

# Stylistics Features in Personal Essay of English Department's Student

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## Abstract

This research focus on how students apply pragmatylistics in personal essay whereas their background are organization activist who also have good academic achievement. This research apply some theories in analyzing data, namely: stylistics, personal essay and communication. This research used descriptive qualitative method. Beside that this research use two data collection techniques: observation and interview. So that this research describe phenomenon which relate to research problem. Based on the findings, students apply some of stylistics expression which categorize into two: (1) lexical features: pararelism, and rhetorical question, and comparison and (2) figurative language: accumulation, ehipora, hyphopora, personification, accumulation, simile, symbol, metaphor, and antithesis.

**Key words:** *Stylistics Features, Personal Essay.*

## Abstrak

Penelitian ini fokus pada bagaimana mahasiswa mengaplikasikan fitur stilistika dalam personal essay, yang mana latar belakang mereka sebagai aktifis organisasi yang prestasi akademiknya bagus. penelitian ini menerapkan beberapa teori dalam menganalisa, yaitu stilistika, personal essay dan komunikasi. Penelitian ini menggunakan metode deskriptif kualitatif, disamping itu penelitian ini menggunakan dua teknik pengumpulan data yakni observasi dan wawancara. Sehingga penelitian ini menggambarkan fenomena yang berkaitan dengan rumusan masalah. Berdasarkan temuan dalam penelitian ini, mahasiswa menerapkan beberapa ekspresi stilistika yang dikategoriakan menjadi dua: (1) lexical features: pararelism, rhetorical question, dan comparison, dan (2) figurative language: accumulation, ehipora, hyphopora, personification, simile, symbol, metaphor, , dan antithesis.

**Kata Kunci:** *Fitur Stilistika, Personal Essay.*

## 1. INTRODUCTION

Personal essay is constructed by writers, then the writers constructed by environment, background of knowledge and many things. English Department students's personal essay therefore also constructed by students's background of knowledge also. In this research, researchers want to investigate kind of stylistics features used by English department students of STKIP PGRI Jombang in their personal essay. Basically this research focus on how students apply stylistics features in personal essay whereas their background is organization activist who also have good academic achievement.

## 2. THEORIES

### a) Stylistics

Stylistics is a word derived from style; it is a discipline which studies different styles. It can refer to the study of proper use of words or language in proper places. Widdowson (1991: 3) defines stylistics as the study of literary discourse from a linguistic orientation. He goes further by saying that what distinguishes stylistics from literary criticism on the one hand, and linguistics on the other, is that it is essentially a means of linking the two and has (as yet at least) no autonomous domain of its own. He also added that stylistics, however involves both literary criticism and linguistics, as its morphological make-up suggest. Style has grown to mean so many things to so many people today. Carter (1989: 14) is of the view that it is generally recognized that the style of a work can depend on linguistic levels-often simultaneously and that one fairly crucial factor is our expectation concerning the literary form or genre employed.

Barry (1995: 201) stated that stylistics is critical approach which uses the methods and findings of the science of linguistics in the analysis of literary text." Thus, a stylistics critic also becomes a linguist as stylistics aims to achieve fuller understanding and appreciation of literature by showing how technical linguistic features are used in a literary work to emphasize its meaning. There are various technical linguistics feature including diction, syntax, imagery, rhythm, figures of speech, morphology, lexicology, semantics, and many more. Each of these technical linguistic features is used sensitively by some people, and it is stylistics' goal to analyze them in order to have deeper understanding of literary works and other kinds of discourse (Barry, 1995: 213-214).

### **b) Stylistic Features**

The levels of stylistic analysis are identified as the stylistic features in this research; five of them shall be explained. But in conducting this research, the analysis of speech concerning stylistics features particularly to *phonological pattern and syntactic choice or figurative language* used by speaker of speech is used to convey and persuade the listener within the language style.

- a) Lexico - syntactic patterns occurs along the syntagmatic (chain, horizontal) axis. Lexico-Syntactic patterns may be obtained through various means which include unusual or inverted repetition, parallelism and rhetorical question.
- b) Lexico-syntactic choices - which can be obtained through devices such as piling of usual and unusual collocates, lexical items metaphor compounding some particular part of speech or figurative language.

In this case figurative language is apart of rhetoric since it refers to logic or thought domain work in the human brain. Therefore, the writer considers that it may be inserted into the elements of rhetoric or stylistic devices

### **3. METHOD**

This study employs descriptive qualitative research. The data of this study is Personal Essay which consist of stylistics expressions (lexical fetures and figurative language). The data is obtained through observation and interview. The Subjects of this research are English Department Students of STKIP PGRI Jombang who followed Organization (activist Students) and has been getting good academic achievements..

### **4. DISCUSSION**

#### **Discussion about Kind of Stylistics Features in Students 's Personal Essay**

##### **a) Lexical Features**

Regarding the stylistic expression, it is found that the writers use specific terms of lexical pattern in conveying their idea in delivering the motivation of their life through their personal essay. The selection of word are obviously an emphasis through the language style. In personal essay, writers apply some lexical features.

##### **1) Pararelism**

Parallelism is a device which expresses several ideas in a series of similar structures. This can serve to emphasize that the ideas are equal in importance and can add a sense of symmetry and rhythm, which make the writing more memorable (Jones & Peccei, 2004:51). One reason why the writers of the personal essay use parallel patterns of discourse in their writing is to draw attention to a particular part of their message and make it stand out from the rest of the personal essay. The reserachers found four pararelism used by English Department Students in their personal essays:

- a) *Einstein tried to offer two ways of this life that I think it's truly happen and can be accepted logically in real life. (ICE/P1/L3-4)*
- b) *What people and I need is only think that everything in this is miracle...( ICE/P1/L5-7)*
- c) *That makes them buried in this world and difficult to rise again. (ICE/P2/L11-12)*
- d) *But the important thing is how we can keep continue our life with the solution and action that we have got. ( SOL/P5/L47-49)*

##### **2) Rhetorical Question**

A rhetorical question is a common rhetorical device where a question is asked by a writer, but no answer is expected from the audience. Rhetorical question is employed in personal essay for the purpose of imposing a sense of support and approval on the readers. Like other writing techniques, rhetorical questions can be used in a variety of ways, depending on the needs of the writer and the personal essay.

In the Student's personal essay, rhetorical questions were used to attract the readers' attention by emphasizing the necessary matter at the present time. It was asked with the expectation that it did not need an answer from the readers because it is used to persuade or inform a person of the writers's point of view, or enables the writers to answer a question. There are six questions delivered rhetorically as below.

- a) *And now what makes them feel so useless?* (ICE/P2/L14-15)
- b) *Can we imagine what happen then?* ( ICE/P2/L16-17)
- c) *...who are you?...*( FTR/P1/L5)
- d) *How can?...*( FTR/P2/L18)
- e) *what are they exactly needed?* (SOL/P1/L1)
- f) *The question is how we can know that the problem we meet has the low risk or the big risk?* (SOL/P2/L14)

### 3) Comparison

Comparison is a feature in the [morphology](#) of some [languages](#), whereby [adjectives](#) and [adverbs](#) are [inflected](#) or modified to produce forms that indicate the relative degree of the designated properties:

- a) *...they will be get the finish faster and easily than them who never know a failure before...*( FIAF/P1/L16-17)
- b) *Revising is better than crying...*( FIAF/P1/L23)
- c) *face is lesser than the first problem they met.* (SOL/P2/L14)

### b) Figurative Language

In this part, the researcher concerns to reveal and explore the lexico- syntactical choice defined as figurative language. The writers applied in their personal essays some figurative language that determined as a language that cannot/ should not be taken literally; it is used as a way of saying something other than the ordinary way (Perrine, 1988: 565). The figures of speech used are mostly anaphora, personification, accumulation, simile, symbol, metaphor, hypophora, antithesis and comparison.

#### 1) Accumulation

Accumulation is a *figure of speech* in which the arguments previously stated are presented again in a forceful manner. The word accumulation comes from Latin and it means *mass, pile or heap*. The writers in their personal essays used most of accumulation. The researcher found thirty two of accumulation used:

- a) *We are what we thinking of. If we always think that everything is as negative, our life will always be useless. If we think that everything is as positive, so then you will be strong enough to sand on this world.* (ICE/P2/L12-14)
- b) *There is only how people think of it. The God will not change his people unless they change it by their selves.* (ICE/P3/L18-19)
- c) *Face everything with smile. Starts from smile and ends with our best smile too. So, our life will be full happiness and we can enjoy the entire life. Just believe in yourself, think that everything surround you as a miracle, and plan an optimistic way of your life will bring you to the happiness of our life. Everything begins from zero then ends with a big success. Believe it.* (ICE/P4/L32-35)

#### 2) Ehipora

Ehipora is a rhetorical device that consists of repeating a sequence of words at the end of neighboring clauses to give them emphasis. This stylistic device is contrasted with [anaphora](#) which consists of repeating words at the beginning of clauses.

- a) *...one is as thought nothing is *miracle* and the second is as thought *everything* is a *miracle*....in this is *miracle*...*( ICE/P1/L1-2)

#### 3) Hyphopora

Hypophora is a figure of speech in which the speaker raises a question and then answers it. Hypophora is different from rhetorical questions. In a rhetorical question the answer is not provided by the writer. In hypophora, however, the writer poses the question and answers it immediately after. Hypophora is also called anthyphopora or antipophora.

- a) *Where is the effort!? Said poor. You don't understand the rich condition, I answered. Indeed, being poor is uneasy. So started from now, be a grateful in your life! Don't more comment.* (FTR/P1/L12-14)
- b) *Can you imagine those,,,,,?. Perhaps one imagines if its twinning in mother. May be two thinks them duplicated. Hemm, may be true, may be more than words. Well, here expectation and educational value are FUTURE.* (FTR/P2/L15-18)
- c) *...what thing that they must keep? The only thing we have to consider is life is about facing problem. If someone does not want to get or face any problems, we can conclude they do not want to have the life.* ( SOL/P1/L2-4)

- d) ...“Why he/she did it?” and after we got the question, some expectations will come to answer it. Expectation here has the same function as hypothesis. People will have their own hypothesis why he/she did it. And every hypothesis will make different action.  
(SOL/P3/L22-25)

#### 4) Personification

Personification is a figure of speech in which human characteristics are attributed to an abstract quality, animal, or inanimate object:

- a) And *the world will say* “if you think that you are useless, go away from here.”  
(ICE/P2/L8-9)

#### 5) Simile

A simile is a figure of speech comparing two unlike things, often introduced with the word "like" or "as". It takes the form of:

- a) ...*think that everything surround you as a miracle*,... (ICE/P4/L33-34)  
b) *They just walk like a blind one*,... (FIAF/P1/L10)

#### 6) Symbol

A symbol signifies or stands for something else. Usually that something is concrete. It is not common for a thought or feeling to develop into a symbol as symbols are universal and represent cultures, traditions and religions of family of origin.

- a) F.U..T...U....R.....E..... (FTR/T)  
b) *F.* (FTR/P3/L25)  
c) *U..* (FTR/P3/L34)  
d) *T...* (FTR/P3/L40)  
e) *U....* (FTR/P3/L48)  
f) *R.....* (FTR/P3/L54)  
g) *E.....* (FTR/P3/L61)

#### 7) Metaphor

Metaphor was one of the most potent means of creating images in language motivation and it was preferred by the writers due to its special effects on the readers such as emphasizing, appealing to our imagination and creating a vivid picture in the readers' mind. Metaphors occupy a central place in the rhetoric of personal essays' writers. The trope generates imagery which invokes targeted associations, and channels our way of thinking. Here are several instances of metaphors used:

- a) *Based on the light whispering above*,... (FTR/P1/L5)  
b) ... *because successful is only a final thropy*,... (FIAF/P1/L5)  
c) ...*failure is a map*,... (FIAF/P1/L5)  
d) *because people like these have a miracle glasses*,... (FIAF/P1/L17)

#### 8) Antithesis

In terms of language in motivation of life, antithesis is also used as an tool to beautify the language in a unique way to give extra effect and force to their message in order convince reader in order to get more attention. Antithesis is also used to establish contrast between ideas, phrases or words. The writers used antithesis to persuade the readers to accept the ideas how to face story of our life through language motivation.

- a) ...“*my life is nothing*” in the world where they stand on. (ICE/P2/L8)  
b) ...*positive and negative thinking* (TPOPT/P2/L5)  
c) *low risk and big risk*,... (SOL/P2/L10)

## 5. CONCLUSION

### Kind of Stylistics Expression in Students 's Personal Essay

#### a) Lexical Features

In personal essay, writers apply some lexical features. This research find out three lexical features namely parallelism, rhetorical question, and comparison.

#### b) Figurative Language

While writers also apply some figurative languages in their personal essay. They are: accumulation, epiphora, hyphopora, personification, simile, symbol, metaphor, and antithesis.

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