

**IMAGERY IN *PHENOMENAL WOMAN* POETRY
BY MAYA ANGELOU**

SKRIPSI

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ABSTRACT

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This study deals with the study of *Imagery in Phenomenal Woman Poetry by Maya Angelou*. This study attempts to find out the two objective of the study, namely: (1) to find out the types of imagery found in *Phenomenal Woman* poetry by Maya Angelou, and (2) to find out the functions of imagery revealing the meaning used in *Phenomenal Woman* poetry by Maya Angelou. In analyzing the types of imagery in this study, the researcher used the theory of Imagery by Altenberd (2008). Descriptive qualitative method was applied in this study to analyze the data in form of poem containing imagery expressions used in the *Phenomenal Woman* poetry. The source of the data was taken from Maya Angelou’s poetry that released in 1995 in Indonesia and the other data was obtained from internet. The researcher analyzed the imagery by reading the poem carefully and giving the attention for each line of the stanza that contains imagery. As the result, the researcher found that visual imagery mostly appears in *Phenomenal Woman* poetry. There were eighteen lines that contain imagery in the poem and used six types from seven types of imageries; eleven visual imagery, one auditory imagery, three tactile imagery, one gustatory imagery, one organic imagery, and one kinesthetic imagery. The researcher suggests to next researcher develop this research by using a different object such as novel, speech, and also from daily activity or daily conversation.

Key words: Imagery, Poetry, and Phenomenal Woman

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CHAPTER IV

DATA AND DATA ANALYSIS

A. Data

In this research, the researcher presented the data that are taken from Maya Angelou's poetry *Phenomenal Woman* that was published in 1978 and released in Indonesia in 1995. The data are very important for the researcher. In analyzing the data, the researcher would like to discuss about kinds of imagery, the meanings, and the explanations the types of imagery that appears in the poem. After analyzing the source of the data found, there are six types of imagery that appear in the *Phenomenal Woman* poetry they are visual imagery, auditory imagery, kinesthetic imagery, organic imagery, tactile imagery and gustatory imagery.

B. Data Analysis

Having analyzed the collected data, it was found out some imagery words and analyzed them. As shown in data below:

1. Visual Imagery

Visual imagery is an imagery which relates to the visual imagination and describes something that could be seen or images directly experienced through the reader mind's eyes or seeable. Visual imagery may include such as, color, shapes, size and pattern. In *Phenomenal Woman* poetry this type of imagery showed in the 1st stanza, 1st line as shown in the following data:

Prettywoman wonder where my secret lies,
I'm not cute or built to suit a fashion model's size(V1)

From the above phrases, the researcher identifies those lines as a visual imagery. The visual imagery is represented by the word *pretty*. The word *pretty* is an utterance which invites the readers to use their sight senses organ to understand the speaker's idea and it deals with visual imagery that recreates our mind's eyes. This line described about the *beauty* being jealous of her and wondering "where (her) secret lies" despite she not being "built to suit a fashion model's size". This line contains visual imagery because this line brings the readers to see what the woman *looks like* or her *appearance* and see the image of a pure simple woman as a natural woman. From the two lines of visual imagery above, the researcher finds the picture of the pretty women wonder where my secret lies. In these lines, Angelou builds imagery by literal imagery. She uses daily words to shows what she to tell us about the beauty.

Moreover, visual imagery was also presented in the 1st stanza, 15th line as shown in the data below:

*The **span** of my hips,
The stride of my steps (V2)*

The visual imagery is described in this line by the word *span*, which means that our imagination is built by that word. This line contains visual imagery that describes about how is a womanly *feature* which is also heavily viewed as birthing hips and symbolism of *motherhood*. This line describes about something feature of a women and the words *span* also bring the readers to see the image *span* of the hips and create an image of a pure and simple woman.

Furthermore, the other visual imagery was also showed in the 3rd stanza, 40th line as shown in the following data:

*The **grace** of my smile
I'm a woman, (V3)*

This above phrase shows that the speaker invites the readers to see about her *etiquette* being a phenomenal woman. The word that shows visual imagery is *grace*. This word *grace* guide the readers to imagine about her *styling* that attracts the men as it is a symbol of feminism which she portrays so well as a *phenomenal woman*. This line contains visual imagery because this line brings the readers to see the woman's style.

In the 3rd stanza line 38th was also presented the other visual imagery as shown in the data below:

*It's in the arch of my back,
The **sun** of my smile (V4)*

From the above phrase, the researcher identifies this line as a visual imagery. The phrase "*The sun of my smile*" is an utterance which invites the readers to use their sight senses organ to understand the speaker's idea and it deals with visual imagery that recreates our mind's eyes. The visual imagery is described in this line by the word *sun*, which means that our imagination is built by that word. These lines contain visual imagery that describes about how she puts on a *happy expression* in her smile. These lines bring the readers to see the image of the *flare* from her *face*.

Another visual imagery was also found in the 2nd stanza, 24th line as shown in the following data:

*The **swing** of my waist,
And the joy of my feet (V5)*

From the above phrase, the researcher identifies this line as a visual imagery. The phrase “*The swing of my waist*” describes about the picture of beauty from the body of the woman. In this case, *swing* is related to the movement and represented a kinesthetic imagery. But the word *swing* in this line describes about a woman (her sexiness) from being a woman. The speaker invites the reader to imagine how the woman shows the middle of her body. The reader can see the image of the *sexiness* of her body when she *swing* her waist. This line contains visual imagery because this line brings the readers to see the image when she swings her middle of her body.

Visual imagery was also presented in the 1st stanza, 8th line as shown in the following data:

The span of my hips,
*The **stride** of my steps (V6)*

From the above phrase, the researcher identifies this line as a visual imagery. The phrase “*The stride of my steps*” describes about how she is showing her steps very confidence and pride in being a woman. The researcher considers that the word *stride* can be classified into visual imagery. This line describes about something beautiful and many people like her because the word *stride* represents how she is walking (her steps) very *purposefully*.

From this line of visual imagery above, the researcher finds the picture of the steps while she walking front of all the men, Angelou builds imagery by literal imagery. She uses daily words to shows what she wants to tell us about the stride of her steps.

Moreover, the other visual imagery also could be found in the 3rd stanza, 40th line:

*The sun of my smile,
The **ride** of my breasts (V10)*

From the above phrase, the researcher identifies this line as a visual imagery. The phrase “*The ride of my breasts*” describes about how she is showing her sexuality in being a natural woman and pride in being a woman. The researcher considers that the word *ride* can be classified into visual imagery. This line describes about something beautiful and many people like her because the word *ride* represents how she is proving (her sexuality)

From this line of visual imagery above, the researcher finds the picture of the shape of her body while she walking front of all the men. She uses daily words to shows what she wants to tell us about the ride of her breasts.

2. Auditory Imagery

Auditory imagery is an image which relates to the auditory. This image represents sounds like words “buzzing, tinkling, chiming” and others related to the sound. The Auditory imagery that evokes in poem is not like auditory perception. It means, when the reader reads it, the readers only fell the sense of hearing but not really hearing in purpose. Auditory imagery was also presented in *Phenomenal Woman* poetry in the 4th stanza, 52nd line as shown in the following data:

*I say,
It's in the **click** of my heels (A1)*

From the above phrase, the researcher identifies this line as an auditory imagery. The phrase “*It’s in theclick of my heels*” is an utterance which invites the readers to use their sound senses organ to understand the speaker’s idea and it deal with auditory imagery that recreates our mind’s ears. This line described about the *metallic sound* that we hear from her heels. This line contains auditory imagery because this line brings the readers to hear the sound of the *beat* from her steps when using heels.

3. Kinesthetic Imagery

Kinesthetic imagery conveys a sense of movement or tension in the muscles or joints. This type of imagery showed in *Phenomenal Woman* poetry in the 2nd stanza, 19th line as shown in the following data:

*Fall down on their knees,
Then they **swarm** around me (K1)*

From the above phrase, the researcher analyzes this line as a kinesthetic imagery. The phrase “*Then they swarm around me*” describes about movement. The men see this and begin to *swarm* around her because they can feel the confidence flowing from her and know that she is a phenomenal woman. If we take a look at the word *swarm*, of course it is kind of kinesthetic imagery. This word means to the *movement*. We can say this because the word *swarm* is something can move forward as a group. The word *swarm* shows kinesthetic imagery which means that our imagination of *movement* is built by that word. This line contains kinesthetic imagery that invites the readers to feel how all the men *rush* together around her.

4. Organic Imagery

Organic imagery used language to approximate any internal sensations, such as fear, hunger or thirst. Organic imagery was also presented in the 2nd stanza, 22nd line as shown in the following data:

*It's the**fire** in my eyes,
And the flash of my teeth (O1)*

The above phrase shows an organic imagery is represented by word *fire*. That is called an organic imagery because it uses internal feeling or internal sensation. The speaker invites the readers to imagine her feels "*It's the fire in my eyes*". This line contains organic imagery that describes about her *passion* and her courage being a woman. She feels the *strength* and *confidence* in being a woman. This line shows the passion and courage of the speaker after she feels that fire in her eyes and changes her to become more confidence and feel more strength.

5. Tactile Imagery

Tactile imagery represents a sense of touch in poetry, such as softness, hardness, wetness, cold, warm and hot. This type of imagery was also showed in the 4th stanza, 54th line as shown the following data:

*The bend of my hair,
The **palm** of my hand(T1)*

From the above phrase, the researcher analyzes this line as a tactile imagery. The phrase "*The palm of my hand*" is an utterance which invites the readers to use their soft touch senses organ to understand the speaker's idea and it deal with a tactile imagery that recreates our senses of soft touch. The word that shows tactile

imagery in this line is represented by the word *palm*. The word palm is represented the *softness* from part of her body “hand”. The palm in her hand shows her *softness* and shows that she can touch all the men’s heart with the palm in her hand.

Moreover, the other tactile imagery was also presented in the 2nd stanza, 25th line as shown in the data below:

*The swing of my waist,
And the **joy** in my feet (T2)*

From the above phrase, the researcher analyzes this line as a tactile imagery. The phrase “*And the joy in my feet*” is an utterance which invites the readers to use their soft touch senses organ to understand the speaker’s idea and it deal with a tactile imagery that recreates our sense’s of soft touch. The researcher identifies that the above phrase is to describe the speaker’s sense of touch. The word that shows tactile imagery in this line is represented by the word *joy*. The word joy is represented the *happiness* from part of her body “feet”. The joy in her feet show her *happiness* and almost makes the readers picture her as dancing and laughing in a way because she is a “phenomenal woman”.

6. Gustatory Imagery

Gustatory imagery is an imagery which relates to the taste, like sweetness, sourness, and bitterness. This type of imagery was found in the 2nd stanza, 20th line as shown in the following data:

*A hive of **honey bees**,
I say
It’s the fire in my eyes(G1)*

From the above phrase, the researcher identifies this line as a gustatory imagery. This phrase “*A hive of honey bees*” is an utterance which invites the readers to use their taste senses organ to understand the speaker’s idea and deal with gustatory imagery that recreates our mind’s taste. By using gustatory imagery, the speaker tries to bring the readers into the speaker’s taste. The speaker uses word *sweet* to give imagination what the speaker could taste when the love was touched by the feet. From the lines of gustatory imagery above, the speaker awakens by tasting of *sweet* when love at the feet was seen by all the men.

C. Data Findings

Phenomenal Woman poetry by Maya Angelou is identified through the one of intrinsic element of poetry called imagery. This is used to help get the poet’s message and interpret the poem in the way the reader sees it across in language that is strong, vivid and very visual. Imagery refers to the picture that the readers perceive with their mind’s *eyes, ears, nose, tongue, skin, and though* the readers experience the duplicate word created by poetic language.

There are six imageries found in *Phenomenal Woman* poetry from seven types of imagery. Visual imagery in poetry appears frequently, even though the poem may presents variety of imagery like auditory imagery, organic imagery, gustatory imagery, kinesthetic imagery and tactile imagery. Using imagery is a good way to send a message to the readers of the poem, because it was useless if just read the poems without understanding what actually the poet wants to convey the reader.

CHAPTER V

CONCLUSION AND SUGGESTION

A. Conclusion

To understand the poem in detail, the readers have to know the elements in the poem, such as intrinsic elements. One of the important elements in a poem is imagery. Imagery refers to the picture that the readers perceive with their mind's eyes, ears, nose, tongue, skin, and through the reader's experience the duplicate word created by poetic language. The function of imagery used in a poem in order to make the readers feel the poet's feeling in the poem and to help get the poet's message and interpret the poem in the way the reader sees it across in language that is strong, vivid and very visual. Imagery also evokes the meaning and the truth of human experiences not only in abstract term, as in philosophy, but also in more perfectible and tangible forms. This is a device by which the poets make their meaning strong, clear and sure.

Maya Angelou's poetry with the title *Phenomenal Woman* contains very deep meaning. Imagery in each line in the poem is developed from words of choice that are concrete and specific that convey the message very clearly and strongly. Imagery also creates a feeling, emotion of hilarity and confidence being a natural woman within the poem through imagery.

There are six imageries found in *Phenomenal Woman* poetry from seven types of imagery. Visual imagery in poetry appears frequently as the most of words is not free from image. As well as the poem mentioned and described

above are mostly contain visual imagery, the poem may presents variety of imagery like auditory imagery, organic imagery, gustatory imagery, kinesthetic imagery and tactile imagery.

Imagery the mostly appears in the Phenomenal Woman poetry by Maya Angelou is visual imagery. Visual imagery many appeals to the readers and easily caught by the reader's sight almost at every environment. Since the poem is created from the nature, visual imagery has a close relation with it. This is proved as the researcher has discussed in the previous chapter.

B. Suggestion

From this research, the researcher hopes that the readers can improve their knowledge about imagery by themselves and would not be confused about the meaning of the poem that usually used imagery. So, from this research the readers have an alignment about the imagery. The researcher also hopes by analyzing imagery that used in the poems may help the readers to reduce misunderstanding of the meaning that may appear in the process of interpreting the poems.

From this research, the researcher hopes that this research can be as a beginning reference for the following researchers. Then, the researcher also suggests the other researcher to study more about imagery in different opinion and way in the analysis, and perception.

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