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## The Analysis of Metaphorical Expressions in Joe Biden's Inauguration Speech

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### Abstract

*This study discusses about Analysis of Metaphorical Expressions In Joe Biden's Speeches: Inauguration Speech in 2021, which focuses on the choice of words used in his speech. The aims of this study are (1) to classify the types of metaphors, and (2) to explain the characteristics of the emotions contained in Joe Biden's speech. This study used descriptive qualitative method. Based on analysis result (1) there are four types of metaphors from Joe Biden's speech based on Leech's theory, and (2) there are seven emotional characteristics of Joe Biden's speech based on Kovecses' theory. The types of metaphors with the mostly found is concretive metaphors, because in Joe Biden's speech he tends to use moving sentences from concrete to abstract or the other way. Meanwhile, the most dominant emotional characteristic found is pride. Because, Joe Biden tends to refer to words that proud or appreciate an action of the American people. So that it can be concluded from the focus of the problem that there are, metaphor is a use of words that are not with the real meaning without considering the context and situation.*

**Keywords:** *Metaphorical Expressions, Types of Metaphor, and Characteristic of Emotion in Metaphors*

### Abstrak

*Penelitian ini membahas Ungkapan Metafora yang terdapat di Dalam Pidato Peresmian Joe Biden pada tahun 2021 yang berfokus pada penggunaan kalimat yang digunakan pada pidato peresmian Joe Biden. Tujuan penelitian ini ialah mengklasifikasikan tipe-tipe metafora dan menjabarkan karakteristik emosi yang terdapat dalam pidato. Metode penelitian ini menggunakan deskriptif kualitatif. Berdasarkan hasil analisis terdapat empat jenis tipe metafora yang sesuai dengan teori Leech dan terdapat tujuh karakteristik emosi yang digunakan Joe Biden yang sesuai berdasarkan teori Kovecses. Jenis tipe metafora dengan jumlah data yang paling banyak ditemukan adalah konkritif metafora, karena di dalam pidatonya, Joe Biden lebih cenderung menggunakan pemindahan kalimat dari konkret ke abstrak ataupun sebaliknya. Sedangkan, karakteristik emosi yang paling dominan ditemukan adalah rasa bangga. Sebab, Joe Biden lebih cenderung mengacu pada pemilihan kalimat yang*

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*mengapresiasi atau membanggakan suatu tindakan dari rakyatnya. Sehingga di simpulkan dari fokus permasalahan yang ada ialah, metafora merupakan suatu penggunaan kata atau kalimat yang bukan dengan makna sebenarnya. Oleh sebab itu, suatu pidato tidak dapat dipisahkan dari subjek pesan itu sendiri, serta harus mempertimbangkan konteks dan situasi yang ada.*

**Kata kunci:** *Ungkapan Metafora, Tipe Metafora, Karakteristik emosi dalam metafora*

## A. INTRODUCTION

Language is one of the linguistic branches to express meaning. Language is a system of sound and sequence structure, that is used or that can be used in communication between individuals by a groups of people and that is more because it gives name to objects, events, and processes in the human environment<sup>1</sup>.

Semantics is a part of linguistic agreement, which is about the relationship between language and meaning. Semantics is a systematic study of meaning, and semantics is about learning how languages regulates and expresses meaning<sup>2</sup>. It is about how language works when there is a communication between two or more

persons, one as the speaker and the others as the hearer.

Human beings need language as a tool to communicate that is used in daily activities.<sup>3</sup> It means language is a crucial thing for human needs because it is a way to communicate with other people. Every people have variations in language, both formal and informal language. communication which is conveying thoughts, ideas, concepts, or feelings. As the evolution era, languages continued to advance. Each sentence of communicating inside has a contained figure of speech that appears because it includes a different meaning or depending on the phrase used. Figurative language is one of

<sup>1</sup> Meyer, C. F. *Introducing English Linguistics*. (New York: Cambridge University Press, 2009) p. 2.

<sup>2</sup> W.Kreidler, C. *Introduction English Semantics*. (London: Routledge, 2002), p. 10.

<sup>3</sup> Carol, G. *Lessons from Good Language Learners*. (Cambridge; Cambridge UP, 2008), p. 19.

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the language phenomena commonly found.

At this time the development of language is very advanced and growing rapidly by using a language that is known for certain. One of them is figurative language. The use of figurative language is an imaginative tools in ordinary literature and communication used to explain speeches outside their usual usage<sup>4</sup>. To summarize, figurative language is a special way to learn language that can train our imagination. one of them is speech.

Almost every speech uses figurative language to convey its message indirectly. However, using figurative language usually, the speakers did not always understand it literally by the hearers. People use figurative language to describe feelings, thoughts, or ideas depends on the context and situation of speaker says.

language as a clear and literal vehicle for communicating ideas when someone communicates with others. however, miss understandings arise and shift in meaning sometimes occur even when people use language literally<sup>5</sup>. Words can have a denotative meaning or apparent meaning, and connotation, an implied meaning or hidden meaning. In addition, people use the word figuratively.

Language style in a literary work is different from the style of language in daily conversation. Literary works use figurative language a lot. It makes figurative language is difficult to understand because it is not found in a dictionary just like any other vocabulary that usually used in daily conversation. Which, in Joe Biden's Inauguration speech, the figurative language phenomena that commonly found in this study is metaphor. As is known about cultural, background and social differences, in understanding metaphor there can

<sup>4</sup> Fadaee, Elaheh. *Symbols, Metaphors and Similes in Literature: A Case Study of "Animal Farm"*. (Bandar Abbas: Islamic Azad Univesity, 2011), p.19-27

<sup>5</sup> Kracht, M. *Introduction to Linguistics*. (Department of Linguistics. UCLA, 2007), p.67.

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mistakes. Which resulted in a distorted sense out of the real meaning.

Metaphors are defined as seeing, experiencing, or talking about something in terms of something else. Metaphor for most people as a poetic imagination device an extraordinary language rather than ordinary language. The combination of public speaking live with figures of speech such as metaphor becomes an interesting mix in a literary work<sup>6</sup>. The metaphors in many politicians use metaphors to insinuate or point out things that are deliberately stated implicitly and also a form of rhetoric that serves as a tool for attracting, convincing, or affecting listeners or readers. But, in general, it helps the speaker describe what to represent and compare to an object.

The metaphor used to deliver the message which is given by the speaker, while the metaphor is used in literary works, including in speeches. In speech, people usually tend to say the words what

they want to say. The President's speeches are interesting because speech has an impact on the country he leads. In the inauguration speech, the elected President was permitted to present his ideas and plans regarding the political approach of organizing his administration during the presidency and was an attempt to convince the people that he was qualified to fill the office. To accomplish such a goal, it is not uncommon to miss the metaphorical phrase. The definition about metaphor according to Oxford Learner's Dictionary :

1. A figure of speech derived from words or phrases is usually one kind of subject or idea in another to suggest similarities between them.
2. A figure of speech which a term is tranferred from the object may only specify implicit comparisons or analogies.

<sup>6</sup> Bowo, T. A., Kurniadi, D., Lubis, D. F. *Metaphors and Similes in Peter Lerangis' Novel The Curse of The King*. Pioneer: (Journal of Language and Literature, 2022), Volume 14, Issue 1, 15-30

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3. A figure of speech that is applied to something that is not taken literally<sup>7</sup>.

The most interesting of Joe Biden's speeches was that in the use of the sentence he used refers to and is directed toward millennials, thereby drawing closer to the millennials by not using too much about formal language. Thus become a way of reaching the hearts of the z generation, for as the z generation is aware of using many word illustrations in their own language style according to the figurative language that they had in daily conversation to a social life.

Moreover, in speaking, the speaker uses some emotion in expressing their feelings. Which, the speaker does not express emotions with certainty, but the speaker can describes emotions. For example when people are enthusiastic or impressed by something "the speaker say wow!", for example is when people say

*damn it!* it indicates that the speaker is angry.

This study focused on the form of words, sentences, and phrases in the text of the speech, which had contained of metaphorical expressions that contained about four types of metaphors, and also this study contained about the emotions used by Joe Biden's speeches. The purpose of this study to identify the types of metaphor and the characteristics of emotion in metaphor used in Joe Biden's inauguration speech. In analyzing this study uses a descriptive qualitative approach. Qualitative study is a method generally accepted by the majority<sup>8</sup>. The main purpose of qualitative study is to describe a situation or phenomenon in more depth and detail in conducting data collection and analyzing data and the theories studied and qualitative is a systematic approach used to describe life experience and give meaning. this is

<sup>7</sup> Hornby, A. S. *Oxford Advanced Learner's Dictionary*, New York: (Oxford University Press, 1995)

<sup>8</sup> Flick, U. *Designing Qualitative Research*. (New York: SAGE Publications, Ltd, 2018), p.27

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because data will be analyzed more deeply, and the data shapes are words more rather than of numbers.

## A. Types of Metaphor

### 1.1 Concretive Metaphor

Leech state that concretive metaphor is the real nature or physical existence to an abstract or the other way<sup>9</sup>. In another perceptions, Parera explained that “concretive metaphor is used to transfer from abstract to concrete thing or the other way”<sup>10</sup>.

Datum 2

*“... We’ve learned again that democracy is precious, **democracy is***

***fragile** and, at this hour my friends. democracy has prevailed.*

Based on the sentence boldface above, it was found a transferred from abstract to concrete. The word of **democracy** is an abstract thing, because democracy is a form of government where

all citizens have equal rights to making a decision. Meanwhile **fragile** in literal meaning it's shows a weakness that easily to damaged or broken, which is a concrete thing. But in this sentence describe that America's democratic system is quite weak, as an example, Donald trump did not to admit defeat of the elections in USA that has been established of Biden victory, and also the people who stand on Donald Trump's side making a full-scale riot on the U.S Capitol building. That is the weak cause of democracy in America.

*Datum 12*

*“...America once again the leading force for good in the world. I know **speaking** of unity can sound to a **foolish fantasy** these days ...”*

In the sentence above, it was found a transferred from concrete to abstract. The word of **speaking** is a human activity, which is a concrete thing. Meanwhile, **foolish fantasy** is an abstract thing. In literal meaning fantasy

<sup>9</sup> Leech, G. *A Linguistic Guide to English Poetry*. (New York: Longman Inc, 1991), p.54

<sup>10</sup> Parera, J.D. *Teori Semantik*: (Jakarta, Erlangga, 2004), p.119

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is an imaginary that deals with something that doesn't really exist and only exists in mind. Which are associated with foolish people that can only imagine and do not make any changes. It concluded that, in his speech, Joe Biden feels such a foolish people when discuss about unity, while his citizen's remained racist and discriminating.

#### *Datum 19*

*"... Here we stand, where 108 years ago at another inaugural, thousands of **protesters** tried to **block** brave women marching for the right to vote ..."*

In the sentence above, it was found a transferred from concrete to abstract. The word of **protesters** is a concrete thing. It because, **protesters** someone or clusters who opposed to something. Meanwhile, **block** is an abstract. It is word refers to **vote**. It concluded that, the protesters are prevented the women from using their voting in political elections. As we can see, the population of women is greater than the men.

#### *Datum 20*

*"... To all those who supported our campaign, **I'm humbled** by the faith you placed in us. ..."*

In the sentence above, it was found a transferred from concrete to abstract. **I'm** that is the phrase of itself who is alive and who is a human being, which means concrete things. Meanwhile, the word of **humbled** was abstract. It because, **humbled** is an expression of someone who delights in something that gives confidence of itself. It concluded that, Joe Biden's expressed his gratitude for the trusting of the American citizens who voted for him in the election, and entrusted him to be President of the United States.

#### *Datum 18*

*"... When the union itself was literally hanging in the balance. We endure, we prevail. Here we stand, looking out on the great Mall, where **Dr King** spoke of his **dream** ..."*

In the sentence above, it was found a transferred from concrete to abstract. **Dr King** is a social activist leading of USA civil

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rights movement who was killed on April 4th, 1968 while giving a speech. Declare a person that means a concrete thing. Meanwhile, **dream** is a wish of person in the future to achieving their goals, which is abstract thing. It concluded that before Dr King was killed, he had hope that he could to solving of Racism about skin color which is still happening in America. But that is just a dream that didn't come true. Which is in fact, it was still happening at the present.

### 1.2 *Synaesthetic Metaphor*

Leech describes that synaesthetic metaphor is transferred of the human sensory sense into another perception. In Parera states that synaesthetic metaphor is a type of metaphor that attempts to ristrict of human sensory.

#### *Datum 1*

*"... Today we celebrate the triumph not of a candidate but of a cause, a cause of*

*democracy. **The people has been heard, and the people has been heeded ..."***

Based on the sentence above, the word of **the people has been heard** is the response of human listeners. Meanwhile, the word of **the people has been heeded** is a transferred of another perception. The meaning of the sentence above is that the voice of the citizens has been heard by the governments, and in convincing the already heard by the governments, in the inaugural speech, the President present his ideas and plans during the presidency and was an attempt to convince the people.

#### *Datum 15*

*"... We can join forces, stop the **shouting and lower the temperature**. For without unity, there is no peace, only bitterness and fury ..."*

Based on the sentence above, was categorized as a metaphor of synaesthetic because the word of **shouting** is an expression of one's feelings and can be heard through the sense of the listener. Meanwhile, **lower the temperature** is trying to stabilize the situation. However, in spite of the

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demonstrators' rioting result from the elections, Joe Biden's said that all American remains in respect for another, asking for all American citizens to come together, and to settled things eaceably.

### 1.3 Animistic Metaphor

Leech states that animistic metaphor is a life statement into the characteristics of inanimate things. Parera claims that "animistic metaphor is used to illustrate a condition or reality in the natural experience of the language users :

*Datum 21*

*"... if we show a little tolerance and humility, and if **we're** willing to **stand in the other person's shoes**, as my mom would said. Just for a moment, stand in their shoes ..."*

In the sentence above is a kind of animistic metaphor. The word of **We're** utterance to assemblage of many people, which is a human being. Meanwhile, **stand in the other person's shoes** are identification or understading of the emotional state of another person. The feeling of

comparison or sympathy caused by the sufferings and adversity of anothers. It concluded that, we must feel sympathetic to others, see from another's point of view, and to feel what another feels.

### 1.4 Humanizing Metaphor

Leech states this metaphor is a statement of human characteristics into to doesn't of human characteristics. In Parera desribed that humanizing metaphor is used to compare the similarities of experience that found on human characteristics.

*Datum 24*

*"... If we do this, then when our days are through, our children and our children's children will say of us: **They gave their best, they did their duty, they healed a broken land...**"*

Based on the sentence above, **land** is the part of the earth's crust, which is lifeless. Meanwhile, the word of **healed** is a human characteristics, when people feel pain and then will be healed. The meaning of the sentence above is the future generations who



will lead America will makes significant contributions in a country, allowing them to solving existing problems with current experiences.

## B. Characteristic of Emotion in

### *Metaphor*

#### *1.1 Pride*

Kovecses described that pride is superior. It means that pride is a feeling that you respect by yourself and deserve respect by people<sup>11</sup>.

#### *Datum 24*

Based on the sentence boldface above refers to the future generations who will lead of America. Joe Biden believes that future generations will be advancing a country on experiences and knowledge that they have been get. This sentence was used pride emotion. It was because Joe Biden at the time had feeling that he deserves to respect

of future generation that will advance America.

#### *Datum 21*

Based on the sentence above, one form of unity is empathy for one another. That's because we're social creatures, which means we needs someone else in life. Unity is forms empathy because it plays a vital role in building and maintaining relationships between fellow humans. This sentence is used pride emotion. It can be seen when he says if we are willing stand on the other person. That is because Joe Biden at the time had feeling that he deserved to be respected by others.

#### *Datum 1*

The meaning of the sentence above is that the voice of the citizens has been heard by the governments, and in convincing the already heard by the governments, in the inaugural speech, the President present his ideas and plans during the presidency

<sup>11</sup> Kovecses, Z. *Metaphor*. (New York: Oxford University Press, Inc, 2010), p. 38



and was an attempt to convince the people. This sentence was used pride emotion. It could be seen when he said *the people has been heard, and the will of the people has been heeded*. It was because Joe Biden at the time had feeling that he deserves to respect by another people, especially the citizens of America.

### 1.2 Fear

Kovecses describes that fear is an unpleasant emotion caused by the belief that someone or something is dangerous, likely to inflict pain, or menace.

#### *Datum 2*

Based on the boldface sentence above, Joe Biden explained that democracy in America at the moment is very weak. That's because, in light of the election events of the people who supporting Donald Trump has rallied for action on the issue of cheating votes during elections. It was an untruth that had been spread. This sentence used fear emotion. It could

be seen when he said democracy is fragile. Therefore, Joe Biden feeling that was dangerous thing and, that could be a threat to America. It means that democracy increasingly seems fragile, the citizens and civil society are standing up to defend and expand democratic rights.

### 1.3 Sadness

Kovecses states that sadness is an emotional pain associated by the feelings of lost, sadness, helplessness, despair, loss, disappointment and misery.

#### *Datum 18*

Based on the sentence boldface above, Joe Biden tells to all the citizens that who witnessed his inaugural speech that Dr King who expected freedom from civil war. Before Dr King was killed, he had hope that he could to solving of racism about skin color which is still happening in America. This sentence is used as an emotional sadness. That is because Joe Biden used that emotion when he



said that the sentence was related to grief. It can be seen when he says his dream. When something you have expected just a dream that didn't come true, only sad emotion that people had.

#### **1.4 Shame**

Kovecses says that shame is a painful emotion responding to a sense of failure to achieve goals.

##### *Datum 12*

Based on the boldface sentence above, Joe Biden concluded that the soul of unity especially in America was weak, when speaking of unity sounded such a fantasy that did not know when it would actually happen. That's because, as we know, the racism in America still exists today. Just as human beings should live peacefully and should be proud of the differences, instead of being an exception. That sentence is used as a shameful emotion. This is because racism is failure to reach her opinion.

He wanted to maintain unity but in reality racism was just embarrassing.

#### **1.5 Angry**

Kovecses explained that anger is when people feel unhappy, mad, annoyance about something.

##### *Datum 19*

Based on the sentence boldface above, Joe Biden is looking back on the latest street events perpetrated by women against Donald Trump's appointment to President of the United States. That is because, in his speech, he was talking much of about animosity, it was what triggered the protests. It could be seen when he said thousands of protesters. This sentence is used in a fit of rage because Joe Biden had a bad feeling about the protesters that make his annoyance.

#### **1.6 Love**

Kovecses described that love is a variety of different feelings, states, and attitudes that range from interpersonal affection to pleasure.



### *Datum 15*

Based on the sentence above, Joe Biden said that in easing the emotions that occurred when he was elected as the president of America, there were many who fought over the pro and contra of him. but he still held back his emotions so as not to be provoked into anger. Therefore, Joe Biden considers his rival in politics as just a rival with the same aim to lead America in a better direction.

### **1.7 Happiness**

Kovecses states that happiness is the a rising out of awareness of pleasure characterized wellbeing.

### *Datum 20*

Based on the sentence above, Joe Biden who defeated Donald trump in his victory at the United States presidential election expressed gratitude to his supporters for the trust he had placed in him. Whereas, for those who did not support him in the elections, he wanted to point out that during his presidency he would

advance America, and stabilize of the state and, this sentence is used happiness of emotion. It is because Joe Biden had pleasure in carrying out his assignment as President of United stated. That allowed him to take America in a better direction than ever before, especially in unity and tolerated to another in the esteem of a decision without having to riot in it.

### **C. Conclusion**

Based on the formulation of the problem of this study, the purpose of this study was to describe the types of metaphors and discover what are the characteristics of emotion used in Joe Biden's speeches. The result of this study can be summarized as follow:

1. In analyzing the data above, concrete metaphor is the most frequently used type of metaphor. Meanwhile, the infrequently used data found are animistic metaphor and humanistic metaphor, which is only one data found based on each type of

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metaphors. because in Joe Biden's speech he tends to use moving sentences from concrete to abstract or the other way.

2. Moreover, the frequently number of characteristic of emotion in metaphor found is pride emotion. Because, Joe Biden tends to refer to words that proud or appreciate an action of the American people.

For future researcher who share have the similar interests in this field of study, here are several suggestions:

1. There is a wide range of data that can be as the object of data such as advertisement, movie, novel, song, etc.
2. The future researcher may analyzed may have analyzed the metaphor not only in term of verbal form but also in visual that contained in the other data.
3. The next researcher would be more interesting to use another theory or implement updated theory, for the example in semantics handbook of

Metaphor and Thought theory by Raymon W.Gibbs, Jr (2012) in which there is an explanation of the structure and function of metaphor in language and structure.

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