

NARRATIVES OF AFFECTION IN *FIVE FEET APART* WRITTEN BY RACHEL LIPPINCOTT, TOBIAS IACONIS, AND MIKKI DAUGHTRY

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Abstract

Five Feet Apart is a romance novel written by Rachel Lippincott, Tobias Iaconis, and Mikki Daughtry about the love of two teenagers who are unable to be close to each other due to illness. This study aims to describe and explain the various types of love language and figurative love language found in the novel *Five Feet Apart*. This research is based on library resources. This research takes a qualitative approach. The issue in this study is the novel *Five Feet Apart*'s various types of love languages and figurative language of love language. This investigation is divided into three stages. The first step is to gather information. Reading notes is the technique employed. Data analysis is the stage that comes after data collection. The data is analyzed descriptively. The results of the data analysis are then presented in the form of a presentation that includes an explanation of the novel *Five Feet Apart*. The theoretical triangulation validation method was used, which included document reading, recording, and analysis stages. According to the findings of this study, the expressions in the novel *Five Feet Apart* use a variety of love languages, including words of affirmation, quality time, physical touch, receiving gifts, and acts of service. Furthermore, in the novel *Five Feet Apart*, hyperbole, metaphor, simile, and personification are examples of figurative language of love language.

Keywords: Love Language, Figurative Language, Novel, *Five Feet Apart*

INTRODUCTION

Love is a simple word that has become inextricably linked to life. One is that love can be considered a type of individual requirement. A contentious relationship theory proposed by pastor and speaker Dr. Gary Chapman proposes that people have a preferred way of expressing affection. "Love languages" refer to these preferred modes of communication. According to Chapman, (1992), five of these love languages exist.

There are words of affirmation that show the love languages by words. Quality time is the love language demonstrated by spending time together with partners, family, and friends; physical touch is one of the love languages that is expressing love by touching or receiving touch in physical forms; receiving gifts is the action of love when someone accepts gifts, and they feel loved, and acts of service is the love when people are loved if



they are served or to serve. This theory has gained popularity among the general public and in marriage therapy settings but has remained marginal in academic circles.

Something represented by the word "love" is associated with "fictional" feelings that frequently cause humans to imagine (Siniar, 2022). When love comes, everything seems insignificant and fades little by little. In this context, love is like the goal of human life that can give happiness. Everything materialistic in nature becomes insignificant and has a place for someone who is experiencing the condition of receiving and giving love. Not infrequently, the language of love uses beautiful language, one of which is figurative language.

According to Perrine (1969, in Ariska et al, 2021) figurative language is a language that has a meaning that is not literal. Figurative language is commonly used to convey information in a variety of ways. Figurative meaning encourages people to think beyond what is written. According to Perrine (1969, in Asriyati, 2008), there are four main reasons for using figurative language. First, figurative language provides readers with an imaginative enjoyment of literary works. Second, it is a way to bring additional figurative to literary works, to make the abstract concrete, and to make the literary work more sensual. Third, the figure of speech gives emotional strength and communicates attitudes and information only to otherwise informative statements. And finally, it is a way to say a lot with a short word. Meanwhile, Tarigan (1986, in Wijayanti, 2017) explains that figurative language is a beautiful language used to elevate and enhance the effect by introducing and arranging an object or a specific thing with objects or other common things (using a specific figure of speech can change and create a feeling or a specific connotation).

In this study, the researcher will examine figurative language such as hyperbole, metaphor, simile, and personification. Perrine (1969) defines hyperbole as an exaggeration to emphasize the truth. A metaphor is an implied or indirect comparison between objects (Perrine, 1969). According to Perrine (1969), a simile is an expression that compares two things by using words or phrases like as, than, similar to, resembles, or seems. Perrine (1969) states that personification imbues an animal, object, or concept with human characteristics.

Figurative language can be used to make love language more engaging and exciting. Using figurative language, on the other hand, can be confusing or difficult to understand. As a result, the researcher feels compelled to investigate the love language and figurative language of love language in the novel *Five Feet Apart*.

Five Feet Apart is a novel by Rachael Lippincott, Tobias Iaconis, and Mikki Daughtry. Simon & Schuster Children's Books London, England, published it in November 2018 with 304 pages and 30 chapters. *Grameds* appears to be familiar with this novel as well. This novel won the Goodreads Choice Award for Best Young Adult Fiction in 2019 and became the number one best-selling book in the New York Times (Nandy, 2022). *Five Feet Apart*'s story has also been adapted into a feature film directed by Justin Baldoni and starring Cole Sprouse and Haley Lu Richardson.

Five Feet Apart documents the two weeks over which Stella Grant and Will Newman, both cystic fibrosis patients at Saint Grace's Hospital, fall in love amid a physical separation that does not allow them to touch. A regular patient at Saint Grace's since age six, Stella sees the hospital as a second home filled with childhood memories. Will, a new addition to Saint Grace's, has experienced life in hospitals around the world under the controlling nature of his wealthy single mother. Stella, a rule-follower, attempts to maintain a strict medical regimen in order to ensure her survival in the aftermath of her older sister Abby's untimely death. Will, a rule-breaker, eagerly awaits his 18th birthday as a beacon of uncharted independence free of the tyranny of hospital life.

This study employed descriptive qualitative research, as described above. Qualitative research concepts and investigate descriptive data in spoken and written forms and observed individual behavior (Taylor et al., 2015). Meanwhile, Semi (1993, in Laksmi & Putra, 2023) explains that qualitative descriptive research does not involve numerical calculations but focuses on thoroughly understanding the interactions of empirically studied concepts. This study uses the descriptive method to describe, observe, and analyze data.

FINDING AND DISCUSSION

According to Sapir (1921, in Dewi & Sadita, 2022), language is a purely human and non instinctive method of communicating concepts, desires, and emotions that come naturally as symbols. On the other hand, many systems emerge spontaneously as symbols, and people can only perceive them as a language in the broadest or metaphorical sense. For example, "body language" refers to postures, gestures, eye contact, and other factors. According to Sapir's definition, language is primarily concerned with human beings and consists of a system of sounds they produce for communication.

Love language is one of the languages people use to communicate and express their emotions. Chapman (1992) defines love language as how people communicate and comprehend their emotional expressions of love and affection. Meanwhile, facial expressions such as smiles can be used to represent love languages. This expression is the way humans feel loved by others (Karandashev, 2017). For example, a woman is pleased when a man joins her for a meal in a restaurant rather than giving her a gift. The woman's love language is quality time, as evidenced by her smile. As a result, it was discovered that facial expressions, gestures, and reactions can be used to identify the emotions of happiness and love.

The love language frequently employs beautiful language, one of which is figurative language. figurative language is figure of speech a way of adding extra dimensions to language. It is used by the poets because figurative language can say the words what they want to say with interesting expressions meaning by implicit and attractive rather than say it directly and flat (Perrine 1969).

In this novel, it can be seen that the characters using the love languages to express their love to each other, and quite often, the language of love uses beautiful language, one of which is figurative language. Therefore, the researcher is interested to analyze the types of love language and figurative language of love languages in the novel *Five Feet Apart* by Rachel Lippincott as the object as follows:

The Types of Love Language in Novel Five Feet Apart

Words of Affirmation

"I think you love her," I say, teasing him. "Oh, hell yeah. I fucking adore her," Poe says like it's a no-brainer. "Would lie down on hot coals for her. I'd give her my lungs if they were worth a shit." (Lippincott, 2018:57)

Based on the data above, the italicized expression is categorized as the love language of words of affirmation. In this case, Poe and Will met for the first time. Before Will knew about Poe's interest in the same gender, Will felt jealous that Poe knew Stella so well. It started when Poe called her by Stell, which upsets him, but he did not show jealousy toward him. Instead, he teased him in a way to get the answer if they are really into each other, but Poe loves Stella as his best friend. How Poe praised Stella in front of him, as we can see in his utterances, "Oh, hell yeah. I fucking adore her," is a clear expression of affection and admiration for Stella. He uses solid and positive language to describe his feelings for her, which aligns with the love language of words of affirmation.

"My jaw drops open. "Poe! That's incredible." He shrugs casually. "I've been practicing for next month when Michael and I visit my mom," he says, giving me a look that clearly is telling me this is no big deal." (Lippincott, 2018:145)

Based on the data above, the italicized expression is categorized as the love language of words of affirmation. In this case, Poe is absolutely and totally concentrated on baking the strawberry pie he had been practicing for everyone in the room. When Poe's freshly baked pie is finally out of the oven, Stella is amazed, and she does not expect Poe to be this good at baking, as we can see in the sentence, "My jaw drops open. "Poe! That's incredible" shows Stella's Stella's kind words to Poe by complimenting his dish.

"I'm too thin, too scarred, too . . . I meet my hazel eyes in the mirror. Why would Will want to draw me? *His voice echoes in my head, calling*

me beautiful. Beautiful. It makes my heart flip in a way it shouldn't.
(Lippincott, 2018:61)

Based on the data above, the italicized expression is categorized as the love language of words of affirmation. Stella allowed Will to draw her so in order he would do the treatments regularly since Stella has control issues or that she needs to know things are in order, and it annoyed her knowing that Will did not do his treatment correctly. Moreover, when she asked Will why he wanted to draw her, he said she is beautiful. Stella blushed at Will's kind words toward her, as we can see in the sentence, "His voice echoes in my head, calling me beautiful. Beautiful. It makes my heart flip in a way it shouldn't" These sentences express the words of affirmation, which are encouraging words because Stella feels delighted and amazed by Will's words.

Quality Time

"I pull out my phone, sending a thumbs-up emoji to Will. He responds half a second later with: I CAN'T BELIEVE WE DIDN'T GET CAUGHT. I laugh, sinking down into the warm couch, *the whirlwind of last night still making my heart float above the hospital.*" (Lippincott, 2018:133)

Based on the data above, the italicized expression is categorized as the love language of quality time. In the monologue above, after Stella and Will spent their night well together, they had adventure and escape before getting caught by Barb for hanging out together. As she entered her room, she pulled her blanket over her and pretended to sleep after hearing Barb's footsteps. She opened her phone to text Will, and he responded that he was glad they did not get caught, while Stella could not get over her head about what was happened between her and Will. A fantastic night that she ever spent in the hospital, as we can see in the sentence, "the whirlwind of last night still making my heart float miles above the hospital." This statement shows that Stella had a good night and spent time with him a demonstrate for quality time.

“We take off our shoes and sit on the edge. The water is cool at first despite the heat of the room, but slowly warms up as we move our feet back and forth. *A comfortable silence settles over us*, and I look over at her, a pool cue’s length away.” (Lippincott, 2018:128)

Based on the data above, the italicized expression is categorized as the love language of quality time. In this case, Stella and Will went to the swimming pool area, and nobody was there except both until Will’s laugh echoed throughout the dim room except for the lights in the pool. They took off their shoes and sat on the edge of the pool, they both felt comfortable and enjoyed the time together, as we can see in the sentence, “A comfortable silence settles over us, and I look over at her, a pool cue’s length away.” Describes a situation where there was silence between them, and that silence is pleasant, relaxed, and enjoyable. It shows a sense of ease and contentment as they share this quiet moment showing the love language of quality time.

“There was something magical about it. The soft glow of the lampposts in the park, the white snow clinging to the branches of the trees, the quiet stillness of it all. We nearly froze our butts off for that picture last year, but it was our tradition. Me and Abby, braving the cold to go see the holiday lights together. *This photo always makes me remember that feeling. The feeling of going on an adventure with my sister, just the two of us, the world expanding like an open book.*” (Lippincott, 2018:3)

Based on the data above, the italicized expression is categorized as the love language of quality time. In this statement, it explains that Stella's sister was Abby. She was a person that meant everything to Stella. After she left her, the world was not the same anymore for Stella. She felt that something was missing from her. Stella could not stop staring at her pictures with Abby. Those pictures remind her of that feeling when they spent their time with each other, as we can see in the sentence, "This photo always makes me remember that feeling. The feeling of going on an

adventure with my sister, just the two of us, the world expanding like an open book." The statement describes a cherished memory of adventure with Stella's sister. The statement "just the two of us" indicates the significance of this shared experience. By reminiscing about the photo and the feeling it evokes, Stella highlighted the value of their time together on this adventure.

Physical Touch

"I open my mouth to say something, but I'm too stunned and exhausted to string a sentence together. I just nod, my head swinging wildly up and down. "Go get some sleep, sweetie," *my mom says, planting a kiss on my forehead.*" (Lippincott, 2018:105)

Based on the data above, the italicized expression is categorized as the love language of physical touch. Stella's mother planted a kiss on Stella's forehead. This gesture of affectionate touch is a clear example of the love language of physical touch. Kissing someone on the forehead is a tender and nurturing gesture, expressing love, care, and protection. Physical touch can be a powerful way of showing love and emotional support, and a forehead kiss, in particular, often symbolizes warmth, comfort, and a parent's affection toward their child. Therefore, the statement aligns with the love language of physical touch as it involves Stella's mother kissing Stella's forehead, a form of physical affection and emotional connection.

"It's a crime I can't touch you." I lift the pool cue, wishing more than anything it was my fingertips against her skin. Gently, I trace the end of it up her arm, over the sharp angle of her shoulder, slowly making my way to her neck. She shivers underneath my "touch," her eyes locked on mine, a faint red blooming in her cheeks as the pool cue climbs." (Lippincott, 2018:127)

Based on the data above, the italicized expression is categorized as the love language of physical touch. In this case, Stella and Will roamed the empty hospital at midnight with a pool cue swung back and forth between them because it is a must to stay five feet apart. He only stared at her, while what he always wanted was to be

able to touch her, as we can see in the sentence, “It’s a crime I can’t touch you.” This utterance from Will shows the love language of physical touch because he expresses frustration or sadness that he could not physically connect with Stella and may be longing for physical closeness.

Receiving Gifts

“I struggle to rip open the paper, but my body is weak. She leans over to help me unveil a black sketchbook inside, the words on the front reading “FIVE FEET APART.” *It’s from Will. I flip through the pages, looking at cartoon after cartoon of our story, the colors jumping out at me.* Me holding the panda, the two of us standing on either side of the pool cue us floating underwater, the filled table at his birthday party, me spinning around and around on the icy pond.” (Lippincott, 2018:181)

Based on the data above, the italicized expression is categorized as the love language of receiving gifts. Will always tried to cheer Stella up with anything he could do after the night accident between Will and Stella made Stella rushed back to the hospital in an unconscious state. When she opened her eyes on her bed in a surgery room, Stella looked around the room looking for Will, but it was just her mother who gave her a package, a present from Will. A black sketchbook, his cartoon drawing of their stories. As we can see in the sentence, “It’s from Will. I flip through the pages, looking at cartoon after cartoon of our story, the colors jumping out at me.” Giving presents and creating cartoons showcases thoughtfulness and creativity, elements associated with the love language of receiving gifts. The colorful cartoons and the effort put into making the sketchbook personalized are meaningful gestures that communicate love and affection. Therefore, the passage is associated with the love language of receiving gifts as it involves giving a sentimental and meaningful gift that holds significance in the relationship.

“Poe carefully carries out his beautifully made pie with a sea of candles sitting on top of it and we all start to sing. I watch Will smiling in the glow of the candlelight, looking around the table at all of us.”
(Lippincott, 2018:146)

Based on the data above, the italicized expression is categorized as the love language of receiving gifts. In this case, Poe carefully carries out a beautifully made pie with a sea of candles on top of it for Will's birthday. This act of presenting a specially made pie can be seen as an expression of love by giving a thoughtful gift. The effort put into making the pie and the significance of celebrating Will's birthday in this way demonstrate care and consideration. This gesture can be significant for someone whose love language is receiving gifts and making them feel loved and appreciated. It is not just about the physical gift itself but the thought and effort behind it that matters most to individuals with this love language. In summary, the passage depicts the love language of receiving gifts by giving the specially made pie with candles as a meaningful and thoughtful expression of love and celebration for Will's birthday.

Acts of Service

“We didn't know what you'd want, so we brought you a sandwich,”
Camila says as they all sit down in the chairs next to me, *Stella's mom opening her purse to pull out a plastic-wrapped hoagie.* I smile gratefully, my stomach growling its appreciation. “Thank you.”
(Lippincott, 2018:176)

Based on the data above, the italicized expression is categorized as the love language of acts of service. In this case, Will is worried about Stella's condition. He felt anxious waiting in the hospital hallway to see if there was something he needed to know about Stella. He worried he gave her B. cepacia after gave her air mouth-to-mouth. He tried to distract himself by texting his friends Jason and Hope, but the image of Stella swirled around his head. He could not think about anything besides worrying about Stella. He forgot that he had not eaten anything. Then Mya, Camila,

and Stella's mother showed up and gave him a slice of sandwich that made him appreciate what they gave him. In the statement above, Stella's mother opened her purse to pull out a plastic-wrapped hoagie. By offering the hoagie, Stella's mother provides nourishment and addresses Will's needs. Will's expression of gratitude, "Thank you," emphasizes the significance of the act of service and the appreciation for the care shown through the provision of food. Therefore, the data above is associated with the love language of acts of service as it portrays Stella's mother's act of offering food to express love, care, and support to Will.

"All right," Barb says, bringing me not one but two milk shakes, like the queen she is. "is should hold you over for a bit." She puts them on the table next to me, and I smile up at her familiar darkbrown eyes. "Thanks, Barb." (Lippincott, 2018:27)

Based on the data above, the italicized expression is categorized as the love language of acts of service. Barb provided the milkshakes, showing she was caring for Stella's needs and providing comfort. The act of bringing the milkshakes is a way of expressing affection and care, demonstrating that she was willing to go out of her way to ensure Stella was taken care of. Stella's expression of gratitude by saying, "Thanks, Barb," further emphasizes the appreciation for Barb's act of service.

The Types of Figurative Language of Love Language

Hyperbole

"My jaw drops open. "Poe! That's incredible." He shrugs casually. "I've been practicing for next month when Michael and I visit my mom," he says, giving me a look that clearly is telling me this is no big deal. So, of course, I shriek in excitement. Finally!" (Lippincott, 2018:145)

The type of hyperbole from the love language of words of affirmation is the phrase "My jaw drops open." Hyperbole is a figure of speech where exaggeration is used for emphasis or dramatic effect. When Stella said, "My jaw drops open." Stella



was not literally suggesting that her jaw was physically dropping. Instead, it's an exaggerated way of expressing surprise, astonishment or being utterly amazed by the pie made by Poe. It is a common expression to convey a solid reaction to a surprising or impressive event or statement. Hyperboles are frequently used in everyday language and literature to add emphasis, create vivid imagery, and evoke strong emotions or reactions from the audience. In this case, "my jaw drops" vividly illustrates Stella's astonishment at the incredible explanation she received.

"I think you love her," I say, teasing him. "Oh, hell yeah. I fucking adore her," Poe says like it's a no-brainer. "*Would lie down on hot coals for her. I'd give her my lungs if they were worth a shit.*" (Lippincott, 2018:57)

The type of hyperbole from the love language of words of affirmation is the phrase "Would lie down on hot coals for her". Literally lying down on hot coals would be a harrowing and dangerous act, likely resulting in severe burns and harm to the person doing it. However, in this context, Poe was not discussing the physical act itself. Instead, Poe used this extreme scenario to convey the intensity of his emotions and the lengths he was willing to go to demonstrate his love, loyalty, or devotion to Stella.

Metaphor

"We roam the almost empty hospital, *the hours blurring together as we walk*, talking about our family and our friends and everything in between, the pool cue swinging back and forth between us." (Lippincott, 2018:124)

The type of metaphor from the love language of quality time is the blurring of the hours in this example describes how time seems to pass quickly because Will and Stella enjoyed the moment. It is similar to not noticing how much time has passed when focusing on something. The metaphor describes how time passes as

Will and Stella walked together. It implies that the passage of time is hazy as if the hours are blending.

“I open my mouth to say something, but I’m too stunned and exhausted to string a sentence together. I just nod, my head swinging wildly up and down. “Go get some sleep, sweetie,” my mom says, *planting a kiss on my forehead.*” (Lippincott, 2018:105)

The type of metaphor from the love language of physical touch is in the context, "planting a kiss" is a metaphor. It is not saying that there is literally planting going on. Instead, it suggests that Stella's mother placed a gentle and affectionate kiss on Stella's forehead, comparing the action to the act of planting something tenderly. The metaphor conveys the tender and loving gesture of the mother, emphasizing the warmth and affection she is expressing towards Stella. So, in this context, the phrase "planting a kiss on my forehead" is a metaphor to describe the gentle and loving nature of the mother's kiss.

Simile

“We nearly froze our butts off for that picture last year, but it was our tradition. Me and Abby, braving the cold to go see the holiday lights together. This photo always makes me remember that feeling. The feeling of going on an adventure with my sister, just the two of us, *the world expanding like an open book.*” (Lippincott, 2018:3)

The type of simile from the love language of quality time is the word "like" is used to establish the comparison between "the world" and "a book." By stating that "the world" is expanding "like a book," Stella illustrated a parallel between the process of the world expanding and the action of a book opening or unfolding. The simile suggests that just as a book reveals its contents as it opens up, the world also reveals or unfolds new experiences, knowledge, or possibilities. A simile is a figure of speech that compares two things using "like" or "as.". Using similes allows the

speaker to create a vivid and imaginative connection between the two concepts, making the description more expressive and engaging.

“All right,” Barb says, bringing me not one but two milk shakes, *like the queen she is*. “is should hold you over for a bit.” She puts them on the table next to me, and I smile up at her familiar darkbrown eyes. “Thanks, Barb.” (Lippincott, 2018:27)

The type of simile from the love language of acts of service is used to compare Barb's action of bringing two milkshakes with the behavior of a queen. By saying, "like the queen she is," Stella emphasizes the grand and generous nature of Barb's gesture, likening it to the actions of a queen, often associated with power, authority, and generosity.

Personification

“I’m too thin, too scarred, too . . . I meet my hazel eyes in the mirror. Why would Will want to draw me? His voice echoes in my head, calling me beautiful. Beautiful. It makes *my heart flip* in a way it shouldn’t.” (Lippincott, 2018:61)

The type of personification from the love language of words of affirmation is the non-human thing is the heart, which is described as "flipping," a human-like action associated with excitement or strong emotions. Personification is a figure of speech that involves human emotion towards non-human objects or objects as well as human characteristics. In this case, By personifying the heart and endowing it with the ability to "flip," it uses figurative language to express the emotional reaction to a specific experience or feeling.

“A huge smile breaks out on his face, and he takes the other end of the pool cue in his gloved hand, a travel-size bottle of Cal Stat shoved into his front pocket. “Wow,” he says, his eyes warm as he looks me over,

making *my heart do somersaults* inside my chest." (Lippincott, 2018:121)

The type of personification from the love language of words of affirmation is in the phrase "my heart does somersaults inside my chest," the heart, which is a biological organ and not a living being, is given the human action of "doing somersaults." Somersaults are physical movements often performed by humans, so by attributing this action to the heart, Stella personified the heart, treating it as if it were capable of experiencing emotions and physically expressing her. This personification conveys a strong emotional reaction, suggesting that Stella felt intense emotions such as excitement or joy. Using personification, Stella created a vivid and evocative image that helps the reader or listener better understand and connect with the described emotions.

CONCLUSION

Based on an examination of the various types of love language and figurative language of love language found in the novel *Five Feet Apart*. Stella and Will's love story in the novel *Five Feet Apart* emphasizes the importance of understanding each other's needs and limitations in a relationship, similar to the core principles of love languages. Furthermore, figurative language is likely to heighten the emotional impact of the characters' struggles with cystic fibrosis, longing for connection despite their limitations, and the profound love that develops between them. Using literary devices, the author can make the story more emotionally resonant and leave a lasting impression on the readers.

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