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**FIGURATIVE LANGUAGE USED BY GAYLE FORMAN  
IN "IF I STAY" NOVEL**

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**Abstract:** This study investigated the figurative languages used in a novel written by Gayle Forman entitled "If I Stay Novel". The researchers analyzed six figurative languages; Metonymy, Symbolic, Euphemistic, Litotes, Onomatopoeia, and Idiom. This study is descriptive qualitative. The data were in the form of sentences gained by doing several steps. The first step was reading the novel. The second was to identify and find the sentences that belong to Metonymy, Symbolic, Euphemistic, Litotes, Onomatopoeia, and Idiom. The next step was underlining the phrase or words that belong to figurative languages. After that, in analyzing the data, the researchers classified the sentences into six figurative languages, analyzed sentences, and interpreted them. In conclusion, the figurative languages in this novel contain 42% Metonymy, 5% Symbolic, 8% Euphemistic, 3% Litotes, 13% Onomatopoeia, and 29% Idiom.

**Keywords:** *Figurative Languages, Metonymy, Symbolic, Euphemistic, Litotes, Onomatopoeia, Idiom*

### **INTRODUCTION**

According to (Welianto, 2020; Ibeng, 2021) Novel is of literary work designed through written words and it represents human life, cultural, social, educational, and moral values for the readers. It also highlights the intrinsic and extrinsic elements. "If I Stay" is a novel written by Gayle Forman translated into 40 languages. This novel was adapted into a film in 2014. Moreover, this novel won two awards. They were the Southern California Award and the Missouri Readers Award (Juvanile, 2011).

Several previous researchers investigated the Novel of Gayle Forman's "If I Stay". First was Mahendra (2014) who analyzed the Conjunction used in the novel "If I Stay". Then was Wahyuni (2017) who analyzed about story of love and hope from the main characters. Last was Padillah, et al. (2016) who analyzed figurative languages focused on Simile, Hyperbole, Personifications, and Metaphor. Based on the previous research, the researchers intended to analyze the figurative languages focused on Metonymy, Symbolic, Euphemistic, Litotes, Onomatopoeia, and Idiom.

According to Keraf (2002), language styles are a writer's way to express their thought that represent his soul and personality. Keraf (1996) states the comparison with the analogy has finally come up with all sorts of figurative languages such as Metonymy, Eponym, Hyperbole, Allusion, etc. In this study, the researchers focused on answering six research questions related to the figurative language used in this Novel. They were (1) what are Metonymy found in "If I

1 Stay" novel?, (2) what are symbolic found in "If I Stay" novel?, (3) what are euphemistic found in "if I stay" novel?, (4) what are litotes found in "if I stay" novel? (5) what are onomatopoeia found in "if I stay" novel? (6) The last what are idiom found in "if I stay" novel?.

The objective of this study was to know the language style used by Gayle Forman which was limited to six figurative languages; Metonymy, Symbolic, Euphemistic, Litotes, Onomatopoeia, and Idiom. The researchers hope that the result of this study contributes to enriching the readers' knowledge and gives a better understanding of figurative languages.

## REVIEW OF RELATED LITERATURE

Figurative language or well-known as a figure of speech is a beautiful word used in written language to give aesthetic effects (Padillah et.al, 2016). In Addition, As stated by Keraf (2009) "Figurative language is a word or phrase that departs from every literal language which is very difficult to be understood by people even students because it has differentiation from its context and reality in meaning, to know that figurative language formed based on comparison and similarity".

Keraf (2009) and Charity (2011) states that figurative language consists of Simile, Litotes, Metaphor, Allegory, Personification, Allusion, Eponym, Epithet, Synecdoche, Metonymy, Antonomasia, Hipflask, Irony, Satire, Innuendo, Antiphrasis, Metonymy, Symbolic, Euphemistic, Idiom, Onomatopoeia, Oxymoron, Hyperbole, Allusion, Idiom, Imagery, Alliteration, Assonance, Consonance, Litotes, Anaphor, Tautology, Understatement. Metonymy is called a named substitute in the form of a brand or label, object, or the use of something closer to and related to a substitute for a particular object. For instance, *I am going to Jakarta by using Garuda*. "Garuda" is the label or brand of air transportation. Symbolic is a comparative language style that contains the parable of one thing to another by using a symbol of objects, animals, or plants. For example, *he is a tiger in his group*. "Tiger" in that sentence shows that the boy is strong. Euphemistic is a language style used to refine the meaning of words, replace or cover other words and expressions that are considered taboo, rude, and inappropriate, e.g: *passed away* to substitute *die*. Litotes is a language style used to express something to humble oneself however it is not by reality. For instance *This is my ordinary house*. Onomatopoeia is imitating the sounds associated with it, for example, *"clap..clap"* as the sound of a someone is clapping. An idiom is an expression that contains figurative meaning that is different from its literal meaning. For instance, *it's all greek to me*. It means that I do not understand.

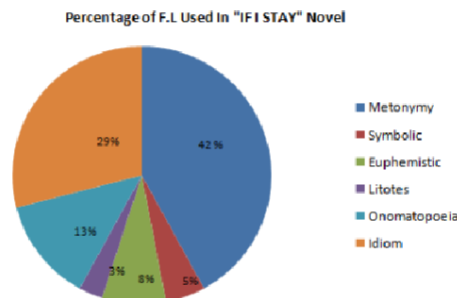
## RESEARCH METODOLOGY

This study used descriptive qualitative to collect, analyze and interpret the data. Since this study is qualitative, the data is interpreted with words or sentences. The source of the data was taken from the "If I Stay" novel by Gayle Forman that was published by the Penguin Group (USA) LLC 375 Hudson Street, New York, 2014.

In collecting the data the researchers took the following steps. They were reading the novel. The researchers read the novel and understand the meaning. Then, the researcher identifies and finds the sentences that belong to Metonymy, Symbolic, Euphemistic, Litotes, Onomatopoeia, and Idiom. After that underlining the phrase or words that belong to figurative languages. Last, in analyzing the data, the researchers classified the sentences into six figurative languages, analyzed the sentences, and interpreted them.

**RESULT AND DISCUSSION**

In this study, the researchers found figurative languages used in "If I Stay" novel by Gayle Forman which can be seen in figure 4.1 Percentage of Figurative Language Used in "If I Stay" novel as follow :



**Figure 4.1 Percentage of Figurative Language Used in "If I Stay" novel.**

Figure 4.1 shows the frequency of figurative language used depicted in the "If I Stay" novel. They are 42% Metonymy, 5% Symbolic, 8% Euphemistic, 3% Litotes, 13% Onomatopoeia, and 29% Idiom, Several examples of figurative languages used in this novel are below.

**1. Metonymy.**

The examples of metonymy found in "If I Stay" novel are (1) "Pepsi" in the sentence ... people. Coke drinkers. **Pepsi drinkers**. There are conformists ... (p.67) (2) "convers" in the sentence "Adam wore band uniform including a T-shirt, tights, Convers ..." (p.89). "Pepsi" is a brand of beverage and "convers" show a brand or label of a shoe.

**2. Symbolic**

The examples of symbolic found in "If I Stay" novel are (1) *donkeys* in the sentence "they are so arrogant not to be careful driving like donkeys....." (p.6). "donkey" symbolized a stupid or obstinate person. Then (2) "Bear" in the sentence "No ... In fact, Mama Bear would be furious with the way ..." (p.106). "Mama bear" symbolized a mother that does the best way she can, for her child, and a woman who doesn't apologize for her choices.

**3. Euphemistic**

The examples of Euphemistic found in "If I Stay" novel are (1) "old-fashioned" in the sentence "I mean they're old-fashioned but they always were into what you did, and even in your ....." (p.104). "old-fashioned" is more polite than ancient. (2) "he began to play" in sentence "...I closed my eyes and tried to feel his eyes on my body, seeing me as no one else ever had. Then he began to play (p.40). "he began to play" shows having sex.

**4. Litotes**

The examples of Litotes found in "If I Stay" Novel is "a girl like me" in the sentence "..... treated her the way that I'd always imagined he would treat a girl like me. (P.71). "a girl like me" to affirm positive sentiment or showing servility.

**5. Onomatopoeia**

The examples of Onomatopoeia found in "If I Stay" Novel is "tsked tsked" in the sentence "Then she noticed the bloodstain on my blanket and tsked tsked before hustling off to get me a new one. (p.138). "tsked tsked" is the sound of clearing something.

**6. Idiom**

The examples of idioms found in "If I Stay" Novel is (1) "Break an arm" in the sentence *he'd told me p.34 break (one's) arm patting (oneself) on the back. "break an arm" means To excessively praise oneself for an achievement or a job well done.* (2) "father knows everything" in the sentence *"and even though Dad liked to play it all Father Knows Best, in reality, he and Mom were suckers when it came to love (p.39) "Father knows everything" means To have more knowledge and experience about something than anyone else).*

## CONCLUSIONS

Based on the result of this study, it can be concluded that there is 42% Metonymy, 5% Symbolic, 8% Euphemistic, 3% Litotes, 13% Onomatopoeia, and 29% Idiom. Among six figurative languages which were investigated by the researchers, the most frequently figurative languages used are Metonymy. There are many labels or brands shows in the novel of "If I Stay"

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