

**AN ANALYSIS OF FIGURATIVE LANGUAGE IN THE NOVEL  
*THE SECRET GARDEN* WRITTEN BY FRANCES HODGSON  
BURNETT**

**THESIS**

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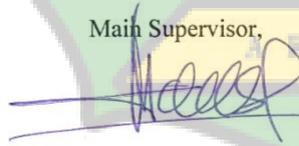
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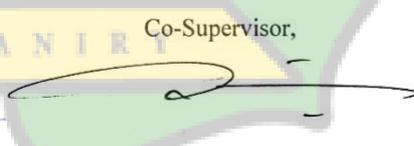
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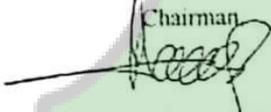
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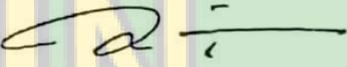
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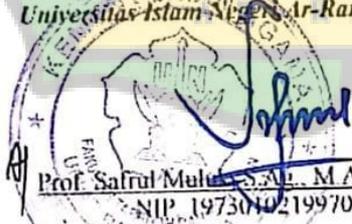
  
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**An Analysis of Figurative Language in the Novel *The Secret Garden* Written by  
Frances Hodgson Burnett**

adalah benar-benar karya saya, kecuali semua kutipan dan referensi yang disebutkan sumbernya. Apabila terdapat kesalahan dan kekeliruan didalamnya, maka akan sepenuhnya menjadi tanggung jawab saya. Demikianlah surat pernyataan ini saya buat dengan sesungguhnya

Banda Aceh, 10 April 2024



Syarifah Rauziatul Fajri

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First of all, I would like to express my sincere gratitude and appreciation to my main supervisor, Prof. Dr. Muhammad MA, M.Ed. for his assistance, guidance, and insightful expertise in finishing this thesis. My appreciation also goes to my co-supervisor, Rahmi Fhonna, MA who was a great help to me and assisted me on writing this thesis. In addition, I would want to express my gratitude to each and every lecturer in the UIN Ar-Raniry English Language Education Department who has helped me learn more since I initially enrolled in this department.

Secondly, I would like to dedicate my special thanks to my father, Said Mukhtar and my mother, Syarifah Huzanah who has always tried to give me the best of the best while raising me. They have done so many favors and sacrifices for me which I will never be able to repay. May Allah *subhanahuwa ta'ala* always blesses them and grant them Jannah. I would also like to express my appreciation to my three siblings for being a part of my life and making it more cheerful.

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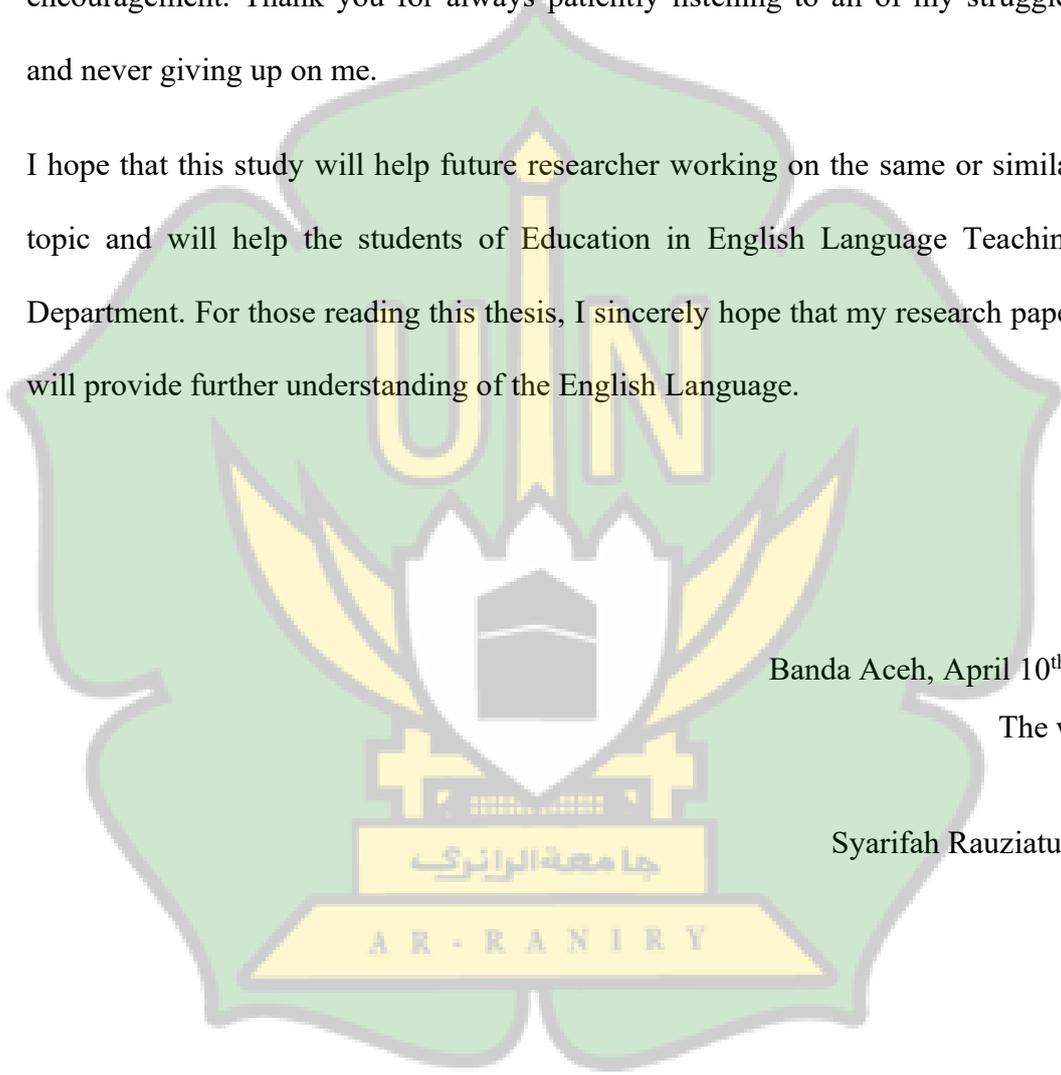
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I hope that this study will help future researcher working on the same or similar topic and will help the students of Education in English Language Teaching Department. For those reading this thesis, I sincerely hope that my research paper will provide further understanding of the English Language.

Banda Aceh, April 10<sup>th</sup> 2024

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## ABSTRACT

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Keyword : Correlative Figurative Language; Contextual Meaning; Expressions.

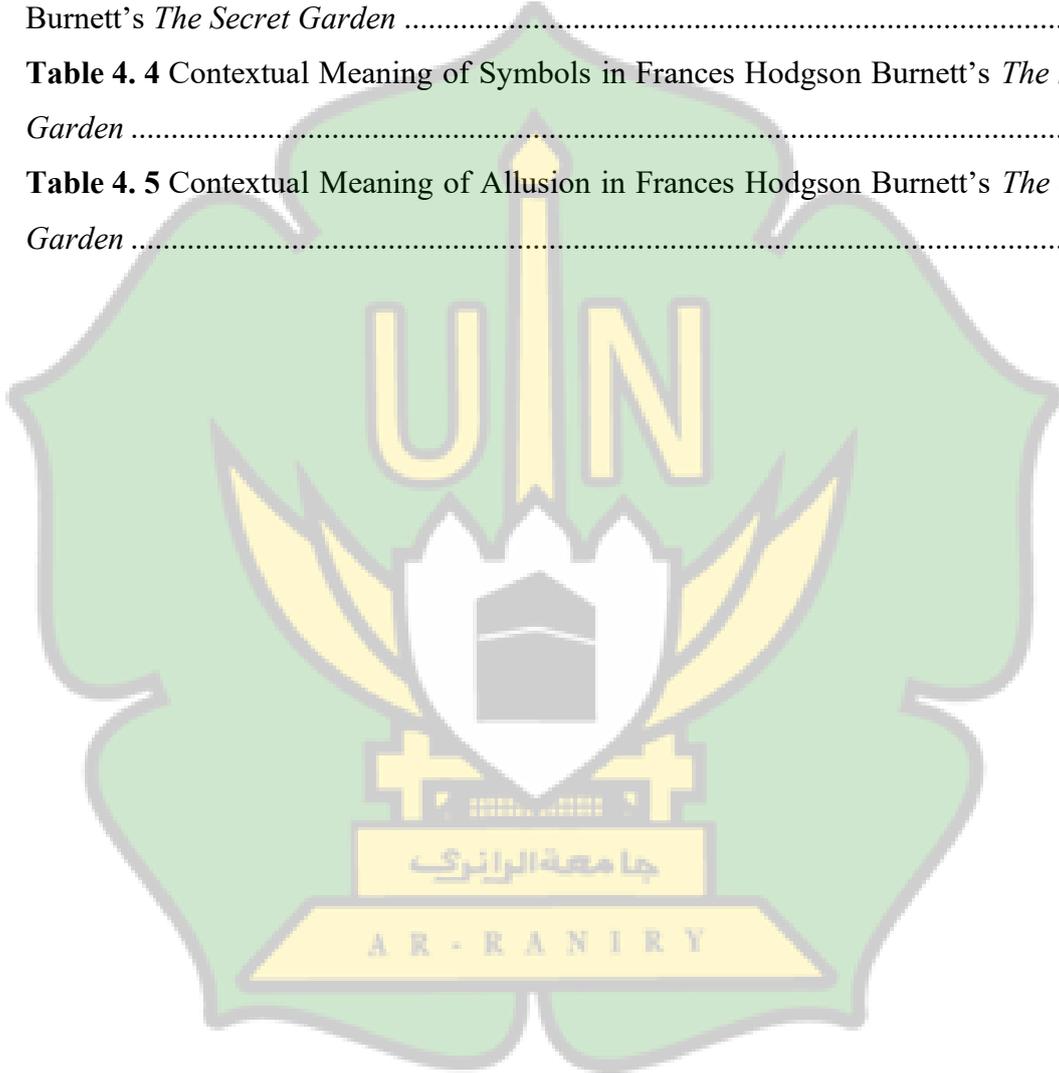
Figurative language or literal language can be used to communicate depending on the situation and requirement. The use of figurative language is typically seen in literary work. Novel is a form of literary work that needs to be thoroughly comprehended due to both the direct and indirect messages contained within it. Indirect messages are usually conveyed through the use of figurative language. The aim of this study is to find the number of occurrences and analyse the meaning behind correlative figurative language expressions, –in other words, understanding its contextual meaning– contained in the novel *The Secret Garden* written by Frances Hodgson Burnett by using the theory of figurative language proposed by Kennedy (1991). This study uses a qualitative approach specifically documentation along with the use of tabulation to collect the data needed. Analysis findings shows that the total occurrence of correlative figurative language expressions is twenty (20). The figurative language expression type to occur the most is symbol and the least being synecdoche. The level of straightforwardness in deciphering the figurative language expressions vary depending on its types, ergo some expressions can be more complex than the others requiring a more attentive analysis. Results of this study can be beneficial in the literature study of English teaching.

## TABLE OF CONTENT

ACKNOWLEDGEMENT .....	v
ABSTRACT.....	vii
TABLE OF CONTENT .....	viii
LIST OF TABLES .....	ix
LIST OF APPENDICES .....	x
<b>CHAPTER I INTRODUCTION .....</b>	<b>1</b>
A. Background of Study.....	1
B. Research Questions .....	5
C. Research Aims.....	5
D. Significance of the Study .....	6
E. Terminologies.....	6
<b>CHAPTER II LITERATURE REVIEW.....</b>	<b>8</b>
A. English Language.....	8
B. English Literature .....	9
C. Semantics and Pragmatics.....	10
D. Figurative Language.....	11
E. Types of Figurative Language.....	12
a. Comparative Figurative Language.....	12
b. Contradictive Figurative Language .....	14
c. Correlative Figurative Language .....	16
F. Contextual Meaning.....	18
G. Novel .....	19
H. The Secret Garden.....	21
<b>CHAPTER III RESEARCH METHODOLOGY.....</b>	<b>23</b>
A. Research Design.....	23
B. Research Subject.....	24
C. Data Collection.....	24
D. Data Analysis .....	25
<b>CHAPTER IV FINDINGS AND DISCUSSION.....</b>	<b>29</b>
A. Research Findings .....	29
B. Discussion.....	40
<b>CHAPTER V CONCLUSIONS AND SUGGESTIONS .....</b>	<b>44</b>
A. Conclusions .....	44
B. Suggestions.....	45
<b>REFERENCES .....</b>	<b>46</b>
<b>AUTOBIOGRAPHY .....</b>	<b>52</b>

## LIST OF TABLES

<b>Table 4. 1</b> Correlative Figurative Language Expressions found in Frances Hodgson Burnett's <i>The Secret Garden</i> .....	30
<b>Table 4. 2</b> Contextual Meaning of Metonymy Expressions in Frances Hodgson Burnett's <i>The Secret Garden</i> .....	31
<b>Table 4. 3</b> Contextual Meaning of Synecdoche Expressions in Frances Hodgson Burnett's <i>The Secret Garden</i> .....	33
<b>Table 4. 4</b> Contextual Meaning of Symbols in Frances Hodgson Burnett's <i>The Secret Garden</i> .....	35
<b>Table 4. 5</b> Contextual Meaning of Allusion in Frances Hodgson Burnett's <i>The Secret Garden</i> .....	38



## LIST OF APPENDICES

APPENDIX A. Appointment Letter of Supervisor.....	50
APPENDIX B. Cover of The Secret Garden by Frances Hodgson Burnett, .....	51



## **CHAPTER I INTRODUCTION**

This chapter discusses and present the background of study, research questions and aims, significances and limitations of study along with research terminologies.

### **A. Background of Study**

Language is a method of human communication. It is a vital part of human connection as it allows us to share our ideas, thoughts and feelings with one another. With language, we are able to understand one another. This is not possible without understanding what is being conveyed. Therefore, understanding the meanings of words is necessary.

Semantics is a branch of linguistic which study the meaning of sentences, phrases and words. Study of semantics is understanding the relationship between words and how meaning is built from these relationships. According to Pardede (2016, as cited in Afifah & Irawan, 2023), in any situation of speech act, meaning plays a crucial role. All utterances of a language without the presence of meaning are akin to no language existing. Semantics, while it is a sub-study in linguistics, also has a significant role in literature.

Semantics in literature allows the reader to comprehend the meaning behind each individual word and its connection to the context whilst also giving the reader the ability to be moved by literary works. Semantics in literature exist in its literary work which consists of two types, fiction and non-fiction. Fiction literary

is much more imaginative than non-fiction therefore, it frequently uses beautiful language in order to make it engaging. Authors would use many types of literary device in order to captivate reader into their work. The most common type of literary device used by authors is figurative language. (Kharisma, 2017).

Figurative language is a language that uses figure of speech. A figure of speech is a way of saying something that contains something other than the literal meaning. Abrams & Harpham (2015) state that figurative language is a shift from what the language user understands as the normal meaning in order to achieve a special meaning and effect. This means figurative language is the use of the normal words which has come to mean something else. This is supported by Wibisono & Widodo (2019) who state that figurative language is “language that uses words of expression with meaning that is different from the literal interpretation.” In other words, figurative language is the use of words to associate something by relating it to something else. Figurative language is typically used by authors in their work to express idea by using a special language in order to show the author’s personality.

According to Kennedy (1991, as cited in Atmaja, 2022), there are a total of twelve figurative language and these figurative languages consists of three sub-categories which are comparative, contradictive and correlative. Comparative figurative language consists of personification, metaphor and simile. Contradictive figurative language includes hyperbole, litotes, paradox and irony. Lastly, correlative figurative language is composed of metonymy, synecdoche, symbol, allusion and ellipsis. However, according to Abrams & Harpham (2015)

there are a total of seventeen figurative language and there are no sub-categories for all of these figurative languages. These figurative languages include, alliteration, allusion, ambiguity, antithesis, hyperbole, imagery, irony, metaphor, metonymy, onomatopoeia, paradox, personification, pun, simile, synecdoche, and understatement. There are varying beliefs when it comes to the total amount of figurative language that exists, there are however similarities between those perceptions therefore it can be concluded that there are actually many of figurative languages that exist and is used by authors in their work.

Preliminary research regarding the topic of figurative language was conducted by Wibisono & Widodo (2019) from State University of Yogyakarta, with the title “An Analysis of Figurative Language in Online Short Story Posted on The Jakarta Post”. The focus of this research is to find out the kinds of figurative language used and the meaning of figurative language used in short story from Indonesia’s daily English Newspaper, The Jakarta Post. The result showed that from the many figurative languages that appeared there are only a few of figurative language that is commonly used in short stories in The Jakarta Post. Those figurative language types is simile, personification, hyperbole, metaphor, irony and metonymy with personification being the most dominant types of figurative language found in short stories posted in The Jakarta Post.

Another research relating to the analysis of figurative language was carried out by Yulianda & Sunra (2022) from State University of Makassar, entitled “An Analysis of Figurative Language Used in William Shakespeare’s Sonnets”. The types of figurative language this study focus on is simile, metaphor,

personification, synecdoche, metonymy, symbol, allegory, hyperbole, understatement, irony, paradox, and apostrophe. This study also focuses on finding out the type of meaning for each expression. The researcher analysed six sonnets and the result shows that there are nine types of figurative language that appeared on the six sonnets, these figurative languages are simile, symbol, synecdoche, hyperbole, paradox, irony and understatement. Result also stated that there are five different types of meanings that appeared, these types are conceptual, connotative, social, effective and reflected collocative.

With the insight that the researcher has gathered, this research focuses on the analysis of figurative languages in the novel *The Secret Garden* written by Frances H. Burnett. *The Secret Garden* is a children's novel first published in 1911 and is seen as a classic of English children's literature. The novel mainly focuses on a girl called Mary Lennox, where she improved as a person at the end of the novel after she came across a garden and she started her journey on self-healing and having a more positive outlook towards everything around her, hence the title of the novel *The Secret Garden*. Garden gives an image of innocence and happiness, which is what Mary is supposed to be as she is still just a really young girl. Garden also represent growth for inner-self and this relates back to Mary where she turns into a much more lovely person at the end. The novel has received many positive reviews making it one of the bestselling novels.

This research aims to find the type of figurative language that appears using the theory of figurative language proposed by Kennedy (1991, as cited in Atmaja, 2022) mainly focusing on the correlative figurative language. The researcher is

also interested in finding out which correlative figurative language is most dominant in terms of occurrences along with the contextual meaning of correlative figurative language expressions present in *The Secret Garden*. In comparison to previous research, where it only mentions the type of figurative language, this research focuses on the meaning of figurative language to the context of when it is mentioned. Whilst this study may be similar to the research finding with previous study, the data source used is different especially regarding the main theme that is presented.

### **B. Research Questions**

The research questions formulated are as follows:

1. What types of correlative figurative language are used in *The Secret Garden*?
2. What type of correlative figurative language used is most dominant in *The Secret Garden*?
3. What are the contextual meanings of the correlative figurative language used in *The Secret Garden*?

### **C. Research Aims**

The aims of these research questions are:

1. To identify and describe the types of correlative figurative languages used in *The Secret Garden*.
2. To find out the most dominant type of correlative figurative language used in *The Secret Garden*.

3. To determine the contextual meaning of correlative figurative language used in *The Secret Garden*.

#### **D. Significance of the Study**

This research is expected to be beneficial for its reader especially for English Language Education study program students. Students will be able to have better understanding regarding the types of figurative language and will be able to recognise them in literary works. Students will also gain better understanding in interpreting the meaning of figurative language to the context of a story. It is also expected that by gaining understanding in figurative language, students will be able to use them in their daily life. In addition, this research is believed to be helpful for English teachers as it can be served as a source of material in teaching about literature especially regarding the use of figurative language. Furthermore, it is in the hope of the researcher that this research will be of service as a reference for future researcher conducting research in the same field of study.

#### **E. Terminologies**

To provide clear information, there are some items related to the topic that needs clarification. These items are as follows:

1. Literature

According to Widdowson (1999), literature has various meaning. However, in this research context, literature means literary work which is a piece of “creative and imaginative” writing. Oxford dictionary defined literature as “pieces

of writing that are valued as works of art, especially novels, plays and poems.” It is important to note that language and literature are closely related to one another, to study literature, mastering English language is necessary.

## 2. Figurative Language

Figurative language is one of the techniques from literary device commonly used by author in their work to engage reader into their work. It refers to words, phrases, clauses or sentences that has non-literal meaning as it needs to be deciphered beyond the meaning of each word. The opposite of figurative word would be literal language.

## 3. Contextual Meaning

Contextual relies on its context or setting to make sense therefore contextual meaning is to look at the situation at when something is said to understand what is meant.

## 4. Novel

Novel is a type of literary work in the form of a book. Eagleton (2011) stated that a novel is a prose fiction that has a reasonable length. Story in a novel follows different kinds of genre an example is comedy, thriller, drama and many more.

## 5. The Secret Garden

*The Secret Garden* is a children novel written by an American author, Frances Hodgson Burnett. It was first published in 1911. This story of self-healing has become a classic in children’s literature and it is considered to be one of Burnett’s best work.