

Comparative Language Styles in the Book of *Kike Wadatsumi no Koe*

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ABSTRACT

The use of language style is a language activity reality that has a close relationship with language objectives. Language choice aims to represent thoughts, experiences, psychological conditions, and feelings. The comparative language style is found in a written language in the form of family letters, wills, and journals or diaries written by Japanese Navy soldiers serving military duties. Several writings were compiled into a book entitled *Kike Wadatsumi no Koe* used as a data source. It was found that there were ten types of comparative language style and metaphor was the most widely used type with 60 data. Based on their functions, those ten types have various functions, including: (1) the function of expressing the author's pride expressed by simile, metaphor, allusion, eponym, metonymy, and antonomasia; (2) the function of providing information related to the author's psychological condition during his military duty expressed by simile, metaphor, irony, metonymy, hyperbole, and personification; and (3) the function of resistance to express criticism of disagreements as well as rejections. The resistance form is subtly expressed using metaphor, irony, and personification. In contrast, using sarcasm, the resistance form that is expressed straightforward, firmly, and has a rough impression.

Keywords: Language style, Comparison, Conceptual reference, Language activity, Mental structure.

1. INTRODUCTION

Language is a medium of interacting in human life in order to convey ideas, thoughts, and feelings in both spoken and written language. Without language, the process of delivering information will not run well. Likewise, certain purposes of language usage will not be enough only to fulfill the elements of vocabulary, grammar, and other internal aspects of the language, but it is also determined by the accuracy of the language used which requires to include language styles. Subandi and Diniswari [1, pp. 120] mentioned that the use of languages in communication activities has its own way and style, which can eventually become a special character for the speaker. Keraf [2, pp. 24], Kridalaksana [3, pp. 50], and Nurgiyantoro [4, pp. 290] stated that the choice and use of language style are intended not only to convey ideas, thoughts, and information based on the meaning of language forms used, but they also affect other effects outside the elements of the language itself and used in particular situations. Subandi [5, pp. 2] claims that the emergence of certain forms and styles of

language is motivated by specific conditions that promote speakers to choose forms and styles that are considered appropriate and can represent their thoughts and feelings. It is due to the accuracy of the language style usage that facilitates interacting ideas and information. It can also create an aesthetic impression (beauty) in the form of language used. The form of language style has specific procedures and preconditions that limit comprehending the meaning because several interlocutors cannot directly understand the meanings of the language style used. In fact, the use of language style can attract users' sympathy [1, pp. 120-121].

The book of *Kike Wadatsumi no Koe* has evidence of the language style usage that is still interested by users. This book includes a collection of diaries/ journals, wills, and letters to family or lovers written by Japanese young adults who were assigned as fighter pilots during their mandatory military service in the Second World War. Those young soldiers poured all their thoughts and feelings by writing written forms while resting at the military camp where they were doing their military duties. Considered language representing thoughts and

feelings is packaged in a style and plot according to the soldiers' mood at that time. Briefly, the selection and language style usage is considered as a sign reflecting the author's inner condition and mood. The following quotation is an example. *Jibun no rishou no ippashi o uketa seishitsu wa jibun no risou ni mukatteomoi you ni tsukamakyouiku ni douka sarete kureta taisetsu na wa ga kokoro no taiyou desu* "The thought that is in my mind is the sun of my heart where I am always prioritized in my wife's guidance and it seems I am facing my own mind (Pp.53.p3)". The underlined and bold phrase are the examples of the use of comparative language styles. The word of /taiyou/ (the sun) in the text above does not refer to a referent/ object of energy sources in the solar system but it refers to a person/ human who is considered as a strength source in the author's life.

The use of language style has an important role in language activities. Using the language style can create a particular impression and an aesthetic impression to the interlocutors or the readers. As claimed by Subandi and Diniswari [1, pp. 121], the language style function is to obtain the genuinely aesthetic aspect and convey the speaker's thoughts without pulling out a mind concept to the surface of speech. The style in language style includes the characteristics, language standards, and ways of language expression. It is reinforced by Keraf [2, pp. 113] that the language style is a way of using language both written and spoken by expressing thoughts through a specific language that shows the author's soul or personality.

The language is existed in the hey are related to psychology aspect speaker's self-personal then forming language characteristics according to the speaker's personal characteristics. Although the personal character will be built by the environment, every human has a personal character that another individual never owns. Along with the development of the speaker's personal character, the characteristics of the language are also developed at the same time. The language characteristics that have been blended in and privately owned by speakers will continue to flow following direction to develop the speakers' psychological character [6, pp. 2). Thus, the language style indirectly encourages the interlocutors and readers to understand the personality, characters, and even the ability of someone who uses the language style. The better language usage, the better people's judgment of it, and vice versa. The language style used can be found/ known based on the author's mental condition. Therefore, many meanings of the language used by the author will be obtained to express his thoughts and feelings.

The language style becomes a way to express the author's thoughts, intentions, and feelings or mood towards his family, parents, and close friends during military service. By using various forms of language style, they are considered to represent the thoughts and

inner mood of the author. It means that the language style has a close relationship with word choices to form a certain language structure that has its own characteristics as well as the aesthetic value as its characteristics. Both compatibility and suitability aspects of each word that become structural elements of the language style are indeed determined by the accuracy of word choices because they are related to the author's psychological aspect and inner condition. Moreover, Keraf [2, pp. 113] claimed that the language style expresses thoughts and feelings through a specific language that shows the author's soul and personality. On the other hand, Lakoff [7, pp. 14] and Yamanashi [8, pp. 3] stated that the language style is related to the human's feelings and mental which are understood by cognitive interpretation based on concrete experiences so that the language style cannot be understood as in mathematic formulas. It means that the meaning of language and its language style cannot be understood based on the meaning behind the external/ physical of the language style; yet, there is also a hidden meaning in the mental language structure, which is also called the structure in language.

Related to the direct and indirect meaning, the language style is divided into two types. One of the types is a figurative language style type. In the figurative language style, the meaning of the language is more hidden in the mental language structure. It is due to the core meaning of the figurative language style, not the actual meaning that is shown through external/ physical language structure [9, pp. 197). Furthermore, the figurative language style is classified into several types, and one of them is a comparative language style. Ratna [10, pp. 164) stated that a comparative language style is one of the language styles that is often used. It is supported by Yamanashi [11, pp. 13) and Momiyama [12, pp. 13) that the comparative language style does not only exist in the art languages or pieces of literature, but it also aims to the use of daily language expression as a form of living language. It means that the frequency of comparative language style usage as a form of everyday verbal expression is very high. Pradopo [13, pp. 62] claimed that the comparative language style is a type of figurative language style that equates one point with another by using comparative words such as *be like/ as if*, and so on. Further, Subandi [9, pp. 197] explained that the comparative words need a condition that a speaker/ author must have a clear and definite awareness of something to be conveyed, which is outside the direction of the physical structure of the language used. This opinion can be assumed as two ideas in the concept of comparison. Firstly, it acts as a referent and a fact/ reality according to the mental concept that is being thought. Secondly, it compares the fact/ reality above the comparison is eventually replaced by the mental concept that serves as the referent. So that the function of the language physical structure is just acting as a marker of mental concept or as a reference. Therefore, the

comparison concept can be presented in the form of a relation triangle as follows:

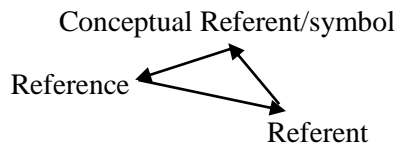


Figure 1 The Relation Triangle

Based on the relation triangle above, the comparative language style of the symbol (sign) is considered as one of signs that serve as reference. So that the similarity relationship between something that marks and is marked can be seen in the referent; meanwhile, the similarity in the conceptual referent is not visible because the referent is the most concrete sign whose existence is indicated by reference among objects that are marked by the signifier. Yet, the conceptual referent is the most abstract sign because its existence is still in mental. Also, the reference is not as abstract as the conceptual referent and not as concrete as the referent [9, pp. 199-200].

2. METHODS

This research used a qualitative descriptive method because the research data are in the form of words, phrases, and other language expressions which are included in the criteria of comparative language styles. Furthermore, the data were analysed in description to provide an overview related to the use of comparative styles by writers of journals, wills, letters to family also a lover, and other documents in total 79 letters recorded in a book entitled *Kike Wadatsumi no Koe* that is published in 1992 by Iwanami Shoten publisher as data source. The description was done thoroughly in detail and based on real facts. From the results identification of the overall data, there are 117 data were found. Then, after classifying the data, 10 types of language style were also obtained (the number behind each type of language styles is the data number of its type). Next, the data was described in the following results.

3. RESULTS AND DISCUSSION

3.1. Simile (19 data)

Simile is a comparison form between things to another. According to [14, pp. 19]; [15, pp. 37]; [16, pp. 30], a simile in Japanese is characterized by the use of conjunctions such as ~you~, ~mitai, and ~rashii. The simile usage in the book of *Kike Wadatsumi no Koe* was found 19 and the seventh data uses ~you~ conjunction as following examples: この二週間余りの俺の生活をクサビを打ち込んだように深く深く引き戻す。 *Kono nishūkan amari no ore no seikatsu o kusabi o uchikonda you ni fukaku fukaku hikimodosu.* "I am going to get my life back **that has been rusted** for past two

weeks." (KWK. 06). Based on the quotation above, there is a process of comparison between two objects (physical and mental condition) of the author mentioned in the previous sentence, which is sick and un-useful as if this is as compared object with the rusty object. The comparison objects serve as an illustration that the rusted metal will not able to fulfill its proper function due to the emergence of rust can obstruct a rotation or movement of the metal. Thus, the rust is considered as the cause of abnormal condition as though when humans have illness both physically and mentally, it can also cause their physical as well as psychological condition to become abnormal or unhealthy. Besides, due to the comparison form in the data is marked by conjunction usage as a marker of the comparison process of ~you~, so according to the Japanese language rules, the type of the language used for the data is Simile.

3.2. Metaphor (60 data)

Metaphor is a language style type which is directly compared without using a connecting word [8, pp. 37]; [17, pp. 21]. Metaphor is the most widely used in the book of *Kike Wadatsumi no Koe*. This following is an example of metaphor that is found in the *Kike Wadatsumi no Koe* book. 運命の車輪は回り始めてその止まることを知らない。 *Unmei no sharin wa mawarihajimete sono tomarutokoro o shiranai.* "When the **wheel of life (fate) starts spinning**, we do not know where it stops." (KWK.205.P2.L2). Comparison process occurs between the phrase of 車輪は回り始めて sharin wa mawarihajimete the wheel starts spinning. This is as a comparison basic object with the author's fate reality in living a daily life for the compared object. Also, there is a direct comparison process between those two objects since conjunctions do not follow it. The comparison can be seen in the change condition description in fate experienced compared with the wheel as an object which has a characteristic of rotating movement with the occurrence of changes in a fate. Each human fate is always changing in daily life. It is considered to have the same concept as wheel rotation in which every wheel surface during a rotation will be always in the unstable position.

3.3. Personification (5 data)

Personification is a language style that describes inanimate objects as if they are living things and able to move. There are 5 data related to the type of personification, thus, this is the following example. 兵隊たちを平素支配しているのは合理精神である。 *Heitai-tachi o heiso shihai shite iru no wa gōri seishin de aru.* "The **emotional soul** is what possesses the soldiers nowadays." (KWK.Paks/Nfis 01). Diction of 支配している shihai shite iru possesses and 合理精神 gōri seishin the emotional soul of the data become the

main characteristic of identity for the personification. Next, the diction of 支配している *shihai shite iru* possesses is an active verb that expresses the activity or action. It also holds the subject such as humans and/or animals that must emerge in the structure. However, the author tends to choose the word of 合理精神 *gōri seishin*, the emotional soul that includes a type of inanimate noun which is unable to do activities. Thus, the verb meaning of 支配している *shihai shite iru* possesses in this structure is used to describe the mental condition of soldiers who are unable to control themselves. In physiologically, emotional factors are more dominant than logical or reasoning factors of the author. In fact, the soldiers do not use their logics/reasons in their life yet they rather follow the emotional factors. This mental condition description is what the author wants to prefer a language structure that is more characteristic as a personification like the data above.

3.4. Irony (11 data)

Irony is a light satire language style by expressing statements indirectly. Based on the results of data identification, the following is an example of irony that is used in the book of *Kike Wadatsumi no Koe*. 永遠の真理の前には戦争なぞ一場の喜劇に終わるであろう。 *Eien no shinri no mae niwawa sensou nazo ichijou no kigeki ni awaru dearou*. “After the eternal truth, perhaps the war will end in a comedy show.” (KWK.147.P3.L17). The expression of 戦争なぞ一場の喜劇に終わるであろう *sensou nazo ichijou no kigeki ni awaru dearou* the war will end in a comedy show, is referred to reveal the battlefield condition. Logically, in the previous text, the author mentioned that Japan would be difficult to face opposing forces who have stronger combat equipment supported by sufficient fuel. So, the battle is considered by the author to be unbalanced and only as a drama show. Therefore, the phrase of 一場の喜劇 *ichijou no kigeki* a comedy show is used as a form of satire on the imbalance reality which is considered to a hopeless/ ridiculous effort. The data text above expresses the author's lack of understanding of the Japanese naval commander. The author does not use a form of language with a straightforward meaning but prefers to use a satire form to refine the delivery as a communication strategy form.

3.5. Sarcasm (4 data)

Sarcasm is the use of rude diction, has a cursing tone, and can offend and even hurt people's feelings. The use of sarcasm is also found in the book of *Kike Wadatsumi no Koe*, as the following example. 私は帝国海軍に対して①反感こそ持って ②決して好意は持たない。

Watashi wa teikoku kaigun ni taishite ① *hankan koso motte*, ② *keshite kouji wa motanai*. “① There is no way I have any sympathy, I even ② really hate the imperial navy” (KWK.281. P1.L7). In the sentence structure above, two phrases reinforce each other. The first phrase ① is a rude language structure and can disappoint or offend others because the phrase ① is a language structure of rejection or expressing the author's disapproval. Furthermore, the statement ① is reinforced then emphasized by the statement of phrase ② which has a harsher impression. Phrase ② is a very flexible language structure without beating around the bush. The description above is characteristic of sarcasm. The use of sarcasm by the author is used to express disappointment and inner conflict as a result the author did not achieve his goals throughout his life. It is due to from the beginning that the author did not want to join the military world and he wanted to be a scientist in the field of Physics so that the author has chosen the Exact Sciences at the university in Tokyo where the author was studying. Based on the author's experience context, a choice of sarcasm language style is considered to represent the overall author's feelings as well as psychological condition.

3.6. Hyperbole (6 data)

The form of language that emphasizes the aspect of comparison with excessive delivery is a characteristic of hyperbole. The excessive delivery is more aimed at strengthening and emphasizing the information to be conveyed. The following is an example of the hyperbole style used based on the data source. この戦場で船橋は血の海となり、そこにここに負傷者が横たわっているありさまだった。 *Kono sentou de funabashi wa chi no umi to nari, soko ni koko ni fushousha ga yokotawatteiru arisama datta*. “As a result of the war in the bridge of the ship, it became sea of blood, there were injured people everywhere.” (KWK, 238. L4). The phrase of 血の海となり *chi no umi* sea of blood in the data above is a structure of hyperbole which aims to deliver information that there too many Japanese soldiers who were injured due to war with unequal power. A lot of fresh blood was squirting from the soldiers' bodies so that the blood filled the ship's bridge that the author was riding. The view above is considered by the author as a condition beyond reasonable limits which is expressed by choosing a hyperbole language style form that is considered to represent the thoughts and feelings of the author.

3.7. Allusion (1 data)

Allusion language style has the main characteristic to suggest similarities between people, places, and events with a specific impression. There is only 1 data in the data source as follows. 満ち足りた心で母なる大地の暖か

き愛のおとに帰入する。Michitarita kokoro de **haha naru daichi** no atatakaki ai no oto ni kinyuu suru. “Finally, she came back in the warmth of love in the **earth as a mother** with a relieved heart.” (KWK, 340, L6). The concept of meaning relation about the earth is identical to a mother cannot be separated from the view of the Japanese society which reflects Buddhism as the belief background that everything in nature originates and will return to the earth as well as a human life that is no exception [18]; [19]. By nature, the role of the mother is being pregnant as the main basis for the emergence of the comparison concept that underlies the structure of the author’s thinking. Based on the diction of 大地 *daiichi* earth compared with 母 *haha* mother, the author expressed that the satisfaction and pride were felt because he has been chosen as a member of the Special Assault Team of the Imperial Japanese Navy although those good feelings will be carried along with death on the battlefield until the last phase of calm and warmth that will be rediscovered in the earth’s core as if when a fetus in the womb of a mother. A person with a warrior spirit and dead on the battlefield is considered as a pride then when the body returns to the earth’s core, it is compared with a calm in the warmth of a mother’s love.

3.8. Eponym (1 data)

Eponym is a language style in which a person’s name is connected and identified with a particular trait so that the name is used to express the meaning of the trait. Based on the data source, there is only one data was found and the frequency of its use was quite high with 29 times by the different authors. In fact, the data presented is indeed identical with the trait/ character as assumed by the author. This following is an example of eponym that is used in the data source. ① 俺は死するまで静かな気持ちでいたい。②まして大和魂を代表する我々**特攻隊員**である。① *Ore wa shi suru made shizuka na kimochi de itai.* ② *Mashite Yamato Damashii o daihyou suru ware-ware **tokkoutaijin** de aru.* ① I want to keep calm until death picks me up later. ② Moreover, we are the member of **the Special Assault Team** who represent the symbol of Japanese spirit. (KWK, 361). The word of **特攻隊 tokkoutai the Special Assault Team** becomes a matter of pride, particularly among the Japanese Navy because they were Special Forces consisting of selected soldiers [20]. Therefore, those Special Forces truly represented and identified with a proud honor. Unsurprisingly, **特攻隊 tokkoutai the Special Assault Team** became all favorites and dreams among the Japanese Navy Soldiers due to the value of prestige and pride. It is reinforced by the author’s statement in the sentence ① which can be interpreted that the author has found a sense of peace because he has been chosen as a member of the Special Assault Team of the Imperial Japanese Navy.

3.9. Metonymy (6 data)

The characteristic of metonymy that is to say a word to express/ link something else because those two things have a very close bond. The metonymy style is also used in the book of *Kike Wadatsumi no Koe* as the following example. 最早や**生命は無き**ものと覚悟した。 *Mohaya ya **seimei wa naki** mono to kakugo shita.* “Even if I have to **lose my life**, I am so ready.” (FWK.Sup/Neg 2). The diction of **生命は無き seimei wa naki lose my life** refers to the term of death. In fact, word of **生命 seimei life** always closely related to life and or death. However, when the life has reached the point of death, it does not only refer to the condition of loss of life but it also concerns the un-functional of the entire body. Therefore, the expression of **生命は無き seimei wa naki lose my life** in the data above refers to the whole body whose all parts are no longer to have the function of life. As a result of a close bond which based on the metonymy concept, the word of **生命 seimei life** is always closely related to life and or death.

3.10. Antonomasia (4 data)

Antonomasia is a special type of synecdoche style that uses epithet to replace personal names, titles or positions, and vice versa. The following below is an example of the antonomasia language style in the book of *Kike Wadatsumi no Koe*. 伝統武勇の精神は、**天皇**と軍旗の形象の中に宿っている。 *Dentō buyū no seishin wa, **ten'nō** to gunki no keishō no naka ni yadotte iru.* “The traditional heroic spirit lives on in the form of the **Empire** and the military flag.” (BWK.Abs/Neg 1). The Emperor became the main symbol that reflected the meaning of strength, spirit, honor, and obedience for all Japanese people until after World War II [20]. Based on the 79 documents collected in the data source, there is only a single document that mentions the Emperor yet there are more than once the title of Emperor used by one author in a document. Therefore, the Emperor title has become a tradition for all Japanese citizens. The emperor is not only a symbol related to power but it also covers all aspects of Japanese cultures and norms. According to the data above, the Emperor is not used to refer to the title as a symbol of the Japanese power but it tends to be used as a symbol of the soul and spirit of the knight as reflected to the Emperor’s personal soul.

4. CONCLUSION

Japanese soldiers are from young people and students who are undergoing military service. While carrying out military duties, they have various inner experiences in which these experiences are expressed through language media in the form of documents. In order to reveal the overall condition of the inner soul, authors use various forms and styles of language which are considered to represent all moods of the authors. The language style

used is a comparative language style. Based on the identification results, there are ten types of comparative language style used by the author, namely: 19 data of simile, 60 data of metaphor, 5 data of personification, 11 data of irony, 4 data of sarcasm, 6 data of hyperbole, 1 data of allusion and eponym, 6 data of metonymy, and 4 data of antonomasia.

In general, the function of each language style is to refine the impression of meaning and to emphasize the form of open/ direct interaction. Besides, the language style functions in specifically can be classified as follows. First, it is to express the author's personal pride because he was chosen as a member of the Special Assault Team. This function meaning is expressed in varied language styles include simile, metaphor, allusion, eponym, metonymy, and antonomasia. Second, as an expression to provide positive and negative information (documents in the form of journals/ diaries), especially the author's psychological condition while in the military duty, towards his parents and family, lover/ wife, and readers. The positive information conveyed is something that is fun and makes the author happy; in contrast, the negative information is something that is considered unattractive to the author. This function is expressed in simile, metaphor, irony, metonymy, hyperbole, and personification. Third, as a form of resistance to express criticism of disagreements as well as rejections of the author toward decisions and policies of military chiefs and Imperial government. The resistance form is conveyed subtly by using metaphor, irony, and personification; meanwhile, the expression that uses sarcasm is expressed decisively, openly, and sometimes a rude impression is also emerges in the interaction.

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