

## ANALYSIS OF METAPHOR IN “ A FAMILY AFFAIR” BY KATE CHOPIN

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### Abstract

This research analyzed the types of metaphor and the meaning of metaphor in Kate Chopin's story "A Family Affair". Metaphor was part of figurative language that compares one thing to another. According to Lakoff and Johnson (1980) in the classical view, metaphor can be defined as a figure of speech or trope in which a comparison was made between two unlike things that share certain characteristics. The aim of this research was to get clear descriptions of the types of metaphor found in this short story and to implied the meaning of each metaphor in Kate Chopin's story "A Family Affair". Descriptive qualitative research method used in conducting the research. The techniques of qualitative method was used to collect and identify the data. The results of this research were found nine metaphors in Kate Chopin's story "A Family Affair". The types of metaphor that found in this research were ontological metaphor and conceptual metaphor. The types of metaphor that often found in this research conceptual metaphor. The meaning of each metaphor was different depends on the types that use in the short story. In conclusion, Kate Chopin's story "A Family Affair" has so many metaphors that should be analyzed. The types and the meaning of each metaphor that found in this researches based on the Lakoff & Johnson (1980) theory that lift the metaphor clearly.

Keywords: *Metaphor, Ontological metaphor, Conceptual metaphor*

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### INTRODUCTION

Kate Chopin (1850–1904) is an American writer best known for her stories about the inner lives of sensitive, daring women. Kate Chopin's story "A Family Affair" was published in September 1899. This story tells about the survival of an old woman, Madame Solisainte. A sore affliction to the old woman to be thus incapacitated during her later years, and rendered unable to watch and control her household affairs and. She sure that she was being robbed continuously and on all sides. This conviction was nourished by her confidential servant, Dimple. The notion had entered Madame Solisainte's head to have one of her nieces come up from New Orleans and stay with her. There were four nieces. Bousey consented to go to her aunt. Bousey who always takes care and makes



Madame Solisainte comfortable, and she will do it everyday. Bosey want to borrow all the keys, and She'll go out and make herself thoroughly painted with everything. When Bosey wanted to marry a doctor who always took care of Madame Solisainte and returned all the keys, Madame Solisainte examined her cupboard and saw gold, her ring and necklace had been stolen. Madame Solisainte is so angry that she is unaware that she can walk to catch upped with Bosey.

Language has an important role in our daily life as a tool to communication to each other. People use language to share their opinions, feelings, and experiences in many ways. Sometimes the expression of those meanings are not always obvious, sometimes expressed implicitly and vaguely by the speaker. For instance, they use figurative language to make assertion in speech. Abrams (2003) states that figurative language is a conspicuous departure from what users of a language apprehends as the standard meaning of words or else the standard order of words, to achieve some special meaning or effect. There are several kinds of figurative language such as metaphor, simile, personification, etc.

This paper focus on the metaphor analysis, how the author gives imagine about the real meaning that had been written. This analysis uses Substitution Theory. The substitution theory of metaphor simply proposes that an expression is substituted by another expression without any changes in the meaning. In comparing and equating things, metaphors use direct comparison without being followed by comparative words such as like, as, etc. Metaphors is part of figurative language that compares one thing to another. According to Lakoff and Johnson (1980) in the classical view, metaphor can be defined as a figure of speech or trope in which a comparison is made between two unlike things that share certain characteristics.

Through the metaphors found in the short story the researcher want to analyze the meaning of metaphor in Kate Chopin's short story. The writer chooses Kate Chopin's story "A Family Affair". It is because there are some metaphor in that story and the researcher want to know the real meaning of word and sentences in this short story. Metaphors are used to deliver the message of the story which wanted to be conveyed by the author. The researchers analyze the



meaning of metaphor so that the people can understand about the meaning of metaphors.

## **LITERATURE REVIEW**

### **Definition of short story**

A short story is a piece of prose fiction that typically can be read in one sitting and focuses on a self-contained incident or series of linked incidents, with the intent of evoking a "single effect" or mood, however there are many exceptions to this.

### **Definition of metaphor**

The word metaphor is derived from the Greek verb metaphora: meta meaning over and phora to carry or to transfer (Hawkes,1972). Metaphor is part of figurative language that compares one thing to another.

According to Lakoff and Johnson (1980) in the classical view, metaphor can be defined as a figure of speech or trope in which a comparison is made between two unlike things that share certain characteristics. For instance, in the famous quotation from Shakespeare's *Romeo and Juliet* "Juliet is the sun", Juliet is likened to the sun. The comparison is motivated by the fact that Romeo believes that she shares such characteristics with the sun as life-giving power, glory and beauty. Metaphor or the means by which one thing is described in terms of something else has been described as a central tool of our cognitive apparatus it is central to our understanding of how language thought and discourse are structured (Lynne and Graham,1999).

According to Lakoff (1992) metaphor is the main mechanism through which we comprehend abstract concept, as well as he argues that metaphor allows us to understand the experience much better because metaphor is fundamentally conceptual in nature. Lakoff and Johnson (1980) believe that "metaphor imposed itself in our ordinary language, speech and our conceptual system and they clearly stated that metaphor is typically viewed as characteristic of language alone, a matter of word rather than thought or action. For this reason most people think they can get along perfectly well without metaphor, we have found on the



contrary, that metaphor is pervasive in everyday life, not just in language but in thought and action, our ordinary conceptual system, in term of which we both think and act is fundamentally metaphorical in nature.”

Some researchers refer to the metaphor as a process (Morgan, 1996). The concept of metaphor as process further clarifies the reference to drawing and the ability to move the audience beyond the literal, to increase engagement and subsequent impact (Kaminsky, 2000). Richards writes ‘metaphor is exceptional in the use of language, a deviation from its normal mode of working’ (1964: 90). And then, According to substitution view the focus of a metaphor, word or expression having a distinctively metaphorical use within a literal frame is used to communicate a meaning that might have been expressed literally. Understanding a metaphor is like deciphering a code or unraveling a riddle (Black,1954). According to Aristotle metaphor involves the substitution of one expression (the one used metaphorically) for another that could have been literal. So when we say “Richard is a lion” what we are doing is substituting the expression a lion for brave (Ortony, 1980) .

Aristotle also argues that metaphor should be made from words that are beautiful in sound in meaning or by association to the eye or some other sense ( Lynne and Graham, 1999).Aristotle refers to his account of metaphor in the poetics and point out that a metaphor is lucid pleasing and strange and has all these qualities to a higher degree (ibid). Cuddon (1992) defined metaphor as a figure of speech in which one thing is describe in terms of another. The basic figure in poetry a comparison is usually implicit; whereas in simile it is explicit. But according to Koller (2004, p.2) “metaphor is ancillary in constructing a particular view of reality.” Richards (1965) considers metaphor to be central to this construction and Moran (1989) labels it quintessential. Whether ancillary, central, or quintessential all agree, the silent messages of metaphor are helpful in persuasion (McQuarrie & Phillips, 2005).

Newmark (1988) defined metaphor as any figurative expression: the transfer sense of physical word; the personification of an abstraction; the application of word and collocation to what is does not literally denote. Metaphor may be “single” (one word) or extended (a collocation an idiom a sentence a proverb an allegory a



complete imaginative text) (Rashid 03:91). Newmark (1988) stated that the main purpose of metaphor is to describe an entity, event or quality more comprehensively and concisely. Metaphor is more imaginative and artistic than simile as it makes language more powerful and takes the reader towards the emotional thoughts (ibid) a command of metaphor may be of tremendous importance in life as well as in literature (Miller, 1988).

Metaphor itself is a figurative expression as a means to make an indirect comparison between two or more unrelated subjects (Newmark,1988:104), which its form can be single or extended words such as collocation, idioms, sentence, proverb, allegory or a complete imaginative text. Likewise, Lakoff (2003: 8) also defines metaphor as a poetic device and a rhetorical flourish—a matter of extraordinary rather than ordinary language.

Kovecses(2002) summarized the traditional features of metaphor. “First, metaphor is a characteristic of words; it is a linguistic phenomena. Second, metaphor used for some artistic and rhetoric purposes third metaphor is based on resemblance between the two entities that are compared and identified forth metaphor is a figure of speech that is not indispensable”. Metaphor was seen as a part of novel poetic language (Lakoff and Johnson 1993: 202) and was claimed to play an ornamental function in speech. In the classical view metaphor can be defined as a figure of speech or trope in which a comparison is made between two unlike things that share certain characteristics. For instance, in the famous quotation from Shakespeare’s Romeo and Juliet “Juliet is the sun”, Juliet is likened to the sun. The comparison is motivated by the fact that Romeo believes that she shares such characteristics with the sun as life-giving power, glory and beauty.

According to Kovecses (2010), metaphors can be conceptual and linguistic. Metaphors can be classier in many ways. Four of these are especially relevant to the cognitive linguistic view of metaphor; classification according to the conventionality, function, and level of generality of metaphor. Both linguistic and conceptual metaphors may be highly conventionalized or they may be unconventional, or novel. Next According to Lakoff’s theory of metaphor are ontological metaphor, orientational metaphor, conceptual metaphor etc.



Based on the understanding according to the figures above it can be conclude that the metaphor is a figurative language which compares or equates something with something else. in comparing, the metaphor compares directly without being followed by words such as like, as, etc.

## **METHOD**

Descriptive qualitative research method is intended to describe the analysis factually, accurately and systematically. Qualitative research is the research which produces descriptive data in the form of written words or oral words about the object that is observed. Descriptive research is used in the literal sense of describes situations or events. By using this method the writer will use qualitative descriptive research, in which the data are described systematically to get an accurate and factual result.

The source of data of this research was the sentences in the dialogues of the story “ A Family Affair” which were performed as primary source of data. The data used in this research were the metaphors found in the sentences. The researcher use qualitative method to easily analyze metaphors by collecting data.

The researcher collected the documents for this research. Some documents consist of Reading Passages, the form of comprehension question, articles, the books, website data and data source for qualitative research. As Creswell (2012:223) said that documents represent a good source of text data for a qualitative study. Besides that, researcher identified the purposefully selected sites or individuals for the propose study and indicate the type of data to be collected.

This research used qualitative method that sometimes the diction in the story cannot be understanding by people. Every utterance and expressions of story is often having certain meaning.

## **FINDING AND DISCUSSION**

Metaphor is part of figurative language that compares one thing to another. According to Lakoff and Johnson (1980) in the classical view, metaphor can be



defined as a figure of speech or trope in which a comparison is made between two unlike things that share certain characteristics.

By using Lakoff's theory of metaphor are ontological metaphor, orientational metaphor, conceptual metaphor etc. In analyzing Kate Chopin's story, the researcher find metaphor,

#### 1. Conceptual Metaphor

Conceptual metaphor, According to Zoltan Kovecse (2010), conceptual metaphors consist of a source domain and a target domain, as well as set of mapping between them. He consider that much greater number of examples that with allow us to be more confident in one of the basic claims of cognitive linguistic views of metaphor, namely, that in most cases and source domain and target domain are not reversible. Conceptual metaphors are based on a variety of human experience, including correlation in experience, various kinds of non-objective similarity, biological and cultural roots shared by the two concepts, and possibly others.

Conceptual metaphors are seen in language in our daily life. Conceptual metaphors shape not just our communication, but also shape the way we think and the way we act. In George Lakoff and Mark Johnson's work, *Metaphors We Live By* (1980), we can see how everyday language is filled with metaphors we may not always notice. The ones that we have discussed so far are all conceptual metaphors: life is a journey, an argument is war, ideas are food, and so on. Life, journey, argument, war, ideas, and food are specific-level concepts. Schematic structures underlying them are filled in a detailed way, as we have seen in the case of a journey. In addition to these, there are generic-level metaphors: events are action, generic is specific, and what is known as the great chain metaphor. As can be seen, concepts such as events, actions, generic, and specific are all generic level concepts.

“She was a pretty, energetic-looking girl, with *her chin in the air*, tastefully dressed in the latest fashion, and dispersing an atmosphere of bustle and importance about her.” (A Family Affair, p 3)



The literal synonym describes “her chin in the air” have the meaning arrogant. Second, The psychological interpretation indicates she ( Bossey ) is the girl who has arrogant character, always wants to look perfect and feel perfect, and she doesn’t want people be more than herself. From the two alternative interpretations i conclude the meaning of “her chin in the air” is the people who always lift chin and arrogant.

Based on the sentence in those stories “*her chin in the air*” is to describe bossey’s characters. Bossey’s character was a pretty girl, energetic looking girl, with *her chin in the air* , tastefully dressed in the latest fashion, and dispersing an atmosphere of bustle and importance about her, and she little arrogant. And proven when she said to madam solisainte if she thought madame will send carriage for her.

## 2. Ontological Metaphor

An ontological metaphor is a metaphor in which an abstraction, such as an activity, emotion, or ideas, is represented as something concrete, such as an object, substance, container, or person.

“ This conviction was nourished and kept alive by her confidential servant Dimple, a very black girl of sixteen, who trod softly about on her *bare feet* and had thereby made her self unpopular in the kitchen and down at the quarters.” (A Family Affair, p 1)

The literal synonym describes “*bare feet*” have the meaning base of the foot or foot without footgear such as shoes. Based on the sentence in those stories “*bare feet*” is described about dimple’s character is very black girl and sixteen years old, who trod softly about on her bare feet. Based on those short story The meaning of bare feet is dimple’s character, Dimple who had trod softly without shoes. So the meaning of “Who trod softly about on her bare feet” she or dimple (her servant) , a very black girl of sixteen, who trod softly without shoes or sandals or without wear anything.

“The old lady shook her head dismally and *her lips curled* into a disparaging smile.” (A Family Affair, p 3)

The literal synonym describes *her lips curled* into a disparaging smile is very disparaging and Arrogant. Second, The psychological interpretation





indicates is Madame Solisainte has character very don't like and very disparaging Bossey. From the two alternative interpretations i conclude the meaning of *her lips curled* into a disparaging smile is very don't like and very disparaging.

Based on those short stories the meaning of *Curle* in that sentence doesn't mean her lips curled = keriting. In metaphor, it have different meaning. The meaning of her lips curled into a disparaging smile is she (madame solisainte smile very disparagingly ( don't like) before answer bosey's quaston.

“No’um.” Dimple smelled it, and Madame felt the sample of meal and rolled a pinch or two between her fingers. It was lumpy, musty and old.” ( A Family Affair, p 7)

The literal synonym describes *rolled a pinch or two between her fingers* is moves her finger to taste the food. Second, The psychological interpretation indicates is Madame Solisainte has character if wants to try or testy the food she moves and put her finger on the food. From the two alternative interpretations i conclude the meaning of *rolled a pinch or two between her fingers* she move and put her finger on the food to try the food.

Based on those short stories *Rolled a pinch or two between her* doesn't mean she rolled her finger. Its mean she moves and put her finger on the food to try the food that brought by susan. Madame Solisainte and Dimple tasted the food and it felt musty and not tasty.

“*Madame’s fingers worked nervously* at the illuminated cover of a magazine” ( A Family Affair, p 7)

The literal synonym describes *Madame’s fingers worked nervously* is because Madamae Solisainte very nervous it makes her finger work very vibrating. Finger worked nervously doesn't mean her finger nervously when worked. Based on those short story *Madame’s fingers worked nervously* at the illuminated cover of a magazine” its mean madame solisainte very anxious, scared, excited, and nervously. So that it makes her finger work very vibrating at the illuminate cover of a magazine. She said nothing just silent. Only thighted her lips and blinked her small eyes



“When she returned it was with *apompous air, her head uplifted*” ( A Family Affair, p 8)

Based on those short stories Her head uplifted doesn't mean she raise her head, but its mean arrogant. A Pompous air and her head uplifted have the same meaning, is arrogant. So, Bosey called Dimple in the distance. She returned it was with a pompous air andher head uplifted, and stepping carefully like a fat chicken. She bore a tray weighted with a repast such as she has never before in her life served to Madame Solisainte.

“Then he glanced at the magazines, while he and the girl engaged in a lively conversation across Madame's chair. ( A Family Affair, p 10)

A lively conversation have different meaning, doesn't the conversation is live but the meaning is doctor very serious and exciting talking bosey when madame look at them. Lively conversation just as a metaphor and the meanig is serious and exiting. Lively conversation in those short story are when Bossey explained Madame Solisainte's symptoms to the Doctor and doctor said he will send or bring a preparation which Madame Solisainte must take night and morning till he see fit to alter or discontinue it.

“Madame Solisainte clutched the brass key and glared at it with eyes wild with apprehension” ( A Family Affair, p 10)

The meaning of eyes wild is her eyes glanced left and right. So that sentences has meaning madame soliasainte cluthed the brass key and glared and very glared and glances left and right and looked around her with apprehenssion.

## CONCLUSION

This story tell about the survival of an old woman, Madame Solisainte. A sore affliction to the old woman to be thus incapacitated during her later years, and rendered unable to watch and control her household affairs and. She sure that she was being robbed continuously and on all sides. This conviction was nourished by her confidential servant, Dimple. The notion had entered Madame Solisainte's head to have one of her nieces come up from New Orleans and stay



with her. Bosey consented to go to her aunt. Bosey who always takes care and makes Madame Solisainte comfortable, and she will do it everyday. When Bosey wanted to marry a doctor who always took care of Madame Solisainte and returned all the keys, Madame Solisainte examined her cupboard and saw gold, her ring and necklace had been stolen. Madame Solisainte is so angry that she is unaware that she can walk to catch upped with Bosey.

Kate Chopin's story "A Family Affair" has so many metaphors that should be analyzed. The types and the meaning of each metaphor that found in this research based on the Lakof& Jhonson (1980) theory that lift the metaphor clearly.

The researcher founds nine in Kate Chopin's story "A Family Affair". The types of metaphor that found in this research are ontological metaphor and conceptual metaphor. The meaning of each metaphor is different depends on the types that use in the short story.

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