

ABSTRACT

This research examined the use of figurative language in the short story “The Gift of the Magi” by O. Henry. Figurative language plays an important role in literary works as it enhances meaning, creates imagery, and evokes emotional responses. The objectives of this research were to identify the types of figurative language, to analyze their meanings within the context of the narrative, and to determine the most frequently found type of figurative language in the story. This research employed a descriptive qualitative method, with the unit of analysis consisting of words, phrases, and sentences containing figurative language. The data were collected through close reading, rereading, and note-taking, and were classified based on Perrine’s theory. The analysis focused on interpreting each figurative expression based on its context and its contribution to the story. The study revealed ten types of figurative language, with simile as the most frequently found type, and showed how they convey deeper meanings, emotional impact, and the theme of love and sacrifice.

Keywords: *figurative language, meaning, o. henry, short story, the gift of the magi.*