in Maya Angelou's selected poem.

### **1. Metaphor**

In a poem, comparing two different things is often encountered. It aims to take an identity or concept that we understand clearly (second subject) and use it to better understand lesser known elements (first subject). It is a kind of figurative language, namely Metaphor.

Metaphor is kind of figurative language that made comparison between two things that different to identify one with another (Arvius, 2003, p19). Metaphor is used in poetry to explain emotions, feelings, and relationship other elements that could not be described in ordinary language. The researcher found this type of figurative language in five selected poems by Maya Angelou. For the example, in poem entitled '*Caged Bird*' in line 12-13 '*his wings are clipped and his feet are tied*'. The author compares *wings are clipped and feet are tied* to *persecution of minorities*. It implies how the freedom of black people was forcefully taken away and it cannot

fly even if it aspires to. In poem entitled '*Phenomenal Woman*' also found metaphor in line 17-18 and line 20. In line 17-18 reads '*then they swarm around me, a hive of honey bees*', it describes that the author compares of two different things those are *the swarm* and *honey bees*. It means the men surround a woman, as they are attracted to her. In line 20 reads '*it's the fire in my eyes*', the author compares her confidence and passion with fire.

The other example of Metaphor used by Maya Angelou in her five selected poem, in poem entitled '*Still I Rise*' in line 2 '*with your bitter, twisted lies*'. In that line the author compares two things those are *bitter* and *twisted lies* it means the author mocks and taunts the society for making racial as well as sexist and discriminating comments and judgements. Other example in poem entitled '*on the Pulse of Morning*'. Stated in line 43 reads '*the singing river and the wise rock*', the author made a comparison between *singing river* and *wise rock*. It means tell about happiness and sadness that all humankind feels a need for beauty and wisdom as in the song of the river and the cries of the rock.

## **2. Personification**

In a literary work, namely poem, the author usually gives a human characteristic to an object. The aim of that is to provide an example and give a soul to an object to make it look real. This is commonly known as personification.

As Arvius (2003, p.129) stated Personification consist of giving human characteristics to an object. Personification is a figure of speech that describes something that is not human as though it could feel, think, act, live, or die in the same way as people. The researcher found this kind of figurative language in five selected poems by Maya Angelou. For the example in poem entitled '*Caged Bird*' in line 28 '*his shadows shouts on a nightmare scream*'. It shows that the author assigning a human characteristic to *shadows*. Maya Angelou explain that the caged bird or black people feels so much pain it *shouts* like a *nightmare*. Other example in poem entitled '*phenomenal woman*' in line 37 reads '*and the joy in my feet*'. The word *feet* are given a human characteristic by Maya Angelou. It means the author shows the pride and contentment she feels in being the woman she is. Next example is come from poem entitled '*Still I Rise*'. In line 23 '*you may kill me with your hatefulness*' it shows that Maya Angelou gives a human characteristic to *hatefulness*. The word *hatefulness* as a tool to kill someone.

The other example in poem entitled '*on The Pulse of Morning*'. In line 9 '*the Rock cries out to us*', it describes the author gives a human characteristic to *the Rock*. In this line the author explained that *Rock* as black people had a difficulty in getting peace in their lives. Other example of personification mentioned in poem entitled '*A Brave and Startling Truth*'. In line 20 '*the screaming racket in the temples have ceased*', it describes that the author gives a human characteristic to *the racket*. The line describes

the mistake of a leader who neglects the freedom of the society. They only think about how to get them to the top position.

### 3. Hyperbole

Hyperbole is the term used that overstatement. This figure use by someone who has desire and expectation to the thing that happen to make object greater than the real object (Arvius alm, 2003, p.135). the researcher found this kind figurative language just in two poems by Maya Angelou. For the example in poem entitled '*Phenomenal Woman*'. It mentioned in line 12-16 '*I walk into a room just as cool as you please, and to a man, the fellows stand or fall down on their knees*', the author describes her superiority over men. The author talks about the spell she seems to have over the men she encounters.

### 4. Simile

This type of figurative language is similar with metaphor that used to make a comparison between two things different. The difference is that Simile make the comparison by saying that something is *like* something else, but metaphor make the comparison by saying that something *is* something else.

According to Arvius (2003, p.125) Simile is the figure that make comparison between two different things, just like metaphor but in simile usually using the word as, like, seem, so, appear, more, than. The researcher found this kind of figurative language only in a poem entitled '*Still I Rise*'.

For the example in line 7 '*I walk like I've got oil wells*', the author uses a comparison of two things, indicated by some connective that is 'like' to show how they are similar. In this line the author states confidence feeling that she walks bravely like got oil wells that suggest the wealth of a person who has success. Other example mentioned in line 13 '*shoulders falling down like teardrops*', in this line the author compared her own success and something bitterness. It means the author is aware that how she got her success in a way with bitterness and difficulties like teardrops.

The other example mentioned in line 19 '*I laugh like I've got gold mines*', the author explained that she felt very rich and confident because she was having gold mines in her backyard, then she laughed at the success that she has found. It means that the author compared that she got the success like she has got gold mines.

## 5. Irony

In a poem, a figurative language usually used to convey a meaning that is the opposite of its literal meaning. It can be called figurative language of Irony.

As stated by Dancygier & Sweetser (2014) Irony statement are untrue, based reasoning that interpreted by the hearer from the speaker's meaning if irony not praise but usually criticism. This kind of figurative language found by the researcher in poem entitled '*on The Pulse of Morning*'. The researcher found in that poem in line 21-23 '*the rock cries*

*out to us today, you may stand upon me, but do not hide your face*'. The author describes that she shows the black people in America should come out and face the light of truthfulness.

## 6. Symbolism

In literary work especially poem the author usually used something to symbolize an action, person, place to make their poem more complex.

According to Arvius (2003, p.137) Symbolism is a kind of figure speech that using symbol animal, plants, or things for substitute something. Symbolism established from the result of personal; experience or fantasies. The researcher found this kind of figurative language in four poems by Maya Angelou. For the example, mentioned in poem entitled '*Caged Bird*' in line 1 '*a free bird leaps*'. The author use word '*free bird*' as a symbol for white people in America and around the world. Other example in poem entitled '*Phenomenal Woman*'. The researcher found the symbolism in line 21 '*and the flash of my teeth*', the word *the flash* indicates light. The author describes that is a light shows shiny white teeth that glisten when she smiles.

The other example of symbolism found in poem entitled '*on The Pulse of Morning*' especially in line 1 '*A Rock, A River, A Tree*'. The used three words mentioned are all symbolic depictions of the earth, and particularly the great nation of America. Other example in poem entitled '*A Brave and Startling Truth*'. The symbolism mentioned in line 1 '*on a small*

*and lonely planet*'. The author symbolized the earth by using word '*planet*' in that line.

## **7. Paradox**

In some literary works usually there is a statement that may seem contradictory but can be true (or at least make sense). This makes them stand out and play an important role in literature. It called Paradox one of type of figurative language.

According to Kneedy & Gioia (2002) Paradox is a figure speech that deliver two things which contradictory but this figure reveals the real fact that make sense even the speaker or the writer use a word that absurd. The researcher found this kind of figurative language in poem entitled '*Caged Bird*'. In line 27 '*but a caged bird stands on the grave of dreams*', the author describes that the caged bird '*stands on a grave of dreams*' which shows an utter loss hope.