

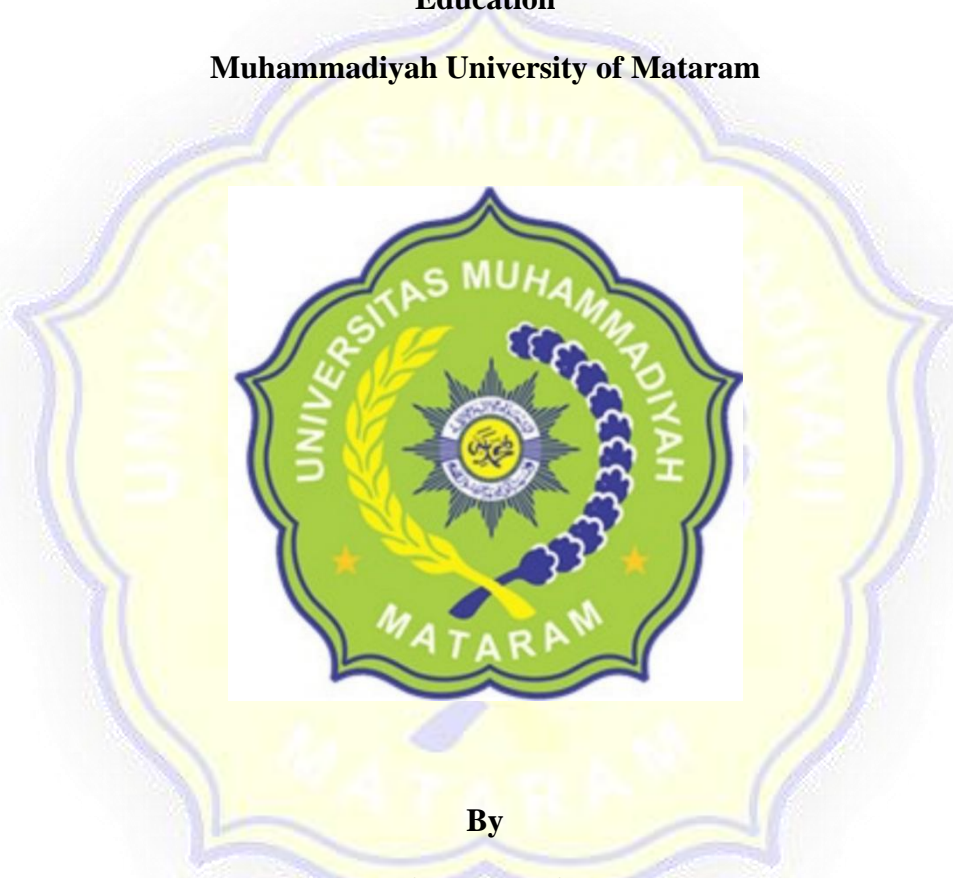
A THESIS

**SEMANTIC ANALYSIS OF FIGURATIVE LANGUAGE IN POEMS OF
'ROBERT FROST' ENTITLED "NOTHING GOLD CAN STAY, THE
ROAD NOT TAKEN, AND ACQUAINTED WITH THE NIGHT"**

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Jihan Nurbaini. 2024. **Analisis Semantik Bahasa Kiasan Pada Puisi-Puisi Karya Robert Frost Berjudul Nothing Gold Can Stay, The Road Not Taken, Dan Acquainted With The Night.** Skripsi. Mataram. Universitas Muhammadiyah Mataram

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ABSTRAK

Bahasa berfungsi sebagai media bagi individu untuk berkomunikasi dan menyampaikan emosinya dalam situasi sehari-hari. Bahasa memiliki arti penting sebagai instrumen yang vital, seperti yang dibuktikan dengan eksplorasi dalam penelitian ini mengenai pentingnya bahasa kiasan. Memahami bahasa kiasan sangat penting bagi para penggemar sastra, yang memungkinkan mereka untuk mendapatkan wawasan baru dari puisi. Pada intinya, bahasa kiasan memungkinkan penyair untuk menyampaikan ide dan emosi mereka secara efektif, memastikan bahwa pesan mereka beresonansi dengan pembaca. Dalam penelitian ini, peneliti meneliti jenis bahasa kiasan yang didukung oleh teori M.H Abrams dan Leech dan berdasarkan teori Charles Dillon Perrine. Pemacu dari penelitian ini adalah untuk mengeksplorasi berbagai jenis bahasa kiasan yang digunakan dalam puisi-puisi Robert Frost dan maknanya. Penelitian ini menggunakan pendekatan penelitian kualitatif, dengan menganalisis beberapa puisi terpilih karya Frost. Peneliti menggunakan teknik pencatatan selama pengumpulan data, yang melibatkan membaca, menulis, dan mencari puisi-puisi Frost yang berkaitan dengan pertanyaan penelitian. Analisis data melibatkan pembacaan, identifikasi, pemahaman, dan penarikan kesimpulan dari setiap puisi yang dianalisis. Temuan-temuan tersebut mengungkapkan bahwa perincian bahasa kiasan di seluruh puisi yang dipilih adalah sebagai berikut: ada sebelas contoh metafora, delapan contoh personifikasi, enam contoh simbol, dua contoh hiperbola, dua contoh citraan, dua contoh paradoks, dan satu contoh ironi. Oleh karena itu, terbukti bahwa "metafora" mendominasi puisi-puisi yang dipilih.

Kata kunci: bahasa; bahasa kiasan; puisi; Robert Frost

Jihan Nurbaini. 2024. **Semantic Analysis Of Figurative Language In Poems Of ‘Robert Frost’ Entitle ”Nothing Gold Can Stay, The Road Not Taken, And Acquainted With The Night.** Thesis. Mataram. Muhammadiyah University of Mataram

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ABSTRACT

Language serves as a medium for individuals to communicate and convey their emotions in everyday situations. It holds significance as a vital instrument, as evidenced by its exploration in this study concerning the importance of figurative language. Understanding figurative language is crucial for literature enthusiasts, enabling them to glean new insights from poems. In essence, figurative language enables poets to convey their ideas and emotions effectively, ensuring that their message resonates with readers. In this study, the researcher examined the kind of figurative language supported by the theories of M.H Abrams and Leech and based on Charles Dillon Perrine's theory. The trigger of this research is to explore the various types of figurative language employed in the poems of Robert Frost and their respective meaning. It adopts a qualitative research approach, analyzing selected poems by Frost. The researcher utilizes note-taking techniques during data collection, involving reading, writing, and searching for Frost's poems pertinent to the research questions. Data analysis involved reading, identifying, understanding, and drawing conclusions from each poem analyzed about the objectives. The findings reveal that the figurative language breakdown across the selected poems is as follows: there are eleven instances of metaphor, eight instances of personification, six instances of symbol, two instances of hyperbole, two instances of imagery, two instances of paradox, and one instance of irony. Therefore, it is evident that "metaphor" predominates in these selected poems.

Keywords: *language; figurative language; poems; Robert frost*

CHAPTER 1

INTRODUCTION

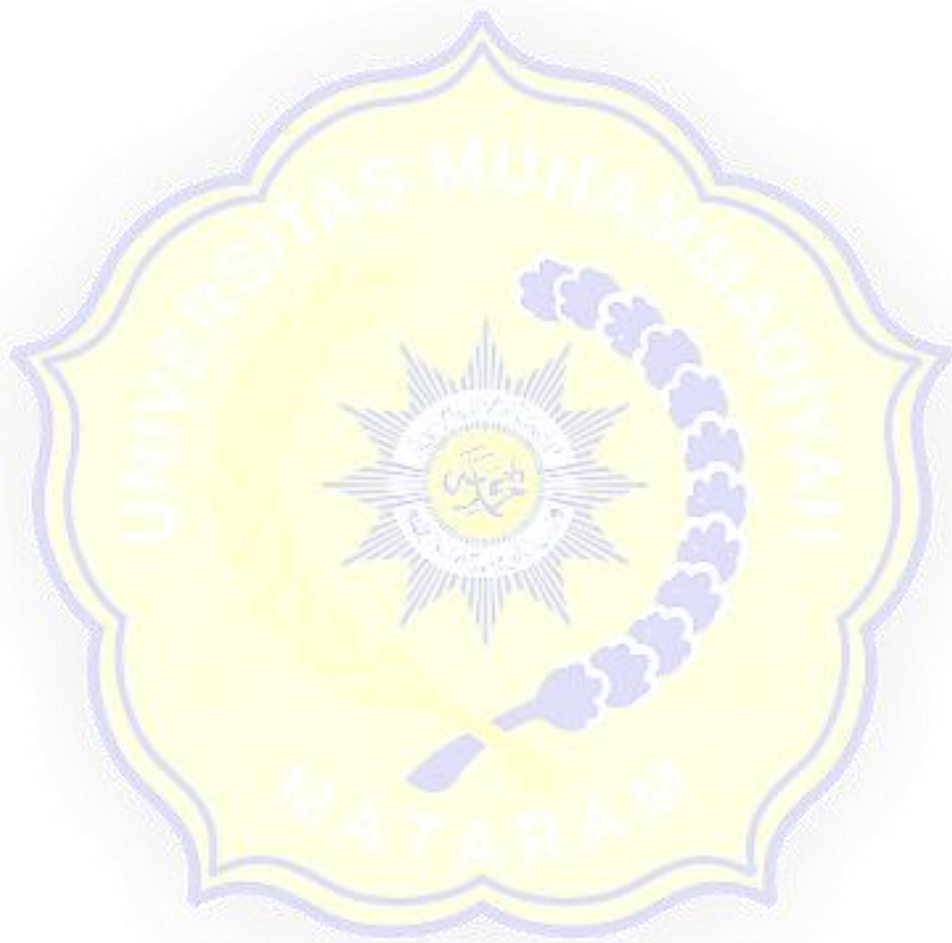
This chapter presents the background of the study, the statement of the problem, the objective of the study, the significance of the study, the scope of the study, and the definition of key terms.

1.1 Background of the study

Linguistics is the study of language, and how it consists of written or spoken parts like sounds, words, and sentences. Linguistic science has five branches: phonology, morphology, syntax, semantics, and pragmatics. One has to know the theory of language to learn it. Brinton (Utami, 2023) says that linguistics is the science of how languages work. Languages have four elements: sentences, forms of words, sounds, and significance. Each element (sounds, word forms, sentence structures, meanings, and uses) has a separate system of rules. The system acquires knowledge from each element. Linguistics provides insight into how language functions, and how it is used, evolved, and maintained over time. In simpler terms, linguistics is the basic part that deals with learning language structure. According to Jonh Lyonh (Azhar, 2022), linguistics is the science of language. He also says that studying language scientifically means examining it with systematic and verifiable methods to test its facts and theories.

Language serves as a medium for conveying our emotions and ideas. It's a vital tool for everyone's survival and progress. Some individuals primarily communicate in their mother tongue and have limited interaction with others.

However, many strive to learn or master various languages to enhance their life prospects. English



has been chosen as one of these languages due to its significant global influence. Language is a powerful instrument for communication, enabling individuals to express their thoughts, emotions, ideas, and experiences. It plays a crucial role in cultural transmission, social interaction, the establishment of status and power relations, political discourse, and the dissemination of knowledge (Sofyan, 2021). Through language, individuals can articulate their emotions and ideas. Each language has its own set of grammatical rules that guide speakers in conveying messages clearly to their intended audience. These rules encompass phonology, morphology, syntax, and semantics. In linguistics, semantics specifically focuses on how meaning is constructed within words or sentences (Nisa, 2020).

Semantics has a subfield for language which examines the significance enclosed in speech, codes, or different forms of expressive. Essentially, the semantics is exploration for significance. It is often linked in several additional elements: syntax, which is the creation of complicated signs through basic ones, and pragmatics, which is the use of signs of individuals in specific settings. As stated by (Kasanah, 2023) semantics is a language studies or linguistic study that studies meaning or meaning in language. Therefore, through the study of language with semantics, the meaning contained in a language can be carefully peeled or analyzed. Abdul Chaer states the term semantics is recognized as the branch of language that examines the connection among language cues or concepts they represent. Essentially, it is the field for languages that focuses on investigation about sense (Kase, 2019).

One of the fields of semantics analysis is figurative language. (Eka Agustina & Mustikawati, 2023)) explains that the use of figures refers to a style of communication that relies on non-literal meaning. It often uses comparisons and exaggerations to add creative flair to writing or speech and to explain complex ideas. According to Colton (Monny, 2023), figurative language conveys meanings that go beyond their literal interpretations. For example, understanding "I couldn't be better" as negative when said by someone miserable. This additional meaning encompasses various elements such as the speaker's attitudes and emotions, contextual nuances, social insights, and new meanings that emerge from these interactions. Figurative language involves using expressions or words that don't match their direct meaning. Often, this can make it challenging to understand the usual meaning, and readers must use their creativity to interpret the author's intended message in their writing and one of them is present a verse.

A poem is a specific kind of literary work characterized by rhythm and rhyme, composed of stanzas and lines, with language that is both beautiful and meaningful. Riffaterre argues that poetry does not say things directly, but uses words that have other meanings. Watts-Dunton defines poetry as the art of expressing something concretely, while Lascelles Abercrombie claims that poetry is the way of sharing an experience that comes from imagination, which can also be done in a speech or a statement that uses the language of a group of people, who know how to use every aspect of language effectively and skilfully (Lestari et al., 2023). So, every poem is a creative way of showing social interaction, and the start thing then we experience, during a poem is read by itself. William

Wordsworth described poetry as the natural outpouring of intense emotions. Emily Dickinson believed that if a book made her feel so cold that no fire could warm her, it was poetry. Dylan Thomas saw poetry as something that could make him laugh, cry, yawn, or feel a range of emotions, even making his toenail twinkle his actions or actions (Flanagan, 2019).

One of the most famous poets is Robert Frost. He is a writer that is famous for all his works such as poetry that contains very beautiful words and uses his emotional feelings to express his feelings of imagination. The researcher is interested in analyzing his poems because they convey his private existence and are analyzed. On conversely, his poems also describe life and society. And also the themes raised in his poems are very universal and easily applied in everyday life. This makes Frost's works remain relevant from time to time and can be applied by various generations. In addition, Robert Frost is considered over the greatest significant poets in American literature. Some of his poems that have influenced later generations the verses are entitled "The Road Not Taken" and "Mending Wall". These poems influenced later generations because they provided a deeper understanding of his writing style, his language style, the themes he explored, and his influence on literature.

This study analyzed figurative language in three poems by Robert Frost: "Nothing Gold Can Stay, The Road Not Taken, and Acquainted With The Night". It was inspired by the intricate nature of figurative language, stressing the importance of using both literal and figurative language for effective communication. Additionally, understanding figurative language aids in easier

comprehension and creation of written works. The choice of these poems for analysis stemmed from the researchers' curiosity to delve into the deeper meanings conveyed in each stanza and to recognize the different types of metaphorical wording used.

In the study, the searcher focused on analyzing the type of poetic wording inspired by Perrine's theory and supported by the theories of M.H. Abrams and Leech. Types of poetic wording based on Perrine are imagery, simile, metaphor, metonymy, hyperbole, symbol, allegory, irony, paradox, and personification that these poetry would use to convey it. The Robert Frost poems that should be used in this study include "*Nothing Gold Can Stay, The Road Not Taken, and Acquainted with The Night*". Then this research analyzed the sense about poems based on the type of poetic wording.

1.2 The Statement of Problem

The statement of the problem in this study is formulated as follows:

1. What is the type of figurative language in Robert Frost's poems?
2. What is the meaning based on figurative language in the poems of Robert Frost?

1.3 Objectives of the Study

Based on the statement of the problem above, the objectives of the study are as follows:

1. To identify the type of figurative language found in the poem of Robert Frost
2. To analyze the meaning found in the poem of Robert Frost

1.4 Significance of the Study

The writer hopes that the study would have both theoretical and practical values:

1.4.1 Theoretically:

The results of this study are expected to give contribution to develop the study about analysis on linguistics study and also the result of this study can give more information about analysis on poems especially in poems of Robert Frost.

1.4.2 Practically:

a. For students

After reviewing this study, it is anticipated that students will develop a more profound understanding of literature, particularly regarding the usage of figurative language in poetry. This research serves as a tool to assist students in enhancing their comprehension of figurative language within poems, recognizing that many individuals read poetry without fully grasping the significance of each word.

b. For another researcher

The anticipated outcome of this study is to serve as a source of inspiration for other researchers interested in exploring figurative language. Additionally, this research aims to aid future researchers by offering a plethora of references on the subject of figurative language.

c. For the readers

The findings of this research are anticipated to provide readers with fresh insights and comprehension regarding figurative language. Given the diverse range of figurative language present in poetry, this exploration

promises to enhance interest and offer varied interpretations, empowering readers to effectively utilize language.

1.5 Scope of the Study

This research concentrated on the semantic exploration of figurative language in Robert Frost's poems, including "Nothing Gold Can Stay," "The Road Not Taken," and "Acquainted With The Night." The analysis was guided by Charles Dillon Perrine's theory, supplemented by the perspectives of M.H. Abrams and Leech, to examine the types and meanings of figurative expressions within these works.

1.6 Definition of Key Terms

To have some ideas and concepts to understand this study, the writer tries to clarify the terms used in this study.

a. Semantics

Semantic theory deals with the overall structure of meaning in natural languages, rather than focusing on the semantics of any specific language or group of languages. According to Katz (1972:11), semantics does not address the personal meanings individuals assign to their words, as these personal interpretations are not included in the general study of semantics.

b. Figurative language

Figurative language involves the poet's use of stylistic elements to convey, depict, and articulate emotions and ideas in their poetry. Understanding this language is essential for grasping the poem's deeper meaning (Alfiah and Santosa, 2009: 27)

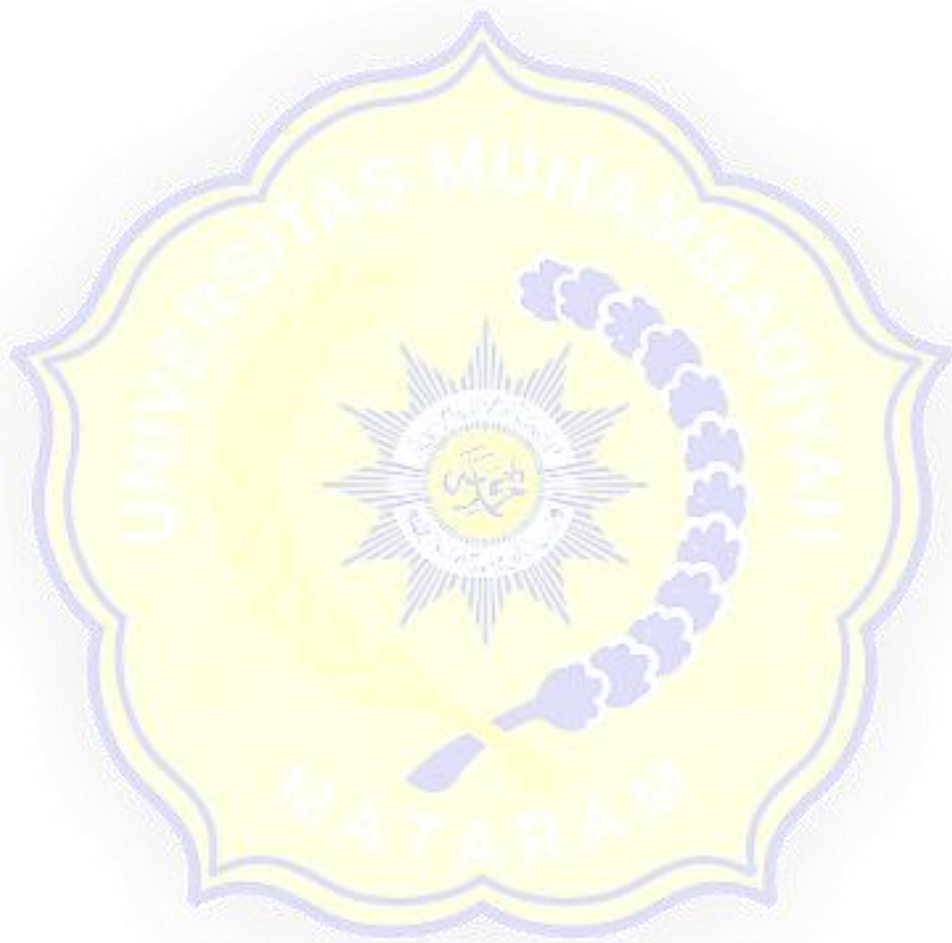
c. Poem

According to Aminuddin (2011:134), a poem is a form of literature that uses words to create illusions and imaginations, similar to how a painter uses lines and colors to convey their concept. Waluyo (1995:71) explains that a poem consists of two main elements: the physical structure and the inner structure. The physical structure includes diction, figurative language, verification, typography, and concrete words. The inner structure comprises the theme, tone, feeling, and message of the poem.

d. Robert Frost

Robert Frost, an esteemed American poet born in San Francisco, California on March 26, 1874, and passed away on January 29, 1963, is celebrated for his profound and widely quoted poetry. His work, characterized by deep meanings and figurative language, resonates on both personal and universal levels. Frost often drew inspiration from rural New England, capturing its essence through the use of regional language, idioms, intonations, and rhythms reflective of its speech patterns. Frost's literary journey began with the publication of his first two collections, "A Boy's Will" in 1913 and "North of Boston" in 1914, later reissued in New York the following year. In 1916, he released "Mountain Interval," followed by his Pulitzer Prize-winning collection "New Hampshire" in 1923, among several other accolades including honorary degrees. In their book "American Poetry and Prose," Forester and Falk (1962:905)

delineate twenty-five notable poems by Frost. These include “Nothing Gold Can Stay,” “The Road Not Taken,” etc.



CHAPTER V

CONCLUSION AND SUGGESTIONS

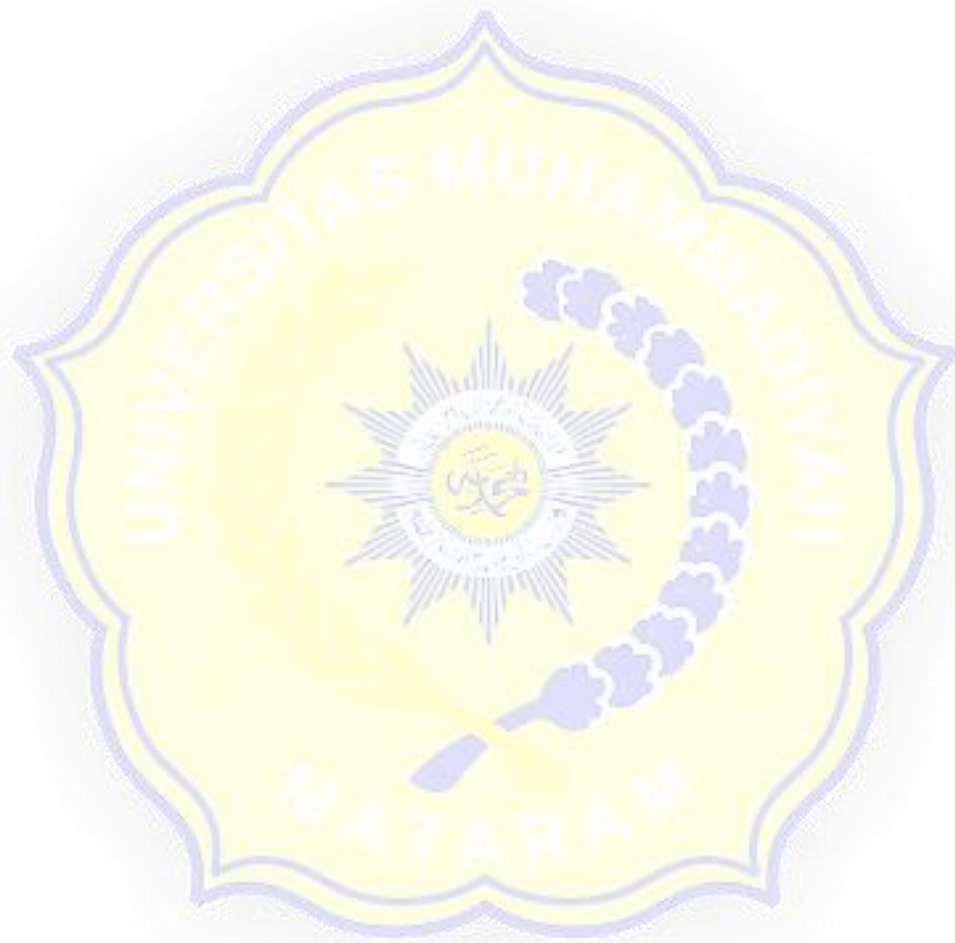
This part is the last chapter of this research. It contains the conclusion and suggestion based on the research finding in the previous chapter. The conclusion presents a summary of the answer to the two research problems formulated in this study.

1.1 Conclusion

Robert Frost is one of the most famous poets. He is a poet who is famous for all his works such as poetry that contains very beautiful words and uses his emotional feelings to express his feelings of imagination and attractive to read, such as “Nothing Gold Can Stay”, “The Road Not Taken”, and “Acquainted With The Night”.

In these three poems, the researcher found a lot of figurative language contained in the poem "Nothing Gold Can Stay" This poem begins by describing the first leaves of spring that are golden in color, but soon turn into ordinary green. Frost goes on to state that the blooming of flowers doesn't last, and "Eden" (heaven) can't last either. By using this metaphor, Frost implies that all that is precious and beautiful in life, be it youth, happiness, or precious moments, will not last and will inevitably change or disappear. The poem "The Road Not Taken" by Robert Frost tells the story of a hiker who is faced with two forked paths in the forest and must choose one. This choice

symbolizes a difficult and important life decision. Although he regrets that he cannot explore both paths, he chooses the one



that is "less traveled". The poem ends with a reflection that the choice has made a huge difference in his life. The main message of the poem is about the importance of the choices we make and the impact of those decisions on our lives. And finally, Robert Frost's "Acquainted with the Night" is a personal reflection on solitude and grief. In this poem, the poet describes himself walking alone at night, exploring a silent and dark city. He encounters elements of the city such as streetlights and rain, but still feels isolated. Despite hearing distant calls or cries, she does not feel connected to them. This poem highlights the themes of isolation and introspection, as well as the personal experience of dealing with darkness and loneliness.

Based on the findings, from ten types of figurative language, the writer only found seven types of figurative language in Robert Frost's poems, there are eleven instances of metaphor, eight instances of personification, six instances of symbol, two instances of hyperbole, two instances of imagery, two instances of paradox, and one instance of irony. So based on the result above, it is evident that "metaphor" predominates in these selected poems.

5.2 Suggestions

For students interested in exploring the development of the poem, it is recommended that they seek out additional resources on poetry theory, particularly those that address the various types of figurative language used in poetry. This will help them expand their knowledge and understanding of the poem. For other researchers, it is suggested that they delve deeper into the

semantic analysis of the poem, as poetry is a literary form rich in meaning and provides an intriguing subject for analysis.

