

## FIGURATIVE LANGUAGE IN THE ROOM OF MY LIFE'S POEM BY ANNE SEXTON AND STILL I RISE'S POEM BY MAYA ANGELOU

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### Abstract

The aim of this research is to find out the usage of figurative language appear in *The Room of My Life's poem* by Anne Sexton and *Still I Rise's poem* by Maya Angelou. The study focused on kinds of figurative language that appeared in the poems. A descriptive qualitative method was used in this study. Data were gathered from each line of the poetry then figurative language were grounded. The results showed that the poems mostly used three kinds of figurative language: personification, simile, and metaphor. Personifications were more dominant than similes and metaphors in *The Room of My Life* and similes were more dominant than personifications and metaphors in *Still I Rise*.

**Keywords:** Figurative Language, Personification, Simile, Metaphor

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### 1. INTRODUCTION

Literature is the way to express people's life, and from literature people can understand something what they never know in this world. Literary works are usually seen as a reflection of times that represent the author's view. Poem is one of the products of literature.

Poem is fun and inspiring. It provokes thought, emotion, imagination and perception. It can cover just about any subject imaginable. Despite what poetry can be, it often uses as a form of emotional self-expression. Poem is one of the genres of literature which is rich of figurative language. Poems tend to represent thoughts, ideas, feelings, actions or experiences in figurative ways. In poem, a single word can express ideas and emotions that would take hundred words or more to interpret. Every phrase or sentence can have different interpretation when it is analyzed by different person. Then, that is the magic of poem, which make it very attractive to read and to analyze.

In English language, people might know poems but some of them still do not comprehend the true meanings of delivered language. Figurative language is language that uses words or expressions with a meaning that is different from the literal interpretation. Figurative language is one of the elements of poem. There are many different types of figurative language. For example, it often includes the use of a specific type of word or word meaning: "The leaves danced in the wind on the cold

October afternoon.” This word is kind of figurative language because it contains meaning as personification. “Jamie runs as fast as the wind” and this word is kind of figurative language also because it contains meaning as simile. What makes the writer triggered on this research is, literally meaning of poem by common people’s view. They are less able to understand the meanings of figurative language by the poem published in English version. Then, by this research the writer tried to make people explicitly understand the meaning of words or phrase in poem.

The writer has found some problems to be discussed. He concerned kinds of figurative language that appear in *The Room of My Life's* and *Still I Rise's* poem. The second problem is the literally meanings of its figurative language on those poems. To specify discussion, the writer decided to scope and to limit his research toward some kinds of figurative language and used two poems to represents its object. Because this research based on readers’ view, so the appropriate methodology is using qualitative research method. By using this method, he identified the kinds of figurative language based on the limitation. Hancock, Ockleford, and Windridge (2009:4) explained:

Qualitative research attempts to broaden and/or deepen our understanding of how things came to be the way they are in our social world. If the research question involves exploring how people experience something, or what their views are, exploring a new area where issues are not yet understood or properly identified (e.g. before developing questionnaire items), assessing whether a new service is implementable, looking at ‘real-life’ context, or a sensitive topic where you need flexibility to avoid causing distress, your team probably needs to discuss using qualitative methodology.

## 2. LITERATURE REVIEW

### 2.1 The Nature of Literature

Literature produces a true creative activity. It offers exciting experience that can be written and read. It allows people to escape from the problems of people everyday lives and to participate in a world of experience that differs radically from people own. Literature has been produced a greater variety of literary works since hundred years ago. In order to understand what literature is, here the writer serves several definitions of literature from various experts.

First of all, Abrams (2012:177) described “Literature has been commonly used since the eighteenth century, equivalently with the French belles lettres (“fine letters”), to designate fictional and imaginative writings—poetry, prose fiction, and drama”. Based on Abrams’s statement, the word literature has been established to refer to many numbers of poetic, dramatic, fictional or nonfictional works from around the world, which is formed from the creative and imaginative works that based on writing.

However, according to Childs and Fowler, Barnet, Burto and Cain (2008:3) stated that “literature” can be used to refer to anything written”. Based on the statements above, today the word “literature” refers to the text that mainly printed and written. For

example, novel, newspaper, essay, letter or even sketch work consider as literature. As a result, most of printed and written text is the part of literature.

Despite anything to the contrary, when it comes to deep comprehension, the readers must not take any kind of text as a literature. Only certain text can be called real literature, Wellek and Warren (1948:11) commented: "The term "literature" seems best if we limit it to the art of literature, that is, to imaginative literature". Based on the statement above, many works of literature such as a story, poetry, and a play is a concrete pattern of literature because it really represents art and imagination of the human. The works have impact to people's view or society. Thus, the literature works such as poetry, awakes our mind with its special kind of language that differs from the everyday language.

Moreover, Cuddon (2013:404) described "Traditionally, if we describe something as 'literature', as opposed to anything else, the term carries with it qualitative connotations which imply that the work in question has superior qualities; that it is well above the ordinary run of written works". The statement shows that the literary works is different with everyday works. It is source from the deepest, critical, genius human thought and experience. The works evoke critic and attention of people. The creation of literature is a uniquely human activity. Born of man's timeless desire to understand, express and share experience with the others.

Finally, literature has broadened people's knowledge of information. The terms of literature refer to written or printed text, which is intentionally structured in such a way to show its artistic qualities. Despite, it is unique, different and above ordinary works. Consequently, there is kind of literature that people do read because they expect it to hold their interest and to provide pleasure. And, that is called poetry.

## 2.2 Definition of Poem

One type of English literature which is quite well known to be among all is poem. Poem is influenced by many features, which is assists the poetry to become more meaningful and interesting to be heard and to be read. The most important aspect that signified the poetry from others literary works is the use of language.

J.A. Cuddon (2013:542) state "Poem, a composition, a work of verse, which may be in rhyme or may be blank verse or a combination of the two". From the statement above, poem is the composition of a work of verse, which may be in the poem or blank rhyme or it could be a combination the both of them.

Alex Preminger and T.V.F. Brogan (1993:938) describe "A poem is an instance of verbal art, a text set in verse, bound speech". From that statement, poem is a beautiful masterpiece in a text set in verse. The art expressed in the text that related to another one to be a beautiful masterpiece poem.

Frost (2006:48) said "A poem is a performance word". In that statement, poem is what makes a word from a sentence become alive. It means that poem can express the feelings or action through words. The feeling or the action can be shown to the public because through the show, it can be written or spoken, a person can convey what that person feels at that time.

Finally, from all the definitions above, the writer concludes several things; first, poem is the composition of a work of verse, which may be in the poem or blank rhyme or it could be a combination the both of them. Second, poem is a beautiful masterpiece in a text set in verse. And third, poem is a beautiful masterpiece in a text set in verse. Otherwise, there are a lot of things that can be discussed in poem, but in this research the writer concentrates on the analysis of the figurative language used in *The Room of My Life* by Anne Sexton and *Still I Rise* by Maya Angelou.

### 2.3 Definition Figurative Language

Talking about poetry is also talking about figurative language. It is obliged for the readers to understand figurative language since it assists overwhelming the misinterpretation and helps to convey the meaning faster and more precisely. Also, figurative language has the essence of style and beauty. Arp and Johnson (2008:71) describes "Figurative language-language using figures of speech-is language that cannot be taken literally (or should not be taken literally only)". Based on the statement above, the writer concludes that figures of speech are imaginative tools used for explaining something beyond its usual usage. Figurative language provides a more effective means of saying what people mean than direct statement. The result for using figures of speech is what makes the language in the poetry differs from ordinary language.

Moreover, Cuddon (2013:279) states "Figurative language must be distinguished from literal (q.v.) language". As a result, to avoid misinterpretation in analyzing the poetry, the readers should focus on figurative meaning rather than literal meaning. The readers shall understand that literal language means exactly what it says. Whereas figurative language means something different to and usually more than what it says on the surface.

Dancygier and Sweetser (2014:3) comment: "Thinking about figurative language requires first of all that we identify some such entity – that we distinguish figurative language from nonfigurative or literal language". The statement shows that, it is actually easy to distinguish between literal and figurative language since figurative language has "entity". This entity such simile, metaphor, symbol, personification are what compose and differ figurative language from literal language.

In analyzing poetry, to get best understanding about the meaning of the poetry, the readers must pay attention to its figurative language, because through this technique the poets get his point across without using as much detail in the explanation. As suggested by Abrams (2012:130) "Figurative Language is a conspicuous departure from what users of a language apprehend as the standard meaning of words, or else the standard order of words, in order to achieve some special meaning or effect". By using figurative language, the poets can evoke emotion and imagery from their writing which literal language cannot provide. Taking words beyond their literal meaning through the use of figurative language is enjoyable for both the writer and the reader. By doing so, figurative language makes expressing meaning through writing easier and more reliable to the reader.

In poem, figurative language occurs whenever poets use words in ways that deviate from their usual meaning. Poets use figurative language to make poem more interactive for the readers. Even though, after all of this explanation, still figurative language poses a challenge to comprehension. Otherwise, by understanding figurative language, the readers should already have a basic to analyze the meaning of poetry and criticize it. Furthermore, figures of speech, specifically personification and simile have an important role, as they include figurative meaning of words besides their literary meaning. Sylvia (2006:745-749) stated that there are four kinds of figurative language:

**Simile:** In a simile, items from different classes are explicitly compared by a connective such as *like*, *as*, or *than* or by a verb such as *appears* or *seems*. (If the objects compared are from the same class—for example, “*New York is like Chicago*”—*no simile is present*.)

**Metaphor:** A metaphor asserts the identity, without a connective such as *like* or a verb such as *appears*, of terms that are literally incompatible. Example: *She is the rose, the glory of the day*.

**Personification:** The attribution of human feelings or characteristics to abstractions or to inanimate objects is called personification. Example: *But Time did beckon to the flowers*.

**Apostrophe:** Crashaw's personification, “Hope, thou bold taster of delight,” quoted a moment ago, is also an example of the figure of speech called apostrophe, an address to a person or thing not literally listening. Example: *Milton, thou shouldst be living at this hour*.

From the statement above, there are 4 kinds of figurative language from Sylvia that is simile is the items from different classes are explicitly compared by a connective such as *like*, *as*, or *than* or by a verb such as *appears* or *seems*; metaphor asserts the identity, without a connective such as *like* or a verb such as *appears*, of terms that are literally incompatible; personification, the attribution of human feelings or characteristics to abstractions or to inanimate objects; and apostrophe an address to a person or thing not literally listening.

Another statement from Pamela and Robert (2007:1491-1494) spelled out that there are four kinds of figurative language:

**Simile:** A simile is a direct comparison or stated similarity between apparently unrelated things. The signal of a simile is the presence of “like” or “as”. Example: “her thoughts were like clouds passing across a clear blue sky”.

**Metaphor:** A metaphor, That is, one thing is compared to or identified with another by being spoken of as though it *were* that object. Example: “My

lovers teeth are white geese flying above me/ My lovers muscles are rope ladders under my hands”.

**Symbol:** Related to simile and metaphor but less easy to identify is the symbol, usually an image that stands for or suggests something else, often an abstract idea or complex of ideas. Example: “They Feed They Lion” (protest).  
**Personification:** Perhaps personification, which gives human qualities or attributes to animals, ideas, or inanimate objects. Example: “The Sun Rising”

From the statement above, there are four kinds of figurative language from Pamela and Robert, that is: simile is a direct comparison or stated similarity between apparently unrelated things; metaphor that is, one thing is compared to or identified with another by being spoken of as though it *were* that object; symbol an image that stands for or suggests something else, often an abstract idea or complex of ideas; and personification which gives human qualities or attributes to animals, ideas, or inanimate objects.

### 3. METHOD

To scrutinize the research, the writer used descriptive qualitative method to accomplish his research. The qualitative method has been applied to many social sciences: psychology, sociology, anthropology etc. The research focused on description and interpretation and might lead to development of new concepts or theory, or to an evaluation of an organizational process. As stated in Hancock et al. (2009:7) “qualitative research is concerned with developing explanations of social phenomena. That is to say, it aims to help us to understand the social world in which we live and why things are the way they are.”

The writer also used library research to get and collect the ground theories of figurative languages. The first step of his research is, he read the poems which entitled “The Room of My Life” written by Anne Sexton and “Still I Rise” written by Maya Angelou. Then he considered to analyze what kinds of figurative language appeared through these poems are. In addition, he analyzed the meaning of each line figurative language through these poems. Data collection was collected from the poems itself (material documented).

### 4. FINDINGS AND DISCUSSION

In this part the writer collected and analyzed the findings of the research. It involved summarizing the mass of data collected and presenting the results in a way that communicates the most important features. The writer started to show up the poems which entitled “The Room of My Life” written by Anne Sexton and “Still I Rise” written by Maya Angelou.



*The Room of My Life*

- <sup>1</sup> *Here,*  
<sup>2</sup> *in the room of my life*  
<sup>3</sup> *the objects keep changing.*  
<sup>4</sup> *Ashtrays to cry into,*  
<sup>5</sup> *the suffering brother of the wood walls,*  
<sup>6</sup> *the forty-eight keys of the typewriter*  
<sup>7</sup> *each an eyeball that is never shut,*  
<sup>8</sup> *the books, each a contestant in a beauty contest,*  
<sup>9</sup> *the black chair, a dog coffin made of Naugahyde,*  
<sup>10</sup> *the sockets on the wall*  
<sup>11</sup> *waiting like a cave of bees,*  
<sup>12</sup> *the gold rug*  
<sup>13</sup> *a conversation of heels and toes,*  
<sup>14</sup> *the fireplace*  
<sup>15</sup> *a knife waiting for someone to pick it up,*  
<sup>16</sup> *the sofa, exhausted with the exertion of a whore,*  
<sup>17</sup> *the phone*  
<sup>18</sup> *two flowers taking root in its crotch,*  
<sup>19</sup> *the doors*  
<sup>20</sup> *opening and closing like sea clams,*  
<sup>21</sup> *the lights*  
<sup>22</sup> *poking at me,*  
<sup>23</sup> *lighting up both the soil and the laugh.*  
<sup>24</sup> *The windows,*  
<sup>25</sup> *the starving windows*  
<sup>26</sup> *that drive the trees like nails into my heart.*  
<sup>27</sup> *Each day I feed the world out there*  
<sup>28</sup> *although birds explode*  
<sup>29</sup> *right and left.*

<sup>30</sup> *I feed the world in here too,*

<sup>31</sup> *offering the desk puppy biscuits.*

<sup>32</sup> *However, nothing is just what it seems to be.*

<sup>33</sup> *My objects dream and wear new costumes,*

<sup>34</sup> *compelled to, it seems, by all the words in my hands*

<sup>35</sup> *and the sea that bangs in my throat.*

This poem described household objects in unconventional ways. Sexton presents images like ashtrays, a typewriter, a black chair, a fireplace that instantly call forth specific images in readers view. The writer took this poem because there are uncommon things (object) that out of its purposes, such as <sup>4</sup>ashtray is used to catch tears, and <sup>13</sup>heels and toes that can talk. Thereby, analysis of the poem can be drawn as follows:

### 1. Personification

- › <sup>4</sup>*Ashtrays to cry into*: This phrase was seemed weird. People might use their hands to swipe tears, but the author preferred to use ashtrays. The writer here viewed that hands can be replaced by ashtrays.
- › <sup>5</sup>*the suffering brother of the wood walls*: Things seem like human as seen in wood walls. The author made the wood walls like human being that have fraternal. The writer viewed that wood walls can sense like human being which can feel emotion.
- › <sup>13</sup>*a conversation of heels and toes*,: This phrase use both things heels and toes that talked as human being can. The author wants readers knowing that there was a rug that has not been used for a period and waiting for someone to step ahead through the rug.
- › <sup>16</sup>*the sofa, exhausted with the exertion of a whore*: This phrase is a bit sensual. The author imagined that the sofa can feel sensuality of a sex. The writer viewed that the author imagined that the sofa was a man.
- › <sup>21</sup>*the lights*,<sup>22</sup>*poking at me*: These both phrase emphasized that thing can poke someone else. The writer assumed that the author imagined the source of the light can poke her, as somebody did to her.
- › <sup>25</sup>*the starving windows*: Windows are also inanimate object. The author made the windows felt hungry. The writer viewed through author's view that the windows can widely opened and closed, whether it is intended or unintended.
- › <sup>27</sup>*Each day I feed the world out there*: This phrase might people confuse that the world should be fed. The writer thought through author's view that she could have spent her time out of home. She spent her time, money, and all of her source for nothing.



- › <sup>30</sup>*I feed the world in here too*: This phrase has the same with the previous. However, it was emphasized by using *here* that might reveal into her room.
- › <sup>33</sup>*My objects dream and wear new costumes*,: In this line, the author faced her object (around in the house) like human being, can dream and wear suits. The writer through author's view assumed that she needed her stuff to be renewed.
- › <sup>35</sup>*and the sea that bangs in my throat*: It seem weird that sea can do harm by punching it to someone's throat. The author might think that sea seemed like a mineral water. It can be drink and swallowed through the throat.

## 2. Simile

- › <sup>10</sup>*the sockets on the wall*, <sup>11</sup> *waiting like a cave of bees*: The second line clarified the first line by using *like*. As the author thought that the sockets seemed like a cave of bees. The writer assumed that the author lived in a not-maintained old house which has not often been used.
- › <sup>19</sup>*the doors*, <sup>20</sup> *opening and closing like sea clams*: Here, the second line also clarified the first line by using *like*. The author thought that the doors are like sea-clams or sea shells. The writer through the author's view assumed that she looked at the doors which can opened and closed by the wind.
- › <sup>25</sup>*the starving windows* , <sup>26</sup> *that drive the trees like nails into my heart*: Again the author used *like* to clarify that this phrase is included a simile. By looking through the windows, she imagined that the trees tried to stab to her heart.

## 3. Metaphor

- › <sup>6</sup>**the forty-eight keys of the typewriter**, <sup>7</sup> **each an eyeball** that is never shut,: These lines are showing the comparison in words "the forty-eight keys of the typewriter" and "each an eyeball". And a metaphor asserts the identity, without a connective such as *like* or a verb such as *appears*, of terms that are literally incompatible. The writer assumed that the author looked at the typewriter that always functionally works by itself.
- › <sup>8</sup>**the books, each a contestant** in a beauty contest,: This line indicated a metaphor because the comparison appeared between the plural the books and the singular each a contestant. The author imagined that well displayed the books would perform in a contest.
- › <sup>9</sup>**the black chair, a dog coffin made of Naugahyde**,: The comparison between two things (a black chair and a coffin) indicated a metaphor. The author imagined a relation between chair and coffin. At this line, the writer tried to catch the author's view that she said black to overview her grief at a coffin. She also said Naugayde to indicate that the coffin was luxurious because it is a brand of vinyl material for furniture.
- › <sup>14</sup>**the fireplace**, <sup>15</sup> **a knife** waiting for someone to pick it up,: The comparison between a fireplace and a knife has been shown through these lines.

The fireplace's tool kit including a knife was an identity of metaphor that asserted the fireplace. This line meant that the tools that not had been used yet for long time.

*Still I Rise*

<sup>1</sup> You may write me down in history  
<sup>2</sup> With your bitter, twisted lies,  
<sup>3</sup> You may tread me in the very dirt  
<sup>4</sup> But still, like dust, I'll rise.  
<sup>5</sup> Does my sassiness upset you?  
<sup>6</sup> Why are you beset with gloom?  
<sup>7</sup> 'Cause I walk like I've got oil wells  
<sup>8</sup> Pumping in my living room.  
<sup>9</sup> Just like moons and like suns,  
<sup>10</sup> With the certainty of tides,  
<sup>11</sup> Just like hopes springing high,  
<sup>12</sup> Still I'll rise.  
<sup>13</sup> Did you want to see me broken?  
<sup>14</sup> Bowed head and lowered eyes?  
<sup>15</sup> Shoulders falling down like teardrops.  
<sup>16</sup> Weakened by my soulful cries.  
<sup>17</sup> Does my haughtiness offend you?  
<sup>18</sup> Don't you take it awful hard  
<sup>19</sup> 'Cause I laugh like I've got gold mines  
<sup>20</sup> Diggin' in my own back yard.  
<sup>21</sup> You may shoot me with your words,  
<sup>22</sup> You may cut me with your eyes,  
<sup>23</sup> You may kill me with your hatefulness,  
<sup>24</sup> But still, like air, I'll rise.  
<sup>25</sup> Does my sexiness upset you?  
<sup>26</sup> Does it come as a surprise  
<sup>27</sup> That I dance like I've got diamonds  
<sup>28</sup> At the meeting of my thighs?  
<sup>29</sup> Out of the huts of history's shame  
<sup>30</sup> I rise  
<sup>31</sup> Up from a past that's rooted in pain  
<sup>32</sup> I rise  
<sup>33</sup> I'm a black ocean, leaping and wide,  
<sup>34</sup> Welling and swelling I bear in the tide.  
<sup>35</sup> Leaving behind nights of terror and fear  
<sup>36</sup> I rise  
<sup>37</sup> Into a daybreak that's wondrously clear

- <sup>38</sup> *I rise*  
<sup>39</sup> *Bringing the gifts that my ancestors gave,*  
<sup>40</sup> *I am the dream and the hope of the slave.*  
<sup>41</sup> *I rise*  
<sup>42</sup> *I rise*  
<sup>43</sup> *I rise.*

Maya Angelou, born in 1928, lived through some of the worst oppression and inequality for American people. She conveys her sense of confidence, African-American pride, feminism, independence, and beauty. The poem was about strength and endurance, and about affirmation. It is about what is expected of a person like the speaker (in terms of controlling her), and what that person is capable of doing despite expectations. Angelou early experienced the twin forces that would determine the shape of her life and the nature of her career: personal rejection and institutional racism. As the previous poem, it is packed full of figurative language. The writer tried to elaborate identification of the poem as follows:

### 1. Personification

- ▶ <sup>21</sup>*You may shoot me with your words*: In this line personification is identified. People usually use guns to shoot somebody but the author preferred to use “*your words*”. The line told that she lets society know that no matter what it does to oppress her, it will not succeed. She lets society know that it cannot prevail against her words.
- ▶ <sup>22</sup>*You may cut me with your eyes*: The line identified as personification because the author used eyes referred to cutting. The line expressed that whatever actions to oppress her, it will not do harm to her. She lets society know that it cannot prevail against her looks.
- ▶ <sup>23</sup>*You may kill me with your hatefulness*,: The line indicated personification. It can be seen from noun usage as a tool to assassination. The author exposed that she tried to make her personality stronger.

### 2. Simile

- ▶ <sup>4</sup>*But still, like dust, I'll rise*,: Simile can be shown by criteria of like. The author imagined she was being dust that usually be dirty but she kept stronger.
- ▶ <sup>7</sup>*Cause I walk like I've got oil wells*: This line symbolized a successful person. It can be identified by the line which comes afterwards that is written “*pumping in my living room.*” The author felt so much rich as if she had oil wells in her living room.
- ▶ <sup>9</sup>*Just like moons and like suns*,: By looking at this line, she compared herself to the moon and the suns as they are affected by the tides. This gives the readers the

understanding that the speaker has no other choice but to raise up out of her affliction.

- ▶ <sup>11</sup>*Just like hopes springing high*,: In this line the author supposed to be a nature. This line came after the previous line “*just like moons and like suns, with certainty of tides*” whatever happened to her, she would rise her up.
- ▶ <sup>15</sup>*Shoulders falling down like teardrops*. :This line came after the previous lines that are written “*Did you want to see me broken? Bowed head and lowered eyes?*”. The lines indicated that the author’s questions are direct, pertinent, and appropriately accusing. She knew that her own success was received with bitterness.
- ▶ <sup>19</sup>*Cause I laugh like I've got gold mines*: This line also indicated that the author felt very rich. It can be seen from the line which came after that is “*Diggin' in my own backyard.*” She allowed the readers to read her mind that she was having gold mines in her backyard. Then, she laughed at the success she has found.
- ▶ <sup>24</sup>*But still, like air, I'll rise*.: This line explained from the previous lines which are written “*You may shoot me with your words, You may cut me with your eyes, You may kill me with your hatefulness,*” The author allowed society know that no matter what it does to oppress her, it would not be succeed. She allowed society know that it cannot prevail against her words. She proclaimed that society cannot prevail against her even if it managed to have her killed because of its hatefulness. She claimed that she would still “like air” rise.

### 3. Metaphor

- ▶ <sup>2</sup>*With your bitter, twisted lies*,: This line indicated a metaphor which implied without a connective such as *like*. This is second line of the poem that the previous line said “*You may write me down in history*”. The author meant through these lines that whatever people saying about her, she will rise up.

Primary function of figurative language is to force the readers to imagine what a writer/author wants to express. Though, figurative language is not meant to convey literal meanings and often it compares one concept with another in order to make the first easier to understand. However, it links the two ideas or concepts with the aim of influencing audience to understand the link even if it does not exist. The poets use figurative language to reveal their emotions to the readers. Thus, figurative language is a useful way of conveying an idea that readers cannot understand. In addition, it helps analyzing a literary text.

### 5. CONCLUSION

From analysis the writers take conclusion that there are three kinds of figurative language that has been used by both poem, *The Room of My Life* and *Still I Rise*. They are personification, metaphor, and simile. As the writers analyze the poems, they found as many ten personifications, four similes, and four metaphors in *The Room of My Life's*

poem. Then, they found three personifications, seven similes, and one metaphor in *Still I Rise's* poem. The writers represents example of figurative language usage in each poem as follows;

In the poem of The Room of My Life:

- Personification : *a conversation of heels and toes*
- Simile : *waiting like a cave of bees*
- Metaphor : **the books, each a contestant**

In the poem of Still I Rise:

- Personification : *You may cut me with your eyes*
- Simile : *Cause I walk like I've got oil wells*
- Metaphor : *With your bitter, twisted lies*

Figurative language is any figure of speech which depends on a non-literal meaning of some or all of the words used. The importance of analyzing figurative language is telling to readers who are not familiar with non-literal meaning of the literature text. Figurative language usually requires readers or listeners to understand some extra nuances, context, allusion, etc. in order to understand the second meaning. For example, *a conversation of heel and toes*. People might ask how heel and toes can make a conversation. That's why the writers are interested to reveal literal meaning of these poems.

## 6. SUGGESTION

There are many kinds of figurative language such as personification, simile, metaphor, hyperbole, metonymy, paradox, allusion, understatement, oxymoron, pun, and onomatopoeia. However, the writers only find three kinds of them in *The Room of My Life's* poem and *Still I Rise's* poem. For further research, the writers suggested to the next researchers to find any other figure of speech in these poems or other poems they like. Analyzing figurative language in the literary works has benefit to students or researchers who like reading. They might study this kind of figure of speech to comprehend reading and speaking skill. They also have opportunity to review works in newspaper, magazine, school assignment, school billboard, etc.

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