AN ANALYSIS OF STYLISTICS IN DEAR JOHN NOVEL BY

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ABSTRACT


The research is aimed to describe the kinds of figurative language and the meaning of each figurative language that the author used in Dear John novel. The theories in this thesis are stylistics, figurative language, and meaning. From those theories, this thesis has eight categories of figure of speech; they are simile, metaphor, personification, hyperbole, litotes, irony, metonymy, and synecdoche. In those figures of speech, the writer found that the author used animals, other living objects, inanimate objects, visible and invisible things to express human feeling, attitude, and characteristic toward something in certain situation and condition so that the readers can understand clearly the objective of the author expression. In the Dear John novel, the writer found the meaning of each figurative language in the form of sadness, happiness, miracle, beauty, and others.

In this research, the writer uses qualitative method of discourse analysis, explains some theories that related to figurative language, and then collects the data from the novel. Based on the theories, the writer selects some sentences which are contained of figures of speech and analyzes them one by one to know the kinds of figures of speech used, and the meaning of them.

As the result of analysis performed, the writer concludes the most common figures of speech may be grouped in three categories: figures of comparison, figures of contrast, and figures of association. Their meanings are explained in their literal meaning, so that they can show the influence of using figures of speech in the phrase or sentence.

The writer hopes that readers will know about the study of linguistics and its branches. Readers have to know the branches of linguistics, especially the study of stylistics. Readers are suggested not only to know literal meaning, but also know non-literal meaning in reading literary work.
APPROVEMENT

AN ANALYSIS OF STYLISTICS IN DEAR JOHN NOVEL BY
NICHOLAS SPARKS

A Thesis
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The thesis entitled has been defended before the Letter and Humanities Faculty’s Examination Committee on October 6, 2011. It has already been accepted as a partial fulfillment of the requirements for the degree of strata one.

Jakarta, October 6, 2011

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I hereby declare that this submission is my own 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 award of any other degree or diploma of the university or other institute of higher learning, except where due to acknowledgement has been made in the text.

Jakarta, July 29, 2011

Esa Yolanda Putri
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The writer
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CHAPTER I
INTRODUCTION

A. Background of the Study

Literary world has been enriched by the works of new authors who increasingly clear figure of their personality. The author figure should be balanced by using language skills in creating works of literary work. Using language to convey ideas and imagination in the process of literary creation are needed by each author. It implies that literary work is a language event. Thus, the element of language is an important tool in the investigation of literary work. A new literary work can be enjoyed if it had been informed or expressed through language.

Literary work uses language as medium. Literature according to Hudson, cited by Tarigan, “a standard disclosure of what has been witnessed by people in life, what has been contemplated and people felt about aspects of life that most exciting direct and strong interest from an author or poet.” It could be shortly said that language is a tool of expression in literary work. Language has beauty messages as well as carrying meaning in literary work.

One type of literary work is novel. The novel also uses language as a medium. Whether it is attractive or not of the language use in the literary work

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depends on the ability of its creator to use the words. Besides that, every
distinction of meanings and senses must be understood by its creator. Therefore,
knowledge of lexicography is absolutely necessary.

Wellek and Warren explain that there are major differences between the
literary language, daily language, and scientific language. Daily language is more
varied; meanwhile, literary language is the result of systematically exploration
and absorption of all possibilities in that language. They say that the literary
language is unique, full ambiguities, homonym, and highly connotative, whereas
scientific language is denotative and tends to resemble systematic or symbolic
logic. In the correlation, connotation and denotation are cannot be ignored.
Denotation refers to the literal meaning of a word, the dictionary definition.
Connotation, on the other hand, refers to the associations that are connected to a
certain word or the emotional suggestions related to that word. Therefore, there is
no wonder if literary language is not in pattern of grammatical rules.

Language interpretation in literary work is always bound with esthetics
of language. Without the esthetics of language, literary work becomes flat. The
specialization of language in literary work is due to the licentia poetica concept
(freedom of poets or authors in using the language), or the author has particular
purpose. The freedom of poets to use out-of-pattern grammatical conventional
language is greatly recommended to have the desired effects.

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3 Rene Wellek dan Austin Warren, Teori Kesusastraan (Jakarta: PT Gramedia Pustaka
6 Panuti Sudjiman, Bunga Rampai Stilistika, pp.19-20.
The author tried to create a variety of techniques to pay attention to the words in literary work. Language is a tool used by author to express the re-observation of the phenomenon of life in story form. Therefore, an author should be able to use interesting language in expressing idea because of the language factor is an important role in the allure of literary work. Assessment of language in literary work is always associated with beauty or aesthetics of language.

Beautifulness in literary works built by the words arts, and those words and language arts manifest on special words come from expressions of soul. Based on those statements, therefore the literary books or arts’ readers would be interesting if the information the writer tells is served with an esthetics creation. A literary or reading book that contains the esthetics value is to make readers more excited and interested to read it, and also when the author presents them with unique and interesting style.

According to Aminuddin, the way of the author expresses his ideas through language media is beautiful and harmonious language. There are some beautiful languages in our literary life known as cliché language. The readers will get the meaning of esthetics literary work with cliché language that appears in that literary work.

Novel is one type of literary work or transactional discourse, the discourse that emphasizes the content of communication and lots of words or

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9 Ibid, p.25.
language which of course vary that are created in accordance with the ideas or the imagination of its author.

One American novel author is Nicholas Sparks. With well over 50 million copies of his books in print, Nicholas Sparks is one of the world’s most beloved storytellers. His novels include eight #1 New York Times bestsellers, and all his books, comprises Three Weeks with My Brother, the memoir he wrote with his brother, Micah, have been New York Times and international bestsellers, and were translated into more than forty languages. Six of Nicholas Sparks’s novel—Dear John, The Last Song, Nights in Rodanthe, Message in a Bottle, A Walk to Remember, and The Notebook—were also adapted into major motion pictures. ¹⁰

Dear John, published by Warner Books, New York, tells the story of John Tyree a young rebel who eventually choose to become soldier. He meets Savannah Lynn Curtis on the beach while on leave of duty. A relation which was initially just a summer romance turned into a lasting love, make Savannah willing to wait for John to complete his task, waiting for the promise of John, who would return and marry her. However, none of them expected to occur events of 9/11 (September 11th events) in New York that changed the world and love them. At that time, as soldier, John must choose between his love for girlfriend or his country. When he finally returned to his hometown, John must face the harsh reality and realize that love was able to transform himself and the girl that he

loves. A film adaptation of the novel, directed by Lasse Hallstrom, released in 2010.\textsuperscript{11}

*Dear John* novel uses various language that make the content and the story are more interesting to literary readers to find out more in the meaning to be conveyed by the author. Nicholas Sparks tends to use language that deviates from the daily language used to communicate. It can be seen clearly with a figurative language or language style used in the text of the *Dear John* novel.

The writer takes this *Dear John* novel as the object of stylistics study. The writer interested to discuss deeply *Dear John* novel by Nicholas Sparks based on the brief findings about language style. Every writer has different style to express his or her thoughts. The stylistics element in literary work used by the author on *Dear John* novel can be related in linguistic aspects. So, the writer will explore for literature in linguistic aspect, especially in figurative language.

There are many figurative languages contained in *Dear John* novel, we can see from the following sentences:

*The blanket still covered the couch, the green refrigerator seemed to scream that it didn’t belong, and the television picked up only four blurry channels.*\textsuperscript{12}

The sentence above is a form of figurative language used by the author in personification form. Personification is included figures of comparison. Personification is a figure of speech in which an inanimate object or abstraction is endowed with human qualities or abilities. In sentence above, the green


\textsuperscript{12} Nicholas Sparks, *Dear John* (New York: Warner Books, 2007), p.21
refrigerator was a person because it could scream. In the fact the refrigerator is only a dead thing.

Another example:

I’d wander into town for a beer with the guys, but for the most part I lifted tons of weights, ran hundreds of miles, and kicked Tony’s ass whenever we stepped into the boxing ring.\(^{13}\)

The sentence above is a form of figurative language that used by the author in hyperbole form. Hyperbole is included figures of contrast. Hyperbole is an extravagant statement; the use of exaggerated terms for the purpose of emphasis or heightened effect. In sentence above, John lifted tons of weights and ran hundreds of miles, is nonsense because how can a person lift tons of weights and run hundreds of miles? In reality, it just an extravagant activity. The author wanted to make a strong, forceful, and energetic figure of John.

So, in this case, the writer interests to analyze more deeply about stylistics in Dear John novel.

B. Focus of the Study

This analyzing will concentrate on the stylistic that discuss the figurative language used by the author in Dear John novel.

C. Research Question

Based on focus of analysis, there are two questions such as:

\(^{13}\) Ibid. p.150.
1. What are the figurative languages of stylistics used in Dear John novel by Nicholas Sparks?

2. What are the meaning of the phrases and sentences that use figurative languages?

D. Objectives of the Study

As usual, the analysis aims to know the style used by the author at his literary work on Dear John novel by Nicholas Sparks. The analysis especially tries to delve:

1. To find out the types of figurative languages in Dear John novel.

2. To understand the meaning of phrases and sentences that use figurative languages which are selected by the writer.

E. Significances of the Study

This study will give the positive knowledge for the linguistic and literature. The analysis is specially expected that will be very advantageous for the reader who has desire to know the stylistic analysis which can be used in prose, especially in novel form.

F. Research Methodology

1. Method of the Study

Based on the research questions and the objective of the study, the method used in this research is qualitative method. By the discourse analysis
explanation, the writer tries to answer the questions which appear, and then the writer gives descriptive explanation to commit the analysis based on the sources of documentation.

2. Data Analysis

The data analysis is analyzed to the stylistics theories which are aimed to know the stylistics used in *Dear John* novel and the meaning which content on that stylistic. The process of collecting data in this research comprises several steps. First, reading a *Dear John* novel by Nicholas Sparks carefully and repeatedly in order to understand the contents which are in the novel. Second, finding and collecting data which are sentences contain of figure of speech, then those data are classified as their type made with tables. Furthermore, the third step, analyzing data using the theories of Charles H. Vivian and Bernetta M. Jackson as a basis to categorize the form of figure of speech based on the appropriate category. Finally, the writer also will explain the meaning in form of stylistic in *Dear John* novel.

3. Instrument of the Research

On this time, the qualitative analysis is using the writer as an instrument to get a qualitative data. This analysis has function to know the concept of stylistics used such as signing, clustering, and giving notes in *Dear John* novel by Nicholas Sparks. Not only that, the writer also uses some references as a reference for research support.
4. Unit of Analysis

The unit analysis in this study is Dear John novel by Nicholas Sparks, published by Warner Books in 2007 contents of 276 pages. In the novel, there are three sections which each section tell romantic love story between John Tyree and Savannah Curtis.

5. Time and Venue

This research will be started on seventh semester of academic year 2010-2011 at Faculty of Adab and Humanities, Department of English Letters, State Islamic Syarif Hidayatullah University Jakarta and several other libraries that support the theory and reference materials that writer needs. The activities include preparation, data collection, and data analysis.
CHAPTER II
THEORETICAL FRAMEWORK

A. Semantic

1. Definition of Semantic

Semantic is the technical term used to refer to the study of meaning, and since meaning is a part of language, semantics is a part of linguistics.\textsuperscript{14} Unfortunately, ‘meaning’ covers a variety of aspects of language, and there is no general agreement about the nature of meaning, what aspects of it may properly be included in semantics, or the way in which it should be described.

Semantics is the study of meaning as conveyed through signs and language. Semantics can refer to the literal or intended meaning of speakers and writers. Semantics is studied in many branches of science and consequently how meaning is studied may vary. Understanding how facial expressions, body language, and tone affects meaning, and how words, phrases, sentences, and punctuation relate to meaning are two examples of what Semanticists study.

The study of linguistic meaning of morphemes, words, phrases, and sentences is called Semantics.\textsuperscript{15} A further difficulty with semantics is that meanings do not seem to be stable but depend on speakers, hearers, and context. Yet if linguistic is scientific, it must be concerned not with specific instances, but

with generalizations. For this reason, it is generally assumed that a distinction can be made between the linguistic system and the use made of that system by speaker and hearers.

2. Concept of Meaning

According to the Swiss linguist, Ferdinand de Saussure every linguistic signs consists of two components, they are signified, and the sign that will be given a meaning. It is a kind of concept or thought/reference from a certain sign, and the second is signifier, the sign that will have sound component and concept (meaning) component. Another definition of meaning according to Ogden and Richards can be illustrated as a triangle, as follows:

According to the triangle, the ‘symbol’ is, of course, the linguistic element – the word, sentence, etc., and the ‘referent’ the object, etc., in the world of experience, while ‘thought or reference’ is concept. There is no direct link between symbol and referent (between language and the world) – the link is via thought or reference, the concepts of our minds.

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Semantics does not only explain about concept of meaning from communication system, but also it explains concepts of meaning from lexical and grammatical side known as lexical as lexical and grammatical meanings. The first, lexical meaning (dictionary meaning) is a meaning that is composed of smaller meaningful parts, or it is the meaning from dictionary directly.\textsuperscript{18} For example, the word ‘tables’ has a definite meaning, besides table has reference as a noun. The lexical meaning based on Advanced Dictionary in English Language, table is a piece of furniture that consists of a flat top supported by legs. Thus, semantic meaning or lexical meaning is the real description about a concept of meaning. The second, grammatical meaning is a meaning caused by grammatical process of affixes, reduplication, and composition. For example, go – going – gone, have gone, etc. Different languages have some different grammatical systems.\textsuperscript{19}

3. Non-Literal Meaning

Non-literal meaning of language in semantics is traditionally called Figurative Language and is described by a host of rhetorical terms including metaphor, irony, metonymy, synecdoche, hyperbole, and litotes.\textsuperscript{20}

Sometimes non-literal meaning describes untrue or impossible terms in order to achieve some special effects. On closer examination, it is difficult to draw a firm line between literal and non-literal uses of language. One of the ways of language change is by the speaker meaning to shift the meaning of words to fit


\textsuperscript{19} Ibid, p.50.

new conditions. One shift is by metaphorical extension, where some new ideas are depicted. Examples:

a. I’m happy
b. I’m in love
c. I’d give my right arm for a piece of pizza
d. I will die if she asks me to dance

The examples above are few samples from semantics and figurative language. If the underlined sentences are seen from the lexical meaning, it will be getting the different meaning because the sentence “I’d give my right arm for a piece of pizza” and “I will die if she asks me to dance” are categorized as hyperbole form or figurative form.

B. Stylistics

1. Definition of Stylistics

Stylistics is a part of linguistics which concentrates to the style of language use as Turner quotes on his book *Stylistics*. “Stylistics is the part of linguistics which concentrates on variation in the use of language, often, but not exclusively, with special attention to the most conscious and complex uses of language in literature”.21

Stylistics is linguistics’ sub that focuses on variations of language use in complexity and reality in literary arts. Therefore the articles which are the main interest onto applying stylistics are the literary texts. Other definition of stylistics

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is “the linguistic study of different style”. Style is a language use of one specific group or individual. Therefore stylistics discusses the relation of language and its users. Leech also defines that stylistics, simply defined as the (linguistic) study of style, is rarely undertaken for its own sake, simply as an exercise in describing what use is made of language.

Stylistics is a method about the style of language. According to Simpson, the definition of stylistics is a method of textual interpretation in which primacy of place is assigned to language. Style is the use of the language in a certain context, by a certain people and for a certain reason. Style is different from structural grammar. It cannot be quantified, it has no rules. Style impacts to writing, strengthens the contact with the reader and heightens their awareness. Therefore, style is always concerned with relationship between the participants in a certain situation.

Studying style has the certain aim. The aim of studying language style is to explain something, and in general, literary stylistics has the goal of explaining the relation between language and artistic function explicitly. The usage of language style is to show or describing something by using uniquely, artistic, and beautiful words which can make the reader feel what the writer feeling and also to explore creativity in language use.

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Besides that, stylistics has connection with the literature. The connection between stylistics and literature bring two important caveats, they are:

a) The first is that creativity and innovation in language use should not be seen as the exclusive preserve of literary writing. Many forms of discourse such as: advertising, journalist, popular music- even casual conversation often display a high degree of stylistics dexterity, it would be wrong if we view the dexterity in language use is as exclusive formal literature.

b) The second is that the techniques of stylistics analysis are as much about deriving insights about linguistics structure and function as they are about understanding literary texts.26

C. Figure of Speech

The role of language in a story is very important because language is a medium in literary work. It is medium to express author’s idea and feeling to the readers. In his work, an author invites the reader to feel what character’s felt is. To reach the aim, every author endures different ways from the others. Every author has special characteristics in expressing idea and feeling in his work. Thus, the expression of mind and feeling has variation, variation in using and arranging words in sentences.27

Figure of speech is a mode of expression in which words are used out of their literal meaning or out of their ordinary use in order to add beauty or

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emotional intensity or to transfer the poet’s sense impressions by comparing or identifying one thing with another that has a meaning familiar to the reader.\textsuperscript{28}

In the book of \textit{Sound and Sense}, Perrine defines figure of speech as any way of saying something other than the ordinary way.\textsuperscript{29} It means the message is not delivered in ordinary way. Communicator can choose many ways in delivering the message to the communicant. The use of the ordinary way will surely result ordinary response as well. Communicator can always give the more different sense nuance by advantaging the use of figure of speech. As long as the proposed sense essence is receivable by the communicant, that additional sense essence will reinforce the meaning and present more freshly message. The advantages have been widely known that everybody uses it all the time in attempt to give freshness and spice to what they say. Some are even used so commons that we tend to forget their original idea.

A figure of speech is a rhetorical device that achieves a special effect by using words in distinctive ways. We use figure of speech in figurative language to add color and interest, and to awaken the imagination. Figurative language is everywhere, from classical works like Shakespeare, to everyday speech, pop music and television commercials.\textsuperscript{30} It makes the reader or listener use their imagination and understand much more than the plain words.

\textsuperscript{30} Ibid, p.65.
Figurative language is the opposite of literal language. Literal language means exactly what it says. Figurative language means something different to (and usually more than) what it says on the surface:

- He ran fast. (literal)
- He ran like the wind. (figurative)

In the above example “like the wind” is a figure of speech (in this case, a simile). It is important to recognize the difference between literal and figurative language. There are many figures of speech that are commonly used and which you can learn by heart. At other times, writers and speakers may invent their own figure of speech. If you do not recognize them as figure of speech and think that they are literal, you will find it difficult to understand the language.

Briefly, the most common figures of speech may be grouped in three categories: figures of comparison, figures of contrast, and figures of association.\(^{31}\)

1. Figure of Comparison

The figures of comparison are simile, metaphor, and personification.

a. Simile

Simile is a figure in which a comparison is stated explicitly. The comparison expressed by using of some words or phrases, such as like, as, than, similar to, resembles, or seems.\(^{32}\) This comparison has to be specific and needs the


sign posting words between two kinds of ideas or objects. We can use simile to make descriptions more emphatic or vivid. For example:

1. *The child is like a flower.*

   The above sentence is a form of figurative language in simile form. In this simplest kind of figure there is not actually any extended reference; the flower is still just a flower, and we understand simply that the child is like it in certain respects, such as beauty and purity.

2. *He raced for the goal line like an antelope.*

   The above sentence is a form of figurative language in simile form. The word like explains the comparison between human and animal. Where the human power has a speedy race like an antelope.

3. *She can swim as fast as a fish*

   The above sentence is a form of figurative language in simile form. The sentence describes that the human capability in swimming like a fish.

b. **Metaphor**

   Metaphor is language that directly connects seemingly unrelated subjects. It is a figure of speech that connects two or more things. More generally, a metaphor describes a first subject as *being* or *equal to* a second object in some way. Where with few words, emotions, and associations from one context are associated with objects and entities in a different context. It compares two
subjects without using ‘like’ or ‘as’.

Metaphor, on the other hand, the comparison is not stated explicitly but implied.

For example, an expression like “Oh, she is a flower!” does not actually state a comparison, although of course the comparison is understood by implication. In a metaphor there is extended reference: the child is not literally a flower. In such a statement the word flower may in one sense still stand for a flower, as the word house in “the house of dust” still means a house; but the flower itself now stands for “something” with the beauty and purity of a flower.

c. Personification

Personification is attributing or applying human qualities to inanimate object, animals, or natural phenomena. In other words, personification is describing a nonliving object as if there are and lives like human being.

For example:

1. When the poets says, “The Moon doth with delight look round her,” he is implying a comparison between the moon and a woman.

2. My car was happy to be washed

The above sentence is a form of figurative language in personification form. The above sample explains that the car has the attributes of human being that to be happy because it was washed.

3. *The wind has hit my cheek at the beach*

The above sentence is a form of figurative language in personification form. The above sample explains that the wind has the attribute of human being. It can hit someone like the human.

There are two requirements to be observed in connection with the figures of comparison. The first, which pertains chiefly to the simile, is that the comparison must be drawn between things of different classes, like the child (human being) and the flower (plant). Otherwise the language is not figurative at all. If we say, for instance, that a love seat is like a sofa, except that the former has room for only two people, we are comparing two things of the same class (furniture). This is not a simile but a purely literal expression. The second requirement, pertaining chiefly to the metaphor, is that if the comparison is extended, it must be carried out consistently. Otherwise the result is likely to be what is called a consistently. Otherwise the result is likely to be what is called a *mixed metaphor*. In “Hitch your wagon to a star, and step on the gas!” a life or career is compared by implication first to a vehicle which is pulled by something else, and then to an automobile. The effect of such inconsistency is incongruous and often unintentionally humorous.  

2. **Figures of Contrast**

The figures of contrast are irony, overstatement, and understatement.

   a. **Irony**

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Irony as a figure of speech represents a particular kind of extended reference: extension in a direction opposite to the normal one. That is, a word or expression used ironically takes on a meaning which sharply contrasts with or even in effect contradicts its ordinary meaning.\(^{37}\) For example:

1. If we look out the window in the morning and see dull clouds and rain, we may exclaim, “Oh, don’t you just love this kind of day for a picnic?” – and the word love will of course convey a meaning something like that of hate.
2. In a difficult moment, an act of kindness makes things worse, and someone says: “well, that’s a lot better, isn’t it?”

The above sentence is a form of figurative language irony form. Irony is a rhetoric words with an implication opposite to their usual meaning. The above sample explains someone in bad situation will help to make a better condition. Unfortunately, the condition is going worse, and then someone as if says that the situation better.

b. **Hyperbole/Overstatement**

Hyperbole/Overstatement is a figure of speech that uses an exaggerated or extravagant statement to create a strong emotional response or to emphasize the truth of a statement.\(^{38}\) In hyperbole, the speakers do not expect to be taken literally but they are only adding emphasis to what they really mean or in other words, they are overstating their statement. Like all figure of speech, hyperbole may be

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used with a variety of effect such as humorous or grave, fanciful or retrained, convincing or unconvincing. The media and the advertising industry often use hyperbole (which may then be described as hype or media hype). For example:

1. *I will die if I don’t pass the exam*

The above sentence is a form of figurative language in hyperbole form. The above sample sentence is out of our mind. How will the person die if he/she fail the exam? The exam as if is big danger that can make someone die. In fact, if the person fail the exam, he/she could be anger by his/her parents or something bad happen to him/her that could not make him/her die.

2. *I’m so hungry I could eat a horse*

The above sentence is a form of figurative language in hyperbole form. The above sample sentence is out of our mind. How will the person eat a horse if he/she is hungry? In fact, the person is really starving so anything can be eaten by him/her included a horse.

c. **Litotes/Understatement**

Litotes/Understatement is a figure of speech consisting of an understatement in which an affirmative is expressed by negating its opposite. Litotes can also be defined as an understatement employed for the purpose of enhancing the effect of the ideas expressed, as in the sentence “The English poet Thomas Gray showed no inconsiderable powers as a prose writer”, meaning that Gray was in fact a very good prose writer.

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The figures of contrast function in accordance with the psychology of implication. Their use requires the reader to be alert, to discern the difference between what is said and what is meant. If he does discern it, he has in a sense participated in the total sending-and-receiving process of communication more fully than would be necessary in the absence of any figures of contrast. The net result of their successful use is to intensify the expression of the basic meaning and heighten its effectiveness.  

3. Figures of Association

The figures of association are metonymy and synecdoche.

a. Metonymy

Metonymy is a figure of speech in which one word or phrase is substituted for another with which it is closely associated; also, the rhetorical strategy of describing something indirectly by referring to things around it. Perrine says that metonymy is the use of something closely related for the thing actually meant. Therefore, metonymy treat one thing as another that is associated with it. In metonymy, the meaning of a word is extended from its ordinary referent to something associated with that referent. For example:

1. The proverb “The pen is mightier than the sword” really means that writing is more powerful than fighting; or, extending the reference one step farther, that ideas exert more influence than does physical strength or violence. Voltaire once used one of these examples of metonymy, together with another: “I have no scepter (royal power and authority), but I have a pen.”

b. **Synecdoche**

Synecdoche is a figure of speech in which a part is used to represent the whole or the whole for a part. Synecdoche is, by far, the strangest figurative language. It is the most unfamiliar figurative language terms. As a word, however, it is rarely used in polite company.\(^45\) For example:

1. *We need strong bodies for our team (strong men)*

   The above sentence is a form of figurative language in synecdoche form. Synecdoche is a kind of figurative language that uses a part of something to state the whole of it (pars pro to to). The above sample explains strong body is meant to the man whom has a full body.

2. *Use your head to figure it out (brain)*

   The above sentence is a form of figurative language in synecdoche form. Synecdoche is a kind of figurative language that uses the whole to state a part of it (totem pro parte). The above sample explains the word *head* is used for replacing *brain*.

\(^45\) *Ibid.*
D. Meaning

Meaning is not confined to a single discipline or field of study, though it is generally thought to belong to the domain or scope of linguistics. It is true, when the meaning of an object in a language, natural or formal language is discussed. But since meaning is a relation between a chunk of reality (object), its sign or referent (and another object) and then a concept (“an abstract object”) in someone’s mind, obviously you have a multiple option for classification according to the three elements involved.

In linguistics, meaning is what is expressed by the writer or speaker, and what is conveyed to the reader or listener, provided that they talk about the same thing (law of identity). In other words if the object and the name of the object and the concepts in their head are the same. But out of these three only two can be verified or falsified, namely the object itself, its referent (may be in different languages), the concepts are not. Hence the inferred from the objects and the concepts are expressed by words, phrases, or sentences in semantics that are to be agreed on by the speakers. Clearly, this also calls for an agreement or synchronization of the other two elements, the concepts and the objects. Objects may be shown as pictures, and concepts may be defined by providing various verbal clues.⁴⁶

The word meaning can be applied to people who use language especially for the speakers or authors in roughly the sense of intend, and it can be applied to words and sentences in a different sense, roughly expressed as ‘be equivalent

to”. Meaning has an important role in language. Without meaning, speech or expression refers to, and the idea associated with it in person’s mind, or the stimulus which elicits utterance of it and behavioral responses it evokes.

According to Keraf, in general, meaning has two base kinds and differences to the meaning having the character of connotative and denotative. Here, the explanations:

1. **Denotative Meaning**

Denotative meaning is usually called in some other term such as denotation, cognitive, conceptual, ideational, referential, or propositional meaning. It is called denotation, referential, conceptual, and ideational or meaning because it is denotes to referent, concept, or certain idea. In other term, denotative meaning is called as cognitive meaning because it relate to awareness; stimulus (speaker) and response (listener) concerning things able to be received by awareness of human being, and this meaning is also propositional meaning because relate to information or factual statements.

Denotative refers to the literal meaning of a word, the “dictionary definition”. For example, if you look up the word *snake* in a dictionary, you will discover that one of its denotative meaning is “any of numerous scaly, legless,
sometimes venomous reptiles, having a long, tapering, cylindrical body and found 
in most tropical and temperate regions.\textsuperscript{50}

In other side, Leech has own opinion about denotative, it is widely 
assumed to be central factor in linguistics communication and it provides for any 
given interpretation of a sentence.\textsuperscript{51} Denotative meaning has objective direction, 
indication, and no extra meaning so it only denotes directly to its referent, 
concept, and idea.

2. Connotative Meaning

Connotative meaning is also called connotation, emotive, or evaluative 
meaning. Connotative meaning is one of meaning which contains stimulus and 
response of emotional values. Apart of connotative meaning happen because 
speaker wants to express of feeling, agree, disagree, like, or dislike, etc. to listener 
or other who selected the same word to express they feeling each other.

Connotation, on the other hand, refers to the associations that are 
connected to a certain word or the emotional suggestions related to that word. The 
connotative meaning of a word exist together with the denotative meanings. The 
connotations for the word \textit{snake} could include evil or danger.\textsuperscript{52}

\textsuperscript{50} Ray Schulte, \textit{Denotation and Connotation}. Accessed on April 25, 2011, 


\textsuperscript{52} Kate Chiwen Liu, \textit{Description of Connotation}. Accessed on April 25, 2011, 
In other side, Leech has own opinion about connotative meaning. It is the communicative value an expression has by virtue of what it refers to, over and above its purely conceptual content.\textsuperscript{53}

\footnote{Geoffrey Leech (1981), \textit{op.cit.} p.14.}
CHAPTER III
RESEARCH FINDINGS

A. Description of Data

The writer uses the *Dear John* novel by Nicholas Sparks as the object as a research. The novel was published by Warner Books in 2007 contents of 276 pages. The writer wants to propose only eight types of figurative language in the novel. There are simile, metaphor, personification, irony, hyperbole, litotes, metonymy, and synecdoche. In the *Dear John* novel, the writer tabulates data by classifying them into eight tables below.

**Table 1. Simile**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>No.</th>
<th>Corpus</th>
<th>Chapter</th>
<th>Page</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>1.</td>
<td>The splash sounded like a fish jumping.</td>
<td>1</td>
<td>31</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2.</td>
<td>When her eyes met mine, I felt something click, like a key turning in a lock.</td>
<td>2</td>
<td>34</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>3.</td>
<td>Her hair smelled sweet, like ripe strawberries.</td>
<td>7</td>
<td>120</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>4.</td>
<td>Water poured off all sides of the house like waterfalls.</td>
<td>8</td>
<td>123</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>5.</td>
<td>Lightning flashed again, closer this time, and thunder crashed like a cannon.</td>
<td>8</td>
<td>123</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>6.</td>
<td>The sensation of her skin against mine was like fire.</td>
<td>13</td>
<td>209</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>7.</td>
<td>Our relationship, I felt with a heaviness in my chest, was beginning to feel like the spinning movement of a child’s top.</td>
<td>14</td>
<td>213</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>8.</td>
<td>I’d seen blood pooling in the streets like rain.</td>
<td>16</td>
<td>236</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
9. By then my throat was tight as a drum, and it took everything I had to simply shake my head and decline.  

10. The red wine trapped the light like the facet of a ruby.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>No.</th>
<th>Corpus</th>
<th>Chapter</th>
<th>Page</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>9.</td>
<td>By then my throat was tight as a drum, and it took everything I had to</td>
<td>17</td>
<td>253</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>simply shake my head and decline.</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>10.</td>
<td>The red wine trapped the light like the facet of a ruby.</td>
<td>20</td>
<td>306</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**Table 2. Metaphor**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>No.</th>
<th>Corpus</th>
<th>Chapter</th>
<th>Page</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>1.</td>
<td>The sky was a swirl of fruity colors that contrasted dramatically with</td>
<td>4</td>
<td>76</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>the evening skies.</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2.</td>
<td>She was a tiger in the sack, right?</td>
<td>12</td>
<td>174</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>3.</td>
<td>I could feel her fingers through the thin fabric of my shirt and felt</td>
<td>13</td>
<td>209</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>her tug gently, exposing the skin of my stomach. The sensation was</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>electric.</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**Table 3. Hyperbole**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>No.</th>
<th>Corpus</th>
<th>Chapter</th>
<th>Page</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>1.</td>
<td>My dad had one of the steadiest, solid-citizen jobs on the planet.</td>
<td>1</td>
<td>10</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2.</td>
<td>The kiss that followed was like its own magic kingdom, complete with</td>
<td>13</td>
<td>186</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>its special language and geography, fabulous myths and wonders for</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>the ages.</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>3.</td>
<td>Savannah, always Savannah, everything on this trip, everything about</td>
<td>13</td>
<td>198</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>my life, I realized, always led back to her.</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>4.</td>
<td>Day by day, we got closer. Finally, we pledged to sail together in the</td>
<td>13</td>
<td>200</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>ocean of love, aiming to reach the Promised Land.</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
### Table 4. Litotes

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>No.</th>
<th>Corpus</th>
<th>Chapter</th>
<th>Page</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>1.</td>
<td>I’m just an underpaid grunt in the army.</td>
<td>4</td>
<td>77</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2.</td>
<td>When I think of you and me and what we shared, I know it would be easy for others to dismiss our time together as simply a by-product of the days and nights spent by the sea, a “fling” that, in the long run, would mean absolutely nothing.”</td>
<td>12</td>
<td>178</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

### Table 5. Personification

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>No.</th>
<th>Corpus</th>
<th>Chapter</th>
<th>Page</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>1.</td>
<td>The green refrigerator seemed to scream that it didn’t belong.</td>
<td>1</td>
<td>27</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2.</td>
<td>We started toward the dune, where the stars would lead us up to the pier.</td>
<td>2</td>
<td>36</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>3.</td>
<td>In its boughs, I saw the fruit with light yellow skin. I imagined their pink edible flesh. Quickly, the fruit filled my hungry stomach.”</td>
<td>3</td>
<td>58</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

### Table 6. Irony

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>No.</th>
<th>Corpus</th>
<th>Chapter</th>
<th>Page</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>1.</td>
<td>“What’s wrong?” She asked. “Nothing,” I lied.</td>
<td>13</td>
<td>200</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2.</td>
<td>It looks great.</td>
<td>19</td>
<td>276</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
Table 7. Metonymy

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>No.</th>
<th>Corpus</th>
<th>Chapter</th>
<th>Page</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>1.</td>
<td>I don’t surf much anymore even on leave, but on my days off I ride my Harley north or south, wherever my mood strikes me.</td>
<td>1</td>
<td>4</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2.</td>
<td>Most people who go to the beach on vacation feel most at home when they can find a McDonald’s or Burger King nearby.</td>
<td>1</td>
<td>10</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>3.</td>
<td>I was up most of the night, and I’d rather not have the caffeine.</td>
<td>10</td>
<td>150</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>4.</td>
<td>Occasionally, I grabbed a couple of bagels or croissants.</td>
<td>13</td>
<td>194</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>5.</td>
<td>But you drank tequila, right?</td>
<td>12</td>
<td>174</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Table 8. Synecdoche

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>No.</th>
<th>Corpus</th>
<th>Chapter</th>
<th>Page</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>--</td>
<td>--</td>
<td>--</td>
<td>--</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
B. Analysis of Data

In this part, the writer uses the data from the underlined sentences in the quoted paragraphs. The writer writes the sentence and decides type of figures of speech. Then, the writer elaborates each meaning of the quoted data.

1) Figures of Comparison

a) Simile (Table 1)

Simile is expressed by using of some words or phrases, such as like, as, than, similar to, resembles, or seems.

1. “The splash sounded like a fish jumping.”

Explanation:

The sentence “The splash sounded like a fish jumping” is categorized as Simile. The word ‘like’ at the sentence is pointing a simile. The splash (the sound that a person or thing makes when they fall into water) sounded (make produce sound) like a fish jumping (a sudden lively movement of an animal that lives and breathes in water, and has thin flat parts (fins) that help it to swim). As well known that ‘splash’ and ‘fish jumping’ are two things that absolutely different. Semantically, the splash is not like fish jumping, but the characteristic of the splash is like fish jumping. The sound of the bag tumbled over the edge has the similarity with the sound of fish jump out of the water. The sound effects of ‘splash’ and ‘fish jumping’ are getting shock and startled people around. Both of them also happen unexpectedly.
2. “When her eyes met mine, I felt something click, like a key turning in a lock.”

Explanation:

The sentence “When her eyes met mine, I felt something click, like a key turning in a lock” is categorized as Simile. The word ‘like’ at the sentence is pointing a simile. When her eyes (one of the two parts in your head that you see with) met (come up against) mine, I felt something (used for saying how something seems when you touch or experience it) click (a short sharp sound), like a key turning in a lock (a piece of metal that opens or closes a lock). As well known that ‘sight’ and ‘key turning’ are two things that absolutely different. The author wants to show the sight of someone to someone else at the first time is sounded ‘click’ as same as key turning in a lock because they felt comfort and could fill each others.

In the novel, John feels in love with Savannah at the first sight. He is not romantic, but when he looks Savannah it’s changed. He thinks Savannah is his soulmate.

3. “Her hair smelled sweet, like ripe strawberries.”

Explanation:

The sentence “Her hair smelled sweet, like ripe strawberries” is categorized as Simile. We can see from the word ‘like’ at the words ‘like ripe strawberries’ is a simile form. Her hair (all the hairs a covering of such out growths, as on the human head) smelled (notice something with your nose) sweet
(something sweet to the taste), *like ripe strawberries* (soft red fruits with seeds near the surface that is ready to eat). As well known that ‘hair’ and ‘strawberry’ are two things that absolutely different. The comparison between ‘*hair smelled sweet*’ and ‘*ripe strawberries*’ has the similarity of their characteristics. Both of them are sweet. The characteristics of ripe strawberries are bright red color, beautiful ripe, so moist, sweet yummy, and fresh tasted. Savannah’s hair is so sweet, bright, fresh, and soft. So, the author describes sweet Savannah’s hair as well as ripe strawberries. The writer defines that the sentence wants to show how fragrant Savannah’s hair is.

4. “*Water poured off all sides of the house like waterfalls.*”

Explanation:

The sentence “*Water poured off all sides of the house like waterfalls*” is categorized as *Simile*. The word ‘*like*’ at the sentence is pointing a simile. *Water* (a liquid without color, smell, or taste that falls as rain, is in lakes, rivers, and seas, and is used for drinking, washing, etc) *poured off* (fall heavily) *all sides of the house like waterfalls* (a stream or river that falls from a height). As well known that ‘*rain*’ and ‘*waterfall*’ are two things that absolutely different. Semantically, the rain is not like waterfall, but the characteristic of the rain is like waterfall. The author compares the rain condition like waterfalls. Because of the rain was so heavy, the flowing water rapidly drops as same as waterfalls. The characteristics of waterfall are powerful, tight, and heavy.
In the novel, the rain was heavy; a sheet of rain broke from the clouds. Lightning flashed, and the thunder crashed loudly so the rain as same as waterfalls.

5. “Lightning flashed again, closer this time, and thunder crashed like a cannon.”

Explanation:

The sentence “Lightning flashed again, closer this time, and thunder crashed like a cannon” is categorized as Simile. The word ‘like’ at the sentence is pointing a simile. Lightning flashed again, closer this time, and thunder (a loud noise in the sky when there is a storm) like a cannon (an old type of big gun that fires big stone or metal). As well known that ‘thunder’ and ‘cannon’ are two things that absolutely different. Semantically, the thunder is not like cannon, but the characteristic of the thunder is like cannon. It explains a deep rumbling sound crashed loudly in the sky. It has the similarity with a cannon that fired solid metal balls loudly. The author defines that the sentence wants to show how loud the crash of thunder is.

In the novel, the sound of the thunder deafened John and Savannah’s ears and also the windows rattled in their casings.

6. “The sensation of her skin against mine was like fire.”

Explanation:

The sentence “The sensation of her skin against mine was like fire” is categorized as Simile. The word ‘like’ at the sentence is pointing a simile. The
sensation (a physical feeling) of her skin (the substance that covers the outside of person or an animal’s body) against (touching somebody or something) mine was like fire (the heat and bright like that comes from burning things). As well known that ‘sensation’ and ‘fire’ are two things that absolutely different. Semantically, the sensation is not like fire, but the characteristic of the sensation is like fire. The author tries to describe the sensation of Savannah’s skin against John’s skin has the similarity with fire which is hot, blazed, and full of passion.

In the novel, their (John and Savannah) passion were so hot and powerful when they began to make love. They were really enthusiastic showing their love each other.

7. “Our relationship, I felt with a heaviness in my chest, was beginning to feel like the spinning movement of a child’s top.”

Explanation:

The sentence “Our relationship, I felt with a heaviness in my chest, was beginning to feel like the spinning movement of a child’s top” is categorized as Simile. The word ‘like’ at the sentence is pointing a simile. Our relationship, I felt with a heaviness in my chest (John’s relationship problem), was beginning to feel like the spinning movement (turn round quickly movement) of a child’s top (the children’s toy). As well known that ‘feeling’ and ‘child’s top’ are two things that absolutely different. Semantically, the feeling is not like child’s top, but the characteristic of the feeling is like child’s top. The author is intended to compare their (John and Savannah) relationship and spinning movement of a child’s top.
When they were together, they had the power to keep it spinning, and the result was beauty and magic and an almost child like sense of wonder; when they separated, the spinning began inevitably to slow. They became wobbly and unstable and John knew he had to find a way to keep them from toppling over.

In the novel, John is confused about his relationship with Savannah. Though John knew she loved and cared for him, he suddenly understood that even love and caring weren’t always enough. They were the concrete bricks of their relationship, but unstable without the mortar of time spent together, time without the threat of imminent separation hanging over them.

8. “I’d seen blood pooling in the streets like rain.”

Explanation:

The sentence “I’d seen blood pooling in the streets like rain” is categorized as Simile. The word ‘like’ at the sentence is pointing a simile. I’d seen (know or notice something using your eyes) blood pooling (a shallow patch of the red liquid inside your body) in the street (a road in a city, town or village with buildings along the sides) like rain (the water that falls from the sky). As well known that ‘blood’ and ‘rain’ are two things that absolutely different. Semantically, the blood is not like rain, but the characteristic of the blood is like rain. It means that the author intended to describe the blood flow in large quantities in the street. So, the author compared the blood pooling with rain, which is heavy and heap.
In the novel, there has been a fierce battle between United States and Iraq. Shots would ring out, John’s squad would attack and there were times they were not even sure who they were shooting at consequently. There were many casuals and blood pooling in the street. Besides that, it caused the charred remains of a truck, the driver’s lifeless body beside it; a partially demolished building; ruins of cars smoking here and there.

9. “By then my throat was tight as a drum, and it took everything I had to simply shake my head and decline.”

Explanation:

The sentence “By then my throat was tight as a drum, and it took everything I had to simply shake my head and decline” is categorized as Simile. The word ‘as’ at the sentence is pointing a simile. By then my throat (the part inside your neck that takes food and air down from your mouth into your body) was tight (stretched or hard to move) as drum (a musical instrument that you hit with special sticks or with your hand), and it took everything I had to simply shake my head and decline. As well known that ‘throat’ and ‘drum’ are two things that absolutely different. Semantically, the throat is not like drum, but the characteristic of the throat is like drum. The author compares John’s throat condition like a drum, which is closed and crammed tightly.

In the novel, John can’t say anything when his dad died. In John’s father funeral, only some relatives attended so that it broke his heart. He kept silent
completely to everybody in that day. It is really hard saying some words for him. It means John has confronted many problems in his life.

10. “The red wine trapped the light like the facet of a ruby.”

Explanation:

The sentence “The red wine trapped the light like the facet of a ruby” is categorized as Simile. The word ‘like’ at the sentence is pointing a simile. The red wine (an alcoholic drink) trapped (catch) the light (natural force that makes things visible) like the facet of a ruby (any of the many sides of a cut dark red stone that is used in jewelry). As well known that ‘red wine’ and ‘ruby are two things that absolutely different. Semantically, the red wine is not like ruby, but the characteristic of the red wine is like ruby. The red wine is very shiny and luminous. The surface of the ruby is shiny as if it can catch the light. The red wine as though the red diamond in which many people love it. The comparisons between ‘the red wine’ and ‘the facet of a ruby’ have the similarity of their transparency, clarity, and color. Both of them are bright, clear, and red. So, the author describes them because they have same characteristics.

b) Metaphor (Table 2)

Metaphor is the comparison between things that are not conveyed obviously.

11. “The sky was a swirl of fruity colors that contrasted dramatically with the evening skies.”
Explanation:

The sentence “The sky was a swirl of fruity colors that contrasted dramatically with the evening skies” is categorized as Metaphor. The sky (the space above the earth where you can see the sun, moon, and stars) was a swirl (mixture) of fruity color. As well known that ‘sky’ and ‘a swirl of fruity color’ are two things that absolutely different. Semantically, ‘the sky’ is impossible like ‘a swirl of fruity colors’ because the appearance of the sky usually is blue in the morning or white if there are many clouds, orange in the evening, and black in the night. ‘Fruity colors’ is full of colors identically. By using ‘fruity color’ in the sentence, the author tries to create imagination of color to the readers’ mind. It evokes the readers to feel how fruity color represents colorful, bright, and wonderful sky.

In the novel, the sky in Wilmington was very wonderful, colorful, and bright, although it was the evening sky. It contrasted with the sky in Germany, the John’s duty country. The sun was beginning its slow descent make the sky was more wonderful.

12. “She was a tiger in the sack, right?”

Explanation:

The sentence “She was a tiger in the sack, right?” is categorized as Metaphor. She was a tiger (a wild animal like a big cat with yellow fur and black stripes) in the sack (a bed), right? As well known that ‘human’ and ‘tiger’ are two things that absolutely different. This expression shows case of metaphor by using
noun ‘tiger’ for noun ‘human’. Semantically, the human is not like tiger, but the characteristic of the human is like tiger. What is one characteristic of tiger? It is a wild animal. It is also a carnivore so it can pounce and eat its prey at anytime. So, we can imagine if Savannah is ‘a tiger in the sack’, she is a woman that full of lust in making love. Through the figure of speech, the readers will understand that Savannah is a wild and hot woman in the bed implicitly.

13. “I could feel her fingers through the thin fabric of my shirt and felt her tug gently, exposing the skin of my stomach. The sensation was electric.”

Explanation:

The sentence “The sensation was electric” is categorized as Metaphor. The sensation (a feeling in one’s body resulting from something that happens or is done to it) was electric (using or providing electricity). As well known that ‘the sensation’ and ‘electric’ are two things that absolutely different. This expression shows case of metaphor by using adjective ‘electric’ for noun ‘sensation’. Semantically, the sensation is not like electric, but the effect of the sensation is like electric. The effect of an electric current suddenly passing through the body and causing sudden excitement. The author intends to describe two main characters (John and Savannah) is a romantic couple. It also provokes readers’ mind to imagine the romantic and beautiful story appeared in the novel.

In the novel, Savannah’s touching to John was really emotionally exciting. John savored her touch and thrilled with delight when her fingers through the thin fabric of John’s shirt. It was the first moment of their making love.
c) Personification (Table 5)

Personification is consisting in giving the attributes of a human being to an animal, an object, or a concept.

14. “**The green refrigerator seemed to scream** that it didn’t belong.”

**Explanation:**

The sentence “**The green refrigerator seemed to scream** that it didn’t belong” is categorized as Personification. The **green refrigerator** (a cabinet for storing food or other substances at a low temperature) **seemed** (give the impression of being) **to scream** (make a loud high cry that shows you are afraid or hurt) **that it didn’t belong** (have a proper or suitable place). The verb ‘scream’ is usually human activity. In the word ‘the green refrigerator’ here at the sentence ‘**The green refrigerator seemed to scream** that it didn’t belong’ has the attributes of human being. It can scream as if it is alive. It can do activity like human being.

In the novel, John’s old bedroom was really messy and dusty. There were many useless stuffs, such as the dusty trophies on his shelf, half-empty bottle of Wild Turkey in the back of his underwear drawer, and the old television that picked up only four blurry channels. There was also a green refrigerator. Those useless stuffs makes the green refrigerator as though it lived and seemed to scream because it didn’t belong there. It wanted to have put in a proper place.

15. “**We started toward the dune, where the stars would lead us up to the pier.**”

**Explanation:**
The sentence “The stars would lead us up to the pier” is categorized as Personification. We started toward the dune, where the stars (one of the small bright lights that you see in the sky at night) would lead us up (guide or conduct Savannah and her friends) to the pier (a long structure that is built from the land into the sea, where people can walk or get on and off boats). The verb ‘lead up’ at the sentence ‘The stars would lead us up to the pier’ is usually for human being. This time, the word ‘stars’ has the attribute of human being. It can lead up somebody as same as humans. The God gives only to human being who is able to lead up as they like.

In the novel, at night the stars were shining in the sky when Savannah and her friends started toward the dune. The stars helped them to find the way in the dark night.

16. “In its boughs, I saw the fruit with light yellow skin. I imagined their pink edible flesh. Quickly, the fruit filled my hungry stomach.”

Explanation:

The sentence “The fruit filled my hungry stomach” is categorized as Personification. The fruit (the part of tree that contains the seed and is used as food) filled (occupy all the space in) my hungry stomach (hunger bag-like part of alimentary canal into which food passes to be digested). The verb ‘filled’ is usually done by human being. The word ‘fruit’ at the sentence ‘the fruit filled my hungry stomach’ is imputing human quality. The word ‘fruit’ can fill a meal to
someone and make them satisfied like a human can serve to someone else and make them satisfied.

The fruit is like a usual meal. It can be eaten. The fruits exist on the tree having many vitamins and advantages for humans who want to be health.

2) Figures of Contrast

   d) Hyperbole (Table 3)

   Hyperbole is a rhetorical term for exaggeration or overstatement, usually deliberate and not meant to be taken too literary.

17. “My dad had one of the steadiest, solid-citizen jobs on the planet.”

Explanation:

   The sentence “My dad had one of the steadiest, solid-citizen jobs on the planet” is categorized as Hyperbole. My dad (father) had (to own or keep something) one of the steadiest (firmly in position), solid-citizen job (the upstanding and dependable civil profession) on the planet (earth). In that sentence, the author wants to emphasize someone who has a tremendous job by saying ‘one of the steadiest, solid-citizen jobs on the planet’. Semantically, the sentence is out of our mind. How can the person who is a around the world postman can go around the world? How can the postman be the best civil profession on the earth? In fact, the job of the person is really useful and advantageous for the country. The person delivered packages and mail everyday pleasantly. The author used an exaggerated statement to create a strong emotional response of the readers.
In the novel, John’s dad is a postman. He drove a mail delivery route for the post office. He left the house every morning at exactly 7:35 a.m. He was dropping packages and bunches of mail into the mailboxes along his route.

18. “The kiss that followed was like its own magic kingdom, complete with its special language and geography, fabulous myths and wonders for the ages.”

Explanation:

The sentence “The kiss that followed was like its own magic kingdom, complete with its special language and geography, fabulous myths and wonders for the ages” is categorized as Hyperbole. The kiss (to touch somebody with your lips to show love or to say hello or goodbye) that followed was like its own magic (a special or supernatural power) kingdom (a country where a king or queen rules). The author creates imagination to build the romantic love story between Savannah and John. The sentence that Savannah’s kiss to John was like its magic kingdom, complete with its special language and geography, fabulous myths and wonders for the ages. It does not mean like that. It means the kiss was really spectacular, fantastic, and extraordinary.

The figure of speech describes how sensational and awesome their kiss. Moreover, the readers can conclude that John loved her not only more than the last time he’d seen her, but more than he would ever love anyone. In the novel, in June 2001, John was given his leave and left for home immediately. Savannah had promised to pick him up at the airport. When they met at the airport, Savannah
came running at full tilt, jumped into John’s arms and kissed him. She really missed him so much because they separated almost a year.

19. “Savannah, always Savannah, everything on this trip, everything about my life, I realized, always led back to her.”

Explanation:

The sentence “Savannah, always Savannah, everything on this trip, everything about my life, I realized, always led back to her” is categorized as Hyperbole. Savannah, always Savannah, everything on this trip, everything about my life, I realized (understand or know something), always led back (return) to her. The sentence exaggerates that John’s life is full of Savannah, nothing for else. It is impossible, but it can be possible thing as the people who are falling in love like Savannah and John. The hyperbolic sentence means how strong and powerful John’s love feeling to Savannah. Savannah had a different role to play in his life. Everything about her always plays in John’s mind.

The author wants the readers know how strong John’s feeling to Savannah that on his mind, there is only one name ‘Savannah’. Moreover, in that statement, the author also hopes the readers can feel their (John and Savannah) powerful true love.

20. “Day by day, we got closer. Finally, we pledged to sail together in the ocean of love, aiming to reach the Promised Land.”

Explanation:
The sentence “We pledged to sail together in the ocean of love” is categorized as Hyperbole. *We pledge to sail together* (promise each other to move forward across the sea in company) *in the ocean of love* (the great body of water full of fondness). The sentence “the ocean of love” is a hyperbole form. The author symbolizes the words ‘the ocean of love’ as the people who are falling in love. Semantically, the ocean is a preserve of large region of seawater. This time, however, the ocean is not containing of seawater, instead of full love.

In the novel, the words ‘ocean of love’ is symbolizing two people (John and Savannah) loving each other, so they will live together forever. Those words are not only symbolizing it, but it means that they will face any problems and solve them together.

e) Litotes (Table 4)

Litotes is the expression that made something seems smaller than the real.

21. “I’m just an underpaid grunt in the army.”

Explanation:

The sentence “I’m just an underpaid grunt in the army” is categorized as Litotes. *I’m just an underpaid* (get low salary) *grunt in the army* (an infantryman in the US military). The word ‘underpaid’ emphasizes as if someone has a low position in the job and gets low salary. By describing ‘I’m just an underpaid grunt in the army’ as sign of negative image, the sentence is smaller than its real.
Obviously, someone said like that to someone else only to humiliate himself/herself.

In the novel, John is taking Savannah to eat at the Shrimp Shack in downtown Wilmington. However, he takes Savannah to eat there because it is a really good recommended place. That place is famous for shrimp, every kind of shrimp; grilled, sautéed, barbecued, Cajun shrimp, lemon shrimp, shrimp creole, shrimp cocktail. In the fact, Savannah liked the place. In that place, John says that he is just an underpaid grunt in the army. From the sentence, the readers will get negative idea about John. Nevertheless, it will make speculation in readers’ mind since the sentence has two sights; negative and positive sight. It depends on the readers’ mind.

22. "When I think of you and me and what we shared, I know it would be easy for others to dismiss our time together as simply a by-product of the days and nights spent by the sea, a “fling” that, in the long run, would mean absolutely nothing."

Explanation:

The sentence “When I think of you and me and what we shared, I know it would be easy for others to dismiss our time together as simply a by-product of the days and nights spent by the sea, a “fling” that, in the long run, would mean absolutely nothing” is categorized as Litotes. A “fling” (quick love) that, in the long run (long period), would mean (convey) absolutely nothing (without a good result). The sentence is understatement because it is described in a negative way.
The word ‘fling’ emphasizes a negative statement, then the readers will get negative idea, however it has another point or idea.

In the novel, by describing their (John and Savannah) love relationship as ‘a ‘fling’ that, in the long run, would mean absolutely nothing.’ Because of they knew each other in the sea so people maybe think their time together as simply a by-product of the days and nights by the sea. However, in Savannah’s heart, she knows how real their love was. When she think of John, she cannot help smiling, knowing that John has completed her somehow. She loves him, not just for now, but for always, and she dreams of the day that he will take her in his arms again. The figure of speech conveys that they (John and Savannah) have strong love feeling to have belong each other. They want to be together all the time spending their life not just for now, but for always. John is the best thing that’s ever happened to Savannah.

f) Irony (Table 6)

Irony is a rhetoric words with an implication opposite to their usual meaning.

23. “What’s wrong?” She asked.

“Nothing”, I lied.

Explanation:

The sentence “What’s wrong?” She asked. “Nothing”, I lied” is categorized as Irony. The sentence explains someone lied by saying ‘nothing’ because he/she did not want to make someone else was worried. He/she
neutralized the bad situation and considered that there was none of the bad thing happened.

In the novel, John was disappointed because Savannah was really busy in her activities at campus, even John was ignored. In the fact, John wanted to spend some one-on-one time with her and decided to surprise her with a special night out. While she was in class and working on the case study, John went to the mall and dropped a small fortune on a new suit and tie and another small fortune on shoes. He made dinner reservations; five stars, exotic menu, nattily dressed waiters, the whole shebang. So, when Savannah asked him about his gloominess, John tried to say nothing.

24. “It looks great.”

Explanation:

The sentence “It looks great” is categorized as Irony. The sentence explains someone in bad condition, but someone else tried to make a better condition by saying ‘it looks great’. Unfortunately, the condition was going worse, and then someone says that expression as if the condition was better.

In the novel, John visited Savannah’s house and said ‘it looks great’. He was just being polite to Savannah. In the real, it was an old house. It was kind of like the barn. Savannah told about her house, she and her husband (Tim) must remodel heat pumps, thermal windows, fixing the termite damage. There were puddles in the living room and bedrooms every time it rained. They had to
prioritize and one of the first thing they did was to tear all the old shingles from the roof.

3) Figures of Association

   g) Metonymy (Table 7)

       Metonymy is the use of name of thing that involves to thing that will make concept to readers mind.

25. *I don’t surf much anymore even on leave, but on my days off I ride my Harley north or south, wherever my mood strikes me.*

   **Explanation:**

   The sentence “*I don’t surf much anymore even on leave, but on my days off I ride my Harley north or south, wherever my mood strikes me*” is categorized as **Metonymy**. In that sentence, the author uses the label ‘Harley’ to describe or replace the original term ‘Heavyweight Motorcycle’. It is common to people to take well-understood of this label due to its famous label.

   Harley Davidson, often abbreviated H-D or Harley, is an American motorcycle manufacturer. The company sells heavyweight (over 750 cc) motorcycles designed for cruising on the highway. Harleys have a distinctive design and exhaust note. They are especially noted for the tradition of heavy customization that gave rise to the chopper style of motorcycle.\(^{54}\)

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In the novel, the Harley was the single best thing John has ever bought for himself. He has lost his father, his soulmate (Savannah), and his buddies so only the Harley accompanies him. He doesn’t surf much anymore, but on his days off he rides his Harley anywhere. By using metonymy ‘Harley’, the author transfers the idea of John is a unique man because he likes the chopper style of motorcycle.

26. Most people who go to the beach on vacation feel most at home when they can find a **McDonald’s or Burger King** nearby.

**Explanation:**

The sentence “Most people who go to the beach on vacation feel most at home when they can find a McDonald’s or Burger King nearby” is categorized as **Metonymy**. McDonald’s and Burger King are metonymic usage of original word ‘Hamburger Fast Food Restaurant’.

McDonald’s corporation is the world’s largest chain of hamburger fast food restaurants, serving more than 58 million customers daily. McDonald’s primarily sells hamburgers, cheeseburgers, chicken products, french fries, breakfast items, soft drinks, shakes, and desserts. In response to changing consumer tastes, the company has expanded its menu to include salads, wraps, and fruit.\(^5\) On the other hand, the Burger King menu has evolved from a basic offering of burgers, french fries, sodas, and milkshakes.\(^6\)

In the novel, Wrightsville beach is one of the most popular beaches in the Wilmington so there are McDonald’s and Burger King nearby. Both of those famous fast food restaurants are always established in strategic places. By metonymy usage above, the readers can conclude that the Wrightsville beach is one of the recreation place in Wilmington. Many visitors come to there in holiday. In case the little ones aren’t too fond of the local fare, and want more than a couple of choices so they find McDonald’s or Burger King.

27. I was up most of the night, and I’d rather not have the caffeine.

Explanation:

The sentence “I was up most of the night, and I’d rather not have the caffeine” is categorized as Metonymy. Caffeine in the sentence metonymic word of ‘coffee’. Caffeine is bitter substance found in coffee, tea, soft drinks, chocolate, kola nuts, and certain medicines. It has many effects on the body’s metabolism, including stimulating the central nervous system. This can make you more alert and give you a boost of energy.\(^\text{57}\)

In the novel, Savannah’s best friend, Tim, comes to John’s house to explain about what happened last night clearly. Tim and John involved in the quarrel that causes he has a wide strip of medical tape bridged in his nose and the skin surrounding both his eyes was bruised and swollen. The figure of speech describes John’s kindness to ask Tim a cup of coffee when Tim visited his house.

in early morning, but Tim refused it because he’s hoping to lie down when he get back to the house.

28. Occasionally, I grabbed a couple of **bagels or croissants**.

**Explanation:**

The sentence “Occasionally, I grabbed a couple of bagels or croissants” is categorized as *Metonymy*. Bagel and croissant are ‘bread products’. A bagel is traditionally shaped by hand into the form of ring from yeasted wheat dough, roughly hand-sized, which is first boiled for a short time in water and then baked. The result is a dense, chewy, doughy interior with a browned and sometimes crisp exterior. Bagels are often topped with seeds baked on the outer crust, with the traditional ones being poppy or sesame seeds. Some also may have salt sprinkled on their surface, and there are also a number of different dough types such as whole-grain or rye.\(^{58}\)

On the other hand, a croissant is a buttery flaky bread named for its distinctive crescent shape. Croissants are made of a leavened variant of puff pastry. The yeast dough is layered with butter, rolled, and folded several times in succession, then rolled into a sheet, a technique called laminating.\(^{59}\)

In the novel, in June 2001, John was given his leave and stayed in Savannah’s hometown, Lenoir, for some days. In the morning, he woke up and would start a pot of coffee before trotting down to the corner to pick up the

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newspaper. He also bought some bagels and croissants. By metonymy usage above, the readers can know bagels and croissants are popular bread product in Savannah’s hometown, Lenoir. Those bakery products are available in many major supermarket or bakery in the country. The readers also know that bagels and croissants are bread products without more explanation from the author.

29. *But you drank* **tequila**, **right**?

**Explanation:**

The sentence “*But you drank tequila, right?*” is categorized as *Metonymy*. It is generally known that tequila is ‘alcoholic drink’. Tequila is a spirit made from the blue agave plant, primarily in the area surrounding the city of Tequila, 65 kilometers (40 mi) northwest of Guadalajara, and in the highlands of the western Mexican state of Jalisco. The red volcanic soil in the surrounding region is particularly well suited to the growing of the blue agave, and more than 300 million of the plants are harvested there each year.

Tequila is most often made at a 38-40% alcohol content (76-80 proof), but can be produced between 35-55% alcohol content (70-110 proof). Though most tequilas are 80 proof, many distillers will distill to 100 proof and then dilute it with water to reduce its harshness. Some of the more well respected brands distill the alcohol to 80 proof without using additional water as a dilutent.60

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In the novel, John’s friend, Tony, teased John endlessly, smug in the belief that he’d finally been proven right about the importance of female companionship. Tony wanted to know more about Savannah and John’s wild vacation romance with her. He also asked whether John drank tequila or not. The figure of speech shows tequila is an alcoholic drink that can make the drinker get more energy and passion in making love. The ‘tequila’ name is well-known, especially for drinkers.
CHAPTER IV

CONCLUSIONS AND SUGGESTIONS

A. Conclusion

From #1 New York Times bestselling author Nicholas Sparks comes an unforgettable tale of a man who must make the most heartrending decision of his life—in the name of love, *Dear John*. *Dear John*, published by Warner Books, New York, tells the love story of John Tyree and Savannah Lynn Curtis. When Savannah comes into his life, John knows he is ready to turn over a new leaf. An angry rebel, he had enlisted in the army after high school, not knowing what else to do. Then, during a furlough, he meets Savannah, the girl of his dreams. The attraction is mutual and quickly grows into the kind of love that leaves Savannah vowing to wait for John while he finishes his tour of duty. But neither can foresee that 9/11 is about to change the world. Like so many proud men and women, John must choose between love and country. Now, when he finally returns to North Carolina, John will discover how love can transform us in ways we never could have imagined.

The writer analyzes the passages of novel which contain figure of speech from that story. The analyses are including the detection of figure of speech, the determination of kind of them, and the explanation of their meaning.

Briefly, the most common figures of speech may be grouped in three categories: figures of comparison, figures of contrast, and figures of association.
The writer wants to propose only eight types of figurative language in the novel. There are simile, metaphor, personification, irony, hyperbole, litotes, metonymy, and synecdoche. Based on the analysis of 30 sentences in *Dear John* novel by Nicholas Sparks that has been made, the writer found 10 simile forms, 3 metaphor forms, 4 hyperbole forms, 2 litotes forms, 4 personification forms, 2 irony forms, 5 metonymy forms, and 0 synecdoche form. Mostly, the simile forms used by an author in making his novel. Figures of speech not only help the author to deliver the expressions and thoughts to the readers, then the readers can feel and imagine the story in the novel, but also help the readers to understand the meaning and content of the novel.

The conclusion is supported by the result that using figures of speech is showing the creation of interesting image, giving language construction, and style. The last, the writer points that understanding the concept of each expression is the most important thing to understand and conceive the expression’s meaning.

**B. Suggestion**

So far, through the analysis has been conducted carefully, the writer is going to suggest to the readers have to know the branches of linguistics, especially the study of stylistics. Usually, in reading literary work many readers know from aspect meaning and their understanding about the content of story. The readers, however, do not realize about another side, there are many interesting ways in reading literary work.

One way is recognizing non-literal meaning, stylistics. Stylistics is close to literary criticism and practical criticism. By far the most common kind of
material studied is literary, and attention is largely text-centred. Moreover, the
texts popularly studied tend to be those regarded as important in English studies.
Stylistics also draws eclectically on trends in literary theory.
BIBLIOGRAPHY

Books


**Website**


a) Cover of *Dear John* Novel and DVD
b) Synopsis of *Dear John* Novel

Savannah (*Amanda Seyfried*) is on the pier with friends when her purse falls into the ocean. John (*Channing Tatum*), who doesn't know Savannah, is standing nearby, sees the purse fall and watches as her date tries to figure out how to recover it. Taking matters into his own hands, John dives off the pier, gets the purse, and brings it back to shore, as sparkling in the sun as he shakes off the water and hands it back to its appreciative owner.

Savannah is smitten by her purse's savior, and John finds this blonde cutie to be quite to his liking. Her 'date', Randy (his name and disposition), isn't really her date but just a wannabe boyfriend who hangs around hoping she'll notice they're meant to be together. She doesn't. She likes John, a Green Beret home on leave who used to have anger issues. And thus a relationship is born. They spend two weeks getting to know each other, donating time to rebuild a home that was destroyed, hanging out with Savannah's neighbor (a single dad with a young autistic son), and John's dad, a widow who apparently has gone through his whole life never being diagnosed as autistic until college student Savannah points out the obvious. Then John heads off to some foreign post and Savannah heads back to college, but they agree to exchange open, honest letters as often as possible.

Through the letters they learn more about each other (and so does the audience), and John's just counting down the days until he gets out and can be with Savannah forever. But then the unimaginable happens. America's attacked and John makes the tough decision to reenlist, believing his happiness should come second to defending his country. Savannah's upset, yet she understands.
But John and Savannah have the odds stacked against them. It's really hard to sustain a long-distance relationship, and even more difficult when the person you're involved with is someone you've actually only seen in person for what amounts to less than a month. And there is the fact that the movie is called *Dear John* and we all know what a 'Dear John' letter is...

c) Biography of Nicholas Sparks

Nicholas Charles Sparks was born in Omaha, Nebraska, on December 31, 1965, the second son of Patrick Michael (1942-1996) and Jill Emma Marie (Thoene) Sparks (1942-1989). His siblings are Michael Earl Sparks (b. Dec. 1964), and Danielle Sparks (December 1966 - June 2000). As a child, he lived in Minnesota, Los Angeles, and Grand Island, Nebraska, finally settling in Fair Oaks, California, at the age of eight. His father was a professor, his mother a homemaker, then an optometrist’s assistant. He lived in Fair Oaks through high school, graduated valedictorian in 1984, and received a full track scholarship to the University of Notre Dame.

After breaking the Notre Dame school record as part of a relay team in 1985 as a freshman (a record which still stands), he was injured and spent the summer recovering. During that summer, he wrote his first novel, though it was never published. He majored in Business Finance and graduated with high honors in 1988.
He and his wife Catherine, who met on spring break in 1988, were married in July 1989. While living in Sacramento, he wrote a second novel that same year, though that novel wasn’t published, either. He worked a variety of jobs over the next three years, including real estate appraisal, waiting tables, selling dental products by phone, and starting his own small manufacturing business which struggled from the beginning. In 1990, he collaborated on a book with Billy Mills, the Olympic Gold Medalist, and it was published by Feather Publishing before later being picked up by Random House. (It was recently re-issued by Hay House Books.) Though it received scant publicity, sales topped 50,000 copies in the first year of release.

He began selling pharmaceuticals and moved from Sacramento, California to North Carolina in 1992. In 1994, at the age of 28, he wrote The Notebook over a period of six months. In October 1995, rights to The Notebook were sold to Warner Books. It was published in October 1996, and he followed that with Message in a Bottle (1998), A Walk to Remember (1999), The Rescue (2000), A Bend in the Road (2001), Nights in Rodanthe (2002), The Guardian (2003), The Wedding (2003), True Believer (2005), At First Sight (a sequel to True Believer) (2005), Dear John (2006), The Choice (2007), The Lucky One (2008) and a non-fiction memoir, Three Weeks With My Brother (2004), written with his brother, Micah. All of his books were published with Warner Books / Grand Central Publishing. All were domestic and international best sellers, and his work has been translated into more than 35 languages. The Last Song was released in September 2009.
The film version of *Message in a Bottle* was released in 1999, *A Walk to Remember* was released in January 2002, *The Notebook*, a New Line feature film, was released in June, 2004, and *Nights in Rodanthe*, starring Richard Gere and Diane Lane, was released in September 2008. Two new films are in the works: *Dear John*, starring Channing Tatum, and *The Last Song*, starring Miley Cyrus. Both have tentative release dates of early 2010. Warner Brothers snapped up the rights to *The Lucky One*, with plans to begin filming in late 2009.

Nicholas’ ancestry is German, Czech, English and Irish; he’s 5’10” and weighs 185 lbs. He is an avid athlete who exercises daily. He attends church regularly and reads approximately 125 books a year. He contributes to a variety of local and national charities, and is a major contributor to the Creative Writing Program (MFA) at the University of Notre Dame, where he provides scholarships, internships, and a fellowship annually. Along with his wife, he founded The Epiphany School in New Bern, North Carolina, and he spent five years coaching track and field athletes at the local public high school. Nicholas lives in North Carolina with his wife and family.