

## EXPLORING FIGURATIVE LANGUAGE IN THE KITE RUNNER NOVEL: UNVEILING SEMANTIC DEPTHS FOR A DEEPER NARRATIVE UNDERSTANDING

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### Abstract

*Figurative language analysis in a novel involves examining the author's use of various literary devices and techniques to enhance the narrative, evoke emotions, and create a deeper understanding of the text. This analysis goes beyond the literal interpretation of words and delves into the layers of meaning and imagery that contribute to the overall richness of the story. The purpose of this study is to seek the types of figurative language found in the novel The Kite Runner written by Khaled Hosseini and to analyze their meanings. The Kite Runner is a historical fiction novel, sets in Afghanistan in the 1970s with the social and political conditions of the Soviet invasion and the rise of the Taliban dictator. Using descriptive qualitative content analysis, this study reveals that there are 72 sentences containing figurative language and there are nine types of figurative language. Those are metaphor (15%), simile (32%), personification and, synecdoche (9%), metonymy (13%), both paradox and symbol (4%), hyperbole (7%), and apostrophe (3%). The findings show that the dominant type of figurative language in the novel The Kite Runner is simile. This study sheds light on the author of the novel The Kite Runner effective use of figurative language to enhance the narrative, convey emotions and enrich the readers' experiences. Thus, this paper provides an in-depth analysis of figurative languages found in one of the great historical fictions.*

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## INTRODUCTION

Figurative language is a part of semantics that refers to a type of artistic and imaginative use of vocabularies to convey ideas figuratively, in order to enhance communication and to emphasize the intended message. Figurative language refers to language that conveys ideas beyond the most literal interpretation (Swarniti, 2022). Figurative language serves as a tool to assist readers in delivering messages and information effectively. Figurative language is an approach to explicit a feeling or an idea by comparing two different objects, similes a thing to something has similarity in between or treat inanimate object like animate creature (Swarniti, 2022). The use of figurative language is seen more compelling to convey the message because (1) figurative language allows readers imaginative enjoyments of literary works, (2) it is a form to deliver other imagery into verse, creating the abstract concrete, (3) figurative language is able to add emotional intensity rather than merely informative statements, and (4) as a tool for concentration and at the same time as a tool to state something clearly Perrine (1992) as cited in Ketaren, et al, (2021).

Figurative meaning, vocabulary and semantic have an immense link that will improve vocabulary richness. It can be found in written as well as in oral expressions. (Collie & Slater, 1987 as cited in Rohani, et al, 2018) propose four reasons to identify figurative language; first, it attempts relevant original material, cultural content, language enrichment and personal involvement. Figurative language provides a useful point to enhance reading, speaking and writing skills. Since figurative language is persuasive, it can enhance knowledge, insight and anything related to the context and can hold the interest of the readers (Hutauruk, 2019). (Lakoff & Johnson, 2003 as cited in Rohani, et al, 2018) argue that daily metaphors in a language are culturally as well as perceptually based.

Some scholars proposed different types of figurative language. One of them is Perrine (1992), who offered twelve categories of figurative languages, as follows; (1) **Metaphor** is a figure of speech that compares two different things by stating that one thing is another thing, without using the words “like” or “as”. For example, *I’m in stunned of your moon eyes*. Ordinary human eyes are being compared, yet the word “moon” refers to the characteristics of the eyes. (2) **Simile** is the two things are explicitly compared and indicated by a word or phrase such as “like”, “as”, or “seems”. For example, *the kid looks a lot like his father*. In that remark, the comparison word “resembles” is applied. (3) **Personification** is the process of familiarizing an animal, object or idea with human characteristics. This expression personifies in animate objects by making them act like human. For example, *the powder gently touches the baby*. In this verse, the powder is seen as a human being who can cuddle a baby. (4) **Synecdoche** is the application of part for the whole. For example, *I didn’t see your nose last year*. The speaker uses ‘nose’ as part of a person in this sentence, which is a synonym. This shows that the speaker has not seen you in the past year. (5) **Metonymy** is the use of something closely related to the thing. For example, *she addicted to the bottle*. It is another way of saying that she drinks too much alcohol, so it is stated by using metonymy. (6) **Paradox** is an obvious contradiction that is still true to some extent. A figurative word refers to a statement that seems contradictory, unbelievable or absurd but is in fact true. For example: *There is life after death*. This statement contradicts because some people do not believe in life after death. (7) **Symbol** represents something more than it is. It means a logo that uses a well-known word or phrase with a unique meaning. For example, *he wrote the letter in red ink*. Anger is symbolized in red ink. (8) **Allegory** is a story or set of descriptive words or phrases that has a deeper meaning than its subsequent meaning.

The allegory has been characterized as a set of linked symbols in some cases. For example, Andy accompanies the children. The first way Andy goes with his children and the second way Andy goes with the children but not his children. Allegory is a term used to describe a phrase that has a second meaning. (9) **Hyperbole** is an exaggeration and used to express something or a state in a way that is more extensive than the usual. For example, *I told you a million times*. This sentence is exaggerated because the speaker means nothing to what he says and a human cannot say a million times. (10) **Apostrophe** is used to tell a person who is not there or something that is not human as if it is still love and can respond to what is said. For example, *Talion said to his dead son: “O Mueza my son, Mueza my son! If only I had died for you, my son. Mueza, my son!”* In this example, Talion apostrophes his dead son. (11) **Understatement** means speaking less that one means. It does not dramatize things and instead presents them simply, in contrast to the exaggeration. For example, *a queen said, “Please come to my hut”*. The queen’s phrase is clearly tone down because it says less than it means; what she really means is a palace or a kingdom, not a hut. (12) **Irony** is the exact opposite of what one means. For example, *your handwriting is so beautiful and I cannot read it*. This

is a sarcastic phrase because the speaker is saying the exact opposite of what he meant when he reads the handwriting.

Plethora studies related to the figurative language have been conducted by using many sources. (Swarniti, 2022) found that symbol is the majority figurative language in “Easy on me” song lyrics. She also detected other figurative languages in the song lyrics, such as allusion, ellipsis, and metonymy. (Nehe, et al, 2022) analyzed figurative language contained in Maleficent movie and revealed some types of figurative language, such as simile, irony, understatement, symbol, allegory, paradox, hyperbole, metonymy and synecdoche. The majority type of figurative language in Maleficent movie is simile. Meanwhile, (Nainggolan, et al, 2021) investigated what types of figurative language and what the meaning of each figurative language is on Joe Biden’s victory speech. They found that there were 86 sentences contain figurative languages, and there were 5 types of figurative languages: metaphor, personification, hyperbole, simile, and litotes, and the most frequent appear is metaphor.

Novel is one of literary work of fiction that dealing with realities found in society and it usually uses figurative language to make more interesting and building more imaginary to the readers. Novel is built through intrinsic elements such as events, plots, characters, backgrounds, perspective and others (Hasanah, et al, 2018). According to (Aliyev, 2021) the characteristic features of a novel are a verbal object, being written, having 30.000 – 100.000 words range or more, exclude non-linguistic elements, such as photographs, maps, diagrams, tables, and drawings, and are intended by authors to tell fictional stories (p. 21).

*The Kite Runner* is a great, unforgettable and heartbreaking fiction novel, which tells about the exceptional friendship between a wealthy boy and the son of his father’s servant. It presents a beautiful story set in a country with numerous conflicts and war. The novel is about the power of knowledge, the price of betrayal, the possibility of redemption, and the influence of fathers over their sons (The Bookish Elf, 2000). The language used by the author, Khaled Hosseini in *The Kite Runner* novel reflects the characters’ backgrounds with a large variety of words and expressions in Parsi language, such as the honorific title *Agha*, which shows respect for the masters from the servant, *naan*, *samosas*, *biryani*, *pakorras*, which are related to food, and many more. This helps readers to captivate the authentic atmosphere from the author. The setting covers several decades (1970 – 2002), countries (Afghanistan, USA, Pakistan), and political contexts (Soviet, Taliban). *The Kite Runner* delivers messages about humankind that could enlighten the readers to one of world great histories. It is very engaging to analyze figurative language using this novel. Therefore, this paper aims to analyze the figurative language in *The Kite Runner* novel to reveal its figurative languages and their literal meaning. Thus, this paper is expected to contribute in-depth analysis of figurative language found in one of classic novel.

## RESEARCH METHOD

### Research Design

This paper applies qualitative research method, specifically content analysis method. Qualitative research is the way of people to interpret the social action and understand about the reality of individuals in their mind. Qualitative research uses interviews, diaries, journals, classroom observations and open-ended questionnaires to analyze and to interpret the data from visual and textual materials and oral history (Tiarawati & Ningsih, 2019). Qualitative content analysis concerns with any kinds of analysis of speech, scripts, text, are categorized and classified (Rohani, et al, 2018). In this study, content analysis is an analytical approach based on settled categories and types and is used to interpret meanings of figurative language.

## Research Object

This paper analyzes the using of figurative language in the novel *The Kite Runner* written by Khaled Hosseini. This novel was first published in 2003 in English and has been translated into 42 languages all over the world including Indonesian ever since. It had been adapted into motion picture in 2007. The English version of *The Kite Runner* novel contains 371 pages. With the situation of war caused by Russians invention to Afghanistan in 1970's as the background, the novel told the story about two boys namely Amir whose came from "ethically superior" Pushtun tribe and his loyal friend and servant, Hassan whose came from "ethically inferior" Hazara tribe and their struggled to be free from the Taliban dictators. *The Kite Runner* is mostly narrated by Amir and the story is told from his point of view as an adult looking back across his life journey.

## Instrument

An instrument is a procedure to assemble data. This study applies checklist instrument. A checklist is a model that is used to record, to extract, and to identify data. Checklist is particularly effective at registering the occurrence of types, tasks, events, and patterns. Checklist can be used when collecting data for pattern detection, when reverse raw data into useful information, and for data collection on the frequency of events, problems, irregularities, and other similar parts. This instrument is easy to use and allows users to display collected data in simple and recognizable formats, such as table or a chart (Digital Healthcare Research, 2023). According to (Rohani, et al, 2018), checklist provides flexibility and can be used for evaluating database. Checklist obtains a concise and coherent description of the correspond in terms of objects, functions, dialogue states, selections and estimate usability. One of the functions of checklist is to count the number times each behavior occurs. Several benefits of using checklist are; (1) it is easy to prepare, (2) it can be used to gathered data from large numbers, (3) precise data can be collected, (4) it can be made reliable. Below shows the research instrument used for this study.

Table 1  
Research instrument

Type of research instrument	Checklist
Objective	To collect data of figurative language in novel.
Source of data	371 pages of English version novel <i>The Kite Runner</i> by Khaled Hosseini
Grand Theories	Theory of figurative language by (Perrine, 1992)

## Data analysis

As the initial step, the writers began the analysis by reading the complete 371 pages of the English version of *The Kite Runner* novel comprehensively in order to find the expressions considered contain figurative language. The second step was the writers highlighted and marked the sentences contain figurative language, pay special attention the using of non-literal and imaginative words. The third step was checklist and note taking the words, phrases and sentences containing figurative language. The fourth step was classified and categorized the expressions based on the types of figurative language (metaphor, simile, personification, synecdoche, metonymy, paradox, symbol, hyperbole, and apostrophe) by using the checklist form. The fifth step was the writers interpreted the meanings of figurative language found based on the theories applied in this study. The next step was involving co-rater who is a post-doctoral student to cross checked the classification and the analysis of the findings of figurative language. Finally, the results are presented and described statistically and draw conclusions.

## RESULT FINDINGS AND DISCUSSIONS

### Research Findings

The beginning of analysis is on the types of figurative language found the novel *The Kite Runner*. The data indicated that nine out of twelve types of figurative language proposed by (Perrine, 1992) found in novel *The Kite Runner*. Table 2 below presents the frequency and presentation of occurrence of figurative language, listed from the most to the least occurrence.

Table 2  
Figurative Language in Novel *The Kite Runner*

No	Figurative Language	Frequency	Presentation (%)
1	Simile	24	33%
2	Metaphor	11	15%
3	Metonymy	10	14%
4	Personification	7	10%
5	Synecdoche	7	10%
6	Hyperbole	5	7%
7	Paradox	3	4%
8	Symbol	3	4%
9	Apostrophe	2	3%
	Total	72	100%

As can be seen from table 1 and figure 1 above, in novel *The Kite Runner*, there are 72 sentences contain figurative language. Nine of twelve types of figurative language proposed by (Perrine, 1992) are found in the novel *The Kite Runner*. The emerging can be reviewed as follows: simile occurs in 24 sentences or 32%, metaphor occurs in 11 sentences or 15%, metonymy occurs in 10 sentences or 13%, personification and synecdoche occurs in 7 sentences or 9%, both paradox and symbol occurs in 3 sentences or 4%, hyperbole occurs in 5 sentences or 7%, apostrophe occurs in 2 sentences or 3%. From the findings, we can see that the majority type of figurative language in novel *The Kite Runner* is simile.

As a type of figurative language, in terms of metaphor, a word or a phrase is recognized metaphor-related if its contextual meaning differs adequately from the basic meaning of the word, and if the contextual meaning can be related to the basic one based on some kind of similarity (Poppel, 2021).

Excerpt 1:

“It was Rahim Khan who first referred to him as what eventually became Baba’s famous nickname, *Toophan* aka or **Mr. Hurricane**.” (Chapter 3, page 12)

In the excerpt 1, the phrase **Mr. Hurricane** is a metaphor that describes Baba’s characteristics, who are very strong, danger, terrifying and unpredictable.

Excerpt 2:

“Children are not **coloring books**. You don’t get to fill them with your favorite color” (Chapter 3, page 21)

In the excerpt 2, the phrase **coloring books** is a metaphor. It serves as a reminder that every child has their characteristics that parents should not deny. Every parent has trouble with their children occasionally and not everyone can live up to certain expectations. In terms of simile which is a kind of figure of speech that makes an analogy by showing similarities between two different things. It is formed to make an unusual, interesting and emotional by using words such as “like”, “as”, and “than”, or by verbs such as “appears” or ‘seems” (Siregar & Pane, 2020). There are 24 sentences contain simile in the novel *The Kite Runner*. Below are some excerpts of simile in the novel *The Kite Runner*.

Excerpt 3:

*“Baba was impossible to ignore, even in his sleep. I used to bury cotton wisps in my ears, pull the blankets over my head, and still the sounds of Baba’s snoring, so much **like a growling truck engine**”* (Chapter 3, page 13)

In the excerpt 3, the clause *like a growling truck engine* is simile because it portrays of Baba having a strong imposing personality who always attract attention, even while he is sleeping and his snoring is compared to the sound of a car engine.

Excerpt 4:

*“Taliban scurried **like a rat into the caves**”* (Chapter 25, page 362)

In the excerpt 4, *Like a rat into the caves* describes about people of Taliban who are full of fear and runaway to a safe place because of attack of Northern alliance. The next figurative language found in *The Kite Runner* novel is personification which is a type of figurative language describing the non-living matter or inanimate object as if having humanism attitudes. There are seven sentences in novel *The Kite Runner* contains personification.

Excerpt 5:

*“Then I glanced up and saw pair of kites, red with long blue kites, soaring in the sky. **They danced** high above the trees on the west end of the park”* (Chapter 1, page 1)

In the excerpt 5, **They danced** is a personification type of figurative language. *They* refer to the kites, which are flying and snaking by the winds in the sky. Khaled Hosseini, the writer of novel *The Kite Runner*, describes the moving kites in the sky as dancing moves done by human.

Excerpt 6:

*“**The gun roared**”* (Chapter 10, page 116)

From the excerpt 6, we can assume that this sentence is a personification. It describes the sound of gun, which is very loud and strong as if a lion roars. The word *roar* is used to express the danger of the gun shooting down the enemy, as when the lion roars to indicate their overall power in order to ward off intruders or enemies.

Meanwhile, synecdoche is a figure of speech in which a word or phrase that indicates to a part of something is reversed to represent the whole, or vice versa. For example, the utterance “All hands on deck” is a call for all of the crew to help (Farghal & Alenezi, 2022). Synecdoche indicates when a sentence is used to denote the whole by pointing out important details just to simplify what is being discussed.

Excerpt 7:

“Baba takes **wheels** into the driveway” (Chapter 4, page 31)

Excerpt 8:

“March go to kitchen to eat our **bread** with no one to talk to Hasan” (Chapter 7, page 66)

From the excerpt 7 and 8, we can infer that the words **wheels** and **bread** in the sentence above represent vehicles (a car) and food. Metonymy, a salient facet within the realm of figurative language, constitutes a rhetorical device wherein an object or conceptual entity finds reference through the utilization of a term intricately interconnected with it. Essentially, metonymy serves as a linguistic mechanism through which a particular word or phrase undergoes alternation or assumes the role of a surrogate, effectively encapsulating the essence of another word or phrase. In effect, metonymy engenders a semantic interplay that enriches the text by imbuing it with layered connotations and conveys intricate nuances that extend beyond the overt semantic surface.

Excerpt 9:

“My drinking **Scotch** or eating pork” (Chapter 3, page 18)

Excerpt 10:

“Baba and Rahim Khan smoking a pipe and sipping **Brandy** when I walked in” (Chapter 3, page 23)

Excerpt 11:

“Tree lined avenues and **white house**” (Chapter 24, page. 320)

From the excerpt 9, 10, and 11, The words **Scotch** and **Brandy** refer to the brand of alcohol drinks, while **white house** refers to a building used as American Embassy in Kabul, the capital city of Afghanistan. In terms of paradox where a word or phrase that seems contradictory or absurd but it might turn out to be true when it is examined and taken to logical thinking.

Excerpt 12:

“World is not **black and white**” (Chapter 3, page 15)

In the excerpt 12, **black and white** is a binary view. It is like good and bad, rich and poor, beauty and ugly and many more, but not all people accept the statement.

Excerpt 13:

“Life is not a Hindi movie” (Chapter 25, page 357)

Excerpt 13 present the example of a paradox sentence that means that life is not always perfect and full of happiness, as it is described in most Hindi movies. In fact, life is full of drama, sadness, and miserable moments. In term of symbol in literature which is a type of figurative language whereas an image or object are used to represent something other than its actual and literal meaning. Its function is to make a point about the nature of a story.

Excerpt 14:

“Sat on park bench near **a willow tree**” (Chapter 1, page 5)

From the excerpt 14, we can infer that willow tree, also known as weeping willow is associated with grief, sad and mourning because the way raindrops run down its long leaves, as if the tree is crying. Meanwhile, hyperbole is an exaggeration and used to express something or a state in a way that is more extensive than the usual.

Excerpt 15:

“*And suddenly Hassan’s voice whispered in head: For you a thousand time over*” (Chapter 2, page 5)

Excerpt 16:

“*But he’s always buried in those books*” (Chapter 3, page 16)

From the excerpt 15 and 16, the phrases of *a thousand time over* and *buried in those books* are hyperbole. *A thousand time over means* the sense of hearing a voice at repeated time, while *buried in those books* means that the main character has a very strong love for reading, thus he is engrossed in reading. The last figurative language found in novel *The Kite Runner* is apostrophe which is used to tell a person who is not there or something that is not human as if it is still love and can respond to what is said.

Excerpt 17:

“*The winds, I let you blow for me so that, with a tug of my string, I’d cut lose my pain, my longing*” (Chapter 7, page 65)

Excerpt 18:

“*The green kite was making its move. Let’s wait, I said. We’ll let it get closer. It dipped twice and create toward us.*” (Chapter 25, page 368).

Excerpt 17 and 18 shows that *the winds* and *the green kite* are apostrophe. Amir, the main character, assumes that the winds guide the kite. Meanwhile, the green kite represents the enemy who is making a move to get closer to his kite.

## Discussion

As presented in the findings, the majority of figurative language found in novel *The Kite Runner* is simile. Simile is a figure of speech used to compare one object with another that contain a couple of sameness; two things compared substantially feature one another by adding the word ‘like’ or ‘as’ Fadaee (2011) as cited in Muliawati, et al (2019). Furthermore, several similes metaphorically use from animals to define meaning (Muliawati, et al, 2019). *Taliban scurried like a rat into the caves* is an example of animal-reference to label people who has bad attitude to animals’ characters.

Meanwhile, the author of novel *The Kite Runner* uses metaphor to deliver an idea in a more vivid and engaging way than merely using facts or details, since metaphor is a figure of speech used to equal two seemingly unrelated objects or ideas. Metaphor can be used to describe people, places, objects and hypothetical concepts (Santosa, 2023). In details, Newmark (1988) as cited in Fajrina (2016, p. 80) describe that metaphors may be ‘single’ (one-word) or ‘extended’ (a collocation, an idiom, a sentence, a proverb, an allegory, a complete imaginative text. Metaphor is universal, although few people are not receptive of its existence, since human beings are often unaware talking and thinking metaphorically (Usman & Marawdi, 2022). The phrase *Mr Hurricane* found in novel *The Kite Runner* is an example of metaphor of a person’s characteristic that illustrate a strong, full of anger, terrifying and unpredictable man.

Whilst metaphor functions by enlarging our comprehension, metonymy uses one entity to stand for another that fit to the same conceptual domain (Birello & Pujola, 2023). The function of metonymy is referential in nature; where one thing stands for another (Younes & Altakhaineh, 2022). (Negro, 2019, p.1) writes two types of metonymies based on the domain-internal nature of metonymic mappings: (1) source-in-target metonymies which the source domain is a subdomain of the target domain, involve domain expansion consists of broadening the conceptual material related with a domain. (2) Target-in-source metonymies involve domain reduction and consequent

highlighting of part a domain, such as part-for-part metonymies. The words *Scotch* and *Brandy* found in novel *The Kite Runner* refer to the brand of alcohol drinks and these belong to the target-in-source metonymy types.

In terms of personification, it is often described as a technique by which any non-human entity is referred to a human characteristic, is used to enrich the description and to highlight a specific characteristic of a non-human object (Fata & Apriliya, 2021). (Yuliana, et al, 2018) mention four types of personification: (1) Conventionalized personification can be identified when the word is familiar and available in the dictionary without considering the context of the sentence. (2) Novel personification means that the basic human sense of creation can be taken but literal words cannot achieve contextual significance in the dictionary. (3) Default personification is based on the default interpretation of the basic human meaning. (4) Personification-with-metonymy appears when a human definition expressed with the noun demanded for the argumentation structure, specifically verbs, adjectives, and adverbs, but the noun was metonymically alternated by a non-human noun. The sentence “*The gun roared*” found in novel *The Kite Runner* is an example of personification that belongs to novel personification. The definition of *roar* is to utter a loud, deep cry or howl, as in excitement, distress or anger. *The gun roared* indicates the power in order to ward off enemies.

Metonymy parallels and is frequently confused with the term of synecdoche. Synecdoche is a rhetorical analogy and type of figure of speech in which a term that denotes a thing is referred to a similar entity. Synecdoche is generally defined as a figure by which the name of the part is used to stand for the name of the whole or vice versa (Hameed Ali, 2015). Furthermore (Hameed Ali, 2015) classify synecdoche based on its use: (1) A part referring to the whole (features of people, things, body parts, politics, historical synecdoche. (2) A general class name used to denote a specific member of that or an associated class. (3) A specific class name that refers to a general set of associated things. (5) A container is used to refer to its contents. *Baba takes wheels into driveway* is an example of synecdoche found in novel *The Kite Runner*. The word *wheels* describe a complete vehicle.

Meanwhile, hyperbole is a kind of figurative language where what is said does not match the intended meaning and exceed the limits that the hearers think by using exaggeration (Aljadaan, 2018). (Burgers, et al, 2016) suggest three main elements of hyperbole. First is exaggeration that used to emphasize the importance of something. The exaggerating statements in hyperbole are used to stress the significance. Exaggeration has two kinds of scales; the quality scale and the quantity scale. The second is the importance of the shift from the propositional meaning into what it is intended to. The last is there must be a specific referent assigned when using hyperbole. *For you a thousand time over* is an example of hyperbole found in novel *The Kite Runner*. *A thousand time* is an exaggeration that refers to an action that has been done over and over again.

A sign or symbol is a meaning representation that appears implicitly and representatively (Widyastuti, 2022). Understanding meaning through symbols is done intrinsically and extrinsically by combining aspects; the author system or expressive, universality or mimetic, the reader or pragmatic, and the literary work or objective Ratna (2004) as cited in (Widyastuti, 2022). (Kuczok, 2020) argues that in semiotics, a symbol is viewed as a type of sign that does not have natural link between the form and the thing represented, but only has a conventional link (p. 237). An example of symbol taken from novel *The Kite Runner* is the sentence *Sat on park bench near a willow tree*. *Willow tree* is associated with grief, sad and mourning since its long leaves bench over the river and it looks like the raindrops.

The next figurative language found in novel *The Kite Runner* is paradox, which is identified as contradictory, interdependent and persist over time, demanding strategies for engaging and

accommodating tensions but not resolving them Smith & Tracey (2016) as cited in (Auld, et al, 2022, p. 185). In other words, a paradox is a statement that appears to be self-contradictory at first but makes sense after more examination (Atmaja, 2022). *World is not black and white* is an example of paradox found in novel *The Kite Runner*. The word *black* and *white* contradict one another. It represents the good and the bad, the rich and the poor, and many more.

Lastly, apostrophe can include personification, is an exclamatory figurative language and it appears when a speaker breaks off from addressing the audience and directs the speech to a third party such as an opposing party or some other person (Sayakhan, 2018). Furthermore, (Sayakhan, 2018) explain that apostrophe is a rhetorical tool in which the speaker speaks to an abstraction or an inanimate object. While personification involves only giving human qualities, apostrophe involves speaking to something. An example of apostrophe found in novel *The Kite Runner* is “**The wind**, I’ll let you blow for me so that, with a tug of my string, I’d cut lose my pain, my longing” The main character of novel *The Kite Runner* talks to the wind as if it is a living thing who will follow his demand.

## CONCLUSION

Figurative language is a thoughtful use of a diversity words to accomplish good impact for the readers, the comprehensive language nature and an appropriate method to deliver ideas, emotions and expressions. Figurative language deviates from ordinary or literal expressions to make the story more engaging and captivating for readers. The author’s language style is naturally a mean of using decent words to describe emotions, expressions and ideas that are biased and definite from everyday language style. The author applies figurative language to generate the language presentation become more engaging, affluent, broad, and fair, as well as highlight the perception being conveyed, building particular atmosphere and presenting an aesthetic impact.

This research focuses on exploring types of figurative language in one of the literature products, that is a famous and phenomenal novel, title *The Kite Runner*, written by Khaled Hosseini. The study found 72 data contain figurative language in 9 types of figurative language, including metaphor, simile, personification, synecdoche, metonymy, paradox, symbol, hyperbole and apostrophe. The dominant type of figurative language in novel *The Kite Runner* is simile, followed by metaphor and metonymy. These findings shed light on the author’s effective use of figurative language to enhance the narrative, convey emotions and enrich the readers’ experiences.

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