

Stylistic In Maya Angelou Selected Poems

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Abstract

This study aims to find out the language features and their meaning of Maya Angelou's selected poems. The study used qualitative descriptive approach by applying the theory of Geoffrey Leech's in analyzing the level of language. The results show that there were four language levels found in Maya Angelou's selected poems. The first was phonological level, which divided into alliteration, assonance, consonance, and rhyme scheme. The second was grammatical level which are simple present tense, simple present perfect tense and simple past tense to see the relation between tenses and the meaning of the poem. The third was Lexical level such as nouns, verbs, adjectives and pronouns. The semantically level consisted of figurative language were simile, hyperbole, metaphor, and imagery. For the Phenomenal Woman poem had a message for all women to convey that radiate your own beauty, without see the other woman beauty but self-confident. Our Grandmothers poem reveal that the woman avoided slaved and tell her children the worst that could happen, it was feeling injustice. Mother, a Cradle to Hold Me poem conveyed the mother love and speaker love to his mother and his afraid to lose his mother

Keywords: Language, Stylistic, Phonological, Grammatical, Lexical, Semantic, Poem



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1. INTRODUCTION

Stylistics is one of the fields of linguistics that studies the style of language both in written and spoken language. In literary works, stylistics proves the beauty of the language used in literary works and explores creativity in the use of language and in understanding the text (literature) itself. Leech and Short (2007) states that stylistics is simply defined as the study of language style. Stylistics studies style to explain something, and in general, literary stylistics aims to explain the relationship between language and artistic function. According to Memon, et al (2021) stylistics is a branch of linguistics that can be simply defined as a study of style in a text, and since style can be assumed in different ways, so there were several stylistic approaches to analyze a text. Stylistic studies show that there is a relationship between linguistics to literary works. One of the literary works that require a stylistic analysis is poetry.

Poetry is one of the creative forms in literature. It is an expression of heart voice and strong feeling that is written in beautiful stanza form and expressed with style and motion suitable with the contain so that it is performed and listened beautifully. According to Sharma (2018) Poetry is a genre of literature. Poetry retains an artistic arrangement of different sounds and senses which create particular feelings, emotions and moods of the audience or readers. It reveals beauty, mystery, feeling, emotion, sentiment etc.

One of the famous poets for his poetry full of emotions is Maya Angelou. This research conducted a study on Maya Angelou's literary work. Maya Angelou is a true master of her style, using different styles depending on the type of message that wants to convey. Maya Angelou is an American poet, storyteller, artist and one of the brightest women poets. Angelou wrote so

many poems on various themes, such as love, poverty, hope, sadness, hope, and any others. Maya Angelou was productive in literary works and was active as a human rights association.

The selected poems that the writer chose were *Our Grandmothers* (1944), *Phenomenal Woman* (1995), *Mother, A Cradle to Hold Me* (2006). These poems describe the difficulties of her life, and won many awards. Maya Angelou also published a poem entitled "Phenomenal Woman" in 1978. In 1993 Maya Angelou was invited by President Bill Clinton in his first inauguration to read her poem entitled "On the Pulse of the Morning" and the work was awarded the Grammy Awards that same year. The poem was awarded the 1994 Grammy Award in the Best Poetry Reader category.

The writer analyzed Maya Angelou's selected poems through the language features to interpret the meaning of the poem. Therefore, this research used a specific study as theoretical backgrounds. Stylistic approach is used in this present study. Stylistic in this research aims to show the language features used in Maya Angelou's selected poems and find out how those features used to reveal the meaning of the poem. Therefore, interpreting the literary work and getting the meaning behind the text, stylistic analysis is needed.

2. LITERATURE REVIEW

2.1 Previous Studies

Sari (2016) states that the phonological devices and grammatical devices which were found in the poem 'The Bird's Complaint'. In phonological level, the phonological devices which were found in the poem were alliteration, assonance, consonance, rhyme scheme, and onomatopoeia. Grammatical level was divided into morphological and syntactical. On a morphological level, the researcher found that the poem contains suffixes and prefixes. In the syntactical level, the researcher found that the poet used simple sentences, complex sentences, compound sentences, phrases, and exclamation sentences in creating the poem.

Batool & Azhar (2016) explored how the use of figurative speech enhances the impact of the poetry in the reader's mind. The study revealed that in the poem the choice of words by Wordsworth have made the readers feel like they were there, watching the lilies swing their heads and dance with joy. The readers can see ten thousand flowers line the bay with shimmer waves. Imagery and metaphors have made this poem simple but great poetry. Sharma (2018) argue that the poem was about the eagle and its power, cruelty and dominance over ordinary creatures. Implicitly, the poem may be about a strong, prosperous and dominating nation or person in the world. Putri (2018) analyzed of 4 aspects, namely graphological levels, phonological levels, morphological levels and lexico-syntactical levels. The analysis shows that the reader felt what he has enjoyed of the beauty that was in life has to be carried away by death quickly. In addition, the rhyme that the researchers found strengthens the tone of the poem that talks about joy and loss. Hardy also uses some figurative language to amplify the feeling of the poem.

Krismarini (2020) analyzed the linguistic features and the use of linguistic features to portray the meanings of the poem used in Angelou's "When Great Trees Fall". This research analyzed the data through four linguistic levels in stylistics: phonology, graphology, syntax, and semantics or lexis. The analysis shows that Angelou showed the grief of the people due to the loss of their hero. Angelou also showed the oppression of being an Afro living in America. On the other hand, it showed the sincerity of the Afro American in facing the struggles. Max (2020) analyzed the meaning of that Road Dahl wants to convey in his poem entitled *Television* and uses

qualitative methods. The study prove that language which was arranged in certain ways to show the poet's intention and reason for making poetry which is usually hidden. Stylistic analyzed provides empirical evidence to confirm the after-reading effect of poetry that was usually acquired by the reader's intuition (e.g. emotional sensation).

Imran & Nabi (2021) analyzed on pragmatic level, morphological level and phonological level and its components of the Poem A Dream Within A Dream by Edgar Allan Poe. The study reveal that the literal aspect and understand artistically made poetic expressions. The poem uses symbols and personifications to show the brutality of nature and tell how humans were helpless in front of it. Demonstrated understanding of different stylistic devices completes the explanation of poetry for themes, views, images of the materialistic world, and lack of power being human. Kulsum & Rachmawati (2021) analysis on Walter Savage Landor's Acon and Rhodope; Or, Inconstantly of the types of imagery functions and to mention examples of archaic word functions. The study found 174 words or expressions found in poetry which were divided into seven types of imagery such as: visual, auditory, gustatory, olfactory, tactile, thermal, and kinesthesia and there were 95 ancient words found in poetry to improve aesthetics, to find out social life, customs, belief systems and generally the richness of culture when it emerged, and to make the language old and solemn. Furthermore, Saputra & Abida (2021) analyzed the Poem On Old Man's Winter Night by Robert Frost. The study utilizes stylistic analyzed to understand poetry with various poetic devices. The results of this study indicate that Frost uses various stylistic elements to emphasize his point, including alliteration, assonance, tone, modulation, denotation, connotation, metaphor, personification, symbolism, and simile.

Ardhani (2020) studied Stylistic analysis of Analysis on William Blake's the Little Boy Lost to find how the level of language in the poem was used and interpret the poem. The results of the study show that the phonological level, Blake uses repetition in alliteration, assonance, and consonant in the same words to emphasize that the words are very prominent. While at the graphological level, the comma in the last line of stanza was very important. At the lexical level, the poet uses metaphor and symbolism to create a sense of innocence. At the syntactic level, there was a change of tenses and repetition of words.

Based on the previous studies above, graphology and phonology are used most in research to analyze stylistics in literary works. The writer did not repeat previous research, although the research that conducted was about stylistics, the theory used by the writer was Geoffrey Leech's theory and for the object, the writer chooses a different Maya Angelou poem as the object of this research.

2.2 RelatedTheories

Stylistic

According to Leech and Short (2007: 11) Stylistics is the (linguistic) study of style, and is rarely undertaken for its own sake, simply as an exercise in describing what use is made of language. Stylistics studies style to explain something, and in general, literary stylistics aims to explain the relationship between language and artistic function. According to Memon, et al (2021: 35) stylistics is a branch of linguistics that can be simply defined as a study of style in a text, and since style can be assumed in different ways, so there were several stylistic approaches to analyze a text. Stylistic studies show that there is a relationship between linguistics to literary works. Leech (1969: 37) divided the three main levels of language into Realization, Form, and Semantics. Realization is divided into phonology and graphology, form is divided into grammar

and lexicon, and semantic is about denotative and cognitive meaning. However, in this thesis, the writer just focused on the phonological level, form and semantic.

Phonology

Phonology concerned with the study of sound system of any given language. The way sounds are represented gave different meanings in a language. Leech (1969: 89) stated the phonological devices include: alliteration, assonance, consonance, rhyme scheme, reverse rhyme, and para rhyme.

Grammatical Level

Grammatical level includes grammar, parts of speech, clauses and phrases used in writing. At a grammatical level, it can be seen that the intended meanings and foreshadowing meanings and events that the author wants to convey. Grammatical concerned with the structure of the sentences. In the English language, tenses are one of the most important elements in grammatical. Tenses indicate the time of particular action. The tenses that analyzed are simple present tense, simple present perfect tense and simple past tense.

Lexical Level

Lexicology is the vocabulary of a language. Lexical are total amount of vocabulary items and use of words in a piece of text. Sharma (2018: 1446) state this relates to the level of "Lexis". Lexis is a vocabulary item that is used to form the language or body of known words and used by certain people. Yule (2010: 82) state lexical have some words class such as noun, verb, adjective, and pronoun.

Semantics Level

Semantics is the study of the real meaning or meaning. Crystal (1991: 310) state that semantic is one of branches of linguistics devoted to the study of meaning in language. Meanwhile, Wales (2011: 379) state that semantics is focused on studying the linguistic meaning of words and sentences, which is heavily influenced by its philosophy and logic in its history. In literary works, especially poetry, semantics occasionally employs associative meaning to enhance the beauty of the rhyme's meaning. Figurative language is language that contains figures of speech that are used to portray ideas.

3. METHOD

In this research the writer uses descriptive qualitative method. Through descriptive research, the writer tries to describe events and occurrences, namely Stylistic in Maya Angelou Selected Poems. Maya Angelou had many very beautiful and interesting poems to analyze. However, in this study, the writer limits the subject of the study only on three of her selected poems which had a theme about women. They were *Our Grandmothers*-119th lines (1944), *Phenomenal Woman*-60th lines (1995), *Mother, A Cradle to Hold Me*-84th lines (2006). There were a few steps in obtaining the data they were: reading the selected poems by Maya Angelou, finding and identifying language features used in Maya Angelou's selected poem, then classifying the data into their respective categories that writer examined based on Geoffrey Leech theory, namely: phonological, grammatical, lexical and semantic. The final step was concluding the results of the data analysis.

4. RESULTS

4.1 Language Features Used in Maya Angelou's Selected Poems

Phonological Level

Alliteration

Phenomenal Woman: Pretty woman wonder where my secret lies.

The word 'women', 'wonder', and 'where' in which all three of the words had the same consonant sound at the beginning of the words, it was /w/ sound. This repetition of consonant sound of /w/ in this line was alliteration.

Our Grandmothers: Loud longing of hounds and

The words 'loud' and 'longing' in which both words had the same initial consonant sound /l/. This repetition of consonant sound of /l/ in this line was alliteration.

Mother, a Cradle to Hold Me: During those early, dearest days

The word 'during,' 'dearest', and 'days' in which all four of the words had the same consonant sound at the beginning of the words, it is /d/ sound. This repetition of consonant sound of /d/ in this line is alliteration.

Assonance

Phenomenal Woman: Pretty women wonder where my secret lies.

The word 'women,' 'wonder', and 'where' in which all of the words had the same vowel sound, it is the sound /ə/. This repetition is assonance of the vowel sound of /ə/ in this line creating internal rhymes and made the poem more beautiful and shows the words that the poet emphasizes in the poem.

Our Grandmothers: She lay, skin down in the moist dirt

The words 'lay', 'skin', and 'moist' in which all of the words had the same vowel sound, it is the sound /ɪ/. Although /y/ in 'lay' is a consonant, the vowel sound of the word remains /ɪ/ so the word is included in the assonance category. This repetition is an assonance of the vowel sound of /ɪ/ in this line creating internal rhymes and made the poem more beautiful and shows the words that the poet emphasizes in the poem.

Mother, a Cradle to Hold Me: A large life which included me,

The words 'it' and 'is' in which all the words had the same vowel sound, it is the sound /ɪ/. This repetition is assonance of the vowel sound of /ɪ/ in this line creating internal rhymes and made the poem more beautiful and shows the words that the poet emphasizes in the poem.

Consonance

Phenomenal Woman: Pretty women wonderwhere my secret lies

The words 'wonder' and 'where' contain of the same consonant sound, it is the sound /r/. This repetition of the consonant sound at the end of /r/ in this line is a consonance.

Our Grandmothers: She lay, skindowninthe moist dirt

The words 'skin', 'down' and 'in' contain of the same consonant sound, in which all three of the words had the sound /n/ in the end of the word. This repetition of the consonant sound at the end of /n/ in this line is a consonance.

Mother, a Cradle to Hold Me: Releases me from all commandments

The words 'releases' and 'commandments' in which both of the words have the same consonant sound /s/ in the end of the words. This repetition of the consonant sound at the end of /s/ in this line is a consonance.

Rhyme Scheme

Phenomenal Woman

I'm a woman

Phenomenally

Phenomenal Woman

That's me

The words woman /wʊmən/ and woman /wʊmən/ in line 10 and 12 both of the line has the same ending sound, it is the sound /n/ and for the line 11 and 13 the words Phenomenally /fə'nɒmɪnəli/ and me /mi/ had the same ending sound, it is the sound /n/ and /i/, it made the rhyme scheme ABAB.

Our Grandmothers

into the palms of her chained hands, she

cried against calamity

You have tried to destroy me

and though I perish daily

The words she /ʃi/ and me /mi/ in line 34 and 36 both of the line had the same ending sound, it is the sound /i/ and for the line 35 and 37 the words calamity /kə'læməti/ and daily /deɪli/ had the same ending sound, it is the sound /i/ it made the rhyme scheme AAAA.

Mother, a Cradle to Hold Me

I admit quickly

But relief did not rest with me easily

You left again, but again returned

You left again, but again returned

The words quickly /ʃi/ and easily /i:zəli/ in line 30 and 31 both of the line had the same ending sound, it is the sound /i/ and for the line 32 and 33 the words returned /rɪ'tʃ:nd / and returned /rɪ'tʃ:nd / had the same ending sound, it is the sound /i/ and /d/ it made the rhyme scheme AABB.

Grammatical Level

Phenomenal Woman

They think I'm telling lies

The word "They" acts as the subject. Where "think" acts as the verb. Then "I'm telling lies" acts as the object. The sentence follows the form of simple present tense which is s + v1 + o.

Our Grandmothers

She gathered her babies

The words "she" and "her" acts as the subject. The predicate used past form of "gather" which is "gathered". "Babies" act as the object. It indicates the tenses of simple past tense. The sentence follows the form of simple past tense which is s + v2 + o.

Mother, a Cradle to Hold Me

I have learned enough

The word "I" acts as the subject. "Have learned" acts as the predicator where "have learned" indicates that the action already happened and it affects the situation. The sentence follows the form of simple present perfect tense which is s + has/have + v3 + o.

Lexical Level

Phenomenal Woman

Category that occurs the most in the poem is pronoun with 51 appearances. One of pronoun

found in Phenomenal Woman was my with 18 Frequency.

Our Grandmothers

Category that occurs the most in the poem is Noun with 136 appearances. One of pronoun found in Phenomenal Woman was she with 16 Frequency.

Mother, a Cradle to Hold Me

Category that occurs the most in the poem is pronoun with 97 appearances. One of pronoun found in Phenomenal Woman was you with 37 Frequency.

Semantical Level

Phenomenal Woman

Simile: I walk into a room

Just as cool as you please

The poet used simile in line eleventh and twelfth to compared her walk is same with the model. Her walk is beautiful. It means that the poet shows her strength. If she can do the same thing like a model or the whites because, she is a phenomenal woman. By comparing, we know that the poet means to have courage.

Hyperbole: Then they swarm around me, A hive of honey bees

In the nineteenth and twenty lines, Angelou suggests the magnetism of her confidence and presence as a woman. She used hyperbole to suggest that men were so struck by her presence that they fall on their knees and follow her around like honey bees.

Metaphor: It's the fire in my eyes

She means that her eyes flame and shine like fire, it shows strength.

Imagery: And the joy in my feet.

It means that the men enjoy when she walks, every step is amazing and she can walk with the joy so every man who see her walking is amazed.

Our Grandmothers

Simile: The sprouted like young weeds,

There is a simile used here, comparing her children to weeds, weeds were everywhere at once, and very agitating for the person whose property they grow on.

Mother, a Cradle to Hold Me

Imagery:... when you knew nothing,

And I knew everything, I loved you still.

Imagery in this passage helps the reader go back to their teenage years and feel bad about the way they treated their mother because even during this very difficult stage of parenthood, a mother's love is undying.

From the data above, the writer found Phonological level 4 devises in Maya Angelou's chosen poem (Phenomenal Woman, Our Grandmothers, and Mother, a Cradle to Hold Me), namely alliteration 51 data, assonance 60 data, consonance 42 data, and rhyme scheme 7 data. For grammatical level, the writer found the various tenses to see the relation between tenses and the meaning of the poem. In the selected poems of Maya Angelou, three tenses were found, namely simple present tense, simple present perfect tense, and simple past tense. Maya Angelou mostly used the simple past tense in her poem, especially in the poems of our grandmothers. For lexical level which is total amount of vocabulary items and use of words in a piece of text, writer only sought nouns, verbs, adjectives, and pronouns to see the choice of words that Maya Angelou used in her poetry and in the three poems of Maya Angelou found 231 nouns, 135 verbs, 61

adjectives and 224 pronouns. In the poem of phenomenal woman and mother, a cradle to hold me, the writer found the used of nouns related to parts of the body. Meanwhile, in the poem of our grandmothers, there were more nouns related to nature. And the last for semantical level, figurative language were found in Maya Angelou's poetry, such as simile, hyperbole, metaphor, and imagery. However, in these poems, Maya Angelou used imagery the most in her poem.

4.2 The Meaning in Maya Angelou's Selected Poem

There were 3 poems by Maya Angelou, namely phenomenal woman, our grandmothers, and Mother, a Cradle to Hold Me. For the poem Phenomenal Woman, the poem was a lasting message for all women, Maya Angelou also conveyed that radiate your own beauty, do not look at your own beauty by other people's standards, and always be confident. The speaker is a very confident woman who enjoys her physical and inner beauty. She knew that his qualities made her extremely powerful, for her attracted the attention of both men and women and confused them with his beautiful aura. She needed the world to see the unique beauty of black women. She is critical of the standard measure for judging a woman's beauty. The poet also used imagery, metaphor, simile, and hyperbole to make the reader imagine what the poet says.

The poem Our Grandmothers speaks strongly about the theme of understanding and accepting oneself to achieve inner peace. This poem had seen a woman avoid slaves and tell her children the worst that could happen; it includes feeling lost in the ocean and feeling severe injustice. However, in the end, the woman sings for the whole world to hear that no matter what other people think of her, the simple truth is that she is irrevocable, will not be lost, corrupted and will not be moved.

In 'Mother, A Cradle to Hold Me', Maya Angelou's poem, discussed how much the speaker loved her mother and she was very afraid of being abandoned by her mother as seen from Maya Angelou's choice of words in the verse "I feared if I let you go. You would leave me eternally" The speaker in this poem reminisces a lot about the past about the speaker and his mother. The poem's Mother, a Cradle to Hold Me conveyed a deep meaning that's how a mother's love never changes. No matter how needy a young child is, clinging to her mother leg, or how selfish a teenager is, a mother's love never shifts. The poet uses imagery to help her readers visualize a setting in their mind. The imagery used also helps the reader, not just relate but relive certain points of life. At the end of the poem, the speaker actually thanks her mother. "Let me thank you that my selfishness, ignorance, and mockery did not bring you to discard me like a broken doll." The poem shows how unconditional a mother's love is.

5. DISCUSSION

5.1 Language Features in Maya Angelou's Selected Poems

Language features was exposed the linguistic elements found in a text such as rhyme, lexical, grammatical, and figurative language.

Phonological Level

Phonology concerned with the study of sound system of any given language. The way sounds were represented was gave different meanings in a language. It deals with the recognized rules of pronunciation. In Maya Angelou's selected poems there were only four devices of phonological namely alliteration, assonance, consonance, and rhyme scheme.

Phenomenal woman (1978)

In the poem of Phenomenal Woman by Maya Angelou types of phonological devices found

divided into alliteration, assonance, consonance and rhyme scheme.

Alliteration is the repetition of consonant sound in the initial position and there were 8 data of alliteration.

Example:

Pretty women wonder where my secret lies (Angelou, 1978: Line 1)

In which all three of the words had the same consonant sound at the beginning of the words, it is /w/ sound. This repetition of consonant sound of /w/ in this line is alliteration. Poet used them to emphasize the certain words which concerned meaning of the poem.

For the assonance is the repetition of the vowel sound across words within the lines of the poem creating internal rhymes and in phenomenal woman there were 12 data of assonance.

Example:

It's the fire in my eyes (Angelou, 1978: Line 22)

The words 'fire', 'my', and 'eyes' in which all of the words had the same vowel sound, it is the sound /aɪ/. Although /y/ in 'my' and 'eyes' is a consonant, the vowel sound of the word remains /aɪ/ so the word is included in the assonance category. This repetition is assonance of the vowel sound /aɪ/ in this line creating internal rhymes and made the poem more beautiful and shows the words that the poet emphasizes in the poem.

For the consonance is the repetition of two or more consonant in a line. Consonant appear a lot at the end of the word and there were 6 data of consonance.

Example:

I don't shout or jump about (Angelou 1978: Line 48)

The sound /t/ also found in the line above. The consonance was 'don't', 'shout', 'about' which all three of words had the same consonant sound /t/ in the end of the words.

Rhyme scheme.

Example:

I'm woman

Phenomenally

Phenomenal Woman

That's me (Angelou 1978: Line 10-13)

The words woman /wʊmən/ and woman /wʊmən/ in line 10 and 12 both of the line has the same ending sound, it is the sound /n/ and for the line 11 and 13 the words Phenomenally /fə'nɒmɪnəli/ and me /mi/ had the same ending sound, it is the sound /n/ and /i/, it made the rhyme scheme ABAB.

Our Grandmothers (1994)

In the poem of Our Grandmothers by Maya Angelou types of phonological devices found divided into alliteration, assonance, consonance and rhyme scheme. Alliteration is the repetition of consonant sound in the initial position.

The example in the third line, the alliteration was 'mornings' and 'madness' which all three of the words had the same consonant sound at the beginning of the words, it is /m/ sound.

For the assonance is the repetition of the vowel sound across words within the lines of the poem creating internal rhymes and in Our Grandmothers there were 38 data of assonance the example The assonance sound 'perish' and 'daily' in which all of the words had the same vowel sound, it is the sound /ɪ/.

For the consonance is the repetition of two or more consonant in a line. Consonant appear

a lot at the end of the word and in *Our Grandmothers* there were 7 data of consonance. The data 119 'skin', 'down' and 'in' contain of the same consonant sound, in which all three of the words had the sound /n/ in the end of the words.

For the rhyme scheme
into the palms of her chained hands, she
cried against calamity
You have tried to destroy me
and though I perish daily (Angelou 1994: Line 34-37)

The words she /ʃi/ and me /mi/ in line 34 and 36 both of the line had the same ending sound, it is the sound /i/ and for the line 35 and 37 the words calamity/kə'læməti/ and daily /deɪli/ had the same ending sound, it is the sound /i/ it made the rhyme scheme AAAA.

Mother, A Cradle to Hold Me(1996)

In the poem of *Mother, a Cradle to Hold Me* by Maya Angelou types of phonological devices found divided into alliteration, assonance, consonance and rhyme scheme. Alliteration is the repetition of consonant sound in the initial position. The example of alliteration is in the data 37 'during', 'dearest', and 'days' in which all four of the words had the same consonant sound at the beginning of the words, it is /d/ sound. For the assonance is the repetition of the vowel sound across words within the lines of the poem creating internal rhymes and in *Mother, a Cradle to Hold Me* there were 12 data of assonance the example the assonance sound occurs in the data 106 'without' and 'warning' in which all of the words had the same vowel sound, it is the sound /ɪ/. The consonance is the repetition of the two or more consonant in a line. Consonant appeared a lot at the end of the word and in *Mother, a Cradle to Hold Me* there were 29 data of consonance the example in the data 130 the sound /d/ also found in the line above.

The consonance is found in the word 'bound' and 'bed' in which both of the words had the same consonant sound /d/ in the end of the words. The words woman /wʊmən/ and woman /wʊmən/ in line 10 and 12 both of the line had the same ending sound, it is the sound /n/ and for the line 11 and 13 the words Phenomenally /fə'nɒmɪnəli/ and me /mi/ had the same ending sound, it is the sound /n/ and /i/, it made the rhyme scheme ABAB.

Grammatical Level

Grammatical concerned with the structure of the sentences. In the English language, tenses is one of the most important elements in grammatical. Tenses indicates the time of particular action. The tenses analyzed line per line that analyzed were present tense (simple present tense and present perfect tense), past tense (simple past tense and past progressive tense).

Phenomenal Woman (1978)

The tenses that appear in the poem *Phenomenal Woman* by Maya Angelou were present and past tense. There was simple present tense found in line 4, 14, 32, and 36. As the example in the line 4, it was found the used of word "walk" as the verb phrase in this line and "I" acts as the subject. While the simple past tense was found in line 51. As the examples, the subject is "it". The predicate uses past form of "think" which is "thought", it indicates the tenses of simple past tense.

Our Grandmothers (1994)

The tenses that appear in the poem *Our Grandmothers* by Maya Angelou was past tense. The simple past tense found in line 10, 47, 67, 77 and 79. As the example in the line 10, "she" acts as the subject. The predicate used past form of "gather" which is "gathered". It indicates the

tenses of simple past tense.

Mother, A Cradle to Hold Me (1996)

The tenses that appear in the poem *Mother, a cradle to Hold Me* by Maya Angelou were simple past tense and simple perfect tense. In this poem, the past tense was found 12 times. The predicate uses past form of “create” which is “created”, it indicates the tenses of simple past tense. Moreover, the simple present perfect tense was found in line 69. “Have learned” acts as the predicator where “have learned” indicates that the action already happened and it affects the situation. In grammatical levels, three tenses were found. The most used tense is simple past tense, the use of present tense can be interpreted that the messages of the poem is applicable for lifetime.

Based on the analysis above it revealed that that Maya Angelou dominantly used simple past tense from the selected poems. The used of past tense is to show that the action/situation already happened in the past time.

Lexical Level

Lexicology is the vocabulary of a language. Lexical are total amount of vocabulary items and use of words in a piece of text.

Phenomenal Woman (1978)

The lexical category occurred the most in this poem was pronoun with 51 appearances. Then, it was followed by noun which appears 36 times, verb with 28 times appearances, and adjective which appears 10 times. All pronouns found in the poem include as personal pronoun that appears fifty-one times. The pronoun that occurs the most is “my” with eighteen times appearance. Then it is followed by “I” which appear fourteen times. Whereas “Me” and “They” which appear seven times. However, the use of “them”, “you” and “themselves” were not dominant which appear twice and once.

Our Grandmothers (1994)

The lexical category mostly occurred in this poem was noun with 136 appearances. Then, it was followed by pronoun which appears 76 times, verb with 63 times appearances, and adjective which appears 32 times. All pronouns found in the poem include as personal pronoun that appears seventy-six times. The dominant pronoun is “she” with sixteen times appearance then followed by “I” and “her” which appear fourteen and thirteen times. Whereas “My”, “Me” and “You” which appear eight, seven and six times. Then it was followed by “Their” and “Your” which appear four and three times. However, the use of “them”, “us” and “mine” were not dominant which appear twice and once.

Mother, A Cradle to Hold Me (1996)

The lexical category in this poem was pronoun with 97 appearances then followed by nouns which appears 59 times, verbs with 45 times appearances, and adjectives which appeared 19 times. All pronouns found in the poem included the personal pronoun appeared ninety-seven times. The pronoun “You” occurred thirty-seven times appearance then followed by “I” and “Me” which appear Twenty-five and fifteen times. Whereas “Your” and “My” appeared twelve and seven times. However, the use of “it” only appear once.

Semantically Level

Crystal (1991: 310) state that semantic is one of branches of linguistics devoted to the study of meaning in language. Figurative language is language that contains figures of speech that were used to portray ideas.

Phenomenal Woman (1978)

From the data in the poem Phenomenal Woman by Maya Angelou writer found 4 types of figurative language, there were Simile, Hyperbole, Metaphor and Imagery. As the example from Metaphor in line nineteen, Maya Angelou used a metaphor to describe the men around her as swarming bees, which exaggerates the number of men who follow her around and suggests that they do so in frantic fervor.

Our Grandmothers (1994)

From the data in the poem Our Grandmothers by Maya Angelou writer found 2 types of figurative language, there were Simile and Imagery. As the example from simile used here, comparing her children to weeds, weeds were everywhere at once, and very agitating for the person whose property they grow on.

Mother, A Cradle to Hold Me (1996)

From the data in the poem Mother, a Cradle to Hold Me by Maya Angelou, writer found 2 types of figurative language, there were Simile and Imagery. As the example from simile used here, the imagery used in this poem helps the reader, not just relate but relive certain points of life. When the teenage years start, mothers were looked at as unknowledgeable. The author writes, "When you knew nothing and I knew everything, I loved you still. Condescendingly of course, from my high perch of teenage wisdom." Imagery in this passage helps the reader go back to their teenage years and feel bad about the way they treated their mother because even during this very difficult stage of parenthood, a mother's love is undying.

Based on the explanation above, in Maya Angelou's selected poems (Phenomenal Woman, Our Grandmothers, and Mother, a Cradle to Hold Me) there were only found four devices of phonological namely alliteration (16 types), assonance (11 types), consonance (8 types), and rhyme scheme (3 types). For the grammatical level there were only found simple past tense (18 data), simple present tense (4 data) and simple present perfect tense (2 data). Then for the lexical level there were found noun (231 data), pronoun (224 data), verb (135) and adjective (62). The last for semantically level were only found 4 types of figurative language, that were simile (3 data), hyperbole (1 data), metaphor (1 data) and imagery (5 data).

5.2 Meaning and Purpose

In the phonological level were alliteration, assonance, and consonance take an important role to depicting meaning of the poem. Maya Angelou used them to emphasized certain words which concerned meaning of the poem phenomenal woman. Grammatical level also contributes meaning of the poem. The researcher notices that Maya Angelou used present tense in most of the 'Phenomenal Woman' woman. The use of present time in a poem can be inferred as a sign that the moral value of the poem is applicable for anytime, depend on when the readers read the poem. The present tense in the poem 'Phenomenal Woman' can be identifying from the use of verb which is verb 1. Verbs were used to tell what the subject of the sentences or clauses is doing (being). In the poem of Our Grandmothers, Maya Angelou used past tense to describe incidents in the past that she had experienced as if she returned a flashback to those incidents. In the poem Our Grandmothers, Maya Angelou used Self-confidence is evident in the use of pronouns in the first stanza also can be seen from the lexical relation and meanings. The last stylistic feature is semantics. In semantic level, the writer noticed four figurative language which contribute meaning of the poem, those were metaphor, simile, hyperbole, and imagery. For the poem Mother, a Cradle to Hold Me, the imagery used in this poem helps the reader, not just relate but

relieve certain points of life. Figurative language was used to convey meaning in a simple way; however, it still had the original meaning.

For the poem *Phenomenal Woman*, the poem was a lasting message for all women, Maya Angelou also conveyed that radiate your own beauty, don't look at your own beauty by other people's standards, and always be confident. The speaker is a very confident woman who enjoys her physical and inner beauty. She knew that her qualities made her extremely powerful, for her attracted the attention of both men and women and confused them with her beautiful aura. She needed the world to see the unique beauty of black women. She is critical of the standard measure for judging a woman's beauty. The repetition shows that she is proud to be who she is and she claims to be a wonderful woman. She describes a confident and narcissist woman who is very proud with her body. It proofed with the word "Phenomenally, Phenomenal Woman, that's me" that it always repeated in every stanza. The poet also used imagery, metaphor, simile, and hyperbole to make the reader imagine what the poet says.

The poem *Our Grandmothers* speaks strongly about the theme of understanding and accepting oneself as a means to achieve inner peace. This poem had seen a woman avoid slaves and tell her children the worst that could happen; it includes feeling lost in the ocean and feeling severe injustice. However, in the end, the woman sings for the whole world to hear that no matter what other people think of her, the simple truth is that she is irrevocable, will not be lost, corrupted and will not be moved.

In 'Mother, A Cradle to Hold Me,' Maya Angelou's poem, *Mother, a cradle to hold me* discussed how much the speaker loved her mother and she was very afraid of being abandoned by her mother as seen from Maya Angelou's choice of words in the verse "I feared if I let you go. You would leave me eternally" The speaker in this poem reminisces a lot about the past about the speaker and his mother. The poet uses imagery to help her readers visualize a setting in their mind. The poet writes, "When you knew nothing and I knew everything, I loved you still. Condescendingly of course, from my high perch of teenage wisdom." imagery in this passage helps the reader go back to their teenage years and feel bad about the way they treated their mother because even during this very difficult stage of parenthood, a mother's love is undying. This poem is a great express of an adult looking back at childhood and being truly grateful for all her mother had done. At the end of the poem, the speaker actually thanks her mother. "Let me thank you that my selfishness, ignorance, and mockery did not bring you to discard me like a broken doll." The poem shows how unconditional a mother's love is.

6. CONCLUSIONS

In phonological level, there were 4 devices in Maya Angelou's chosen poem (*Phenomenal Woman*, *Our Grandmothers*, and *Mother, a Cradle to Hold Me*), namely alliteration, assonance, consonance, and rhyme scheme. There were three types of tenses were found such as present tense, present perfect tense, and past tense. In the three poems of Maya Angelou consisted of four word classes such as nouns, verbs, adjectives, and pronouns. Whereas the semantic level covers some rhetorical devices were simile, hyperbole, and imagery. The rhetorical devices help to support the meaning of the poem. In the *Phenomenal Woman* poem, as a whole was a lasting message for all women, Maya Angelou also conveyed that radiate your own beauty, not to look at your own beauty by other people's standards, and always be confident. *Our Grandmothers* poem speaks strongly about the theme of understanding and accepting oneself as a means to achieve inner peace. This poem had seen a woman avoid slaves and tell her children the worst

that could happen; it includes feeling lost in the ocean and feeling severe injustice. Mother, a Cradle to Hold Me poem conveyed a deep meaning that's how a mother's love never changes and also discussed how much the speaker loves his mother and is very afraid of being abandoned by his mother forever.

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