Analysis Of Figurative Language In Three Poems By Robert Frost

by Praja Nur Ichsan

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Abstract:This research examines how Robert Frost uses metaphorical language in three of his well-known poems: "The Road Not Taken," "My November Guest," and "Stopping by Woods on a Snowy Evening." Personification, metaphor, symbol, exaggeration, and repetition are all often used, as the analysis makes clear. Personification is the most common figure of speech among them, lending human characteristics to inanimate things or abstract concepts in each of the three poems. This technique enhances the emotional impact of the poems and allows readers to connect more deeply with the themes and settings. The analysis of each poem explores how specific figures of speech contribute to the overall meaning. In "The Road Not Taken," metaphor and personification are used to explore the impact of life choices. "My November Guest" relies heavily on personification to portray melancholy and the beauty of autumn. "Stopping by Woods on a Snowy Evening" uses personification, hyperbole, symbol, and repetition to create a sense of isolation and reflection amidst natural beauty. Ultimately, Frost's masterful use of figurative language elevates the meaning of these poems, allowing readers to explore deeper interpretations beyond the literal text. This exemplifies his skill as a poet who effectively conveys the complexities of human experience and the natural world.
Keywords: Robert Frost, Figurative Language, Poetry Analysis, Personification (dominant), Metaphor, Symbol, Hyperbole.

1.   INTRODUCTION

As one of the most important poets of the 20th century, Robert Frost is well-known for his in-depth descriptions of typical Northeastern life and his thoughtful examination of philosophical concepts. He died on January 29, 1963, and was born on March 26, 1874, in San Francisco, California. Frost's skillful utilization of figurative language distinguishes his poetic approach and allows him to convey complex ideas and intense feelings through rich imagery and symbolism.

Figurative language refers to the nonliteral use of words to elicit powerful metaphors or express deep ideas. Robert Frost wrote three of his most well-known poetry: the poem "The Road Not Taken," "Stopping by Woods on a Snowy Evening," or "My November Guest." This research aims to examine the various figurative approaches that Frost used in these three works. We hope to reveal the additional levels of interpretation and meaning that Frost adds to his poetry through personification, similes, metaphors, and various other rhetorical devices by thoroughly analyzing these works.

Frost, referenced in (T. R. Arp, 2012), asserts that poetry uses figurative language and symbolic meanings to represent one thing while aiming to convey another. In comparison to

prose and theater, poetry is a more compressed and concentrated literary genre, according to Perrine, as quoted in (Dewangkari & Endah, 2002).

Robert Frost once said that an emotion finds its thinking, and that concept finds words, to create a poem. (Perrine, 1969) goes on to say that in order to truly understand a poem, one must use their five senses, feelings and imagination in addition to their intellect. A poem is a reflection of the poet's innermost emotions and ideas, derived from their imagination or actual experiences. Poems are difficult to understand because, unlike stories, which are easy to understand, they need the reader to delve deeply into the poem's meaning and rely on their senses, emotions, and imagination.

Poetry is regarded as one of the great works of literature, according to (Riru & Kusmarlin, 1991).

A poem, in the words of (Leech, 1991) is a clear and concise work of art in which the poet's sentiments or opinions are expressed through words that have been carefully chosen to allow readers to sense an understanding of the poet's spirit.

Figurative language in poetry, based on (Fahas et al., 2021), is the poet's use of stylistic devices to write vividly, transmit ideas, and portray feelings and thoughts.

Welleck, referenced from (Walidain, 2012), asserts that a poet employs language in the same manner that a painter uses materials, emphasizing the language's vital significance in the production of poetry.

Furthermore, metaphorical language is defined by Perrine quoted by (T. R. Arp, 2012) as a mode of communication that departs from conventional speaking styles. Metaphor, simile, personification (including the apostrophe), synecdoche, metonymy, symbol, allegory, contradiction, exaggeration, subtlety, and irony are among the twelve forms of figurative language that he acknowledges.

Other examples of figurative language include personification, similes, metaphors, exaggeration, irony, metonymy, synecdoche, paradox, parables, repetition, symbols, antitheses, and oxymorons, according to (Keraf, 2007).

There are many different kinds of figurative language, according to (Miller & Currie, 2000). This thesis will analyze a few of them, such as personification, simile, metaphor, apostrophe, hyperbole, and synecdoche.

Figurative language, according to (Simon & Schuster, 1988), is a technique for artistically conveying ideas through the use of words in non-literal contexts. The person reading or listening is encouraged to concentrate more on the connotation than the denotation while

using this style of language. In contrast to denotation, which relates to a word's exact meaning, connotation entails implying or associating extra meanings.

Since the Greek word "metaphoric" implies to transmit meaning above the literal sense, figurative language is also sometimes referred as either metaphorical language or just a metaphor (Knickerbocker, E. R., Renninger, 1963).

According to (J. J. Arp, 2010), who quoted Perrine, a metaphor is an object of speech that draws a parallel between two essentially unrelated concepts. Comparing two unlike things that have a similar quality is the fundamental function of a metaphor.

A metaphor makes a direct comparison between two objects without the use of conjunctions such "as," "like," or "if." Rather, it use precise terms like "is," "are," "was," or "were." A simile, defined by (Siswantoro, 2002), represents a figures of speech that highlights at least one similarity between two distinct types of objects by comparing them.

If a statement is used in a new context and its literal meaning is comparable to the situation or item it depicts, then it is called a metaphor (Knickerbocker, E. R., Renninger, 1963). No words like "like" or "as" are used in a metaphor.

Poets use hyperbole to describe things, concepts, and more by emphasizing certain details excessively in order to create a strong impression (Siswantoro, 2002).

Exaggeration is used in hyperbole as a rhetorical tactic to create a particular, amplified impression (Knickerbocker, E. R., Renninger, 1963).

A paradox as a figure in speech that contradicts presumptions or facts by presenting an apparent contradiction (Keraf, 2004).

When the audience understands the literal meaning hidden behind the words, irony works well (Keraf, 2004).

In language, repetition is a figures of speech in which a single phrase or word is used several times in several sentences. According to (Chandler, 2007), a symbol as a sign that alludes to a thing and designates it in accordance with an accepted pattern or association of broad ideas, making the symbol understood to represent that object.

Personification is a type of metaphor in which inanimate objects, animals, or abstract ideas are given human characteristics. This gives previously seen impersonal or detached from human affairs things life, vibrancy, and closeness (Knickerbocker, E. R., Renninger, 1963).

According to (Chandler, 2007), a symbol is a sign that alludes to an object and designates it through convention or a connection of general concepts, causing the symbol to be understood as representing that object. Generally speaking, there are three categories of symbols: natural, secret and conventional.

In order to better understand Frost's use of figurative language, this analysis will examine three of his most well-known poetry: "The Road Not Taken," "Stopping by Woods on a Snowy Evening," with "My November Guest." We seek to uncover the underlying meanings and emotional effects that Frost skillfully conveys by a close examination of the similes, metaphors, personification, which is imagery, & symbolism in these works..

In "The Road Not Taken," Frost deftly employs metaphor to transform a straightforward meeting of two routes into an analysis of life's decisions and their ramifications. The less-traveled road's symbolic picture invites readers to consider the consequences of their choices.

The personification of nature and evocative descriptions found in "Stopping by Woods on a Snowy Evening" fascinate the reader. Frost's masterful use of language draws us into a serene winter setting where the speaker's strong sense of responsibility stands in stark contrast to the natural beauty of the occasion.

Last but not least, "My November Guest" examines mortality and the certainty of death through personification and analogies. Frost gives the natural world human characteristics, which poignantly forces readers to face their own mortality.

This study deepens our appreciation for Frost's skill with metaphorical language and his capacity to elevate commonplace events. His poetry demonstrates the power of words to arouse feelings, explain difficult concepts, and shed light on life's fundamental truths.

2.   METHOD

The researcher is able to interpret the occurrences that are shown in the poem thanks to qualitative research. Choosing poems by Robert Frost are analyzed in this study using descriptive qualitative methodology and library research.

In order to analyze the figurative language, definitions, messages, and themes present in Robert Frost's poetry, this study intends to address a number of research issues. It uses an interpretive content analysis approach, with prior studies and pertinent references serving as secondary sources and Frost's chosen poems serving as the main source of data. By carefully analyzing the poetry, recognizing the figurative language, and figuring out the most common forms of figurative language employed in each poem, the researcher collects and analyzes data through library research.

3. DISCUSSION

The Road Not Taken

The poem "The Road Not Taken" by Robert Frost was released in 1916 and served as the book's prologue. Henry Holt and Company, a publisher located in New York, published this book.

Poem 1: The Road Not Taken

Two roads diverged in a yellow wood,
And sorry I could not travel both
And be one traveler, long I stood
And looked down one as far as I could
To where it bent in the undergrowth;
Then took the other, as just as fair,
And having perhaps the better claim
Because it was grassy and wanted wear;
Though as for that the passing there
 Had worn them really about the same,
And both that morning equally lay
In leaves no step had trodden black.
Oh, I marked the first for another day!
Yet knowing how way leads on to way
I doubted if I should ever come back.
I shall be telling this with a sigh
Somewhere ages and ages hence:
Two roads diverged in a wood, and I
I took the one less traveled by,
And that has made all the difference

Table 1The figurative language used in the first poem

The poem	Figurative Language
Two roads diverged in a yellow wood	Metaphor, Symbol
Because it was grassy and wanted wear	Personification
And both that morning equally lay	Personification
Two roads diverged in a wood, and	Metaphor

Personification, a metaphor, and symbol are the three categories of figurative language that the author distinguished from the above table. There are five examples of figurative language in his poetry "The Road Not Taken," including two metaphors, two personifications, and one symbol. Personification and metaphors predominate throughout the poem, which is a notable aspect.

My November Guest

The second poem is called "My November Guest." It may be found in "A Boy's Will," Robert Frost's debut poetry collection, which was released in 1913 by Henry Holt & Company in New York.

Poem 2: My November Guest

My Sorrow, when she's here with me,

 Thinks these dark days of autumn rain

Are beautiful as day can be;

She loves the bare, the withered tree;

She walks the sodden pasture lane.

Her pleasure will not let me stay.

She talks and I am fain to list:

She's glad the birds are gone away,

She's glad her simple worsted gray

Is silver now with clinging mist.

The desolate, deserted trees,

The faded earth, the heavy sky,

The beauties she so truly sees,

She thinks I have no eye for these,

And vexes me for reason why.

    Not yesterday I learned to know

    The love of bare November days

    Before the coming of the snow,

    But it were vain to tell he so,

    And they are better for her prais

Table 2 The figurative language used in the second poem

The poem	Figurative Language
My Sorrow, when she's here with me	Personification
She loves the bare, the withered tree	Personification
She walks the sodden pasture lane	Personification
She talks and I am fain to list	Personification
She's glad the birds are gone away	Personification
Is silver now with clinging mist	Symbol
The faded earth, the heavy sky	Hyperbole
She thinks I have no eye for these	Personification
The love of bare November days	Symbol
But it were vain to tell her so	Personification

Personification, exaggeration, and symbol are the three categories of figurative language that the author distinguished, and the table illustrates them. Eleven times in all, these components appear in the poetry: two hyperboles, two symbols, and seven personifications. Personification thus becomes the most common type of figurative language in this poetry.

3. Stopping By Woods On a Snowy Evening

From Robert Frost's "New Hampshire" collection, which Henry Holt & Company originally published in New York in 1923, "Stopping by Woods on a Snowy Evening" is the third piece.

Poem 3: Stopping by Woods on a Snowy Evening

Whose woods these are I think I know.
His house is in the village, though;
He will not see me stopping here
To watch his wood's fill up with snow.

      My little horse must think it queer
      To stop without a farmhouse near
      Between the woods and frozen lake
      The darkest evening of the year.

He gives his harness bells a shake
To ask if there is some mistake.
The only other sound's the sweep
Of easy wind and downy flake.

      The woods are lovely, dark, and deep,
      But I have promise to keep,
      And miles to go before I sleep,
      And miles to go before I sleep.

Table 3 The figurative language used in the third poem

The poem	Figurative Language
To watch his wood's fill up with snow	Hyperbole
My little horse must think it queer	Personification
The woods are lovely, dark, and deep	Personification
And miles to go before I sleep	Repetition
And miles to go before I sleep	Symbol

Personification, symbol, repetition, and exaggeration are the four categories of figurative language that the author recognized from the preceding table, for a total of five instances in the text. The researcher identified five instances of personification, two instances of hyperbole, one symbol, and one recurrence in this poetry. Personification is thus this poem's most prevalent use of metaphorical language.

Table 4 Figurative language used in the selected poems

NO	Title of poem	Figurative language	Number of figureative language	Figurative Language Dominant
1.	The RoadNot Taken	a.Metaph b. Symbol and c. Personification	2 1 2	Personification
2.	My November Guest	a. Personification b. Hyperbole c. Symbol	7 2 2	
3.	Stopping by Woods on a SnowyEvening	a.Hyperbole b.Symbol c.Personification d. Repetition	1 1 2 1	

A thorough examination of the three poetry "The Road Not Taken," "My November Guest," or "Stopping by Woods on a Snowy Evening" demonstrates the extensive use of personification, metaphors, similes, symbols, hyperboles, as well as repetition in figurative language. In particular, the analysis turned up two metaphors, eleven personifications, four symbols, three exaggerations, and one recurrence. This suggests that in these chosen poems, personification was the most often employed literary method.

4. CONCLUSION

By dissecting Robert Frost's poetry "The Road Not Taken," "My November Guest," with **"Stopping by Woods on a Snowy Evening,"** it is evident that the use of figurative language is crucial to evoking deeper meanings. To elicit images and provoke thought, these poems employ a variety of literary strategies, including personification, metaphor, symbol, hyperbole, and repetition.

"The Road Not Taken" emphasizes the effects of choices made on one's path through life by primarily examining elements of choice and uniqueness through personification and metaphor.

"My November Guest" makes extensive use of personification to eloquently depict melancholy and autumnal aspects via a speaker's observations and contemplations.

"Stopping by Woods on a Snowy Evening" highlights the conflict between obligations and the appeal of quiet times by combining personification, hyperbole, symbolism, and repetition to create a feeling of seclusion and reflection in a stunning natural location.

Personification appears to be the most common figurative method in these poems. Personification enhances poetic narratives by imbuing non-human creatures or abstract notions with human attributes. This enhances the emotional effect of the stories and allows readers to establish a closer connection between the themes and settings portrayed.

All things considered, Frost's deft use of metaphorical language deepens the meaning of these poems and lets readers delve into levels of interpretation beyond the text. This is indicative of his outstanding technique as a poet who deftly conveys the complexity of the human experience and nature.

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