

**THE ANALYSIS OF SIMILES IN *HARRY POTTER AND THE SORCERER'S STONE* BY  
J.K ROWLING**

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**ABSTRAK**

*Similes digunakan dalam membandingkan dua hal yang berbeda, similes sering di tandai dengan like atau as. Terdapat banyak kalimat yang menggunakan similes dalam novel Harry Potter and Soccerer's stone yang ditulis oleh JK Rowling. Seorang penulis menggunakan similes untuk membantu oara membaca dalam mengimpretasikan ide yang ditulis oleh penulis. Tujuan penelitian ini adalah untuk mencari tahu tipe tipe similes yang sering digunakan dan maksud dari similes. Dari hasil yang sudah diteliti, terdapat 6 similes dalam 2 bab pertama yang digunakan untuk dianalisa. Pertama, tipe similes yaitu terbuka dan tertutup mendapatkan presentase yang sama 50% untuk masing masing. Hasil dari makna similes menunjukkan bahwa implisit similes digunakan 50% dan sisanya adalah eksplisit similes 50%.*

**Kata kunci:** Similes, Figurative Language, Harry Potter

**ABSTRACT**

*Simile is used when comparing two unlike things that is often introduce by the words like or as. There are many sentences that used similes in Harry Potter and Soccerer's stone novel by JK Rowling. A writer uses similes to enable the readers to imagine in their mind what the writer is saying. The purpose of this research is to find out the most dominant types and meanings of simile that found in Harry Potter and Soccerer's stone novel. Based on the result of the analysis; first, the writer found 6 similes in the first four chapters. Second the writer found 50% are open similes and 50% are close similes by its type. The meaning results show that 50% are explicit similes. Therefore, 50% are implicit similes.*

**Keywords:** Harry Potter, Figurative Language, Simile

**INTRODUCTION**

In this century, fantasy story has appeared and became fever in the world. The most famous fantasy story is Harry Potter, a series written by J.K Rowling. A female author who creates the novels about a life of young wizard named Harry Potter. The main story is Harry Struggle against his enemy Lord Voldemort, a dark wizard who intends to become immortal. Inside the story, author plays the figurative language to rule the beauty of its story. One of the figurative language that used in Harry Potter and The Soccerer's Stone is smilies.

- a. Figurative language is a certain literacy device, which is commonly applied by the authors to gain strength and fressness of their literary work's expression. (Holman, 1986)
- b. Similes is one of figurative language it is marked by words *like* or *as*. Myers (1994) stated that simile does the same thing as a metaphor, but with a *like* or *as* if in the

wording to show that it is not literal. Simile is used when comparing two unlike things that is often introduced by the words above. Generally, a writer uses similes to enable the readers to imagine in their mind what the writer is saying. Thus, this research will conduct to answer these questions.

1. What types of similes is most frequently found in Harry Potter and the Sorcerer's Stone novel?

2. What are the meanings of similes found in the Harry Potter and The Sorcerer's Stone novel?

This study will help to find the meaning of similes for those who are not familiar with them, but in order to understand the meaning of them.

The previous study that triggers this study is titled "*Symbols, metaphors and similes in literature: A case study of 'Animal Farm'*" by Elaheh Fadaee (2010). It concludes that there are two types of similes. There are explicit and implicit. The implicit (84,84%) is used more. Because implicit similes convey the literal meaning of the writer's message. The previous study only mentions about frequently used similes not analyzing the meaning of the similes thoroughly. It makes this study should analyze the similes because similes is figurative language which often occurs in many genres of story. One of literary story text, or it can be found in poem.

## METHOD

This study is a descriptive analysis of data with its source text. The data of this research is the first and second chapter of Harry Potter and The Sorcerer's Stone Novel. There are 6 similes that occur in the novel, so there will be 6 similes that will be analyzed whether it's open or close and the meaning of it.

In choosing the data of this research the writer identifies all the similes and after having identified all of them, the writer will analyze them. First of all, the writer will

analyze the similes and classify to the type of similes whether open or close similes Strachan and Terry's (2000). When it's done the writer also will analyze the meaning of similes based on Fromilhague's (1995) theory about brainstorming the classification of the similes meaning, whether its an explicit or implicit similes.

The first step to analyze similes is by Richard's (1936) theory to analyze simile is to find the tenor, the ground, the marker and the vehicle. The tenor refers to the subject itself, that which is being described. It refers to the concept, object, or person meant. Then, the vehicle is the comparison or description used to describe the subject. The vehicle being the image that carries the weight of the comparison. To be more precise, take a look at this example,

**She** is *soft, crinkled* **like** a rose  
**tenor** *ground* **marker** vehicle

The second step is classify the type of similes. "*Open simile is a comparison that do not mentions about the characteristics of similarity*". The readers have authority to interpret the comparison of the tenor and vehicle. Then, "*Close simile is a comparison between two items that mentions about the characteristics of similarity*". The writer gives explanation about the comparison, and words to process the vehicle. After the similes being classified, the writer will analyze the meaning based on Fromilhague (1995). Explicit simile, sense or point of similarity is stated directly. The readers will easily understand the author means in similes. Besides, implicit simile, sense is not stated directly and leave the onus of interpretation to the reader. The readers need to interpret about the meaning itself.

## RESULTS AND DISCUSSION

1. **C:1,P:11** : "He looked simply too big to be allowed, and so wild – long tangles of bushy black hair and beard hid most of his face, he had hands the size of

trash can lids, and *his feet in their leather boots were like baby dolphins*. In his vast, muscular arms he was holding a bundle of blankets.”

The sentence above used similes because it has one of similes marker, “like”. It is viewed that the tenor is **his feet**, and the vehicle is baby dolphins. Baby dolphins means that the tenor has similarity like them, but it does not mention the characteristic clearly. The readers must imagine what baby dolphins look like and comparing to the tenor (his feet). This is a open similes because, the readers have authority to compare the tenor as the imagination expressed in the vehicle.

Therefore, the meaning is implicit because the similes describes the tenor (his feet). Here, “he” refers to a man named Hagrid whose has a big and tall body, so the vehicle is explaining that the tenor has similar characteristic to baby dolphins. It is implicit meaning because, the writer not clearly categorizes the vehicle, and the readers should interpret by themselves.

2. **C:2,P:16** : Aunt Petunia often said that Dudley looked like a baby angel -- *Harry often said that **Dudley** looked like a pig in a wig*.

The sentence above used similes because it has one of similes marker, “like”. It is viewed that the tenor is **Dudely**, and the vehicle is a pig. A pig means that the tenor has similarity like it, but it do not mention the characteristic clearly. Pig means that something is fat and short, this is the word which has similarity to Dudley’s appearance. This is a open similes because, the readers have authority to imagine what the tenor looks like.

Therefore, the meaning is implicit because the similes describes the tenor (Dudely). Here, Dudely is a fat and short boy, so the vehicle is explaining that the tenor has similar characteristic to a pig. It is implicit meaning because, the writer not clearly categorizes the vehicle, and the readers should interpret by themselves.

3. **C:2,P:19** : Uncle Vernon nearly crashed into the car in front. He turned right around in his seat and yelled at Harry, *his face like a gigantic beet with a mustache*: “MOTORCYCLES DON’T FLY!”.

The sentence above used similes because it has one of similes marker, “like”. It is viewed that the tenor is **his face**, and the vehicle is a gigantic beet. A gigantic beet means that the tenor has similarity like it, but it do not mention the characteristic clearly. Beet means a fruit with red and purple color and gigantic means something is big. It clarifies that his face is red and big. This is a open similes because the readers have fully imagination what his face look like.

Therefore, the meaning is implicit because the similes describes the tenor (his face). Here, “he” refers to a man named Vernon whose has a big body, a mustache and pale skin, so the vehicle is explaining that the tenor ha similar characteristics to a beet. The vehicle explain that vernon’s pale skin shows the human color expression. It is implicit meaning because, the writer not clearly categorizes the vehicle, and the readers should interpret by themselves.

4. **C:1,P:6** : His blue eyes were light, bright, and sparkling behind half-moon spectacles and *his nose was very long and crooked, as though it had been broken at least twice*.

The sentence above used similes because it has one of similes marker, *as though*. It is viewed that he tenor is **his nose**, and the vehicle is clause it had been broken at least twice. The clause means that the tenor has similarity like it, and it mentions the characteristic clearly. This means that his nose long and crooked like it has been broken. So, the author used close simile to convey the imagination of the sentence.

Thereore, the meaning is explicit because the similes describe the tenor (his nose). Here, “his” refers to Albus

Dumbledore, a big old man. The tenor explains Dumbledore's face. It clearly said that his nose looks like it's broken at least twice. So, the vehicle is explaining the tenor clearly.

5. **C:2,P:17** : "You could just leave me here," Harry put in hopefully (he'd be able to watch what he wanted on television for a change and maybe even have ago on Dudley's computer). ***Aunt Petunia looked as though she'd just swallowed a lemon.***

The sentence above used similes because it has one of similes marker, "*as though*". It is viewed that the tenor is **Aunt Petunia**, and the vehicle is clause she'd just swallowed a lemon. This means that the tenor has similarity to the clause, and it mentions the characteristic clearly. This means that Aunt Petunia expression is sour or not good. Lemon is the representation of sour taste, so it will look that her face is not good. This means that the author used close simile to convey the imagination of the sentence.

Thereore, the meaning is explicit because the similes describe the tenor (Aunt Petunia). The tenor describes Petunia's face. It clearly said that her face looks sour like she just ate a lemon. So, the vehicle is explaining the tenor clearly.

6. **C:2,P17** : *Dudley's best friend, Piers Polkiss, walked in with his mother. Piers was a scrawny boy with **a face like a rat.***

The sentence above used similes because it has one of similes marker, "*like*". It is viewed that the tenor is a face, but it has a phrase a scrawny boy which indicates that the tenor is part of the phrase too. This means that the boy's face looks scrawny. Scrawny means that something is unattractive and thin, so it has similarity to the rat. This means that the author used close simile to convey the imagination of the sentence.

Thereore, the meaning is explicit because the similes describe the tenor (his face). Here, "his" refers to Piers Polkin, a thin boy. The tenor explains Polkins's face. It clearly said that his swarny face looks like a rat. So, the vehicle is explaining the tenor clearly.

## CONCLUSION

Based on the analysis, the writer found six similes in chapter one and two of the Harry Potter and Socerrer's Stone book. The simile is divided into two type, open and close. The result shows that both of the typeare used. 3 from 6 smiles are open and the rest is close. As the result, the preentage is 50% for each type.

Second, the analysis of the meaning shows that 3 similes are implicit and the rest is explicit and, the percentage is also 50%. The author plays the meaning of similes easily but still use its beauty to enhance the asthetic of the story. Besides, the author loves to use "like" for the similes. It's looked from the result that 4 from 6 similes are used "like" as the connective/marker.

Third, the writer concludes that the simile used in this novel intended to show the deep meaning of the story and to make the story become more interesting. However not all sentences contain the word "like" or "as" are similes. It must be examined the two things compared are different thing or not, the simile is comparison between two items that different in literal meaning but have similarity.

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