

A DISCOURSE ANALYSIS OF POEMS ENTITLED “THE NEGRO SPEAKS OF THE RIVER” BY LANGSTON HUGHES

SURAKARTA IN 2021/2022 ACADEMIC YEAR

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ABSTRACT

The objectives of this research were: 1) To find out the analysis context namely Cultural, Social context and Inferential in these poems written by Langston Hughes entitled *The Negro Speak Of The River* ; 2) To find out the grammatical aspect in Langston Hughes’s poems entitled Negro speaks of the river ; 3) To find out the lexical aspect in Langston Hughes’s poems entitled Negro speaks of the river

The researcher used qualitative research as research method with the type of library research. This research used primary and secondary data as the sources .The techniques of data collection were retrieving the poem of Langston Hughes *The Negro Speaks of The River* , reading the poem several time, focusing on the sentences of the poems namely the diction, and the figurative word, selecting data, classifying the data, displaying the data, analysing data, interpreting the data, and making the conclusion. In technique of analyzing data, the researcher used interactive data analysis by Miles and Huberman, such as data collecting, data reduction, data displaying, conclusion and verification. To find the validity of the research, was used by triangulation data.

The results of the researcher show that: 1) The Cultural Context, Social Context, and Inferential of poems entitled *The Negro Speaks of The Rivers* were about the influence of blacks history as a slaves and about the inequity for Blacks. The Social Context were about, racialism and discrimination and about struggling. The Inferential were about refering a longest river as a history of Black people, and giving advice about life condition and also about struggle. 2) The Grammatical aspect in poems *The Negro Speaks of The Rivers*, were: Reference includes “I”, “Me”, “My”, “It”, “He”, “you”, “rivers”, “vein”, pyramid”, “Ancient dusky”, “the Euphrates”, “the Congo”, and “the Mississippi”. The Conjunction in these poems were “as”, “and”, and “when”. 3) Lexical Aspect in poems *The Negro Speaks of The Rivers* were: Repetition in these poems were Assonance use vowel /o/ sound, and Consonant Repetition. Synonym in these poems were “ancient...and older”. Collocation in these poems were “I’ve” “I’ll”, “ain’t”,

“don’t”, “it’s”, and “I’se”.

This research result showed the Cultural Context, Social Context, and Inferential of these poems was refers to the history of Black People in America as a slaves. The Grammatical and Lexical Aspects also presented in these poems. The research result can be useful for teaching material especially in grammatical and lexical.

Keywords: Langston Hughes, Poems, A Descriptive Qualitative, Discourse Analysis.

INTRODUCTION

Communication is an activity which people make of it observable, and meaningful. With communication, people can exchange the way how they think, telling some facts, their opinions, or emotions with two or more people for reach a mutual understanding because the role of communication is to create understanding in the mind of another (Allen Louis, 1958: 64). There are two forms in communication. There are -verbal communication is about exchange some ideas, expression, emotion, opinion, and experience through spoken or written, and Non-verbal communication which conveyed through sign and body language (Marume et al: 2016, oo. 26-32). Based on the term written about communication, the speaker has an important role to start a conversation, which means

communication involves and use language. Language is the main tool of communication for every living creature especially for the human being to transfer information in a social environment (Charles F Hockett and Charles D Hockett, 1960: 88-97). According to Keraf (Smarapradhipa, 2005:1), they are two definitions of language. Firstly, language is communication between members of the public in the form of a symbol of the sound produced by means of said human. Secondly, language is a system of communication that uses speech sounds which are arbiter. In the field of language, there are discourses that must firstly must be known. Firstly is speech which identified as a form of spoken language (Van Djik, 1977), Secondly is written which allow people to separate word to arrange

their order and develop syllogism form. Beside, Poetry is one of art and part of literature that involves an ambiguous word (Empson W, 1930: 38) that must be explained. A poem is a type of language that conveys expressions and emotion more strongly than an ordinary poem and has a special meaning. For poem itself is one of creative uses of language that plays a role in the expression of profound emotion (Charles Barber, 1983: 4). Based on the terms in the above expert's poem, It can be concluded that the poem is full of strong emotions spontaneously rooted in emotions recalled in a branch of literature that uses words as a mean of communication. A poem is a form of written text and a form of speech (Easthope, 1983:5) which have figurative or metaphorical tone and language (Davies, 2002:22). Beside, Figurative language is also

called the figure of speech and metaphorical language (Elder, 2004: 294). In Langstone Hughes poem entitled "The Negro Speaks of The Rivers" tell the reader about the injustice and struggles of black people in America, but this is conveyed indirectly because he uses figurative language in his poem. A poem should read as discourse and also provide a conception of discourse in order to better understand the poem than is assumed in conventional criticism (Easthope, 1983:7). Based on the description above, the researcher conduct an analysis entitled A DISCOURSE ANALYSIS OF POEMS ENTITLED "THE NEGRO SPEAKS OF THE RIVER".

The researcher has three objectives from this study dealing with the statement of research above as follows: 1) To find out the

analysis context such as Cultural, Social context and Inferential in those poems that written by Langston Hughes entitled Negro Speak Of The River, 2) To find out the grammatical aspect in Langston Hughes's poems entitled The Negro speaks of the river , 3) To find out the lexical aspect in Langston Hughes's poems entitled The Negro speaks of the river .

Discourse Analysis is the studies of use of written and conversational language from all angles (Fatmala, 2019: 06). Then, Ishmael and Media (2019: 68) also mentions that discourse analysis is the discovery of language use focusing on items larger than sentences. Paul Gee and Gillian Brown (1995: 96-98) stated about the steps how to do Discourse Analysis which are: 1) Established the content that include topic, arguments, and questions to

encourage research to participate in their own discourse analysis. 2) Define the research question and select the content of analysis by choosing a piece of data such as mini-interaction, and interview, or a text with the aim of shedding light on an important issue or question that want to ask. 3) Gather information and theory on the context by selecting keyword and phrase from the data and studying the meanings of these words, then bringing them together in a common context in which the data occurs is cultural. 4) Analyze the content of the topics and patterns of social behaviour and social situations. 5) Review the result and draw the conclusion that guided by the topic or question the researcher starts and both answer.

Poem is relate to language as music to noise (Carey, 2020: 01). Since the earliest, poem are thought

to have been recited or sung, used to help people remembering a history in orally, and used in law (Beissinger, 2012:81). Then, Francis (2017:81) further emphasized that poem and musical heritage are strongly intertwined. Additionally, the purpose of the poem is to convey a feeling and concept through a rhythmical arrangement of lovely words that have been chosen for their sonorous effect (Tomlinson, 1999: 38). Beside, poem is also a language that is utilized in particular ways and for particular purpose (Horman, 2003: 10). Based on explanation, it can be concluded that poem is a language that expresses more and more by being more intense than in ordinary language (Perrine, 1974: 553).

The Social Context in discourse analysis is includes a community's ideals and principles

as well as its networks, economies, and political system (Cowman and Murdoch, 2006:26). Beside, Begun, Bares, and Chartier (2020:15) stated that there are three different type of social environment characteristics, namely Stigma, Policy, and Peer Group,

The Cultural Context in discourse analysis is a written work that contains information about a setting or circumstance that is pertinent to the beliefs and value held by a group of people during a certain period of time (Mustofa & Jonnie ,2018: 108). Beside, John Spacey (2019:2) lists six of characteristic of cultural contexts, namely Interaction and influence, Rational, Social status, History, Language, and Politic.

Inferential in lexically same as the conclusion (Mulyana, 2005:19). While in discourse, inferential is a process that involves

the speaker's attempt to comprehend the literal meaning of something that is not represented in what the speaker is saying. The ability to infer conclusion to analyze, evaluated, and use information is another benefit of inferential reasoning (Banks, 2012: 220).

Grammatical Aspect analysis in discourse analysis refer to the grammatical elements such as reference, substitution, elliptical aspect, and conjunction that are used in spoken and written discourse to connect words, phrases, and sentences to produce unity. Reference is the identity of meaning between the putative element and what is suggests (Halliday and Hassan, 1976: 315). Additionally, Reference also a relationship between a text element and something else by emphasizing or referring to a specific thing

(Laeli, 2015: 12). Halliday and Hassan (1976: 6) stated, there are three type of reference, namely Personal Reference, Demonstrative Reference, and comparative Reference. Personal Reference is a supporting functional resource in a speech situation through categories of people Fromkin, 2003: 184). Within the part of individual as a reference in discourse may be a speaker as the first person, recipient as second person, and the other as the third person (Halliday and Hassan, 1976: 43). For the first person, the pronouns designate the speaker, in the singular case "I" and the plural "we" (Solah and Ahmad, 2020:43-44). Then, for the third person usually refer to the third person other than the speaker or the addressee, which can refer to person or not person, such as "he", "she", "that", "they" (Solah and Ahmad, 2020: 43-44).

Demonstrative Reference are positional reference, as “this”, “These”, and “here” then imply to speaker “that”, “these”, and “there” and “there” imply a distance from the speaker (Laeli, 2015: 13). Comparative reference are indirect references by trait or similarity (Laila, 2015: 13) which divided into two, Firstly general comparisons show the similarity between things, and the second specific comparison show comparability between things with respect to a particular attribute (Halliday and Hassan, 1975: 58). Substitution is the use of one person or thing in place of another (Laili, 2015: 16). Meanwhile, according to Halliday and Hassan (1975: 89) substitution is otherwise referencing means the relationship between meaning. Elipsis is a language style that omits a part of a sentence that is easy for the reader

to understand and makes the meaning of the sentence clear (Laili, 2015: 16). A Conjunction is a word that connect a word, phrase or clause in a huge a phrase using the words “and”, “yet”, “so”, and “which” (Halliday and Hassan, 1975: 143). Conjunction also can be used to associate one word with another (Halliday and Hassan, 1975: 143).

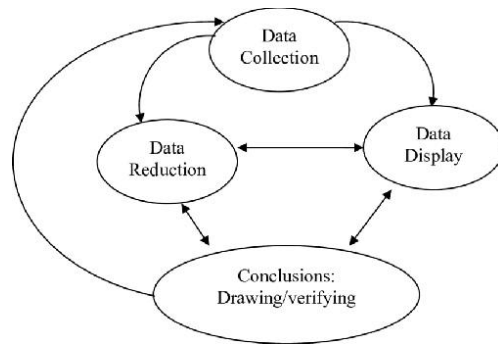
Lexical aspect analysis is analysis through lexical choice and lexical relationship analysis (Halliday and Hassan, 1975: 318) which has included repetition, synonyms, and collocation (Halliday and Hassan, 1975: 31).

METHOD OF THE RESEARCH

The research focuses on the messages that Langston Hughes’s poems entitled “The Negro Speaks of The Rivers”. This study focus on analysing the cultural and social

context, Inferential, Grammatical, and lexical. The data is the form of the word text by use qualitative descriptive method with library research type. Qualitative descriptive emphasize subjective judgments about attitudes, opinion, and behaviours (Khotari, 2004: 5). The data resource consist of word and sentence from two poems, which included Primary data are poems from Langston Hughes entitled *The Negro speaks of the river* (1921) (1922). Then, It was collected the form of utterances that constitutes with Grammatical aspect in Langston Hughes's poem entitled *The Negro speaks of the river* , and Secondary Data were taken from historical books, internet sources, and articles that related to this study about discourse analysis. Meanwhile, the method of analyze data used some stages as categorized by Miles and

Huberman (1994:12), there are data collection, data display, data reduction, and conclusion of drawing or verification.



RESULT AND DISCUSSION

a. Result

In poem entitled *The Negro Speaks of The Rivers*, the Cultural Context was about the white people still assumed that Blacks were lower than White People because based on their past history which where the Black people were slaves for the centuries. In poem entitled *The Negro Speaks of The Rivers*, the Social Context was about was about the long

conflict history between White People and Black People which related to racialism and discrimination. Inferential in Langston Hughes's poem entitled *The Negro Speaks of The Rivers* was about mentioning the famous and longest rivers like Euphrates, Congo, and Mississippi for referred to a history of Black people that have a long journey as a slaves in the past.

The Grammatical aspect in poem *Negro Speaks of The Rivers* , which could be found as follows: a) Grammatical Aspect In *Negro Speaks of The Rivers* first were Reference and Conjunction. Reference such as First Person Singular Pronoun with word "I" with total in overall were 7. Pronoun "Me" have 1 in overall count. Pronoun "My

have 3 in overall. Third Person Singular Pronoun Reference was "It" could be found with total 2 in overall and pronoun (He) in this poem had found just 1 in overall. Second Person Plural Reference in this poem could be found with total 7 in overall. The last was Demonstrative Reference with total 5 in overall. Conjunction that could be found in *Negro Speaks of The Rivers* poem were "as" was a part of correlative conjunction, "and" was a part of Coordinate conjunction, and "when" was a part of subordinate conjunction.

Lexical Aspect for in *Negro Speaks of The Rivers* first were Repetition, Synonym and Collocation. The Repetition in this poem was Assonance, which use

vowel /o/ sound. Otherwise, There was Synonym that has found was in the line 2 stated "I've known rivers ancient as the world and older than the flow of human blood in human veins. Then, the last was collocation which made several words has made shortened that used "I've" mean "I have".

b. Discussion

The Cultural Context of the poem, titled THE NEGRO SPEAKS OF THE RIVERS , recounts the journey of black people from past history of slavery to liberation as the word "river" is used. As a metaphor for their journey, it is meant to be long and endless. Thus, it may affect those in the Social Context who are still influenced by African-Americans or blacks about their past as slaves, causing racial discrimination for

Blacks. Then Inferential from the poem titled THE NEGRO SPEAKS OF THE RIVERS that the longest famous rivers such as the Euphrates, Congo and Mississippi refer to the history of black people with long journeys as slaves.

The Grammatical aspect of the can be found in poem THE NEGRO SPEAKS OF THE RIVER are firstly is references as first person singular pronouns with the word "I" alluding to the poet of the poem with a total of 7. The pronoun "Me" refers to the poet as an object and has a total of 1. The pronoun "My" is designated by the poet as a possessive pronoun, in total he There are 3 pronouns. The third person singular pronoun reference "It" can be found in this poem for a total of 2. The Congo River is mentioned in line (5) to represent a thing or object in this poem. Then (It) in line (6) mentions the Nile on

which the poet wants to build a pyramid, In line (7) writes "... when Abe Lincoln went down to..." this is also the Third Person singular Pronoun, because "Abe Lincoln" in this poem can be replaced by the pronoun (He). One can show that the pronoun (He) in this poem finds only one in total. The second person plural reference in this poem can be found with a total of 7 in total. where is "river", "vein", and "pyramid" on line (1), line (2), line (3), line (6), line (8), line (9) and line (10), and finally the Demonstration Reference with a total of 5 points and those are the "Ancient dusky river" on Line (9) referring to an event that happened in the past before the poet was born. It means "ancient dark rivers" referring to an era. But besides that, the illustrative reference also mentions the location of the place. It is found in Line (4) "I bathed in

the Euphrates when...", in Line (5) "I built my hut near the Congo and...", Line (6) "I looked upon the Nile and...", Line (7) "I heard the singing of the Mississippi when Abraham Lincoln went down to New Orleans, and..." refers to the location. In this poem Demonstrative Reference could be found with total 5 number of overall in this poem. Conjunctions that can be found in line (2) of the poem include "as" and "and". The conjunction "as" is part of a correlative conjunction and the conjunction "and" is part of a coordinate conjunction, then the conjunctions in line (5) and line (6) of the poem are made up of " and". The conjunction "and" is part of the coordinate conjunction, and the last conjunction that can be found in this poem is at line (7) of the poem consisting of "when" and "and". The conjunction "when" is part of a

subordinate conjunction. The conjunction of "and" is part of the coordinate conjunction.

The lexical aspects which can be found in the poem Negro Speaks of The Rivers are repetition, synonyms, and collocation. The repetition in this poem is Assonance, using the vowel /o/ which can be found in , line 2 "... world and older that the flow of human blood in human vein", and line 4 "I bathed in the Euphrates when dawn were young" On the other hand there are Synonyms found in this poem in line 2 which stated "I've known rivers ancient as the world and older than the flow of human blood in human veins", it can indicate that "ancient" and "older" are synonyms where denote the age and experience of the narrator. Then the last one is Collocation which has some words

in line (1), line (2), line (7) and line (8) shortened where "I've" is used.

CONCLUSIONS

Based on the above interpretation, it can be argued the cultural, social, and inferential contexts of poems titled THE NEGRO SPEAKS OF THE RIVERS addressed the influence of black history as slaves and slavery also inequality for blacks. The social context is about racism, discrimination and struggle. Then, for Inferential is treating the longest river as a blacks history and giving advice on living conditions and struggles.

The Grammatical aspect of the poems NEGRO SPEAKS OF THE RIVER are Reference include "I", "Me", "My", "It", "He", "You", "rivers", vein", "Pyramid", "Ancient dusky", "the Euphrates", "the Congo", and "the Mississippi".

For the Conjunction in these poems are “as”, “and”, and “when.

The lexical aspect of the poems *The Negro Speaks of The Rivers* is: The repetition in these poems is homophony using the vowel /o/ and consonant repetition. The synonyms in these poems are "old... and older". Collocation in these poems are "I've", "I'll", "ain't", "don't", "it's" and "I'se".

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