

**ANALYSIS OF METAPHORICAL EXPRESSIONS USED IN
THE BOOK ENTITLED *SHAKESPEARE PROVERBS* INSCRIBED
BY MARY COWDEN CLARKE**

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Abstract: The aims of the research are to find out ontological metaphors in Shakespeare's proverbs, and to interpret the meaning of those metaphors. The data are taken from the book entitled *Shakespeare proverbs* inscribed by Mary Cowden Clarke. This research is a qualitative research. In collecting the data, the documentation technique is used in this research. The steps that the researchers have taken in order to collect the data are: reading the *Shakespeare proverbs* book, marking the proverbs that identified as ontological metaphor, interpreting the meaning of those metaphors. The data are categorized analysed based on George Lakoff and Mark Johnson theory. In analysing the data, the three steps conducted by Miles and Huberman are used in this research, they are: data reduction, data display and data verification/conclusion. The result from this research shows that there are 44 proverbs in *Shakespeare Proverb* book that contained ontological metaphors. This research is suggested to be a reference for the readers and the other researchers in order learning and interpreting metaphorical expressions in proverbs or the other literature works.

Keywords: *Metaphorical Expression, Proverb*

1 INTRODUCTION

Language is the only tool of communication. In communication aspect, language has function to exchange information, make negotiation, deal with an agreement and finish any activity. Language is also used to communicate and express human feelings, knowledge, ideas or thoughts and experiences. "*Language is also needed in educations aspect, language is not everything in education, but without language, everything is nothing in education*" (Hampp et al, 2018: p.850).

Since language is a system of arbitrary vocal symbols used for communication that are meaningful and articulate (Rombepajung, 2019: p.35), language can't be separated from human lives and their communities as said by Kamagi et al (2018: p.847) that language has function as a tool of communication used by human to express their action, thoughts, desires, and feelings.

People can express all their feelings both in written and spoken language. In spoken language the speaker and listener can understand the conversation better but sometimes the listener does not catch

the meaning from the speaker. In spoken language the listener can directly ask what the speaker means. In written language, the case will be more complicated. Sometimes the readers cannot directly know the meaning of the writer that had written in any literary works. It will cause misinterpretation for the reader. Therefore to avoid those misinterpretations, people have to know about figurative language because by using figurative language people can convey their intention indirectly or convey words beyond the literal meaning as defined in dictionary.

Figurative language is used to describe someone or something by comparing to another or using words for description that do not have a literal meaning. Figurative language has four types and one of them is figure of comparison. Figure of comparison is used to find the similarities in different things. Figure of comparison is classified into five types and metaphorical expression is the most common because almost all of literary works use it.

Metaphorical expressions are usually used in literary works for instance in wisdoms, dramas, lyrics of song, poetries, proverbs, sonnets and the others. Collins Dictionary defines proverb as a short sentence or phrase that people often quote, which gives advice or tells something about life. Each word of every proverb has its own meaning and it usually deals with metaphorical expression.

The example of metaphorical expression can be seen in one of famous proverb: Tongue double, brings trouble. The metaphorical expression of this proverb is the word tongue double.

Tongue according to its literal meaning is the soft, fleshy muscular organ, moveable part in the mouth that is used for tasting, swallowing, licking and eating food. Tongue also has big function in articulating speech. The word double means twice as great as many. If we combine those words, it will give weird definition based on its literal meaning. Every person normally has a tongue merely it can be understood in social meaning and here is the explanation: tongue is somehow uncontrolled. Sometimes we can't control our expressions when we speak to others. In this context the word double means when we talk too much and give wrong information or annoying expression it could bring trouble. The word 'brings' in this case doesn't mean carrying but causing and the last word trouble means problem. So the moral message that is hidden from this proverb is that we have to be careful in saying something to others and we can't let anybody hurt by our annoying expressions. From the discussion above, we can see how complicated proverbs to be understood when we translated them based on their metaphorical meaning.

Since metaphorical expressions are used in many literary works then we can find them on Shakespeare's works. One of his works is a book entitled *Shakespeare Proverbs* inscribed by Mary Cowden Clarke.

Almost all of William Shakespeare's works use figurative language and so do his proverbs. This book contains proverbs that use metaphorical expressions. However those expressions are not that easy to be comprehended and analyzed. Therefore this study tries to discuss those meanings more

specifically in giving the clear explanation and interpretation to the readers. This study also tries to explore the detailed meaning of metaphorical expressions in the book entitled *Shakespeare Proverbs* inscribed by Mary Cowden Clarke.

Based on that point of view, this study is conducted in a research entitled: **Analysis of Metaphorical expressions used in the Book entitled *Shakespeare Proverbs* inscribed by Mary Cowden Clarke.**

2 RESEARCH METHODOLOGY

2.1. Research Design

This research uses descriptive method or also known as qualitative research method. Since this research is a qualitative research, the method of the data collection is based on the non-quantifiable element.

2.2. Data Collection

This study uses document as the source to collect the data. According to Corbin & Strauss (2008), Document analysis is a systematic procedure for reviewing or evaluating document while it is in printed or non-printed material. Like other method in qualitative research, document analysis requires data that can be examined and interpreted in order to gain understanding, elicit meaning and develop empirical knowledge. Document analysis is based on existing sources.

The data of this research are taken from a book entitled *Shakespeare Proverbs* Inscribed by Mary Cowden Clarke.

2.3. Data Analysis

After collecting the data, the researchers analyse the data. Analysis means the categorizing, ordering, manipulating, and summarizing of data to obtain answers to research questions.

In analysing the data, the researchers use technique of data analysis based on Miles and Huberman (1994) which is involving three steps, they are: data reduction, data display and conclusion drawing.

Data reduction

Data reduction means the process of selecting, identifying, classifying and coding the data that are considered important. In this research, the researchers select the data from *Shakespeare Proverbs* Book.

Data Display

The next step is data display. Data display means the process to simplify the data in the form of sentence, narrative or table. Data display will make the data become easier to be understood. In displaying the data, the researchers describe the data into narrative form.

Conclusion Drawing

The last step is conclusion drawing. In this step, the researchers sum up the research. Conclusion drawing will show the final result of a research.

3 DATA ANALYSIS

The researchers analyse the data by reading all the proverbs in *Shakespeare Proverbs* inscribed by Mary Cowden Clarke. This step discuss about the presentation of the data concerning the usage of ontological metaphors in Shakespeare's proverbs and the meaning of those metaphors. The findings of this study discuss for the sake of drawing conclusion and suggestions.

3.1. Data Reduction

While reading the whole book, the researchers reduce the data by identifying the proverbs that contain ontological metaphors. The table below is the list of ontological metaphor in *Shakespeare Proverbs* book.

No	Ontological Metaphor	Meaning	Page
1.	A light heart lives long	Life	11
2.	A golden mind stoops not to shows of dross.	Wisdom	11
3.	All the world's stage, And all the men and women merely players.	Life	12
4.	A woman's thought runs before her action	Stupidity	12
5.	A good heart's worth gold	Life	14
6.	All hoods make not monks	Life	16
7.	A good man's fortune may grow out at heels	Life	18
8.	Black men are pearls in beauteous ladies' eyes	Love	19
9.	Best men are molded out of fault	Wisdom	20
10.	Beauty provoked thieves sooner than gold	Crime	20
11.	By medicine life may be prolonged, yet death will seize the doctor too	Life	22

12.	Bondage is hoarse, and may not speak aloud	Cruelty	22
13.	Calumny will sear virtue itself	Life	23
14.	Civil dissension is a viperous worm, that gnaws the bowels of the commonwealth	Politics	24
15.	Corruption wins not more than honesty	Politics	24
16.	Every inordinate cup us unblessed, and the ingredients is a devil	Crime	33
17.	Fat paunches have lean pates	Stupidity	35
18.	Fly pride, says the peacock	Arrogance	36
19.	False face must hide what the false heart doth know	Wisdom	36
20.	Friendly counsel cuts off many foes	Politics	36
21.	Good name, in man and woman, is the immediate jewel of their souls	Wisdom	41
22.	Hope is a lover's staff	Love	43
23.	Ignorance is the curse of god, knowledge the wing wherewith we fly to heaven	Wisdom	55
24.	If money go before, all ways do lie open	Politics	55
25.	Jealousy: it is the green-eyed monster, which	Love	59

	doth make the meat it feeds on		
26.	Love looks not with the eyes but with the mind	Love	61
27.	Love delights in praises	Love	61
28.	Life is a shuttle	Life	62
29.	Men are April when they woo, December when they wed	Love	69
30.	Oft 'tis seen, the wicked prize itself buys out the law	Politics	82
31.	Our bodies are our gardens, to the which our wills are gardeners	Life	82
32.	Pleasure and revenge have ears more deaf than adders to the voice of any true decision	Stupidity	84
33.	Silence is the perfectest herald of joy	Life	89
34.	Some griefs are medicinal	Life	93
35.	Thought is free	Life	95
36.	Time is the nurse and breeder of all good	Life	97
37.	The sight of lovers feedeth those in love	Love	10 2
38.	Time is the old justice that examines all offenders	Life	10 2
39.	The venom clamors of a jealous woman	Love	1 0 6

	Poison more deadly than a mad dog's tooth		
40.	The evil that men do lives after them, the good is oft interred with their bones	Life	1 1 7
41.	Where fair is not, praise cannot mend the brow	Life	13 1
42.	Wisdom and fortune combating together, If that the former dare but what it can, No chance may shake it	Wisdom	1 4 0
43.	When the mind's free, the body's delicate	Life	14 1
44.	When sorrows come, they come not single spies, but in battalions	Life	14 2

3.2. Data Display

In this step, the researchers display the data by mentioning and categorizing the ontological metaphors found in *Shakespeare Proverbs* book. The researchers also interpret the meaning of all those metaphors. Those metaphors are as follows:

ARROGANCE

Fly pride, says the peacock.

In literal meaning *says* is a verb to express words. The word *peacock* itself means a male peafowl noted by a crest of upright gorgeous feather. In this proverb, Shakespeare describes the peacock as human that can express something using word. Since it's an ontological metaphor, it can't be interpreted literally. The peacock can be

referred to humans that have fabulous things in their life or body. The people with these special things, such as beauty, cleverness, wealth, etc. make them think that they are perfect. Most of them think that they are more special than the others. It makes them feel they have privilege in society.

CRIME

1. Beauty provoked thieves sooner than gold.

This is an ontological metaphor because Shakespeare put the word *provoked* in this proverb. Provoke means to arouse to a feeling or action. Here Shakespeare described the thieves as if they were law. The connotative meaning of this proverb is the thieves are more interested to do criminal when it comes to women rather than just money. Crimes more often happened to women and this case more often happened than the left.

2. Every inordinate cup is unblessed, and the ingredient is a devil.

This proverb is quoted from Othello, Act 2, Scene 3. In general speaking the words of this proverb are: *inordinate* is exceeding reasonable limit. *Cup* is an open usually bowl-shaped drinking vessel, but sometimes it's also defined as the consecrated wine of the communion. *Ingredient* is something that enters into a compound or is a component part of any combination or mixture while *devil* is a very powerful evil spirit that makes bad things happened. Those words have connotative meaning, here is the interpretation.

What is meant of 'every inordinate cup' in this context is every glass of liquor. Every inordinate cup is unblessed means that every glass of liquor is damned and dangerous. A man who drinks too much liquor is probably in danger. When a man consumes too much alcohol than he probably gets drunk, when he gets drunk, he can harm himself or others.

The second phrase is 'and the ingredient is a devil'. It's impossible that liquor was made of devil. The meaning of this phrase is when a man drinks too much alcohols, he can't control himself. He could do crime and crazy things just like devil do bad things. That's why Shakespeare stated the devil as the ingredient of the cup.

CRUELTY

1. Bondage is hoarse, and may not speak aloud.

This proverb is a quotation from the most popular drama of Shakespeare, Romeo and Juliet, act 2, scene, 2. *Bondage* is the tenure or service of a villain, serf, or slave while *hoarse* is rough or harsh in sound. Since this proverb states that 'bondage is hoarse' Shakespeare tried to represent bondage to a person that suffered a chronic cough.

The meaning of this proverb in that drama can be interpreted in two ways. In that drama, Juliet was the one who stated this sentence. She said to Romeo 'bondage is a hoarse, and may not speak aloud'. They were trying to make a date but that wasn't easy for them to meet. She said bondage is hoarse and the bondage is her, herself. She was trapped in her family house and forbidden to meet Rome, so when she wanted to meet him, she has to be quiet.

The second interpretation of this proverb is: 'bondage is hoarse, and may not speak aloud'. A slave can't speak loud to ask for their right, even though they are tortured but they don't have their right to speak to their master. They can only moan without fighting back to those who enslave them.

LIFE

1. All the world's stage,
And all the men and women merely players.

This proverb is quoted from Shakespeare's another drama entitled 'As You Like It' Act 2, Scene vii. In this proverb Shakespeare connoted the world as a stage where everything that happened in the world is just like act that usually acted on a stage. In the second line, Shakespeare continued the proverb with the sentence 'and all the men and women merely players'. Here he tried to represent men and women as the actors in the stage. When we see a stage it usually shows a drama or theater that played by the actors. So Shakespeare tried to describe the world as a stage because in the world, men and women who are described as actors are playing many roles in everyday life.

2. When sorrows come, they come not single spies, but in battalions.

This proverb is another quotation from the drama entitled 'Hamlet'. It is quoted from Act 4, Scene 5. Shakespeare connoted sorrows to army because it is stated 'when sorrows come, they come not single spies, but in battalions'. The literal meaning of *battalions* is a military unit composed of a headquarters and two or more companies. This proverb is also an ontological metaphor because it connotes sorrows to army. The interpretation of this proverb is explained below.

In our daily lives we used to pass many things. Those things could bring happiness or even sorrow. Life always gives us many new experiences. Sometimes we feel happy and not infrequently we feel sad. We never know when those two contrast things will come to us. Often times when we have problem, the sorrow in our heart are manifold. When we get problem in our life it seems the problem never ended. Many times different problems came at the same time and we have to solve and pass those problems by ourselves.

LOVE

1. Jealousy: it is the green-eyed monster, which doth make the meat it feeds on.

This proverb is quoted from Othello, Act 3, Scene 3. In this proverb jealousy refers to the green-eyed monster. In general speaking, *jealousy* is a jealous disposition, attitude or feeling. *Monster* is an animal or plant of abnormal form or structure. *Meat* is the flesh of a mammal as opposed to fowl or fish. *Feed* can be defined as furnishing something essential to the development, sustenance, maintenance or operation of something. The interpretation of this proverb is explained down below.

Jealousy is like a monster to the man who feels jealous. In 'Othello' Iago described jealousy as a monster which devours its source. The man who knows his wife is cheating on him is a little relieved because at least he really knows the fact and doesn't need to guess what's actually happening. But think of the unhappiness of a man who worship his woman, yet he doubts her faithfulness. He suspects her, but at the same time he still loves her. A man would rather know his wife is cheating than suspect her without proof. The overthinking man will lead him to jealousy, and the jealousy itself will make the lovers feel miserable and confused.

2. Men are April when they woo, December when they wed.

This proverb is quoted from Shakespeare's another drama entitled 'As You Like It', Act 4, Scene 1. In this proverb men refer to months: April and December. In the drama Rosalind said to Orlando 'Men are like April when they are wooing a girl: young and passionate but like December once they're married and their passions have cooled. Women are as sweet and temperate as springtime when they're single, but the climate changes once they're married'. From Rosalind's utterance to Orlando we can understand what the meaning of this

metaphorical expression. Men will be passionate when seducing a woman but after he can marry her everything will change.

POLITICS

1. Friendly counsel cuts off many foes.

This proverb is quoted from Henry VI Part 1, Act 3, Scene 1. The literal meanings of the words in this proverb are: *friendly* is showing kindly interest and goodwill. *Counsel* is an advice given especially as a result. *Cut off* is removing something using scissors or a knife while foes are enemies in war. This proverb refers a counsel to a knife because it uses the word 'cut off'.

When both sides hostile, the situation will be chaos but when they make a deal that profitable for both sides then the enmity will be ended. A good deal will not only solve the problem between the two sides but also save the relationship between them. No more hatred or revenge.

2. If money go before, all ways do lie open. In this proverb the word *ways* refers to door because it is stated 'all ways do lie open'. This proverb is relatable to human's current life. Being an adult, people start to see things differently as they were children. People notice things happened for a reason. People start looking for more. People want to be like someone else. People want to live in a big house even they are on their own. People think that money is everything and think that it can buy everything. This message has sunk in people's minds. No question that money makes life easier, creates more opportunities, buys respects, etc. This proverb tells us how important money to human nowadays.

3. Oft 'tis seen, the wicked prize itself buys out the law.

This proverb is quoted from the drama entitled 'Hamlet' Act 3, Scene 3. In this proverb Shakespeare described law as a product that can be bought. The literal

meaning of some words in this proverb are explained as follows. The word *wicked* means morally very bad. *Prize* means something offered or striven for, in competition or in contests of chance.

This proverb means, in this wicked world, criminals often take the money they stole and use it to buy off the law shoving justice aside. Let's take an example, 'a corruptor'. He will corrupt much money then he will deny what he had stolen. He will never worry about the consequence that he will get because with that wicked money he can shut all the accusations up.

STUPIDITY

1. A woman's thought runs before her actions.

This proverb is another quotation from Shakespeare's drama entitled 'As You Like It' Act 4, Scene i. Since the proverb stated that 'thought runs', this proverb represented 'thought' as runner. The literal meaning of run is moving very quickly on legs. When Shakespeare says 'A woman's thought runs before her actions' it does not mean that the woman's thought moves very quickly on her legs and beat her actions. The meaning of the proverb is when a woman wants to do something or makes a plan, she will always first think about it. An action or plan to a woman must have been planned well in her thought.

2. Pleasure and revenge have ears more deaf than adders to the voice of any true decision.

In this proverb Shakespeare described pleasure and revenge as human that have ears and the word *decision* stated has voice. Pleasure and revenge absolutely do not have ears. Before we get into the interpretation, let's check the literal meaning of some words in this proverb. *Pleasure* means desire. *Revenge* is avenging usually by retaliating in kind or degree. *Deaf* is lacking

or deficient in the sense of hearing. *Adders* are any of various snakes. Voice is sound produced by vertebrates.

Pleasure and revenge have same connotation. Both are ambitious to reach something the different is: pleasure is a desire to get something positive while revenge is usually described as a desire to do avenge by negative things. Once a man has pleasure or revenge he will not be able to think logically and clearly. He will not be able to differentiate good and bad thing. He doesn't care if his decision to get the pleasure or to do revenge will be good or harm for him. All what he's going to do is following his desire to reach the pleasure or even to do the revenge.

WISDOM

1. False face must hide what the false heart doth know.

This proverb is quoted from another Shakespeare's drama entitled *Macbeth*, Act 1, Scene 7. This proverb is also an ontological proverb, because it states that 'face must hide'. Shakespeare described the face like a thief. In general speaking, the meanings of some words of this proverb are: *false* means not genuine. *Face* is the front part of the head that in human extends from the forehead to the chin and includes the mouth, nose, cheeks, and eyes while heart is a hollow muscular organ that by its rhythmic contraction acts as a force pump maintaining the circulation of the blood.

When a metaphorical expression translated by its literal meaning it will get a chaos definition. Like this proverb, 'false face must hide what the false heart doth know. Everybody knows there is no 'non genuine' heart nor non genuine face. So, to know the meaning of this proverb, let's check the interpretation down below.

False face means a made-up expression. Our expressions are usually showed on our

face, that's why this proverb uses the word 'false face' to describe a dishonest expression. It states that 'False face must hide what the false heart doth know'. It means when a man hate the other, he will pretend to be good to the person who he hates. Even though he hates the person but he doesn't want the person know about it. So he will pretend as if he liked the person that he actually hates. He will pretend to be kind, friendly, doing good things and pretend that he doesn't actually hates the person. He must do all of those pretentiousness to prevent the person knows what actually inside his heart is.

2. Ignorance is the curse of God; knowledge the wing wherewith we fly to heaven.

This proverb is quoted from the drama *Henry VI*, *ignorance* is the state or fact of being ignorant: lack of knowledge, education or awareness. *Curse* is a cause of great harm or misfortune. *Wing* is one of the movable feathered or membranous paired appendages by means of which a bird, bat, or insect is able to fly while *heaven* is the dwelling place of the deity and the blessed dead, or a spiritual state of everlasting communion with God. In this proverb, ignorance refers to God's curse and knowledge refers to wing.

The interpretation of 'ignorance is curse of God' is that, as we know ignorance is the state of being ignorant, lack of knowledge, education or awareness. Once ignorance is sticking on someone then the ignorance will bring him into great harm or other negative things. The ignorant person doesn't care about the knowledge and the other good things. The second phrase is 'knowledge the wing wherewith we fly to heaven'. This phrase means knowledge can bring us to a successful life. Wing is usually flies birds to a higher place and helps it to go on its life. In this case, knowledge becomes the wing that can bring someone to heaven while

heaven means a better life and a brighter future.

3.3. Conclusion Drawing

Based on the previous steps above, the researchers find there are forty four proverbs that are identified as ontological metaphors in *Shakespeare Proverbs* book. Those metaphors have different interpretations. Some proverbs are about arrogance, crime, cruelty, life, love, politics, stupidity and wisdom.

4 CONCLUSION

After analysing the data from *Shakespeare Proverbs* book, the researchers come to conclusion follows:

There are 44 proverbs identified as ontological metaphor in *Shakespeare Proverbs* book, they are: 1 proverb contains the meaning of arrogance, 2 proverbs meanings of crime, 1 meaning of cruelty, 18 meanings of life, 8 meanings of love, 5 meanings of politics, 3 meanings of stupidity and 6 meanings of wisdoms.

The ontological metaphor in *Shakespeare Proverbs* book represents various meanings they are: arrogance, crime, cruelty, life, love, politics, stupidity and wisdom.

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