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Figurative Language in Joel Osteen's Speech *"Your Words Become Your Reality"*

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Abstract. This study attempts to explore figurative language in Joel Osteen's speech. This study employed a qualitative approach. The data of this research were from the utterances that occurred in the speech from the speech of Joel Osteen entitled "Your Words Become Your Reality". It was found that from 30 data in the speech, there are 9 simile forms, 5 metaphor forms, 4 personification forms, 2 irony forms, 3 hyperbole forms, 3 litotes forms, 2 metonymy forms, and 2 synecdoche forms. Then, the results of the meaning analysis found 9 denotative meanings and 21 connotative meanings. In addition, the simile is the most frequently used by the speaker in his speech. The figurative function in this speech is used to make the listener's imagination and attract the listener's attention.

Keywords: Figurative Language, Semantics, Meaning, Speech.

1   Introduction

Language is a medium of cooperation in the relationship with others in line with the language function. Trudgill (1997: 14) states that language is simply a means of communicating about the weather or other subjects, and it is a very important means of establishing and maintaining relationships with others. Language has many functions, namely, for transferring ideas, and sending and receiving information. Language as a means of communication is very important in people's daily life. Language people can interact and express their ideas, emotions as well as desires to each other. Language is the main element in making writing in the language, which shows their experience, and with that language, people can feel experience just like what the writer of the news feed too.

Figurative Language is using words to imply another meaning. In other words, figurative language is the language style used by people to communicate. It can be written or oral

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language. Figurative language is persuasive language. It is used for many reasons, for example: to help, to sell products or services to convince people, or to accept a view or idea. Perrine (1992:61) stated that it is another way of adding an extra dimension to language, which can attract the reader's attention. Thus, the use of figurative language can be used to attract the attention of the reader.

Figurative language meaning and interpretation of words, signs, and sentence structure which is different from their literal meaning of them. According to Perrine (1963), figurative language is a way of saying one thing and meaning another. She also says that a language that cannot be taken literary and say something other than the ordinary ways or says one thing and means another. Besides that, Crystal (1999) explains that the figure of speech is an expressive use of language where words are used in a non-literal way to suggest illuminating comparisons and resemblances. For example, the literal meaning of her face is round can be her face like a moon in the figure of speech.

Speech is one of the activities that can be carried out as a process to solve a problem or the process of finding a solution which is usually based on the results of a study of literature. By presenting information orally to listeners (Shah, 2002). Communication in everyday life involves various sciences such as psychology, social and cultural sciences, linguistics, biology, and many other sciences. Communication in the discussion times involves linguistics. Creating effective communication certainly has a way. One of them combines good word selection in communication.

In this study, the researchers want to know deeply about the meaning of figurative language in the speech of Joel Osteen. In other words, the researcher wants to increase knowledge about figurative language speech "Your Words Become Your Reality". Reask's theory of figurative language is used because the theory supports the problem of the research. Reask (1996:27) states that figurative language is the language that employs various figures of speech. Figurative language is a kind of language that separates from the language that employed the traditional literal ways of describing persons or an object. It is usually immediately obvious whether a writer is using figurative language or literal language. Besides, according to Croft (2000:56), figurative language is symbolic or metaphorical and it does not mean to be taken literally. Figurative language is the language that avoids speaking directly or plainly about the subject under examination. This theory helps the researcher question of this study. There are many kinds of figurative language in this theory. It makes it the researcher be easier to analyze the figurative language in each speech issues.

In this research, the main theory used in this study adopted from the figurative language theory proposed by Reask's (1996) states that figurative language is the language which employs

various figures of speech. Figurative language is a kind of language that separates from the language employed the traditional literal ways of describing persons of an object.

2   Method

This study employed qualitative approach. The data of this research were from the utterances that occurred in the speech from the speech of Joel Osteen. The source of the data was a video downloaded from https://youtu.be/GA6uE2CPo1I which is published on January 7th, 2016, and the duration was 27 minutes 22 seconds. Broadly speaking, data in qualitative research can be grouped into three types, namely: data obtained from observations, interview data, and data in the form of narrated documents, texts, or works of art (Pawito 2007). Starting from downloading the data from Joel Osteen's speech in the title "Your Words Become Your Reality" from Youtube. After that, watching Joel Osten's speech video live "Your Words Become Your Reality". Listening and observing word for word as well as every seminar as well as listener responses brought by Joel Osteen at the speech. Next, taking notes, categorizing, and stating the findings of words that are considered important and interesting which are based on the problem to be studied as a source of data. The final step is finding the figurative language structure in Joel Osteen's speech "Your Words Become Your Reality".

3   Results and Findings

The writer analyzes 30 data in data from 452 sentences. There are simile, metaphor, personification, irony, hyperbole, litotes, metonymy, and synecdoche.

God is renewing <u>my youth like the eagles.</u>   (Data 1)

The underlined phrase in data 1 is categorized as simile and denotative meaning. In this sentence, the comparison between 'my youth' and 'the eagles' has similarity in their characteristics. The characteristics of 'my youth' are having a strong soul, brave and high spirit. Semantically, my youth is not like the eagles, but the characteristic of someone (my youth) is like the eagles. In the speech, the speaker wanted to show that God also renews our lives, the renewal process is painful and takes time. Youth is not a matter of age but in the spirit of life and renewal of the soul. Then climb to the top of a high mountain. Go through the renewal process without fear of the pain we will experience during this process.

<u>As he as talking, these bones started coming together, just like out of a movie, morphing back into a person.</u>   (Data 2)

The sentence presented in data 2 is categorized as simile and connotative meaning. The characteristics of the movie are to tell a change, tell a story, the weak become strong, and can give provide a lesson for the audience. Semantically, talking bones are not like the movie, but

the characteristics of talking bones are like the movie. The sentence describes someone's words (talking) as well as a movie. The writer defines that the sentence wants to show how one person's words can have a huge impact, change one's spirit again, and teach people something.

I kept a big smile on my face, acted like it was no big deal. (Data 3)

The sentence presented in data 3 is categorized as simile and denotative meaning. The characteristic of a big smile is a streak of happiness created on the face. Indicates that there is no problem at hand. Semantically, a big smile is like no big deal, but the character of a big smile is like no big deal. In the speech, even though those thoughts were racing through his mind again, he was smart enough to keep his mouth closed and kept a big smile on his face, acted it was no big deal.

When you face challenges, you have to do like David. (Data 4)

The phrase presented in data 4 were categorized as simile and denotative meanings. The characteristics of the David is can defeat a giant who is large, has complete was equipment is armed, and has strong strength. A giant named Goliath. Semantically, facing challenges is not like David, but the characteristics of facing challenges is like David. In the sentence, David is someone who defeats a giant who is large and has complete armor. Goliath is a great giant sent to defeat the land occupied by David. David beat him with just a stone. We have to do like David because when we face a problem and a challenge we don't give up right away. But looking for a way and asking God to help him.

Words are like seeds. (Data 5)

The sentence presented in data 5 is categorized as simile and denotative meaning. The characteristics of seeds are a flowering plant's unit of reproduction, capable of developing into another such plant. Semantically, words are not like seeds, but the characteristic of seeds is like words. In the sentence, Joel Osteen wants to describe that the words we put out of our mouths are like seeds that will be planted and grow. When someone says good things, good seeds will grow and vice versa.

If you'll keep talking like that, you'll reap a harvest of good things. (Data 6)

The phrase presented in data 6 is categorized as simile and denotative meaning. The characteristics of talking are speaking in order to give information or to express feelings, ideas, and the act of expressing one's thoughts. Semantically, talking is not a good thing, but the characteristics of talking are like good things. In the speech, if you always say good and positive things such as health, wholeness, victory, and whatever is done and prayed for will succeed. Then you will reap the results of these positive words. The speaker wants to convey that positive words have a huge impact on life.

"As he prophesied, breath came into those bodies and they stood up <u>like a vast army".</u> (Data 7)

The sentence presented in data 7 is categorized as simile and connotative meaning. Prophecy is delivered to a prophet who will carry out the commandments that will be carried out. Just like the army, it carries out orders and duties. Semantically, prophesied not like the vast army, but the characteristics prophesied like vast army.

If you keep speaking things <u>like that</u> over your life, those words will get down on the inside of you. (Data 8)

The sentence presented in data 8 is categorized as simile and denotative meaning. This sentence is included in the form of an implicit simile. 'speaking things' are words that come out of the mouth in the form of words. these words can have a huge impact on life and enter into life. Joel Osteen wants to explain that when you say good and positive things throughout your life, then those words will come down and come back to yourself. so it will get positive results too.

"Just <u>as a tiny rudder</u> controls a large ship, so the tongue sets the direction for our life". (Data 9)

The sentence presented in data 9 is categorized as simile and connotative meaning. The characteristics of the tinny ruder are a piece of wood used to steer and steer a ship. Used to carry a ship to its destination. If the piece of wood is damaged, then the ship will drift. Semantically, a tiny rudder not like the tongue, but the characteristics a tiny rudder like the tongue.

<u>*We will eat the fruit of our words.*</u> (Data 10)

The sentence presented in data 10 is categorized as metaphor and connotative meaning. As it is well-known that 'eat the fruit' and 'our words' are two things that are absolutely different. Semantically, 'eat the fruit' is impossible like 'our words' because we can't eat the fruit of our words. When the mouth emits bad words then the result of fruit will be bad, and vice versa. At the some point, you're going to eat that fruit.

<u>*You are planting seed when you talk.*</u> (Data 11)

The sentence presented in data 11 is categorized as metaphor and connotative meaning. As it is well-known that 'planting the seed' and 'talk' are two things that are absolutely different. Semantically, 'planting a seed' is impossible like 'talk' because when we talk we don't plant seeds like trees but speak only words. By using 'planting a seed' in a sentence, the author intends to describe planting seeds is not like growing crops. But the seed means thinking first when you want to speak or say words.

James said in the scripture, "with our tongue we can bless our life or we can curse our life".
(Data 12)

The sentence presented in data 12 is categorized as metaphor and connotative meaning. This expression shows the case of metaphor by using the noun 'tongue' for the verb 'bless or curse'. Semantically, our tongue is not like bless or curse, but how to bless or curse it through the tongue. Bless or curse have the greatest impact on.

He was one of the stars on our football team, always in great shape, and had this thick curly hair. (Data 13)

The sentence presented in data 11 is categorized as metaphor and connotative meaning. One of the stars' is any one of the objects in space that are made of burning gas and that look like points of light in the night sky. In the speech, we can imagine he was one of the stars means he is the best on the team. Mastering technical techniques that are proficient in playing, so that often result in a superior score.

God is saying to you what he said to Ezekiel. (Data 14)

The sentence presented in data 14 is categorized as metaphor and denotative meaning. The characteristics of Ezekiel have the same role as 'you' where God also says commands to 'you' the same as saying to Ezekiel. In the sentence, the speaker wants to explain that God does not choose to choose in giving his blessings. What was said and given to Ezekiel was also said to all human beings. God sent Ezekiel to carry out a command. God also sent us all to do good things too, be a blessing because everyone is blessed like Ezekiel.

Say to that cancer "Cancer you are no match for me. I will defeat you". (Data 15)

The sentence presented in data 15 is categorized as personification and connotative meaning. The verb 'say' is usually used for a human who living thing that can talk too. In the sentence 'Cancer you are no match for me' belong has the attributes human or a living thing. 'Say to that cancer' as if it is alive. It can do an activity like a human being. In the speech, Joel Osteen says when you face challenges, you have to do like that. It means when facing challenges, or illness, do not give up immediately or let it go. But rise up and defeat the disease.

There's the principle: don't talk about the mountain, talk to the mountain. And tell that mountain "You are coming down". Tell that sickness, "You're temporary" (Data 16)

The sentence presented in data 16 is categorized as personification and connotative meaning. In this sentence, it's as if we can talk to the mountain, and the mountain has a human-like nature that can answer and respond. In the speech, whatever mountains you face in life, no matter how big they look, don't shrink back in fear, don't be intimidated. The mountain is a high problem

and can be solved. In the speech, whatever mountains you face in life, no matter how big they look, don't shrink back in fear, don't be intimidated. The mountain is a high problem and can be solved.

*He said "**Ezekiel, prophesy to these dead bones.** Say to them 'oh, you dry bones, hear the word of the Lord.*   (Data 17)

The phrase presented in data 17 is categorized as personification and connotative meaning. In this sentence, it is as if we can prophesy and speak with 'dead bones' and as if 'dead bones' have characteristics like humans can hear God's words. The shin is likened to someone who is spiritually dead, far from God. People who surrender to circumstances and do not rely on God.

And Ezekiel, in this vision, he started speaking to the bones, telling them to come back to life.
(Data 18)

The sentence presented in data 18 is categorized as personification and connotative meaning. Bones cannot hear voices, speak or even answer his calls. The verb speaking is used for someone who can hear and respond to the speech given. In this sentence as if bones can hear and answer, it is the nature of a human being and it can do activity like human being.

If you want apples, you to sow papaya seeds.   (Data 19)

The sentence presented in data 19 is categorized as irony and connotative meaning. The sentence explains that if you plant apples, you will reap apples, if you plant papayas, you will also reap papayas. it is impossible when planting apples will reap papaya. It is wrong. In the speech, apple or papaya is like wanting something good, so you have to plant good to produce the best. You're going to reap fruit form the exact seeds that you've been sowing.

So it is impossible with bad words, you will get good things.   (Data 20)

The sentence presented in data 20 is categorized as irony and connotative meaning. The sentence explains that if you say bad words, you will reap bad results, otherwise if you say good things you will reap good results too. It is impossible when say bad things will reap good results. It is wrong. So if you like a good future, start sowing good things through words.

"I'll never be able to afford that nice house". I'm too old. It's been too long.   (Data 21)

The sentence presented in data 21 is categorized as Hyperbole and Connotative Meaning. Meaning Semantically, everyone can get something decent, including a nice house. but helped by effort and hard work. Semantically, the sentence is out of our minds. Nothing is impossible. Anyone can buy a nice house. Not based on young or old age. In fact, it only discouraged him.

With his words, he cursed his future. The author used an exaggerated statement to create a strong emotional response of the readers.

I had a classmate in high school that was always very negative. Every time I asked him what was going on, he had this standard answer. <u>He would always say, "Not much. I'm just getting old, fat and bald."</u> (Data 22)

The sentence presented in data 22 is categorized as hyperbole and connotative meaning. Semantically, how can a child who is still in junior high school be getting old, fat, and bald. In fact, he was just exaggerating, he was still a young middle schooler and had a strong body. In the speech, about is years later when met him, he looked old, fat and bald. He has predicted his future with his negative words.

"Joel, I am so tired. Look at me. Can you see how red my eyes are?" I always say, "No Victoria, <u>you look beautiful. You look as great as ever".</u> (Data 23)

The sentence presented in data 23 is categorized as hyperbole and connotative meaning. The sentence explains someone lied by saying 'You look beautiful. You look as great as ever' became he did not want to make someone else worried. He neutralized the bad situation and considered that there was none of the bad thing happened.

<u>*I never get any good breaks.*</u> (Data 24)

The sentence presented in data 24 is categorized as litotes and connotative meaning. The sentence is an understatement because it is described in a negative way. The word 'never' emphasized a negative statement, then the readers will get the negative idea, however, it has another point or idea. In fact, everyone will get a good rest when he wants to transform himself. Saying negative words just makes things worse. Predict the future with bad speech. Life will more in the direction of your words.

<u>*Instead of saying, "I'll never get well,* Joel, this sickness has been in my family for three generations"*</u> (Data 25)

The sentence presented in data 25 is categorized as litotes and connotative meaning. The word 'never' emphasizes if someone it's impossible not to heal. Obviously saying that will only weaken your mind, and body and curse you. The reality was that there was no way one would not recover even after 3 generations. Miracles are real, anyone can be healed. The more you say negative, the more it won't heal.

"Well, I know I'm supposed to face Goliath, but look at him. He's twice my size. He's got more experience, more equipment, more talent. <u>I don't see how this is ever going to work out".</u> (Data 26)

The sentence presented in data 26 is categorized as litotes and connotative meaning. By describing 'he is more experienced, more equipment, more talent' as a sign of a negative image, the sentence is smaller than it's real. From the sentences, the readers will get a negative idea about David. Nevertheless, it will make speculation in the reader's mind since the sentence has two sights; negative and positive sight. In fact, David could beat Goliath in that fight.

When you face <u>giants in life</u>, when you face challenges, you have to do like David, prophesy your future. (Data 27)

The phrase presented in data 27 is categorized as metonymy and connotative meaning. In that sentence, the author uses the label 'giants in life' to describe or replace the original term 'challenges, problems and struggles'. It is common for people when face problems are likened to something big like a 'giant in life'. Joel Osteen wanted to convey that we too have to be like David not to give up easily, and can definitely get through the problems in our lives.

He had this dream of this valley filled <u>with bones.</u> (Data 28)

The phrase presented in data 28 is categorized as metonymy and connotative meaning. In that sentence, the author uses the label 'bones' to describe the things in our life that seem dead, situations that seem impossible like never change. To treat shins, it's not enough to just pray about it, you need to speak to it. Prophesy to those dead bones. The speaker describes someone who is stuck in a dark problem.

We are snared by the <u>words of our mouth.</u> (Data 29)

The phrase presented in data 29 is categorized as synechode and denotative meaning. In a sentence, the mouth represents the word. Because the mouth is more concise than saying we are ensnared by bad things, things that hurt, things that grieve someone, from our mouths. In the speech, your words can trip you. What you say can cause you to stumble. It can keep you from your potential. You're not snared by what you think. Negative thoughts come to us all. When you speak them out, you give them life. 'words of our mouth' that is the utterance that will ensnare you.

Start speaking victory over your life. Dare to declare <u>God's favor.</u> (Data 30)

The phrase presented in data 30 is categorized as synechode and denotative meaning. In the sentence, God's favor reveals the whole. Because God's favor is more concise than saying start speaking victory over your life. Dare to declare blessing, goodness, love, God's protection, health, sustenance, and others. Dare to call the things we dream of, the things we believe in. don't use our words to describe a bad situation, use our words to turn a bad situation into a good situation.

4   Conclusion

After analyzing the speech Joel Osteen "Your Words Become Your Reality", the writer concludes some points such as: The figure of language found in the speech of Joel Osteen maybe grouped in three categories: Figure of Similarity (Simile, Metaphor, Personification), Figures of Contradiction (Irony, Hyperbole, Litotes), Figures of Contiguity (Metonymy, Synecdoche). Based on the analysis of 30 sentences in speech Your words become your reality by Joel Osteen that has been made, the writer found: 9 simile forms, 5 metaphor forms, 4 personification forms, 2 irony forms, 3 hyperbole forms, 3 litotes forms, 2 metonymy forms, 2 synecdoche forms. Meanings of Figurative Language found are related to Denotative Meaning (9 data) and Connotative Meaning (21 data). Denotation is the literal meaning, the meaning of a word or group of words based on a straightforward designation of something outside the language or based on certain conventions and is objective. Connotative Meaning is a word that has another meaning behind it or something meaning related to a word. In the data after being analyzed, found more connotative meanings. Because in the data there are more sentences that contain figurative meanings that have meaning in them or are not actual words.

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