Analysis of Metaphors Applied in Mobile Legends Game

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Abstract
The purpose of this study is to analyze metaphors applied in the Mobile Legends game. It is a research on semantics approach since the focus of the study is investigating the meaning as seen from characters' utterances. Metaphor is a kind of figurative language that is learned in semantics. Figurative language is seen as a creative way of using language to express a more-in-depth meaning via a creative style more than literally. The use of metaphors occurs in online games, like Mobile Legends, to strengthen the gamer's emotions and feelings. This research applied (Perrine and Arp, 1992) theory to investigate metaphors used in Mobile Legends through the characters' utterances. This study employed qualitative and descriptive research. The data for this research are the utterances of all the characters in the Mobile Legend game. After analyzed, the results show that there are 31 utterances using metaphor. It is aimed to personalize the character's role more real and to give imaginative influences to the listener or player. The metaphors used are able to stir the player's emotions through the metaphorical language shown in the utterances.
Keyword : *metaphors, semantics, mobile legends, game*

A.   Introduction

Nowdays, Mobile Legends is a game which has a very large community. Mobile Legends is a mobile game of MOBA (Multiplayer Online Battle Analog) type. The game is growing in popularity around the world, especially in the Southeast Asian region, and has more than 1 billion downloads, with a monthly player peak of 100 million (Racoma & Arthur, 2021). The number of Mobile Legends monthly active players (monthly active users) at the global level reached more than 90 million. Mobile Legends is one of the most popular video games, especially in Southeast Asia.

It is a multiplayer game that is divided into two teams to have competition to damage the tower, which is the main base of both teams. Many game developers in the world are competing to create realistic and interesting video games for their players. It means that the characters in the video games seem to communicate directly with the players in a dialog. The dialogue sometimes used figurative language like metaphors. The use of these metaphors is increasingly widespread,

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not only covering literary works such as poetry, songs, plays, and movies. But it can also be found in video games. (Christian 2019)

While playing the Mobile Legends game, the players find some utterances said as if they are having communication with the characters in the game. It shows that utterances or phrases in the Mobile Legends game sometimes contain metaphors. It is applied to show the characters' personalization. In addition, it is sometimes used to achieve more complex or powerful effects. It is aimed at influencing the player to convey their emotions and feelings.

The characters in the Mobile Legends game are humans, elves, cat elves, centaurs, demons, angles, orcs, and many others, with several roles such as assassin, tank, figter, marksman, mage, and support. All heroes sometimes use metaphors in their utterances during the battle.

This research focuses on metaphor analysis in Mobile Legends video games. The utterances spoken by Mobile Legends characters are chosen as the data to analyze. The importance of this research is to find out what figurative language is contained in the characters and the meaning of the figurative language, and to deepen the author's understanding regarding metaphors for characters in Mobile Legends games. By analyzing the characters of this game, this research can reveal the influence of popular culture on language and communication. Through a better understanding of the metaphors used in Mobile Legends, this research can provide insight into the way popular culture shapes and is influenced by video games.

This research can also provide insight into how metaphors occurred and is used in social interactions in Mobile Legends games. Characters in games often have dialog and interactions with other players, and figurative language can be used to convey messages, emotions or build relationships between characters. A related research has been conducted and discussed by Handriana Ayu (2022) entitled "A Multimodal Analysis of Interactive Meaning and Metafunction in Hero Characters Mobile Legend". It discussed visual imagery and verbal imagery in the legendary mobile game. This research analyzes the visual and verbal imagery in mobile legend game while this research is to find out what figurative language contained in the characters and the meaning of the figurative language and to deepen the author's

understanding regarding figurative language for characters in Mobile Legends games. By understanding the use of metaphors in this context, this research can help us better understand how social interactions occur in video games. In other words, this research not only offers a new understanding of figurative language in Mobile Legends games, but also inspires future research in the field.

According to (Perrine and Arp, 1992), a figure of speech is any way of saying something other than the ordinary way. Figurative language based on Perrine's theories include metaphor, simile, personification, synecdoche, paradox, symbol, allegory, overstatement or hyperbole, apostrophe, understatement, and verbal irony.

A metaphor is a type of figurative language used to implicitly compare two different things without using comparison words such as "like" or "as". Comparison is implied without using the words of comparison such as like, as, similar to, and resemble. For example: Your diamond eyes amaze me. The sentence is comparing the "eyes" with "diamond". In that sentence, the eyes being compared are ordinary human eyes, but the word "diamond" means the characteristics of the eyes.

Each hero has different roles and abilities and can be used to contribute to the team's winning the game. In Mobile Legends itself, there are many heroes that players can use to play, including The *Assassin* (assassins have high movement speed and the ability to traverse the battlefield quickly, allowing them to make lightning attacks and avoid danger). (Nagatama 2022) The *Fighter* (The role is one that has a good mix of attack power and durability. Fighters have the ability to survive in battle while dealing significant damage to the enemy; The *Marskman* (Marksman role is a role that has special skills in dealing long-range damage to the enemy. Marksman is a hero with a ranged attack and has a high attack rate and fast shooting speed); the *mag*e (mage role is a role that has great magic power and is able to deal magical damage to enemies in battle. Mages generally use ranged attacks and have a variety of magic abilities to paralyze or destroy enemies (Nagatama 2022); *tank* or defender is a role that has high defensive power and serves as the front guard of the team); s*upport* (the support

role is a role that focuses on providing support to teammates in a variety of ways).

B. Research Method

This research applies the qualitative method to explore the meanings of metaphors used by some characters in the Mobile Legends video game. According to Marczyk, DeMatteo, and Festinger (2005), a qualitative research method does not attempt to quantify the results in statistics or in numbers. Interviews and observations are typically involved in conducting qualitative studies with informal measurement. A case study, which is an in-depth description or analysis of one person, is a form of qualitative research. It focuses on a deep and holistic understanding of a person's experience and perceptions that can't be measured quantitatively. By using the descriptive qualitative method, the researcher can provide a detailed and accurate description of the observed phenomenon (Taylor, Robert Bogdan, and DeVault 2016). The data will be analyzed using Perrine ("Theory Figurative Language According Perrine," n.d.; Perrine and Arp 1992 theory). They are metaphor, simile, personification, synecdoche, paradox, symbol, allegory, overstatement/hyperbole, apostrophe, understatement, and verbal irony. There are 60 utterances from the six roles taken in the first month of the 27th season.

C. Findings and Discussion

The data used in this study are the utterances or speech of the heroes in the Mobile Legend game. There are 60 data to analyze from all roles including assassin, figter, marksmasn, mage, tank, and support in season 27. The metaphors used based on the role's characters are shown below:

Table 1: Metaphors used by heroes of Mobile Legends

Role	Hero's Name	Frequency of Metaphors Usage
Assassin	Alucard, Selana, Karina, and Joy	4
Figter	Argus, Martis, Paquito, Badang	4
Marksman	Hanabi, Kimmy, Clint, Minsittar, Wan-wan, Hanabi	5
Mage	Vexana, Hanabi, Cyclops, Aulus, Cecilion	6
Tank	Alice, Belerick, Esmeralda, Kufra, Tigreal, Hilda	6
Support	Estes, Carmila, Diggie, Flolyn, Faramis, Lolita	6
Total		30

1. Role Assasin

In the role of assassins, there are four heroes who used metaphors. They are Alucard, Selana, Karina, and Joy. The explanations are as follow:

"Nothing can stop me once I've drawn my sword."

The expression "drawing my sword" is a metaphor that describes one's act of preparation or commitment to face a challenge or battle. It not only refers to the actual physical action but also reflects one's strength, determination, and resilience when they are ready to face a challenging situation. In the game context, the expression conveys that once one is prepared and committed to facing a situation or challenge, nothing can stop them.

"When you gaze into the abyss, the abyss gazes back."

In this case, "the abyss" describes the dark side, destruction, or evil. This metaphor emphasizes the idea that when one engages in something negative or harmful, they will also be affected by it, and the darkness can affect and corrupt them. The use of this metaphor helps to convey the message in a powerful way and illustrates the interplay between a person and the darkness or evil they face.

"The dark is my camouflage."

In this sentence, "the dark" is used as a non-literal comparison or representation to describe the way a person uses darkness as a camouflage or protection. In this sentence, the author implies that they can use darkness as a way to conceal themselves or hide from the attention of others. This suggests that the hero is comfortable or protected in the dark and can utilize it to their advantage.

"Annoy the kitty, you get a tiger."

The phrase "Annoy the kitty, you get a tiger" is figurative by using metaphor. The metaphor is used here to describe a greater consequence or stronger response if the action taken initially seems trivial or insignificant. In this expression, "kitty" is used as a metaphor for something weak, harmless, or non-threatening, while "tiger" is used as a metaphor for something strong,

dangerous, or frightening. It describes the drastic change in response or situation that occurs when a small action triggers a larger or more dangerous response.

2. Role Fighters

Fighters play a versatile role, combining attack power and durability. They excel at surviving battles while dealing significant damage to enemies. Here are some metaphors used by some heroes in the fighter role.

"Become one with the sword."

In this sentence, "sword" is used as a symbol to reflect skill or a deep understanding of martial arts or combat. The phrase "become one with the sword" describes a state where one reaches a very deep level of expertise or merges with the weapon.

"These blades are my teeth and I'm all bite and no bark."

The sentence *"These blades are my teeth and I'm all bite and no bark"* belongs to a type of figurative language called metaphor or implicit comparison. In this sentence, there is a comparison between blades and teeth, with the trait of "all bite and no bark" referring to a person's personality or characteristics. The nature of "all bite and no bark" describes the characteristics of a person who is more active and aggressive in acting (biting) than just speaking (vocalizing).

"Every scar mine is a badge of glory."

In this context, the sentence implies that any wounds or scars that the individual has are a sign of courage, sacrifice, or battles that have been fought. The wounds are considered a sign of achievement or success in the struggle or challenge faced. They see these wounds not as something negative, but as a sign of courage and valuable experiences that have shaped who they are.

"The tougher the challenge, the sharper my spear."

In this sentence, there is an implicit comparison between a challenge and a spear. In this simile, challenges are considered a factor that makes a person sharper, just like a spear that becomes sharper when faced with more difficult challenges.

3. Role Marksman

Role Marksman are heroes with special skills in dealing long-range damage to enemies. They have a long-range attack with a high attack rate and a fast shooting speed, allowing them to be the main source of damage in the team. These are explanations of metaphors found in marksman role heroes.

"Lusting for power makes them weak"

Literally, *"Lusting for power makes them weak"* means that a strong desire for power makes a person weak. "Lusting for power" refers to an uncontrollable desire or strong obsession with power. This phrase illustrates that when one is highly obsessed with power and focuses solely on personal ambition, they actually become internally weak.

"I have got a bullet with your name on it."

The phrase *"I have got a bullet with your name on it"* is an utterance that uses figurative language and metaphor. In this context, the proverb illustrates that someone has a very clear and specific intention or plan to hurt or harm the intended person. The metaphor used is "a bullet with your name on it," which describes a specific and inevitable target.

"You can't run from my arrow."

In this context, "arrow" is used figuratively to symbolize a threat or attack. The phrase figuratively states that one will not be able to escape or avoid the attack or the consequences of the arrow.

"Blind confidence will get you nowhere."

In this case, the metaphor illustrates that having confidence without good judgment or an accurate understanding of the situation can hinder one's progress or success. The word "blind" or baseless self-confidence refers to a barrier that prevents one from achieving goals or making progress. In this context, "nowhere" refers to the inability to make progress or achieve meaningful success.

4. Role mage

The Mage role is a role that has great magic power and is able to deal magical damage to enemies in battle. The Mage's main role is to be the main source of magical damage for the team. There are four heroes who use metaphors in their mage roles.

"There's no farther for us to fall."

In this case, a metaphor is used to describe a bad or worse situation or condition that has reached its lowest point. In this context, the use of the word "fall" figuratively describes the decline or failure that has occurred. It helps to convey the message in a powerful and dramatic way, illustrating that the situation or condition at hand has already hit rock bottom and there is no more room for further decline.

"I will hunt you to the ends of the earth."

The phrase "I will hunt you to the ends of the earth" belongs to a type of figurative language called metaphor. In this case, metaphors are used to express a strong will and determination to chase or pursue someone. In this context, the phrase "hunt you to the ends of the earth" figuratively describes a strong desire or commitment to continue pursuing someone relentlessly, even to the ends of the earth.

"Stars are my eyes"

The phrase "Stars are my eyes" belongs to a type of figurative language referred to as metaphor. In this case, a metaphor is used to compare two different things in a typically implicit way. In this context, the phrase uses a metaphor to describe the relationship between stars and eyes. The metaphor illustrates that a person's eyes have properties or characteristics similar to stars, such as sparkle, beauty, or radiated light. The use of metaphors in the phrase helps to give a creative and descriptive picture of the nature or strength of one's eyes by comparing them to stars. This can give a sense of beauty, splendor, or nobility to the depiction of the eyes and convey the message in a powerful and artistic way.

"The more your fear grows, the smaller you become"

The phrase *"The more your fear grows, the smaller you become"* belongs to a type of figurative language called a metaphor. In this case, a metaphor is used to compare two different things in a typically implicit way. In this case, the phrase uses a figurative metaphor to describe the relationship between the growth of fear and the size of a person. The simile states that the bigger a person's fear, the smaller they become. The use of this simile helps to convey the message in a powerful and descriptive way. Through this simile, the phrase illustrates the concept that growing fears can reduce a person's courage or confidence, making them feel smaller and weaker.

"Only love and night everlasting"

The phrase on the side, *"Only love and night everlasting,"* belongs to a type of figurative language referred to as metaphor. In the phrase, there is a use of metaphor to describe love and night. "Love" and "night" are used as symbols or broader representations of these concepts. The metaphor implies that love is similar in nature to the eternal or infinite night. The use of this metaphor helps to create a romantic and intense feel to the message. The phrase depicts that love is something that is continuous and eternal, like a night that does not end.

5. Role Tank

The Tank role (defender) is a role that has high defensive power and serves as the front guard of the team. Tanks have strong strength and durability to absorb enemy attacks and protect their teammates. Some examples of findings are as follows:

"Listen, your heart is beating for me"

In general, the sentence *"listen, your heart is beating for me"* can be classified as a metaphor or implicit comparison. In this context, a beating heart is not a real thing but an image to convey the strong feelings felt by the speaker to the person spoken to.

"The abyss may corrode our land, but not our iron will"

The sentence *"The abyss may corrode our land, but not our iron will"* belongs to figurative usage metaphor. The word "abyss" is used as an image to describe a very bad or dangerous situation or circumstance, while "hole" is literally a deep and dark crevice. On the other hand, "iron will" refers to unwavering strength and perseverance. This is a figurative way to convey strength of will and resilience in the midst of challenges.

"Death is nothing compared to my beliefs"

In this context, "death" is used as a contrast to show that the beliefs held by the individual are much more important and powerful than death. The sentence expresses the courage and perseverance of an individual in maintaining his or her beliefs even in the face of great danger, such as death.

"May my role add some fun to this boring world"

In the sentence, "role" is used as a symbol for one's action or contribution to make the world more interesting. The sentence is not meant to literally mean that one's role is an object that can add physical pleasure, but is used as an image to convey one's hope or goal to make the world more fun.

"Even death cannot deprive our iron will"

The word "death" is used as a symbol to describe the biggest and most final threat to humans. Meanwhile, "iron will" is used as an image or to symbolize human strength, determination, and resilience in the face of challenges. The sentence conveys that not even death can take away the strong will and determination that exist within a person. This shows that one's spirit and courage will still stand firm even when faced with death.

"I will carry my faith to the grave"

A metaphor is used to describe a person's commitment to their beliefs. The utterance "carry my faith to the grave" is used as an image to symbolize that one will not abandon or neglect their beliefs until they die. This is a representation of constancy and faithfulness in maintaining one's beliefs until the end.

6. Role support

The Support role is a role that focuses on providing support to teammates in a variety of ways. Supports are responsible for increasing team survival and effectiveness by providing protection, healing, control, and assistance in battle. Here are the details of the findings:

"*Holy light will grant me victory*"

The phrase *"Holy light will grant me victory"* belongs to a type of figurative language called metaphor. In this case, the metaphor is used to describe the relationship between "holy light" and "victory". In this context, "holy light" is used as a symbol of divine power, protection or favor, while "victory" describes success or victory in a situation or battle.

"*Love grants us coverage to keep on going*"

In this case, metaphor is used to describe the relationship between "love" and "coverage." In this context, "love" is used as a symbol of support, emotional warmth, or bonding between individuals. "Coverage" is used to describe the protection or security that love provides. Through metaphor, the phrase depicts that love provides protection or coverage that allows one to move on and continue life's journey.

"*Running late? Just slow down the time*"

The phrase *"Running late? Just slow down the time"* belongs to a type of figurative language called metaphor. In this case, metaphor is used to describe the relationship between "slowing down the time" and the situation of someone who is in a hurry or late. In this context, "slowing down the time" is used as a symbol or representation to address the situation when one feels rushed or late.

After analysis, it was found that there are 30 utterances used by heroes in six different roles in Mobile Legends games, namely assassins, fighters, marksman, mages, tanks, and support. The assassin role in this game is tasked with ambushing enemy heroes and dealing high levels of damage to the opposing team. Role fighters are versatile roles that combine attack power and durability. They have the

advantage of surviving combat while still being able to deal significant damage to the enemy. Role marksmen are heroes with special skills in dealing damage from a distance to the enemy. Role mages have great magic power and are able to deal magical damage to enemies in battle. The mage's main role is to be the main source of magical damage for the team. The tank role is one role that has high defense power and serves as the vanguard of the team. Tanks have strong strength and durability to absorb enemy attacks and protect their teammates. The support role is a role that focuses on providing support to teammates in various ways. Supports are responsible for increasing team survival and effectiveness by providing protection, healing, control, and assistance in battle.

Metaphors are often used by heroes in the Mobile Legends game in season 27 because this form of figurative language is effective for conveying messages and expressing hero characteristics in an interesting and memorable way. It is because metaphors are effective in communication. Metaphors are a powerful way to convey a message in a concise and easy-to-understand manner. By using commonly recognized images, heroes can communicate their actions, abilities, or characteristics more clearly and persuasively to players. Besides, metaphors are attractive and creative, metaphors can be very interesting and creative, making the hero's speech more prominent and memorable. This increases the appeal of the game and makes the gaming experience more entertaining and satisfying for the player.

After the data is analyzed, there are several types and meanings of metaphors used by heroes in the Mobile Legends game. Metaphors are often used by heroes in the Mobile Legends game in season 27 because of the effectiveness in conveying messages and expressing hero characteristics in an interesting and memorable way. Reasons why metaphors are mostly spoken by heroes are below:

- Effectiveness of communication: Metaphors are a powerful way to convey a message in a concise and easy-to-understand manner. By using commonly recognized images, heroes can communicate their actions, abilities, or characteristics more clearly and persuasively to players.

- Attractiveness and creativity: Metaphors can be very interesting and creative, making the hero's speech more prominent and memorable. This increases the appeal of the game and makes the gaming experience more entertaining and satisfying for the player.

- Player identification with the hero: Through metaphors, heroes can help players more easily identify themselves with the character and role of the hero. This helps create an emotional bond between the player and the hero, increasing engagement in the game.

Overall, the use of metaphors and personification by heroes in the Mobile Legends game in season 27 is an effective communication strategy to deliver strong messages, bring characters to life, and create a more fun and engaging gaming experience for players.

Metaphors in a game's story, dialog, or narrative can help evoke deeper emotions in gamers. Strong phrases can increase their emotional bond with the characters, the game world, and the overall storyline. It can be used to give deeper meaning to situations or concepts in play. In addition, the use of metaphors by game characters can make gamers feel like they are having a direct dialogue with the character they are playing and as if they are being brought into the situation in which the game is taking place.

From the research above, it illustrated that Mobile Legends games can also be a scientific study with Ayu Handriana (2022), A Multimodal Analysis of Interactive Meaning and Meta-function in Hero Characters in Mobile Legend. This study analyzes the visual and verbal image in the Mobile Legend game. In the context of linguistics, the Mobile Legends game offers a variety of interesting topics that can be the subject of research with different approaches. For example, studies on the use of slang words in this game, multimodal analysis to understand how visual and audio communication is used in the game.

IV. Conclusion

First, this research found 60 data from six roles of heroes; it was found that there were 30 data using metaphors. More specifically, in the context of the Mobile Legends game, metaphor is the most frequently used type of figurative

language. There are 31 heroes who use metaphors as part of their dialog or character. Of the six roles previously described, the tank and support roles were the two most dominant in using this figurative language. Thus, metaphor is the figurative language used more by heroes in these roles. The results of this study provide insight into the use of metaphors in the context of the Mobile Legends game and show a preference for heroes with certain roles. The use of metaphors can give an added dimension to the characters and the world built into the game. By using metaphors, it can create a richer and more engaging experience for players. The characters in the game can speak in a way that is not only literal but also full of imagination and stronger expressions.

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