AN ANALYSIS OF CHARACTERIZATION IN

THE DIARY OF MA YAN

A Thesis

Submitted to Letter and Humanities Faculty
In Partial Fulfillment of the Requirements for the Degree of Strata One (S1)

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ABSTRACT


This research aims to observe The Diary of MA YAN uses characterization method through figurative language by Albertine Minderop. This research explains how characterization method through figurative language can characterize the character of Ma Yan and Ma Yan's Parent. Moreover, characterization method can build the theme of the novel itself. By using qualitative method and content analysis technique, the writer would like to reveal the meaning of the text which the researcher is selected.

This research finds Ma Yan's character to be a sensitive, joyful and hard worker. It can be seen from her words. Flowers are to describe her joyful and the word of tears to describe her sensitivity. In addition, she also uses the word of sweat and rush to describe her enthusiasm and optimism to face her life and achieve a better life in the future. Furthermore, Ma Yan usually uses the word of sweat and blood to characterize her parents as a hard worker and to describe how very hard her parents worked. The last, theme in the autobiographical novel of The Diary of MA YAN is about hard working and struggle to survive in bitterness and difficulty in life.
APPROVAL SHEET

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Jakarta, April 08th, 2015

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DECLARATION

I hereby declare that thesis submission is my original work and that, to the best of my knowledge and belief, it contains no material previously published or written by another person nor material which to a substantial extent has been accepted for the award of any other degree or diploma of the university or other institute of higher learning, except where due knowledge has been made in the text.

Jakarta, 8th April 2015

Klara Saras Tiana
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First of all, the writer would like to give the most appreciation and many thanks to Allah SWT, the lord of the universe and the thereafter. She sure, she cannot do anything without him. god guided us with all of his blessed in our life. Then, peace and blessing is upon to our beloved prophet Muhammad SAW and all of his followers.

This paper is presented to English Letters Department of Letters and Humanities faculty UIN of Syarif Hidayatullah Jakarta as a partial fulfillment of the requirement for strata one degree.

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Finally, the writer hopes this thesis is not only useful but also invites the others research to discuss about characterization method by Albertine Minderop.

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The writer
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CHAPTER I
INTRODUCTION

A. Background of The Study

Novel is probably the most popular literary form in this present age, and reasons for its popularity are not hard to discover. Public attraction to the novel is partly owing to current (and perhaps temporary) reaction away from the other major literary forms.\(^1\) Novel is also one of type fiction which is different from other fictions such as poetry, short story, and drama.

Autobiographical novel is an object of the research because the content is a unique and makes the writer attracted. According to *Oxford Advanced Learner’s Dictionary* the meaning of autobiographical novel is the story of a person’s life, written by that person. Autobiographical novel is one that contains many of the writer’s own experiences. Furthermore, autobiographical novels in which the figure’s life is given a fictional interpretation; fictional portrayals in which a historic figure appears as a character in a novel.\(^2\) A novelist who writes a non-fiction which tell something truth about someone life usually consists of the autobiography or memoir.

Moreover, there are many characteristics that go into writing an autobiography. The first examples of autobiographical novel such as *The Bell*

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*Jar* is American writer and poet Sylvia Plath’s only novel, originally published under the pseudonym “Victoria Lucas” in 1963. The novel is semi-autobiographical, with the names of places and people changed. Second, *Burned Alive* is an autobiographical novel that was published in France. But the English version was published in the United States of America in 2004. This novel is based on the writer’s memoir. This novel is written by Souad as the main character and assisted by the European.

Autobiographical novel of *The Dairy of MA YAN* is the writer’s object of the research. Ma Yan is the main character and she is little girl in about thirteen years old and she is the eldest children in her family. She lives in a Ningxia village in North West of China and in a primary school education in YuwangHui Boarding. The purpose Ma Yan makes the diary is for Pierre Haski as a journalist who comes to Ningxia in order to attract him to read her diary and will help in her school problem. Then, it makes Pierre Haski attracted and launches Ma Yan’s diary on newspaper in France. Therefore, it makes the people of France become pitying toward Ma Yan because of her enthusiasm for keeping schooling. After that, Pierre Haski makes the diary become an autobiograph of novel and it has translated into 14 languages into whole the world and the special thing is 25 % from selling this novel is for Ningxia children who have in same condition with Ma Yan. Ba Juhua is Ma Yan’s mother. Even though her mother is not an educated woman, but she always say that education is really important for her children. Ma Yan’s parents make more sacrifice to their son and daughter and they spend most of their time working flat out in the field for paying the education of their
children. Eventually, her mother is sick because of stomach pain, but she never give up to work hard for the sake of her children. Ma Yan’s father Ma Dongji is a migrant worker and he often leaves for Yinchuan, the province capital, or inner Mongolia, the neighbor province, where he could find job on the construction.

As an autobiographical novel, Ma Yan as both the writer and the main character uses her own point of view to describe every aspect of the story, particularly her parent who has great influence in her life. As the first person narrator, Ma Yan uses figurative languages to characterize herself and her parents. Ma Yan uses personification and simile to characterize herself. She also uses symbols to characterize suffering. It is interested to analyze how Ma Yan uses those figurative languages to characterize herself and her parents. Moreover, this novel has translated into 14 languages and the royalty of selling book is for Ningxia children and this novel is about a girl who makes a struggle for keeping schooling even though she is in poor’s family. It is also interested to find out how those figurative languages can build the theme of the novel. By using language and style characterization method of Albertine Minderop, the theme and characterization are element of intrinsic. Therefore, finding the theme of the novel, the writer should analyze characterization through figurative languages first and then conclude what is the special theme in this novel. Thus, the correlation and theme have correlation to strengthen the main idea of theme in this novel and those issues will be answered.
B. Focus of The Study

In brief, according to Farhan, the problem of the research is has to be focus of the research and the focus of the study also has to be specific and clear. The focus of the study is describing the main character Ma Yan and her parent in the novel entitled of *The Diary of MA YAN* translated by Pierre Haski. The writer will analyze the characterization of Ma Yan and her parents through figurative language in characterization method by Albertine Minderop and finding how the characterization technique can build the theme.

C. Research Question

Considering the phenomenon clarified above, the researcher has the purpose of the problem to the research that have some questions are:

1. How are the character Ma Yan and her parents viewed from characterization method through figurative language by Albertine Minderop?
2. How does the characterization technique determine the theme of the novel?

D. The Significance of the Study

The significance of the study in theoretical benefits can help the readers in understanding and comprehension the term of characterization method through language and style by Albertine Minderop and in practical benefits can give advantages and new contributions to deeper and larger student knowledge of method characterization and theme. Moreover, the result of this research hopefully can be used as an input in the literary studies and
this research can be used as the inspiration to student who wants to develop the similar study in the future and wants to deeper knowledge of characterization method through language and style by Albertine Minderop.

E. Research Methodology

In the research, the writer uses a qualitative method. By using this method, the writer will do research by explaining, describing and analyzing the characteristics of the main character Ma Yan and her parent character in the novel of The Diary of MA YAN translated by Pierre Haski. Moreover, the writer uses the method of library research because the researcher will do the research is in the library which contains the resource and information to support the research itself. Furthermore, the writer uses content analysis to analyze the object of research, because the writer would like to know what the meaning of the text which the writer selected.

1. The Objectives of Research

Based on the problem of the study above the objective of the study are:

a. To know the character of Ma Yan and her parents” viewed from characterization method through figurative language by Albertine Minderop.

b. To know how the characterization technique build the theme in the novel of The Diary of MA YAN translated by Pierre Haski.

2. The Method of Research

In the research uses qualitative method. By using this method, the writer will do research by explaining, describing and analyzing the
characteristics of the main character of “MA YAN” and Ma Yan’s parent character in the novel of *The Diary of MA YAN* translated by Pierre Haski.

3. **The Technique of Analysis Data**

The collecting data will be analyzed by using theory of characterization method by Albertine Minderop for language and style. Therefore, the research or the study begins by analyzing the text of the novel repeatedly and then the writer focuses on the language used to characterize the main character and the parents.

4. **The Instrument of the Research**

The writer employs the writer itself as the main instrument of research by reading the text of novel *The Diary of MA YAN* translated by Pierre Haski for several times, analyzing the text of the novel itself, identifying, classifying and giving some notes of the collected data.

5. **Unit Analysis**

The unit analysis in this research is the text of novel *The Diary of MA YAN* translated by Pierre Haski and it published by A Virago Book in Great Britain, 2004.

6. **Time and Place of the Research**

The writer begins the research on October 2013. The place of the research is done in many libraries, such as at library of Adab and Humanities Faculty, at Library of UIN Syarif Hidayatullah Jakarta which gives the inspiration toward in research itself.
A. Previous Research

They are some previous researches which relate this research, they are:

The first thesis is from Indrianti, 2013 that tells about “An Analysis of Cultural Identity in Harry’s Character in When Harry Tries to Marry Film”\(^3\). It tells about analyzing the character of Harry as a major character and the process of the cultural change which occurs in Harry’s cultural identity by using the cultural identity concept through Judy Giles and Tim Middleton’s book. This research uses characterization method through appearance, characterization through dialogue, characterization through action, characterization through reactions of other characters, the last characterization choice of name. The differences between this research and this Indrianti’s research is in the theory of cultural identity that she used.

The second is the research about psychological analysis with object a film in title Water for Elephant by Syarif Hidayat, 2013 from UIN Jakarta University on the title “A Psychological Analysis of The Major Character’s self Actualization Need in the Water For Elephants Film”\(^4\). This research uses characterization method through appearance, characterization through dialogue, characterization through action, characterization through reaction of

\(^3\)Indrianti, 2013. “An Analysis of Cultural Identity in Harry’s Character in When Harry Tries to Marry Film”. State Islamic University: Jakarta, p.p.7-9

other characters, characterization choice of name, the last is characterization through contrast: dramatic foils. The differences between this research and Syarif Hidayat’s research are on the object and theory. This research focus on characterization method through figurative language by Albertine Minderop, yet Syarif Hidayat’s just focus on finding psychological analysis and how characteristics of self actualization need.

The third is the research about hierarchy of needs viewed from hierarchy of needs by Abraham Maslow object of research is the *Hunger Games* movie. This thesis from UIN Jakarta University entitled of “A Main Character Analysis of the *Hunger Games* Movie by Abraham Maslow’s Hierarchy of Human Needs”⁵. In this Sapta’s research uses characterization by Joseph M Boogs and Dennis W. Petrie such as characterization through appearance, characterization through dialogue, characterization external action, characterization through internal action, characterization through reaction of other characters, characterization through contrast: dramatic foils, characterization through caricature and leimotif, characterization through choice of name. The differences between this research and Sapta’s research is on theory and object of research. Sapta’s research used characterization method by Boggs and used theory hierarchy needs by Abraham Maslow.

B. Concept

According to Albertine Minderop, there are kinds of characterization methods such as characterization method fiction research, characterization method through figurative language, characterization method through point of view and the last is stream of consciousness. However, the writer will be focus on characterization method through figurative language which related to the object of the research.

Stylistic language includes a variety of features such as metaphor, simile, antithesis, hyperbole, and paradox. In general, the style of language is a kind of language that originated from the language used in the traditional style and literal to describe people or objects. By using a style of language, it is exposure to more fresh imaginative and memorable. In this case, if an author uses figurative or literal language can be seen immediately. Styles include language sense of the word, imagery, metaphor, and symbol and allegory. Meaning of the word include, among others, denotative and connotative meanings, allusions, parodies and so forth; while the parable include, among others, simile, metaphor and personification. This paper will discuss how to understand the dispositive character through the study of parables and symbols.\(^6\)

C. Figurative Language

There are some definitions of figurative language according to Reaske as quoted by Albertine Minderop. Figurative language: language which employs

various figures of speech. Some examples are metaphor, simile, antithesis, hyperbole and paradox. In general, figurative language is that kind of language which departs from the language employed in the traditional, literal ways of describing persons or objects. Using figurative language is making imaginative description in fresh ways. It is usually immediately obvious whether a writer is using figurative or literal language.\(^7\)

**1. Simile**

A simile is a direct comparison between things which are not particularly similar in their essence. A poet introduces a simile through a connecting word which signals that a comparison is being made; the most frequently used connectives are “like” and “as,” but “than” is also used. If a poet writes, “she is lovelier than the ocean at dawn,” “she is like the ocean at dawn,” or “she is as lovely as the ocean at dawn.”\(^8\)

According to Judith in book of *Arguing through Literature*, simile is a comparison. The pairing of two things is signaled by the word *like* or *as*.\(^9\)

First, the example of General Zarrof’s characteristics through simile is General Zarrof who masculine which can be seen through his face and the mustache:

> “He was a tall man past middle age, for his hair was vivid white; but his thick eyebrow and pointed military mustache were as black as the night from which Rainsford had come.” (l.9-11, p.12) “The Most Dangerous Game” by Richard Connell.\(^10\)

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\(^7\) *Ibid.*, p.p.51
\(^8\) *Ibid.*, p.p.52
It means that the speaker describes the General Zarrof who has the mustache which is black and hideous, the black is the representation of the darkness which Rainsford felt frightened when the first he came to the sea and jungle. Moreover, the author uses the word of “as black as” to indicate that the statement is characterization through simile, because the color of the Genera Zarrof’s mustache is a representation of the darkness when Rainsford for the first time came to the sea and jungle.

Second, this is the example of General Zarrof’s characteristics through simile. General Zarrof whose arrogant to Rainsford, he gives the challenge to Rainsford for tomorrow and Rainsford takes it with half-hearted. It can be seen through his statement of “I’ll wager” that indicates General Zarrof is an arrogant person.

“To-morrow you’ll feel like a new man, I’ll wager.” (1.26-27 p.19) “The Most Dangerous Game” by Richard Connell.11

To-morrow you’ll feel like a new man, I’ll wager. It means that the speaker (General Zarrof) will describe to the Rainsford that he will be like a new man or new born because the General Zarrof takes a challenge to the Rainsford to be a hunter in his hunting tomorrow.

The last is the example of Morris’s characteristics through simile in the “Monkey Paw” by W.W. Jacobs. Morris is a wise man when he warns old man to use monkey paw properly like a sensible man.

“If you keep it, don’t blame me for what happens. Pitch it on the fire again, like sensible man.” (1.24 p.42 “The Monkey Paw” by W.W. Jacobs)12

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11Ibid., p.p.19
12Ibid., p.p.42
“Like sensible man.” is characterization through simile, because Morris said that if the old man wanted to use the monkey’s paw, he had to use it properly. Therefore, a sensible man represented a man who was wise and worthwhile in live and it indicates to the old man who wanted to use the monkey paw. In addition, “Like sensible man.” is comparison between the old man and sensible man which Morris said to the old man.

2. Metaphor

Metaphor: the figure of speech which compares one thing to another directly. Usually a metaphor is created through the use of some form of the verb “to be,” for instance, if we say, “life is a hungry animal, a hungry animal has become a metaphor for a life. If a poet writes, “my love is a bird, flying in all directions,” the bird has become a metaphor of the poet’s love. According to Judith, metaphor is a comparison that suppresses the signal, thus treating the two things as if they were identical.

First, this is the example of Hester’s characteristics through metaphor. She goes through her life obstinately and hard. Yet, she covered her difficult life with good appearance even though suffering.

_Hester had schooled herself long and well; she never responded to these attacks, save by a flush of crimson that rose irrespressibly over the pale cheeks, and again subsided into the depths of her bosom_ (Hawthrone, 1959:88)

---

3. Personification

Personification: the process of assigning human characteristic to nonhuman object, abstractions and ideas. Attributing personal form to such nonhuman objects and ideas is a standard rhetorical device in poetry. Thus we frequently find poets addressing the moon as a lady, referring to her beauty. We talk about the lady beauty and about old man river. In allegorical dramas or poems certain characters are personification or various qualities like virginity or virtue, evil or eternity, etc. The poet thus personification qualities or describes them as if they were in fact people.\textsuperscript{16}

According to Judith, personification is the treatment of something nonhuman as if it were human. Fables like Aesop’s for example, treat animals as if they were people. One of the usual effects of personification is to invest the thing with special meaning, more easily evoking empathy in the audience.\textsuperscript{17}

In addition, according to DiYanni and Kraft, personification is a type of comparison which abstract concepts or inanimate objects are invested with human properties or characteristics. Examples include Wordsworth’s daffodils “dancing in the breeze” and Rich’s tigers “prancing unafraid.” The following brief poem illustrates personification.\textsuperscript{18}

First, this is the example of old man’s characteristics through personification. Old man is a frightened man because he cannot say anything

\textsuperscript{16}Ibid., p.p.53-54
\textsuperscript{17}Ferster, \textit{Op. Cit.}, p.p.120
of arrival sergeant Morris. It can be seen when the words died away on his lips.

“….the words died away on his lips, and he did a guilty grin in his...” (L.13 P.40) “The Monkey Paw” by W.W. Jacobs.¹⁹

The statement of “….the words died away on his lips” is characterization through personification, because the speaker describes old man was surprising and felt frightened of arrival the sergeant Morris. Therefore, his mount as if his lips locked. It made him could not say anything. Moreover, the statement of “the words died away on his lips” is indicate that the old man is a frightened man because he could not say anything while the sergeant major came.

Second, this is the example of Abbie’s characteristics through personification. Abbie acquired her spirit again when the storm had ended and she enjoy with her family.

“That evening the family gathered at the fire, enjoying the fresh milk and fruit Mr. Burgess had brought. Abbie put away the other supplies, her spirits light again. Her father was home. Their pantry was full. Her mother had perked up a great deal already. Best of all, the stone house had weathered the storm”. (p.31) “The Great Strom” by Dorothy Holder and Ruth Sexton Sargent

The statement of “Abbie put away the other supplies, her spirits light again”. The quotation on the left is describes the character of “Abbie” who acquired her spirit again when the storm happened in the night. The example of characterization is through personification which used the word of “her spirit light again” it means that Abbie acquired her soul when she was frightened.

The last is the example of old man’s characteristics through personification. Old man is a frightened man and it can be seen when he was saying “How much?” with his dry lip to the Morris.

“…. His dry lips shaped the words, “How much?” (L.31 P.46) “The Monkey Paw” by W.W. Jacobs.20

“His dry lips shaped the words”, the quotation on the left describe that the old man is a frightened man when the old man’s lips wanted to say how much it is to the Morris. Therefore, his lips shaped the words as if he spoke shakily. The example of characterization is through personification on the words of “dry lips shaped the words” it indicates that the old man is a frightened man through his speaking shakily.

4. Symbol

A symbol, according to Webster’s dictionary, is something that stands for or suggests something else by reason of relationship, association, convention, or accidental resemblance a visible sign of something invisible. Symbols, in this sense are with us all the time, for there few words or objects that do not evoke, at least in certain contexts, a wide range of associated meanings and feelings. For example, the word home (as opposed to house) conjures up feelings of warmth and security and personal association of family, friends, and neighborhood, the American flag suggests country and patriotism. In literature, however symbols – in the form of words, images, objects, settings, events and characters – are often used deliberately to

20Ibid., p.p.46
suggests and reinforce meaning, to provide enrichment by enlarging and clarifying the experience of the work, and to help to organized and unify the whole.\textsuperscript{21}

When do we decide that something is no longer an image and instead a symbol? The usual answer is that if some pictures or representation are repeated over and over again it becomes a symbol; if a poet uses the word “sun” every time he obviously is speaking about goodness, the sun may be said to be a symbol of goodness. If there is some sunlight in the background setting every time something good happens, or sunlight is, in any way, consistently associated with good, we can speak as well about the symbolism of sunlight.\textsuperscript{22}

A symbol may be private (its meaning known only to one person), original (its meaning defined by its context in a particular work), or traditional (its meaning defined by our common culture and heritage). At its most complex, a symbol may be all three as, for example, in this extract from “The Whale,” a poem that occurs in the ninth chapter of Herman Melville’s Moby-Dick:… Here, and throughout Moby-Dick, the whale is a private symbol, in the sense that it emerges from Melville’s own whaling experiences.\textsuperscript{23}

Symbols are not, however, always this complex. In one sense, symbolism is the most common of all linguistic devices. After all, a word is nothing but a sound that symbolizes a particular image or concept. No word has meaning unless our human ability to symbolize makes it so. There is

\textsuperscript{22}Minderop, Op. Cit., p.p.54-55
\textsuperscript{23}Pickering,Op. Cit., p.p.150
necessary connection, for example, between the word dog and the familiar four-legged animal we associated with that word; after all, people of other nations have develop the same symbolic association with other sounds: chien in French, hund in German, canis in Latin, and so on.24

Even literary symbols are often quite simple. Winter, for example, often is a symbol of old age, spring of youth, summer of maturity, and autumn of decline. Similarly, a lamb may be symbol of innocence, a lion of courage, a fire of vitality, and a rock of firmness.25

According to Judith, symbol is using one thing to mean something else; often, a material thing stands for something nonmaterial. A snake, for example, might be used as a symbol of sin.26

In addition, according to DiYanni and Kraft, symbol is like metaphor. Symbolism is a way of describing one thing in terms of another. A symbol is an object that stands for something beyond itself, a feeling perhaps, or an abstract idea, or an experience. A rose can represent beauty love or mortality; a lily can stand for purity or innocence. Ashes can represent death; birds can symbolize freedom. Light and darkness can stand for life and death, knowledge and ignorance, joy and sorrow. The possibilities are nearly endless.

The meaning of symbol is controlled by its context. Whether fire symbolizes lust, rage, destruction, or purification (or nothing beyond itself) is determinable only within the context of a particular poem. Nor is there any

24Ibid., p.p.151
25Ibid., p.p.151-152
limit to how many symbolic meaning an object, character, or gesture may possess—even within the context of a single poem. In long poems especially, poets may shift the meanings of their symbol.27

First, this is the example of Morris’s characteristics through symbol. Morris is a hesitant man when he said something about monkey paw to the old man. It can be seen through the way he drank and his glass tapped against his strong teeth.

“I did,” said the sergeant-major, and his glass tapped against his strong teeth...” (L.38 P.41) “The Monkey Paw” by W.W. Jacobs.28

“His glass tapped against his strong teeth” is a characterization through symbol, because the speaker describes the Sergeant Major feels afraid and hesitant to tell his story to White’s family. Moreover, the statement of his glass tapped against his strong teeth indicates how afraid and nervous he was.

Second, this is the example of Old man’s characteristics through symbol. Old man is a brave man because he wanted and asked the monkey paw that Morris had even though the monkey paw is useless said Morris.

“If you don’t want it, Morris,” said the old man, “Give it to me.”(L.21 P.42) “The Monkey Paw” by W.W. Jacobs.29

The statement of “Give it to me,” is a symbol of courage, because the speaker describes that the old man is a courage man because he is brave to take the monkey’s paw, although Morris had mentioned that he wanted to let it burn to the fire, because of useless.

29 Ibid., p.p.42
The last is the example of old man’s characteristics through symbol. Old man has characteristics of bashfulness and it can be seen when he was smiling at his son Herbert.

“His father, smiling shamefacedly at his own credulity, held up the talisman, as his son, with....” (L.22 P.43) “The Monkey Paw” by W.W. Jacobs.30

“His father, smiling shamefacedly is a symbol, because the old man feels ashamed of his son. Moreover the word of “smiling shamefacedly” indicate that how ashamed his father to Herbert that asked to his father to request two hundred pounds to the talisman. Therefore, Mr. White granted of his son’s request.

D. Definition of Theme

The word theme denotes the central ideas of serious fictional works such as novels, plays, poems, or short story. Theme is an author’s insight or general observation about human nature or the human condition that is conveyed through characters, plot and imagery. In a story about a naïve young politician, for example, the theme might be “Even the most idealistic of politicians must sometimes compromise his or her principles”; in a story about the growth of the protagonist from the youth to maturity, the author might suggest that “Disappointment is necessary to the process of maturing.” If you examine carefully these two quotations expressing theme, you should deduce two important clues to the nature of a theme statement: first, it is presented in a complete sentence, and second, its content is debatable.31

30 Ibid., p.p.43
Theme is often implicit and therefore subject to differing interpretations. Didactic literature is literature whose primary purpose is to teach some moral or philosophical truth. Instead of using the terms moral, message, or lesson, however, literary experts prefer the more neutral word theme. Serious literature, unlike escape literature, contributes to our knowledge of ourselves and others, or of the conditions in which we live.  

Statements of theme are not topics, subjects, clichés, plot summaries, or motifs. Theme may need to be stated in several sentences; can be formulated only on the facts of the work; can be expressed in various, equally accurate ways; and must accommodate the main details of the story.

Meanwhile, according to Robert DiYanni, theme is its idea or point (formulated as a generalization). The theme of a fable is its moral; the theme of a parable is its teaching; the theme of short story is its implied view of life and conduct. To be clear about theme, we should distinguish it from plot and from subject, what the story is generally about. In explaining a story’s theme we do more than state its subject or summarize its plot.

Theme is related to the others elements of fiction more as a consequence than as a parallel elements that can be separately identified. To formulate a story’s theme, we try to explain what these elements collectively suggest. Since the theme of a story derives from its details of character, plot, setting, structure, language, and point of view, any statement of theme is valid and valuable to the extent that it accounts for these details. To explain the

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32 Ibid., p.p.204
33 Ibid., p.p.205
theme of “The Prodigal Son,” for example, without accounting for the father’s speech to the elder son would be to distort the meaning of the story.\textsuperscript{35}

A statement of theme derives from the particulars of a story’s language and action. In fact, the very concreteness and particularity of fiction should make us cautious in searching out theme. We should avoid thinking of theme as hidden somehow beneath the surface of the story and instead see theme as the implied significance of the story’s details. It is important to remember that there are multiplicities of ways to state a story’s theme. But any such statement involves a necessary simplification of the story. In clarifying our sense of a story’s idea, we also inevitably exclude some dimensions of the story and include others. We should be aware that the themes we abstract from stories are provisional understanding that ever completely explains them.\textsuperscript{36}

According to Duhamel and Hughes, the theme is what a piece of fiction stacks up. It is the idea, the significance, the interpretation of persons and events, the pervasive and unifying view of life which is embodied in the total narrative. It is, as we have said in our general remarks on plot (pp. 71-84), what we make of such human experience always involves directly or indirectly, some comment on values in human nature and human conduct, on good and bad, on the true or the false, some conception of what the human place is in the world.\textsuperscript{37}

\textsuperscript{35}Ibid., p.p.85
\textsuperscript{36}Ibid., p.p.86
CHAPTER III
DATA ANALYSIS

A. The Data Description

Ma Yan is a little girl in about thirteen years old, she is the eldest child in the family. She lives in a Ningxia village in North West of China. She is in a primary school in YuwangHui Boarding. Ba Juhua is her mother, she is not an educated woman but she always say that education is important for her children. Ma Yan’s parents make more sacrifice to their children and they also spend most of their time working flat out in the field for paying education of their children. Actually her mother is sick of stomach pain, but she never gives up for working hard for the sake of her children. Her father is a migrant worker and he often leaves for Yinchuan, the province capital, or inner Mongolia, the neighbor province, where he could find work on the construction.

Ma Yan starts school at eight years old and she begins to write her diary while she is in her fourth and final year of primary school education. She and her two brother school are in YuwangHui far away about 20 kilometers on foot. Because of the lack of money, they cannot effort to use tractor for going to school. In her diary, she describes her desire to be the best of the student. She feels proud of herself if she gets a good grade in the class. Moreover, she will be unsatisfied with her bad result, because she has to prove to her parents that she can be the best student and her parents do not
need to regret or disappoint with her. In the other hand, her friend are fortunate than she is, because she has to fasting not eat for lunch break in order to buy a pen. Twice a week, she has to fasting, and she has to feel being hungry because of lack of money.

B. The Data Analysis

1. Characterization of MA YAN

In this chapter, the writer would like to find the characteristics of Ma Yan through characterization method through figurative languages in The Diary of MA YAN. In this novel uses characterization method of showing and telling. In characterization of Ma Yan, the narrator uses characterization method of showing because the narrator as a main character itself in this novel. Therefore, she can characterize herself through her writing in her diary. As the main character Ma Yan is functioned as the narrator that narrates the story and describes everything, including characters.

Moreover, Ma Yan uses so many figurative languages to characterize herself and also characterize her parents. In order to analyze characterization through figurative language in The Diary of MA YAN, the writer uses the theory characterization method through figurative language by AlbertineMinderop.

a. Characterization through Simile

Simile is direct comparison between the things which are essentially not always same. Simile usually uses word of "like", "as", "as if". For
example is "you like a moon". The example below uses simile to characterize the character of Ma Yan.

In describing how the main character struggle for everything she does in her life, the novel uses many simile.

First, the quotation below describes that Ma Yan was in a hurry because she knew that her teacher had arrive before she entered the class. Therefore, she ran quickly as possible as she could and she did not pay attention around her, so she ran like a mad. It indicates that Ma Yan is a struggler woman that did not miss anything to get into the classroom before her teacher.

This afternoon, it’s beautiful out. Our last class is the natural sciences one. Everyone rushes in when it begins. But my aunt, Ma Shiping, and I drag our feet for a bit in the courtyard. I see the teacher arriving and I rush like a mad thing and get into the classroom just behind him. (YAN, 2004, p.76)

The speaker said that she ran like a mad thing it means that she ran as quick as possible and she did not pay attention around her, so she ran like a mad thing. Moreover, the word of “I rush like a mad thing” compare with her enquickness. “mad thing” indicates that she ran so quick as a mad thing.

Second, the quotation below describes that Ma Yan was tired with her luggage because in the burning sun she had to pick her luggage up and it as if a bucket of water in her back. Therefore, it made her back was running with sweat. It indicates that Ma Yan as a struggler woman who

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38Minderop, Op.Cit., p.59
had to pick up her luggage up until her back watering whereas her friends luggage were picked up by their parents for going holiday.

*On the street, the sun burns. It’s hard to open my eyes. My back is running with sweat, as if it had been drenched with a bucket of water. I don’t know whether it’s because of the burning sun or because I’m carrying too much luggage.* (YAN, 2004, p. 109)

The speaker said that she was tired to carry too much luggage that had to pick herself up in the house even though in the burning sun. Moreover, the word of “*my back is running with sweat, as if it had been drenched with a bucket of water*” indicates that the statement is simile because it characterizes the main character has a big spirit to survive in her live because other children, too, were leaving for their holidays, but their parents were there to carry their things for them. In addition, the word of “*my back*” is compared with the word of “*a bucket of water*” which declares that how heavy the luggage is and it strengthens the statement is simile.

Another simile is used to describe Ma Yan as a joyful woman and it will be proven by some of quotations below. First, the quotation below describes that Ma Yan was very happy in that day because she remembered with the teacher who taught her to sing and do sport. Because his attitudes and gesture was kind toward Ma Yan, so that she always think about her teacher in second primary school. It indicates that Ma Yan as a joyful woman because she was very happy and it was her face like a blossom flower when she having a nature class in the beautiful day. Moreover, she also interested with her teacher who taught her to
sing and it made her respected her teacher who had good attitudes and gestures.

My heart is full of joy, like a flower whose petals are opening. It's a beautiful day. We're having a nature class. The natural sciences teacher reminds me of a teacher I had in my second year of primary school. Their attitudes and gestures are very similar. When I see my current teacher, it makes me think of all the little voice, he taught me to sing. So that I would be in good health, he had me do sport. (YAN, 2004, p. 66)

The speaker said that her heart was full of joy, like a flower whose petals were opening. It means that Ma Yan was very happy with her kind teacher in her second primary school. Her teacher taught her how to sing and do sport. Moreover, the word of “my heart is full of joy, like a flower whose petals are opening” indicates that the statement is simile, there is word of like which compare with Ma Yan's heart with the flower. Flower indicates Ma Yan's heart was really happy like a blossom flower because of remembering her kind teacher.

The last is the quotation that describes Ma Yan as a joyful woman because she was very happy like a blossom flower into water because of there was not a test, except a class reunion. Therefore, it made her heart being happy at that time and feeling of not to be coward person toward her test. It indicates that Ma Yan as a joyful woman when she knew that at that day was not a test instead of a class reunion and it made her very happy like a bud blossoming into water.

The lesson starts. The teacher comes in, empty-handed. He says we're going to have a class reunion instead of a test. I'm so happy, full of joy like a bud blossoming into water, I'm no longer afraid. (YAN, 2004, p. 74)
The speaker said that she was very happy and full of joy like a bud blossoming into water. Moreover, the word of "bud blossoming into water" compare with her heart that indicates Ma Yan's heart is happy and the word of “like” indicate that the statement is simile. The quotation below describes that Ma Yan as an attentive woman and it will be proven by some of quotations below. The quotation below describes that Ma Yan was an attentive woman toward her mother's advice because she always remember when her mother advised her about how to sweep correctly so it made her always remember each of her mother words as if her mother said to her in yesterday.

*Every time I pick up a broom and a dustpan, I think of my family. We can clean the floor in the same way. I remember the first time my mother taught me to sweep. She explained: 'When you sweep the ground, it is best to sprinkle it with a bit of water first, then you wait a moment before beginning. 'Mother held my two hands. She advised me to blend a little at the waist. That way I wouldn’t make the dust fly. I remember each of her words as if they were spoken yesterday.* (YAN, 2004, p. 79)

The speaker said that she remembered each of her mother word as if her mother said to her in yesterday when she was taught by her mother how to sweep correctly. Moreover, the word of "as if" indicates that the statement is simile, because she compares her memory each of her mother word it is like yesterday.

The quotation below describes that Ma Yan as a confident woman. She was happy in that day because she could sing beautifully and she would not make others insinuate her. Therefore, she would sing
beautifully and it was not like a pig, so she was very confidence for singing in front of the class in that day.

_Secretly, I’m very pleased, as of today, I’ve got more confidence in my ability to sing. I shall have to carry on and do even better. I don’t want to hear others insinuate that I sing like a pig._(YAN,2004,p.86)

The speaker said that Ma Yan was happy when she would sing beautifully and she would not make others insinuated her. Moreover, the word of “I don’t want to hear others insinuate that I sing like a pig” indicates that the statement is simile because that statement characterize the main character is a confident woman for singing and the word “like a pig” indicates she would sing beautifully and it would not like a pig.

The quotation below describes that Ma Yan as a respectful toward a person who older than her, even though she was angry in her heart. It will be proven by some of quotations below. The quotation below describes that Ma Yan as a respectful person toward a person who older than she is. She was angry in her heart with her cousin because she was as if the guilty one of that problem and her cousin also blamed her. Therefore, it made Ma Yan became angry in her heart with Ma Jing as her cousin and her angry was not exposed directly toward her cousin because she was still respect toward Ma Jing.

_Ma Jing says: ‘Your aunt is in a rage.’ I answer, ‘Too bad. It’s her fault in any case!’ But in my heart, it’s as if I’m the guilty one, because she’s older than me and I owe her some respect. My explosion was over the top. That’s probably why I feel I’m in the wrong._ (YAN,2004,p.98)
The speaker said that she was angry with her cousin because she was as if the guilty one of that problem. Moreover, the word of “it’s as if I’m the guilty one” indicates that the statement is simile because it characterizes the main character as a defeatism woman and she is still respect her cousin even though her cousin had blamed her.

The quotation below describes that Ma Yan as a melancholy and as an easy for being depressed when it deals with grades. It will be proven by the quotation below. The quotation below describes that Ma Yan was sad because she got the lowest of score in a test. Actually, she was jealous with BaiXue who got better score than she was. Therefore, it made her became unhappy of her result of test and got depressed.

I also saw BaiXue’s paper. I had the feeling that I was the lowest of the low and she had walked the heavens. What distance there was between us. It was as if I had never existed. (YAN, 2004, p.81)

The speaker said that she was sad and it made her depressed because she got bad score of a test. Therefore, it made her heart unhappy and felt that she had never exists in the class. Moreover, the word of “it was as if I had never existed” indicates that the statement is simile because she feels nothing in the class.

The quotation below describes that Ma Yan as a frightened woman when she was in the class and being alone. Therefore, it indicates that she as a frightened woman and it will be proven by the quotation below.

The quotation below describes that Ma Yan was a frightened woman because she was afraid in the class, when nobody was in the class.
Therefore, she ran as quickly as possible from the class and it describes that how quickly she ran until she did not pay attention around her.

*This evening, during study hours, I look up and notice that I’m all alone in the room. It looks bigger than usual. Suddenly I’m frightened. I grab my rucksack and fly from the room like a gust of wind.* (YAN, 2004, p. 139)

The speaker said that she was afraid to be alone in the class, so she ran as quickly as possible from the class. Moreover, the word of “I grab my rucksack and fly from the room like a gust of wind” indicates that the statement is simile, because Ma Yan as the main character who is frightened to be alone in the class and run as fast as she could.

b. Characterization through Personification

Personification is a process of using a human character toward nonhuman things and it includes of abstraction and ideas. For example is a moon which is like a woman with her beauty.\(^{39}\) The quotations below are the example of personification which can characterize the character of Ma Yan and it describes that Ma Yan as a sensitive woman and it will be proven by some quotations below.

First, the quotation below describes Ma Yan was a sensitive woman because she was very sad and it made her tears down to her face when she saw her mother working very hard for her family although her mother was very ill.

*Mother has our cases ready, and after having served out the food orders us straight off. It’s already dark. The moment we leave, I feel very sad.*

\(^{39}\) *Ibid.*, p. 73
Tears stream down my face. I’m desolate about leaving home. (YAN, 2004, p.96)

The speaker says that "tears stream down my face" is a statement that Ma Yan was crying as if her tears stream down to her face because of her mother. Moreover the word of "tears stream" indicates that this statement is personification which is said by the speaker about her sadness.

Second, the quotation below describes that Ma Yan as a sensitive woman or being emotional because she was very angry with that man. She had to pay the tractor for going to home and she thought that the tractors were free for student who did not have any money like her. It indicates that Ma Yan as a sensitive woman toward other who made her very angry.

The driver's father asks us to divide ourselves up into three tractors. 'You can't all stay here with us. Where will the petrol come from? We're the ones who pay'. Those words make me see red. I'd like to jump off and look for another ride, but there is no other tractor around. I have to stay put and listen to the man. (YAN, 2004, p.99)

The speaker said that "those words make me see red" indicates that the statement of the driver made the speaker became angry. Moreover, the word of “those words make me see red” indicates that the statement is a personification because of the driver's statement makes Ma Yan becomes very angry and it made her face became red and the word of 'red' means getting angry.
Third, the quotation below describes that Ma Yan as a sensitive woman because she was very sad and she could not have holiday the same with other children who were picked by their parent. In other side, Ma Yan had to pick her up by herself to bring her luggage and it felt so sad until her tears were flowing down her clothes. It indicates that Ma Yan as a sensitive woman because she was easy to cry when she saw her friends leaving for holidays.

*By the time I found my bag, the tears were flowing all the way down to my clothes. Other children, too, are leaving for their holidays, but their parents are here to carry their things for them. I had to get my luggage out through the window, which is hard enough in itself.* (YAN, 2004, p. 109)

The speaker said that her tears were flowing down to her clothes and it indicates that she was very sad because she could not feel holiday with her parent and it was not the same with her other children. Moreover, the word of “the tears were flowing all the way down to my clothes” indicates that the statement is personification because her tears flowing through her clothes.

Fourth, the quotation below describes that Ma Yan as a sensitive woman because she was very sad and it made her mother was angry with her. Her mother was angry toward Ma Yan because she could not pass the entrance exam. Therefore, her mother forbade Ma Yan to eat before sleeping and it made Ma Yan being very sad and it made her start to cry. It indicates that Ma Yan as a sensitive woman toward her mother when her mother reprimanded her about her failure on test and it made her mother forbade her for eating.
I go outside to sleep. I lie looking up at the stars and think: is it because I haven’t passed the entrance exam for the girl’s senior school that my mother is so angry with me? I begin to resent her. She won’t ever let me eat my fill before sleeping. *My tears start to flow.* (YAN, 2004, p. 111)

The speaker said that her tears starting to flow because her mother being angry, so her mother forbade her daughter to eat before sleeping because Ma Yan failed to pass the test. Moreover, the word of “*my tears to start to flow*” indicates the statement is personification because her tears will start to flow when her mother reprimanded her.

Fifth, the next quotation below describes that Ma Yan as a sensitive woman because she suddenly became sad and she automatically think of her mother and it made her wanted to go home just for seeing her mother and asked her to make a lovely dish of chips. Therefore, her moods went up and down and did not want to play with others because her heart was not in it and it indicates that Ma Yan as a sensitive woman.

*Suddenly Ma Yichao runs past me, as fast as the wind. As soon as I see him, I stop having these dark thoughts and go off to play with the others. I don’t know what’s wrong with me these days. I’m all upset about things. I don’t know quite what I’m doing or thinking. My moods go up and down.* (YAN, 2004, p. 148)

The speaker said that her moods went up and down because her mind was not in the school but she was thinking of her mother. Therefore, it made her moods were not good. Moreover, the word of “*my moods go up and down*” indicates that the statement is personification because the statement as if her mood can go and up like a human life.

Sixth, the quotation below describes that Ma Yan as a sensitive woman because she was very sad and she could not find her mother among
the people. Therefore, her tears were starting to run down her face in the cold situation. It indicates that Ma Yan as a sensitive woman because she was easy to cry when she could not find her mother among the people.

*The wind whistles and it’s so cold that you can’t take your hands out of your pockets. As I walk through the street I see people of all kinds shivering with cold. I look for mother but I can’t find her. The tears start to run down my face. They freeze into ice. I met a lot of women wearing a white kerchief just like Mother’s. I’m tempted to stop one of them, take her hand, call her ‘Mother’ … but as soon as I step forward, I see that it isn’t my mother and I stop myself.* (YAN, 2004, p.167)

The speaker said o run her face because she cannot find her mother among the people in the cold situation. Moreover, the word of *the tears start to run down my face* indicates that the statement as if the tears can run like a human thing.

The last is the quotation that describes that Ma Yan as a sensitive woman. She was very sad and she could not find her mother in the market. Actually, she believed that her mother was in the market for going and break Ramadan fast with her maternal grandmother. But, in fact her mother was not in the market. It indicates that Ma Yan as a sensitive woman because she was easy to cry when she could not find her mother in the market.

*It’s market day again today. I’m very happy. I’m sure Mother will go and break the Ramadan fast with her maternal grandmother. But at the market, when I look for her, I can’t find her. She hasn’t come. The tears pour down my face. What a disappointment. Every market day, I come in the hope of seeing her and she isn’t here...* (YAN, 2004, p.168)

The speaker said that her tears pour down her face because she could not find her mother in the market. Therefore, it made her being very sad
and it made her tears start to pour her face. Moreover, the word of “the tears pour down my face” indicates that the statement is personification because as if the tears can pour into her face like a human thing.

The next quotation describes that Ma Yan as a struggler woman and it will be proven by some quotations below. First, the quotation below describes that Ma Yan as a struggler woman. She and her brother were hungry because they got nothing left of two bowls of rice from morning until evening. In other side, their spirit must be weaker especially on empty stomach as long as they were in class. It indicates that Ma Yan is a struggler because she had to survive in starving. 

Our stomachs are crying and with hunger. We’ve run hare as quickly as we could, and there’s nothing left. We pupils, we dream of nothing but these two bowls of rice from morning until evening. How do you expect us to make it through the day? If there were a rainy day! Our spirits grow weaker, and weaker especially on empty stomachs. (YAN, 2004, p. 142)

The speaker said that she was hungry and also her brother. They could not effort to eat two bowls of rice from morning until evening. They had to keep fighting to study at class even though their stomachs are crying. Moreover, the word of “our spirits grow weaker and weaker especially on empty stomachs” indicates that their spirit is going grow weaker and weaker essentially when were hungry.

The last is the quotation that describes that Ma Yan as a struggler woman. Ma Yan was very exhausted because of over exercise in the gym lesson and it made her body covered by sweat. It indicates that Ma Yan as a struggler woman and it was proven that she covered in sweat in the gym lesson.
This morning, during gym, a new kind of exercise: we go off to run in the streets instead of staying in the school yard.

Our class trails class four. We run as fast as we can to catch up with them and get ahead by the time we do, *I'm covered in sweat*. The locals come out of their houses to watch us. (YAN, 2004, p. 162)

The speaker said that her body covered in sweat because of over exercise. She had to run on the street in the gym lesson. Moreover, the word of “*I'm covered in sweat*” indicates that the statement is personification because her body covered in sweat and as if the sweat can cover the body like a human thing.

The quotation below describes that Ma Yan as an understanding woman and it will be proven by some of quotation below.

First, the quotation below describes Ma Yan was an understanding woman for her mother. She knew that everything that her mother did is only for her children and nothing else.

*My mother’s words tug my heart. I understand that everything she does is for us. I understand that we’re her only hope. Nothing else counts, but us.* (YAN, 2004, p. 31)

The speaker said that her mother words had implanted in her heart. The word of “tug” indicates that her mother words had implanted in the Ma Yan’s heart. Therefore, it made Ma Yan became an understanding woman toward her mother and she would not make her mother disappointed. In addition the word of “tug” also indicates the statement is personification because the word of “tug” indicates to the “my mother word’s”.
The last is the quotation that describes that Ma Yan is an understanding woman. She was hungry and she was not spent her yuan just for food. She knew that a yuan came from her parent's sweat and blood. Therefore, she would not make her parent being more over work because she wasted all of her money just for food. It indicates that Ma Yan as an understanding woman because she would not spend her yuan just for food and she knew that a yuan was from her parents sweat and bloods.

*What can I say to her? When I hear her sounding off, I think of my father who left my brother and me four yuan. We've been living on that for three weeks, and I still have one left over in my pocket. My stomach is all twisted up with hunger, but I don’t want to spend that yuan on anything so frivolous as food. Because it's money my parents earn with their sweat and blood.* (YAN,2004,p.157)

The speaker said that her stomach began to twist up with hunger. She would not spend her yuan just for food because she remembered that her yuan came from her parent's sweat and blood. Therefore, it made her being hungry as long in the class. Moreover, the word “*my stomach is all twisted up with hunger*” indicates that the statement is personification because her stomach as if twisted up like a human thing.

The first quotation below describes that Ma Yan as an obedient woman toward her mother and it will be proven by the quotation below that Ma Yan was an obedient woman toward her mother because she always remembered the message from her mother. She had to pay attention to her brother in the school even though she knew that her brother did not work hard.
Mother is always lecturing me: 'You have to take care of your little brother. You're bigger than he is and have a duty to help him. I send you to school and pay no attention to the costs. If you don't work well, not only do you not deserve the trouble I take for you, but you don't even deserve a week's bread.'

Her words play over and over in my mind. But my little brother doesn’t work hard. I don’t want to have to hear that he’s been put back into the slow class. (YAN, 2004, p. 152)

The speaker said that her mother's word was always playing over and over in her mind. She had to pay attention to her brother and it was the same with the message from her mother. Moreover, the word of “her words play over and over in my mind” indicates that the statement is personification because her mother's word is always playing over and over again in her mind and it is as if the word could play over and over like a human thing.

The quotation below describes that Ma Yan as a joyful woman and it will be proven by the quotation below that Ma Yan as a joyful woman. She was very happy because she was appreciated by her teacher and she had good grade to show it to her parent. It indicates that Ma Yan as a joyful woman because she was happy when she was appreciated by her teacher.

I start on ‘Little Rooster Likes his Fight’.
‘Very good!’ she compliments me.
My heart immediately lifts. I’m full of joy. When I go home, I’ll have a good grade to show my parents. (The Diary of MA YAN: P.101 L.5)

The speaker said that her heart suddenly as if immediately lift and it can be proved that she was very happy because of having a good grade. Moreover, the word of “my heart immediately lifts” indicates that the statement is personification.
The quotation below describes that Ma Yan as a nervous woman and it will be proven by some of quotations below. First, the quotation below describes Ma Yan was a nervous woman because she felt frightened when the teacher asked her to stand up in front of the class. It indicates that Ma Yan as a nervous woman.

*My pulse is racing.* I am worrying that I’ll be next. I haven’t even managed to finish my thought when the teacher asks me to stand up. He asks: ‘Into how many parts can lesson twelve be divided?’ I answer, ‘Into three parts: first, the preparation for writing the letter; second, writing the letter; third, the sending of the letter.’ (YAN, 2004, p. 67)

The speaker said that her pulse was racing and it indicates that she was nervous when she was asked by her teacher in the classroom. The word of “racing” indicates the speaker’s pulse was tense because of pressure from her teacher. Also, the word of “racing” indicates the statement of characterization through personification that indicates to “the pulse” of Ma Yan.

The next quotation that describes Ma Yan was a nervous woman and it was the same as the quotation above that told Ma Yan was a nervous woman. She was nervous when her teacher announced that today they would be taking the midterm test and she was not ready for it.

*It’s snowing hard this afternoon. In our first period, the maths teacher comes in and announces, “Today, we’ll be taking the midterm exam.” My heart sets up a hammering.* (YAN, 2004, p. 80)

The speaker said that her heart was beating and became nervous when she heard that at that day there was midterm exam and unfortunately she was not ready for it. Moreover, the statement of "My heart sets up a
"hammering" indicates that the statement is personification because the word of 'hammering' means that her heart is beating.

The quotation below describes that Ma Yan as a coward and fainthearted woman and it will be proven by the quotation below. Ma Yan was a fainthearted woman or can be called by as a coward woman, because she was afraid to revise well of her test. Therefore, it made her heart as if sunk when her teacher warned all chores to revise a test and it will be proven by the quotation.

Music lesson this afternoon. The teacher warns us: 'Revise well, because next week we’re having a test. 'Everyone starts to revise, my heart sinks. As soon as the word 'exam’ is mentioned, I feel like crying. (YAN,2004,P.97)

The speaker said that "my heart sinks" that indicates as if her heart sunk when she heard to revise well her test. Moreover, the word of "heart sinks" indicates that this statement is personification because the speaker's heart as if sunk.

The next quotation below describes that Ma Yan as an easy for being depressed and it will be proven by the quotation below that Ma Yan was very disappointed with herself because she could not passed the entrance exam for school like her friend. She did a fault toward her mother because she could not do the best for her mother. Therefore, it made her heart sunk down to her knee and it described that how very disappointed she was. It indicates that Ma Yan as an easy for being depressed to know that she did not pass the entrance exam.
I literally jump for joy, then suddenly notice a comrade who passed the entrance exam for school in Tongxin. My heart sinks down to my knees. I can’t take my eyes off the girl. But nor can I see straight. It seems to me the hills and the sky are moving. Mother looks at me and asks what’s wrong. (The Diary of MA YAN: P.112 L.3)

The speaker said that her heart sunk down to her knee because she was disappointed with herself who could not pass the entrance exam like her friend at school. Therefore, it was as if her heart was starting to sink down to her knee. Moreover, the word of “my heart sink down to my knee” indicates that the statement is personification because the word of "my heart" is like a human thing which can sink as a human thing.

**c. Characterization through Symbol**

Symbol in literature is like a written expression, picture, thing, setting, affair, and characterization which are usually used for giving an impression and strengthen the meaning by organizing and unite totality in meaning.\(^{40}\)

The next quotations below are the example of symbol which can characterize the character. First example to describe Ma Yan has a character of respectful toward a person who older than she was. It will be proven by some of quotations below that Ma Yan as a respectful woman toward a person who older that she is. It will be proven by some of quotations below.

Ma Yan is a respectful woman toward a person who older than she was. She really admired Ma Shiping with all her heart, because Ma

\(^{40}\)Ibid., p.79
Shiping was an independent and smart woman in the school. Therefore, Ma Yan admired her.

*Ma Shiping refuses to be intimidated by potential danger. She won’t give in to it. Even if her life is at stake, she carries on. I admire her with all my heart.* (YAN, 2004, p.96)

The speaker said that she admired Ma Shiping who independent woman even though her life was at stake. Moreover, the word of “I admire her with all my heart” symbolizes that Ma Yan is an admirer woman toward woman that has a good character for good example.

The quotation below describes that Ma Yan still respected a person who was older than her, even though in that situation she was angry with the person. But it was only in her heart, because Ma Jing told to Ma Yan's brother that his sister was in a rage. Therefore, Ma Yan became angry in her heart which could not be explored it toward Ma Jing.

*Ma Jing says: ‘Your aunt is in a rage.’
I answer, ‘Too bad. It’s her fault in any case!’
But in my heart, it's as if I’m the guilty one, because she’s older than me and I owe her some respect. My explosion was over the top. That’s probably why I feel I’m in the wrong.* (YAN, 2004, p.98)

The speaker said that her explosion was over the top. It means that Ma Yan is in a rage or angry with Ma Jing. Moreover, the word of “my explosion was over on top” symbolizes that Ma Yan is really angry in her heart with Ma Jing because of blaming her.

The quotation below describes that Ma Yan as a joyful woman and it will be proven by the quotation below. The quotation below describes Ma Yan as a joyful woman. The word of "bud blossom" characterizes Ma Yan
as a joyful woman. Bud blossom usually give the positive impression to characterize the human being. The speaker used *bud blossom* to characterize her as a joyful woman.

*The lesson starts. The teacher comes in, empty-handed. He says we’re going to have a class reunion instead of a test. I’m so happy, full of joy like a *bud blossoming into water*, I’m no longer afraid.* (YAN, 2004, p. 74)

The speaker said that Ma Yan is joyful woman and she characterizes herself with the word of *bud blossoming into water*. The bud blossom is a symbol of how very happy she was, when she knew that in that day there was no test.

The quotation below describes that Ma Yan as a joyful woman. The word of "*flower*" can characterize Ma Yan as a joyful woman because she was very happy in a beautiful day.

*My heart is full of joy, like a flower whose petals are opening. It’s a beautiful day. We’re having a nature class. The natural sciences teacher reminds me of a teacher I had in my second year of primary school. Their attitudes and gestures are very similar. When I see my current teacher, it makes me think of all the little voice, he taught me to sing. So that I would be in good health, he had me do sport.* (YAN, 2004, p. 66)

The speaker said that she was very happy because she had a nature class in a beautiful day. The speaker used the word of *flower* to characterize herself as a joyful woman.

The quotation below describes that Ma Yan as a joyful woman even though she was sad in deep her heart. She was happy because her friend passed the entrance exam in the school and she did not pass the entrance exam unfortunately. Actually she was disappointed with herself because
she could not give good news toward her mother. Therefore, it made her mother asked to her daughter that what wrong she was.

_I literally jump for joy_,then I suddenly notice a comrade who passed the entrance exam for the school in Tongxin. My heart sinks down to my knees. I can’t take my eyes off the girl. But nor can I see straight. It seems to me the hills and the skies are moving. Mother looks at me and asks what’s wrong. (YAN,2004,p.112)

The speaker said that she was happy toward her friend who passed the entrance exam in the school. Moreover, the word of “_I literally jump for joy_” symbolizes that Ma Yan is a joyful woman toward her friend even though she did not pass the entrance exam.

The quotation below describes that Ma Yan as a woman was easy of being depressed and surrendered. It will be proven by some of quotations below. Besides, as a woman was easy of being depressed and surrendered, Ma Yan also is a sensitive woman toward her mother and it will be proven by the quotation below. Ma Yan is a woman was easy of being depressed when she got bad score in her test. She got eight wrong answers, therefore she felt unhappy and disappointed after that moment.

_I had got eight answers wrong. There were not that many questions altogether, and got eight of them wrong! I can hardly be light-hearted after that._(YAN,2004,p.81)

The speaker said that her heart never be light-hearted again after she got bad score and it could be seen the quotation above. The word of “_can hardly be light-hearted after that_” symbolizes of disappointed of Ma Yan because of getting bed score in her exam and also characterizes Ma Yan is an easy to surrender.
The next quotation below describes that Ma Yan as a woman who easy to give in because she was disappointed with the fate of God, because of her injustice life. Therefore, it made her being sad and had pity on her life.

*I want to go and study in the district school. But since Mother has been ill, our lives are so hard. I really don’t know why the heavens are treating us like this, why everything is so unjust.* (YAN, 2004, p. 127)

The speaker said that she felt injustice in her family, because she always felt bitterness in her life and also her family. Moreover, the word of “I really don't know why the heavens are treating us like this” symbolizes that Ma Yan cannot be grateful and patient woman to survive in her life. The quotation below describes that Ma Yan as a sensitive woman. It will be proven by the quotation below that Ma Yan as a sensitive woman because she was disappointed with her mother, because she thought that in any case her mother was going to be wrong. It means that not all her thought were true and all Ma Yan's thought were wrong.

*In any case, she’s wrong. And what to do I feel? It’s hard leaving my family, leaving my mother. My heart isn’t light and when mother speaks to me like this, tears flood my heart. I can’t contradict her. I have to win all the honors, both for my mother and for my ancestors. I want them to be peace and proud of me, even if they’re in the ground.* (YAN, 2004, p. 128)

The speaker said that her heart was not light. It means that she was disappointed with her mother because of wrong's thought of her mother. Moreover, the word of “my heart isn't light” symbolizes that Ma Yan is a sensitive woman who was disappointed with her mother and she got depressed.
The quotation below describes Ma Yan as a sensitive woman. The word of "tears" can characterize Ma Yan as a very sensitive woman, because she always used the word of "tears" when she was very sad and she always cried.

*By the time I found my bag, the tears were flowing all the way down to my clothes. Other children, too, are leaving for their holidays, but their parents are here to carry their things for them. I had to get my luggage out through the window, which is hard enough in itself.* (YAN, 2004, p. 109)

The speaker said that she was very sad, when she had to carry up her luggage by herself. Moreover, she was very sad because others friends were leaving for holiday with their parents and Ma Yan was not. Therefore, the word of "tears" is a symbol which can characterize Ma Yan as a sensitive woman.

From explanations above can be concluded that figurative languages which are used as characterization method of main character of Ma Yan.

2. Characterization in Ma Yan’s Parent
   a. Characterization through Simile

The quotation below describes that Ma Yan’s parent are hard worker. They worked very hard and it was for their children. Moreover, even though her mother was sick of stomach pain but she still had the spirit to survive in her bitterness life. It will be proven by some of quotations below. In characterization in Ma Yan’s parent uses characterization method of telling because Ma Yan as a narrator can characterize her parent through her writing in her diary.
First, the quotation below describes that Ma Yan's mother had a special thing in Ma Yan's pen, because every time she looked her pen as if she was seeing her mother. Therefore, it can be proven that Ma Yan appreciated her mother work hard for Ma Yan to continue her school. Even though, her mother was sick.

*But my dear old pen gave me sense of power. It made me understand the meaning of a difficult life or happy life. Every time I see the pen, it's as if I were seeing my mother. It's as if she was encouraging me to work hard and make it into the girls' senior school.* (YAN, 2004, p. 117)

The speaker said that every time she looked the pen as if she were seeing her mother. Moreover, the word of “every time I see the pen, it's as if I were seeing my mother” indicated that the statement is simile, because the main character of Ma Yan characterizes her mother who hard worker that could remember of her struggle just in Ma Yan's pen. Therefore, if Ma Yan looked her pen, it's as if she were seeing her mother.

Second, the quotation below describes that Ma Yan's mother was a struggler woman and we could see from her struggle to survive in her life which was so pitiful. Even, she was ill, she kept stronger to work until the sweat pour down in her face like water.

*I'm terrified. I don't know why mother has had so many bizarre illnesses these last years. When she's going through a crime, the whole family is desperate. The worst thing is that when she's ill the sweat pours down her face like water. I don't know how she can stand it. In her shoes, I think I'd have died of the pain. I really hope she gets better soon.* (YAN, 2004, p. 126)
The speaker said that Ma Yan's mother was a stronger woman who worked until the sweat pours down in her face like water, even she was sick. Moreover, the statement of “the worst thing is that when she's ill the sweat pours down her face like water” indicates that the statement is simile, because Ma Yan as a main character characterizes her mother like a stronger and struggler woman who work so hard, even she is sick.

The last quotation describes that Ma Yan's mother was a hard worker, because we could see from her struggle for work until her face became black as coal and her lips were all cracked.

*Market day today. Mother comes home from my maternal grandmother’s. I go out to welcome her on the front porch. My mother’s face is black as coal and her lips are all cracked. She looks terrible. What’s wrong with her? Usually when she comes back from her mother’s, she’s happy, full of chat and laughter. But today... (YAN,2004,p.145)*

The speaker said that her mother was a hard worker, because she worked in the field until her face became black as coal and her lips were all cracked. Moreover, the statement of “my mother’s face is black as coal and her lips are all cracked” indicates that the statement is simile, because Ma Yan is a main character characterizes her mother as a hard worker who work until her face black as coal and her lips are all cracked and it can be proven that how extremely hot in the field.

The next quotation describes that Ma Yan's mother is an attentive woman toward her children and it will be proven by the
Ma Yan's mother was an attentive woman toward her son and her daughter. It can be seen from her advice toward Ma Yan who has to keep of her brothers and also give a good model toward her brothers. Therefore, the advice from her mother is always be in her heart and mind as if her mother were spoken yesterday.

*Mother held my two hands. She advised me to blend a little at the waist. That way I wouldn’t make the dust fly. I remember each of her words as if they were spoken yesterday.* (YAN, 2004, p. 79)

The speaker said that her mother's advice was always in her mind and heart as if she were spoken yesterday. Moreover, the word of “I remember each of her words as if they were spoken yesterday” indicates that the statement is simile because it statement the main character of Ma Yan characterizes her mother who was an attentive woman toward her children.

The next quotation describes that Ma Yan's parent has a sense of humor. Even though their life was heavy and difficult, but they can talk and laugh so noisily in their house. It can be proven by the quotation below. Ma Yan's parent and family was a harmony family, because they talked and laughed so noisily that it felt as if the roof was going to fall in. Moreover, with talking and laughing could unite a family being a harmony family and it can be proven it the quotation below.

*This morning, mother prepares dinner and cleans the house. She boils up a pot of water for me so that I can wash my clothes. I pour the water into a tin basin and start my washing. I’ve only washed two things when a lot of people arrive, among them my grandmother. They talk and laugh so noisily that it feels as if the roof is going to fall in.* (YAN, 2004, p. 105)
The speaker said that her family were talking and laughing that as if the roof was going to fall in. Moreover, the word of “*They talk and laugh so noisily that it feels as if the roof is going to fall*” indicates that the statement is simile, because the main character of Ma Yan can characterize her family as a harmony family that blended with cheerfulness. In addition, the word of “*talk and laugh so noisily*” and “*as if the roof is going to fall*” were comparison of the word of laughing noisily and the roof is going to fall that indicates that both of statement is simile.

**b. Characterization through Personification**

The quotation below describes that Ma Yan’s parent as a hard worker and struggler, even though she was sick in her stomach, she still worked in the harvesting. Whereas her father had asked Ma Yan to pick her mother up in the house, but her mother did not want to go home because she had to finish first of her job.

> **Tears and the perspiration of pain run down my mother’s face. Her eyes are red. Her hands are arched over her stomach. My father tells to her to go home. No, she’ll wait for us, she says. I lower my head and think, Why does my mother want to do this harvesting when she is so gravely ill? Why?** (YAN, 2004, p. 113)

The speaker said that her mother tears and perspiration of pain run down in her mother's face. It made Ma Yan became sad and wondering why her mother did not want to go home even though she was ill. It can be proven that the statement is personification because
the main character characterizes her mother is a wonder woman while she was sick. Moreover, the word of “tears and perspiration of pain run down my mother’s face” also indicates that the statement is personification and she uses the word of “run down” to explain that how much of her mother pain and perspiration which can fall into her mother face.

c. Characterization through Symbol

The quotation below describes that Ma Yan’s parent as a hard worker and struggler. They could survive in their bitterness and difficult life. It can be proven by some of quotations below.

First, the quotation below describes that Ma Yan’s parent was a hard worker and struggler. We can see from their struggle to survive in their life. They worked very hard to pay fee for school. Moreover, the very important thing was their money comes from their sweat and hard labor.

*I suddenly realize why mother doesn’t get medical help.*\(^4\) It’s so that we can carry on going to school. School costs tens of yuan all at once. Where does this money come from? *It comes from the sweat and hard labor of my parents.* Father and mother are ready to sacrifice everything so that we can go to school. I must work really hard in order to go to university later. Then I’ll get a good job and mother and father will at last have a happy life. (YAN,2004,p.33)

The speaker said that her parent was a hard worker and struggler, because all their incomes were from their sweat and hard labor. Moreover, the statement of “it comes from sweat and hard labor of my parent” symbolizes of hard work and struggle to survive in life.

\(^{41}\)Ma Yan’s mother has terrible stomach pains and spits blood.
Second, the quotation below describes that Ma Yan's mother as a hard worker, because Ma Yan could see all the wrinkles on her mother face. Because she was a hard worker, so she was getting older.

*Very early this morning, Mother wakes my brother Ma Yichao, so that he can help her get the donkey ready for work. Mother walks in front, while my brother controls the donkey from behind. *I can see all the wrinkles on my mother's face.* (YAN, 2004, p. 53)

The speaker said that her mother was a hard worker and she could see all the wrinkles on her mother face. Moreover, the statement of “*I can see all the wrinkles on my mother’s face*” symbolizes that her mother as a harder worker, therefore her face becomes wrinkle.

The last quotation describes that Ma Yan's father as a hard worker and struggler, because he gave his sweat and blood for his family. It means that how hard he worked until he gave everything for them.

*I suddenly think that it has taken my father such hard work to earn these yuan. He’s given his sweat and blood for them, working in Inner Mongolia. How can I take them just on a whim? I must work harder and make it to university, so as to get proper work. Then I’ll never again be weighed down and saddened by these questions of money.* (YAN, 2004, p. 74)

The speaker said that her father as a harder worker and struggler, because he gave everything which he had for his family. Moreover, the statement of “he's given his sweat and blood for them” symbolizes that Ma Yan's father as a hard worker and struggler who gives his sweat and blood for his family.
The quotation below describes that Ma Yan's parent had difficulties in their life, because they never tasted of happiness. It means that since as a child until elder, their life had difficulties, even they worked very hard.

*It's obvious that one has to study these days in order to avoid the fate of my grandparents, who have to slave away into their old age. They'll never taste happiness.* (YAN, 2004, p. 77)

The speaker said that Ma Yan's parent had difficulties in their life therefore they could not taste of happiness. Moreover, the statement of "they'll never taste happiness" symbolizes that her parent lead a dog's life who never taste happiness of life.

The next quotation describes that Ma Yan's parent as a hard worker and struggler in their life. They worked very hard until they gave everything they had as their sweat and blood.

*My stomach is all twisted up with hunger, but I don't want to spend that yuan on anything so frivolous as food. Because it's money my parents earn with their sweat and blood.* (YAN, 2004, p. 157)

The speaker said that her parent as a hard worker and struggler in life. They could survive, even though their job as a farmer. Therefore, they gave everything they had toward their children for school. Moreover, the statement of "because it's money my parent earn with their sweat and blood" symbolizes that the money it comes from their parent sweat and blood.

The next quotation describes that Ma Yan's mother is an attentive woman toward her daughter because she always motivated her
daughter to keep on schooling, even though they lived in difficulty. Therefore, every time she saw the pen, it's as if she were seeing her mother.

*But my dear old pen gave me sense of power. It made me understand the meaning of a difficult life or happy life. Every time I see the pen, it's as if I were seeing my mother. It's as if she was encouraging me to work hard and make it into the girls’ senior school.* (YAN, 2004, p. 117)

The speaker said that her mother who paid attention about school. Therefore, every time she saw the pen as if she were seeing her mother. It also indicates that Ma Yan won't make her mother disappointed in her school. Moreover, the statement of “I see the pen, it's as if I were seeing my mother” symbolizes that her mother as a caring woman toward education of her children, and it makes Ma Yan sees the pen as a symbol of her mother.

From all analysis above are evidences that Ma Yan as a narrator and the main character uses many figurative languages which can characterize herself and her parents. The writer finds some of character shows that Ma Yan as a sensitive, joyful and struggler. In the other hand, her parents are characterized by Ma Yan as a hard worker. Ma Yan uses identically words of “sweat and blood” to characterize her parent as a struggler. She usually uses the word of flower to characterize herself is a joyful woman and describe her character of being very happy. She also uses the word of tears to characterize herself is a sensitive woman and to describe how very sad she was at that time. The last, she uses the word of sweat and rush to characterize
herself is a struggler and to describe that she has enthusiasm and spirit to face her life and she had to be an optimist woman to achieve a better life in the future.

In other hand, Ma Yan's parents are hard worker and it can be proven that Ma Yan usually uses the word of *sweat* and *blood* to characterize her parents is a hard worker and to describes how very hard her parents worked. Her mother worked is a farmer in the field, even though she is very ill of stomach pain but she still survives to fulfill her family necessity and her father works as an immigrant worker in Mongolia as a builder with a bit of income.

3. Theme

For all figurative languages which are used to describe the main character of Ma Yan and Ma Yan's Parent reflect their life condition which is insufficient. This hard condition creates Ma Yan's character becomes a sensitive girl, and hard worker. Moreover, her parent also describes as a parent who always to be hard worker. All the characteristics can be a modality for Ma Yan to change her life with her efforts. Finally, her efforts invite sympathy from a journalist from France who can help Ma Yan to get her dream comes true.

Theme in the autobiographical novel of *The Diary of MA YAN* is about hard working and struggle to survive in bitterness and difficult in life. Ma Yan's parent also have to pay all their children's school fee, even their income is insufficient for the family.

In addition, we can see from their children for staying and survive in bitterness life that they have to face it through their struggle. For instance,
Ma Yan is the main character she had to be a good model for her two brothers in school and giving the best for her school. As we know that she has to prove that she can give the best score in the school and to be the best student.

Ma Yan also imagines that she can give a better life for their parent soon and she wants to be a success woman in career. Even though, she knows that to achieve the better life is not easy, so she has to study hard and study harder to achieve everything she wants. The bitterness in her life is not only felt by herself but also felt by her parent and her two brothers, so in this family is together working hard to survive in this life.
CHAPTER IV
CONCLUSIONS AND SUGGESTIONS

A. Conclusions

_The Diary of MA YAN_ is an autobiographical novel translated by Pierre Haski. The writer describes and analyzes the main character of Ma Yan and Ma Yan's parents in _The Diary of MA YAN_ autobiographical novel to know what the characterization method through figurative language toward Ma Yan and Ma Yan's parent uses theory from Albertine Minderop and to know characterization method can build the theme of the autobiographical novel itself.

From the analysis of the main character Ma Yan in _The Diary of MA YAN_. The writer finds some of her character shows that Ma Yan is a sensitive, joyful and struggler. First, she becomes sensitive when she thinks about her mother who always gives her motivation to keep schooling even though their family is poor. Second, she becomes joyful when she got the good grade of the midterm and so on. The last, she becomes struggler when she had to keep study even though she was hungry because of lack of money.

The writer concludes that Ma Yan as a sensitive, joyful and struggler from all figurative languages that Ma Yan uses to characterize herself in her diary. Besides Ma Yan identically uses words of “sweat and blood” to symbolize her parent as hard worker.
Furthermore, theme in the autobiographical novel of *The Diary of MA YAN* tells about hard working and struggle to survive in bitterness and difficult in life. Ma Yan's parent also has to pay all their children's school fee, even they income is insufficient for the family and Ma Yan also has to study hard to get the better future and work hard to help her parent on working.

**B. Suggestions**

The writer suggests the result of this research can be paid attention by whoever interested with this autobiographical novel to analyze the characters in *The Diary of MA YAN* autobiographical novel. The analyses it's possible for the other writers who want to analyze this autobiographical novel using another theories in analyzing it, such as using feminist theory and so on which can gives different results. Then, the other writers can explore more about this autobiographical novel to get the best analysis of the implied meaning in the autobiographical novel. Therefore, the writer hopes this research gives contribution to all student of English Letters Department who want to analyze the characters in autobiographical novel by using characterization method through figurative language by AlbertineMinderop.
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## APPENDICES

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<thead>
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<th>Figurative of Language</th>
<th>Quotation</th>
<th>Meaning</th>
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<tr>
<td>Simile</td>
<td><em>This afternoon, it’s beautiful out. Our last class is the natural sciences one. Everyone rushes in when it begins. But my aunt, Ma Shiping, and I drag our feet for a bit in the courtyard. I see the teacher arriving and I rush like a mad thing and get into the classroom just behind him.</em> <em>(The Diary of MA YAN: P.76 L.3)</em></td>
<td>Ma Yan as a struggler and it can be proved that she ran like a mad thing and it describes that how quickly she ran until she did not pay attention around her and it made her ran like a mad thing.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Simile</td>
<td><em>On the street, the sun burns. It’s hard to open my eyes. My back is running with sweat, as if it had been drenched with a bucket of water. I don’t know whether it’s because of the burning sun or because I’m carrying too much luggage.</em> <em>(The Diary of MA YAN: P.109 L.4)</em></td>
<td>Ma Yan as a struggler and it can be proved that her back is watering when the sun burned. It indicates that how hard Ma Yan carried her much luggage until her back watering.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Simile</td>
<td><em>My heart is full of joy, like a flower whose petals are opening. It’s a beautiful day. We’re having a nature class. The natural sciences teacher reminds me of a teacher I had in my second year of primary school. Their attitudes and gestures are very similar.</em></td>
<td>Ma Yan as a joyful woman and it can be proved that she was very happy because of having a nature class. She used the word of &quot;flower&quot; to describe how very happy her in that day.</td>
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I see my current teacher, it makes me think of all the little voice, he taught me to sing. So that I would be in good health, he had me do sport. (The Diary of MA YAN: P.66 L.7)

The lesson starts. The teacher comes in, empty-handed. He says we’re going to have a class reunion instead of a test. I’m so happy, full of joy like a bud blossoming into water, I’m no longer afraid. (The Diary of MA YAN: P.74 L.5)

Every time I pick up a broom and a dustpan, I think of my family. We can clean the floor in the same way. I remember the first time my mother taught me to sweep. She explained: 'When you sweep the ground, it is best to sprinkle it with a bit of water first, then you wait a moment before beginning.' Mother held my two hands. She advised me to blend a little at the waist. That way I wouldn’t make the dust fly. I remember each of her words as if they were spoken yesterday. (The Diary of MA YAN: P.79 L.5)

Ma Yan as a joyful woman and it can be proved that she was very happy when she knew that there was not a test in that day. She used the word of "bud blossoming" to describe that how very happy she was.

Ma Yan as an attentive woman and it can be proved that she always remembered of her mother's advice as if her mother spoken yesterday.
<table>
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<tr>
<th><strong>Secretly, I'm very pleased, as of today, I've got more confidence in my ability to sing. I shall have to carry on and do even better. I don't want to hear others insinuate that I sing like a pig.</strong></th>
<th><strong>Ma Yan as a confident woman and it can be proved that she was happy when she would sing beautifully and she would not make others insinuate her.</strong></th>
</tr>
</thead>
</table>
| **Ma Jing says: 'Your aunt is in a rage.'**  
**I answer, 'Too bad. It's her fault in any case!'**  
**But in my heart, it's as if I'm the guilty one, because she's older than me and I owe her some respect. My explosion was over the top. That's probably why I feel I'm in the wrong.** | **Ma Yan as a respectful woman toward a person who older than she is. It can be proved that when she getting angry with her cousin, yet she did not explore her angry directly toward her cousin and she was still respect.** |
<p>| <strong>I also saw Bai Xue's paper. I had the feeling that I was the lowest of the lowest she had walked the heavens. What distance there was between us. It was as if I had never existed.</strong> | <strong>Ma Yan as a melancholy and as an easy for being depressed, especially when she got the lowest in a test. She felt as if she had never existed in the class. It indicates how sad she was in that situation.</strong> |
| <strong>This evening, during study hours, I look up and notice that I'm all alone in the room. It looks bigger than usual. Suddenly I'm frightened. I grab my rucksack and fly from the room like a gust of wind.</strong> | <strong>Ma Yan as a frightened woman because she was afraid in the class when nobody was in the class. Therefore, she ran like a gust wind and it describes that how quickly she ran like a gust of wind.</strong> |</p>
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<td><strong>Personification</strong></td>
<td><em>Mother has our cases ready, and after having served out the food orders us straight off. It’s already dark. The moment we leave, I feel very sad. Tears stream down my face. I’m desolate about leaving home.</em> <em>(The Diary of MA YAN: P.96 L.4)</em></td>
<td>Ma Yan as a sensitive woman and it can be proved that she was very sad when she saw her mother worked very hard for the family even her mother was ill. Tears stream down in her face and it describes that how very sad she was until she cried very hard.</td>
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<td><em>The driver's father asks us to divide ourselves up into three tractors. 'You can't all stay here with us. Where will the petrol come from? We're the ones who pay'. <em>Those words make me see red.</em> I’d like to jump off and look for another ride, but there is no other tractor around. I have to stay put and listen to the man.</em> <em>(The Diary of MA YAN: P.99 L.3)</em></td>
<td>Ma Yan as a sensitive woman and it can be proved that she was very angry when she had to pay the tractor for going home. She thought that the tractors were free for student like her who did not have money. It made her became very angry and it can be seen from her face which became red.</td>
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<td><em>By the time I found my bag, the tears were flowing all the way down to my clothes. Other children, too, are leaving for their holidays, but their parents are here to carry their things for them. I had to get my luggage out through the window, which is hard enough in itself.</em> <em>(The Diary of MA YAN: P.109 L.3)</em></td>
<td>Ma Yan as a sensitive woman and it can be proved that her tears were flowing all the way down to her clothes and it describes how very sad she was, when she saw</td>
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I go outside to sleep. I lie looking up at the stars and think: is it because I haven’t passed the entrance exam for the girl’s senior school that my mother is so angry with me? I begin to resent her. She won’t ever let me eat my fill before sleeping. **My tears start to flow.** *(The Diary of MA YAN: P.111 L.4)*

Ma Yan as a sensitive woman and it can be proved that her tears start to flow, when her mother got angry with her because she could not pass the test. Therefore, it made Ma Yan became very sad and began to cry.

Suddenly Ma Yichao runs past me, as fast as the wind. As soon as I see him, I stop having these dark thoughts and go off to play with the others. I don’t know what’s wrong with me these days. I’m all upset about things. I don’t know quite what I’m doing or thinking. **My moods go up and down.** *(The Diary of MA YAN: P.148 L.6)*

Ma Yan as a sensitive woman and it can be proved that her moods go up and down, when she suddenly thought of her mother and it made her very sad. She was very sad when she was in the school, yet her heart was not in the school but in thinking of her mother.

The wind whistles and it’s so cold that you can’t take your hands out of your pockets. As I walk through the street I see people of all kinds shivering with cold. I look for mother but I can’t find her. **The tears start to run down my face.** They freeze into ice. I met a lot of women wearing a white kerchief just like Mother’s. I’m tempted to stop one of them, take her hand.

Ma Yan as a sensitive woman and it can be proved that her tears start to run down to her face and it describes that how very sad she was, when she could not find her mother among the people so she was
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<th>Call her ‘Mother’ ... but as soon as I step forward, I see that it isn’t my mother and I stop myself. (The Diary of MA YAN: P.167 L.2)</th>
<th>Very sad in that moment.</th>
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<td>It’s market day again today. I’m very happy. I’m sure Mother will go and break the Ramadan fast with her maternal grandmother. But at the market, when I look for her, I can’t find her. She hasn’t come. The tears pour down my face. What a disappointment. Every market day, I come in the hope of seeing her and she isn’t here... (The Diary of MA YAN: P.168 L.1)</td>
<td>Ma Yan as a sensitive woman and it can be proved that her tears pour down to her face and it describes how very sad she was, when she could not find her mother in the market. It indicates that she was easy to cry.</td>
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<td><strong>Our stomachs are crying and with hunger.</strong> We’ve run hare as quickly as we could, and there’s nothing left. We pupils, we dream of nothing but these two bowls of rice from morning until evening. How do you expect us to make it through the day? If there were a rainy day! <strong>Our spirits grow weaker, and weaker especially on empty stomachs</strong>. (The Diary of MA YAN: P.142 L.2)</td>
<td>Ma Yan as a struggler and it can be proved that she and her brother were hungry because they got nothing left of two bowls of rice from morning until evening. In other side, her spirit must be weaker especially on empty stomach as long in the class. It indicates how strong she was.</td>
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<td>This morning, during gym, a new kind of exercise: we go off to run in the streets instead of staying in the school yard. Our class trails class four. We run as fast as we can to catch up with them and get ahead by the time we do, <strong>I’m covered in sweat</strong>. The locals come out of their</td>
<td>Ma Yan as a struggler and it can be proven that she covered in sweat, when she was over exercise in the gym lesson so it made her body covered in sweat and</td>
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<td>houses to watch us. (<em>The Diary of MA YAN</em>: P.162 L.7)</td>
<td>became exhausted.</td>
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<td>My mother's words tug my heart. I understand that everything she does is for us. I understand that we're her only hope. Nothing else counts, but us. (<em>The Diary of MA YAN</em>: P.31 L.3)</td>
<td>Ma Yan as an understanding woman and it can be proven that her mother's words tug in Ma Yan's heart. It indicates that her mother's words had implanted in her heart and she would not make her mother disappointed.</td>
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<td>What can I say to her? When I hear her sounding off, I think of my father who left my brother and me four yuan. We've been living on that for three weeks, and I still have one left over in my pocket. My stomach is all twisted up with hunger, but I don't want to spend that yuan on anything so frivolous as food. Because it's money my parents earn with their sweat and blood. (<em>The Diary of MA YAN</em>: P.157 L.6)</td>
<td>Ma Yan as an understanding woman and it can be proven that her stomach is all twisted up with hunger. She would not spend her yuan just for food because she knew that a yuan came from her parent's sweat and blood.</td>
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<td>Mother is always lecturing me: 'You have to take care of your little brother. You're bigger than he is and have a duty to help him. I send you to school and pay no attention to the costs. If you don't work well, not only do you not deserve the trouble I take for you, but you don't even deserve a week's bread.' Her words play over and over in my mind. But my little brother doesn't work hard. I don't want to have to hear that he's been</td>
<td>Ma Yan as an obedient woman toward her parents and it can be proven that she always remembers her mother's advice and it is as if her mother's advice was always play over and over in her mind.</td>
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| put back into the slow class.  
(The Diary of MA YAN: P.152 L.3) | Ma Yan as a joyful woman and it can be proven that her heart immediately lifts because she was very happy when she was appreciated by her teacher because of having a good grade. |
|---|---|
| I start on ‘Little Rooster Likes his Fight’.  
‘Very good!’ she compliments me.  
My heart immediately lifts.  
I’m full of joy. When I go home,  
I’ll have a good grade to show my parents.  
(The Diary of MA YAN: P.101 L.5) | Ma Yan as a joyful woman and it can be proven that her heart immediately lifts because she was very happy when she was appreciated by her teacher because of having a good grade. |
| My pulse is racing. I am worrying that I’ll be next. I haven’t even managed to finish my thought when the teacher asks me to stand up. He asks:  
‘Into how many parts can lesson twelve be divided?’ I answer,  
‘Into three parts: first, the preparation for writing the letter; second, writing the letter; third, the sending of the letter.’  
(The Diary of MA YAN: P.67 L.4) | Ma Yan as a nervous woman and it can be proven that her pulse was racing, when she felt frightened because her teacher asked her to stand up in front of the class. It indicates that Ma Yan’s pulse was tense because of pressure from her teacher. |
| It’s snowing hard this afternoon.  
In our first period, the maths teacher comes in and announces, “Today, we’ll be taking the midterm exam.”  
My heart sets up a hammering.  
(The Diary of MA YAN: P.80 L.4) | Ma Yan as a nervous woman and it can be proven that her heart sets up a hammering, when her teacher announced that in that day would be taking a midterm test. Therefore, it made Ma Yan became nervous. |
| Music lesson this afternoon. The teacher warns us: ‘Revise well, because next week we’re having a test. ‘Everyone starts to revise, | Ma Yan as a fainthearted woman or coward woman and it can |
**my heart sinks.** As soon as the word ‘exam’ is mentioned, I feel like crying. *(The Diary of MA YAN: P.97 L.4)*  

be proven that her heart sinks, when she was afraid to revise well of her test. It describes that how coward she was, when she had to revise the test and it made her heart sunk.

I literally jump for joy, then suddenly notice a comrade who passed the entrance exam for school in Tongxin. **My heart sinks down to my knees.** I can’t take my eyes off the girl. But nor can I see straight. It seems to me the hills and the sky are moving. Mother looks at me and asks what’s wrong. *(The Diary of MA YAN: P.112 L.3)*  

Ma Yan as an easy for being depressed and it can be proven that her heart sinks down to her knee because she was disappointed with herself who could not pass the entrance exam. It describes how very depressed she was, when she could not pass the test.

**Symbol**  

*The lesson starts. The teacher comes in, empty-handed. He says we’re going to have a class reunion instead of a test. I’m so happy, full of joy like a bud blossoming into water, I’m no longer afraid.*(The Diary of MA YAN: P.74 L.5)  

Ma Yan as a joyful woman and it can be proven that she used the word of *bud blossom* to characterize herself as a joyful woman. *Bud blossom* is a symbol that indicates how happy she was, when she knew there was not a test in that day.

*My heart is full of joy, like a flower whose petals are opening. It’s a beautiful day. We’re having a nature class. The natural sciences teacher reminds me of a teacher I had in my second year of primary*  

Ma Yan as a joyful woman and it can be proven that she used the word of "flower" to characterize herself as a joyful woman.
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<th>school. Their attitudes and gestures are very similar. When I see my current teacher, it makes me think of all the little voice, he taught me to sing. So that I would be in good health, he had me do sport. (The Diary of MA YAN: P.66 L.7)</th>
<th>She was very happy because of having a nature class in that day. Moreover, flower is a symbol of joyful.</th>
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<td>I literally jump for joy, then I suddenly notice a comrade who passed the entrance exam for the school in Tongxin. My heart sinks down to my knees. I can't take my eyes off the girl. But nor can I see straight. It seems to me the hills and the skies are moving. Mother looks at me and asks what's wrong. (The Diary of MA YAN: P.112 L.3)</td>
<td>Ma Yan as a joyful woman and it can be proven that she used the word of &quot;jump&quot; to characterize herself as a joyful woman. She was very happy because her friend passed the test. Moreover, the word of jump is a symbol of happy.</td>
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<td>I had got eight answers wrong. There were not that many questions altogether, and got eight of them wrong! I can hardly be light-hearted after that. (The Diary of MA YAN:P.81 L.2)</td>
<td>Ma Yan as a woman who easy for being depressed and surrendered. She was very sad, because she got bad score in a test. Moreover, the statement of &quot;I can hardly be light-hearted after that&quot;indicates how very sad she was.</td>
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<td>I want to go and study in the district school. But since Mother has been ill, our lives are so hard. I really don't know why the heavens are treating us like this, why everything is so unjust.(The Diary of MA YAN: P.127 L.1)</td>
<td>Ma Yan as a woman who easy for surrender and it can be proven that she was very sad because heavens were treating them like that. Therefore, it made her very sad and being</td>
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<td>In any case, she’s wrong. And what to do I feel? It’s hard leaving my family, leaving my mother. My heart isn't light and when mother speaks to me like this, tears flood my heart. I can’t contradict her. I have to win all the honors, both for my mother and for my ancestors. I want them to be peace and proud of me, even if they’re in the ground. (The Diary of MA YAN: P.128 L.2)</td>
<td>Ma Yan as a sensitive woman and it can be proven that she was disappointed with her mother because all Ma Yan's thoughts were wrong. Therefore, it made her very sad, so she used the sentence of my heart isn't light is a symbol of very sad.</td>
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<td>By the time I found my bag, the tears were flowing all the way down to my clothes. Other children, too, are leaving for their holidays, but their parents are here to carry their things for them. I had to get my luggage out through the window, which is hard enough in itself. (The Diary of MA YAN: P.109 L.3)</td>
<td>Ma Yan as a sensitive woman and it can be proven that she used the word of tears to characterize herself as a sensitive woman. Tears is a symbol of sadness, because she had to carry up her luggage by herself, yet others friends were leaving for holidays with their parents.</td>
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<td>Figurative of Language</td>
<td>Quotation</td>
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<tr>
<td>Simile</td>
<td>But my dear old pen gave me sense of power. It made me understand the meaning of a difficult life or happy life. <em>Every time I see the pen, it’s as if I were seeing my mother.</em> It’s as if she was encouraging me to work hard and make it into the girls’ senior school. (The Diary of MA YAN: P.117 L.5)</td>
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<td></td>
<td>I’m terrified. I don’t know why mother has had so many bizarre illnesses these last years. When she’s going through a crime, the whole family is desperate. <em>The worst thing is that when she’s ill the sweat pours down her face like water.</em> I don’t know how she can stand it. In her shoes, I think I’d have died of the pain. I really hope she gets better soon. (The Diary of MA YAN: P.126 L.4)</td>
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<td>Market day today. Mother comes home from my maternal grandmother’s. I go out to welcome her on the front porch. <em>My mother's face is black as coal and her lips are all cracked.</em> She looks terrible. What’s wrong with her? Usually when she comes back from her mother’s, she’s happy, full of chat and laughter. But today... (The Diary of MA YAN: P.145 L.6)</td>
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Mother held my two hands. She advised me to blend a little at the waist. That way I wouldn’t make the dust fly. **I remember each of her words as if they were spoken yesterday.** (The Diary of MA YAN: P.79 L.5)

It indicates that how hard her mother worked for the family.

Ma Yan's parent as an attentive woman toward her son and her daughter and it can be proven by her advice toward Ma Yan who had to keep of her brother and also give a good model toward her brothers. Therefore, her mother's advice was always in Ma Yan's heart.

This morning, mother prepares dinner and cleans the house. She boils up a pot of water for me so that I can wash my clothes. I pour the water into a tin basin and start my washing. I’ve only washed two things when a lot of people arrive, among them my grandmother. **They talk and laugh so noisily that it feels as if the roof is going to fall in.** (The Diary of MA YAN: P.105 L.2)

Ma Yan's family was a harmony family, because they talked and laughed so noisily that it felt as if the roof was going to fall in. it indicates that how harmonious and happy the family was. Even though their life was hard, but they still optimist and being happy together with parent and their son and daughter.
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<td>Personification</td>
<td><em>Tears and the perspiration of pain run down my mother’s face.</em> Her eyes are red. Her hands are arched over her stomach. My father tells her to go home. No, she’ll wait for us, she says. I lower my head and think, Why does my mother want to do this harvesting when she is so gravely ill? Why? (The Diary of MA YAN: P.113 L.3)*</td>
<td>Ma Yan's parent as hard worker and struggler and it can be proven that they could survive in their bitterness life. They worked very hard to pay their children fee for school and their money were from their sweat and hard labor.</td>
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<td>Symbol</td>
<td><em>I suddenly realize why mother doesn’t get medical help.</em> It’s so that we can carry on going to school. School costs tens of yuan all at once. Where does this money come from? It comes from the sweat and hard labor of my parents. Father and mother are ready to sacrifice everything so that we can go to school. I must work really hard in order to go to university later. Then I’ll get a good job and mother and father will at last have a happy life. (The Diary of MA YAN: P.33 L.2)*</td>
<td>Ma Yan's parent as hard worker and struggler, it can be proven that sweat and labor were a symbol of hard work and struggle in life to survive.</td>
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<td><em>Very early this morning, Mother wakes my brother Ma Yichao, so that he can help her get the donkey ready for work. Mother walks in front, while my brother controls the donkey from behind. I can see all the wrinkles on my mother’s face. (The Diary of MA YAN: P.53 L.1)</em></td>
<td>Ma Yan's parent as hard worker and it can be proven by all the wrinkles on her mother's face. It indicates that how hard her mother worker for the family. &quot;Wrinkle&quot; is a symbol of hard work of Ma Yan's parent because her mother's face</td>
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42Ma Yan’s mother has terrible stomach pains and spits blood.
| I suddenly think that it has taken my father such hard work to earn these yuan. *He's given his sweat and blood for them*, working in Inner Mongolia. How can I take them just on a whim? I must work harder and make it to university, so as to get proper work. Then I'll never again be weighed down and saddened by these questions of money. (The Diary of MA YAN: P.74 L.3) | Ma Yan’s parent as hard worker and it can be proven that her father gave his sweat and blood was only for the family. It indicates that how hard her father worker until his sweat and blood were pawned. *"Sweat and Blood are symbol of sacrifice for the family.* |
| It’s obvious that one has to study these days in order to avoid the fate of my grandparents, who have to slave away into their old age. They’ll never taste *happiness*. (The Diary of MA YAN: P.77 L.3) | Ma Yan's parent life so difficult and hard. It can be proven that they never taste the happiness in life. Even, they had worked hard, it would never be enough for them. |
| My stomach is all twisted up with hunger, but I don’t want to spend that yuan on anything so frivolous as food. *Because it’s money my parents earn with their sweat and blood.* (The Diary of MA YAN: P.157 L.6) | Ma Yan's parent as hard worker and it can be proven that they worked very hard until they gave their sweat and blood for the family. *Sweat and blood* were a symbol of hard working of Ma Yan's parent. |
| But my dear old pen gave me sense of power. It made me understand the meaning of a difficult life or happy life. *Every time I see the pen, it’s as if I were* | Ma Yan's parent as a attentive woman and it can be proven by her |
seeing my mother. It's as if she was encouraging me to work hard and make it into the girls’ senior school. (The Diary of MA YAN: P.117 L.5)

mother's advice toward her daughter. She motivated her daughter to keep on schooling, even they life was difficult. Pen is a symbol of struggle of school for Ma Yan.