

**STUDENTS' ABILITY IN INTERPRETING METAPHOR  
(IN POEM 'AN OCEAN OF MEMORIES' BY KIMBERLY L. BRIONES IN SIXTH  
SEMESTER STUDENTS OF ENGLISH DEPARTMENT PEKALONGAN UNIVERSITY)**

**Fitria Dian Herawati, Susanto**

**English Language Education, Teachers Training and Education Faculty Pekalongan University**

**Dianfitria903@gmail.com**

**ABSTRACT**

This research aimed to know the students' ability and students was difficulties in interpreting metaphors in poem 'An ocean of memories' by Kimberly L. Briones. The approach of this research descriptive qualitative research. The researcher subject were students of sixth semester English department teachers training and education faculty Pekalongan University. The finding of this analysis were the average score of students ability in interpreting metaphor was 64 (C+) it means that students were good enough to identifying the metaphor expression, conceptual function and communicative function. The distribution of grades were as follows: 9% grade A, 9% grade B+, 25% grade B, 9% grade B-, 11% grade C+, 14% grade C, 3% grade C-, 17% grade D, 3% grade E. The students difficulty in interpreting metaphor were in conveying the meaning of the word metaphor because of limited vocabulary and determining metaphorical sentences contained in poem.

**Keyword:** interpreting, metaphor, poetry, student difficulties

**INTRODUCTION**

Language is an important aspect for human life since language is used to communicate with others. It means that language is an instrument or a medium of communication which plays a vital role in human communication. According to Keraf in Smarapradhipa (2005: 1) has two definitions of language. First, language as a means of communication between members of the community in the form of sound symbols produced by human speech tools. Second, Language is a communication system that uses arbitrary vocal symbols (speech sounds). Without language human civilization would have remained impossibility. Linguistic is the science of language and is divided into two major parts namely internal and external linguistics. In this literature subject the students are expected to understand, find out, apply and interpret the element of the beauty of language in a literary work. Therefore, researchers want to know the extent to what students can identify, analyze and interpretation in a literary work in the form of poem. In this research, researchers focus on students' interpretation, choose the poem by Kimberly L. Briones as a media to apply metaphor.

A metaphor is used by someone to express an intention or message to be conveyed to others, but the message cannot be understood directly. Metaphor is used by comparing what you want to express with other things that usually have similarities or similarities in physical form, nature or character, even based on someone's perception. Use metaphors become language choices in poetry, short stories, novels, various languages in advertising, sometimes even deep the discourse of print media is frequent use it. Poetry is a statement of imaginative feelings of poets that are still abstractly concreted, to concretize events that are already in the thoughts and feelings of poets, and poetry is the means (Hasanuddin, 2002: 5)

Poetry is one of the literary works that can be studied from various aspects. Poetry can be learned from its structure and elements, given that the poem is a structure that consists of various elements and means of allegory. Through out the era, poetry has always experienced changes and developments. This is because the essence as a work of art is always a tension between convention and innovation. Poetry

always changes according to the evolution of taste and the concept of aesthetic change, Pradopo (2000: 3).

Interpreting of poem is one of controversial issue caused by the existing conflict between forms content and also high figurative language of poem. Therefore all of interpreters must have creativity to interpret the content and the figurative language involved in poem. It is because poem expresses deep feeling of human beings. There are three main types of figurative language to be considered in poem. It includes metaphor, simile, and personification. The researcher emphasizes in interpreting metaphor of poem.

Ability in interpreting metaphor there are three indicators by Steen (1999) linguistic, conceptual, and communicative representations of metaphor as part of discourse Linguistic discourse function of metaphor is to express meanings, conceptual discourse function is to embody ideas, communicative discourse function of metaphor is to convey a message.

## RESEARCH METHOD

The design of this research is descriptive qualitative research. Descriptive is a type of qualitative research that involves making careful descriptions of educational phenomena (Gall, 2003: 290). The researcher conducted 34 students as a sample of research. In this study, the researcher uses test based on indicator from Steen (1999) and interview as the instruments. In this case, there are two kinds of evaluation tools that can be developed into research instruments, namely tests and non-tests (C. Narbuko & Achmadi, A.H, 2004) In this study, qualitative methods are applied. The researcher collects the data from students's test and interview. In this step the writer collects the data based on the activities of students during interpreting metaphor in poem in the translation class. In analyzing the data, the researcher used the theory from Miles and Huberman (1994). There are three steps in analyzing the data. They consist of data reduction, data display and conclusion.

## FINDING AND DISCUSSION

The result of the student ability in test could be seen on the chart above. Therefore, the researcher concluded that class of sixth semester get 9% grade A, 9% grade B+, 25% grade B, 9% grade B-, 11% grade C+, 14% grade C, 3% grade C-, 17% grade D, 3% grade E. The researcher analyzed that as many as 63% of students successfully passed the test. This conclusion is drawn because more than 50% of the students received grades that are considered passing grades (grades A, A- B+, B , B-, C+). According to the table indicators of interpreting metaphor by Steen (1999) there are three indicators. First identify the metaphor expression the researcher conclude the most of students can mention the metaphor that contained in the poem. Second, conceptual fiction the researcher conclude the students have difficulty to describe the meaning of metaphor and how these relate to the feeling of the poem. Vocabulary limitations is also one of the students' difficulties, vocabulary limitations affect students' ability to interpret and translate the metaphors they find. As a result is that they have difficulty to explain the meaning of the metaphors in detail. It relates with Lakoff and Jhonsnson (2003) theory metaphor is thing that has meaning and its main function to understand. Third, Communicative function the most of students can give their opinion about moral massage contained in poem because it depends on the views, feelings and understanding of each individual.

Students understand interpreting the message conveyed by the author and connect the meaning between verses of a poem to bring out the correct moral. When students can accurately interpret the content and context of a poem, they demonstrate their ability to delve deeper into the text and extract its intended meaning.

Student difficulties to understanding communicative function were students could not understand the message conveyed by the author and make connections between the verses of a poem to extract the correct moral values, it indicates their comprehension and analytical skills. Accurate interpretation of the content and context of a poem showcases their ability to delve deeper into the text and extract the intended meaning. Understanding a poem involves more than just recognizing individual words or phrases. It requires students to analyze the overall structure, tone, imagery, and figurative language used in the poem. They need to consider the historical and cultural context, and the themes or messages being conveyed.

## CONCLUSION

Based on analysis result students understood in identifying the metaphor expression, conceptual function and communicative function. Thus the researcher can conclude that the result of sixth semester students of English department Pekalongan university is successful in interpreting metaphor. The students difficulties in interpreting metaphor were students difficult in conveying the meaning of the word metaphor, it happened because of limited vocabulary and determining metaphorical sentences contained in poem.

## REFERENCES

- Gall, Meredith, Joyce F. Gall, Walter R. Borg. 2003. *Educational Research; An Introduction*. United State of America. Pearson Education Ltd.
- Hasanuddin, W. S. 2002. *Membaca dan Menilai Sajak (Pengantar Pengkajian dan Interpretasi)*. Bandung: Angkasa.
- Lakoff, G and Mark, J. 2003. *Metaphors we live by*. London: The University of Chicago Press.
- Miles, M.B, and Huberman. 1994. *Qualitative Data Analysis (Second Edition)*. Newbury Park: Calofornia. 10-12
- Narbuko, C., and Achmadi, A.H. 2004. *Metodologi Penelitian*. Jakarta: PT Bumi Aksara.
- Pradopo, Rachmat Djoko. 2000. *Pengkajian Puisi*. Yogyakarta: Gadjah Mada University Press.
- Smaradhipa, Galih. 2005. *Bertutur Dengan Tulisan*. Available at <http://www.Rayakultura.com>. Accessed on 26 February 2020 at 07.14 p.m
- Steen, Gerard. 1999. "Analyzing metaphor in literature: With examples from William Wordsworth's" *I wandered lonely as a cloud*". *Poetics Tosday* (1999): 499-522.