

ANALYSIS OF FIGURATIVE LANGUAGE IN LANGSTON HUGHES SELECTED POEMS

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ABSTRAK

Penelitian ini berfokus pada bahasa kiasan dalam puisi-puisi karya Langston Hughes. Penelitian ini bertujuan untuk mengidentifikasi berbagai jenis bahasa kiasan yang digunakan dalam puisi-puisi tersebut, yang paling dominan dalam puisi tersebut, dan alasan dari jenis bahasa kiasan yang dominan. Metode deskriptif kualitatif yang berpedoman pada teori Arvius digunakan untuk menganalisis data. Analisis mengungkapkan bahwa Hughes menggunakan tujuh jenis bahasa kiasan: metafora, personifikasi, simile, metonimi, simbol, hiperbola, dan ironi. Metafora adalah yang paling umum, mencakup 61,67% dari 60 contoh yang teridentifikasi. Personifikasi (10%), simile (8,33%), metonimi (6,67%), dan simbol (6,67%) semakin menambah kedalaman puisi dengan menambahkan lapisan makna. Ironi dan hiperbola, masing-masing sebesar (3,33%), lebih jarang digunakan namun menonjolkan sikap berlebihan dan kontras. Studi ini menyimpulkan bahwa metafora adalah perangkat figuratif yang paling dominan dalam puisi Hughes, karena metafora secara efektif menjembatani ide-ide kompleks, membangkitkan emosi yang kuat, dan menumbuhkan hubungan budaya melalui gambaran yang jelas dan referensi bersama. Kiasan yang serbaguna ini memungkinkan Hughes menyampaikan pesan yang kuat dengan jelas dan berdampak.

Kata Kunci: Bahasa Kiasan, Langston Hughes, Puisi

ABSTRACT

This research focuses on figurative language in the poetry of Langston Hughes. This research aims to identify the various types of figurative language used in these poems, which ones are most dominant in these poems, and the reasons for the dominant types of figurative language. Qualitative descriptive methods guided by Arvius theory were used to analyze the data. Analysis reveals that Hughes uses seven types of figurative language: metaphor, personification, simile, metonymy, symbol, hyperbole, and irony. Metaphors were the most common, accounting for 61.67% of the 60 examples identified. Personification (10%), simile (8.33%), metonymy (6.67%), and symbols (6.67%) further add depth to the poem by adding layers of meaning. Irony and hyperbole, at (3.33%) each, are used less frequently but highlight exaggeration and contrast. This study concludes that metaphor is the most dominant figurative device in Hughes's poetry, because it effectively bridges complex ideas, evokes strong emotions, and fosters cultural connections through vivid imagery and shared references. This versatile metaphor allows Hughes to convey a powerful message with clarity and impact.

Keywords: *Figurative Language, Langston Hughes, Poems*

1. INTRODUCTION

Poetry, as a literary form, uses figurative language like metaphors,

similes, and personification to convey deeper meanings and clarify the author's intent. It is a creative expression that

combines the beauty of language with structure to communicate emotions, ideas, and human experiences. Johnson (2018) describes poetry as an emotional expression delivered through imaginative and metaphorical language, often enriched with vivid imagery.

Scholars, including Johnson, view poetry as a medium that enables writers to articulate their emotions and thoughts through artistic and beautiful language. The use of figurative language in poetry is not only a way to engage readers but also a powerful tool to convey profound and emotional meanings. Therefore, poetry is recognized as a form of literary expression that leverages the beauty of language to communicate deep emotional and intellectual messages.

Langston Hughes, a prominent figure in African American literature and a key voice of the Harlem Renaissance, is renowned for his masterful use of figurative language. His poetry, filled with rich imagery and metaphor, explores themes such as the African American experience, the fight against racism, and the search for identity. As Brown (2016) notes, Hughes employs metaphor, simile, personification, and symbolism with precision to evoke strong emotional responses from his readers, creating lasting impressions through his skillful use of figurative language.

This study aims to examine the figurative language in Langston Hughes' poetry to understand how he conveys messages of hope and resilience in the face of racism and discrimination. Analyzing Hughes' use of linguistic devices reveals not only the thematic depth of his work but also the socio-cultural context in which he wrote. Through this analysis, we can appreciate Hughes' ability to challenge dominant narratives, resist systemic oppression, and advocate for social change, thereby highlighting the lasting significance of his contributions to literature and society.

2. THEORITICAL FRAMEWORKS

a. Semantics

Semantics is a field within linguistics that focuses on the study of meaning in language. It investigates how meaning is transmitted through words, phrases, and sentences, as well as how these meanings can shift based on different contexts. Semantics examines the relationships between signifiers such as words, expressions, signs, and symbols and what they denote or represent.

In the realm of linguistics, semantics is dedicated to understanding meaning. It is a crucial field that explains how language conveys meaning, emphasizing that meaning is central to the study of semantics. According to a widely accepted semantic theory, meaning is related to ideas or concepts that can be transferred from the speaker's mind to the listener's mind through language (Lyons, 1984, p.136).

Semantic studies focus on how meaning is communicated from one person to another using language. A prominent theory in this field suggests that meaning is tied to the ideas or concepts expressed through words or phrases. The primary goal of semantics is to understand how these meanings are processed and interpreted during linguistic communication.

Croft and Cruse (2005) describe semantics as the study of meaning, encompassing how words, phrases, and sentences can convey different meanings in various contexts. This definition underscores the complexity of meaning, which is not fixed but can vary based on factors like cultural background, situational context, and personal perception.

The study of semantics aims to uncover how linguistic elements combine to create meaning and how this meaning is understood by both speakers and listeners. It involves examining concepts such as polysemy (a word having multiple meanings), homonymy (different words

sharing the same form), and synonymy (words with similar meanings). Through semantics, language learners gain valuable insights into how language operates in communication and literature, enhancing their ability to construct, convey, and interpret meaning effectively.

b. Figurative Language

Figurative language involves using words or expressions in ways that differ from their literal meanings to convey deeper or more vivid interpretations (ArviusAlm, 2003). This creative use of language allows writers and speakers to express ideas, emotions, and imagery in a more vibrant and impactful manner than literal language can achieve. It is commonly found in literature, poetry, and rhetoric, where it serves to evoke emotions and provide readers or listeners with a richer aesthetic experience.

There are many forms of figurative language, including metaphors, similes, personification, hyperbole, and metonymy. These devices enhance writing by making it more dynamic, engaging, and emotionally resonant. The effective use of figurative language allows authors to communicate their messages more powerfully, enabling audiences to connect with the material on a deeper level. Mastering figurative language is therefore essential in both oral and written communication, as it adds depth and nuance to the expression.

As a powerful literary tool, figurative language transports readers into realms of imagination and creativity. It is not just a means of description; it serves to enhance understanding by creating vivid mental images, influencing opinions, and entertaining the audience. Unlike literal language, which presents things at face value, figurative language employs words in non-literal ways to create a richer and more impactful experience for the reader (Carter, 2014). This artistic deviation enables authors to translate abstract concepts into more concrete and relatable

forms, making their messages resonate more deeply (Leech, 2016).

Additionally, figurative language is key to compressing complex ideas into concise and memorable expressions. For example, comparing a journey to "climbing a mountain" not only highlights the physical difficulty but also suggests the determination needed to succeed. Similarly, describing someone's spirit as "a burning flame" evokes a powerful image that goes beyond the literal meaning of the words (Davidan, 2019). By departing from literal meanings, figurative language enriches communication, allowing for a deeper and more engaging interaction with the text.

According to Christina Alm-Arvius (2003) in her book *Figures of Speech*, various types of figurative language are used to enhance language and convey deeper meanings. There are seven types of figurative language, such as metaphor, personification, simile, metonymy, symbol, hyperbole, and irony.

1. Metaphor

A metaphor is the use of words to describe an object or situation in a way that is not literal but intended to provide a deeper understanding or draw an analogy. By equating one thing with another, metaphors invite readers or listeners to explore connections between seemingly unrelated concepts, enhancing their comprehension of complex ideas. Metaphors are often employed in literature, poetry, and rhetoric to convey ideas or concepts in a more vivid, powerful, and aesthetically pleasing manner than literal language can. They work by comparing two different things without using comparison words like "like" or "as," which distinguishes them from similes. For example, in the sentence "His heart was a storm of emotions," the word "storm" is metaphorically used to describe the strong, chaotic emotions the person is experiencing, providing a

potent image of the intensity and turbulence of their feelings. This metaphor not only conveys the nature of the emotions but also suggests the overwhelming and potentially destructive power they hold, offering a richer and more nuanced understanding than a straightforward description could achieve. Metaphors, thus, are a fundamental tool in creative expression, allowing for the communication of abstract or complex ideas in a relatable and impactful way.

2. Personification

Personification is a literary device that gives human characteristics to non-human objects or creatures. Personification is a device used by writers to make descriptions more vivid and interesting by depicting objects or creatures as having feelings, thoughts, or actions usually associated with humans. The purpose of personification is to create a more vivid image and to strengthen the message or emotion that the writer or speaker wants to convey. For example, in the sentence "The wind whispered through the trees," the wind is described as having the ability to whisper, giving a more vivid picture of the atmosphere.

3. Simile

A simile is a direct comparison between two different things using words such as "like" or "as". Simile is a form of figurative language that helps readers or listeners understand an object or situation by comparing it to something more familiar or easy to understand. The use of similes allows writers to convey images or ideas more clearly and effectively. For example, in the sentence "The sun shines on the beach like a spotlight," the sun's rays are compared to the bright, focused light of a spotlight, providing a clearer and stronger picture of the intensity of the sun's light.

4. Metonymy

Metonymy is a figure of speech in which the name of one object or concept is substituted for that of another to which it is closely related. Unlike metaphors, which draw comparisons between seemingly unrelated things, metonymy relies on a direct and often tangible connection between the two entities. This rhetorical device allows writers and speakers to convey meaning in a more concise, evocative, or symbolic way by invoking associations that are readily understood by the audience. Metonymy is commonly used in literature, journalism, and everyday language to add depth, create emphasis, or convey complex ideas efficiently. The connection between the two objects involved in metonymy can be based on various relationships, such as physical proximity, function, causality, or symbolic representation. This technique can help create vivid imagery, enhance the emotional impact of a statement, or emphasize particular aspects of a concept. For example, the phrase "The White House issued a statement" uses "The White House" as a metonym for the U.S. President or the administration, based on the physical location of the President's office. In this case, the building is closely associated with the authority and actions of the President, making it a suitable substitute to represent the entire executive branch.

5. Symbol

A symbol is a sign or representation which can be an image, object, or concept that is used to convey a deeper meaning than its literal meaning. The meaning of symbols often originates from mutual agreement within a particular culture or social group. In other words, symbols serve as a bridge between the real world and abstract concepts, helping to convey ideas or feelings that may be difficult to express directly. For example, the "white dove"

is often used as a symbol of peace. Although the white dove itself is just a bird, in cultural and symbolic contexts, it symbolizes harmony and reconciliation, showing how certain objects can express deeper messages through cultural conventions.

6. Hyperbole

Hyperbole is a type of figurative language that uses exaggerated imagery for emphasis or effect. Hyperbole is often used in everyday language, literature, and rhetoric to provide a strong emotional impact or to strengthen a message. The use of hyperbole can help a writer or speaker to express feelings or situations more dramatically, often creating a more profound effect on the audience. For example, in the sentence "I'm so hungry, I could eat a horse," the hyperbole "eat a horse" is used to describe intense hunger, showing how much a person wants to eat in an excessive and dramatic way.

7. Irony

Irony is a linguistic and rhetorical device that involves a discrepancy between what is said and what is meant, or between expectations and reality. It is a form of expression where the intended meaning is often the opposite of the literal meaning, and it is used to expose contradictions, highlight absurdities, or convey complex emotions. Irony can take various forms, such as verbal irony, situational irony, and dramatic irony, each serving to underscore the contrast between appearances and underlying truths.

Irony is frequently employed in literature, satire, and everyday communication to provoke thought, elicit humor, or subtly criticize. The effectiveness of irony depends on the audience's ability to recognize the disparity between the surface meaning and the underlying intent. When used skillfully, irony can be a powerful tool

for social commentary, allowing a writer or speaker to convey criticism, sarcasm, or insight in a manner that is both subtle and impactful.

For example, consider the sentence, "Oh, brilliant! Another two hours in traffic—just what I needed!" Here, the irony lies in the contrast between the seemingly positive exclamation "Oh, brilliant!" and the reality of being stuck in traffic, which is typically frustrating and inconvenient. The speaker sarcastically expresses excitement, when in reality, they are pointing out the annoyance and waste of time.

C. Poems

Poetry, as a distinctive literary form, varies widely in definition based on different perspectives and methods of interpretation. Generally, poetry is considered an art form that employs structured and aesthetically pleasing language to express messages, emotions, and ideas. It often makes use of figurative and imaginative language to illustrate the complexities of human experiences across various aspects of life.

According to Fadaee (2011), poetry emerges from intense feelings that are initially calm and then gradually evolve through reflection. This process results in emotions that manifest in a way that reflects the poet's inner state. Thus, poetry becomes a unique medium for articulating ideas and emotions, distinguishing itself through its capacity to convey profound sentiments and thoughts through carefully chosen words.

Wulandari (2023) describes poetry as the profound expression of the soul, blending emotions, imagination, and creativity into a form that transcends ordinary language. This view highlights that poetry is not merely about the aesthetic use of words but also about deeply exploring and expressing the essence of human experience, aiming to touch the reader's heart and stimulate their imagination.

Understanding poetry involves appreciating its distinct characteristics, such as its use of rhyme, rhythm, and structured stanzas, as well as its employment of figurative language like metaphors, similes, and personification. Poetry serves as a powerful medium for conveying a wide range of emotions, reflections, and personal experiences, making it a rich and complex form of literary expression.

Poetry, known for its complexity, stands out among other literary forms. Unlike everyday language, poetry embraces creativity and conveys messages in a unique way. This branch of literature uses words as a medium to create illusions and awaken the imagination.

Understanding poetry involves two main aspects:

1. Understand the nature of the genre: This includes elements such as the importance of the title, the opening and closing, the deeper meaning of the words (connotation), the role of the narrator (persona), as well as how sentence structure and overall construction affect the reading experience.
2. Accept ambiguity: Instead of looking for a definitive interpretation, it is important to appreciate openness in a poem. This ambiguity arises from the tension between poetry as a product of its time and its ability to continue to provoke responses from today's readers.

Based on the explanations above, the author can conclude that poetry is a literary work that uses beautiful and structured language to convey messages, feelings and ideas. Poetry often uses figurative and imaginative language to describe human experiences.

3. RESEARCH DESIGN

Research methodology encompasses the systematic procedures used to plan, execute, and assess research projects. It involves selecting a research design, employing data collection methods,

analyzing data, and interpreting results in relation to the research goals. Creswell (2003) describes it as a structured approach to gathering, analyzing, and interpreting data to draw valid conclusions, while Kerlinger & Lee (2000) see it as a logical framework for addressing research problems. This structured approach ensures that research is conducted reliably and in alignment with its objectives.

In this study, a qualitative approach is used to analyze the figurative language in Langston Hughes' poems, as highlighted by Freeman (2008). This methodology involves close reading and textual analysis to examine elements like metaphors, personification, and symbolism. Qualitative methods are particularly effective for exploring the deeper layers of literary texts, providing insights into the figurative language and its significance in representing African American identity and cultural heritage. By integrating detailed textual analysis with empirical data, this study aims to enhance the understanding of Hughes' work and its broader implications.

The techniques for collecting data are outlined as follows:

1. Gather the complete texts of the selected poems, ensuring their accuracy and completeness by referring to reliable sources such as published anthologies or reputable online literary databases.
2. Conduct a close reading of each poem, which involves thoroughly reading the text multiple times to grasp its full meaning, context, and subtleties.
3. Annotate the text by marking passages that feature figurative language.

The analysis of the collected data was done by following steps:

1. Categorize the highlighted instances of figurative language from the poems into groups such as metaphors, similes, personification, hyperbole, symbolism, and other figurative elements.
2. Analyze the context and significance of each instance, assessing how it

contributes to the poem's overall meaning and themes.

3. Quantify the occurrences of each type of figurative language in the poems using the formula provided by Arikunto (2006):

$$p = \frac{F}{N} \times 100\%$$

where (P) represents the percentage of each type of figurative language, (F) is the frequency of the figurative language type, and (N) is the total number of figurative language instances.

4. Develop a final conclusion that summarizes the findings, identifies common themes and patterns, and evaluates the predominant types of figurative language. This conclusion should offer a detailed overview of how Hughes uses figurative language to express themes and messages in his work.

4. DISCUSSION

1. The Types of Figurative Language in Langston Hughes Selected Poems

After collecting data about Langston Hughes's poetry, the writer conducted an in-depth analysis to understand the use of figurative language in his works. The purpose of this analysis is to reveal the various types of figurative language used by Hughes and how they influence the meaning of his poetry. The writer only took some data as a examples.

Metaphor

1. "I am the **darker brother**" in the poem "I, Too, Sing America". This metaphor describes the racial disparities and discrimination faced by black people in America. However, the use of the word "brother" also implies a deep and inseparable connection between these individuals, both white and black, within one large family that is the American nation. This asserts the author's claim to equal rights as part of America, despite being treated differently.

2. "life for me ain't been a **crystal stair**": in the poem "Mother to Son" by Langston Hughes, "Crystal stair" is a metaphor that describes life as a difficult and imperfect staircase, as opposed to a ladder a crystal that depicts something smooth, beautiful, and easy to navigate. In this poem, this metaphor reflects a life journey full of challenges, difficulties, and imperfections. This is a message from a mother to her child, that even though her life is full of obstacles, she still fights and didn't give up, and he encouraged his son to do the same.

Personification

1. "He made that **poor piano moan**" in the poem "The Weary Blues", this phrase is personification because it describes the piano, an inanimate object, as if it could feel and express emotions like humans. The word "moan" or "whimpering" is usually used to describe the sound of complaint or pain from a living creature. In this context, Langston Hughes gives the piano a human nature by implying that intense musical playing makes the piano "moan" like a human experiencing suffering. This illustrates how deep and emotional the blues music played by the musician is.
2. "The **stars went out and so did the moon**" in the same poem, this phrase is also personification because it describes the stars and the moon, which are celestial bodies, as if they had the ability to "die" or "disappear" like living creatures. In reality, stars and the moon cannot truly "die" or "go out" like lights or life, but through this personification, Hughes creates a night so dark and silent it is as if all the light from the sky has been "extinguished," adding the impression of melancholy and silence in the atmosphere in the poem.

Simile

1. "My soul has grown deep **like the rivers**" in the poem "The Negro Speaks of Rivers", this sentence uses the word

"like" to compare the depth of the poet's soul to the depth of a river. The use of "like" is characteristic of a simile, which explicitly connects two dissimilar things to show the similarity between them. In this context, the depth of the poet's soul is likened to the depth of a river, which implies deep life experience and knowledge.

2. "He slept **like a rock or a man that's died**" in the poem "The Weary Blues", this phrase also uses "like" to make a comparison between the way a person sleeps and the depth of sleep of a rock or a deceased person. This simile emphasizes how deep and peaceful the person's sleep is, almost as if there is no movement or life at all. By likening sleep to something very still and lifeless, the poet shows how restful sleep can be.

Metonymy

1. "They sent me to **eat in the kitchen**" in the poem "I Too Sing America" in this poem uses the word "kitchen" as a metonymy to represent low position or social separation. In the context of American history, especially during the era of segregation, the kitchen was often a place where servants, who were often black men, ate separately from their masters. Thus, "kitchen" here not only means a physical space for cooking and eating, but also symbolizes discrimination and inequality, indicating that the characters in the poem are treated as second-class citizens who must accept a lower position in society.
2. "I'll be **at the table**" is also from the same poem, the expression "table" is used as a metonymy to represent participation in a discussion or decision-making process. Here, "table" does not simply refer to a physical table, but symbolizes the right to sit together, discuss, and take part in important decisions, often a symbol of power and equality. When the character in this poem says "I'll be at the table,"

he is expressing his desire to be recognized and treated as an equal, demanding a place in society where his voice is also heard and respected.

Symbol

1. "I bathed in the **Euphrates** when dawns were young" in The Negro Speaks of Rivers. This expression uses the Euphrates River as a symbol representing the origins of human civilization. The Euphrates River is known as one of the main rivers in the Mesopotamia region, which is often referred to as the birthplace of human civilization. In this context, the act of "bathing" in the Euphrates River illustrates the character's connection to very old and deep historical roots, and connects him to Africa's rich cultural heritage. Thus, the Euphrates River is not only a physical place but also symbolizes a connection to the past and ancestral history.
2. "The **white power**" in the poem "Remember", the phrase "white power" here symbolizes racial power and domination, especially in the context of the history of oppression by white groups against non-white groups. This symbol reminds us of a long history of injustice, where white power has influenced, oppressed, and dominated various other racial groups. In this work, the symbol of "white power" also serves to critique and remind of the ongoing struggle against racial injustice and the oppression that this domination results from.

Hyperbole

1. "I've known **rivers ancient as the world and older than the flow of human blood** in human veins". This sentence uses hyperbole to exaggerate the age of the rivers, emphasizing how old they are. It is impossible for anyone to know or experience rivers that are as old as the world or older than the flow of human blood. In this way, hyperbole is used to describe the timeless and ancient nature of the river, which in

turn suggests that the experiences and history of African people are as old as the world itself. This use of exaggerated language aims to emphasize the depth and grandeur of the history represented by these rivers.

2. “And **Stanley never heard the lonesome blues**”. This phrase uses hyperbole to emphasize that Stanley has never experienced or felt sadness and loneliness. In reality, it is very unlikely that someone will never feel sadness or loneliness at all in their life. However, by stating that Stanley “never heard” of sadness, the author exaggerates to show how strong or indifferent Stanley is to sadness, or conversely, how isolated he is from such emotions. This hyperbole provides deep insight into Stanley's character or emotional state, perhaps depicting him as unflappable or insensitive to emotional suffering.

Irony

1. “Nor **freedom in this homeland of the free**” in the poem “Let America be America Again”, this sentence highlights the irony of the speaker's experience, where the promise of freedom is not fulfilled. The use of the phrase “free homeland” reinforces the contrast between the ideal and the reality experienced by the speaker.
2. “This **fenced-off narrow space assigned to me**” in the poem “I Look at The World”, this sentence describes a narrow space surrounded by a fence and given to the speaker. Irony arises from the contrast between the free and expansive human nature and the limited reality experienced by the speaker. Even though the world is wide and full of opportunities, the speaker feels trapped in a narrow space controlled by outside forces. It reflects the experiences of injustice and restrictions often experienced by black people in America during Hughes' time.

2. The Most Dominant Type of Figurative Language in Langston Hughes Selected Poems

In Langston Hughes' poems, various types of figurative language are utilized, with metaphors being the most prominent, accounting for 61.67% of all identified expressions. This significant use of metaphor indicates Hughes' reliance on this device to convey deeper meanings, evoke emotions, and create vivid imagery. Personification follows as the second most prevalent form, representing 10% of the figurative language, highlighting how Hughes often assigned human traits to inanimate objects or abstract concepts to enrich his poetic expression. Similes make up 8.33%, reflecting a moderate use of direct comparisons to draw parallels between different ideas or entities. Both metonymy and symbolism account for 6.67% each, showcasing Hughes' subtle use of indirect references and symbolic imagery to add complexity to his work. Hyperbole and irony are the least utilized forms, each comprising 3.33%, suggesting a more restrained use of exaggeration and contrast between expectations and reality. Overall, the data clearly indicates that metaphor is the most dominant figurative language in Hughes' poetry, underscoring its importance in his poetic style.

3. The Reason of the Most Dominant Type of Figurative Language in Langston Hughes Selected Poems

Metaphors play a dominant role in Hughes' poetry for several reasons. First, they allow him to connect disparate ideas and communicate complex topics clearly and effectively. By creating vivid imagery and making clear analogies, metaphors help readers grasp the deeper meanings in his work. Additionally, metaphors evoke strong emotions, capturing the passion and intensity of Hughes' poetry. They also resonate with readers familiar with the cultural allusions and shared experiences, especially those relevant to the African-American community. Moreover, the flexibility of metaphors enables Hughes to draw attention to important details, make surprising connections, and enhance the overall expressiveness of his writing.

5. CONCLUSIONS

The writer concludes that the figurative language employed in a selection of poems by Langston Hughes is as follows, based on the analysis:

1. The chosen poems by Langston Hughes employ a total of seven (seven) different forms of figurative language, including personification, metaphor, simile, metonymy, symbol, hyperbole, and irony.

2. There are 60 data points in all, utilizing 7 different forms of metaphorical language: 37 data had a frequency of 61.67% in percentage that used metaphors; 6 data had a frequency of 10% in percentage that used personifications; 5 data had a frequency of 8.33% in percentage that used similes; 4 data had a frequency of 6.67% in percentage that used metonymy; 4 data had a frequency of symbols; 2 data had a frequency of 3.33% in percentage that used hyperboles; and 2 data had a frequency of 3.33% in percentage that used irony. Based on the statistics, it is determined that the most prevalent kind of figurative language in Langston Hughes poems is metaphor.

3. There are several reasons why metaphors are common: Through the use of metaphors which evoke vivid imagery and provide clear parallels Hughes unites different ideas and communicates complex ideas in a clear, succinct, and effective way. Inspire strong emotions in readers so they can express the passion and intensity in words. Hughes regularly includes cultural allusions in his metaphors, which makes his readers feel more connected and comprehended. Metaphors are versatile and adaptable.

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