

CHAPTER I INTRODUCTION

A. Background of the Research

In daily life, people share their thought, ideas, and expression through direct communication or, nowadays, through plenty social media. They may share their thought and express their emotion with language in their communication. Without language, people might have difficulties to deliver their message to others. Each person has their own style to use language.

Style refers to the selection of linguistic forms to convey social artistic effects. Etymologically, style comes from the word *stilus* (Latin) which means a sharp pointed device to write. Keraf (1984: 112) defines language style as a particular way to express an idea or concept through language use. A style is choices made by a particular author in a particular text to bring out a particular genre inside the text (Leech & Short, 2007: 31).

One type of text which becomes people's favour because it is interesting and entertaining is novel. Novel is a medium that distributes a long printed story, which mostly tells about imaginary characters and events. Novel is one of important parts of human life. Novel, also, becomes one of sources of entertainment, education, and knowledge. How the writers put their language style inside their novel will help the readers to dissolve in a world of imagination.

Author has two ways to please his/her readers through their novel. The first is through the plot. How the author creates a greater tension of the story is

one reason for readers to keep reading page by page of a single novel. Plot can be looked up from literature point of view. In linguistics, the words chosen by a particular author hold a significant role. This could be the author's style in writing his/her novel to give stronger feeling or more vivid imagery in each plot.

The style of a novel can be analyzed from linguistic point of view through stylistics. The analysis is under four general headings: lexical categories, grammatical categories, figures of speech, and cohesion and context (Leech and Short, 2007: 61). They consider figures of speech as one of the categories because exploitation of regularities of formal patterning or language deviation shows the aesthetic values in a novel. Thus, figures of speech become an important element in a novel.

There are three types of figures of speech: comparison, association, and contrast. Comparison is assessed by comparing features of a certain thing with another thing's features. Association is understood from how two matters have a relation. Contrast used to compare how some things may differ between them.

An interesting language style with figures of speech is presented in *Coraline* by British author Neil Gaiman, published in 2002. It is a children's novel with gothic genre. It has been compared to Lewis Carroll's *Alice's Adventures in Wonderland* and was adapted into a 2009 stop-motion film. Gaiman himself stated in "Why I Wrote Caroline" section in *Coraline* that he wanted this novel to have a girl as a heroine, and he wanted it to be refreshingly creepy.

This short novel tells about the amazing and creepy tale of what happens when a girl named Coraline and her parents move into an apartment on the second

floor of a very old house. Two elderly retired actresses live on the ground floor. Then an old and quite strange man, who says he is training a mouse circus, lives in the flat above Coraline's family.

In this novel, the researcher is interested in finding the figures of speech by comparison which creates a sublime effect while she was reading it. The comparison also provides detail information so the readers might have a vivid imagery on how certain things happened in the story.

Here is an example of figures of speech by Comparison from Emily Dickinson's poem entitled "There is no Frigate like a Book".

"There is no Frigate like a Book
To take us Lands away"

- Emily Dickinson

That is one of a metaphor example in a poem *There is no Frigate like a Book* by Emily Dickinson. That line compares a frigate to a book. It brings additional imagery that reading a book has the same function like the readers cruise on a frigate, that readers might travel anywhere they want to go with it.

Concerning on the research, the researcher wants to know more about the use of figures of speech by comparison and their functions using stylistic approach in the novel *Coraline*. What makes it interesting to be analyzed is how Gaiman presented the story of gothic genre with his style. He narrated the story through the arrangement of the chosen words to create a gloomy nuance. It could be said that the literariness of this novel is the language style that Gaiman applied to. The language style makes the story more thrilling to be read.

B. The Research Focus

There are some problems that can be identified as the problem of stylistic study; they are lexical categories, grammatical categories, figures of speech, and cohesion and context (Leech and Short, 2007: 61).

The first category is lexical category. It deals with how the vocabulary in a prose delivered: simple or complex, formal or informal, descriptive or evaluative, general or specific (Leech and Short, 2007: 61). Those can be seen through the noun, verb, adjective, and adverb used by a particular writer in their prose.

The second category is grammatical categories. A prose may use any grammatical construction as a special effect in it (Leech and Short, 2007: 62-63). Sentence type counted as one point to analyze grammatical categories in a prose. Clause type and clause structure are favoured in clause criteria. Noun phrase, verb phrase, and word classes are also considered as in grammatical matter.

The third category is figures of speech. Leech and Short consider figures of speech as useful category in conducting analysis on literary works (2007: 64). There are some classifications of figures of speech. Those are comparison, association, and contrast.

Then, the fourth category is context and cohesion. How one part of a text is linked to another are considered under cohesion. Context deals with external relations of a part or whole text which is shared by the characters or readers (Leech and Short, 2007: 64).

This research is concerned with the analysis of the use of figures of speech in *Coraline*, especially figures of speech by comparison. The researcher found out that the readers might have problems with extent figures of speech by comparison used by the writer. The readers cannot determine to what type of figures of speech by comparison written in the novel. The function and meaning of using figures of speech by comparison aroused curiosity. Whereas a writer must be have certain meaning and function of using their style in their work. Therefore, the researcher found it necessary to find the answer of what kind of style used by Gaiman to captivate his readers' attention.

Many classifications can be analyzed under this category; thus, the researcher decides to make some limitations of boundaries to make it easier for her to collect data and analyze the data findings. The focus of this research is the use of comparison in *Coraline* by Neil Gaiman. The meaning of using comparison and the function of using it are also taken as research focus.

This research upon a novel with gothic genre is an interesting topic because there are not many researchers conducting a study on the novel *Coraline*. This novel is best chosen to be the object of the research because it is a novel about mystery and adventure, and the researcher also finds it perfect to be analyzed by using stylistic approach.

C. The Formulation of the Problems

Based on the background of the study, the focuses of this research are formulated as follows.

1. What types of figures of speech by comparison are used in *Coraline* novel by Neil Gaiman?
2. What is the function of using figures of speech by comparison in *Coraline* novel by Neil Gaiman?

D. Objectives of the Research

According to research focus, this research has two objectives, and they are:

1. to find out type of figures of speech by comparison are used in *Coraline* novel by Neil Gaiman, and
2. to describe the function of using figures of speech by comparison in *Coraline* novel by Neil Gaiman.

E. Significance of the Research

By conducting this research, the researcher expects that the results of this study can be beneficial in the following ways.

1. Theoretically, the research finding will enrich the research in linguistic field, especially in stylistics. It is expected that this research may give additional information to linguistics researchers dealing with the study of figures of speech and stylistics.
2. Practically, the findings will be useful for:
 - a. Students of English Language and Literature study program

Students have an example of stylistic analysis of the use of comparison because they have limited explanation in their study program and can be their source in conducting similar research.

b. Lecturers of English Language and Literature study program

The research findings can be used as the example of analysis of comparison in figures of speech using stylistic approach. It will help lecturers as an information input in teaching stylistics.