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INTERNATIONAL CONFERENCE OF
RESEARCH ON LANGUAGE EDUCATION 2023

**EMBRACING CHANGE:
EMANCIPATING THE LANDSCAPE
OF RESEARCH IN LINGUISTIC,
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TELL ME, HOW'S EVERYTHING? AN ANTHOLOGY OF POEMS TO INCREASE THE UNDERSTANDING OF FIGURATIVE LANGUAGE

Sarah Yasmin Mohamad Tarmizi¹, *Ameiruel Azwan Ab Aziz²

^{1,2}Universiti Teknologi MARA, Cawangan Melaka

¹sarahmizi@gmail.com

²ameirul@uitm.edu.my

*Corresponding author

ABSTRACT:

An anthology of 36 poems about expressing the six most prevalent human emotions: sorrow, anxiety, optimism, love, euphoria, and nostalgia. This project aims to increase the understanding of figurative language through poetries to help women showcase their expressions, pique interest in reading unfamiliar poetries to them, and engage the community with the poetry's aesthetic appeal. This design and development project was followed by the ADDIE module, which began with the writer conducting a survey of women's understanding of figurative language and the most frequent emotions used, planning the outline of the poems and "Author's Note", designing until the book was finalised, registering ISBN and PDP that is ready to be sold. Lastly, receiving feedback from the project supervisor, peers, and readers. The outcome of this anthology was based on the theme's effectiveness and individuals' interest in reading the book. All respondents highly agreed on how the theme of expressing emotions through figurative language improves language competence and stimulates creative thinking. The illustrations and "Author's Note" contributed substantially to the poetry's aesthetic appeal. The creation of "Tell Me, How's Everything" was written to demonstrate how employing metaphors and language figures can enhance women's expressions through reading poetry and its aesthetic appeal.

Keywords: Emotions, expressions, figurative language, poems, women

1. INTRODUCTION

Figurative language uses words or expressions that have a meaning distinct from their literal interpretation. It is commonly known that emotional expressions are often written with figurative language (Lee, 2018). Figurative language can often be found in short stories, dramas, and speeches. The evolution of the internet has led to a massive platform for human communication where individuals can also employ figurative language in social media. However, some people face difficulties expressing their feelings adequately in this advanced era. According to Rajaram (2022), women are more curious and far-sighted than men; therefore, they contemplate more about any subject. In contrast to men, women's internet addiction impairs their sleep and adds stress to their personal and professional lives. Using figurative language can be the simplest way to help ease those pressured emotions. Lee (2018) observed that emotion's complexity and abstractness require figurative language. According to Fussell and Moss (1998), their study spots the relationship between the dimensional structure of an affective experience and uses metaphors, similes, idioms, and other ways of describing that experience. Poetry can act as a

medium to help express our emotions using figurative language. Zhang (2022) claims that poetry appreciation influences shaping personality and intervention treatment.

“Tell Me, How’s Everything” is an anthology of poems that uses figurative language to express various feelings. The theme of this project shows six predominant emotions: sorrow, anxiety, optimism, love, euphoria, and nostalgia. The poems are based on a female’s point of view in expressing these emotions. Thirty-six poems were written, whereby each is accompanied by an “Author’s Note” that provides an overview of the poem, as well as reminders and encouragement to the readers when handling their emotions. In addition, each chapter includes different types of poetry, such as free verse, sonnet, haiku, and acrostic poems, to spark more interest in giving different rhythms and rhymes. Moreover, the project is published digitally and physically. Finally, the poetries are also written and marketed towards female teenagers to adults aged 13 to 40 years old and above.

1.1 Project Objective

- To showcase figurative language in women’s expressions.
- To pique people’s interest in reading poems unfamiliar to them.
- To engage the community with the poetry’s aesthetic appeal.

1.2 Entrepreneurial Opportunities

An anthology of poems with illustrations and explanations about the poems using “Author’s Note” has the potential to be added to the market as it has value. Firstly, by allowing the book to be published physically. Readers tend to feel emotionally attached and cherish physical books. It is also said that reading physical books give a feeling that e-books cannot make where readers can touch, smell, and make eye interaction with the pages of the book (Ginny, Parameswari, and Silaswara, 2022). This project can be published under an established company such as IMAN Publication or Silverfish Books. They are known as Malaysia’s famous local publication companies and have helped many young authors reach their books in retail bookstores. In addition, the project can also receive recognition to be published in international publications. This will give an advantage to the writer in reaching her project to worldwide audiences. Some of the global publishing companies that can provide this prospect can be done by Penguin Random House and Simon & Schuster. Besides that, the project can be sold in retail bookstores such as Popular, MPH, and Kinokuniya, as these bookstores are available both locally and internationally, making the project easily accessible to vast potential readers.

Next, the book can also be published in an e-book version. It is said that e-books are growing fondly among readers, especially after the COVID-19 pandemic, due to their low cost, easily downloadable, and convenience of bringing them anywhere (Sari, Rahim, Sundari, and Aulia, 2022). The book could be published digitally on well-known e-book platforms such as Google Play Books, Apple Books, and Kindle.

2. PROJECT DEVELOPMENT

The project carried out a survey questionnaire through a Google Form to receive feedback from potential readers after they had seen the preview of the writer’s book. There were 30 female respondents from various backgrounds regarding age and occupation. The questions provided were mainly about the effectiveness of understanding figurative language through poems and the interest in reading the book itself.



Figure 2.1: Gantt Chart of Project

The anthology of poems began with a survey to analyse women’s understanding of figurative language and what kind of emotions they usually express. Once the data was collected, the writer started the writing process by using Microsoft Word. After confirming the project's theme, the writer wrote the poems along with “Author’s Note”. The first and second chapters were sent to be proofread by the writer’s supervisor. The remaining chapters repeated the same process until all 36 poems were completed and approved. Next, the writer started designing the book using Canva. The author had contacted a close friend, Emalin Nuha, who is a qualified Adobe professional, to help readjust in designing the book cover. The book cover included illustrations, colours, and fonts that appeared elegant to give a feminine look, whereas the pages are black and white theme. Afterwards, the illustrations were then added to specific pages of the book. This is because the writer did not want all the pages to have illustrations as it would look too complex to the readers’ eyes. Once the book’s design was completed, the writer showed her finalised book to the project supervisor for approval.

The next step was registering for ISBN and PDP to protect intellectual property through copyrighting. The registration process for the ISBN and PDP for both paperback and e-book took approximately a week to be approved, generated, and delivered to the writer. As this project will be published physically, the writer began to order 20 copies of the book through a supplier found in Shopee. The cost for one book is RM9.95, including shipping; it was bought at an affordable price as it was bought wholesale. Besides physical publishing, the writer also published digitally through the “Heyzine Flipbooks” application. The writer chose this application as it provides a feature called “password protected” that allows the writer to choose the audience who can view the e-book. The last step of this project was creating a website to give further information about the writer and the book itself, where individuals can contact the writer, read sneak peeks of the book, and make a purchase through the website.

3. RESULTS AND DISCUSSION

30 female respondents answered a feedback questionnaire about the effectiveness of understanding figurative language through poetics. These individuals were given a preview of the book before answering the survey.

3.1: The Identity of the Age Group

Based on the results, most respondents were young adults aged 20 to 25 years old who were interested in reading the poetry book.

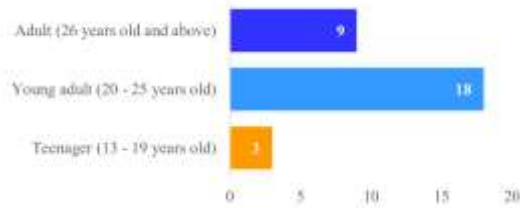


Figure 3.1: The Identity of the Age Group

3.2: The identity of the Occupation Group

In addition, most responders were language students from LG120 and non-language students.

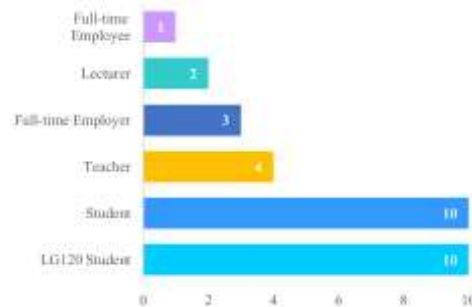


Figure 3.2: The identity of the Occupation Group

3.3: Response to the Relationship Between the Theme of Expressing Emotions using Figurative Language and the Poetries

A majority of 25 respondents, 83.3%, highly agreed that the theme of expressing the six emotions, such as sorrow, anxiety, optimism, love, euphoria, and nostalgia, using figurative language does relate to the poems.

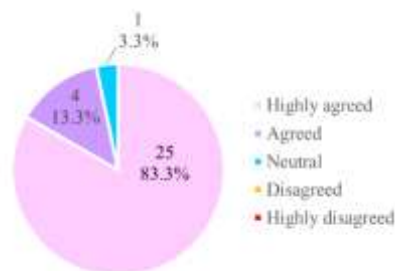


Figure 3.3: Response to Relationship Between the Theme of Expressing Emotions using Figurative Language and the Poetries

3.4: Response to the Poetries' Effectiveness

After reading the poems, the majority of 25 respondents, 83.3%, strongly agree that the poems do help individuals in helping to express themselves well.

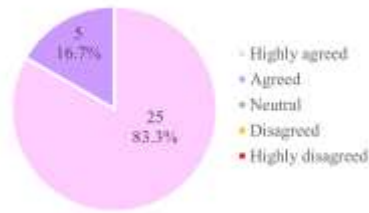


Figure 3.4: Response to the Poetries' Effectiveness

3.5: Response to the Assistance of Illustrations and “Author’s Note”

Illustrations are added to enhance the reader’s comprehensiveness, whereas “Author’s Note” helps to summarise each poem. The majority of 25 respondents, 83.3%, highly agreed that both illustrations and “Author’s Note” help understand the poetry better since the poems are written in figurative language that does not use literal text.

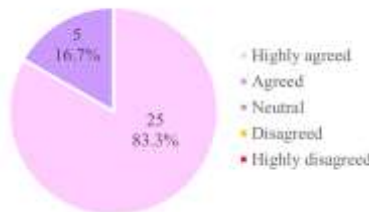


Figure 3.5: Response to the Assistance of Illustrations and "Author's Note"

3.6: Response to Individual’s Interest in Reading the Book

A majority of 20 respondents with, 66.7%, and seven respondents, 23.3%, voted that they were highly interested in reading the book, whereas three respondents, 10%, felt neutral. This may be because the individuals might not be familiar with reading poetry.

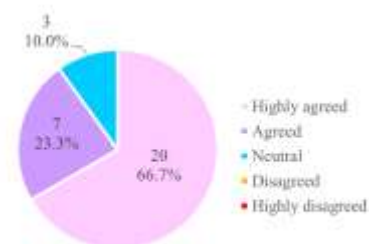


Figure 3.6: Response to Individual's Interest in Reading the Book

3.7: Response to Suggested Improvements

Based on the answers in the questionnaire below, the majority responded that the book did not need any improvements as the design and content were satisfying. However, some respondents suggested that the book could add more colours, bigger fonts, and more illustrations to enhance the book’s visualisation.

Number of Respondents	Respondent's Answers
Respondent 1	-
Respondent 2	I think it's good so far, and I don't think there's anything to improve. The minimalist design makes it a light read and not too overwhelming for readers.
Respondent 3	I don't think there's anything that should be improved. I think the poems are very well written. I also like how the poems are very expressive but in a poetic way.
Respondent 4	All good and perfect for now :)
Respondent 5	There's not any changes or improvements to be made
Respondent 6	The uniqueness of the words that you choose is perfect, hence your expressions are on point, is i like every part of the book that showed how clever you are in expressing your feelings that have been kept for years. Music gave me the sense of euphoria and escape so do your upcoming book, if i could kiss a thing, that will be surely yours- tell me how's everything
Respondent 7	Everything is perfect
Respondent 8	Nothing can be improved because it's inch perfect
Respondent 9	Fonts? Maybe a decently bigger font could help me read better without spectacles.
Respondent 10	All excellent
Respondent 11	Probs a lot more illustrations in each pages would make it look more interesting. Nothing crazy, just simple doodles at the corner or something.
Respondent 12	A little more color would be okay
Respondent 13	Perfect!
Respondent 14	It's just nice
Respondent 15	Your works are so neat and well organised, it matches the theme so well.
Respondent 16	Great job sarah
Respondent 17	From me, none
Respondent 18	Everything is perfect! Good job!
Respondent 19	These poems look well written. Looking forward to see the end product
Respondent 20	Looks interesting sarah!!
Respondent 21	Nothing to be improved, looks good!
Respondent 22	Very pretty the design and drawings
Respondent 23	No need improvements
Respondent 24	I cant wait to read these poems
Respondent 25	I love how you convey your words through these poems. It does grasp the usage of figurative language.
Respondent 26	Perfect
Respondent 27	Everything is perfect
Respondent 28	More visuals would be nice..adding a text to speech option would be great as well since this could cater to the special needs group.
Respondent 29	-
Respondent 30	None and I love the idea of the author's note as it does help in understanding the poems.

Figure 3.7: Response to Suggested Improvements



According to the feedback questionnaire, it has been proven that more than 96% of the respondents experienced aesthetically pleasing in the poems through figurative language regardless of the style and subject matter. All respondents agreed that poetry is one of the effective tools to improve language competence and help flourish more creative thinking. A poet's proficiency in crafting words to depict images and emotions in "Authors' Note" manifested significant contributions to a work's aesthetic appeal. Moreover, it can increase readers' understanding of figurative language to express their emotions well. Overall, this survey has shown positive feedback on people's perspectives on the relationship between figurative language and poeries.

4. CONCLUSION

The birth of "Tell Me, How's Everything" existed so that this project may open many eyes to the fact that there are various ways to express our emotions and that they should not be looked down upon. The anthology of poems was written to demonstrate how employing metaphors and language figures can enhance women's expressions through reading poeries and its aesthetic appeal. Hence, the writer hopes the poeries may touch the readers' hearts and help them find the words they have been looking for to express themselves.

ACKNOWLEDGEMENT

The authors would like to thank the respondents for participating in the completion of this project. "Tell Me, How's Everything?" is impossible without family, collegial, and supervisor support, and they are genuinely appreciated.

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APPENDIX



Appendix A: Cover Page of "Tell Me, How's Everything?"