

## **Figurative Language as Reflected in Worthsworth's *Resolution and Independence***

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**Abstract.** *The purpose of this study is to reveal the figurative language in William Wordsworth's Resolution and Independence. The writer used qualitative research because the data collected were in the form of words. The objective and expressive approaches were used in analyzing the data. The writer finds that figurative language is used in Resolution and Independence such as personification, metaphor, simile, and symbol. The peculiar the objects of nature such as sky, mist, cloud, stone, and rock, and also animals such as hares, and sea-beast, incorporated with the natural phenomena have become the primary objects of these figurative languages. The poem is an overflow of Wordsworth's emotion that transforms through the object of nature and the natural phenomena. In order words, Wordsworth is projecting his own feelings and emotion into the object, and the natural phenomena.*

**Keywords:** *Figurative language, metaphor, personification, simile, symbol*

**Abstrak.** Tujuan dari penelitian ini adalah untuk mengungkap bahasa kiasan dalam Resolution and Independence karya William Wordsworth. Penulis menggunakan penelitian kualitatif karena data yang dikumpulkan berupa kata-kata. Pendekatan objektif dan ekspresif digunakan dalam menganalisis data. Penulis menemukan bahwa bahasa kiasan yang digunakan dalam Resolusi dan Independensi seperti personifikasi, metafora, simile, dan simbol. Keanihan benda-benda alam seperti langit, kabut, awan, batu, dan karang, serta binatang-binatang seperti kelinci, dan binatang laut, yang tergabung dengan gejala alam menjadi objek utama bahasa kiasan ini. Puisi tersebut merupakan luapan emosi Wordsworth yang bertransformasi melalui objek alam dan fenomena alam. Dengan kata lain, Wordsworth memproyeksikan perasaan dan emosinya sendiri ke dalam objek, dan fenomena alam.

**Kata kunci:** Bahasa kiasan, metafora, personifikasi, simile, simbol

## INTRODUCTION

Poetry has become an essential part of literature as an expression of human life because it represents human experiences in their daily life such as passion, emotions, and hope as well. The poet, however, tries to transfer those human experiences by using language as a medium of expression the ideas or things.

A poem has elements that are essential for the reader to pay attention to such as theme, characterization, point of view, setting, diction and plot. A poet builds poems through the development of all those elements.

Figurative language in the poem provides one permiddible way of saying one thing but meaning another. In other words, it is considered that figurative language describes one thing in terms of something else or as an aspect of poetry. It is the representation of the real thing in terms of imaginary language found in poetry (Frost, 726-729).

While Shawn in Concise Dictionary of Literary Terms stated that:

Figurative language is writing (or speech) that makes use of one or more figures of speech, such as metaphor and simile. It is the deliberate and intentional departure from normal word meanings or word order so as to gain freshness and strength of expression. The basic purposes of figurative language are to employ ornamental devices for comparing dissimilar things and for creating sound and image. (114)

Based on the statement above, it can be concluded that figurative language can strengthen the expression of things, and increase the aesthetic images of dissimilar things, as a creative leap of sound images.

It is interesting to point out the existence of figurative language in poetry such as in William Wordsworth's *Resolution and Independence*. This poem is developed through the kinds of figurative language such as symbol, metaphor, personification, and simile. Metaphors and similes are both used as a means of comparing things that are essentially unlike. The only distinction between them is that in simile the comparison is expressed by the use of some word or phrase, such as like, as, than, similar to, resembles, or seems, in metaphor the comparison is implied ( Meyer, 522).

## STATEMENT OF PROBLEM

*Resolution and Independence* clearly juxtapose the transformation of Wordsworth's mind, at the beginning he fears and worries about his future and also about his life. He fears the pain of heart, distress and poverty. And then, he turns to nature for an answer because he believes that nature helps him with his confusing mind.

It is described that an old Man with a decrepit body, neither to be alive nor dead yet the old Man renews his way of thinking. It is how the poet knows about the old man who works hard to support his life, moves from pond to pond and moor to moor like a leech gatherer. But, he is always optimistic and hopeful to continue his life even though it is so hard and difficult to face. At last, through the gradual process of thinking, the poet realizes his condition. At the end of his poem, he prays to God to watch over him but he also tells God he will always remember the old Man.

Moreover, Wordsworth paints his evolution of mind by compounding imagination, and figurative language such as metaphor, personification, simile and personification. Resolution and Independence take nature as the best object of figurative language. The writer is encouraged to study figurative language in relation to nature.

## **RESEARCH METHOD**

In conducting this study, the writer uses qualitative research since the data are in the form of words rather than numbers.

Bogdan and Biklen state:

Qualitative research is descriptive. The data collected are in the form of words or pictures rather than numbers. The written result of the research and quotation from the data illustrate and substantiate the presentation. (30).

The quotation above indicates that qualitative research deals with the description of the data found in the literary work being analyzed. Then, it can be categorized as library research since the research instrument collects and analyze based on the data in the poem, some relevant books and other documents.

### **Collection Data**

In carrying out this research, the writer divides the source of the data into two categories, primary and secondary sources. A primary source is a poem itself. A secondary source is the other related books or references taken from a biography of the author, the internet, an encyclopedia and other relevant books.

It is clear that in this research, the primary source is the drama itself and the secondary source is books and the internet.

## **ANALYSIS**

Figurative language primarily developed and strengthened the poem such as personification, metaphor, simile and symbol. In developing the figurative language Wordsworth explicitly intends to use objects such as sky, mist, cloud, stone, rock and other objects of nature.

Therefore, these objects become the conception of his emotion through the shifts of mood that exist in his mind that represent happiness and troubles. Moreover, the poet uses figurative language in order to enrich and strengthen his ideas in the poem as the idea of the change of his mind.

### **Nature as Reflected in Resolution and Independence**

Resolution and Independence begin with the simple juxtaposition of images of the poet in the past and present time incorporated with the condition of nature and the natural phenomena:

There was a roaring in the wind all night,  
The rain came heavily and fell in floods;  
But now the sun is raising calm and bright;  
The birds are singing in the distant woods;

Over his own sweet voice the Stock-drove broods;  
 The jay makes answer as the magpie chatters;  
 (Stanza 1:1-2).

As the poem opens, the narrator describes what he experienced the previous night with rain heavy floods (line 1) and then the narrator uses past tense and describes the night as dark (line 2). However, by the third line of the first stanza, the narrator is already describing the present day as “bright” and “calm”. In the present day, the narrator still draws attention to the condition of nature “Birds in the distant woods” (line 4) and sweet voice of “Stock-dove broods” (line 5) and the calls of birds such as “jay and magpie chatters?” (line 6).

In merely looking at this stanza, it will be seen in the lines above that there is an essential object of nature shown by the poet with pleasure such wind, rain, woods, and its fauna such as birds, doves, jay, magpie chatters and also natural phenomena.

Moreover, in this stanza, the narrator brought us away his feelings of the previous night such as cold as the roar of the wind and each day like a dark in his past. However, in the present day, something has already become to change “Bright” and “Calm” the brightness of the sun has signed his feelings in the new day such a pleasant day incorporated with the natural sounds with the calls of birds through the sweet voice of dove and answers of jay and magpie chatters and sounds of water.

In brief, the shifts of natural landscapes of the past and present are the picture of the narrator’s emotions according to his experience in the past and what he feels in the present time.

### **Figurative Language in Resolution and Independence**

Resolution and Independence accounts with the group of poems, written while Wordsworth was still at the height of power, which seems to forecast his approaching decline, and are full of evidence that he knew was happening to himself as a poet. Resolution and Independence were written not with joy, nor about joy, but the loss of joy. It implies that the writer of this poem is really an overflow of what was happening in the poet’s life. It is how to be of the mind, and how to make the best things.

### **Personification**

Personification-consist in giving the attributes of a human being so an animal, an object or a concept (Meyer, 608). In this poem, the use of personification exist dominantly in stanza second and three :

The sky rejoices in the morning’s birth; (Stanza 2, line 9)

The hare is running races in her mirth;(Stanza 2, line 11)

Raises a mist which glittering in the sun, (Stanza 2, line 110)

Runs with her all the way, wherever she doth run.(Stanza 2, line 14)

I saw the Hare that raced about with joy; (Stanza 3, line 16)

I heard the woods, and distant waters, roar, (Stanza 3 line 17)

Or heard them not as happy as a boy ; (Stanza 3 line 18).

In this case, the writer should be identified the use of personification which means the happiness and sadness of the poet.

The sky rejoices in the morning's birth ( Stanza 2, line 9). In this line, "Sky" is treated as a human being who has a sense "rejoices" synonymous with happiness, As this, the narrator describes his emotion that he such happy in that present.

Second, in line eleven the same stanza Wordsworth personifies an animal; "Hare" with sense "mirth" means cheerfulness. The hare is running races in her mirth (stanza 2 line 11). It is absolutely that these attributes just occurred to the human being, Behind the animal "Hare" the narrator shows that in the present time he such living in happiness.

Third, Wordsworth goes back into the past memories of the hare's mirth. I saw the Hare that rac'd about with joy; (stanza 6, line 16).

In this case, Wordsworth asserts the work of personification when he treated again the "Hare" with the human attribute "joy" and its parallel meaning with line eleven in stanza two "mirth". In stanza three, personification exists in line 16, when the narrator's remembering the past memories of the "hare's mirth.

Then, the narrator brings the readers back to his childhood, "Or heard them not, as happy as a boy." (line, 18). However, that line as a part of the personification statement which analyzing as below:

I heard the woods, and distant waters, roar,  
Or heard them not, as happy as a boy; (lines, 17-18).

Based on the quotation above, personification takes continues when the "woods" and the "water" are described as the human sense "happy as a boy"(line, 18).

### **Personification Which Means Sadness**

However, in the same stanza, Wordsworth even shows that his emotion has already become to change through the natural landscapes.

Raises a mist that glitters in the sun,  
Runs whit her all the way wherever she doth run.(stanza2, line 13-14).

As this, the narrator makes the "mist" such actions like humans with the attribute "runs" or "running." In short, "mist" described the narrator's sadness like back again in the memory of the previous night's storm.

In merely looking at the second stanza, it is concluded that this stanza is dedicated to the use of personification. Moreover, the narrator is projecting his own feeling unto the scene that surrounds him.

Living in inconsistency in the midst of the beauty of nature the speaker begins a search to find a way to solve his problem. During his search, he finds an old Man.

When I with these untoward thoughts had striven,  
I saw a Man before me unawares:  
The oldest man he seemed that ever wore grey hairs.  
(Stanza 9, line 60-61).

And his searching continues in stanza nine, and the speaker uses the language of observation such as "espied" (Stanza 9, line 59) and "naked wilderness" )Stanza 9, line

58) and these two lines suggest that the speaker is watching the old Man from afar, near by a pond, the further side of the pond :

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### **Metaphor**

A metaphor, like a simile, makes a comparison between two unlike things, but it does so implicitly, without connective words such as like or as, metaphor transforms people, places, objects, and ideas. (Meyer, 522).

- **The metaphor which means happiness**

In Resolution and Independence metaphor depicts when Wordsworth compares the word according to the human attributes “rejoices “ and “Morning’s” as exist in stanza 2, line 9.

The sky rejoices in the morning’s birth

The statement above implies that through an analogy Wordsworth compares the “rejoices” of the sky and the morning’s birth. The metaphor above is an analogy for Wordsworth’s feelings. On the other hand, Wordsworth projects his own feeling that happiness at that time through the natural phenomena with the rejoices of the sky and the birth of the morning with the brightness of the grass with rain-droops (Stanza 2, line 10).

### **Simile**

In a simile, the comparison is expressed by the use of some word or phrase such as like, as, than, similar resembles, or seems (Meyer, 522).

- **Simile which means strength**

In this case, the narrator introduces the figure of the old man who is an imaginary person in the narrator's fancy and imagination, yet something that already become to change.

Like a Sea-beast crawl'd forth, which on a shelf  
Of rock or sand reposeth, there to sun itself.(Stanza 10, line 69-70).

Two lines above suggest that the old Man is like a sea animal that is standing on a rock. It can referring these images, the abstracting, and refers to the modifying powers of imagination through related to the famous symbol one "stone".

- **Simile which Means Weakness**

For certain, this simile still juxtaposes the characterization of the old Man who is the figure of contradiction.

In this appearance, the old Man is compared with a motionless cloud "Motionless as a cloud the old Man stood" (Stanza 12, line 82). This is odd because clouds are not generally motionless. They are ever-changing and inconsistent in shape. The simile of a motionless cloud is the least substantial because clouds are made of water vapor and therefore barely exist at all.

The simile above suggests that the old Man can't make any movement like " a motionless cloud" because then the old Man is too old and full of sickness.

Nor all asleep; in his extreme old age;  
As if some dire constraint of pain, or age  
Of sickness felt him in times long past,  
(Stanza 11, line 72-75).

Then the narrator shows that the old man he had met in a dream; (Stanza 17, line 117) and" Or like a man from some far region sent" (Stanza 17, line 118) has given the human strength and strong admonishment. These lines, such as a classic image of prophecy received in a dream. The narrator builds his description to form a stronger image of the man as something that the apparent image of a bent over the aged man. In addition, it indicates that the poet has a close relationship with the old Man becomes deeper and more intense; it is evident that the old Man has become more than merely himself.

### **Symbol**

A symbol may be roughly defined as something that means more than what it is. (Meyer, 625).

- **Symbol which Mean Sadness**

First, the existence of a symbol can be identified in stanza two in lines 13 and 14, which is depicted through the trouble or sadness of the poet.

Raises a mist, which glitters in the sun,  
Runs with her all the way, whenever she doth run.  
(Stanza 2, line 13-14).

In the above lines, the poet treated "mist" with the human attribute "running." In merely looking at the context, "mist" can be identified as a personification. However, in

another context, “mist” has stand freely as a symbolic meaning. Somehow, “mist” can refer to an image that we can not see everything around us and we just like a blind. Therefore, that image strengthens by the condition of natural phenomena “glittering” in the sun (Stanza 2, line 13) which means in the darkness in nature.

On the other hand, the “mist” symbolizes the nature of the poet's own mid in the darkness. Moreover, those cases are strengthened by stanza four, line 28 :

And fears and fancies, thick upon me came;

Dim sadness, and blind thoughts, I knew not nor could name. (Stanza 4, line 27-28).

In brief, by the natural phenomenon “mist” the poet expresses that he is in a confusing mind, and that condition makes his fears and sadness, and that is all he depicts.

But there may come another day for me,

Solitude, the pain of heart, distress, and poverty.

(Stanza 4, line 27-28).

The lines above indicate that one time or one day will become years of loneliness with painful days and poverty years. In addition, the diction “Poverty” indicates that the port can not accept living a life that is economically viable.

- **Symbol which means strength**

First, in his appearance the old Man is associated with a “Stone “ or: huge Stone”, the poet states” As a huge is sometimes seen to lie (Stanza 10, line 64)

When we talk about stone, we can imagine how hard the stone is. And it can bring an image that, “Stone” is associated with the strength or power of nature. Because the “Stone” is the place where pagan concerns are paramount. On the other hand, “Stone” can be referred to as a mystical belief. Moreover, it can be strengthened by the statement, Couch’d on the bald top an eminence; (Stanza 10, line 64).

In the line above, the word “eminence” is synonymous with paramount. And it indicates that something that it means “old Man” in the height of power.

In short, those lines above suggest that the old man has the power of nature of spiritual strength as the mystical concern. And then, the symbol of strength can be interpreted in the diction “fire” as exist in the line below:

And there was, while he spake, a fire about his eyes.(Stanza 14, line 98).

“Fire” is a source of energy as a symbol that has universal meaning. “Fire” is associated with the concept of life, power the spiritual strength. Refers to the line above, “fire” related to the concept of the power of life and spiritual strength of the old Man as asserted in the poem. In brief, the line above suggests that the old Man has power and especially spiritual strength.

- **Symbol which means weakness**

On the contrary, the old Man is a figure in terrible condition and he tries hard to stand up with a long wooden stick.

He propped limbs, body, and pale face.



Upon a long grey Staff of shaven wood;(Stanza 11, lines 71-72).

While “Staff” asserts, it can bring an image that the man behind the “ Staff” such in terrible condition, and apparently he supports himself on that “Staff”. In short, “Staff” symbolizes the weaknesses of the old Man.

In his extreme old age and in his terrible condition he is, too, a figure who has independence and resolve actions; “gentle answer “ (Stanza 14, line 92), “courteous speech” (Stanza 14, line 93), “ a lofty utterance” (Stanza 15, line 101), “choice word, and measured phrased, (Stanza 15, line 102), and “ a stately speech” (Stanza 15, line 103). And then, the old Man continues to struggle to find attributes within himself as he pursues his livelihood: “Yet still I persevere, and find them (leeches) where I may.” (Stanza 20, line 133).

Even though he can only support himself in a meager manner, he does manage to support himself, and thereby maintain his independence. In spite of the difficulties he faces, the old man remains resolute and determined to continue his: honest maintenance,” (Stanza 16 line 105).

The mannerisms of the old Man lead the narrator’s mind from the first image that there is one thing special behind the inner of the figure of he old Man and its call dignity.

Moreover, the old Man has given strength, and strong admonishment (Stanza 17, line 199). This line suggests that, for the narrator, the old Man is the Man of God who gives spiritual strength.

- **Symbol which Means Simplicity of Life**

The poem continues when the old Man describes his occupation. The old Man says that he is a leech gatherer.

He told me that he to this pond had come

To gatherer leeches, being old and poor.(Stanza 16, line 106-107).

The leech gatherer has become a symbol of the simplicity and the tenuousness of life and occupation.

Mukherje S.K. clearly explains:

Humble and rustic life was generally chosen because in that

Condition the essential passions of the heart to find a better

soil in which they can attain their maturity. In that condition of

our elementary feelings, and. Co-exist in a state of greater simplicity, and consequently may be more accurately contemplated and more forcibly communicated, because of the manner of rural occupation, they are more easily comprehended, and more durable; and lastly because in that condition the passion of men are incorporated with the beautiful and permanent form of nature’ Roseau’s theory of the essential dignity of the peasant is transformed in Wordsworth poetry into an emphasize on the simplicity of the rustic. Wordsworth look for his hero’s tramps, beggars, peddles, Waggoner’s and leech gatherer. These istic are always under the direct influence of nature (38-39).

Therefore the lines above express,

Employment hazardous and

The above stanza proves that the work as a “leech wearisome

From pond to pond he roam 'd, from moor to moor,  
Housing with God's help, by choice or chance:

And in this way he gain'd an honest maintenance gatherer" was risky and makes exhausting. Because he had to travel from pond to pond and from moor to moor for sustaining his life. The "leech gatherer" is an analogy for the tenuousness of life "employment hazardous," "living by choice or chance " with God's help gaining basic sustenance.

The sets-pond and moor signed that the condition of work really depends on the influence of the environment that the availability of leeches. The rustic condition taught the poet how to work hard and hard perseverance "Yet still I persevere, and find them where I may." (Stanza 19, line 33).

At the end of the poem, the poet expresses a determination for the future: to consider the leech-gatherer as a source of mental strength "Cheerfully uttered, with demeaning our kind, stately in the mind, so form a mind (Stanza 21, line 142-145). He seems to have solved a problem and dispelled doubt and fears. The poet hopes the image of the leech-gatherer will be a conduit toward independence, in the sense of not being influenced by others, and having self-confidence.

In analyzing Wordsworth's Resolution and Independence one recognizes that the narration in the poem is complicated by the time sequence and primary the attention to the shifts in time that it shows as the shifts of the narrator's emotions. In short, the narrator projects his own feeling emotions behind the shifts of both, time and natural phenomena. Furthermore, the narrations are strengthened by figurative languages such as personification, metaphor, simile, and symbol. Often, the narrator overflows his emotion behind personifying an object or animal.

Take, for example, line nine, the narrator overflow his happiness with the metaphor "rejoices" which states "The sky rejoices in the morning's birth" and then he describes his joy behind the animal "Hare" "The hare is running races in her mirth (Stanza 2, line 11). But, in line thirteen of the same stanza, the narrator's emotion has already become to change as sadness when he says "Raises a mist; which, glittering in the sun, "I" " Runs with her all the way, wherever she doth run. (lines, 13-14). As the poem continues, the issue of time continually skewed to the condition where the narrator remembers the memory of the hare's mirth "I saw the hare raced about with joy" (Stanza 3 line 16) its irony about the life of the narrator, he such hopeless even though he lives in the midst of the beauty of nature "And all the ways of man, so vain and melancholy." (Stanza 3 line 21). And then, the narration of sadness progress in four stanzas. In our dejection do we sink as low, / To me, that morning did it happen so; / And fears and fancies thick upon me came; I Dim sadness, and blind thought, I knew not nor could name. (Stanza 4 line 25-28). In the midst of suffering condition, the narrator begins a search to find a way for an answer and he turns to nature for hoping that nature can bring reconciliation to his distraught emotions. During his research in the midst of nature, he finds an old Man. Upon seeing the old Man, the narrator is given new hope for a way to gain the inner peace that he has been looking for. The old Man becomes a model for himself.

And at the end of the poem, he is not action but contemplation about his life and he tells God to watch over him but he also tells God he will remember the leech gatherer who is one of the old Man “God,’ said I, ‘be my help and stay secure; I’ll think of the leech gatherer on the moor.” The speaker does not talk of fear and dread anymore. The tone of the speaker changes and he seems to have new strength after speaking to the old Man he realizes that he can survive in the world and that it will not be as hard as he first imagined.

## **CONCLUSION AND SUGGESTION**

### **Conclusion**

Regarding William Wordsworth’s Resolution and Independence, one recognizes that the Figurative language does not merely fulfill the aesthetic reason, yet this element surely strengthens and enriches the building of the poetry. And it should be noted that figurative language enriches by the use of nature as a system of poetic subjects.

He also correspondences between natural landscapes and man’s feelings. It can be in the second line of two stanzas such as “The sky rejoices in the morning’s birth” this the narrator personifies his joy when he treated the “Sky” with the human attribute “rejoices” it is a conception of the image of the poet’s feeling at the present time. But, the presence of the “mist” through symbolized the poet’s sadness.

Then, the narrator clearly presents the character of the old Man with the “Stone” or “huge Stone” which symbolized something the power of the old Man itself yet he is the one who has given strength and strong admonishment. Then, the simile of the old Man with the “Sea-beast” is standing on the rock. It can refer to the abstracting image of powers of imagination and is associated with the “Stone”.

The simile of a “Motionless cloud” which bringing strange images because clouds are generally motionless, they are ever-changing and inconsistent in shape.

The “leech gatherer” has become a symbol of the simplicity and perseverance of one’s existence in life.

### **Suggestion**

The writer hopes that this research can give a valuable contribution and appreciating to the students in English Language and Literature study Program in analyzing literary works, especially poetry.

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