

FREEDOM REFLECTED IN MAYA ANGELOU'S POEMS (A METAPHOR ANALYSIS)

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Abstract

This study focuses on the analysis of metaphor of six selected poems by Maya Angelou: A Freedom Fighter, Riot: 60's, The Calling of Names, Caged Bird, Harlem Hopscotch, and Equality. The research aims to explore how metaphors in these poems reflect the concept of freedom. Employing a descriptive qualitative approach combined with the method structuralism element of poem, the study analyzes metaphors based on Lakoff and Johnson's (1980) theory of metaphor. The findings reveal that the metaphors in these poems depict struggles, oppression, and aspirations for freedom, particularly within the African-American community. Symbols such as the caged bird in Caged Bird and social chaos in Riot: 60's highlight profound emotions and collective experiences. This research contributes to the understanding of metaphor in poetry and serves as a reference for future studies on the representation of freedom in literary works.

Keywords: Metaphor, Freedom, Poetry, Maya Angelou, Qualitative Analysis

INTRODUCTION

Poetry is a literary art form that uniquely conveys emotions, thoughts, and experiences through imaginative and figurative language. According to Hyman (1970), poetry employs rhythm, meter, and sound devices like rhyme and alliteration to create aesthetic beauty. Poets use figurative language, such as metaphor and simile, to craft vivid descriptions. Samosir (2013) defines poetry as a sincere expression originating from the human mind, exploring themes such as happiness, melancholy, and social issues. Through poetry, poets freely express their thoughts and experiences, often using metaphors to convey emotions and struggles against injustice.

Metaphor involves comparing two dissimilar things that share a common attribute. William Gray (2000) describes metaphor as figurative language that creates associations between seemingly unrelated entities. A metaphor implicitly compares two things without using terms like "like" or "as." It provides symbolic meaning to literary works, enriching interpretation. Diction plays a crucial role in metaphor, as word choice determines meaning. Abrams (1999) differentiates between denotative meaning, the literal dictionary definition of a word, and connotative meaning, which