



Linguistics

Racial Discrimination Reflected in the Figurative Languages of “Audre Lorde’s Selected Poems”

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A B S T R A C T

This study aims to find out the types of figures of speech that reflect the life of black people and racial discrimination in three Audre Lorde’s poems, entitled; Power, Coal, and The Black Unicorn. The theory used in this research is stylistics by Geoffrey Leech, which focuses on figurative language and also uses the theory of racial discrimination. This study uses a qualitative method and uses a content analysis approach because it uses poetry as data. The result shows from the 14 types of figurative languages, only 8 types were found in the poems; Allusion, Hyperbole, Parallelism, Irony, Personification, Simile, Symbolism, and Euphemism, with a total number of 17 data. Those data broadly have meanings related to the life struggles of black people. After that, the researcher found three kinds of racial discrimination in eight figurative languages namely; direct, indirect, and social life racial discrimination. From the three poems, it seems the poet uses figurative language in each of her poems to illustrate the rights and difficulties she faced and the poems are depictions of racial discrimination that causes struggles in the life of black people.

I. INTRODUCTION

In poetry, the writer tends to express his feelings by telling words or phrases or sentences that are difficult to understand literally. As a result, poetry is difficult for readers to understand but sounds beautiful. Rexroth (2019), as quoted in Krismarini (2020), said that the application of literary works had been carried out in the form of imaginative works such as poetry and prose. He distinguishes based on the meaning intended by the poet and the aesthetic that can be felt when read. In its function, writers often use poetry as an appropriate means to express what is in their hearts and minds. Based on the many meanings in poetry, poetry is also often studied using stylistics.

Stylistics is a science that can bridge literature and linguistics by analysing figurative language in poetry. According to Wales, as quoted in Siregar et

al. (2020), analysing style means paying systematic attention to the formal characteristics of a literary work. Text or work to find functional meaning and interpret the text or work in question (Wales 1989: 438 cited in Jeffries & McIntyre, 2010). Figurative language is part of the field of stylistics that can be entered into literature and linguistics. According to Furniss (1996:106), as quoted in Widyanti, (2013), every phrase, word, or expression is said to be figurative language if it cannot be interpreted internally.

In interpreting the world, poetry has been used by many writers to express themselves. One is related to racism written by many black people in the 20th century. Some of them are poems by one poet from the United States, Audre Lorde: Power, Coal, and The Black Unicorn. The poems put the poet in several points of view; As a black

person, Lorde positioned herself in Power poetry by being an activist who voiced black people's lack of Power. In Coal's poetry, Lorde positions herself as Coal when she tries to fit the characteristics of black people as Coal, which is never seen as a form of inequality to speak of. In the poem *The Black Unicorn*, Lorde tries to show the lives of black people who are mistaken and marginalized. She positions herself as a black unicorn with the characteristics of a black unicorn, which is black and stronger.

Audre Lorde is an influential person. She has several works nominated for a national book award (Britannica, n.d.). Lorde was awarded the third volume of poetry, *From the Land Where Others Lived* (1973); then, her subsequent work tends to lead to political values, entitled "New York Head Shop and Museum" (1975). In 1976, *Coal* was published by one of the big companies and reached a broad audience. *The Black Unicorn* (1978) followed, exploring farther from African heritage, and became one of his greatest works (Biography.com Editors, 2021).

The selected poems show some similarities between the struggles of black people living in a white majority country. Describe black people's life, such as lack of Power, lack of equality of speech, and common causes of black people's lives. Therefore, the researcher finds the problem presented in the poem is that this type of figurative language can describe the life of black people, which can refer to racial discrimination problems. this study has an urgency that in the figurative language, it turns out that there is figurative language that contains racial discrimination and is also very influential in knowing the content of poetry that can reflect the lives of black people.

The latest research in figurative language is presented in the form of an article by Heni Maulidina (2021) entitled "The Interpretation of Black Feminism in Maya Angelou's Poetry with Figurative Language and Imaginary Analysis." The main focus of this research is to identify figurative language and imagery related to black feminism by Maya Angelou. And then, "African American Perspective on the American Dream which is reflected in the figurative language in Langston Hughes's poems "Daybreak in Alabama," "Harlem," and "the colored hour," written by Agatha Tiara Puspita Rini (2021). Which reflects the American dream from an African-American perspective. His study will discuss poems through

the figurative language to find out the reflection of black people's life and the representative of racial discrimination issues, because in those poems, there are implicit meanings about the struggle of black people in life.

the significance of this research is expected to be a medium related to literature and linguistics and to become a new medium for teaching about figurative language, especially the poetry selected in this research.

Thus, based on the urgency of the research, this study address two major questions: From the focus study above, in terms of analysing the poems, the discussion will be formulated into two questions: (1.) How do the type of figurative languages reflect the life of black people? (2.) How do the racial discrimination implied meaning revealed through figurative languages?

Therefore, to analyse this research further, the researcher intends and feels the need for figurative language by using a stylistic approach, which reflects the life of black people and refers to racial discrimination in poetry by using Geoffrey Leech's stylistic theory, which focuses on figurative language.

II. METHOD

The method used is the content analysis which focuses on the contents of the three poems of Audre Lorde by using descriptive qualitative. Nassaji (2015) says that qualitative research is more complex, using a variety of data extrapolated from different sources to gain an in-depth understanding of the opinions, perspectives, and attitudes of individual participants describing and interpreting specific categories (129-30).

In collecting the data of the research, the researcher doing the following steps, firstly, the researcher read the poems few times, secondly the researcher do understanding the context of the poems by reading, paraphrasing and analyzing intrinsically, after that, the researcher marking and taking notes of figurative languages in the printed text and finally, collecting and adjusting every figurative language found to the type of figurative language that reflect the life of black people by using poems which consist of entitled: *Power* (1978), *Coal* (1976), *The Black Unicorn* (1978).

The researcher discovers figurative language as the study of stylistics from those data, discussing every meaning of figurative language that reflect the life of black people and then adjusting the figurative

languages to the matter of racial discrimination from those selected poems.

III. RESULTS AND DISCUSSION

In this part, the researcher uses the data taken from 3 different poems by Audre Lorde, which have been read and will be underlined. The line of the poem, which has figurative language that reflect the life of black people will be explained, and then the value that revealing the racial discrimination in the poems on figurative language found also would be discussed.

The Type of Figurative Languages that Reflects the Life of Black People

Power (1978)

The poem, of Power (1978) is about a ten-year-old black boy named Clifford Glover was slain in 1973, and that incident is the focus of the case referenced in this poem. Police officer Thomas Shea, who was working undercover, killed him.

Lorde puts herself in the place of black people in the poem who advocate for justice. The brutal treatment of African Americans by “white” men is the primary issue in Power’s poems. The “ten-year-old” youngster was murdered solely because to the color of his skin. The poet informs the reader of the harsh treatment that all races experience by quoting the police officer who killed the poor boy: “I didn’t pay attention to the size or anything else/only the color.” Lorde also illustrates how challenging it is for black people to go through life without the ability to defend themselves due to the power disparity between white and black people.

Datum No.1/A47

my power too will run corrupt as poisonous mold

In the expression found in Lorde’s poem entitled “power,” there is a phrase that can be categorized as simile-type figurative language by comparing two things by using “as”. A comparison is a form of speaking in which a somewhat imaginary or unrealistic comparison is made using a like or as (McArthur, 1996:935 cited in Maula, 2013).

The poem where the datum simile is found tells about the struggle of black people to achieve justice against discrimination, especially regarding the power that she didn’t have in her life. The poet tries to express all her pain in life through direct parables, formed in the datum’s figurative language

above. There she illustrates the value of the power she has, which as a black person, is not appreciated when she tries. The poet also explains that even if she was given power, that power will also be damaged like a poisonous mushroom or in other words to be a useless parasite and only become poison in the surrounding community.

Datum No.2/A24,28

There are tapes to prove it. At his trial/ there are tapes to prove that, too.

A parallelism figurative language has the characteristic that there is the repetition of words or sentences similar to grammatical ones, which is basically what the poet usually does to emphasize a specific value that is equally important to convey from the whole text to the readers, so, parallelism is needed not only in the repetition of words, sentences or structures, but also in the meanings contained in the text (Leech, 1969).

The above datum is taken from Lorde’s poem entitled “Power,” which tells about the injustice of the legal system in the United States at that time through the life of black people. This case makes Lorde put herself to be very angry and is voicing out her desire in this poem. The above phrase’s repetition is written repeatedly to emphasize that the mistakes of the white police officer had been recorded and became evidence of his cruelty, however because of the lack of power Lorde had, she can only speak through her poems. So, Lorde seemed to act to ask for justice for the black boy.

Datum No. 3/A29-33

Today that 37 year old white man/ with 13 years of police forcing/ was set free/ by eleven white men who said they were satisfied/ justice had been done

The irony figurative language is written using a word or phrase that means the exact opposite of its true nature. According to Abrams (1999:135) as cited in Syafitri & Marlinton (2018) irony is a way of speaking or writing by saying one thing and interpreting another. Refers to a situation where reality and appearance differ.

The above datum is the manifestation how poet depict black people struggling in their lives to achieve justice, especially in law. This poem tells how a white police officer kills a black boy. When the judge decided, it was very unfair that the white

police officer was released because there were 11 white judges and only one black judge. In the above Datum, figurative language in the form of irony appears at the end of the sentence. Where it is said that a white police officer with 13 years of work was acquitted by eleven white judges and said they were all satisfied with the decision, "Justice had been done" is an irony because it means the opposite of what happened.

Datum No.4/A48

or *lie limp and useless as an unconnected wire*

In the findings in the 48th line of the poem, figurative language of simile which is comparison between two things by using like or as is also found.

Lorde depict the life of her which has no power as black people and the struggle for justice for the law regarding a boy who was murdered, the expression of her furious to uphold justice. The simile which has characteristic to compare something is used to reflect the life of black person in a society with a white majority. Her efforts are vain and meaningless because people tend to care about their race, making them feel superior. The poet tries to explain what she feels about being completely helpless and seems to be trying her best to establish justice for her people. In the datum above, she wrote that she seemed to be lying limp and useless like an electric socket that was powerless because there was no incoming electric power. It indicates that she has no power to move things and is futile. So that the poet's use of the word "lie limp and useless" is compared directly, which has the same characteristics as "unconnected wire" which is become the reflection the lack of power in her life.

Datum No.5/A5

I am trapped on a desert of raw gunshot wounds

One of the characteristics of figurative language in the form of a metaphor is a comparison by comparing things that don't even have the same characteristics. In poetry, metaphor is used to explain emotions, feelings, and other concepts that are difficult to express in plain language (Nur & Miranti, 2018).

For example, the poem above, taken from Lorde's poem entitled "power," contains the poet's struggle to demand all rights for the injustices suffered by black people. Lorde described that he did not have the power to strike justice in her time at that time. There was a murder case of a black boy who a white police officer deliberately killed,

and the courts just released the police. Therefore, Lorde described herself as a black person trapped in a desert whose characteristic is white sand which symbolizes white people. A black people, there are many fresh gunshot wounds for them because of a lot of killing and misery. Apart from the cruel story contained in this poem, the poet made the word "dessert" as a place for "raw gunshot wound," is symbolizes a "society that has white people majority." The two things are two different things; therefore, based on the existing characteristics. So, the above datum is figurative language as a metaphor.

Datum No.6/A14

thirsting for the wetness of his blood

In the datum found above, there is a symbolic word with an implied value. According to Arvius alm (2003) as cited in Nur & Miranti (2018) Symbolism is a type of figurative expression that uses the symbols of animals, plants or objects to replace something. The symbolism consists of personal; experience or imagination" since the context of the poem is about reality experience that Lorde saw in her life, thus, she attempts to symbolize the word "blood," which symbolizes the value of "responsibility for the death." This value can be seen from the previous phrase, "thirsting for the wetness," which illustrates that the poet wants accountability and justice to be served for the boy's death which is referring the lack of power in her life as black people.

Datum No.7/A54

a Greek chorus will be singing in 3/4 time

In the above datum, the underlined word is a figurative language of the type of symbolism because it has an implied meaning that symbolizes something.

In this section, the poet describes the injustice done to white people by the judges who released the white police officer. They did not care if the child was only ten years old and innocent but only cared about the color of his black skin is considered Wrong. So that the poet makes a parable if she kills an old woman rudely and mercilessly and does not care about her innocence and age, then everyone present will denounce her and consider her very barbaric and should be given a balanced punishment. So, this is where the figurative language of symbolism plays a role; namely, the word "Greek Chorus" means a group of people who have very similar views or feelings about an

action or series of actions (Merriam-Webster, n.d.) which connotatively describes of society who are there who will denounce everything she has done for his mistakes without stopping and knowing the time. Based on this, the word contains other meanings that can be categorized as figure of speech symbolism that refers to the lack of power Lorde had.

Coal (1976)

The poem of *Coal*, portrays Lorde as a poet with a first-person perspective who utilizes the coal fable to describe herself. It was due to the same traits that she shared with the blackness of the earth's core, which she appeared to be. Lorde, who was trying to talk, did the same thing by stating her identification as someone whose identity was entirely related to her darkness, her black skin, and her race. this poem describes the struggles faced by black people in their quest for equal access to speak their voices or opinions, because black people were treated as unheard of as coal in the earth.

Datum No. 8/ B18

Seeking like gypsies over my tongue.

Allusion refer to a well-known character, a famous event, a famous place, and so on. In the datum underlined above, the poet uses the word "Gypsy" in her poetry. Gypsy is a group of people with the same cultural background, language, etc., who traditionally traveled (Oxford Learner's Dictionary, n.d.). Historically, gypsies have a characteristic of living from place to place to earn a living for their families.

For what is discussed, since the poem referring to some words which live in her throat, this poem of "coal" is about the opinions of black people who are never respected and listened to, so all their views and words seem to be stuck in their tongues and trying to find a way to get the sun shine of life. Lorde using this kind of figurative language since the word is already well-known by people and trying to refer the lack of equality to speak in her life is represented by using Allusion of gypsy.

Datum No.17/B19

To explode through my lips

The datum above is taken from Lorde's poem "Coal," which discusses the injustice of speech and opinion. The datum above begins by describing that all the feelings in her heart are restrained by not being free and forcing her to hold it, which seems just to be stuck in her mouth, making it seem as if

it wants to explode through her lips. Apart from the story implied in it, the word "explode" in the above datum depicts that she has been holding back her opinion and voice for a very long time, so it seems as if she wants to explode from her mouth. Here, the poet uses the word "explode" to convey that the feelings in her heart are reached and fulfilled. Based on the word "explode" is categorized as hyperbole because the poet exaggerates its use to express the poet's feelings, and it is transferred perfectly to the readers. As it knows, hyperbole is used when a person who desires and anticipates events that will elevate an object above its actual value will employ this figure (Arvius alm, 2003 cited in Nur & Miranti, 2018).

Datum No.10/B16

Some words live in my throat.

In the classification of symbolism figurative language that has been explained before, symbolism is applicated when it could symbolize something else other than the literal.

The above datum is taken from Lorde's poem entitled "coal," which contains content regarding the freedom and discrimination against black people to speak and express their opinion. At the same time, the datum underlined above is a symbol of "words," which refers to the word "opinion or voice" which is what the poet wants to convey regarding her strong desire to have an opinion and be heard by other people and society at that time. Based on what is in the message of the poem and how to use figurative language by changing words but having the same message and characteristics between the two.

The lack of equal of speak in the poet life could be seen by seeing the context of the line above, which is "some words live in my throat" which is referring to her opinions that can't be delivered and just remain in their throat.

Datum No.11/ B8,16,21

*Some words are open/
Some words live in my throat/
Some words*

The above datum can be categorized as parallelism based on the characteristic of repeating the same word or phrase three times. According to Al-halhooli, Al-Khawaldeh, and Shureteh (2017) cited in Mwinwelle et al. (2021), it places the key to the poet's main idea in the hands of readers and scholars, shining an unintentional spotlight on the poet's depths for people.

The datum refers to the lack of equality to speak as black people which contains all the freedoms of speech, opinion, and discrimination in the social environment of black people in the United States. The poet says their life is buried at the bottom of the earth, never being noticed, and given the right to express their opinion. In the datum case above, Lorde tries to emphasize the different types of words or thoughts that exist in society; whether the poet describes that there are open and accepted opinions in the community, there are words that are only just stuck in the throat and not heard. Some words scared her, like blasphemies of discrimination against her. As conveyed in the poem, the above datum belongs to the figurative language of parallelism for its appropriate characteristics.

Datum No. 12/B9-10

*Like a diamond on glass windows/
Singing out within the crash of passing sun*

The above datum is taken from Lorde's poem entitled "coal," in which this poem outlines the inability of black people to express their opinions. Black people always want to speak up and have an opinion about everything, including for their own lives who crave freedom from racial discrimination. But on the other hand, white people always get the right to speak and express their opinion freely and easily because everyone must listen to them. Based on the problem that the poet wants to convey, the poet uses a personification type of figurative language that white people are like precious diamond that is always seen and liked by many people. So, personification lies in the word "diamond," which is an inanimate object with human characteristics, namely "singing." Therefore, the poet wanted to clarify the struggles that black people felt, since personification is a technique used to highlight specific traits of a non-human creature or item or to clarify or enrich a description of something (Arifah, 2016).

Datum No.13/ B11-13

*Then there are words like stapled wagers/
In a perforated book—buy and sign and tear
apart—/
And come whatever wills all chances*

As explained in the previous datums, this poem outlines the lack of freedom in the life of black people to speak up and express their opinions and who are always pressured to remain silent. The poet wants to illustrate that their voices are never respected because every time they have an opinion,

it seems as if it has become a bet if it will be listened to by the community. Which, in the end, will all be thrown away, not appreciated at all.

Therefore, to express her feelings about it, the poet tries to use simile-type figurative language in this poem. Typically, similes are employed to make writing more vivid and powerful (Nursolihat & Kareviati, 2020). So, we can see "Then there are words" like "stapled wagers/ In a perforated book—buy and sign and tear apart—/." The poet compares two things that are physically or physically different but have the same character, just as mere hopes that are hung up and thrown away. The poet just tried to emphasize the same value. Based on its characteristics, namely by comparing two other things directly, the above datum can be categorized as figurative language in the form of similes.

Datum No.14/B9

Like a diamond on glass windows

The datum can be categorized as figurative language in the form of symbolism because the part underlined has or contains other meanings that are not directly contained in it. In general, this poem contains a message about the struggle of life that poet felt as a black people to get their rights to voice an opinion that, in another sense, can be heard by others. In this case, people who have black skin are never heard as if they live on the earth like coal, while people who are white always have the privilege of having their words heard and obeyed no matter what it sounds like. It is showing the discrimination because of the race that poet has. According to Sharma (2018) Racial discrimination happens when someone is treated unfairly due to their real or perceived distinctiveness, it takes place.

Therefore, the poet here tries to express it by symbolizing it with other objects, so it is not understood. The word in the datum, "diamond," describes the voice or opinion of white people who always appreciated and wanted a purchase. Their opinions are always guarded and hailed like they are placed in a beautiful glass cup. On that basis, the datum above can be categorized as a figurative language with the type of symbolism.

The Black Unicorn (1978)

Lorde used the mythical creature, The Black Unicorn, to place herself in her 1978 poetry The Black Unicorn. In this poem, the poet elaborates on how living in a nation with a preponderance of white people makes black people miserable

in general. According to Lorde, anxiety of the repercussions of this differentiation arises from the fact that black people are consistently excluded and blamed for negative events in society.

Datum No.15/C1

The black unicorn is greedy.

The line of poetry above is a datum taken from a poem entitled “The Black Unicorn,” whose contents tend to tell the life struggle that experienced by the poet as a black person. Black people tend to be excluded and can’t do anything, and their rights are taken away, and they are always considered to want more than what has been determined by the white majority society. According to Meltzer (1984) as cited in Wilson et al. (2022) They were considered as animal and not human by the oppressors. . .]

Then here, Lorde using animal to symbolize her life as black person. As the character of black unicorn itself are by far the most powerful which with their power comes freedom; freedom to pursue their innermost desires, to be whoever they want to be without sparing a thought about others’ opinions (Animal hype, n.d.). however, still in the poet life, they didn’t get what belongs to them and considered to be greedy and want more than they have.

Datum No.16/C12-15

*The black unicorn is restless/
the black unicorn is unrelenting/
the black unicorn is not/ free.*

The next datum is still related to Lorde’s poem entitled “The Black Unicorn,” which this poem is a depiction of how her life were treated in society at that time with misery, anxiety, injustice, and all the bad feelings that happened to them. Especially the assumption that they always ask for more. In the figurative language, parallelism is written at the end of the poem’s lines as a closing, indicating the point of opinion is thrown at them. In the datum of the poem, it is said that black person is the opposite of the last datum that is tireless and unyielding, but also in the previous emphasis, the poet describes that they live without freedom which makes all the struggles written in the previous lines an attempt to achieve freedom. The above datum is a figurative language of parallelism that repeats a word or phrase.

Datum No. 17/C7

where mist painted mockeries

Previously, this poem is taken from Lorde’s

work entitled “The Black Unicorn.” In figurative language, the poet uses the word “mist,” which is an inanimate object, and seems to bring it to life with the verb “painted,” which is a human verb. The above datum belongs to the group of figurative language of the type of personification because it also has characteristics that have become the requirements for the nature of personification itself.

The characteristic where “mist” can refer to symbolizes white people as the context of the poem, and that mist can “painted mockeries” refers to the life where the poet often scared for people around her, because she lived in the white people majority. It’s probably to be happened in the life of poet, because racial discrimination can cause symptoms of trauma (Williams et al., 2018).

Therefore, from those that have been discussed, it can be seen that Audre Lorde in her 3 poems are correlated to each other which describes her life as a black person full of difficulties. He describes it through figurative language which refers to inequality in getting power, inequality in the field of opinion, and being marginalized by society because of racial differences they have. The figurative language used emphasizes and implicitly represents the state of black people’s life.

Racial Discrimination Reflected in the Figurative Languages

From the many types of figurative language found in the three selected poems of Audre Lorde, some types are assumed to have meanings related to discrimination in them. The meaning of discrimination is conveyed in how the poet associates a figure of speech with the message’s content that she wants to convey to the readers. Racial discrimination, according to (Altman, 2011), can be categorized into several types, namely, openly, indirectly, and in addition; According to Sunarto as cited in Hutami, (2018), racial discrimination can also be found in social life, in economic and political terms.

1. Direct discrimination

***Dessert of raw gunshot wounds
(Datum 5/A5)***

The figurative language found in Lorde’s poem entitled “Power,” which has been taken from datum eight, is a type of metaphorical figure of speech and contains the meaning of discrimination in the type of direct discrimination. The poet wants to convey that he lived in a place where white

people were everywhere, and they had murder, wounds, and blood all around them. It showing the life that black people have is lower than white people. White individuals are more likely to have greater opportunities and a higher quality of life; as an illustration, white servants may lawfully own black slaves (Markova, 2008 cited in Ma'rifa, 2016). The poet uses the word "desert" to symbolize white people because they have the same color character and "gunshot wounds" as a sign of their misery about the direct forms of discrimination in their lives.

To explode through my lips
(Datum 9/B19)

The figurative language that has been found above is a hyperbole type of figure of speech from the poem entitled "Coal." In the figure of speech used by the poet in this poem, the poet seems to be trying to explain the direct racial discrimination that occurs in the society where they live; they cannot speak and express opinions because they have black skin. This discrimination makes the poet unable to do anything other than withhold all the expressions and opinions she has about the rights that black people should have. due to the fact that direct discrimination refers to any behavior or action carried out by a group of people. This category also includes being unable to express one's opinion (Altman, 2011 as cited in (Ma'rifa, 2016). The poet uses the word "explode through my lips" based on being overwhelmed by racial discrimination regarding equality of opinion. When presenting subjective claims that are exaggerated, hyperbole typically involves personal values and sentiment (Leech, 1969:168).

Some words live in my throat
(Datum 10/B16)

As a connection, through the metonymy figure of speech in the same poem entitled "Coal," the poet conveys the misery of not being free to have an opinion which is change by other word namely "words." Where a word can live in her throat is another representation of "opinion," which is just stuck in her mouth but cannot be expressed because of the blatant racial discrimination against black people.

where mist painted mockeries
(Datum 17/C7)

The figurative language found in the datum above is a type of personification and symbolism figure of speech. This figure of speech is found in

Lorde's poem "The Black Unicorn," which has a story that outlines discrimination against black people who are always excluded and unappreciated. The poet here tries to convey how her life in society is filled with fear. The poet uses the word "mist," which symbolizes white people around her who always discriminate directly, as the characteristic human have which is "painted mockeries" is a picture of how white people create fear in the lives of black people.

2. Indirect Racial Discrimination

Today that 37 year old white man/ with 13 years of police forcing/ was set free/ by eleven white men who said they were satisfied/ justice had been done
(Datum 3/A29-33)

The figurative language found in Lorde's poem entitled "Power" contains irony, a satire using a word that is contrary to its original nature. So, here the poet tries to describe the indirect discrimination against black people. Which indirectly has made a decision that harms black people. Indirect racial discrimination occurs when a person or group receives treatment that is not specifically, covertly, intentionally, or unintentionally directed at them and results in disproportionate disadvantages for them (Altman, 2011 cited in Ma'rifa, 2016). In irony, "justice had been done" is a word that is a satire of the opposite thing that happened and hurt black people.

3. Racial Discrimination in Social Life

There are tapes to prove it. At his trial/ there are tapes to prove that, too.
(Datum 2/A24,28)

The figurative language above has a figure of speech of the type of parallelism found in the poem "Power." In the use of the figure of speech, the poet tries to express what happened by repeating the same words to achieve an emphasis on something essential. Racial discrimination in social life can be related to security and public services. Here as a black person, Lorde described that even though there was evidence in the form of "tapes," they were ignored for their rights and did not have the power to fight back, Because they can afford lawyers, dominant races typically prevail in court whereas weak races can only accept their lot (Bugaranti, 2019). so it can be categorized as racial discrimination in social life.

a Greek chorus will be singing in 3/4 time

(Datum 7/A54)

Still related to racial discrimination in social life, it is found in the type of euphemism figure of speech in the poem entitled “power,” where the poet wants to describe injustice in legal and security decisions. Euphemism is figurative language used to replace words having negative or insulting connotations with another that is less direct (Arifah, 2016). Therefore, the poet tried to use euphemism to indirectly speak about reality. She tries to make assumptions that if she makes the same mistake as white people, she will be scolded and reviled by society at any time without mercy. So, the poet tries to write it by using the euphemism figure of speech “Greek chorus will be singing,” which if interpreted indirectly means insults by white people simultaneously and continuously.

***Like a diamond on glass windows/ Singing
out within the crash of passing sun***
(Datum 12/B9-10)

The above figurative language is taken from a poem entitled “coal,” a personification figure of speech. Lines nine and ten above also contain a type of figure of speech symbol describing white people’s opinions and voices like a precious diamond. In this figure of speech, the poet tries to explain black people’s social class differences. Where white people’s voice is likened to a “diamond on glass window,” which is a very precious thing, and “singing out” gets the light of freedom. So that the differences between races that make social class differences are also between the two. This matter is showing that White people feel higher than the black people, and white people community do not like it if subordinates get the same privileges in every aspect of life (Bugaranti, 2019). The meaning of the figure of speech above represents the poet’s thoughts on racial discrimination based on social life.

After what has been analyzed above, the impact of Lorde’s life as a black person has also led to the formation of racial discrimination. it is obtained from how Lorde represents herself and what she has experienced during her life through the figurative language she uses. In other words, according to the types of racial discrimination that exist, namely direct, indirect racial discrimination, and racial discrimination in social life.

IV. CONCLUSIONS

This study draws conclusions based on

findings on two objectives: identifying the type of each figurative language that reflect the life of black people and adjusting the implied meaning of racial discrimination in the appropriate figurative language. Based on the findings in chapter III, draws several conclusions regarding the questions in chapter I. From this discussion, from 3 different poems, 8 types of figurative language were found, namely Allusion, Hyperbole, Parallelism, Irony, Personification, Simile, Symbolism, Euphemism, and 17 data are found in those selected poems which reflect the life of black people and reveal the racial discriminations. In the meaning of each figurative language found, everything relates to the struggles in the life of black people. Lorde describes how black people are discriminated against based on lack of power, lack of equality to speak their opinion, and as a black person whose rights are often marginalized. from the figurative language found, eight figurative languages reflect the meaning of racial discrimination. First, direct racial discrimination is life amid a white majority and freedom of expression, creating fear for black people. Then, there is also indirect racial discrimination as a partial legal decision. Next is racial discrimination in social life, represented by legal security and unfair public services against the black race. In this discovery, it’s shown that the poet tries to express the racial discrimination through figurative language in so many aspects of life, however, the poet says it implicitly by using figurative language features that make the reader unable directly to understand and interpret these figurative languages. Consequently, this research affirms that Audre Lorde’s use of figurative language in the three selected poems reflects her experiences. As can be seen from the way she employs figurative language in each of her poems to describe the rights and challenges she encountered, including marginalization as a black people and unequal power and opinion, the figurative language also conveys the existence of racial discrimination experienced by black people.

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