
SIMILES IN GEORGE BAMBER'S RETURN TO DUST

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ABSTRACT

The objective of this study was to investigate similes in George Bamber's *Return to Dust*. This study used descriptive qualitative in order to explore the kinds of simile in the dialogue utterance of characters in such drama. The results found that the most frequent kind was descriptive simile 40%, close simile 35%, illustrative simile 15%, open simile 5% and illuminative simile 5%. Descriptive simile occurs on a character named James and Daphne as a scientist while describing the things in their work of experiments. A closed simile occurs in James's utterance when comparing the definition of one object to the tenor. Illustrative similes were also found in James's utterance while describing the process of experiment in science. Open and illuminative similes were found while explaining the quality of the condition and comparing the character to scientific experiments. Similes were used in the drama *Return to Dust* in describing something in order to create a lasting impression in the readers' minds.

Keywords: simile, drama, return to dust

INTRODUCTION

A set of rules that allow speakers to translate information from the outside world into sound is called a language (Gumperz, 2011). It is a structured system of communication used by humans, based on speech and gesture, sign, or often writing. Furthermore, the language used by a particular country or community as a system of communication. Meanwhile, figurative language is the meaning of a word or phrase that is used differently from a particular mental image effect (Hornby, 2015: 527). Figurative language refers to a type of language that says much more than its literal meaning. Figurative language means for authors to present their thoughts and ideas more vividly and to attract the reader's attention. To make their writing more interesting, writers often use their words in a way that evokes additional thoughts and feelings in readers in addition to the literal meaning of the words. It helps them add imagination to their writing and makes it that much more interesting. In

figurative language, certain literary means are used to enhance the meaning of sentences, such as simile, irony, metaphor, and many more.

According to Knickerbocker and Fadaee (2011), a simile is one of the most common forms of visual language. For example, most parables are introduced with the preposition, since true love is like a red rose. This statement was made to emphasize the beauty of the man she loves, which is why he says that it is like a red rose that many people consider beautiful. Or she ran like the wind to pretend she was running fast. The simile is generally used in poetry, song lyrics, commercials, short stories, novels, and many more. According to XiuGuo (2005) there are five kinds of similes, namely: a) Descriptive Similes, b) Illuminative Similes, c) Illustrative Similes, d) Open Similes and e) Closed Similes.

Generally, a play is a dramatic work, consisting primarily of a dialogue between characters and is intended for theatrical performance rather than just reading. The term “play” can refer to both the written texts of playwrights and to the complete theatrical performance. The definition of drama and the play are similar. In literature, drama is the portrayal of fictional or non-fictional works through the performance demonstration of written dialogue both in prose or poetry. It can be performed on stage, on film, or even on the radio. The drama was chosen as the date for this study to obtain many parables.

Similes many used by writers in their masterpieces. The writers always used similes in order to convey the meaning behind it. Similes are usually can be found either in the dialogue or the written text. Therefore, many of the readers did not get the real meaning of the sentences because the writers used similes. A radio drama entitled “Return to Dust” by George Bamber is an old scientific drama. This drama story is about a scientist who is accidentally exposed to a chemical mist that makes him get smaller. In this drama, there are many similes which are most of the readers did not clearly understand. Therefore, this research wants to convey the similes that occur in the drama Return to Dust. Previous studies were conducted to analyse similes in Return to Dust, (1) The Use of Simile in Emily Bronte’s *Wuthering Heights* by Jemma Miltonyan, (2) Strategies for Translation of Similes in Four Different Persian Translation of *Hamlet* by Mansour Shamsaefard, Mohammad Reza Qadimi, and AzadehNemati, 2013, (3) Simile, Hyperbole, Personification and Metaphor Used in Gayle Forman’s *Stay* by Evi Nur Padillah, Hendro Firmawan, and Endang Purwaningsih, 2016, (4) Similes In Novel *Looking For Alaska* by John Green by Ni PutuAntary, I GedeBudiasa, and A.A. Sagung Shanti, 2018, (5) Simile in English: From Description to Translation by PatriziaPierni, 2007, (6) The Analysis of Similes in *Harry Potter and The Sorcerer’s Stone* By J.K. Rowling by WirdaAzizah, 2019, (7) Similes in Thomas Hardy’s *Tess of D’Urbeville* and Their Translation into Albanian by Leonardo Rapi and HarallambMiconi, 2014.

Research on similes had previously been done. The difference from some previous studies is the object. The object of research in this study was a script drama from “Return to Dust” by George Bamber. Meanwhile, most of the previous studies are using novels as their objects. The researcher is interested in doing this research due to several reasons: a) Researcher found there is no previous study specifically using a drama entitled “Return to Dust” and this

study would be the first by using the script of “Return to Dust” as the object. b) In “Return to Dust” contains many examples of similes. Therefore, it is interesting to identify the similes that are used in this drama in order to imagine the feelings of the writer and the sentences in this drama are easy to understand.

LITERATURE REVIEW

Language

Language is used to communicate between one speaker and interlocutors. It is like a code that some symbols can generate. According to Verderber & Sellnow (2011, p. 52), language is the set of words and the system to use them in communication that is common to people from the same community or nation, geographic area, or cultural tradition. There are the following uses of language (Verderber & Sellnow, 2011, p.52): (1) Language used to tag, label, define and limit. Using language, is not only name and defines, but also limits the meaning that is understood. (2) Language used to evaluate. Since many of the language options have a grading component, it must choose its words carefully so as not to inadvertently offend others. (3) Language is used to discuss things that are outside of our immediate experience. Language allows people to speak hypothetically, talk about past and future events, and communicate about people and things that are not present. (4) Language used to talk about language. The language used to discuss how it is formulating a question and whether better wording would have resulted in a more precise question and thus a more informative answer.

Figurative Language

The figurative language implies “a deviation from what the speakers of a language perceive as the ordinary or standard meaning of a phrase to achieve a particular meaning or effect” (Abrams in Teilanyo, 2017: 310). It refers to “any figure that involves the use of words in a way that causes a noticeable change in their standard or literal meaning” (Abrams and Hawkes in Teilanyo, 2017: 310). As noted above, “figurative expressions always have secondary meanings when the meanings depend on the context to indicate the intended meaning” (Larson, 1984: 111). The figurative use of words or phrases means to use them with a more abstract or imaginative meaning than the ordinary literal one.

Figurative language is very effective in demonstrating the creativity of the author and the beauty of language for several reasons: “It offers the reader the imaginative delight of literary works, it is a way of bringing additional images to the verse that the abstract is doing.” More concrete and sensual literary works, increases emotional intensity instead of just transmitting informative statements, and transmits not only information but also attitudes” Perrine (2012: 55). Hartono

(2014: 355) states: “When translating visual language, a translator must be able to maintain imaginative joy, visual language and emotional intensity without eliminating exact meaning, and make them socio-culturally acceptable in the target language.”

Similes

A simile is a figure of speech that implies comparison. Similes compare two different objects that have the same point of similarity. Similes must be translated accordingly, otherwise, the meaning means nothing. Octha, et al. (2016) add that the simile uses the words "like" or "how" in its construction and the simile is an explicit and express comparison. The simile is one of the most common and normal-sounding pieces of metaphorical language. No one would dispute the importance of parables, especially in artistic texts. Very little research can be found in relation to simile, but this idiom can be traced back to several valuable sources, although the vast majority of them have regularly discussed it with and in allegory research.

Abrams (2015) from their book speaks parables rapidly as a definition and under the heading of figurative language. In the definition of simile they state: "In a simile, an evaluation of particularly different things is explicitly indicated with the help of the words 'like' or 'like'" (p. 130). Quotes to Burns, "Oh my love is the art of a purple, purple rose", as an example.

According to Pinkers (2011: 138), the simile is an explicit comparison. By explicit comparison, it is meant that it implies the same with another. To do this, an effort is required to expressly indicate this similarity, the words: like, equal, as, like, like and so on.

In previous research, Shamsaeefard, et al. (2013) and Nur Fadilah, et al. (2016) compared parables and metaphors and attempts to show that metaphors and similes are different in meaning, effect and processing, and beliefs: "...these differences are all based on a fundamental bias in the form from the parable Conditions of the arrangement."

Kinds of Similes

According to XiuGuo (2005), there are five kinds of similes. First, descriptive simile refers to descriptive about something in other words. For example, *Lisa made O with her lips, moving her mouth like a whale eating*. This simile refers to descriptive simile because the condition of her lips explains the whale eating which can be seen from the word O. Second, illuminative simile refers to characterizing or mentioning the characteristics of an object in several words. For example, *my heart is still hurts, and the sizeable knot above my left temple looked, the colonel thought, like a miniaturized topographical map of Macedonia*. This simile belongs to the illuminative simile because the features of the miniaturized topographic map of Macedonia are the considerable knot, so this simile gives a deeper idea of the considerable knot of Miles's head. Third, illustrative simile will illustrate the object or how the object exists. It explained what the object looks like by using other words. For example, *Mia followed the smoke rings with her fingers, stabbing at them like a kid trying to pop bubbles*. This simile belongs to the illustrative simile because it illustrates how The bubble is popped by Mia. Fourth, open simile refers to the qualities of the objects. It is not explaining what the object looks like but what qualities of the object influence the real meaning word. For example, *we ran like we had golden shoes*. Due to the fact that the qualities or characteristics of golden shoes are unstated, this simile belongs to the open simile. Fifth, closed simile refers to explaining the object by comparing it with the real one.

In other words, closed similes are a kind of simile that is changing an object into several characteristics about the object. For example, it is about the characteristics of a sun. If seen carefully, *A cylindrical orange object is getting bigger and bigger, like a fast-approaching sun*. This simile occurs as a closed simile because the characteristic of the sun is clearly stated, as being an orange object which is the same as a basketball.

Perrine (2012) discusses the nature and function of similes, the criteria for their classification, and their interpretation. According to her, Simile can be defined as "... the declaration of a relationship of similarity between two entities that are substantially different but are considered equal in one or more respects or a relationship of dissimilarity". Regarding the parts of a parable, she quotes Fromilhague and says: Simile has a tripartite structure consisting of "Subject" or Comparandum (the entity described by Simile); "Vehicle", or Comparatum (the entity to which the subject is compared), accompanied by a comparison marker; "Trait (s) of similarity" (the properties shared by the subject and the vehicle) that may or may not be explicitly expressed.

METHOD

This research is descriptive qualitative analysis to collect, analyse, interpret, explain the data and make a conclusion at the end which does refer to the analysing of data. According to Lambert & Lambert (2012), descriptive qualitative study focuses on discovering the nature of the specific events under study.

In collecting data, the documentation from the script of "Return to Dust" drama by George Bamber has been done. A qualitative descriptive research method was applied with the theory of kinds of similes according to XiuGuo (2005) as a detailed explanation. In choosing the data for the research, all of the similes were identified and analyzed.

There are four techniques for collecting the data for this research. First, the data from the script were read to get an understanding of this drama. Second, all similes that have been found in the drama script page by page were underlined and noted. Third, all of the similes in the script drama were taken. The least, the data from the classified source were analyzed.

FINDINGS AND DISCUSSIONS

A simile is a figure of speech that involves comparing one thing with another that is used to make a more emphatic or clearer description. There are five kinds of similes, namely descriptive similes, illuminative similes, illustrative similes, open similes, and closed similes (Figure 1). The radio drama Return to Dust shows that there are many comparing things in its dialogue that need to be translated in order to know the real meaning of it (Table 1).

Descriptive Similes

Datum 1

Saving Bonds

Daphne : How do they live when they hibernate?

Joe: On fat they store up during the warm months.

Daphne: **Just like Saving Bonds!** (Page 2)

The sentence above used simile because it has one of similarly “like”. It is viewed that the tenor is **stories storing** the vehicle is saving bonds. Saving bonds means that the tenor has similarities to store up, which is described as saving bonds in other words the meaning of saving bonds is debt securities or investments by the United States Department which is similar to the meaning of store up. The readers must imagine the definition of saving bonds and compare them to the tenor (store up). This simile refers to descriptive similes because the reader has the authority to compare the definition of the tenor (store up) as the imagination expressed in the vehicle (saving bonds).

Table 1 The Number of Similes

| No. | SIMILES | Number | Percentage (%) |
|-------|----------------------|--------|----------------|
| 1. | Descriptive Similes | 8 | 40 |
| 2. | Illuminative Similes | 1 | 5 |
| 3. | Illustrative Similes | 3 | 15 |
| 4. | Open Similes | 1 | 5 |
| 5. | Closed Similes | 7 | 35 |
| TOTAL | | 20 | 100 |

Datum 2

Man’s worst disease

*James: You’ll find a more complete report of my theory, and the experiments which I’ve conducted to prove it, in the uncompleted thesis here on my desk. This thesis, Dr. Rader, will open the door to a cure for **man’s worst disease**—cancer. (Page 4)*

The sentence above used simile because it has one simile. It is viewed that the tenor is **cancer**, and the vehicle is man’s worst disease. Man’s worst disease means that the tenor has similarities to cancer, which is describing man’s worst disease in other words. Basically, cancer including one of the worst diseases in the world and it is difficult to find a cure. Therefore, in this case

James describes cancer as man’s worst disease. The readers must imagine the definition of man’s worst disease and compare it to the tenor (cancer). This simile refers to descriptive similes because the reader has the authority to compare the definition of the tenor (cancer) as the imagination expressed in the vehicle (man’s worst disease).

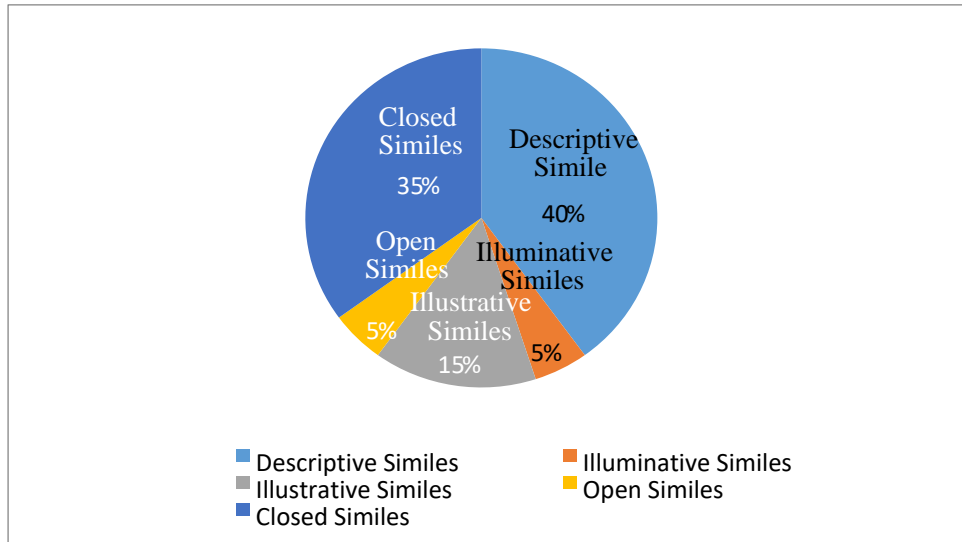


Figure 1. Types of Similes

Datum 3

The deepest and blackest sleeps

*James: When I got home, I descended into one of **the deepest and blackest sleeps** I have ever experienced. (Page 4)*

The sentence above used descriptive similes because the readers have the authority to imagine what the real meaning of the deepest and blackest sleeps is. The meaning of the deepest and blackest sleeps is similar to a nightmare. Therefore, in this case, the character James had a nightmare when he got home and that was the worst nightmare that he ever experienced. It belongs to descriptive similes because it describes something in other words.

Illuminative Similes

Datum 4

The cover to my grave

*James: (INTROSPECTIVE) to think that the cover of my thesis, the manuscript I used to carry easily in one hand, has become difficult for me to move as **the cover to my grave**. (SHAKES HIMSELF OUT OF HIS REVERIE) Here now, no time for morbidity. (Page 4)*

The sentence above used illuminative similes because the readers have the authority to imagine the characteristics of the cover to my grave. Moreover, it is viewed from the previous sentences that James mentioned the cover to my grave has become difficult for him and he used to carry it easily in one hand. In the first sentence of this dialogue, he mentioned the word **thesis**. Therefore, it is viewed that the tenor is the **thesis**, and the vehicle is the cover to my grave. The readers must imagine the characteristics of the cover to my grave as he mentioned and compared to the tenor (thesis). This simile refers to

illuminative similes because the reader has the authority to compare the characteristics of the tenor (thesis) as the imagination expressed in the vehicle (the cover to my grave).

Illustrative Similes

Datum 5

The bears

*James: So we're just like **the bears**. We're storing up fat for our future use—at interest rates that give us four dollars at maturity for every three invested.*

Joe: A very interesting idea. (Page 2)

The sentence above used simile because it has one simile marker “like”. This simile belongs to an illustrative simile because it shows the process of how the bears store up the future use. It is viewed that the tenor is **we** as James mentioned in the first words, and the vehicle is the bears. In the next sentences, James illustrates how he can say that he and Joe (we) are similar to the bears because they are doing the same thing which is storing up as an investment in their life. The readers must imagine the process of the existence of the bears and compare them to the tenor (we) or them. This simile refers to illustrative similes because the reader has the authority to illustrate the process of what the tenor has done (we) as the imagination expressed in the vehicle (the bears).

Datum 6

The spools still turning

*James: I wonder if the tape's still recording? I can see **the spools still turning**, high above me, the clear plastic reflecting the last rays of the sun setting outside my window. But I can't see if there's a tape. (Page 12)*

The sentence above used illustrative similes because the readers have the authority to imagine the process of how he can see that the spools still turning as James mentioned in his dialogue. In the next sentence, he explained that he saw the clear plastic reflecting the last rays of the sun setting outside his window as an illustration of how can he see the spools still turning. The readers must imagine the process of existence of the spools still turning by seeing the next explanation that James mentioned after that. This simile refers to illustrative similes because the reader has the authority to illustrate the process of what James has seen when he realized he saw the spools still turning.

Open Similes

Datum 7

Starve to death

Sound: PARAKEET CHATTERS

*James: (TO HIMSELF) who will? If I don't contact the doctor, it may be a week before the landlady comes up here to clean. He'd **starve to death**. I've got to open that cage and let him loose. But—how? (AN IDEA) The yard stick! (Page 7)*

The sentence above used open similes because the readers have the authority to imagine the qualities of (he) would starve to death as James mentioned in his dialogue. Furthermore, the meaning of starving to death is similar to dying. The readers must imagine the qualities of (he) as the tenor is starving to death (vehicle). This simile refers to open similes because the reader has the authority to see the qualities of (he) dying.

Closed Similes

Datum 8

A mountain

*James: Ahh, it is a very strange experience to find one's desk an insurmountable object, like **a mountain**, to climb. However, the phone is by my side now and since it is my last contact with the outside world, it is imperative that I do not become separated from it. (Page 3)*

The sentence above used simile because it has one simile marker “like”. It is viewed that the tenor is an **insurmountable object**, and the vehicle is a mountain. The readers must imagine the definition of a mountain and compare it to the tenor (insurmountable object). It is changing one object into several characteristics of the object. This simile refers to descriptive similes because, the characteristics of a mountain are clearly stated, to climb, as being a very high object as mentioned insurmountable object.

Datum 9

Other people

*James: But what have I got to live for? What am I? A thirty- two-years-old, old man that's losing his hair, walks with a stoop from years of hunching over microscopes. What have I got to show for it? A cheap furnished room, a meager position as a research fellow, which doesn't pay enough to live like **other people**. Not enough to have a wife or children. And no dignity certainly. (Page 7)*

The sentence above used simile because it has one simile marker “like”. It is viewed that the tenor is **a cheap furnished room, a meager position as a research fellow**, and the vehicle is other people. The readers must imagine how other people related to the previous dialogue which James mentioned to explain the definition of *life like other people*. It is changing one object into several characteristics of the object. This simile refers to descriptive similes because, the characteristics of life like other people are clearly stated, such as being a cheap furnished room, and a meager position as a research fellow.

Datum 10

A grand staircase

James: So, we resume taping. But I can't reach the start button on the recorder. (CLIMBS, WITH EFFORT) These-these books, they're like a grand staircase to the tape deck. (Page 8)

The sentence above used simile because it has one simile marker "like". It is viewed that the tenor is **these books**, and the vehicle is a grand staircase. The readers must imagine the characteristics of a grand staircase and compare it to the tenor (these books). It is changing one object into several characteristics of the object. This simile refers to descriptive similes because the characteristics of a grand staircase are clearly stated as being a very high object as mentioned where these books are placed.

CONCLUSIONS

Most certainly figurative language can affect writing. The figurative language can make the readers look at the literal meaning in an interesting way since it can heighten our senses, add expression also emphasis, and help us feel like having the same experience as the author. Figurative language such as similes, the use of this common utilized in figurative language is to compare two similar people, places, things, concepts, or thoughts. Every simile word in the figurative language is commonly known by the readers but it can give new insight when it works in writing.

XiuGuo (2005) divides types of similes into five kinds, Descriptive Similes, Illustrative Similes, Illuminative Similes, Open Similes, and Closed Similes. Descriptive Similes and Closed Similes are types of figurative language that tend to be used in the script of Return to Dust drama.

Descriptive similes have become commonly utilized in figurative language because they describe something in other words to create a lasting impression in the readers' minds. Whereas closed simile and illustrative similes are often utilized in this drama but not as often as descriptive similes, whether demonstrating the creativity of the author and the beauty of language in order to enhance the meaning and more interesting using only figurative language. Moreover, figurative language refers to the color authors use in their literary work to amplify it.

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