

## Intrinsic Elements in *Memories* Poem by Geoffrey Bache Smith

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**Abstract.** Poetry is literary work that expresses a focused creative awareness of reality using words that have been chosen and arranged to elicit a particular emotional response by their meaning, sound, and rhythm. This article provides an analysis and aims to explore the intrinsic elements, which are symbol, imagery and figurative language presented in a poem by Geoffrey Bache Smith entitled *Memories*. The poem is about a soldier who missed his best friends in war and recalled the past memories with them. The method used for this study is descriptive qualitative method and used Kennedy (1995) intrinsic elements concept as the theory. Various sources such as undergraduate thesis, articles, books, and internet sources are used to provide further information. The final result demonstrates the intrinsic elements which are symbol, imagery and figurative language presented in a poem. It can be concluded that there are intrinsic elements in this poem, namely ten images consisting of nine visual images and one auditory imagery; two symbols; and two types of figurative language.

**Keywords:** poetry, intrinsic elements, *Memories*, Geoffrey Bache Smith, figurative language

**Abstrak.** Puisi adalah karya sastra yang mengungkapkan kesadaran kreatif yang terfokus pada realitas dengan menggunakan kata-kata yang telah dipilih dan disusun untuk memperoleh respons emosional tertentu melalui makna, bunyi, dan iramanya. Artikel ini memberikan penjelasan analisis dan bertujuan untuk mengeksplorasi unsur-unsur intrinsik, yaitu simbol, citra, dan bahasa kiasan yang disajikan dalam puisi karya Geoffrey Bache Smith berjudul *Memories*. Puisi ini mengisahkan tentang seorang prajurit yang merindukan sahabatnya dalam perang dan mengingat kembali kenangan masa lalu bersama mereka. Metode yang digunakan dalam penelitian ini adalah metode kualitatif deskriptif dan menggunakan konsep unsur intrinsik Kennedy (1995) sebagai teorinya. Berbagai sumber seperti skripsi, artikel, buku, dan sumber internet digunakan untuk memberikan informasi lebih lanjut. Hasil akhir menunjukkan unsur intrinsik berupa simbol, citraan dan bahasa kiasan yang disajikan dalam puisi ini. Dapat disimpulkan bahwa terdapat unsur intrinsik dalam puisi ini yaitu sepuluh citraan yang terdiri dari sembilan citraan visual dan satu citraan auditori; dua simbol; dan dua jenis bahasa kiasan.

**Kata kunci:** puisi, unsur intrinsik, *Memories*, Geoffrey Bache Smith, Bahasa kiasan

### BACKGROUND

Poetry is literary work that expresses a focused creative awareness of reality using words that have been chosen and arranged to elicit a particular emotional response by their meaning, sound, and rhythm. Poetry is one of the most popular literary works. Reading poetry can provide its own pleasure for poetry fans. As quoted from Mr. Keating's words in *Dead Poet Society* (1989) movie,

*“We don't read and write poetry because it's cute, we read and write poetry because we are members of the human race, and the human race is filled with passion. And medicine, law, business, engineering, these are noble pursuits and necessary to sustain life. But poetry, beauty, romance, love, these are what we stay alive for.”*

The language used in poetry is quite difficult to understand for some people because it uses figurative language. The emotional content of poem is presented using a number of styles, ranging from direct description to symbolism, as well as metaphor and simile. The reason the writer chose this poem is because Geoffrey Bache Smith's poems are rarely analysed and the poet's name is not well known to poetry fans.

Previous studies have been conducted relating to this topic to gain better understanding in intrinsic elements of poetry. Mulyati (2018) analysed five William Blakes's poems limited to diction, figure of speech, and theme. The study discovered two kinds of diction, denotation and connotation; figure of speech; theme; and symbols in the five William Blakes's poems. Recent studies have revealed a significant understanding of intrinsic elements of poetry. These studies are relevant for this research because this research analysed the same topic about intrinsic elements of poetry.

Therefore, this research aims to analyse a poem so that readers know the meaning contained in the poem, in this case a poem entitled *Memories* by Geoffrey Bache Smith. Based on the stated above, this study focused on investigation how the symbol and imagery reflected in *Memories* and how is the figurative language reflected in the poem.

## **THEORETICAL FRAMEWORK**

The main theory used in this study was proposed by Kennedy (1995). It is used to analyse the intrinsic elements in literary works including poem, namely imagery, symbol, and figurative language.

### **1. Imagery**

Despite the fact that the word "image" implies a thing seen, when discussing imagery in poetry, someone typically refer to a phrase or series of words that refer to any sensory experience. This experience is frequently a visual one (visual imagery), but it can also be an auditory one (auditory imagery) or a tactile one (a perception of roughness or smoothness). Images and imagery can mean many different things.

Imagery is the use of words to describe things, actions, emotions, thoughts, ideas, states of mind, and any extrasensory or sensory experience.

## 2. Symbol

Kennedy (1995) stated a symbol is a visible object or action that suggests some further meaning in addition to itself. Conventional symbols are also a component of poetry's language, as we can see when we find the red rose, a symbol of enduring love. However, symbols in literature more frequently have unique meanings rather than conventional, well-established ones. A literary symbol is a combination of an image and a concept. It could be public or private, global or local. They exist, in a sense.

## 3. Figurative Language

A figure of speech or often called figurative language occurs when a speaker or writer breaks from the standard denotations of words for the sake of novelty or emphasis. Figurative language frequently describes facts that more literal language cannot convey; they draw attention to such truths; they emphasise them. Figurative language must be distinguished from literal language. There are several commonly found types of figurative language.

- a. Simile: A figurative language that compares one thing to another in order to clarify and enhance an image or simply a comparison of two things. Some connective, usually 'like', 'as', or 'than', is used to convey this. A simile expresses a similarity.
- b. Metaphor: A figurative language which state that one thing is mean to be something else, which it is not (in a literal sense). In comparison, a simile makes the similarity obvious while metaphor usually implicit.
- c. Personification: A figurative language that imitate a quality or abstraction; give inanimate objects human characteristics. Such as, a thing, an animal, nature, etc. Personification appears to be quite common in all literatures, especially poetry. It is ingrained in many languages through the use of gender.

## METHOD

The method used in this research is descriptive qualitative method and used Kennedy (1995) intrinsic elements concept as the theory. This method was chosen because it suitable to figure out the intrinsic elements in *Memories* by Geoffrey Bache Smith. In. The primary data used in this research is the novel *Memories* by Geoffrey Bache Smith. *Memories* is one of the collected poems in a book entitled *A Spring Harvest* by Geoffrey Bache Smith edited by J.R.R. Tolkien. The book was first published in 1918. Secondary data namely thesis, articles, books, and websites that discuss intrinsic elements also used to support the research. The reason to choose the data is because in order to find the best result, the research needs to find and complete the data from various sources. The technique of collecting data was conducted with documentation technique to conduct an initial literature review to begin gathering relevant information from primary source and secondary source. The technique of data analysis was conducted by reading the poem repeatedly, identifying, and analysing all relevant data about intrinsic elements. Furthermore, the data taken from the novel then analysed using Kennedy (1995) theory on intrinsic elements. The technique of presenting the data in this research uses an informal method. It means presenting the result of the analysis by using words and sentences.

## RESULT AND DISCUSSION

### 1. Poem Presentation

#### Memories

Shapes in the mist, it is long since I saw you,  
Pale hands and faces, and quiet eyes,  
Crowned with a garland the dead years wrought you  
Out of remembrance that never dies:  
One among you is tall and supple  
Good to fight or to love beside,  
Only the stain of a deadly quarrel,  
Only that and the years divide:  
One there is with a face as honest,  
Heart as true, as the open sea,

One who never betrayed a comrade—  
Death stands now betwixt him and me.  
One I loved with a passionate longing  
Born of worship and fierce despair,  
Dreamed that Heaven were only happy  
If at length I should find him there.  
Shapes in the mist, ye see me lonely,  
Lonely and sad in the dim firelight:  
How far now to the last of all battles?  
(Listen, the guns are loud to-night!)  
Whatever comes, I will strike once surely,  
Once because of an ancient tryst,  
Once for love of your dear dead faces  
Ere I come unto you, Shapes in the mist.

A poem entitled *Memories* by Smith tells the Smith's feeling about the memories he had with his best friends. The speaker describes the characteristics of his friends in the mist. The lonely speaker had flashback and recalled the memories of his dear friends during the war, hoping that they will meet again once the war over, dead or alive.

## 2. Intrinsic Elements

### 2.1. Imagery

Imagery is the use of words to describe things, actions, emotions, thoughts, ideas, states of mind, and any extrasensory or sensory experience. Based on the findings, there are two types of imagery used in this poem, namely visual and auditory imagery.

#### 2.1.1. Visual Imagery

Visual imagery is the depiction of a visible object that can be imagined through words. There are several visual imageries in this poem, including;

- Shapes in the mist
- Pale hands and faces, and quite eyes
- Crowned with a garland
- One among you is tall and supple
- One there is with a face as honest

- Shapes in the mist, ye see me lonely
- Lonely and sad in the dim firelight
- Dead faces
- Shapes in the mist
- The open sea

The visual imagery data above shows that Smith is telling a memory when he remembers the image of his best friend but the image is not clear like a mist.

There is also a depiction of a gloomy and sad mood through words such as pale hands and faces, lonely, and dim fire light.

#### 2.1.2. Auditory Imagery

Auditory imagery is a description of an event that can be heard through words.

There is one auditory imagery in this poem.

- Listen, the guns are loud to-night!

The data above shows the use of auditory imagery through the words the guns are loud. Through these words, the reader can imagine the sound of guns shooting in a battlefield.

#### 2.2.Symbol

Kennedy (1995) stated a symbol is a visible object or action that suggests some further meaning in addition to itself. There are some symbols in this poem, they are:

- The open sea

Open sea can be interpreted as openness or honesty. Like an open sea that cannot be hidden from anything, it symbolizes the character of someone who is honest and does not keep secrets.

- Pale hands and faces, and quiet eyes

These words symbolise death.

- Shapes in the mist

Mist can be interpreted as something abstract that obscures the speaker's view. Shapes in the mist symbolize the blurring of boundaries between something that is real or just an imagination.

- Crowned with a garland

A victory is represented by the crown. In this instance, the victory in issue was attained as a result of his sacrifices made during the battle to protect their country.

### 2.3. Figurative Language

There are some figurative languages found in this poem. They are:

- Heart as true, as the open sea (**simile**)  
Here, the line considers as simile because the 'heart' is compared with the 'open sea' with the connective word 'as'.
- Death stands now betwixt him and me (**personification**)  
Here, the 'death' is made as human who can 'stand'.

## KESIMPULAN DAN SARAN

Based on the analysis, it can be concluded that in the poem by Geoffrey Bache Smith entitled *Memories*, there are found the intrinsic elements of the poem. The writer conclude that the meaning of this poem is about the speaker's loneliness and his longing to old memories of his dear friends during the war. The intrinsic elements analysed are the imagery, the symbol and figurative language. The writer founds eleven imageries which are divided into visual and auditory imagery. There are ten visual imageries and one auditory imagery. As the symbol, the writer found four symbols and found two types of figurative language which are simile and personification.

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