Imagery In Julianne MacLean's *The Color of Heaven*

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ABSTRACT

Imagery is a mental picture imagined by a reader. This research discusses imagery that existed in Julianne MacLean's novel *The Color of Heaven*. *The Color of Heaven* is a novel that tells about Sophie Duncan's life and there is a lot of imagery used in it. The objectives of this research are to find imageries in the novel, to identify and classify the types of imagery, and to reveal the purposes of the imagery. The researcher uses Laurence Perrine's theory through Johnson & Arp (2016) about seven types of imagery which are visual imagery, auditory imagery, olfactory imagery, tactile imagery, organic imagery, and kinesthetic imagery. The researcher uses qualitative research design since the analysis explains the types and the purpose of the imagery. The study uses a formalism approach because the analysis is based on the researcher's interpretation. The data are collected straight from the book by reading it several times and taking notes of the sentence that reflects imagery, then categorizing the data into its imagery types in the form of a list. The result of the analysis shows that there are found six types of imagery except one is gustatory imagery. There are 32 visual imagery, 34 auditory imagery, 12 olfactory imagery, 11 tactile imagery, 16 organic imagery, and 20 kinesthetic imagery found in the novel.

Keywords: types of imagery, the purpose of imagery, *The Color of Heaven*

1. INTRODUCTION

Imagery is a mental picture imagined by a reader, it appears when the reader reads and comprehends a text. According to Abrams & Harpham (2012), imagery applications range from the "mental pictures" which it is sometimes claimed are experienced by the reader to the totality of the components. They also stated that an image is a picture made out of words. The imagery can be created if the reader has an active and creative imagination. The depiction of imagery can arise if the reader understands the text they read. To create the reader's imagination through their understanding of the text, language contribution is required.

Language in the form of words becomes the bridge for readers to catch the meaning of the text so they can imagine the mental picture. If the reader does not know the exact meaning of the language, it can lead to a misperception of what the text is conveying. Horovenko (2021) stated that imagery is one of the unique techniques of writing that evokes a sensory experience with the help of descriptive language. Through language, readers can experience or receive the senses delivered from the text. The main purpose of imagery is to stimulate the reader's senses.

Imagery can improve the readers' experience of the text by immersing them more deeply by appealing to their senses. Those senses are touch, taste, sound, smell, and sight. In accordance with these senses, based on Laurence Perrine's theory as stated by Johnson & Arp (2016) there are seven

types of imagery. Those are visual imagery, auditory imagery, olfactory imagery, gustatory imagery, tactile imagery, organic imagery, and kinesthetic imagery. These senses can make readers imagine or even feel the experience in the text as if they are the ones who experienced it. Therefore, the existence of imagery is very necessary to be on texts such as literary works.

Imagery exists in every text, it is must appear and used in literary works. Imagery is a part of other components that need to be inside literary works. Abrams & Harpham (2012) explained that imagery is used to signify all the objects and qualities of sense perception referred to in a poem or other work of literature. The presence of imagery in literary works aims to deliver the condition and the emotion as written in the work. In all kinds of literary works, imagery is not only used in poems but in novels as well. The use of imagery in the novel helps the story looks more interesting to read and makes the atmosphere of the story felt by the reader. All of those events and emotions in the novel are created by the writer.

According to Ghimire (2021), writers use the imagery in their work to add meaning to the work to make it more attractive to vibrant for readers. Based on this statement, the writers are the one who creates the senses, emotions, and conditions which appeared in the story. Gulnoza (2020) said that one of the ways to illuminate the image of the writer's soul is to convey the mood of the characters in all its complexity by depicting natural landscapes. The writer does not only intend to stimulate the readers' senses to paint a picture but also to represent objects, actions, feelings, thoughts, ideas, or states of mind within the text. Although using imagery inside the novel is important, some writers only use a few imageries in their novels. Even like that, some writers use lots of imagery too. One of them is Julianne MacLean in her novel titled *The Color of Heaven*.

In *The Color of Heaven*, Julianne MacLean uses many imageries. The reason why the thesis writer uses the novel is that when the thesis writer read the novel, she finds plenty of imagery and decides to choose to analyze the imagery in the novel. Not only because of the large amount of imagery, but the types of the imagery are also various. The thesis writer can say that Julianne MacLean succeeds to use the imagery in the story. The imagery is very diverse and successful to build the reader's imagination about the condition and the background in the story. Readers also get the experiences related to the sense that drew in the novel. Furthermore, the readers can catch and feels the emotion felt by the character. Overall very interesting that Julianne MacLean uses lots of imagery in her novel and the purpose of the use of imagery can be successfully delivered to the readers. These statements become the reason why the thesis writer finally selects *The Color of Heaven* by Julianne MacLean as the research object and the source of data for this research.

In this thesis, the writer will analyze imageries that existed in the novel *The Color of Heaven*. By analyzing and identifying the imagery followed with its type and purpose of using the imagery. The thesis writer uses Laurence Perrine's theory of types of imagery. The analysis will be presented in the form of a descriptive explanation of why it is categorized in a certain type of imagery and a description of the purpose of the imagery.

The research problems of this research are the imageries that existed in *The Color of Heaven* novel, the types of imagery that existed in *The Color of Heaven* novel, and the purpose of using the imagery in *The Color of Heaven* novel. The researcher read the novel to search for the existed imagery in the novel and took notes of the sentence that was categorized as imagery. Then listing the sentence and labeled it with the suitable type of imagery. After that, explain descriptively the purpose of using the imagery in the text. The analysis is based on Laurence Perrine's theory about seven types of imagery. There is one previous research in Universitas 17 Agustus 1945 Surabaya that discusses imagery written by Rehamdi Setya Hantana (2013). His thesis entitled "A Study of The Use of Imagery and Symbol in

Revealing the Perception of Death in Christina Rosetti's Poems: *When I Am Dead*, *My Dearest*, *Sleeping at Last*, *After Death*, *Dream Land*, *Rest*." There is a difference between Hantana's (2013) research with this research, in the object used which also becomes the source of the data, that is the literary work. He used six poems while this research used a novel. For the result of the research, he found three types of imagery meanwhile in this research there are six types of imagery found. This research aims to find out the imageries that existed in the novel *The Color of Heaven*, to find out the types of imagery that existed in the novel *The Color of Heaven*, and to describe the purpose of using the imagery in the novel *The Color of Heaven*.

2. METHOD

According to Creswell (2014), research designs are plans and procedures for research that span the decision from broad assumptions to detailed methods of data collection and analysis. There are three types of research design which are qualitative research, quantitative research, and mixed-method research. This research uses qualitative research as the research design, with reason this thesis collects and analyzes non-numerical data. The data are collected from the novel itself which consists of sixty-three chapters with 296 pages. The data are taken either from dialogues or narratives inside the novel. Gill et al., (2008) explained that there are a variety of methods of data collection in qualitative research, including observations, textual or visual analysis (from books or videos), and interviews (individual or group). The data collection method used in this thesis is visual analysis from a book, a novel titled *The Color of Heaven* by Julianne MacLean. The data were collected by reading the novel three times while taking notes of the sentences which represent the seven types of imagery based on Laurence Perrine's theory. Then, make a list of the data and label it according to the type of imagery. After that continued analyzing the purpose of using the imagery. All of the data are analyzed in the form of words and sentences from textual data. This thesis analysis is categorized as explanatory, it explains the reasons why it is categorized as the type of imagery and the purpose of the imagery which is based on the writer's interpretation by relying on a theory by Laurence Perrine. The analysis is discussed in the form of an explanation with the proof of the data which are the sentences that reflected types of imagery by describing the studied data.

According to Zohrabi (2013), the main instruments used in qualitative data through open-ended questionnaires, interviews, and classroom observations. However, the thesis writer cannot use these instruments because literary research does not need to use such instruments just like other research fields. The research instrument used in this thesis is the writer, she examines and takes notes of the data herself.

The technique of the data analysis is by analyzing the data descriptively in the form of an explanation based on Laurence Perrine's imagery theory. According to David Gorman (2018), formalism is avoiding misinterpretations, and this is where it would be useful to add remarks about common misunderstandings. Shklovsky discusses thematic, generic, or contextual matters, it would be absurd to find that inconsistent. The analysis of this research is analyzed based on the writer's interpretation to clearly explain why the sentence is categorized in a chosen type of imagery and what is the purpose of using the imagery in the story. The thesis writer analyzes the data according to the context of the words or sentences which although it is explained and described by the thesis writer's interpretation and opinion, the explanation is certainly absolute.

3. RESULT AND DISCUSSION

The researcher found 116 sentences that contain imagery in the novel *The Color of Heaven*. The types of imagery that existed in the novel are visual imagery, auditory imagery, olfactory imagery,

tactile imagery, organic imagery, and kinesthetic imagery. There are 32 visual imagery, 34 auditory imagery, 12 olfactory imagery, 11 tactile imagery, 16 organic imagery, and 20 kinesthetic imagery.

3.1 Visual Imagery

According to Horovenko (2021), visual imagery appeals to the visual imagination and appears most frequently in literature. Color, size, shape, lightness and darkness, shadows, and shade are frequently used to serve the subject of the analysis. Visual imagery is imagery that is associated with sight. It describes the things we can see that are imagined. Visual imagery includes everything that our eyes can see, such as an object in front of us, and everything that our eyes can detect. Below are the sentences that represent visual imagery in Julianne MacLean's *The Color of Heaven*:

"Her **sweet, chubby face** and **tiny pink feet** enchanted me. I was infatuated beyond comprehension by her soft **black hair** and **puffy eyes**, her **sweet knees** and **plump belly**, and her **miniature little fingertips and nails**." (MacLean, 2011: 7)

It is categorized in visual imagery because there are descriptions of physical attributes such as the look of Megan's face described in lovely and chubby, added with her eyes look puffy, her belly is plump also her knees look adorable, then describes the color of her hair is black, and the size of her fingers, nails, and feet are very small. The statement of Megan's visual appearance descriptions is suitable with visual imagery criteria because it refers to the things that are seen by Sophie. The purpose of the visual imagery here is to help readers to draw Megan's visual appearances in detail within their imagination by using a specific description of the look, color, and size of Megan's face, eyes, hair, knees, belly, fingers, and nails when Megan was born.

"Far in the distance, **the sun dipped into the water and seemed to boil the waves on the horizon. I watched a sailboat cruise across the bay**." (MacLean, 2011: 60)

It is identified as visual imagery with reason there is a detailed description of the atmosphere in the bay. The sun dipped into the water means that the sun is slowly going down behind the seawater, which looks like it is dipped into it. Then appearing to boil the waves on the horizon means the sunset changes the color of the sky in the back of the sea, from blue to orange which the orange color resembles fire color and makes it looks like boiling the waves in the sea. There is also a description of an object which is a sailboat that sailing across the bay. The statement of the bay's atmosphere is match with visual imagery criteria because based on the story, it is seen through Cora's eyes. The function of the visual imagery here is to draw the mental image of the bay's atmosphere in the readers' imagination when they read the text.

"I kept **glancing toward the window**, where **shiny raindrops pelted against the glass and streamed down in clear**, quivering rivulets onto the stone sill." (MacLean, 2011: 87)

It is categorized as visual imagery with reason there are descriptions of shade and looks. The description of gleaming raindrops represents that the shade of the raindrops is gleaming or shiny.

Also, it is written that the raindrops are streaming down in clear, clear also represents shade. The description of the view is the raindrops pelt and streaming down in the glass. The statement of Sophie's sight in the window description is suitable with visual imagery criteria because there is a word "glancing", it is an action that is done by using eyes, also it is what Cora sees in the story. Visual imagery here is intended to draw the precise look of Cora's sight when she looks at the window.

3.2 Auditory Imagery

According to Horovenko (2021), auditory imagery is used to explain things, ideas, and actions using sounds that appeal to our sense of hearing, intending to instill sound images in the minds of the readers. Auditory imagery is imagery that is associated with sounds or voices. It describes the things we can imagine hearing. Auditory imagery encompasses everything that can be heard, including animal sounds, human voices, musical instruments, and any object that can produce sound. Below are the sentences that represent auditory imagery in Julianne MacLean's *The Color of Heaven*:

"The **crack of the whip** was **the sound of the ice breaking. Creak… Groan…**" (MacLean, 2011: 42)

It is categorized as auditory imagery with reason there is a cracking sound from the ice breaking. The statement of the cracking sound description matches with auditory imagery criteria because it describes something which can be heard, also in the data, there is written: "the sound" which exactly identifies sound. Auditory imagery here is intended to invoke a sound image in the readers' mind, just like the sound of cracking ice breaking in the story. From the data, the readers can imagine the sound of the cracking ice-breaking sounds like "Creak… Groan…" while they read the text.

"An **ambulance siren wailed** somewhere nearby. It rang in my ears." (MacLean, 2011: 47)

It is categorized as auditory imagery because there is a description of an ambulance siren wailed, the word "wailed" means it sounds very loud. In addition, it is written that "it rang in my ears" means the sound is very noisy and it is ringing in Sophie's ears. The statement of ambulance siren's description fits with auditory imagery criteria because it is can produce sound, also there is word "wailed" and "rang" which denote something that has sound. Auditory imagery here aims for readers so they can imagine the sound of the ambulance siren which sounds like "wee…woo…wee…woo" when they read the text.

"Ignoring **the sound of dishes clattering** in the sink." (MacLean, 2011: 57)

It is identified as auditory imagery with reason in the data it is written that there is a sound of dishes clattering which means the sound is coming from the dishes that are being washed in the sink. The dishes are touched by the other dishes which makes them produce a clattering sound. The statement of the dishes' clattering sound is fit suitable with auditory imagery criteria because it is written clearly on the data that there is "the sound of dishes clattering" and it is things that can be heard. The objective of the auditory imagery here is for creating the image of clattering sounds

in readers' minds, they will imagine the loud sound of the dishes touching each other which sounds like "ting…ting…brak…ting…tok…brak…".

"Only **the sounds of twigs snapping** under our feet and the occasional **squirrel chattering** from the treetops interrupted the dense quiet." (MacLean, 2011: 69)

It is identified as auditory imagery because from the data can be seen that there is a snapping twigs sound, it sounds when the twig is broken from being stepped on. The other sound is the sound of a chattering squirrel, the details in the data said that it sounds broke the dense silence which means its sound is pretty loud. The statement of the snapping twigs and squirrel sounds is suitable with auditory imagery criteria because it describes the snapping sound from the breaking twigs and animal sound from the squirrel, these sounds are something that ears can hear. The aim of the auditory imagery here is to create an image in readers' minds while they read the sentence about the sound of breaking twigs which sounds like "crack…" and the sound of chattering squirrel "cwitt…cwitt…cwitt…cwitt…".

3.3 Olfactory Imagery

According to Bensafi et al. (2013), olfactory events cause the experience of "smelling with the mind's nose." Olfactory imagery is imagery that is associated with odor. It describes the things we can imagine smelling. Olfactory imagery encompasses everything that can be smelled, such as perfumes, scented candles, and anything with a scent. Below is the sentence that represents olfactory imagery in Julianne MacLean's *The Color of Heaven*:

"A few times **I smelled whisky on his breath**." (MacLean, 2011: 14)

It is categorized as olfactory imagery because the data describes that there is the smell of whisky and whisky has a typical kind of aroma. The statement of whisky smell's description is suitable with olfactory imagery criteria because the words "smelled whisky" in the data means to detect a certain aroma which is whisky aroma by using the nose. The purpose of olfactory imagery here is to make readers imagine the smell of the whisky, they will imagine the woody smell with a hint of alcohol aroma while they read the sentence.

"I shut my eyes and **inhaled deeply the familiar coastal smells** that were such a part of my life—**the salt and seaweed**, the wet rocks and all the little washed up snails and jellyfish." (MacLean, 2011: 60)

It is categorized as olfactory imagery because the data shows that there is a description of the coastal smell. The coastal smells salty from the seawater and smells like seaweed which means there is a little bit of fishy smell. The statement about the smell of the coastal air fits with olfactory imagery criteria because by inhaling we can perceive the smell. The aim of the olfactory imagery here is to make readers imagine the coastal smell just as in the story.

"He **smelled of musk and rain**." (MacLean, 2011: 90)

It is categorized as olfactory imagery with the reason it is described that Matt's smell is like musk and rain. He is just walking through the rain and the water sticks to his body making him smell like rain. The statement about the description of Matt's smell fits with olfactory imagery because it describes the body in which each body emits diverse kinds of smell. Olfactory imagery here is purposed to draw the imagination of Matt's smell in the readers' minds.

3.4 Tactile Imagery

According to Mahfouz (2012), tactile imagery is an image that represents touch, such as hardness, softness, wetness, heat, or cold. Tactile imagery is imagery that is associated with textures (hard, soft, hot, or cold). It describes imagined objects that we can touch. Tactile imagery refers to anything that can be touched, such as an object, toys, rocks, food, or anything else that can be touched. Below is the sentence that represents tactile imagery in Julianne MacLean's *The Color of Heaven*:

"Other times she brought homemade cookies, **still warm** from her oven." (MacLean, 2011: 31)

It is categorized as tactile imagery with the reason the descriptions of the cookie texture represent a touching sense which is warm because just freshly baked from the oven. The statement about the texture of the cookie match with tactile imagery criteria because it describes the textures of an object we can touch that is the cookie. The intention of the tactile imagery here is for drawing the warm texture of the cookie for readers to imagine as reading the story.

"**The texture of his soft leather jacket** where my hand rested on his shoulder." (MacLean, 2011: 100)

It is identified as tactile imagery because Matt's leather jacket texture description represents a touching sense which is softness. The statement about the texture of Matt's jacket is suitable with tactile imagery criteria because it describes the texture of an object which we can wear and we can touch. Tactile imagery here is purposed to make readers imagine how is the soft texture of a leather jacket feels like.

"**His hands were warm** on my knees." (MacLean, 2011: 58)

It is identified as tactile imagery because Peter's hand texture description represents a touching sense which is warm. The statement about the texture of Peter's hand is match with tactile imagery criteria because it describes the texture of the hand which is something that we can touch. Tactile imagery here is intended to create the imagined warm hand texture in the readers' imagination.

3.5 Organic Imagery

According to Mahfouz (2012), organic imagery is a mental sensation that represents an internal organic feeling such as hunger, thirst, fatigue, or nausea. Organic imagery is a type of imagery that

describes imagined things that we can feel. Below is the sentence that represents organic imagery in Julianne MacLean's *The Color of Heaven*:

"**Exhausted and disheartened**, I **had no more fight left** in me." (MacLean, 2011: 42)

It is categorized as organic imagery because the descriptions of exhaustion, discouragement and no more fight left refer to the hopeless feeling felt by Sophie when she was drowning in the lake. She feels hopeless after trying to swim toward the surface. The statement about Sophie's feeling matches with organic imagery criteria because it represents the internal organic feeling that is hopeless feeling, which is the thing that can be felt by ourselves. The intention of the organic imagery here is to create a hopeless feeling inside the readers' imagination so that they can imagine it as they read the text.

"**I felt dizzy**, as if I were floating up the crest of a wave and plunging down into the trough." (MacLean, 2011: 104)

It is categorized as organic imagery with a reason it describes that Cora feels dizzy. The dizzy feeling is coming after she heard that all this time Matt always misses her and cannot get her out of his head. Cora is very shocked until makes her feel very dizzy which is described as if she is floating up on the crest of a wave before sinking into the trough. The statement about Cora's feeling is suitable with organic imagery criteria because it represents an internal organic feeling that is a dizzy feeling, which is something that can be felt by ourselves. Organic imagery here functioned to make readers feel a dizzy feeling when they read the words.

"I **felt a wave of emotion rise up** inside me, and **my heart beat fast with anticipation**." (MacLean, 2011: 170)

It is identified as organic imagery with the reason it describes that Sophie feels nervous and curious because she is going to meet her first love who is also her ex-lover after a very long time. The nervous and curious feeling felt by Sophie is described with her heart raced with anticipation. The statement about Sophie's feeling is suitable with organic imagery criteria because it represents the internal organic feeling that is nervous and curious feeling, which is the thing that can be felt by ourselves. Organic imagery here aims to make readers imagine how the nervous and curious feeling feels while they are reading the story.

3.6 Kinesthetic Imagery

According to Mahfouz (2012), kinesthetic imagery is a sense impression that uses poetic imagery to represent the movement of people, animals, and objects. Kinesthetic imagery is imagery that is associated with movement. It refers to imagining things that can move. Kinesthetic imagery includes anything that can move, such as curtains or leaves blown by the wind. Below is the sentence that represents kinesthetic imagery in Julianne MacLean's *The Color of Heaven*:

"**The door swung shut** behind us." (MacLean, 2011: 95)

It is identified as kinesthetic imagery because there is a description of swing movement. It means that after the door swing it is immediately shut, which indicates that the swing movement is pretty strong to make the doors shut by itself. The statement of the door's movement is match with kinesthetic imagery criteria with a reason it represents the movement of an object which is a door. Kinesthetic imagery here is purposed to draw the strong swing movement of a door in the readers' minds for them to imagine.

"**I flipped through the pages** of a magazine." (MacLean, 2011: 144)

It is categorized as kinesthetic imagery with a reason it describes that Cora is flipping the magazine's pages which is a movement. The statement of the magazine' page movement is suitable with kinesthetic imagery criteria because it represents the movement of the object which is the magazine's page. The intention of the kinesthetic imagery here is to draw Sophie's gesture of flipping the movement of the pages.

"A wild wind outside was **whipping the leaves off the trees** and **rattling the windowpanes**." (MacLean, 2011: 87)

It is identified as kinesthetic imagery with reason first there is a description of the wind movement that is whipping which means the wind is moving in the air. Second, is the movement of the leaves which it is falls from the trees because of the wind, the movement means it is swaying away moving to the left or right as carried by the wind. Third, there are movements in the windowpanes because the strong wind makes vibrates movement on it. The statement of the movement of the wind, leaves, and windowpanes is suitable with kinesthetic imagery criteria because it represents the movement of the objects which are leaves and windowpanes. The aim of the kinesthetic imagery here is to make readers imagine the movements of the wind, leaves, and windowpanes while reading the text.

4. CONCLUSION

There are 116 sentences about imageries found in the novel *The Color of Heaven*. The types of imagery that exist in the novel are visual imagery, auditory imagery, olfactory imagery, tactile imagery, organic imagery, and kinesthetic imagery. There is one imagery which not exists in the novel that is gustatory imagery. For the analysis there is 125 analysis, first, there is 32 visual imagery with the purpose to draw pictures that are related to the visual sense in the readers' imagination. Second, there is 34 auditory imagery with the purpose to make readers imagine the sound image in their mind. Third, there is 12 olfactory imagery with the purpose to make readers imagine the smell of the things they are reading. Fourth is there is tactile imagery 11 with the purpose to draw images that represent the touching of textures. Fifth, there is 16 organic imagery with the purpose to make readers imagine the feel of internal organic feeling in their imagination. Sixth, there is 20 kinesthetic imagery with the purpose to draw a picture that related to the movement of people, animals, and objects in the readers' imagination. Overall, out of seven types of imagery based on Laurence Perrine's theory, there are only six types of imagery found in the novel.

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