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An Analysis of Diction in Maya Angelou's Selected Poems

Nurfitri Ayuni[1], Maghdalena[2], Rowela Basa[3]
[1]English and Literature Departement Adab and Humanities Faculty Alauddin State Islamic Universuty Makassar, Indonesia
[2]Indonesian Language Teacher, State Islamic High School 01, Bengkulu, Indonesia
[3]Dapartement of Language Education, Linguistics and Literature Education, University of Santo Tomas, Manila, Philippines

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ABSTRACT

Purpose of the study: This research aimed to find out what are the types of diction used by Maya Angelou in selected poems, they are "Still I rise", "Touched by an angel" and "Equality" based on the theory of Abrams (1999) for analyzing the types of diction. There are four types of diction according to Abrams: concrete, abstract, denotation, and connotation.

Methodology: This study uses a descriptive qualitative method with content analysis based on Abrams' theory (1999) to interpret the data. The focus of the study is the analysis of diction in three poems by Maya Angelou: "Still I Rise," "Touched by an Angel," and *"Equality." The research procedure includes reading, identifying, classifying, and describing types of diction, such as concrete, abstract, denotation, and connotation diction. The main data comes from the book *The Complete Collected Poems of Maya Angelou (1994), with the researcher as the main instrument supported by data recording to ensure the depth of analysis.

Main Findings: This research found concrete diction, abstract diction, denotative and connotative which are presented in seventy-nine (79) data from three poems. The researcher found 9 (nine) types of concrete diction, 21 (twenty-one) types of abstract diction, 41 (forty-one) types of connotative and 8 (eight) types of denotative. Based on the data can be concluded that Maya Angelou mostly using connotative diction in selected poems.

Novelty/Originality of this study: This research selects certain poems from Maya Angelou's work that have not been specifically analyzed in previous studies. By focusing on selected poems, this research can reveal nuances of diction that might be missed in a more general analysis.

Corresponding Author:
Nufitri Ayuni,
English and Literature Departement Adab and Humanities Faculty Alauddin State Islamic Universuty Malassar
Suktan Alauddin Street, Sulawesi Selatan, Makasar, 90222, Indonesia
Email: nurfitriayuni@gmail.com

1.   INTRODUCTION

Literature is a form of a person's ideas through a view of the environment around him/hers by using beautiful language. Literature is an art form expressed by human thoughts and feelings with the beauty of language. Literary works are overflowing with the author's feelings poured out in written form, using words arranged in such a way[1], [2], [3].Literary work is a unique discourse in which expression uses language by utilizing all available possibilities. In short it can be said that language is a vehicle for expression in literary works. Language has a message of beauty as well as carrying meaning in literary works[4], [5], [6]. The main medium of literature is language, literature is created from a series of words and the words themselves are part of the language. Language is the literary raw material. Language is one of the most important elements in a literary work, Nurgiyantoro. As one of the most important elements, language has a role as a means of expressing and delivering messages in

literature. Using language to convey ideas and imagination in the process of creating literary works is really needed by every author. Thus, the element of language is an important and calculated tool in the investigation of a literary work, because language serves to clarify the meaning and add to the beauty of literary works.

There are several kinds of literary works, they are poem , drama and prose, while novel is including in prose. Poetry as a literary work uses language as a medium to express meaning. In this case, the speech or study of poetry that is usually seen from the language style is often done [7], [8], [9]. Observation of poetry through a discussion of structure to distort writing with language experience is called stylistic study. Poetry is one of branches of literary work, it represents language style, psychology situation, and it can be seen by the performance of the author.According to Sayuti poetry is a form of language expression that is prominent of sound aspects that express imaginative, emotional and intellectual experiences of individual and social lives poets. In line with Sayuti, states that poetry is expression of conscience and strong feelings written in the form of beautiful stanzas and poetry are expressed with style and movement based on the content. Thus, poetry can be enjoyed by the listener. Based on the definition above, it can be concluded that poetry is a form of feeling expression and experiences of individual life or the poet's social life which are written in attractive, memorable, figurative words, and it is expressed in a beautiful way.

Not only that, poetry is the most effective way to express the emotions because there are many topics that can be displayed, for example: love, life, sadness, family, happiness and other. It is also used as a media to convey the message and social critic of human life written with deep meaning by using figurative words that attracted the reader's attention. The way in which the author uses choice of words to present his/ her thoughts to the readers is called diction [10], [11], [12]. The author‟s diction affects the manners how it is interpreted. Diction also depicts author‟s personality. So that, every author has his/ her own diction in writing. explains diction is one of the important elements because the accuracy and appropriateness of words in poetry needs to be considered. The accuracy and suitability of word selection/ diction depends on its meaning because a word can cause various meanings [13], [14], [15]. Moreover, diction can help to understand the direction and use of words in poetry. The accuracy of word selection/ diction aims to avoid different interpretations between the writer and the reader. By beautifying the sentence, the writer can also arrange the sentence coherently.

Regard to case, the researcher analyzed diction and using Maya Angelou's poetry as the object of research. Poems by Angelou, they are Still I rise, Touched by an angel, and Equality. From the three poems Maya Angelou selected reflected the poet telling her life experiences through the poem. [6], [16], [17] Angelou's poems viewed from the writer's perception illustrates the following things, 1) tells of his life experience as a black person who lives in the midst of white people (Racism), (2) gives the reader a spiritual reality how someone can survive from suffering, exams, and trials that are very heavy and able to pass, and (3) provide motivation for the reader not to give up and not feel inferior to differences. Furthermore, Marguirete Annie Johnson known as Maya Angelou was born on April, 4 th 1928. She is an American writer, singer, actress and rights activist, she is of African-American descent. There are many works that she has written, including one of her famous autobiographies, "I Know Why the Caged Birds Sings" written in 1970 about the story of her life journey from childhood to adulthood. 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 [18], [19], [20]. One of her poems was also featured in the Offiice film "Poetic Justice" directed by John Singleton released in 1993. In 2000 she was awarded a Spingram Medal and National Medal of Arts. Then in 2011, president Obama presented the presidential Medal of Freedom for her. In 2013 Maya Angelou received apreciate from the National Book Award.

Based on previous research there is a gap where Previous research focused on Maya Angelou's poems, namely "Still I Rise", "Touched by an Angel", and "Equality", which reflect personal life experiences, especially racial struggles, through analysis of diction and meaning. In contrast, this study analyzes the poem "Wajah Negeri Kita" by M. Anwar M.H, which describes the socio-political conditions in Indonesia, such as conflict, riots, and issues of legal justice. In terms of the focus of analysis, previous research highlighted four types of diction (contextual, abstract, concrete, and denotative/connotative) to reveal the symbolism and emotions in Angelou's work, while this study is more varied, covering abstract, concrete, general, specific, jargon, and slang words, as well as various meanings (grammatical, referential, denotative, connotative, collocation) to explore the social messages contained in the poem. The purpose of the previous research was to understand the complexity of the beauty and power of symbolism in Angelou's poetry, while this study highlights how the choice of diction reflects social issues with language that is easily understood by lay readers. From a methodological approach, previous studies used stylistic analysis based on Abrams' theory with an in-depth descriptive qualitative approach, while this study uses a broader qualitative descriptive approach, examining variations in types of diction to represent social and cultural contexts. As a result, previous studies found the dominance of connotative diction that beautifies the symbolism of poetry, while this study shows an emphasis on the diversity and simplicity of diction to convey social messages directly. The main difference (gap) between the two studies lies in the perspective of focus, where previous studies are international and personally oriented, while this study focuses on local contexts and community issues [21], [22], [23].

As a result, in this research, the researcher is focuses on diction used by Maya Angelou"s selected poems entitled Still I Rise (1978), Touched by An Angel (1985), Equality (2001). The researcher is interested in analyze Maya Angelou's poems because her poems told of experiences in her life and the most of Maya Angelou"s poems describes struggles in her life and also because she has received many awards even she has been recognized by the world that she is very clever in composing words. That was proven when she was invited by President Bill Clinton to read one of her poem and she received a "Grammy award" in the same year. She has also received awards from President Obama and many more she has won. Her life experiences depicted in several famous poems such as "StillI Rise" about the discrimination and oppression experiences, "Touched by An Angel" about love in her life and "Equality" it is about her wish to have equality with white people [24], [25], [26].

The implications of this study are reviewed from the contribution to the study of literature and diction. This study broadens the understanding of how diction is used as a primary element in creating aesthetic and emotional meaning in poetry. The analysis of the poem "Maya Angelou" shows the diversity of types of diction that can help other researchers understand linguistic techniques in cross-cultural literary works. In the world of education, the implications of this study are as an increase in literary learning competence, by exploring diction and typography, this study can be applied in language and literature education, especially in helping students understand how language elements affect the meaning and interpretation of literary works.

Therefore, this research is important to conduct in order to study literature that does not only focus on text structure but also on social and emotional contexts, which can increase students' appreciation of literary works. This research is also important to conduct in order to pave the way for further exploration of the relationship between diction, typography, and its impact on readers, both in the context of modern and traditional literature, thus providing space for research innovation.

2. RESEARCH METHOD

This research used descriptive qualitative method. According to Ary and Jacob (2010) qualitative research uses a content analysis approach that is presented in written form and provides an interpretation of the results descriptively. In line with the research that will be carried out, namely analyzing the contents of Still I rise, Touched by angel and Equality by Maya Angelou then interpret the diction found from the poem [27], [28], [29].

The main data sources in this research are Maya Angelou's poems taken from the book "The complete collected poems of Maya Angelou were published in 1994". In this study, the researcher chose the four most famous poems as data sources namely Still I rise (1978), Touched by an angel (1985) Equaliy (2001) the poems written by Maya Angelou based on her life experience became interesting to analyze.

The main instrument of data collection in this study is the researcher itself. The researcher collects, compiles and analyzed the data individually. According to Ary and Jacob (2010: 423-425), there are several characteristics for qualitative research, including humans as instruments and data cards or note taking only as supporting instruments in data collection [30].

The research used some procedure to collect the data as follows, first. The research read all the contents of the poem carefully, second the research identify the diction of Maya Angelou's poems according to their respective categories,third the research classified the diction in Maya Angelou's poems according to their respective categories, fourfh the research described the diction that is contained in Maya Angelou's poem and determind according to each group than analyzed.

Data analyzing techniques are always in a line with theory, concept and method used. The aimed of this research by using stylistic approach is to figure out diction in Maya Angelou"s selected poems. A number of techniques used analyzing the data to answer the research question in chapter one. In the beginning, analyzing the main data selected poems written by Maya Angelou using stylistic approach. The second is establishing categories of the finding in relation to Abram"s theory. The third is presenting the data finding and the last is drawing conclusion.

3. RESULTS AND DISCUSSION

3.1. Results

After identifying and analyzing the data, the findings found four (4) kinds of diction used in Maya Angelou"s selected poems. According to Abrams theory there are kind of diction: concrete, abstract, denotation and connotation.

3.1.1. Still I rise

Concrete, the researcher found concrete diction used in the first selected poem "Still I rise" by Maya Angelou. This poem can be seen in stanza 2, stanza 5 and stanza 7. According to Abrams (1999:44) concrete term is a word that denotes a particular person or physical object. Concrete is word perceived by four different senses: hearing, touch, sight, and smell. "Does my sassiness upset you? Why are you abset with gloom? 'cause i walk like I've got oil wells Pumping in my living room. (Stanza 2), Does my haughtiness offend you? Don't you take it awful

hard 'cause i laugh like I've got gold mines Digging in my own back yard (Stanza 5) Does my sexiness upset you? Does it come as a surprise That I dance like I've got diamond At the meeting of my thighs.? (Stanza 7)". The four words above, in the stanza 2 line 4 "room", stanza 5 line 3" gold mines", stanza 7 line 3 " got diamond" and stanza 7 line 4 "thighs" are concrete word because that words are physical object and perceived by two different senses: touch and sight.

Abstract, The second kind of diction used by Maya Angelou"s in poem "still I rise" is abstract word. This poem can be found in stanza 1, stanza 2, stanza 3, stanza 4, stanza 5, stanza 7, stanza 9, and stanza 10. According to Abrams (1999:44) abstract is word qualities that only as attributes of particular person or things. " With your bitter, twisted lies, (line 2, stanza 1) Does my sassiness upset you? Why are you abset with gloom? (line 1, stanza 2) Just like hopes springing high, Still I'll rise. (line 3, stanza 3) Did you want to see me broken? Weakened by my soulful cries. (line 1 and 4, stanza 4) Does my haughtiness offend you? (line 1, stanza 5) Does my sexiness upset you? Does it come as a surprise (line 1-2, stanza 7) Leaving behind night of terror and fear (line 3, stanza 9) I am the dream and hope of the slave. (line 4, stanza 10)". The words "bitter" in the stanza 1 line 2 , stanza 1 line 2 "twisted lies", stanza 2 line 1 "sassiness", stanza 2 line 2 "gloom", stanza 3 line 3 "hopes", stanza 4 line 1 "broken", stanza 4 line 4 "soulful cries", stanza 5 line 1 "haughtiness", stanza 7 line "sexiness", stanza 7 line 2 "surprise", stanza 9 line 4 "terror" and "fear", stanza 10 line 4 "dream and hope" in the poem "still I rise" are an abstract because they are not physical objects and cannot be touched, smell and seen.

Denptation, The third kind of diction used by Maya Angelou"s in poem "still I rise" is denotation word. This poem can be found in stanza 1, stanza 8 stanza 9, and stanza 10. According to Abrams (1999:45) denotative meaning is physical referent the word identifies, that is the thing or concept. " You may write me down in history You may trod me in the very dirty (line 1 and 3, stanza 1) Up from a past that's rooted in pain (line 3, stanza 8) I'm a black ocean, leaping and wide (line 1, stanza 9) I am the dream and hope of the slave. (line 4, stanza 10)". The words "History" in the stanza 1 line 1, stanza 1 line 3 "me", stanza 8 line 3 "past", stanza 9 line 1 "I'm a black ocean", and stanza 10 line 4 "the slave" in the poems "still I rise" by Maya Angelou are denotation word because the word has the true meaning and can found in the dictionary.

Connotation, The fourth kind of diction used by Maya Angelou in poem "still I rise" is connotation word. This poem can be found in stanza 1, stanza 3, stanza 4, stanza 6, stanza 7, stanza 8, stanza 9 and stanza 10. According to, Abrams (1999: 45) connotation is a word that has contextual meaning. " You may write me down in history With your bitter, twisted lies You may trod me in the very dirt But still, like dust, I'll rise. (line 1,3 and 4, Stanza 1) Just like moon and like sun. (line 1, stanza 3) Shoulders falling don like teardrops. (line 3, Stanza 4) You may shoot me with your words, You may cut me with your eyes, You may kill me with your hatefulness, But still, like air, I'll rise. (Stanza 6) Out of the huts of history"s shame. (line 1, stanza 8) Welling and swelling i bear in the tide. (line 2, stanza 9) Into a daybreak that's wondrously clear Bringing the gifts that my ancestors gave, (line 1 and 3, stanza 10)". The words "You" in the stanza 1 line 1 ,stanza 1 line 3 "trod", stanza 1 line 4 "like dust", stanza 1 line 4 "I'll rise", stanza 3 line 1 "Just like moon and like sun", stanza 4 line 3 "like teardrops", stanza 6 line 1 "shoot me with your words", stanza 6 line 2 "cut me with your eyes", stanza 6 line 3 "kill me", stanza 6 line 4 "like air", stanza 7 line 3 "I've got diamond", stanza 8 line 1 "huts", stanza 9 line 2 "Welling and swelling", stanza 10 line 1 "daybreak that's wondrously clear", and stanza 10 line 3 "gifts" In the poem "Still I rise" by Maya Angelou. The word categorized of kind connotation diction because the words has contextual meaning.

3.1.2. Touched By An Angel

Concrete, The researcher also found kind concrete diction used the second selected poem "Touched by an Angel" by Maya Angelou. This poem can be found in stanza 2. According to Abrams (1999:44) concrete term is a word that denotes a particular person or physical object. Concrete is word perceived by four different senses: hearing, touch, sight, and smell." Love arrives And in its train come ecstasies. (Stanza 1)". In the stanza 1 line 8 "Train" is concrete word because the words form physical object and the word perceived by two different senses: touch and sight.

Abstract, Abstract diction also used by Maya Angelou in poem "Touched by an Angel". This poem can be found in stanza 1, stanza 2, and stanza 3. According to Abrams (1999:44) abstract is word qualities that only as attributes of particular person or things. " Exiles from delight Live coiled in shells of loneliness Until love leaves its high holy temple (line 2, 3 and 4, stanza 1) Love strikes away the chains of fear From our souls (line 3, stanza 2) In the flush of love's light (line 2, stanza 3) Yet it is only love Which sets us free. (line 4, stanza 3)". The words "delight" in the stanza 1 line 2, stanza 1 line 3 "loneliness", stanza 2 line 5 "our souls", stanza 2 line 7 "flush of love", stanza 3 line 4 " free" they are abstract word because that word not physical object form and cannot touched and see but only as attributes from author"s feeling.

Connotation, In the poem "Touched by an Angel" by Maya Angelou also found connotation word. It can be found in stanza 1 and stanza 2. According to, Abrams (1999: 45) connotation is a word that has contextual meaning. " Exiles from delight Live coiled in shells of loneliness Until love leaves its high holy temple.(line 2,3 and 4, stanza 1) Old memories of pleasure Ancient histories of pain. Yet if we are bold, Love strikes away the chains of fear From our souls (line 1,2 and 4, stanza 2)". The words "Exiles", in the stanza 1 line 2, stanza 1 line

3 "coiled", stanza 2 line 1 "old memories of pleasure", stanza 2 line 2 "ancient histories of pain" stanza 2 line 4 "chains of fear". They are connotation word because it has contextual meaning.

3.1.3. Equality

Concrete, Concrete term is a word that denotes a particular person or physical object. Concrete is word perceived by four different senses: hearing, touch, sight, and smell. " You declare you see me dimly Through a glass which will not shine, (line 2, stanza 1) Take the blinders from your vision, Take the padding from your ears, (line 1 and 2, stanza 5)". The words "glass", in the stanza 1 line 2, stanza 5 line 1 "blinders", and stanza 5 line 2 "padding" categorized as concrete word because it word is physical object and can touched, and seen.

Abstarct, According to Abrams (1999:44) abstract is word qualities that only as attributes of particular person or things. Abstract word can be seen in the stanza 2, stanza 3 and stanza 6. " Equality, and I will be free. Equality, and I will be free (Stanza 2) But if I am just a shadow to you, Could you ever understand? (Stanza 3) Hear me blood throb in my veins. (stanza 6)". The words "equality" in the stanza 2 line 5, stanza 3 line 3 "shadow" and stanza 6 line 2 "blood" categorized abstract diction because that word not physical object form and cannot touched and see but only as attributes from "I".

Denotation, Maya Angelou also used denotation word in the third selected poem "equality". It can be seen in the stanza 2 and stanza 5. According to Abrams (1999:45) denotative meaning is physical referent the word identifies, that is the thing or concept. " Equality, and I will be free. Equality, and I will be free (Stanza 2) You announce my ways are wanton, That I fly from man to man (stanza 3) Take the confess you've heard me cry, And admit you've seen my tears. (Stanza 5)". The words "I will be free" in the stanza 2 line 5, stanza 3 line 2 " man to man", stanza 5 line 4 "you've heard me cry", stanza 5 line 4 "you've seen my tears" in the poems "equality" by Maya Angelou are denotation word because the word has the true meaning and can found in the dictionary.

Connotation, In the poem "equality" by Maya Angelou also found connotation word. It can be found in stanza 1 stanza 2, and stanza 3. According to, Abrams (1999: 45) connotation is a word that has contextual meaning. "You declare you see me dimly (stanza 1) While my drums beat out the message And the rhythms never change. (stanza 2) You announce my ways are wanton, That I fly from man to man. (stanza 3)". The words "You" in the stanza 1 line 1, stanza 2 line 3 "my drums", stanza 2 line 4 "rhythms" and stanza 3 line 2 "fly". They are connotation word because it has contextual meaning.

3.2. Discussion

After analyzing and classifying the data based on kind of diction, the researcher found some kind of diction which was used by Maya Angelou in her selected poems "still I rise", "Touched by an angel" and "equality". It can be categorized into concrete, abstract, denotation and connotation.

Concrete, Based on to Abrams theory (1999:45) Concrete term is a word that denotes a particular person or physical object. Concrete is word perceived by four different senses: hearing, touch, sight, and smell. For example is show as in "Still I rise":"Room" is one of the separate sections or parts of the inside of a building. "Room" has their own walls, ceiling, floors, and doors. "Gold mines". "Diamond" is a hard, bright, precious stone which is clear and colorless. "Thighs" are the tops of part our legs, between knees and hips. "Touched by an Angel": "Train" is a number container on wheels which are all connected together and which are pulled by aan angine and "Equality": "Glass" is a hard, transparent substance that used to make up things ssuch as windows and bottle. "Blindes" are two pieces of leather than are placed at the side of the horse"s eyes so that it can only see straight ahead. "Padding"is soft material put on something or inside it in order to make it less hard, to protect it, or to give it different shape. The words mentioned are concrete diction because that words physical object and that can touched and seen.

Abstract, According to Abrams (1999:44) abstract is word qualities that only as attributes of particular person or things. For example is show as in "Still I rise": "Bitter" is people argue very angrily or fight very fiercely. "Twisted lies" twisted, if you describe a person as twisted, you dislike them because you think they are bad or mentally unbalance. "Lies" is something that says or writes which they know is untrue. "Sassiness" is unhappy or disappointed because bad has happened to you. "Gloom" is state of near darkness. Glom is feeling of sadness and lack of hope. "Hopes" if you hope that something is true, or if you hope for something, you want it to be true or to to happen, and usally believe that it is possible or likely. "Soulful cries" is express deep feeling, especially sadness or love. "Surprise" is feeling that you have when something unexpected happens. "Dream" is a series of events that you experience only your mind while you step. "Touched by an Angel": "delight"is feeling of very great pleasure. "Loneliness" is the unhappiness that is felt by someone because they do not have any friends or do not have anyone to talk. "Love" is very strong feeling of affection toward someone who romantically or sexually attracted to. "Equality": "Equality" is the same status, right, and responsibilities for all the members of a society, group, or family. "Shadow" is dark shape on a surface that is made when something stands between a light and the surface. "Blood"is the red liquid that flows inside our body. Based on the definition every word it can be

concluded that word includes abstract because the words not physical object and cannot touched and seen but as attributes from the author"s feelings only.

Denotation, According to Abrams (1999:45) denotative meaning is physical referent the word identifies, that is the thing or concept. For example is show as in "Still I rise" "History" is people in the future remember them because of particular actions that they have done or because particular events that have happened. "I'm a black ocean", a speaker or writer uses "I" refer to him self or herself. "Past" is the time before the present and the things that have happened. "Slave" is someone who is the property of another person and has to work for person. "Equality": "man" is an adult male human being. "Cry" when you cry, tears come from your eyes, usually because you are unhappy or hurt. Basen on the definition, that words are denotative because the real author"s life experience and has a true meaning.

Connotation, According to, Abrams (1999) connotation is a word that has contextual meaning. For example is show as in "Still I rise": "You" refers to whithe people. "Write" represent to remember or remind. "Trod" describes to torture and opperession. "Like dust" and "I'll rise" describes to author"s spirit. "Like moon and like sun" the author describes herself like moon and sun will always shine. It means that, the author shows that she will be battle and never give up with her gloom life. "like teardrops" the author shows sadness and disappointed because she is needed like a slave. "Bowed head and lowered eyes" it means walking like a servant who obeys her master"s orders. "Shoot me", "cut me" and "kill me" the author conveys that it doesn"t matter if she is insulted. "Like air" the author says that she will remain strong, cheerful, struggle, and rise. "Like I've Got diamond" the author describes her happiness and she using word "like" as imagery. "Hut" the author using "hut" before "history's shame". "Welling and swelling" it is imagery of torture and oppression. "Daybreak that's wondrously clear" the author describes the best future". Touched by an Angel": "Exiles" describe feeling not happy because the word located before "delight". "Coiled" describes people long time alone. "Equality": "You" refer to white people". "Dimly" the author describes that she has black skin. "Fly" describes often changes partner because the word be located before "man to ma".

Based on the result found in finding after analyzing and identifying the data, can be concluded from the three selected poems by Maya Angelou more likely using connotation to beautifying content her poem. Maya Angelou using connotation diction to describes her feeling and life experience to make interesting to read. Such as, in the stanza 1, she using word "like dust" it is describe struggle spirit. Then, she also using concrete and denotation to describe that content from her poem really real based on her life experience. There is abstract word which using to describe event which represent her feeling. The finding of this research has similarities with the first previous finding that found types of diction, they are: denotative, connotative, concrete and abstract. He analyzed diction in used anthology poem Surat kopi by Joko Pinurbo and used stylistic approach. This research analyzed diction in Maya angelou"s selected poems, Still I rise, Touched by an angel, and Equality. The researcher used stylistic approach same with the theory used in the first previous.

In line with previous research conducted in 2022 [31], there is a gap between previous and current research. The gap that appears is in the form of similarities and advantages of these two studies. The similarities that emerge from these two studies can be seen in the focus of diction as the key to research. Both studies discuss diction as the main element of poetry analysis. Previous research on the poem "The Tragedy of Winka and Shihka" focuses on the contextual meaning of word use, while this research on the poem "Maya Angelou" explores types of diction such as concrete, abstract, denotation, and connotation. Then both studies use a statistical approach to explore language style as a way to understand the meaning contained, and from both studies, poetry is the main object of research..

In addition to the similarities in these two studies, the gaps in differences are also clearly visible, such as the specific research objects used in these two studies, in the previous study analyzed one Tunggal poem, namely "Tragedy of Winka and Sihka" by Sutardji Calzoum Bachri, with a focus on the meaning of words through typography and diction. While this study includes several poems from Maya Angelou "Still I Rise", "Touched by an Angel" and "Equality" with a more diverse analysis. Not only that, the gaps in the two studies are seen in the diction analyzed, the previous study examined the use of unique diction in the context of culture and the symbolic meaning of words, such as the transformation of the word "kawin" into "winka", showing a change in meaning from happiness to destruction. While the second study classifies diction into concrete, abstract, denotation, and connotation categories based on Abrams' theory. Based on the gaps between these two studies, there is something new. This study focuses entirely on linguistic meaning without discussing typography, this study also highlights universal issues, such as racism and equality, in the context of American culture. And this study highlights emotional expression and individual experiences through word choice [32][1], [33].

And also the finding of this research and four previous finding had differences. The second previous finding only found that point of view as a first person and have different theme in each poem. The poems are: Still I rise, touched by an angel, and woman work. The third previous finding found in diction only found denotative and connotative. The fourth previous finding found some figurative diction in Sylvia plath"s poem. Based on the explanation above can be concluded that differences between the three previous finding of this research are found

because the five of this research analyze different object and use the different theory. One of them analyze diction in the novel. So, it can be concluded that is different object found the different diction [34], [35].

This study has several limitations that need to be considered. First, the scope of the data only covers a few selected poems, so the results cannot be generalized to all of Maya Angelou's works. The focus on diction analysis also limits the discussion of other aspects, such as structure or stylistic elements. Second, the interpretive nature of diction analysis can be influenced by the subjectivity of the researcher, which may produce different understandings if analyzed by others or in a particular cultural context. Third, limitations in understanding the cultural and social context, especially related to Maya Angelou's background as an African-American woman, can affect the analysis. Fourth, limited access to relevant primary and secondary sources can affect the depth of the study.

4. CONCLUSION

This research is conducted to find kind of diction in Maya Angelou"s selected poems. The conclusion of this research can be answered by research question. This research found 79 data which are categorized as kind of diction: Based on the findings and discussion, the researcher concludes that, Maya Angelou using 4 kinds of diction in the three selected poems "Still I rise", "Touched by an Angel" and "Equality" based on the theory of Abrams (1999) they are concrete, abstract, denotation and connotation. Maya Angelou using mostly kind of connotation diction to beautify the contents of the poem.

The researcher recommends further studies to explore the influence of diction on the delivery of moral messages in Maya Angelou's poems, especially related to the themes of human rights struggles, feminism, and cultural identity. Intertextuality studies can also be conducted to examine the relationship between Maya Angelou's diction and the African-American literary tradition or other contemporary works, thus providing a more contextual perspective.

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