

## Imagery of Intrinsic Elements Found in Edgar Allan Poe's Poetry

Fitriyah<sup>1\*</sup>, Imam Ghozali<sup>2</sup>, Ika Desy Wardani<sup>3</sup>

<sup>1,2,3</sup> Universitas Islam Jember, Indonesia

<sup>1</sup>[fitriyahalfitriyah@gmail.com](mailto:fitriyahalfitriyah@gmail.com); <sup>2</sup>[ighozali1977@gamil.com](mailto:ighozali1977@gamil.com); <sup>3</sup>[bayuikadesy@gmail.com](mailto:bayuikadesy@gmail.com)

\*corresponding author

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**Abstract.** This research was purposed to found and explained the kinds of imagery in three poetries by Edgar Allan Poe. All of content poetry is true story of Edgar Allan Poe's life. The poetry that was taken by researchers are "To My Mother, Serenade, and Spirits of the Dead". The researcher analyzed seven types of imagery as follows: visual imagery, auditory imagery, olfactory imagery, gustatory imagery, tactile imagery, organic imagery, and kinesthetic imagery. The method was regarded qualitative as research design. The researcher used documentation technique in collecting the data. Analysis data in this research implied content analysis approach. The result of this research showed forty-seven imageries in the three poetries of Edgar Allan Poe. The imagery found as follows; 23 visual, 4 auditory, 2 olfactory, 2 tactile, and 16 organics. The researcher found five types of imagery in three poetries, but the visual imagery is very dominant raised of each poetry.

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### **INTRODUCTION**

Poetry is one of the literatures that are demand in various ages in society. (Eagleton, Terry, 2010) literature is belle letters that record something through condensed language process, deepened, entangled, shortened, and twisted so that becomes aesthetic. In the literature, human expression packaged through aesthetic language in written or oral form based on creativity, opinion, experience, imaginative feeling, and reality (original data). (Esten, Mursal, 1978) literature is expression of artistic facts and imaginative as human life manifestation and general society, through language as medium and has a positive effect to

human life. Authors can create a literary work from various aspects in social life such as issues, culture, crimes through various approaches, including approaches in the analytical studies form, sociological analysis, and psychological analysis (Lokugé, Chandani, 2016). Authors can create literature in any form, not only simple writing but what is voiced, expressed, and anything has been good created and has positive impact. Literature can be divided into two major categories; they are fiction literature and nonfiction literature.

One of kinds fiction literature is poetry. People not only love to read poetry but are interested to creating poetry with their creative abilities. In creating poetry, the poet produces a poetry contains an implied meaning figurative language in the words that have been written (Pratiwi, D, et al, 2018). The majority uses of figurative language make readers difficult to understand the meaning in poetry, it is because strongly concentration of physical and mental structures of language meaning and needed the role of heart to digest and understand it. This makes some readers think hard to understand the meaning of figurative language conveyed by poet in his poetry. In creating poetry, the poet gives meaning or describing his feelings in poetry with process imagination, in other words language meaning of poetry related to imagery. It also helps readers to find the meaning and massage secret of poet in poetry.

Imagery is referred to as mental in a literary work such as poetry to relate meaning and key elements of figurative language (Carston, R, 2018). Imagery can influence our mentality to imagine and get carried away with something discussed or conveyed, so that we can cry, laugh, angry, etc., even though only writing. Imagery is one of the most common elements in criticism and most varied in the meaning of poetry. In general, imagery can be defined as a poet's sensory experience, then represented by language. (Pecher, Van Dantzig, & Schifferstein, 2009) imagery arises because experience that has been experienced by someone in conscious state, then delivered with different language variations. Sometimes imagery is produced by unconsciousness result, but experience awareness is very dominant to trigger the emergence of imagery.

Poetry must have an imagery of the poet's experience related to psychological, material, and metaphorical things that are conveyed in real terms using typical words. As we know, imagery evokes sensory experience of the reader. The poet can play senses (sight, taste, smell, sound) and feelings of the reader when he uses descriptive language well. Hui, Zhu (2018), poetry attracts the readers senses through imagery with showing verbal expressions that increase mental imagination or physical sensations. Therefore, imagery is an important and effective element in the composition of poetry. Understanding the meaning of imagery in poetry is temporary, changes from time to time, and ambiguous (Grisoni, L, 2017).

Imagery in poetry has several functions, namely, to provide a clear picture, to create a special atmosphere, making life images and thoughts and senses and also to attract the readers to poetry (Badrun, A, 2000). Imagery in poetry there are seven types follows: visual, auditory, olfactory, gustatory, tactile, organic, and kinesthetic (Laurence Perrine & Thomas R.A.P.P. op.cit, 1992). Several previous studies by Arbi, S. A, (2018) with title, **"Analysis of Imagery in Five Selected Poems by Maya Angelou"**, where researchers use

descriptive qualitative method and structural approach. The focus of this research is to find what types of imagery used in five poetries by Maya Angelou, including; *I Know Why the Caged Bird Sing*, *Still I Rise*, *Phenomenal Woman*, *When I Think about My Self*, and *Alone*. Another study by Sulaiman, M (2017) entitled **“Imagery Analysis on Emily Dickinson’s Poetry”**. The purpose of this study was to determine imagery and meaning in five poetries of Emily Dickinson. The method used in this study is descriptive-qualitative, the data collection technique is documentation, and the data analysis uses psychoanalytic approach by Kristeva. There was a previous study that analyze imagery of Edgar Allan Poe’s poetry which title, **“Imagery as Identity of Poet in the Poetry of Edgar Allan Poe”** By Aulia Sri Wahyuni, (2020) where the purpose of this study to determine the relationship between parables and their poetic identity, and how parables can show self-identity. The qualitative descriptive method was used by researchers to analyze data from five poetry titles of Edgar Allan Poe. Therefore, in this study decided to analyze kinds of imageries from Edgar Allan Poe’s poetry which the title; *Serenade*, *To My Mother*, and *Spirits of the Dead*, that have not been analyzed before.

Based on the explanation above, imagery has an important role to build meaning in the literatures one of which is poetry. The research problem of this study, what kinds of imagery found in Edgar Allan Poe’s Poetry? and research objective of this study to analyze the kinds of imagery found in Edgar Allan Poe’s poetry.

## METHODS

The researchers implement qualitative method as research design. Qualitative is the method concerned with interpretation meaning of people's thoughts from observations, experiences, interviews, and visual texts (Denzin & Lincoln, 1994). According to Ary, et al (2010), In qualitative studies, human is the main instrument for collecting and analyzing data. It’s mean researcher is the key instrument in this research focusing on the content poetry of Edgar Allan Poe.

Data collection in this research used documentation technique. Researchers collect data by gathering documents with skimming process from primary data source, namely poetry of Edgar Allan Poe. Analysis data in this research that has been content analysis. Based on Ary, et al (2010) argue that content analysis is the application of method study to analyze certain characteristics of written or visual materials. Meanwhile, according to Skelton and Ullaha (2015) that qualitative content analysis is not only used to analyze words and images but can be used to analyze the social context and wider reality of life. As a research technique, content analysis identifies the unit criteria set by researcher to be textually analyzed through sampling, coding, analyze and interpret data, and concluding significant results (Krippendorff, 2013).

**FINDINGS**

Table 1. Result from Analysis Imagery in Edgar Allan Poe’s Poetry

Title	Imagery						
	Visual	Auditory	Olfactory	Tactile	Organic	Gustatory	Kinesthetics
<b>To My Mother</b>	Line 1	Line 2 Line 5			Line 3 Line 4 Line 6 Line 11 Line 12 Line 14		
	Line 3 Line 6 Line 7 Line 8 Line 9 Line 10 Line 11 Line 14	Line 19 Line 21	Line 15 Line 16		Line 1 Line 2 Line 4 Line 13 Line 17 Line 25		
	Line 6 Line 7 Line 8 Line 9 Line 10 Line 12 Line 13 Line 14 Line 15 Line 22 Line 24 Line 25 Line 27 Line 28			Line 17 Line 23	Line 2 Line 5 Line 11 Line 16		

From table 1, presented imagery found of each poetry based of the result analysis data.

Table 2. Types of Imagery Found in Three Poetry by Edgar Allan Poe

Types of Imagery						
Visual	Auditory	Olfactory	Tactile	Organic	Gustatory	Kinesthetics
23	4	2	2	16	-	-
<b>Total = 47 Imagery</b>						

From table 2, it was showed that there were twenty three visual imagery, four auditory imagery, two olfactory imagery, two tactile imagery, and six-teen organic imagery in poetry of Edgar Allan Poe.

## **DISCUSSION**

This section to presented the result of analysis data that researchers got from object of the research. Researcher explained the result analysis imagery found in three poetry by Edgar Allan Poe are To My Mother, Serenade, and Spirits of the Dead.

### ***To My Mother (1849)***

This poetry consists of three stanzas and fourteen lines. Edgar Allan Poe created this poetry for his deceased mother-in-law. It tells about a mother-in-law who gives love and affection more than his birth mother, and she has high place in his heart.

#### ***Analysis Visual Imagery***

The purpose of visual imagery is to describe objects in poetry that can be captured by the sense of sight, like; color, shape, size, pattern, etc (Rusdi, P, 2017).

Line 1- *Because I feel that, in the Heavens above,*

Visual Imagery in this line the poet describes being able to see the shape of heaven in the phrase "*in the heaven above*".

#### ***Analysis Auditory Imagery***

Auditory imagery is related to hearing. The poets evoke auditory perception in their poetry, even only in imagination (Rusdi, P, 2017).

Line- 2: *The angels, whispering to one another.*

The poet uses the word "*whispering*" in the second line to strengthen auditory imagery aspect in this sentence. The depiction of this line, the poet like able to hear the whispers and conversations of the angels.

Line-5, *Therefore by that dear name I long have called you.*

The poet creates auditory imagery sensation in this line using the word "*Called*". In this sentence, Edgar Allan Poe explains that he calls his mother-in-law as he calls his biological mother.

#### ***Analysis Organic Imagery***

Organic Imagery is always related to feelings and moods including; tired, hungry, sleepy, scared, in love, happy, etc (Damanhuri, 2011). Edgar Allan Poe describes his immense love for his mother-in-law in those lines. The poet reinforces organic imagery in each line using sentences full of love, such as;

Line- 1, "burning *terms of love.*"

Line- 4, "None *so devotional as that of Mother*"

Line- 6, "You *who are more than mother unto me.*"

Line- 11, "the *one I loved so dearly*"

Line- 12, "*dearer than the mother I knew.*"

Line- 15, "*Was dearer to my soul than its soul-life*".

### ***Serenade (1833)***

Serenade is poetry by Edgar Allan Poe with a love background and admiration for the universe. This poem was created with the nuances of love in magical night. Edgar Allan Poe describes love with the beautiful natural atmosphere and makes him enchanted like in heaven. This poetry has only one stanza and twenty-five lines.

#### ***Analysis Visual Imagery***

Line-3 When *Nature sleeps and stars are mute*

In this line the researcher finds a visual imagery of "*Nature sleep and stars*", where the poet describes that he is looking for the nature and stars in the sky are sleeping soundly at night.

Line- 6- 9

*An image of Elysium lies:*

*Seven Pleiades entranced in heaven,*

*Form in the deep another seven:*

*Endymion nodding from above*

The poet strengthens the visual imagery in line 6 using "*An Image*" and "*Elysium*", which the poet can see Elysium clearly. Elysium is a special heaven for godly people chosen as a gift to live the afterlife.

In lines 7 and 8, the sentence describes Edgar Allan Poe seeing the "*seven Pleiades*" in heaven. Based on astrological stories, the Pleiades are star groups very close to Earth. While the Greek mythology explains that Pleiades are beautiful women from descendants of the Titan Atlas and sea Nymph Pleione, totaling seven siblings.

Line- 9, the researcher found visual imagery in the word "*nodding*". The poet in this sentence describes that he is seeing Endymion nod to him from the sky. Endymion is a handsome man and astrology observer has a love affair with Selena (Titan Moon Goddess).

Line-10 *Sees in the sea a second love*

The researcher found sensation of visual imagery in this line from the word “sees”, which the poet can see beautiful ocean at night.

Line-11 *Within the valleys dim and brown.*

Visual imagery in this line have found from the words “dim” (brightness) and “brown” (type of color) which can be clearly seen by the senses of sight

Line-14 *And earth, and stars, and sea, and sky*

The result of analysis visual imagery found in the words “earth, and stars, and sea, and sky”. They have sizes, shapes, and colors, therefore can be seen with the eye.

### ***Analysis Auditory Imagery***

The results of analysis auditory imagery on “SERENADE” By Edgar Allan Poe are lines 19 and 21.

Line-19 *Thy lover's voice tonight shall flow.*

Auditory imagery in this line indicated by “Thy lover's voice”. The meaning of poet in this line is the voice of someone loved will continue to be heard in ear until carried away into a dream.

Line-21 *My words the music of a dream.*

At the “music” as a sign of auditory imagery in this line.

### ***Analysis Olfactory Imagery***

Based on Damanhuri, (2011), olfactory imagery always related to aromas that can be detected by the sense of smell (nose), namely, smells and smells bad. Researchers found olfactory imagery on lines 15 and 16.

*Are redolent of sleep, as I  
Am redolent of thee and thine*

Both lines in this poetry contain olfactory imagery of the word “redolent”. In this line, the poet describes being able to smell the fragrance of a loved one even in sleep.

### **Analysis Organic Imagery**

In the “Serenade”, researchers have found organic imagery from several lines of poetry, follows; rows 1, 2, 4, 13, 17, and 25.

Line-1 *So sweet the hour, so calm the time*

Organic imagery in this line have found in the phrase “*so calm the time*”. Calm is a situation and condition that is only felt by the mind (internal sensation).

Line-2 *I feel it more than half a crime*

The researcher strengthens organic imagery sensation in this line with “*I feel*” and “*Crime*”.

Line-4 *To mar the silence ev'n with lute*

The word “*silence*” in this line indicates organic imagery. The poet describes the silence at the night.

Line-13 *The wearied light is dying down.*

The internal sensation in this line lies in the words “*wearied*” and “*dying down*”, which describe the bad condition.

Lines 17 & 25, *Enthralling love, my Adeline  
In every deed shall mingle, love*

The researcher found an organic imagery sensation from the two lines with the word “*Love*”.

### **Spirit of the Dead (1827)**

Edgar Allan Poe gave the title “Visits of the dead” to this poetry earlier and it was eventually changed to “Spirit of the Dead”. The spirit of the dead is poetry consists of five stanza and 28 lines. The rhyme patterns in it are varied, each stanza has a different rhyme. Poetry by Poe conveys to the reader about person contemplating death. This poetry shows that all living things in this world will surely die. The poet describes intricacies of the life transfer to the next life, namely death.

### **Analysis Visual Imagery**

The visual imagery that has been found by researchers in “Spirit of the Dead” from several lines, follows; 6, 7, 8, 9, 10, 12, 13, 14, 15, 22, 24, 25, 27, and 28.

Line 6- 10: *Which is not loneliness- for then*



*The spirits of the dead, who stood  
In life before thee, are again  
In death around thee, and their will  
Shall overshadow thee; be still*

These five lines are interrelated, and the visual imagery in this line found in “*spirits of the dead*”, “*stood*”, and “*around thee*”. The poet describes one being able to clearly see the spirits of the dead standing and walking around in silence.

Line 12- 15: *And the stars shall not look down  
From their high thrones in the Heaven  
With light like hope to mortals given,  
But their red orbs, without beam*

Visual imagery in this line showed words: *stars, thrones, Heaven, light, red orbs, and without beam*.

Line- 22 *No more, like dewdrop from the grass*

Visual imagery in this line can be found in the words “*dewdrop*” and “*grass*” because both have patterns and shapes that can be seen with the senses of sight.

Line-24 *And the mist upon the hill*

In this line the poet shows clearly a foggy hill.

Line-25 *Shadowy, shadowy, yet unbroken*

The visual imagery in this line found in the word “*shadowy*”, where it is the result of light reflection and has a shape so that it can be seen.

Line 27- 28, *How it hangs upon the trees,  
A mystery of mysteries!*

These two lines are interrelated, where researchers found the visual imagery on “*hangs upon the trees*”.

### ***Analysis Tactile Imagery***

The results of analysis tactile imagery that have been found by researchers from “*Spirit of the Dead*” by Edgar Allan Poe are 17 and line 23.

Line- 17 *As a burning and a fever*

The poet reinforces tactile imagery in this line from “*burning*” and “*fever*”, both are heat temperatures that can be felt by skin.

Line- 23 *The breeze, the breath of God, is still*

Tactile imagery in this line found in “*The breeze*” because it is physical sensation that only felt by the sense of touch (skin).

### ***Analysis Organic Imagery***

Researchers have found organic imagery in this poem at the lines; 2, 5, 11, and 16.

Line-2 *Mid dark thoughts of the gray tombstone*

Organic imagery in this line has been found in “*Mid dark thoughts*”. The poet describes someone daydreaming or contemplating death, which it is an internal mood.

Line-5 *Be silent in that solitude*

The poet reinforces sensation organic imagery in the word “*solitude*”, where it’s indicates someone who needs calm in quiet atmosphere.

Line-11 *The night, though clear, shall frown*

Researchers have discovered internal sensation of the phrase “*shall frown*”. The poet shows situation and condition that are not good through this phrase (angry).

Line- 16 *To thy weariness shall seem*

In this line researcher found the inner sensation of “*weariness*”, which is an internal condition.

## **CONCLUSIONS**

Based on the research findings and discussion in the previous section, the researcher found kinds of imagery by Edgar Allan Poe. The first poetry “**To My Mother**”: Visual Imagery only in first line, Auditory Imagery (lines 2 and 5), Organic Imagery (lines 3, 4, 6, 11, 12, and 14). Second “**SERENADE**”: Visual Imagery on lines (3, 6, 7, 8, 9, 10, 11, and 14), Auditory Imagery (lines 19 and 21), Olfactory Imagery (lines 15 and 16), Organic Imagery (line 1, 2, 4, 13, 17, and 25). The last “**Spirit of the Dead**”: Visual Imagery on lines (6, 7, 8, 9, 10, 12, 13, 14, 15, 22, 24, 25, 27, and 28), Tactile Imagery (lines 17 and 23), Organic Imagery in rows (2, 5, 11, and 16). The researcher found five kinds of imagery with total forty-seven imagery and not found gustatory and kinesthetic imagery in the three poetries by Edgar Allan Poe. In addition, researchers suggest for the next research to develop this topic, and researcher hope this study can be reference and help to complete it.

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