

CHAPTER I

INTRODUCTION

Poetry is a type of literary work that expresses human thoughts, feelings, and experiences through creative and meaningful language. It uses various literary elements, such as rhythm, imagery, symbolism, and figurative language, to make the message more interesting and meaningful. A poem is an individual piece of poetry that is written to express a particular idea, emotion, or experience. By using carefully selected words and different poetic devices, a poem helps readers understand the writer's message while also appreciating the beauty and deeper meaning of the language.

1.1 Background of the Research

Poetry is a form of literary work that uses language creatively and aesthetically to express ideas, emotions, and human experiences. In poetry, language is not only used literally but also figuratively to convey deeper meanings. Therefore, understanding the use of language in poetry is essential in order to interpret the messages delivered by the poet accurately.

One of the most prominent linguistic elements in poetry is figurative language. Figurative language includes various figures of speech such as metaphor, simile, personification, and hyperbole, which function to enhance the beauty and meaning of a poem. Through figurative language, poets are able to express abstract ideas and emotions in a more vivid and imaginative way, allowing readers to engage emotionally with the poem.

Maya Angelou is a well-known American poet whose works often address themes

of identity, womanhood, self-confidence, and freedom. One of her most popular poems, *Phenomenal Woman*, portrays the strength and dignity of women through simple yet powerful language. The poem contains various forms of figurative language that play an important role in emphasizing its themes and conveying the poet's message effectively. Several previous studies have discussed *Phenomenal Woman* from feminist and moral perspectives. However, studies that specifically focus on figurative language as the main object of analysis are still limited. Many readers tend to understand the poem generally without analyzing the types and meanings of figurative language used in the poem.

Based on the explanation above, this research entitled "An Analysis of Figurative Language on the Poem Entitled *Phenomenal Woman* by Maya Angelou" aims to identify the types of figurative language found in the poem and to explain their meanings in the context of the poem. This study is expected to contribute to literary studies, particularly in poetry analysis, and to help students and readers gain a deeper understanding of the poem.

1.2 Limitation of the Reaserch

This research has several limitations that need to be clearly stated in order to define the scope of the study. First, this study focuses only on a single literary work, namely the poem "*Phenomenal Woman*" by Maya Angelou. Therefore, the findings of this research cannot be generalized to other poems by the same author or to poems written by other poets. The focus on one poem is intended to allow an in-depth analysis, but it also limits the broader application of the results.

Second, this research is limited to the analysis of figurative language found in the poem. The types of figurative language analyzed include metaphor, simile,

hyperbole, personification, repetition, and other relevant figures of speech. Other literary elements such as rhyme, rhythm, stanza structure, theme in a broader sense, and the historical or biographical background of the poet are not discussed in detail in this study.

Third, this study employs a descriptive qualitative approach, in which the interpretation of figurative language and its meaning relies heavily on the researcher's perspective and understanding. As a result, the analysis may contain subjective interpretations, and different researchers may produce different interpretations when analyzing the same poem using different theories or approaches. Additionally, this research does not involve readers' responses, expert interviews, or quantitative analysis to support the findings.

Finally, the data sources used in this research are limited to the text of the poem and a number of relevant supporting references. Despite these limitations, this study is expected to provide a focused understanding of the use of figurative language in Maya Angelou's *Phenomenal Woman* and to serve as a reference for future research in related literary studies.

A. Formulation of the research

1. What types of figurative language are used in the poem *Phenomenal Woman* by Maya Angelou?
2. How are the meanings of figurative language expressed in the poem *Phenomenal Woman* by Maya Angelou?

B. Purpose of the Research

The purpose of this research is to analyze the use of figurative language in the poem *Phenomenal Woman* by Maya Angelou. This study aims to identify the types of figurative language found in the poem and to explain the meanings conveyed through those figurative expressions. By analyzing figurative language, this research seeks to provide a deeper understanding of how Maya Angelou uses language creatively to convey messages and emotions in the poem. It is expected that this research will help students and readers of literature to better appreciate the role of figurative language in poetry and to understand the poem more comprehensively.

1.3 Significance of the Research

This research is expected to provide significant contributions both theoretically and practically to the field of literary studies, particularly in the analysis of poetry and figurative language. From a theoretical perspective, this study aims to enrich the existing body of knowledge related to figurative language by offering a detailed analysis of the types, functions, and meanings of figurative expressions found in Maya Angelou's poem "*Phenomenal Woman*." By examining how figurative language is used to express ideas, emotions, and personal identity, this research helps clarify the role of figurative language as an essential literary device in conveying deeper and more complex meanings in poetry. In addition, this research contributes to stylistic and literary analysis by demonstrating how figurative language strengthens the aesthetic value of a poem. The analysis shows how Maya Angelou's choice of figurative expressions enhances the poem's message about self-confidence, empowerment, and

womanhood. As a result, this study can support and complement existing literary theories that discuss the relationship between language, meaning, and artistic expression in poetry.

From a practical perspective, this research is expected to be beneficial for students, teachers, lecturers, and general readers who are interested in English literature. For students, this research can function as an academic reference that helps improve their understanding of figurative language and develops their analytical skills in interpreting poems written in English. By providing clear explanations and examples of figurative language, this study can make poetry analysis more accessible and less difficult for learners, especially for those who consider poetry challenging to understand. For teachers and lecturers, this research can be used as additional teaching material in literature, poetry, or stylistics courses. It can help educators explain abstract literary concepts in a more systematic and structured manner, using "*Phenomenal Woman*" as a concrete example. This research may also inspire teachers to design more engaging learning activities related to poetry analysis and figurative language.

Moreover, this research is expected to increase readers' appreciation of Maya Angelou's literary works by revealing the meanings and messages behind the figurative language used in "*Phenomenal Woman*." Through a deeper understanding of the poem, readers can better appreciate the themes of self-acceptance, strength, and female empowerment conveyed by the poet. This understanding may also encourage readers to explore other works by Maya Angelou and develop a broader interest in poetry and literary studies.

Berikut adalah versi yang diparafrase menggunakan gaya penulisan **mahasiswa S1**. Kalimatnya lebih sederhana, mudah dipahami, tetapi tetap mempertahankan bahasa akademik.

Figurative language is a language style that expresses meanings beyond the literal meaning of words. It is widely used in literary works to convey ideas, emotions, and experiences in a more creative and meaningful way. According to Gibbs (2023), figurative language uses expressions whose meanings are not interpreted literally but require readers to understand the intended message through deeper interpretation. By using figurative language, writers can express abstract ideas, emotions, and aesthetic values that are difficult to communicate through literal language. This opinion is supported by Littlemore and Fielden-Burns (2023), who state that figurative language helps create richer meanings, stimulates readers' imagination, and strengthens the emotional impact of a literary work. Therefore, figurative language plays an important role in helping readers understand the deeper meanings and messages contained in literary texts.

1.4 Definition of the key term

to avoid ambiguity and to ensure a clear understanding of the concepts used in this research, the key terms are defined as follows:

1. figurative language

Figurative language is a form of language that uses words or expressions with meanings that differ from their literal interpretation. It is commonly used in literary works to create imagery, convey emotions, and emphasize ideas in an artistic manner. In this research, figurative language refers to figures of speech

such as metaphor, simile, personification, hyperbole, repetition, symbolism, and other related forms found in the poem “*Phenomenal Woman*.”

2. Metaphor

Metaphor is a type of figurative language used to create a direct comparison between two different things without relying on comparative words such as “like” or “as.” Instead of stating the similarity explicitly, metaphor presents one thing as if it were another, allowing deeper meaning and imagery to emerge. In literary works, metaphors are often used to make ideas more vivid, expressive, and impactful for the reader. In this study, metaphor specifically refers to the expressions found in “Phenomenal Woman” that highlight implied similarities between different concepts or qualities. These metaphorical expressions help convey the poet’s message more powerfully by emphasizing confidence, strength, and identity. Through the use of metaphor, the poem becomes more engaging and meaningful, as it allows readers to interpret and connect with the underlying themes on a deeper level.

3. Simile

A simile is a figure of speech that compares two different things using words such as *like* or *as*. In this research, simile is analyzed as one of the figurative devices used to describe the poet’s ideas and feelings in the poem.

4. Personification

Personification is a form of figurative language in which human characteristics, emotions, or actions are assigned to non-human objects, animals, or abstract ideas. By giving human-like qualities to these non-human elements, writers can create more vivid, expressive, and relatable descriptions

that capture the reader's attention. This technique helps transform ordinary descriptions into more dynamic and imaginative ones, allowing readers to visualize and feel the meaning more clearly. In literary works, personification plays an important role in enhancing the emotional and aesthetic value of a text. It enables abstract ideas—such as love, fear, or freedom—to be presented in a more concrete and understandable way. As a result, readers are able to connect more deeply with the themes and messages conveyed by the author. In this study, personification is examined to understand how it enriches the poem's emotional depth and imaginative quality. By analyzing how non-human elements are given human traits, the study aims to reveal how the poet strengthens the overall meaning and creates a more engaging and impactful experience for the reader.

5. Hyperbole

Hyperbole is a type of figurative language that involves intentional exaggeration, which is not meant to be understood literally but is used to highlight certain ideas or create a strong dramatic effect. Through this device, writers amplify feelings, situations, or characteristics beyond their normal limits in order to capture the reader's attention and make the message more vivid and memorable. By overstating a particular point, hyperbole allows the audience to better grasp the intensity of emotions or the significance of an idea being conveyed. In literary works, hyperbole is often used to strengthen expression and add emphasis, making descriptions more lively and impactful. It can evoke stronger emotional responses from readers, as the exaggerated language helps illustrate the depth of feelings such as pride, confidence, or

determination. This technique also contributes to the overall tone of a text, making it more engaging and persuasive. In this research, hyperbole is analyzed to understand how exaggeration is used to enhance the poet's expression of confidence and empowerment. By examining these exaggerated statements, the study aims to show how the poet reinforces key themes and creates a more powerful and lasting impression on the reader, ultimately emphasizing the strength and self-assurance conveyed in the poem.

6. Repetition

Repetition is a literary device in which words, phrases, or lines are repeated to emphasize an idea or create rhythm. In this research, repetition is examined as a significant figurative element that reinforces the main message of "*Phenomenal Woman*."

7. Poem

A poem is a literary composition that expresses thoughts, emotions, or experiences through structured language, imagery, and figurative expressions. In this research, the poem refers specifically to "*Phenomenal Woman*" by Maya Angelou.

8. Phenomenal Woman

Phenomenal Woman is a poem written by Maya Angelou that highlights themes of self-confidence, self-acceptance, and female empowerment. In this research, it functions as the primary data source for the analysis of figurative language.

9. Maya Angelou

Maya Angelou is an influential African-American poet, author, and civil rights

activist whose literary works often address issues of identity, race, gender, and empowerment. In this study, she is the poet whose work is analyzed to explore the use of figurative language.

9. Literary Analysis

Literary analysis is the process of closely examining a literary text in order to interpret its meaning, language, and stylistic elements. In this research, literary analysis refers to the systematic examination of figurative language used in "*Phenomenal Woman*."

10. Qualitative Descriptive Research

Qualitative descriptive research is a research method that focuses on describing and interpreting textual data without numerical measurement. In this study, this method is applied to analyze and explain the figurative language found in the poem.

11. Meaning

Meaning refers to the message, idea, or interpretation conveyed by words, phrases, or expressions in a literary work. In this research, meaning relates to the interpretation of figurative language used by the poet to express themes and emotions in "*Phenomenal Woman*."

CHAPTER II

REVIEW OF RELATED LITERATURE

This chapter presents the theories and previous studies that support this research. It discusses the concepts of literature and poetry, the characteristics of poetry, figurative language, the stylistics approach, meaning and interpretation, the context of the poem, previous related studies, and the biography of Maya Angelou. These theories provide the theoretical foundation for identifying the types of figurative language and analyzing their meanings in the poem *Phenomenal Woman* by Maya Angelou.

2.1 Literature and Poetry

Literature is a form of artwork that uses language as a medium to convey ideas, feelings, experiences, and views of human life. Through literary works, the author not only creates entertainment, but also represents social reality, culture, and life values that can be understood and interpreted by readers. Therefore, literature has an aesthetic and reflective function because it is able to describe various life phenomena through the use of creative language.

According to Wellek (2021), literature is a creative work that has aesthetic value and contains a meaning that can be understood through the analysis of the intrinsic elements and the underlying context. In line with this opinion, Eagleton (2022) explained that literature is not only a collection of imaginative writings, but also a means to represent human experience, build social understanding, and convey criticism of various life problems. Thus, literature can be seen as a communication medium between authors and readers through the use of language that has artistic value.

One form of literary work is poetry. Poetry is a literary work that conveys ideas, emotions, and experiences through solid, beautiful, and meaningful language. Unlike other forms of literary works, poetry emphasizes more on the choice of words, rhythm, imagery, symbols, and the use of figurative language so that it can create an aesthetic and emotional impression for the reader.

According to Brenkman (2020), poetry is a literary work that utilizes elements of rhetoric, language style, and emotional expression to build a deep meaning. Meanwhile, Hetherington and Atherton (2020) stated that poetry is a form of literary expression that uses language creatively and imaginatively so that each word has an important function in building the overall meaning. Therefore, the understanding of poetry depends not only on the literal meaning of each word, but also on the way the reader interprets the use of language, symbols, and language style used by the poet.

Based on the description, it can be concluded that literature is a medium of expression that represents human life through artistic language, while poetry is a form of literary work that expresses ideas, feelings, and experiences more densely through the use of beautiful, imaginative, and meaningful language. Therefore, the analysis of poetry requires a deep understanding of its building elements, especially the use of figurative language that is the focus of this study.

2.2 Characteristics of Poetry

Poetry possesses distinct features that set it apart from other forms of writing. Samuel Taylor Coleridge states that poetry represents “the best words in the best arrangement,” indicating the importance of precision and artistic

composition. Furthermore, Laurence Perrine explains that poetry is characterized by its compact language, emotional depth, and use of figurative expressions.

Key Characteristics of Poetry

1. Concise Language

Poetry conveys meaning using limited but carefully chosen words.

2. Figurative Expression

It frequently employs figures of speech to express ideas indirectly

3. Sound and Rhythm

As noted by Geoffrey Leech, sound patterns contribute to both meaning and aesthetic quality.

4. Imagery

Poetry often appeals to the senses to create vivid mental representations.

5. Emotional Intensity

It reflects strong feelings and personal experiences.

6. Interpretative Openness

Poetry allows multiple meanings depending on the reader's perspective.

2.3 Advantages and Limitations of Poetry

Aspect	Advantage	Limitation
Language	Rich and expressive	Can be difficult to interpret
Meaning	Deep and symbolic	Often ambiguous
Form	Creative and artistic	Requires analytical skills

2.4 Figurative Language

Definition of Figurative Language

Figurative language refers to the use of expressions that extend beyond their literal meanings to convey deeper ideas and emotions. Geoffrey Leech explains that figurative language involves deviation from literal usage in order to produce specific effects.

Similarly, Laurence Perrine defines figurative language as the use of figures of speech to generate imagery and enhance emotional expression.

In addition, M.H. Abrams views figurative language as a non-literal mode of expression that contributes to the artistic and meaningful quality of literary texts

2.5 Comparison of Definitions

Expert	Focus	Advantage	Limitation
Leech	Linguistic deviation	Clear explanation	Less emotional emphasis
Perrine	Imagery and emotion	Practical for analysis	Less theoretical depth
Abrams	Artistic function	Broad coverage	General in scope

Functions of Figurative Language

Figurative language serves several important purposes in literary works:

1. Conceptual Function

It helps explain abstract ideas through familiar comparisons.

2. Emotional Function

It intensifies emotional expression.

3. Aesthetic Function

It enhances the artistic quality of the text.

4. Persuasive Function

It makes messages more impactful.

5. Interpretative Function

It encourages deeper understanding and analysis.

2.6 Types of figurative language

Based on Laurence Perrine, figurative language includes several categories:

Type	Description	Purpose
Metaphore	Direct comparison without connectors	Creates vivid meaning
Simile	Comparison using “like” or “as”	Clarifies ideas
Personification	Assigning human traits	Enhances imagery
Hyperbola	Deliberate exaggeration	Emphasizes emotion
Symbolism	Use of symbols	Represents deeper meaning
Repetition	Repeated elements	Strengthens emphasis

Advantages and Limitations of Figurative Language

Aspect	Advantage	Limitation
Expression	More vivid and imaginative	May cause confusion
Emotion	Strong emotional appeal	Subjective interpretation
Meaning	Deep and layered	Risk of misinterpretation

Application in Poetry

Figurative language plays a vital role in poetry as it enables writers to convey complex meanings in a creative and engaging way. In the poem *Phenomenal Woman* by Maya Angelou, figurative language is effectively used to highlight themes of confidence, identity, and empowerment. Devices such as repetition reinforce the speaker's self-assurance, while metaphor and imagery emphasize inner strength and beauty. These elements contribute to the overall impact of the poem, making it both meaningful and expressive.

In conclusion, literature and poetry are closely connected through the use of figurative language. The theoretical perspectives proposed by Abrams, Wordsworth, Brooks, Leech, and Perrine provide a solid foundation for analyzing poetic texts. This study primarily adopts the theories of Perrine and Leech, as they offer clear and applicable frameworks for identifying and interpreting figurative language. These theories are considered suitable for analyzing the types and meanings of figurative expressions found in *Phenomenal Woman*.

2.7 Stylistics Approach

Stylistics is an approach in literary studies that focuses on analyzing language style in a text in order to understand how meaning is constructed. It combines linguistic analysis with literary interpretation, making it particularly useful in examining poetry. According to Geoffrey Leech, stylistics is the study of the relationship between language and literary meaning. He emphasizes that stylistic analysis helps reveal how linguistic choices contribute to aesthetic and communicative effects in a text. Similarly, Mick Short explains that stylistics involves a detailed examination of vocabulary, grammar, and figurative language to interpret how a text produces meaning. This approach highlights that meaning is not only derived from content but also from how language is used.

In addition, Paul Simpson states that stylistics provides systematic tools for analyzing literary texts, allowing readers to move beyond subjective interpretation toward more structured analysis.

2.8 Strengths and Limitations of Stylistics Approach

Aspect	Strength	Limitation
Analysis	Systematic and detailed	Can be too technical
Objectivity	Reduces subjective interpretation	May ignore emotional aspects
Application	Suitable for poetry analysis	Requires linguistic knowledge

Relevance to the Study

This study applies the stylistics approach to analyze figurative language in the poem *Phenomenal Woman*. By focusing on language use, this approach helps explain how meaning, emotion, and emphasis are created through figurative expressions.

2.9 Meaning and Interpretation

Meaning in literary works refers to the ideas, messages, and emotions conveyed through language. In poetry, meaning is often implicit and requires interpretation. According to I.A. Richards, meaning in literature can be understood through the interaction between the text and the reader. He argues that interpretation depends on how readers respond to language, imagery, and context. Meanwhile, Roland Barthes introduces the idea that texts can have multiple meanings, depending on how they are interpreted by readers. This concept suggests that meaning is not fixed but open to various interpretations.

In contrast, E.D. Hirsch emphasizes that meaning should be based on the author's intention. He argues that interpretation must remain grounded in the original context of the text to avoid misinterpretation.

2.10 Comparison of Theories

Expert	Focus	Strength	limitation
Richards	Reader response	Flexible interetation	Subjective
Barthes	Multiple meanings	Encourages critical thinking	Can be too open
Hirsch	Author's intention	More objective	Limits interpretation

Synthesis

Based on these perspectives, meaning in poetry can be seen as both text-based and reader-influenced. This study considers textual evidence while allowing interpretative analysis of figurative language

2.11 Conceptual framework

A conceptual framework illustrates the researcher's thought process when conducting research. This framework demonstrates the relationship between the theory used and the research object, allowing for systematic analysis. In this study, the object of analysis is Maya Angelou's poem Phenomenal Woman. This study uses the figurative language theory proposed by Laurence Perrine to identify the types of figurative language found in the poem. Next, the meaning of each figurative language is analyzed using the stylistic approach proposed by Geoffrey Leech.

Using these two theories, the researcher identifies the types of figurative language found in the poem, such as metaphor, simile, personification, hyperbole, symbolism, imagery, and repetition. After the identification process is complete, each piece of data is analyzed to determine its meaning. The results of this analysis are then used to explain how figurative language supports the delivery of messages in the poem Phenomenal Woman, specifically regarding self-confidence, inner beauty, identity, and female empowerment.

This, the conceptual framework of this study shows that the analysis begins with the research object, then continues with the process of identifying the types of figurative language based on Laurence Perrine's theory, followed

by an analysis of meaning using Geoffrey Leech's stylistic approach, finally resulting in an understanding of the message Maya Angelou wants to convey through the poem Phenomenal Woman

2.12 Riview of the Related Finding

Several previous studies have examined the use of figurative language in poetry from various perspectives. These studies serve as important references in this study because they are related to the analysis of the types and meanings of figurative language in literary works.

The first study was conducted by Ferawati, Baa, and Iskandar (2022) entitled (Investigating Rupi Kaur's Selected Poems: An Analysis of Figurative Language) . This study aimed to identify the types of figurative language and explain their meanings in several poems by Rupi Kaur. The results showed eight types of figurative language: simile, metaphor, personification, epithet, synecdoche, metonymy, apophasis, and alliteration. The study concluded that the use of figurative language helps poets convey ideas, emotions, and experiences more effectively.

The similarity between these studies and this study is that they both analyze figurative language in poetry using qualitative descriptive methods. The difference is that Ferawati et al.'s research analyzed several poems by Rupi Kaur using Keraf's theory, while this study focuses solely on Maya Angelou's poem (Phenomenal Woman) and uses Laurence Perrine's theory to identify types of figurative language and Geoffrey Leech's stylistic approach to explain its meaning.

The second study was conducted by Laimena and Que (2023) entitled (*An Analysis of Figurative Language in Poems by Laksmi Pamuntjak*). This study aimed to identify the use of figurative language in Laksmi Pamuntjak's poems and explain their contribution to the poems' meaning. The results showed that figurative language plays a role in strengthening the poems' aesthetic value and helping readers understand the poet's intended message.

The similarity between Laimena and Que's research and this study is that both examine figurative language in poetry. The difference is that that study used Laksmi Pamuntjak's poem as the object of research, while this study uses Maya Angelou's poem (*Phenomenal Woman*). Furthermore, this study specifically interprets the meaning of figurative language using Geoffrey Leech's stylistic approach.

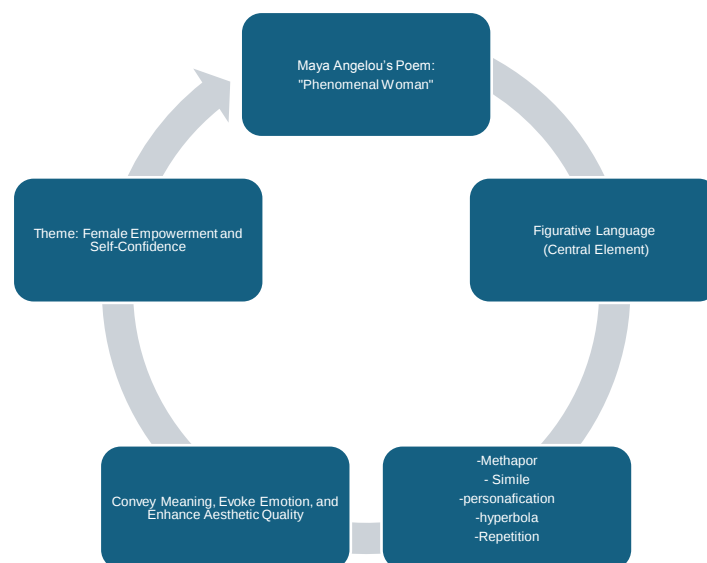
The third study was conducted by Bram et al. (2021) entitled (*Exploring Figurative Language in Rupi Kaur's Selected Poems*). This study aimed to identify the dominant types of figurative language in Rupi Kaur's selected poems. The results showed that personification, simile, hyperbole, and metaphor were the types of figurative language most frequently used to convey the poet's emotions and experiences.

The similarity between Bram et al.'s study and this study is that both analyze figurative language in poetry. The difference is that Bram et al.'s study used several poems by Rupi Kaur as the object of study, while this study focuses on only one poem, (*Phenomenal Woman*) by Maya Angelou. Furthermore, this study provides a more detailed explanation of the meaning of

each figurative language found based on the theories of Laurence Perrine and Geoffrey Leech.

Based on previous studies, it can be concluded that most studies only focus on identifying the types of figurative language in various poems. Meanwhile, studies that specifically analyze figurative language in Maya Angelou's poem (Phenomenal Woman) using Laurence Perrine's theory to identify the types of figurative language and Geoffrey Leech's stylistic approach to explain its meaning are still very limited. Therefore, this study was conducted to fill this gap by identifying the types of figurative language, explaining the meaning of each figurative language, and analyzing how the figurative language supports the delivery of messages about self-confidence, inner beauty, identity, and women's empowerment in the poem (Phenomenal Woman).

Figure 1 Conceptual framework



RESEARCH FLOWCHART

EXPLANATION OF THE RESEARCH STEPS

The research process is carried out systematically through the following stages:

1. Planning Stage

At this stage, the researcher establishes the foundation of the study by identifying the research focus, which is figurative language in the poem *Phenomenal Woman* by Maya Angelou. The researcher then formulates research questions and determines the objectives of the study. In addition, relevant theories and previous studies are reviewed to support the analysis.

2. Data Collection Stage

The data are collected using the documentation method. The primary data source is the poem *Phenomenal Woman*, while secondary sources include books and academic references. The researcher conducts close reading, identifies figurative language, records the data, and classifies it into categories.

3. Data Analysis Stage

The collected data are categorized into types of figurative language such as metaphor, simile, hyperbole, personification, and repetition. Each expression is then analyzed and interpreted to understand its meaning and its contribution to the poem's themes.

4. Conclusion Stage

In the final stage, the researcher summarizes the findings, explains the functions and meanings of figurative language, and presents the results in a structured research report.

Simplified Flowchart

Planning → Data Collection → Data Analysis → Conclusion

2.13 Maya Angelou: Biography and Works

Maya Angelou (1928–2014) was an American poet, author, singer, dancer, and civil rights activist. She is widely recognized as one of the most influential literary and cultural figures of the 20th century. Angelou's life experiences, including her struggles with racism, identity, and personal hardship, deeply influenced her writing and shaped her perspectives on empowerment, dignity, and human resilience. Her literary works often reflect themes of social justice, racial identity, female empowerment, and self-acceptance.

Angelou began her career in the arts as a performer but later became an acclaimed writer, publishing her first autobiography, *I Know Why the Caged Bird Sings* (1969), which received critical and commercial acclaim. She subsequently published numerous autobiographical works, essays, and poetry collections, including *And Still I Rise* (1978) and *Phenomenal Woman* (1995), the latter containing the poem analyzed in this study. Her poetry is celebrated for its clarity, accessibility, emotional depth, and lyrical quality, making complex social and personal issues understandable and relatable to a wide audience. Angelou's poetry often employs figurative language, vivid imagery, and rhythmic repetition, allowing her to communicate powerful messages about identity, resilience, and empowerment. In *Phenomenal Woman*, she uses these literary devices to celebrate women's inner strength, confidence, and individuality.

The poem exemplifies her ability to convey complex social ideas, such as gender equality and self-acceptance, in a poetic form that is both inspiring and accessible. By doing so, Angelou's work encourages readers to reflect on their own identities and societal roles, fostering both personal growth and social awareness.

Moreover, Maya Angelou's writings are often seen as a bridge between personal experience and universal themes. Her life as an African-American woman living through periods of racial segregation and social transformation informs her poetic voice, allowing her to address issues of oppression, resilience, and empowerment in a manner that resonates with a global audience. *Phenomenal Woman* is an example of how Angelou transforms personal pride and self-awareness into a universal message of empowerment for all women, making her poetry relevant across generations and cultural contexts.

In addition to her literary achievements, Angelou's work in civil rights and social activism further amplified the impact of her writing. She collaborated with prominent figures such as Martin Luther King Jr. and Malcolm X, advocating for equality and social justice. These experiences enriched her literary perspective, allowing her poetry to reflect both personal and collective struggles while emphasizing hope, resilience, and empowerment.

The researcher selected *Phenomenal Woman* by Maya Angelou because the poem explores important themes of self-confidence, self-respect, and women's empowerment. Through the poem, Maya Angelou emphasizes that true beauty comes from inner strength and character rather than physical

appearance. These significant themes make the poem an appropriate literary work for further analysis.

Moreover, Phenomenal Woman is recognized as one of Maya Angelou's most influential and widely appreciated poems in English literature. It has gained considerable attention from readers and scholars due to its inspiring message and effective use of poetic language. Therefore, the poem offers valuable material for literary research.

Another reason for choosing this poem is its extensive use of figurative language, such as metaphor, simile, personification, hyperbole, symbolism, and imagery. These literary devices contribute to the depth of meaning and enhance the overall message conveyed by the poet. Consequently, Phenomenal Woman provides rich and suitable data for analyzing the types and meanings of figurative language based on Perrine's theory.

CHAPTER III

RESEARCH METHODOLOGY

This chapter presents the research methodology used in conducting the study entitled “*An Analysis of Figurative Language on the Poem Entitled Phenomenal Woman by Maya Angelou.*” It explains the research design, object of the research, data source, technique of data collection, technique of data analysis, and research procedures. The methodology is designed to support the objectives of the study in identifying and analyzing figurative language used in the poem.

3.1 . Research Design

This research applies a descriptive qualitative research design in analyzing figurative language found in the poem *Phenomenal Woman* by Maya Angelou. Qualitative research is concerned with understanding and interpreting meaning rather than measuring phenomena numerically. Since this study focuses on words, phrases, and expressions used in a literary text, a qualitative approach is considered the most appropriate method.

The descriptive method is used to describe systematically and accurately the types of figurative language employed in the poem and to explain their meanings in context. This research does not aim to test hypotheses or examine cause-and-effect relationships, but rather to provide a detailed description and interpretation of linguistic features found in the poem. Through description and interpretation, the researcher seeks to reveal how figurative language functions to convey themes of self-confidence, empowerment, and womanhood.

In literary studies, qualitative descriptive research is commonly used to analyze texts because it allows researchers to explore language use, symbolism, and stylistic devices in depth. By applying this approach, the researcher can examine how figurative language contributes to the aesthetic quality and emotional impact of the poem. Each figurative expression is analyzed based on its type and its meaning within the overall context of the poem.

Furthermore, this research emphasizes textual analysis, meaning that the poem itself becomes the primary focus of investigation. The researcher acts as the main instrument of analysis by interpreting the data based on relevant literary theories and personal understanding supported by academic references. This approach allows flexibility in interpreting meanings while maintaining academic rigor.

3.2 Research Instrument

In this study, the primary research instrument was a classification table designed by the researcher based on Perrine's theory of figurative language. Because this study adopted a descriptive qualitative approach, the researcher served as the main instrument responsible for collecting, identifying, classifying, and interpreting the figurative language found in Maya Angelou's poem *Phenomenal Woman*.

The classification table functioned as a guide for organizing the data in a systematic manner. Each line of the poem was carefully examined to identify figurative expressions and then categorized into the appropriate types, including metaphor, simile, personification, hyperbole, symbolism, and imagery. After the classification process, the researcher analyzed both the

literal and figurative meanings of each expression to address the research questions.

No.	Line of the Poem	Type of Figurative Language	Literal Meaning	Figurative Meaning	Interpretation
1	Data from the poem	Metaphor	Literal meaning	Figurative meaning	Researcher's interpretation
2	Data from the poem	Simile	Literal meaning	Figurative meaning	Researcher's interpretation
3	Data from the poem	Personification	Literal meaning	Figurative meaning	Researcher's interpretation
4	Data from the poem	Hyperbole	Literal meaning	Figurative meaning	Researcher's interpretation
5	Data from the poem	Symbolism	Literal meaning	Figurative meaning	Researcher's interpretation
6	Data from the poem	Imagery	Literal meaning	Figurative meaning	Researcher's interpretation of figurative language and explaining their meanings in the poem.

3.3 Object of the Research

The object of this research is figurative language found in the poem *Phenomenal Woman* written by Maya Angelou. The analysis focuses on various types of figurative language employed by the poet to convey meaning indirectly, including metaphor, simile, personification, hyperbole, repetition, and other relevant figures of speech commonly discussed in literary studies.

The poem *Phenomenal Woman* is selected as the object of the research because it contains rich and powerful figurative expressions that strongly emphasize themes of self-confidence, female empowerment, and personal identity. The use of figurative language in this poem plays a significant role in enhancing the emotional impact and aesthetic quality of the poem.

The object of this study is not limited to identifying the types of figurative language used in the poem, but also includes analyzing the meanings and functions of those figurative expressions within the context of the poem. This means that the research examines how figurative language contributes to conveying the poet's message and strengthening the overall theme of the poem.

Furthermore, this research focuses on textual analysis, meaning that the poem itself serves as the primary object of investigation. External elements such as the poet's biographical background or historical context are not discussed in depth, as the study aims to maintain a clear focus on the linguistic and stylistic aspects of figurative language used in the poem.

By selecting figurative language in *Phenomenal Woman* as the object of research, this study is expected to provide a clear and systematic understanding

of how figurative language functions to create meaning, beauty, and expressive power in the poem.

3.4. Data Source

The data sources of this research are divided into two categories, namely primary data and secondary data, in order to support a comprehensive and systematic analysis.

The primary data source of this research is the poem *Phenomenal Woman* written by Maya Angelou. The poem serves as the main object of analysis, from which all data related to figurative language are obtained. The data consist of words, phrases, clauses, and lines in the poem that contain figurative expressions. These data are analyzed to identify the types of figurative language and to interpret their meanings within the context of the poem.

The secondary data sources consist of books, academic journals, articles, and other scholarly references related to figurative language, literary theory, stylistics, and poetry analysis. These sources are used to provide theoretical frameworks and definitions of figurative language, as well as to support the interpretation and discussion of the findings. References from literary scholars and linguists are particularly important in ensuring that the analysis is grounded in established theories.

In addition, secondary data are also used to strengthen the validity of the research by comparing different theoretical perspectives on figurative language. By utilizing various academic sources, the researcher is able to analyze the data more critically and objectively.

Overall, the use of both primary and secondary data sources enables this research to present a well-supported and academically reliable analysis of figurative language in Maya Angelou's *Phenomenal Woman*.

3.5. Technique of Data Collection

The technique of data collection used in this research is documentary analysis. This technique is appropriate because the data are obtained from a written literary text, namely the poem *Phenomenal Woman* by Maya Angelou. No interviews, questionnaires, or field observations are involved in this study, as the focus is solely on textual analysis.

The data collection process begins with a careful and repeated reading of the poem in order to gain a comprehensive understanding of its content, structure, and overall meaning. Through close reading, the researcher becomes familiar with the language used in the poem and is able to identify expressions that potentially contain figurative language.

After thoroughly reading the poem, the researcher identifies words, phrases, clauses, and lines that include figurative language. These expressions are then highlighted and recorded as research data. Each identified expression is carefully selected based on established definitions and classifications of figurative language provided by literary theorists.

The collected data are then organized and categorized according to the types of figurative language, such as metaphor, simile, personification, hyperbole, repetition, and other relevant figures of speech. This categorization facilitates systematic analysis and helps ensure that all data are clearly classified before the analysis stage.

Through this documentary analysis technique, the researcher is able to collect valid and relevant data directly from the poem, which serves as the foundation for analyzing the use and meaning of figurative language in *Phenomenal Woman*

3.6. Technique of Data Analysis

The data analysis technique applied in this research is descriptive qualitative analysis. This technique is used to describe and interpret figurative language found in the poem *Phenomenal Woman* by Maya Angelou in a systematic and meaningful way. The process of data analysis involves several steps. **First**, the researcher identifies all expressions in the poem that contain figurative language. These expressions include words, phrases, clauses, or lines that convey meanings beyond their literal interpretation. **Second**, the identified data are classified based on the types of figurative language, such as metaphor, simile, personification, hyperbole, repetition, and other relevant figures of speech. This classification is conducted by referring to established literary theories and definitions. **Third**, the researcher interprets the meaning of each figurative expression within the context of the poem. The interpretation focuses on how figurative language contributes to the themes, message, and emotional effect of the poem. **Finally**, conclusions are drawn based on the results of the analysis to answer the research questions concerning the types of figurative language used and the meanings expressed in the poem. This step ensures that the findings are presented clearly and coherently.

3.7. Research Procedure

To ensure that the research is conducted systematically, the following procedures are applied:

1. Selecting *Phenomenal Woman* by Maya Angelou as the object of the research.
2. Collecting relevant theories and references related to figurative language and poetry analysis.
3. Reading and understanding the poem through close and repeated reading.
4. Identifying and collecting data related to figurative language found in the poem.
5. Classifying the data based on the types of figurative language.
6. Analyzing and interpreting the data using descriptive qualitative methods.
7. Presenting the findings and drawing conclusions based on the analysis.

3.8. Data Validity

To ensure the validity and reliability of the data, this research applies theoretical triangulation. This method involves using various theories and definitions of figurative language from different literary scholars. By comparing multiple theoretical perspectives, the researcher is able to analyze figurative language more accurately and objectively.

In addition, careful and repeated reading of the poem helps reduce misinterpretation and ensures that the analysis is consistent with the context of the text. The use of credible academic references also strengthens the trustworthiness of the research findings.