CHAPTER II

FIGURE OF SPEECH

2.1 Definition

Before we talk about the figure of speech devices is very important to know meaning of figure of speech. X. J. Kennedy (1991:584) gives definition, “a figure of speech may be said to occur whenever a speaker or writer, for the sake of freshness or emphasis, departs from the usual denotations of words.” Figure of speech are not devices to state what is demonstrably untrue. Indeed they often state truths that more literal language cannot communicate; they call attention to such truths; they lend them emphasis.

K. L. Knickerbocker (1963:366) noted that figures and symbol are images used in a particular way to explore the less known through the known. He gives an example, that Joseph Conrad describes and old Chinese ship-owner as having “a face like an ancient lemon”. The images in this figure are the face and the lemon, the first unknown to us, the second well known. Our imagination will be required to transfer the relevant characteristics of the ancient lemon to the face, and we can see it as wrinkled, jaundiced, dried-up, oval-shaped, and toughened by time – but the irrelevant characteristics of the lemon we will allow to drop away. That is why we must make the proper association between the face and the lemon. If we transfer a figure into the purpose object it means we have reached one level in order to understand the figure of speech bt for the people who have no any ability in interpreting figurative meaning it means that he has ‘an empty art’ to understand it and can not reach one level to understand it. We need to learn—even a few of figure of speech to enlarge our understanding and enjoyment of poetry.
Wren and Martin (1981:488) state, “figure of speech is a departure from the ordinary form of expression or the ordinary course of ideas in order to produce a greater effect.” This definition explained that figure of speech related what we called connotative meaning. A Figure of Speech is a word or words are use to create an effect, often where they do not have their original or literal meaning.

Meanwhile, Ruth Miller and Robert A. Greenberg (1986:66) give definition, “figurative language, that is, a means of indirect statement that says one thing in terms of another”. The effectiveness of such usage can, of course, vary widely. It can seem foolish if it is simply showy or not especially appropriate. However, as often as not the effect can be a liveliness of expression that manages to press very closely to the essence of an object or idea while also conveying a strong sense of the speaker’s attitudes and feelings. For the poet, whose tendency is to see and think figuratively, the use of figurative language is virtually inescapable.

Based on all definitions above, I conclude that figure of speech is beautiful words, which are use in writing a poem in order contents of poem, should touch feelings, emotions based on images or pictures of things seen, and actions experienced. Figure of speech should expression symbols of human life, love, religion and many things is relevant what thought of author in writing a poem.

Understanding the implications of figure of speech brings us close to center of poetic statement. Here is Shakespeare using the language of seasonal change to convey the sense of aging.

That time of year thou mayst in me behold
When yellow leaves, or none, or few, do hang
Upon those boughs which shake against the cold,
Bare ruined choirs, where late the sweet birds sang

The season is late autumn, early winter, suggested by by the yellow leaves (few or none) that remain upon the boughs shaking in the cold. They shake (suggesting
fraity, old age, perhaps palsy) because they are subject to the wind’s blowing, a phenomenon we are made to hear in the last line as the boughs become choirs: bare and ruined now but once full (as the boughs were of leaves) of sweet birds singing. The song of the choristers has been replaced by the wind’s song—a moan, perhaps, or a wail, but certainly not the song of sweet birds as in his youth and young manhood.

2.2 Figure of Speech Devices

There are many figure of speech devices. Siswantoro (2002:24-44) divided figure of speech devices into nine kinds: simile, metaphor, personification, apostrophe, hyperbola, antithesis, synecdoche, paradox and symbol. Meanwhile, Graham Little (1985:164-166) divided figure of speech into three classifications, which are respectively based on comparisons, associations, and other figure of speech. They are as follows:

2.2.1 Based on Comparisons

Based on comparisons, figure of speech divided into six kinds. They are as follows:

1. Simile

Simile comes from Latin word *similes*, means like, note from Arthur Finley Scott (1983:268). A simile makes an imaginative comparison for purposes of explanation, allusion, or ornament, introduced by a word such as ‘like’, ‘as’, or ‘such’. It can be simple, briefly expressed or long and sustained, known then as the epic simile.

Meanwhile, Wren and Martin (1981:480) gives definition, “simile is a comparison made between two objects of different kinds which have, however, at least one point in common”. This definition is similarity of Martha Pardede’s
definition (2008:22) “a simile is generally the comparison of two things essentially unlike, on the basis of a resemblance in one aspect. It is a figure in which a similarity between two objects directly expressed”. Most simile are introduced by as or like or even by such a word as compare, liken or resemble. For example: “My love is like a red rose”.

X. J. Kennedy (1991:587) gives definition, “simile: a comparison of two things, indicated by some connective, usually like, as, than, or a verb such as resembles”. A simile expresses a similarity. Still, for a simile to exist, the things compared have to be dissimilar in kind.

Below the example of simile, in the famous opening of T. S. Eliot’s Love Song of J. Alfred Prufrock:

Let us go then, you and I,  
When the evening is spread out against the sky  
Like a patient etherized upon a table.  
(1917)

The third lines is a simile, since it is introduced by the preposition like; the comparison is made explicit. Elliot’s comparison is a starting one. The evening is “spread out against the sky”, this suggests the evening light in the west, stretching over a considerable portion of the sky and appearing to be nearer to the viewer than the sky is, but nevertheless presses close against it. Then he goes on to compare the evening to a patient under a general anaesthetic, while the sky is operating-table on which the patient lies. The comparison suggests the stillness and inertness of the evening. At the same time, “etherized” reminds the reader of an older sense of the word “ether”- the clear sky, the upper regions of space beyond the clouds. But at the same time the comparison to a patient under an anaesthetic can bring in associations which have nothing to do with the evening sky, such as surgery, illness, white clothes,
face-masks, sterile instruments, death: some of these may be quite irrelevant, but some way contribute to the poem as a whole.

2. Metaphor

Wren and Martin give definition, “a metaphor is an implied simile. It does not, like the simile, state one thing is like another or acts as another, but takes that for granted and proceeds as if the two things were one (1981:489). In general, a metaphor is not plainly limited in the number of resemblances it may indicate. For example: “He is a pig” is to use a metaphor that might involve comparisons of appearance, morality as well. X. J. Kennedy (1991:587) gives definition, “metaphor is a statement that one thing is something else, which, in a literal sense, it is not. There is the new transferred meaning. Metaphor can help a poet to achieve conversation, to arrange some words into little space and also shape a reader’s attitudes.

Martha Pardede (2002:23) states, “metaphor is an analogy identifying one object with another and ascribing to the first object one more of the quality of the second”. Metaphor may be simple, that is, may occur in the single isolated comparison or a large metaphor may function as the controlling image of the whole work. For example: “My love is the rose of my heart”. Meanwhile, Charles Barber (1985:42-45) defines that “Metaphor is one of the powerful tools that poets use, but it is by no means confined to poetry: it is also occurs in prose and in speech”. A metaphor is always two – sided thing: there is the original literal meaning of the word.

For example is a piece of Robert Herrick’s poem entitled, “A Meditation for His Mistress”.

You are a tulip seen today
But, dearest, of so short a stay
That were you grew scarce man can say

You are a lovely July-flower
Yet one rude wind or ruffling shower
Will force you hence, and in an hour

You are a full-spread, fair-set vine
And can with tendrils love entwine,
Yet dried are you distill your wine

From the piece of poem above, it is used metaphor. There are two objects compared. First stanza, “you” here may be identify as a woman compared with “tulip”. As we known that “tulip” is beautiful flower. It is described a beautiful woman. And then, there is explanations that “tulip” has so short a stay. It is means that not a long to survive. Second stanza, Herrick compared a woman as “July-flower”, It is means that a woman like July is beautiful month but storm and rude wind make withered. The third stanza, “a woman” compared like “full-spread”, it is described that “full spread” lost true meaning because “yet dried are you distil your wine” like the line is compared as a woman “with tendrils love entwine”.

3. Personification

The point of the personification is to express the abstract ideas to inanimate objects, or aspects of nature is described as if it were human. Richard Gill (1985:20) defines personification is giving non-human things human qualities. It is means that all things (nature and animals) to do something like human. Like Gill’s opinion, X. J. Kennedy (1991:593) gives definition, “personification: a figure of speech in which a thing, an animal, or an abstract term (truth, nature) is made human. This definition is supported by Martha Pardede (2008:24) defines personification is the arbitrary of human qualities to inanimate object (for example the sea as an abstract concept for freedom). The endowment of abstraction with human quantities. A figure that endows animals, ideals, abstraction, and inanimate object with human form, the representing of imaginary creatures or things as having human personalities,
inteligence, and emotions. It is the representation of a thing or abstraction in the format of person.

Knickerbocker (1963:367) gives definition, “personification: giving human characteristic to an object, animal, or an abstract idea. Personification is a metaphor, of course, in the sense that there is an implied comparison between a nonhuman thing and human being. Ruth Miller and Robert A. Greenberg (1986:74) state, “personification is a figure of speech in which an abstract idea, inanimate object, or aspect of nature is described as if it were human. To say that “time intrudes and steals my days” is to see time as a thief, that is, to see it as human. Richard Taylor (1981:175) gives example from Yeat’s Sailing to Byzantium, which the soul is personified as a complete human figure:

An aged man is but a paltry thing
A tattered coat upon a stick, unless
Soul clap its hands and sing, and louder sing
For every tatter in its mortal dress

The point of the personification is to express the abstract idea of the soul’s spontaneous and vital joy, without which an old man is little more that a scarecrow.

4. Analogy

Analogy is sustained simile or metaphor, like one state of affairs to another in a series of comparisons, or a word, thing, idea, or story, chosen for the purpose of comparison, which can help to explain whatever it is similar to.

5. Hyperbole

Hyperbole is a bold, deliberate overstatement not intended to be taken literary; it is used as a means of emphasizing the truth of a statement. Wren and Martin (1981:491) state, “in hyperbole a statement is made emphatic by overstatement”. It is means that some words which are used in a poem is overstatement from true meaning. Knickerbocker (1963:367) defines it as an exaggeration used for special effect. For
example: “I’ll die if I don’t pass this course”, the word “die” here is over expression. If we understanding into true meaning is it impossible. Hyperbole is commonly used in daily conversation and also in all kinds of literature such as prose or drama. We can conclude that hyperbole is used to make the object become greater than real object.

6. Understatement

Understatement is the presentation of a thing with under emphasis in order to achieve a greater effect. It is the opposite of hyperbole; understatement is said to make the object to be less than it is. For example: “We love the things we love for what they are”.

2.2.2 Based on Associations

Based on associations, figure of speech divided into two kinds. They are as follows:

1. Mentonymy

Mentonymy is a figure of speech that uses a concept closely related to the thing actually meant. The substitution makes the analogy more vivid and meaningful. X. J. Kennedy (1991:595) gives definition, “metonymy; the name of a thing is substituted for that of another closely associated with it. For instance, we say “the white house decided,” and mean the president did. Meanwhile, Martha Pardede (2008:25) states, “Mentonymy is the substitution of one term for another with which is closely associated. So when we speak of statement “coming from the White House” we are using metonymy.

For describing one thing by using the term for another thing closely associated with it. For example: “the crown” used for “the king”.
2. Symbolism

Symbol is a thing (could be an object, person, situation or action) which stands for something else more abstract. Perrine (1974:628) states, “a symbol may be defined as something that means more than what it is”. There are deep meaning inside words is used in a poem. Martha Pardede (2008:24) states, “symbol is a trope that combine a literal and sensuous quality with an abstract or suggestive aspect but it is not literal meaning but use that meaning to suggest another. A symbol is something that is itself and also stand for a particular objective reality. In a literal sense a symbol combines a literal and sensuous quality with an abstract as suggestive aspect. For example: “Some dirty dogs stole my wallet at the bus”. Meanwhile, Martin Gray (1984:203) explains that symbolism taken from the word “symbol” seen as a kind of metaphor not made exlicit, and may even be mysterious. In the Blake’s poem “The Sick Rose” we can find out an example for symbolism.

O Rose, thou art sick!
The invisible worm,
That flies in the night
In the howling storm,
Has found out thy bed
Of crimson joy,
And his dark secret love
Does thy life destroy

Flower here is a symbol rather than a metaphor because first it is to be taken as an actual flower, which has been damaged by a worm and is dying. However, the language in which the poet addressed it implies that it is also more than a flower that it represents a living creature.

The sickness of the rose, along with the suggestiveness of “dark secret love” and “bed/of crimson joy” prevent a simple interpretation of the rose in its common role as a symbol of beauty destroyed by time, sexuality, secrecy, and guilt, all seem drawn in by the implications of these words.
2.2.3 Other Figure of Speech Devices

Beside some figure of speech above, there are others figure of speech divided into five of kinds. They are as follows:

1. Apostrophe

Comes from Greek, it means a turning away. Apostrophe is a figure of speech in which someone absent or dead or something nonhuman is addressed as if it were alive and present. Arthur Finley Scott (1983:20) gives definition it as a figure ib rhetorical in which the orator turned away from the rest of the audience to address one person. It is also an exlamatory address to some person or thing, absent or present, usually breaking the threa of speech. Harry Shaw (1872:28) gives another simple definition that is “a figure of speech in which a person not present or a personified non-human object is addressed or spoken to”. Meanwhile, Martha Pardede (2008:29) gives definition, “apostrophe: is a figure of speech in which the poet address an exclamatory fashion with a person, an inanimate object, or a personalified abstraction”.

Below is an example line of apostrophe:

“Sweet Thames! Run softly till I end my song”.

2. Irony

Irony is a statement whose real meaning is completely oosed to its professed, or surface meaning. For example “the czar is the voice of God and shall live forever”. Harry Shaw (1972:208) states it is “a figure of speech in which the literal (denotative) meaning of a word or statement in the opposite of that intended. In literature, it is a technique of indicating an intention or attitude opposed to what is actually stated. Martha Pardede (2008:26) gives definition, “irony: is a verbal device implies an
attitude quite different (and often opposite to) literary expressed. Example: “No doubt – but you are the people, and wisdom shall be with you”.

3. Alliteration

Sometimes it called as head rhyme or initial rhyme, and it is the close repetition, not (as by the derivation of the word it ought to be) of the same letter, but of the same sound, usually at the beginning. Marta Pardede (2008:31) states, “alliteration: the repetition of initial consonant in another word is the repetition of the same sound at frequent intervals. One of the most obvious examples form the poems you have read occurs in the “Ancient Mariner”.

*The fair breeze blew, the white foam flew
The furrow followed free*

The repeated ‘b’ s and ‘t’ a here make the lines run quickly and give the impression of a ship travelling a high speed. Further on the line:

*Day after day, day after day*

With its repeated ‘d’ sound, suggest both monotony and improbability

*Here, holy light, of spring of Heaven first born*

The repeated h’ stress the linking of the religious terms, the quality of holiness and Heaven itself. But the same repeated sound can be used in a neatly contrasting way of Satan, in earlier passage cries: Hail, horror’ hail and then declares his own mind can make a Heaven of a still heaven.

4. Onomatopoeia

From Greek word, onomatopoeia, from onoma means name and poiein means to make. Scott (1983:200-201) defines it as the formation of words from sounds which seem to suggest and reinforce the meaning when applied to the choice of words in poetry, where by the sound is made ‘an echo to the sense’, and has a real value.

For example:

*Moon of doves in immemorial claims*
*And murmuring of innumerable bees*

We can see this figure from E. E. Cumming’s Paradise Lost:

*Fountains and yee, that warble, as ye flow,*
*Melodious murmurs, warbling tune his praise.*

5. **Assonance**

Shaw (1972:35) describes it as stressed syllables in vowel sounds. We can take a simple example from a famous child’s song:

*Twinkle, twinkle, little star,*
*How I woner what you are*

The word ‘star’ has syllables with ‘are’. Scott (1983:11) gives definition, “assonance is to sound, to respond to. Corespondance in sound between two words as regards the stressed vowels but different consonants, or the same consonants sound but different vowels, thus forming an imperfect rhyme”. For example the word ‘fate’ with ‘take’; or the word ‘stone’ with ‘stain’. Meanwhile Martha Pardede (2008:32) gives definition, “ assonance: the repeating of stressed vowel sound.

For example:

Tennyson lyric “The Lotus Easter: Than tired eyelids upon tired eyes”.

Beside figure of speech above, I have found some other figure of speech from some books related. They are as follows:

1. **Antithesis**

Martha Pardede (2008:26) gives definition, “antithesis is a device for placing opposing ideas in grammatical parallel.

Example: “Speech is silver, silence is golden”
2. Paradox

X. J. Kennedy (1991:595) gives definition, “paradox occur in statement that at first strikes us as self-contradictory but that on reflection makes some sense. Meanwhile, Perrine (1974:649) gives definition, “paradox is an apparent contradiction that is nevertheless somehow true”. For example: “And Death shall be no more; Death thou shalt die”.

K. L. Knickerbocker (1963:367) gives definition, “paradox: a statement whose surface, obvious meaning seems to be illogical, even absurd, but which makes good sense upon closer examinatio.

For example: “light is the darkest thing in physics.”

3. Synecdoche

X. J. Kennedy (1991:595) gives definition, “synecdoche is the use of a part of a thing to stand for the whole of it or vice versa”. We say “she lent a han,” and mean that she lent her entire resence. Meanwhile, Martha Pardede (2008:23) gives definition, “synecdoche is a figure of speech that a part refers the to indicate whole. For example: “she was wearing cotton” a container to represent the thing contained.

K. L. Knickerbocker (1963:367) states that, “synecdoche: using a part for the whole”. For example: “fifty winters [years] passed him by.” Or using the whole for the part: for example, “the halcyon year”—meaning summer.

4. Transferred of epithet

X. J. Kennedy (1991:595) gives definition, “transferred of epithet is a device of emphasis in which the poet attributes some characteristics of a thing to another thing closely associated with it. Meanwhile, Martha Pardede
(2008:29) gives definition, “transferred epithet is a figure of speech in which a personal quality is transferred to an inanimate object.

For example: “he slept on sleepless pillow”.

5. Allegory

Martha Pardede (2008:27) gives definition, “allegory is a figure of speech which lies somewhere between personification and metaphor; it is abstraction represented in concrete imagery, almost always in the form a humanized character.” Allegory works on two levels: the literal, in which the story is complete and sensible without further interpretation, and on the allegorical, in which the poet endeavors or convey religious, moral, political, personal, or satiric principles by showing how the abstraction interact with each other.

For example: “the we came to a tavern with vine - leaves over the lintel.”

6. Euphemism

Martha Pardede (2008:28) gives definition, “euphemism is a figure of speech in which a mild or vogue expression is substituted for a harsh or blunt one.

For example: “the old man passed away (.i.e.die)

7. Exclamation

Martha Pardede (2008:28) gives definition, “exclamation is a figure of speech easily recognized by means of the final exclamation marks, and only used to give expressio to an emotion, mild or other wise.

For example: “how sweet the moonlight sleeps upon this bank!”

8. Climax

Martha Pardede (2008:28) gives definition, “climax is a figure of speech in which ideas are arranged in ascending order of importance.

For example: “came, / saw, / conquered.”
9. Anti Climax

Martha Pardede (2008:28) gives definition, “anti climax is a figure of speech in which or ideas are arranged in descending order of importance.

For example: “he lost his wife, his reputation and his fortune”

10. Antonomasia

Martha Pardede (2008:29) gives definition, “antonomasia is a figure of speech in which a proper name is used to indicate the class of people to which the person belong because he or she possesses, similar qualities.

For example: “Alas, my son, your father is not a Rothschild”