

# A Figurative Analysis of Public Reaction on Social Media to Queen Elizabeth's II Death

Ngonjo Victor Fuh<sup>1</sup>, Peniel Zaazra Nouhou<sup>2</sup>

<sup>1,2</sup>University of Maroua, Faculty of Arts, Letters and Social Sciences, Department of English  
Language and Literature

**Abstract:** No human activity can be carried out effectively without the use of language. This is because language is the sole vehicle through which we make our views known to others. In oral or written productions, writers or scholars use plain or coded language to express their points of views, opinions, ideas or thoughts. This article seeks to find out the types and the function performed by figurative language on social media messages by internet users worldwide in reaction to the death of Queen Elizabeth II of the United Kingdom. 400 e-messages on Phoenix platform were collected from 175 informants. Each participant provided at most three e-messages. Keraf (2009) and Perrine (1969) framework of figurative language was used to analyse the collected data. The findings revealed the use of some figures of speech such as simile, metaphor, humour, rhetorical questions, metonymy, enumeration, analogy and hyperbole.

**Keywords:** Figurative language, social media, public reaction, Phoenix.

## INTRODUCTION

Language is a tool to interact with social beings and a way to express their feelings in daily life. Language as a means of communication plays a very important role in social relationships among human beings. In addition, figurative language is used in any form of communication (Lindsay & Knight, 2010, p. 27), such as in daily conversations, opinion in newspapers, advertisements, novels, poems; and the words or expressions chosen go beyond their ordinary meaning. People can encode against what they want to say which consists of various components. Most often than not, we use language to achieve meaning. This can be done either directly or indirectly through the use of figurative language; which is the use of words or expressions with a meaning that is different from the literal interpretation. Figurative language is a conspicuous departure from what users of a language apprehend as the standard meaning of words in order, to achieve some specific effect of meaning (Hayani, 2016). When a sentence conceals its meaning, there is a function of figurative language. Non-literals will find it more difficult to understand the meaning of stored sentences. It should be noted that figurative language is a language that uses symbols to describe a thing, or a metaphorical event, which means using other objects to describe it.

Studies on figurative language

Based on the researchers' observation of previous studies on either discourse or social media, there has rarely been any research which specifically studies the phenomena of figurative language on social media discourse. Some of them include the one of Nurhaida and Leni (2017) on figurative language in views (opinion column) of online Padang Ekspres newspaper and Romanenko (2014) on online advertising slogans. Items of figurative language were found in both studies with metaphor as the most used followed by simile and personification. Therefore, it is necessary to conduct further research on the topic in order to complete and update the established linguistic studies.

Previous studies on figurative language were mainly done on song lyrics (Khadijah, 2016; Purwatiningsih, 2020; Nisa, 2020; Palguna, Juniarta & Candra, 2021; Melly, 2022); in advertisement (Ranta & Rusdi, 2013; Widyanti, 2013; Wahyuni, Utami & Ariyaningsih, 2020); in poetry (Hashanahs, 2018; Zia, Aziz & Burhansyah, 2018; Hutauruk, 2019; Elfita, 2021; Hidayah & Purba, 2021; Ningsih, 2021); in novels (Datondji, 2017; Wulandari & Astri, 2018; Al-Farabi ; 2019,

Muh-Rochmat & Iskandar, 2022); speech (Napitupulu, 2018 ) and comedy (Putri, Oktoma & Nursyamsu, 2016).

Song lyrics have been a vital instrument for writers to express their ideas, thoughts and opinions. In their writing styles, they make use of figurative language. The studies carried out by (Khadijah, 2016; Purwatiningsih, 2020; Nisa, 2020; Palguna, Juniarta & Candra, 2021; Melly, 2022) show that, many types of figurative language are used either to give imaginative pleasure, additional imagery, add emotional intensity or concrete the meaning in the brief compass. Fauziah (2007), Khadijah (2016), Nisa (2020) and Purwatiningsih (2020) in two different studies examined figurative language in song lyrics with the objective to know the types of figurative language used in the songs. The findings revealed the use of personification, metaphor, simile, hyperbole, irony, alliteration, parallelism, synecdoche, and euphemism. It is found from the results of their analysis that metaphor and hyperbole are the most frequently used. In addition, Khadijah's (2016) findings indicate that the use of hyperbole is to represent feeling and express message that has connotative meaning by using exaggerated words.

Furthermore, Palguna, Juniarta and Candra (2021) and Melly (2022) examination of figurative language in lyric songs in Passengers Runaway and Ava Max's song indicated the use of personification, metaphor, imagery, simile, symbolism in both studies. However, the findings diverge in the use of some types which are found in the one and not in the other. For instance, Palguna, Juniarta and Candra (2021) results differ in the use of overstatement while Melly's (2022) indicated more items (metonymy, allegory, paradox, and hyperbole) in difference to the formers' one. Moreover, Melly's (2022) revealed all four reasons of figurative language, which were imaginative pleasure, additional imagery, emotional intensity, and means of concentration.

The use of figurative language in advertisement is considered as an artful deviation form. It can create more imaginative aspects in advertising and be able to catch attention and convince audience. In that light, Chaysin (2011), Ranta and Rusdi (2013), Widyanti (2013), Dubovičienė and Skorupa (2014), Miller and Toman (2016), Laosrirattanachai (2017), Ruslinah (2017), Wahyuni, Utami and Ariyaningsih (2020) examined figurative language in advertisements, advertising headlines, sub-headlines and slogans. Although each study explored different types of advertisements (food magazines, in-flight magazines, travel magazines, company websites, and internet sources) for different products and brands (food, alcohol, non-commercial product, unspecified product, cigarette, corporation brand, and accommodations), the findings showed that advertisers commonly use rhetorical devices in advertisements, especially alliteration, which was the top-three rank of every advertising's element. Regarding the rhetorical devices in headlines, the top three types of devices were alliteration, repetition and rhetorical question, respectively. In the subheads, alliteration, rhetorical questions, and metaphor were found the most, while alliteration was the only type of rhetorical device that appeared significantly in copy. For slogans, the devices that were found most were alliteration, followed by assonance, then metaphor and parallelism (sharing the same rank). In accordance with the particular types of figurative language in previous studies, the most frequently used types of devices were alliteration, metaphor and assonance, respectively.

Poets, in their writings also use figurative language to create more imaginary and fictive world in the readers' mind. They make their poems more attractive and vivid through the use of figurative devices. In this vain, Hasanah (2018), Zia, Aziz and Burhansyah (2018), Hutauruk (2019), Elfita (2021), Hidayah and Purba (2021), Ningsih (2021) conducted studies on the types and the functions of figurative language in some poetry works. The reading of their various researches revealed that simile, metaphor, personification, synecdoche, metonymy, symbol, paradox, hyperbola, understatement, irony and apheresis were found in their works. Moreover, the discovery of these researchers showed that figurative language could force the readers to assume what the writer was trying to convey while some of these poems have morality to be applied in life.

Novelists are not left out in the use of figurative devices in their works. For instance, Datondji, (2017), Wulandari and Astri (2018), Al-Farabi (2019), Muh-Rochmat and Iskandar (2022) investigated on figurative language in some novels. It can be clearly seen from their various findings that, metaphor and hyperbole were the dominant type of figurative language. In addition, the analysis of the figurative language instances reveals that more is being communicated than written and that the intended message can only be uncovered by reaching beyond the bare linguistic structure.

Some critics studied the same devices in speeches Napitupulu (2018) while others looked at it in movie (Nurdiana, 2017) and comedy (Putri, Oktoma & Nursyamsu, 2016, Arafah and Abbas, 2021). Based on their findings, it could be concluded that rhetorical style and figurative style are used in speeches while metaphor, simile, metonymy, synecdoche, paradox, irony, hyperbole, and litotes are always used by some characters to catch the meaning by employing contradictory statement to reveal a truth. Besides, the use of figurative language in the movie creates specific functions. Through these functions, the characters try to create tension in discovering clues. Furthermore, the study of figurative language revealed irony and hyperbole as the most dominantly used items to performance and to entertain the audience.

## **THEORETICAL CONSIDERATIONS**

There are mainly three different categories of figurative language. They are figurative language by comparison comprising metaphor, simile, personification, and apostrophe, figurative language by association consisting metonymy, synecdoche, symbol, and allegory, and figurative language by contrast including paradox, irony, hyperbole, and litotes. Those classification of types of figurative language adopts the theory from Perrine (1969). The functions of figurative language (Perrine, 1982) set out to give imaginative pleasure, to give additional imagery, to add emotional intensity and to concrete the meaning in brief compass. However, this study is based on Keraf's (2009) perception of figurative language. The author posits that it consists of 16 kinds which are: simile, metaphor, allegory, personification, allusion, eponym, epithet, synecdoche, metonymy, antonomasia, hipflask or hipalase, irony, satire, innuendo, antiphrasis, and paronomasia. The researchers discuss figurative language into simile, metaphor, flashback, irony, and hyperbole. The explanation of each type of figurative language found in the data are given subsequently in the next following section.

### **Simile**

A simile is a figure of speech that uses comparisons and compares two things that are different. According to Perrine (1992), a simile is a form of comparison that compares two things, it is commonly using the words such as like, as, as like, then, similar, or resemble (Lazar, 2003; Keraf, 2009) to express the comparison of two different things.

### **METAPHOR**

Metaphor is a part of figurative language using an analogy or close comparison between two things that are not normally treated as if they had anything in common (Hutauruk, 2019, p.131). To Ratna (2009), metaphor is comparing an object with another object, meanwhile Harun (2012, p.304) sees metaphor as the most widely used language style in human communication, both in oral communication and in written communication. To Knowles and Moon (2004, p. 7), metaphor is an instance of non-literal language that involves some kind of comparison or identification. Metaphor can be defined as "an implied analogy which imaginatively identifies one object with another" (Thomas & Beauchamp, 2011, p. 763). In a simile, the words used such as like, as, than, as if, resemble while in metaphor the comparison is implied (Syarwan, 2017, p. 27). Simply put, a metaphor is the statement of comprehension of one idea as far as another idea, where there are a few likenesses or relationships between the two.

## **HYPERBOLE/OVERSTATEMENT**

Evi Nur (2016) stated that hyperbole is an exaggeration of simple statements. Another critic, Colston (2015, p. 111) averred that hyperbole is a figure of speech that contains an exaggerated statement while Keraf (2002, p. 141) claimed that hyperbole is a kind of language style that contains an exaggeration by raising a thing. It is also used to express a strong feeling or produce a strong impression, and are not meant to be taken lightly. It can be concluded that hyperbole is a statement deliberately made to exaggerate facts to grab the attention of audiences and gain greater expressive power

## **IRONY**

Irony refers to words with an implication opposite to their usual meaning. Ironic comment may be humorous or mildly sarcastic (McArthur, 1992, p.53). Keraf (2009, p. 130) opines that, irony can be called a deception figure of speech, or saying something but not in the true sense. It is frequently used in indirect speech as a major rhetorical strategy (Wales, 2001). In conclusion, irony is not the sameness between the meaning and the statement said by the speaker or interactant.

## **ANTITHESIS**

Antithesis is a construction in which words are opposed but balanced in opposition (Keraf, 2009, p.130). In other words, it is two contradictory things (Ratna, 2009). Moreover, antithesis is a style of language that expresses a purpose by using opposite words.

## **RHETORIC**

Keraf (1992, p.146) stated that, rhetoric is figurative language in question that the answer has known by questioner. They are type of figurative language that have another layer of meaning on the top of their literal meaning. They provoke different emotions in the audience and therefore are very often used in literature, songs, speeches and also in everyday speech.

## **FLASH BACK**

It is a figurative language which occurs when the author tells about an event that happened before the time of the story. Put simply, it is a reference to or depiction of events having occurred before the present of the story. It provides the reader with background information on a setting or conflict and increase the reader's sympathy for and understanding of an event or a character. Furthermore, it increases the tension or suspense surrounding the current events of the story by creating curiosity about what happened between the past and the present to change things.

## **HUMOUR**

It can simply be defined as the presence of amusing effects, such as laughter or well-being sensations. It plays a relevant role in our lives. It functions as a mechanism to release emotions, sentiments or feelings, impacts positively on human health. Furthermore, its cathartic properties, in a social context, make most people react to a humorous stimulus regardless of their beliefs, social status or cultural differences. Moreover, by means of analyzing its effects, humor provides valuable information related to linguistic, psychological, neurological and sociological phenomena.

## **TONE**

Protus (2007, p.503) refers to tone as the quality of a writer or speaker's attitude and feeling towards the subject matter or audience. The collected data reveals that the tone of most of the people who posted messages on social media concerning the demise of Queen Elisabeth II is aggressive, harsh, that of anger, disdain, humiliation, bitterness and frustration.

## **SARCASM**

Sarcasm is a term in rhetoric and general use for sneeringly ironical remarks. To Protus (2007, p. 502), a bitter remark made out of scorn or contempt is called sarcasm. We have these examples from the collected corpus.

## **PATHOS**

The quality in a story, (play or poem) that provokes pity. A reading of most of the collected data provokes pity to reader. This is seen in the way those who post these messages describe the rule of the late queen.

## **FUNCTIONS OF FIGURATIVE LANGUAGE**

Perrine (1969, p. 71) identified four different types of figurative language functions. He maintained that, they are used to give imaginative pleasure, additional imagery, add emotional intensity, and concrete the meaning in the brief compass. They are subsequently described as seen below.

To give imaginative pleasure

Figurative language can lead the reader's imagination flows. The function of text is inviting the reader to create an imagination, to give imaginative pleasure in reading a story. Imaginative pleasure refers to a feeling of being satisfied or having pleased imagination. The reader probably has taken pleasure in staring into a fire and seeing castles and cities and armies in it, or looking into the clouds and shaping them into animals or faces, or in seeing a man in the moon. It provides imagination through the language used that can be lovely in reader's mind. Perrine (1969, p. 33) averred that it makes the reader pleased after obtaining a source of pleasure in the exercise of the imagination through the text.

### **TO GIVE ADDITIONAL IMAGERY**

Figurative language is applied to create something abstract to become more concrete. Imagery means producing mental picture or visual imagination in reader's mind as if they experience every story line. The illustration of how the story occurred is pinned in reader's mind. The visualisation of the story drawn in the mind can influence the reader to experience the story as well. When the ideas direct the reader to build an imagination, the mental picture helps to conceptualise how such description seems to be. Here, figurative language has the function to give additional imagery. As a result, the reader's imagination becomes wider.

### **TO ADD EMOTIONAL INTENSITY**

The use of figurative language can cause the emotional expression to the readers. In order to add beauty, the word play is often used to direct the expression from the characters to create emotional sense. The great feeling of the story invites the readers to feel the atmosphere of the story line itself. In other side, the readers could experience what the character feels.

### **TO CONCRETE THE MEANING IN THE BRIEF COMPASS**

This is the way authors express a simple statement without making it into a long text. To concrete the meaning in the brief compass, the figurative language takes a part to make the sentence to be more effective, a way of saying much in brief compass.

It can be concluded that there are many types of figurative language and each of these plays a curtail role in readers' mind and feelings, especial when they are associated to their various functions.

## **METHOD AND DATA**

The data for this study was collected from the social media, especially on phoenix. 400 comments posted on the thread about Queen Elisabeth's death were collected from 175 informants around the world and of all walks of life from the 8th to 19th of September 2022. Each participant provided at most three e-messages. The researchers veiled the informants' identities. We spent 10-15 minutes each day to down load the messages people were posting on Phoenix. Qualitative method was used to collect data for this study. It is worth noting that irregularities in the messages are not the concern of the researchers.

## **FINDINGS AND DISCUSSIONS**

### **SIMILE**

The data collected display the use of simile which is characterised by words or expressions such as like and as used in the threads of discussion below.

(1) Her Majesty Queen Elizabeth II was a remarkable states person who put country before self. [...] We remember how Nxele died in the aftermath of the fifth frontier war, how King Hintsa was killed like a dog on the 11th of May 1835 during the sixth frontier war, and his body mutilated, and his head taken to Britain as a trophy," adds the statement. [...] According to the BCC, queen Elizabeth was a friend of Black people and a tireless "advocate" for Africans. (Phoenix 308, Sept, 12. 2022)

The murder of Nxele is likened to that of a dog. This figure of speech is used to show how the British under the reign of Queen Elizabeth had no regard for human life especially the lives of Africans. As such, they can kill them when and how they like.

### **METAPHOR**

It is an implied comparison without using the words "as" or "like" (Samba, 1998, p. 83). The collected data reveals the use of this device as seen in these statements below:

(2) That woman was secret terrorist. (Phoenix 2, Sept, 11. 2022)

(3) She was a devil. (Phoenix 14, Sept, 11. 2022)

The deceased Queen is likened to a devil. The mission of the devil is to kill and to destroy. He does not pity anyone. He is known to be wicked. By comparing the queen to the devil, the writer of this message wants to show how wicked and merciless she was.

### **ANTITHESIS**

It is an expression in which contrasting words emphasise a contrast in ideas as seen in this statement from the collected data.

(4) History will never be kind with the queen, rest in peaces genocidal queen." (Phoenix 33, Sept, 11. 2022)

Someone who has lived an evil life cannot rest in peace. Thus, "peaces" contradicts "genocidal Queen." Evildoers cannot have peace when they die. The writer of this message is only mocking at the dead Queen.

### **RHETORICAL QUESTION**

It can be maintained with Protus (2007, p. 501) that, it is a question addressed to someone without expecting an answer. This implies that, whenever such a question is addressed, the hearer or the interactant does not need to reply or give an answer. The data display some rhetorical questions as illustrated in the examples below:

(5) Were you expecting her to seat with her own people? (Phoenix 18, Sept, 11. 2022) (6) Why

quietly support the truth and what is right? (Phoenix 113, Sept, 11. 2022)

(7) How did her stance help Africa? (Phoenix 114, Sept, 11. 2022)

**(8)** Why praise an oppressor? (Phoenix 320, Sept, 11. 2022)

From these stretches of discussions, we deduce that the Queen did not do anything to liberate South Africans from the rule of apartheid. For this reason, the public does not see any reason why they should mourn the passing away of someone who killed them silently by staying quiet even though she knew the truth. In addition, the late Queen, according to the reaction of some interactants is considered to be a racist.

## **IRONY**

To Protus (2007, p. 498), it is a literary term referring to how a person, situation, statement or circumstance is not as it would actually mean. It is therefore ironical that the Queen quietly supported Africa in fighting apartheid against the stance of a former British Prime Minister, Mrs. Margaret Thatcher, instead of speaking out ((9) Why quietly support the truth and what is right? Phoenix 113, Sept, 11. 2022). It is also ironical in that it is rather the voice of the Prime Minister we hear instead of that of the Queen as far as the issue of apartheid is concern. This shows that she was helpless to Africa in general and useless to South Africa in particular during the apartheid era.

## **FLASH BACK**

Flash back is a narrative technique that allows a writer to present past events during current events, in order to provide background for the current situation (Protus, 2007, p. 497). We have this example from the collected data.

**(10)** [...] Our interaction with Britain under the leadership of the British royal family has been one of pain and suffering, of death and dispossession, and of dehumanization of African people. We remember how Nxele died in the aftermath of the fifth frontier war, how King Hintsa was killed like a dog on the 11th of May 1835 during the sixth frontier war, and his body mutilated, and his head taken to Britain as a trophy,” adds the statement. “In Kenya, Britain built concentration camps and suppressed with such inhumane brutality the Mau Mau rebellion, killing Dedan Kimathi on the 18th of February 1957, while Elizabeth was already Queen. [...] (Phoenix 240, Sept, 08. 2022)

**(11)** My Grandfather General Nyaga died with a bullet wound in his right leg, after years of limping and suffering, all because he said no to whites grabbing his land and torturing his people May Queen Elizabeth II rot in hell. I stand with Malema on this. Prince Harry is not diff. (Phoenix 259, Sept, 09. 2022)

From the above threads of conversation, it could be deduced that the Queen’s rule was a very brutal one because of the nature of her administration which was so painful, distressful and horrible, and to some extent dehumanising.

## **HUMOUR**

That which causes laughter by being incongruous, incompatible, out of time, out of space and order (Protus, 2007, p.498). Below are some extracts that portray the use of humour from the informants’ online write-ups.

**(12)** “Which wan be quietly supported...oga you just wan praise the dead, u no get talk. When dey say African leaders no get sense, na your type.” (Phoenix 261, Sept, 09. 2022)

**(13)** No peace for the wicked, all those blood of Africa they have shild to steal wealth will account for, hell fire is your final distinction (Phoenix 262, Sept, 09. 2022)

**(14)** My Grandfather General Nyaga died with a bullet wound in his right leg, after years of limping and suffering, all because he said no to whites grabbing his land and torturing his people May Queen Elizabeth II rot in hell. I stand with Malema on this. Prince Harry is not diff. (Phoenix 263, Sept, 09. 2022)

The use of humour in stretch (12) shows how narrow minded are some African leaders. They love to praise that which is bad because they benefit from it. This is because what counts for them is their personal interest and not that of their subjects. They take advantage of their positions to sweeten only the ruling class. This explains why some people are happy that the Queen is no more as seen in threads (13) and (14). To them, she should rot in hell.

## **TONE**

It is the quality of a writer or speaker's attitude and feeling towards the subject matter or audience (Protus, 2007, p. 503). The collected data reveals that the tone of most of the people who posted messages on social media concerning the demise of Queen Elisabeth II is aggressive, harsh, that of anger, disdain, humiliation, bitterness and frustration as illustrated in the sequence of discussions below.

**(15)** No peace for the wicked, all those blood of Africa they have shield to steal wealth will account for, hell fire is your final distinction (Phoenix 262, Sept, 09. 2022)

**(16)** The Queen and her family Duped, Killed, Frustrated and Reduced Africa to where it is. No Gamble (Phoenix 248, Sept, 11. 2022)

**(17)** That Queen you are moaning headed the royal family for 70 years, A family that stole our land, killed, maimed and castrated our people. They killed the mau mau, Dedan Kimathi, Waiyaki wa Hinga, Koitale arap Samoei and many others. There is nothing admirable about that family. (Phoenix 202, Sept, 09. 2022)

**(18)** If anyone expects me to express anything but disdain for the monarch who supervised a government that sponsored the genocide that massacred and displaced half my family and the consequences of which those alive today are still trying to overcome, you can keep wishing upon a star. (Phoenix 205, Sept, 09. 2022)

It can be averred from the above conversations that there is no need to mourn a Queen who spent all her time frustrating, shedding blood, reducing Africans and even killing Africans just to take their wealth. They therefore see her passing away as an eternal solution to their current problems.

## **SARCASM**

A bitter remark made out of scorn or contempt is called sarcasm (Protus, 2007:502). We have these examples from the collected corpus.

**(19)** May everyone you and your merciless greed have harmed in this world remember you as fondly as I remember my colonizers.

**(20)** [...] Our interaction with Britain under the leadership of the British royal family has been one of pain and suffering, of death and dispossession, and of dehumanization of African people. We remember how Nxele died in the aftermath of the fifth frontier war, how King Hintsu was killed like a dog on the 11th of May 1835 during the sixth frontier war, and his body mutilated, and his head taken to Britain as a trophy," adds the statement.

"In Kenya, Britain built concentration camps and suppressed with such inhumane brutality the Mau Mau rebellion, killing Dedan Kimathi on the 18th of February 1957, while Elizabeth was already Queen," EFF also said [...]

**(21)** During her reign, the British colony perpetuated some of the most atrocious crimes in Africa, India, Australia and other parts of the world [...] (Phoenix 351, Sept, 08. 2022).

From the above discussion, we see that the comments made about the late Queen are those of contempt and disdain. These comments are a pointer to the fact that these people hate the dead Queen and are happy that she has died.

Pathos



The quality in a story, (play or poem) that provokes pity (Protus, 2007, p. 500). A reading of most of the collected data provokes pity to reader. This is seen in the way those who post these messages describe the rule of the late queen as seen in one of the post below.

(21)“Our interaction with Britain under the leadership of the British royal family has been one of pain and suffering, of death and dispossession, and of dehumanization of African people. We remember how Nxele died in the aftermath of the fifth frontier war, how King Hintsa was killed like a dog on the 11th of May 1835 during the sixth frontier war, and his body mutilated, and his head taken to Britain as a trophy,” adds the statement.

“In Kenya, Britain built concentration camps and suppressed with such inhumane brutality the Mau Mau rebellion, killing Dedan Kimathi on the 18th of February 1957, while Elizabeth was already Queen,” EFF also said.

## ATROCITIES

“During the 70-year reign as Queen, she never once acknowledge the atrocities that her family inflicted on native people that Britain invaded across the world. She willingly benefited from the wealth that was attained from the exploitation and murder of millions of people across the world.”

“The British Royal family stands on the shoulders of millions of slaves who were shipped away from the continent to serve the interests of racist white capital accumulation, at the center of which lies the British royal family,” the statement signed by EFF’s Sinawo Thambo, Leigh-Ann Mathys and Sixolise Gcilishe added. “If there is really life after death, may Elizabeth and her ancestors get what they deserve.” (Phoenix 240, Sept, 08. 2022).

Words like concentration camps, suppressed with such inhumane brutality, exploitation and murder of people across the world, our interaction with Britain under the leadership of the British royal family has been one of pain and suffering, of death and dispossession, and of dehumanisation of African people and many other examples found in the corpus provokes pity in the informants’ minds.

## CONCLUSION

This study examined figurative discourse posted on social media in reaction to the death of Queen Elizabeth II of the United Kingdom. The analysed data reveals the use of literary devices such as simile, irony, pathos, humour, flashback, sarcasm, tone, antithesis, rhetorical question and metaphor. These devices only go a long way to show the attitude of those who posted these messages on the social media. Some posted messages to laugh at the dead Queen, to mock, to satirise, to show that there is nothing good about her reign as it was one of pain, murder, frustration and the carting away of African resources. The study also demonstrates that the social media is a place where the underprivileged in society empty their minds especially against all the oppressors in general and to the dead Queen in particular who was hurting them when she was is alive.

The researchers conclude that social media give room to voiceless people to express their wrath especially against those who oppress and procrastinate their lives.

## REFERENCES

- [1] Alm-Arvius, C. (2003). Figures of speech. Lund: Student Literature.
- [2] Al-Farabi, R. F. (2019). Figurative language used by Petter in Jostein Gaarder’s the Ringmaster’s Daughter. (Unpublished Masters Dissertation). Faculty of humanities, Universitas Islam Negeri Maulana Malik Ibrahim Malang
- [3] Arifah, K. (2016). Figurative language analysis in five legend’s song. UIN Maulana Malik Ibrahim: Malang.
- [4] Arifah, K. (2016). Figurative language analysis in five John legend’s songs. (Unpublished Undergraduate Thesis). Maulana : Malik Ibrahim, Islamic State University of Malang.

- [5] Barnet, S., Berman, M., & Burto, W. (1963). *An introduction to literature*. Canada: Little, Brown and Company.
- [6] Chaysin, P. (2011). *Analysing the use of figures of speech in print advertising of food products from a food magazine (Unpublished Masters Dissertation)*. Bangkok, Thammasat University.
- [7] Colston, H. L. *Using figurative language*. New York: Cambridge University Press.
- [8] Datondji, C. A. (2017). A Study of context and figurative language in Buchi Emecheta's "The Rape of Shavi": A pragmatic approach. *Communication and Linguistics Studies*, 3(1), 5-14.
- [9] Dian, S., K. (2010). *The figurative language of nirvana's song*. Cirebon: Syekh Nurjati State Institute for Islamic Studies Cirebon.
- [10] Dubovičienė, T., & Skorupa, P. (2014). The analysis of some stylistic features of English advertising slogans. *Lietuvos edukologijos Universitetas*, 16(3), 61-75.
- [11] Elfita, R. (2021). *Figurative language analysis in William's poem "the little black boy and the echoing green"*. (Unpublished PhD Thesis). Tarbiyah and teacher training faculty, State Islamic University of Raden Intan Lampung.
- [12] Evi Nur, F. (2016). Simile, hyperbole, personification and methapor used in Gayla Forman's if I stay. *Jurnal Ilmiah Sastra*, 4(1), 72.
- [13] Fauziah, R. (2017). *The translation strategy of figurative language in a song of the sea a poetry by Hsu Chih Mo*. (Unpublished Undergraduate Thesis). English Letters Department, Letters and Humanities Faculty, State Islamic University of Jakarta.
- [14] Hasanah, D. N. (2018) *An analysis of figurative language used in some poems by Oscar Wilde*. (Unpublised Bachelor Dissertation). Faculty of education and teacher training, Walisongo State Islamic University Semarang.
- [15] Herota, S., Syharial, S., Kartika, D. (2019). Figurative language style and figure of speech meaning in Koror's Nagai Aid. *Artikel Ilmiah Mashasiswa Prodi Sastra Jepang*, 1(3),
- [16] Hutauruk, B. S. (2019). The use of figurative languages on the students' poetry semester V at FKIP Universitas HKBP Nommensen. *Journal of English Language and Culture*, 9(2), 128 - 137.
- [17] Khadijah, A. (2016). *Figurative language analysis in five John Legend's songs*. (Unpublished Masters Dissertation). Maulana Malik Ibrahim, Islamic State University of Malang
- [18] Keraf, G. (2009). *Diksi dan gaya bahasa*. Jakarta: PT Gramedia Pustaka Utama
- [19] Knowles, M., & Moon, R. (2004). *Introducing metaphor*. London: Routledge
- [19] Laosrirattanachai, P. (2017). *An analysis of figurative language in accommodation advertising: A study on three American travel magazines*. (Unpublished Masters Dissertation). Bangkok, Thammasat University.
- [20] Lindsay, C., & Knight, P. (2010). *Learning and teaching English*. New York: Oxford University Press.
- [21] McArthur, T. (1992). *The Oxford companion to the English language*. New York: Oxford University Press.
- [22] Melly (2022). *Figurative language expressions analysis within Ava Max's selected songs: Semantics approach*. (Unpublished Maters Dissertation). Department of English literature faculty of social sciences and humanities, Putera Batam University.
- [23] Miller, D. W., & Toman, M. (2016). An analysis of rhetorical figures and other linguistic devices in corporation brand slogans. *Journal of Marketing Communications*, 22(5), 474-493.
- [24] Muh-Rochmat M. S., Iskandar (2022). An analysis of figurative language in the picture of Dorian Gray by Oscar Wilde. *ELITERATE: Journal of English Linguistics and Literature Studies*, 2(2), 41-46.
- [25] Napitupulu M. H. (2018). Rhetorical style and figurative style used by Jokowi's speech in plenary session imf-world bank annual meetings. *Jurnal Mantik Penusa*, 2(2), 117-123.

- [26] Ningsih, S. (2021). Figurative language analysis on Billy Collins' poems. (Unpublished Masters Dissertation). English education study program Tarbiyah and teacher training faculty, State Islamic University Raden Intan Lampung
- [27] Nisa, K. (2020). An analysis of figurative language in the Maher Zain's song lyric. (Unpublished Masters Dissertation). Tarbiyah and Teacher Training Faculty English Education Department, State Institute for Islamic Studies of Metro.
- [28] Nurdiana, R. (2017). Figurative language in Wright's case NO. 30. (Unpublished Masters Dissertation). Faculty of Languages and Arts, Yogyakarta State University.
- [29] Nurhaida & Leni M. (2017). An analysis of figurative language in views (opinion column) of online Padang Ekspres newspaper. *E-Journal of English Language and Literature*, 6(2), 46-52.
- [30] Palguna, P. Y. J., Juniarta, W., & Candra, K. D. P. (2021). The analysis of figurative language on passenger song lyric in runaway album. *Lysian Journal: English Literature, Linguistics and Translation Studies*, 1(3), 23-32.
- [31] Perrine, L. (1982). *Sound and sense: An introduction to poetry* (6th ed.). USA: Harcourt Brave Jovanovich.
- [32] Perrine, L. (1969). *An introduction to the poetry*. New York: Harcourt.
- [33] Protus, T. (2007). *Mastering Literature in English*. Cameroon: Ripple Publishers.
- [34] Purwatiningsih (2020). An analysis of figurative language used in Westlife's songs lyric of spectrum album. (Unpublished Undergraduate Thesis). Education of English Department Faculty of STKIP PGRI Pacitan, University of Pacitan.
- [35] Putri, M. W., Oktoma, E., & Nursyamsu, R. (2016). Figurative language in English stand-up comedy. *ENGLISH REVIEW: Journal of English Education*, 5(1), 89-104.
- [36] Ratna, N. K. (2009). *Stilistika kajian puitika bahasa, sastra, dan budaya*. Yogyakarta: Pustaka Pelajar.
- [37] Ratna A. Y., & Rusdi, N. R. (2013). An analysis of types of figurative language used in Internet advertisements. *E-Journal English Language and Literature*, 1(3), 72-78.
- [38] Romanenko, E. (2014). Linguistic analysis of on-line advertising in English. (Unplished Bachelor's thesis). Charles University, Prague.
- [39] Samba, P. M. (1998). *A New Poetry Course For The Junior Secondary Book One*. Bamenda: African Educational Press.
- [40] Syarwani, H. (2017). An analysis of metaphor in Emily Dickinson's Poem. IAIN: Ponorogo.
- [41] Thomas, L., & Beauchamp, C. (2011). Understanding new teachers' professional identities through metaphor. *Teaching and Teacher Education*, 27(4), 762-769.
- [42] Wales, K. (2001). *A dictionary of stylistics* (2nd ed.). Harlow, Eng: Longman.
- [43] Wahyuni, N. K. D. C., Utami, N. M. V., & Ariyaningsih, N. N. D. (2020). An analysis of types of figurative language found in the advertisement of tom sawyer novel by Mark twain. *Journal of Language and Applied linguistics*, 1(1), 81-92.
- [44] Widyanti, N. (2013). A stylistic-pragmatic analysis of figurative language in Harper's Bazaar magazine advertisement. (unplished Undergraduate Thesis). Yogyakarta: Yogyakarta State University.
- [45] Wulandari, & Astri, B. (2018). Figurative language in Rodes Fishburne's Going to See the Elephant. (Unpublished Undergraduate Thesis). Yogyakarta: English Language Education Study Program, Sanata Dharma University.
- [46] Zia, P. K., Aziz, Z. A., & Burhansyah (2018). Analysis of figurative language in Hikayat Aceh written by Muda Balia. *Research in English and Education (READ)*, 3(4), 231-242.