

**AN ANALYSIS OF FIGURATIVE LANGUAGE ON THE
POEMS ENTITLED PHENOMENAL WOMAN**

BY MAYA ANGELOU

A THESIS

Intended To Fulfil One of the Requirements

For the Bachelor Degree Award

In English Study Program



BY:

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**ENGLISH EDUCATION STUDY PROGRAM
FACULTY OF TEACHING TRAINING AND EDUCATION
UNIVERSITY OF PASIR PENGARAIAN**

TABLE OF CONTENT

2026

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**Has Completely Taken
The Final Examination for Sarjana Degree
in English Study Program
University of Pasir Pengaraian
On Thursday, July 30th 2026**



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ENTITLED PHENOMENAL WOMAN BY MAYA ANGELOU**

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STUDY PROGRAM : ENGLISH STUDY PROGRAM

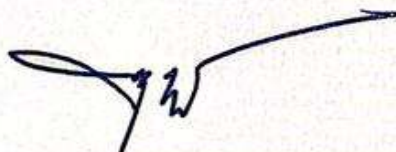
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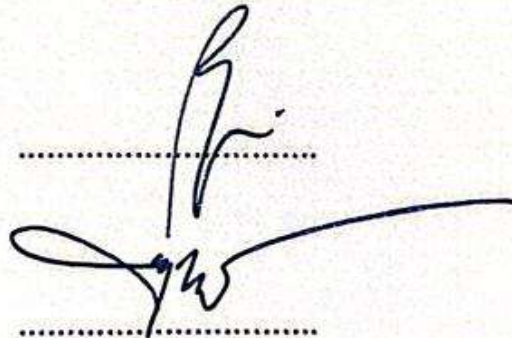
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On Thursrday, July 30th 2026

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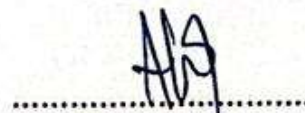


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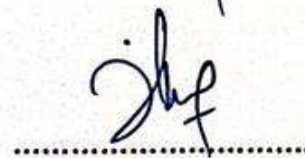
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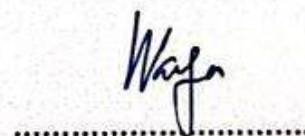
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STATEMENT OF ACADEMIC INTEGRITY

1. The Undersigned

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Program of Study : English Education Study Program

State that the thesis I have written entitled “An Analysis of Figurative Language on the Poems Entitled Phenomenal Woman by Maya Angelou” to fulfill one of the requirements for obtaining a Sarjana Degree in the English Education Study Program, Faculty of Teaching Training and Education, University of Pasir Pengaraian, is my own original work.

The data and materials used in this thesis focus on the analysis of figurative language in Maya Angelou’s poem Phenomenal Woman. Any materials, ideas, theories, statements, or sources quoted from other authors have been properly acknowledged and cited in accordance with the norms and ethics of academic and scientific writing.

However, if it is later discovered that all or any part of this thesis is not my own original work, or that I have committed plagiarism or violated academic integrity, I am willing to accept the consequences, including the cancellation or revocation of my degree and any other sanctions in accordance with the applicable regulations and laws.

Pasir Pengaraian, August 2026

The Researcher



REZHA MAYSHARA G

NIM. 2232020

ABSTRACT

Rezha Mayshara G. 2026. *An Analysis of Figurative Language on the Poem*

Entitled Phenomenal Woman by Maya Angelou

This research aims to identify the types of figurative language and analyze the meanings of figurative language found in Maya Angelou's poem Phenomenal Woman. This study employs a descriptive qualitative research design. The primary data were taken from the poem Phenomenal Woman by Maya Angelou, particularly words, phrases, and lines containing figurative expressions. The data were collected through document analysis and analyzed by reading the poem carefully, identifying, classifying, interpreting, and drawing conclusions from the selected data. Laurence Perrine's theory of figurative language was used to identify the types of figurative language, while Geoffrey Leech's stylistic approach was used to analyze their meanings. The findings reveal 20 data representing six types of figurative language: metaphor, simile, personification, hyperbole, symbolism, and imagery. Hyperbole is the most dominant type, with six data, followed by symbolism with five data and imagery with three data. Meanwhile, metaphor, simile, and personification each consist of two data. The findings also show that the figurative language in Phenomenal Woman conveys meanings related to self-confidence, inner beauty, identity, dignity, and female empowerment. Maya Angelou uses figurative expressions to emphasize that true beauty does not depend only on physical appearance but also comes from inner strength, self-respect, confidence, and personal character. These figurative expressions are interconnected and strengthen the main message of the poem about self-acceptance and women's empowerment. The study concludes that figurative language plays an important role in developing both the deeper meaning and artistic quality of Phenomenal Woman and helps readers understand the message conveyed by Maya Angelou.

Keywords: figurative language, Phenomenal Woman, Maya Angelou, poetry, meaning, stylistics.

ABSTRAK

Rezha Mayshara G. 2026. *Analisis Bahasa Figuratif dalam Puisi Phenomenal*

Woman karya Maya Angelou

Penelitian ini bertujuan untuk mengidentifikasi jenis-jenis bahasa figuratif serta menganalisis makna bahasa figuratif yang terdapat dalam puisi Phenomenal Woman karya Maya Angelou. Penelitian ini menggunakan metode penelitian deskriptif kualitatif. Sumber data utama dalam penelitian ini adalah puisi Phenomenal Woman karya Maya Angelou, khususnya kata, frasa, dan baris yang mengandung ungkapan bahasa figuratif. Data dikumpulkan melalui analisis dokumen dan dianalisis dengan cara membaca puisi secara cermat, mengidentifikasi, mengklasifikasikan, menginterpretasikan, serta menarik kesimpulan berdasarkan data yang telah dipilih. Teori bahasa figuratif Laurence Perrine digunakan untuk mengidentifikasi jenis-jenis bahasa figuratif, sedangkan pendekatan stilistika Geoffrey Leech digunakan untuk menganalisis maknanya. Hasil penelitian menunjukkan bahwa terdapat 20 data yang merepresentasikan enam jenis bahasa figuratif, yaitu metafora, simile, personifikasi, hiperbola, simbolisme, dan imaji. Hiperbola merupakan jenis yang paling dominan dengan enam data, diikuti simbolisme sebanyak lima data dan imaji sebanyak tiga data. Sementara itu, metafora, simile, dan personifikasi masing-masing terdiri dari dua data. Hasil penelitian juga menunjukkan bahwa bahasa figuratif dalam puisi Phenomenal Woman mengandung makna yang berkaitan dengan kepercayaan diri, kecantikan batin, identitas, martabat, dan pemberdayaan perempuan. Maya Angelou menggunakan ungkapan figuratif untuk menegaskan bahwa kecantikan sejati tidak hanya bergantung pada penampilan fisik, tetapi juga berasal dari kekuatan batin, penghargaan terhadap diri sendiri, kepercayaan diri, dan karakter pribadi. Berbagai ungkapan figuratif tersebut saling berkaitan dan memperkuat pesan utama puisi tentang penerimaan diri dan pemberdayaan perempuan. Penelitian ini menyimpulkan bahwa bahasa figuratif memiliki peran penting dalam membangun makna yang lebih mendalam serta nilai artistik dalam puisi Phenomenal Woman dan membantu pembaca memahami pesan yang disampaikan oleh Maya Angelou.

Kata kunci: bahasa figuratif, Phenomenal Woman, Maya Angelou, puisi, makna, stilistika.

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First of all, the researcher would like to express her deepest gratitude to Allah SWT, who has given His blessings, strength, health, mercy, and guidance so that the researcher could complete this thesis entitled “An Analysis of Figurative Language on the Poem Entitled Phenomenal Woman by Maya Angelou.” This thesis is submitted as one of the requirements for obtaining a Bachelor’s Degree in English Education at the Faculty of Teacher Training and Education, University of Pasir Pengaraian.

The researcher realizes that the completion of this thesis could not have been achieved without the support, assistance, guidance, encouragement, and prayers of many people. Therefore, the researcher would like to express her sincere gratitude to:

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Although he is no longer physically present, his love, memories, sacrifices, and support will always remain in the researcher's heart. His passing in January 2024 was one of the most difficult moments in the researcher's life, especially because the researcher still needed his presence and support during this important journey.

The researcher had always hoped that her beloved father would be present and witness her graduation. Although that hope could not come true, the researcher believes that his love and prayers will always accompany her wherever she goes. Completing this thesis and reaching this stage of her education is a meaningful achievement that the researcher dedicates to her beloved late father.

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I am truly proud of myself for making it this far. Completing this thesis is not only an academic achievement, but also proof that all my hard work and sacrifices were not in vain. Thank you for holding on when giving up seemed easier, for believing in yourself, and for never completely giving up. You have come so far, and you deserve to be proud of every step you have taken and every achievement you have earned.

Finally, the researcher realizes that this thesis is still far from perfect. Therefore, constructive criticism and suggestions are highly appreciated for the improvement of this thesis. The researcher sincerely hopes that this thesis will be beneficial for students, researchers, lecturers, and readers, especially those who are interested in literary studies, poetry, and figurative language.

Pasir Pengaraian, 2026

The Researcher

REZHA MAYSHARA G

FOREWORD

First of all, the writer would like to express gratitude to Allah SWT for His blessings, mercy, and guidance so that the writer can complete this thesis entitled “An Analysis of Figurative Language on the Poems Entitled Phenomenal Woman.” This thesis is submitted as one of the requirements for obtaining a bachelor’s degree in the English Department.

The writer would like to express sincere gratitude to the advisor for the guidance, support, patience, and valuable suggestions during the completion of this thesis. The writer also would like to thank all lecturers, parents, family, and friends who always gave motivation, prayers, and support throughout the process of writing this thesis.

The writer realizes that this thesis is still far from perfect. Therefore, constructive criticism and suggestions are highly appreciated for the improvement of this thesis. Finally, the writer hopes that this thesis can be useful and provide valuable information for the readers, especially those who are interested in figurative language in literary works.

Pasir Pengaraian, 12 Januari 2026

REZHA MAYSHARA G

TABLE OF CONTENT

DEAN'S APPROVAL SHEET	i
ADVISORS' APPROVAL SHEE	ii
EXAMINERS ' APPROVAL SHEET	iii
STATEMENT OF ACADEMIC INTEGRITY	iv
ABSTRACT	v
ABSTRAK	vi
ACKNOWLEDGEMENT	vii
FOREWORD	xiii
TABLE OF CONTENT	xiv
CHAPTER I.....	1
INTRODUCTION.....	1
1.1 Background of the Research.....	1
1.2 Limitation of the Reaserch	2
1.3 Significance of the Research	4
1.4 Definition of the key term	6
CHAPTER II	11
REVIEW OF RELATED LITERATURE.....	11
2.1 Literature and Poetry	11
2.2 Characteristics of Poetry.....	12
2.3 Advantages and Limitations of Poetry	13
2.4 Figurative Language	14
2.5 Comparison of Definitions	14

2.6 Types of figurative language	15
2.7 Stylistics Approach.....	17
2.8 Strengths and Limitations of Stylistics Approach	17
2.9 Meaning and Interpretation	18
2.10 Comparison of Theories	18
2.11 Conceptual framework	19
2.12 Riview of the Related Finding.....	20
2.13 Maya Angelou: Biography and Works	24
CHAPTER III.....	27
RESEARCH METHODOLOGY	27
3.1 . Research Design	27
3.2 Research Instrument	28
3.3 Object of the Research.....	30
3.4. Data Source	31
3.5. Technique of Data Collection	32
3.6. Technique of Data Analysis	33
3.7. Research Procedure	34
3.8. Data Validity	34
CHAPTER IV.....	35
FINDINGS AND DISCUSSION	35
4.2 Research Findings	37
4.3 Discussion.....	47

BAB V.....	51
CONCLUSION AND SUGGESTIONS	51
5.1 Conclusion.....	51
5.2 Suggestions.....	53
BIBLIOGRAPHY	54