

EMOTIONAL RHETORIC IN 172 DAYS NOVEL BY NADZIRA SHAFa**Putri Maharani¹, Afsun Aulia Nirmala^{2*}, Agus Riyanto³***¹Indonesian Language and Literature Education Study Program, Faculty of Teacher Training and Education, Universitas Pancasakti Tegal, Central Java, Indonesia.*** putrimaharanirani01@gmail.com, Tel. +62882003365250*** afsunaulia@gmail.com, Tel. +6285640047679*** alkhalifiriyanto@gmail.com, Tel. +6282326262723***Abstrak**

Emotional rhetoric is a language strategy intended to evoke readers' emotions through linguistic elements that strengthen message delivery. *172 Days*, a novel by Nadzira Shafa, portrays themes of love, struggle, loss, and religious values through expressive language capable of touching readers emotionally. This study aims to describe the forms of emotional rhetoric employed in *172 Days* and examine their implications for Indonesian language learning at the senior high school level. The study employed a descriptive qualitative method. The data source was the novel *172 Days* by Nadzira Shafa, while the research data consisted of words, phrases, clauses, sentences, and paragraphs containing emotional rhetoric. Data were collected using the reading and note-taking technique and analyzed through data reduction, classification, data presentation, and conclusion drawing. The findings revealed 38 instances of emotional rhetoric, consisting of 11 figures of speech, 5 structural rhetorical devices, and 22 instances of imagery. Imagery was identified as the most dominant form of emotional rhetoric, whereas structural rhetorical devices appeared least frequently. Emotional rhetoric in the novel functions to evoke various emotional responses, strengthen persuasive effects, establish emotional closeness between the author and readers, clarify the characters' inner experiences, and create lasting impressions. These findings indicate that *172 Days* is relevant as an alternative teaching material for Indonesian language learning in senior high schools, particularly in literary appreciation and the analysis of linguistic features in accordance with the Merdeka Curriculum.

Keywords: emotional rhetoric; *172 Days* novel; stylistics; literary appreciation; Indonesian language learning

1 INTRODUCTION

Rhetoric is the art of using language effectively to convey ideas and influence audiences. Aristotle (2018) states that rhetoric consists of three main elements, namely *ethos*, *logos*, and *pathos*. The element of *pathos* emphasizes the use of language to evoke emotions so that the message can touch the feelings of readers or listeners. According to Sulistyarini and Zainal (2020), rhetoric is the art of using language effectively and persuasively to achieve particular communicative purposes. In literary works, emotional rhetoric becomes one of the author's strategies to create readers' emotional engagement through figurative language, structural arrangement, and imagery.

Literary works serve as a medium through which authors express ideas, experiences, and values by using aesthetic language. As a literary genre, novels employ language not only as a means of communication but also as a tool to build atmosphere, portray characters' inner experiences, and evoke readers' emotions. Keraf (2007) explains that rhetorical language aims to produce particular effects, making messages more vivid, attractive, and easier to understand. Therefore, emotional rhetoric becomes an important aspect in building both the aesthetic quality and the meaning of literary works.

One novel that extensively employs emotional rhetoric is *172 Days* by Nadzira Shafa (2022). The novel tells the story of love, spiritual transformation, married life, and the loss of a beloved husband through simple, religious, and emotionally expressive language. The author employs various forms of emotional rhetoric,

including figurative language, structural arrangement, and imagery, to portray happiness, sadness, hope, longing, and sincerity.

Studies on rhetoric in literary works have been widely conducted; however, most of them focus on figurative language or stylistic analysis in general. Research specifically examining emotional rhetoric through figurative language, structural arrangement, and imagery, as well as its implications for Indonesian language learning in senior high schools, remains limited. Therefore, this study aims to describe the forms of emotional rhetoric in *172 Days* by Nadzira Shafa and explain their implications for Indonesian language learning at the senior high school level.

The findings of this study identified 38 instances of emotional rhetoric, consisting of 11 figures of speech, 5 structural rhetorical devices, and 22 instances of imagery. Among these categories, imagery emerged as the most dominant rhetorical form, whereas structural rhetorical devices were the least frequently used. This finding indicates that the author primarily relies on sensory experiences to establish atmosphere and strengthen readers' emotional engagement. Beyond its aesthetic value, the findings also demonstrate that *172 Days* is suitable as an alternative teaching resource for Indonesian language learning in senior high schools, particularly in literary appreciation and the analysis of linguistic features. Therefore, this study aims to describe the forms of emotional rhetoric in *172 Days* by Nadzira Shafa and examine their implications for Indonesian language learning at the senior high school level.

2 METODOLOGY

This study employed a descriptive qualitative method with a stylistic approach to describe the forms of emotional rhetoric in *172 Days*, a novel by Nadzira Shafa, and to examine their implications for Indonesian language learning in senior high schools. The descriptive qualitative approach was used to gain an in-depth understanding of linguistic phenomena within the context of the study (Sugiyono, 2022), while the stylistic approach was applied to analyze the use of language in creating aesthetic effects in literary works. The data source was the novel *172 Days* by Nadzira Shafa, whereas the research data consisted of words, phrases, clauses, sentences, and paragraphs containing elements of emotional rhetoric. The data were collected using the reading and note-taking technique and analyzed through data reduction, data classification, data presentation, and conclusion drawing. The findings were then presented descriptively using the informal method proposed by Sudaryanto (2015).

3 RESULTS

Based on the analysis of *172 Days*, a novel by Nadzira Shafa, this study identified 38 instances of emotional rhetoric, consisting of 11 figures of speech, 5 structural rhetorical devices, and 22 instances of imagery. Among these three categories, imagery was the most frequently employed form of emotional rhetoric. Its predominance indicates that the author extensively utilizes sensory experiences to create atmosphere, portray the characters' inner experiences, and enhance readers' emotional engagement. Meanwhile, the use of figures of speech and structural rhetorical devices demonstrates the author's effort to reinforce emotional expression, emphasize key ideas, and create persuasive effects, making the narrative more vivid, engaging, and emotionally compelling.

3.1 FORMS OF EMOTIONAL RHETORIC

Emotional rhetoric is a language strategy intended to evoke, strengthen, and influence readers' emotions through the use of various linguistic elements. In literary works, emotional rhetoric enables authors to express the characters' inner experiences more vividly, allowing readers to perceive and emotionally experience the atmosphere, feelings, and conflicts portrayed in the narrative. The analysis of *172 Days* identified three major forms of emotional rhetoric: **figures of speech, structural rhetorical devices, and imagery**. These forms are effectively employed to intensify emotional expression, establish emotional closeness between the characters and readers, and enhance the persuasive power of the story. The classification of emotional rhetoric found in the novel is presented in table:

Table 1. Classification of Emotional Rhetoric in 172 Days

	Forms of Emotional Rhetoric	Frequency	Percentage
1	Figures of Speech	11	28,95%
2	Structural Rhetorical Devices	5	13,16%
3	Imagery	22	57,89%
	Jumlah	38	100%

3.1.1 FIGURES OF SPEECH

Figures of speech constitute one form of emotional rhetoric that employs figurative language to intensify emotional expression, clarify descriptions, and evoke readers' emotional responses. In *172 Days*, Nadzira Shafa uses figures of speech to portray experiences of love, happiness, sorrow, longing, and acceptance in a more aesthetic and emotionally engaging manner. The findings revealed that six types of figures of speech were employed in the novel, namely simile, hyperbole, metaphor, personification, repetition, and rhetorical questions, with simile being the most frequently used.

Example (01)

Context: Nadzira is preparing herself for her wedding ceremony.

"Make up tipis menawan bak seorang ratu dari timur tengah"(172 days:10)

Data 01 compares Nadzira's appearance, which is light and charming with makeup, to a Middle Eastern queen. This comparison is characterized by the use of the comparative word *"bak."* Therefore, this data is a simile, a figure of speech that directly compares two things using the comparative word *"bak."*

Example (02)

Context: Nadzira experiences her husband's first touch after their marriage ceremony.

"Seketika seluruh badanku ikut bergetar seolah sentuhan tangan ini menularkan energi yang luar biasa." (172 Days:12)

Data 2 compares the sensation experienced by Nadzira throughout her body with the feeling that her husband's touch transmitted extraordinary energy. The comparison is indicated by the use of the comparative marker *seolah*. Therefore, this excerpt is classified as a simile, a figure of speech that directly compares two different entities through the use of an explicit comparative marker.

Example 4

Context: Nadzira spends her first night with her husband.

"Aroma khas tubuhnya yang wangi membuat jantung dan hatiku bergetar." (172 Days:21)

Data 4 illustrates that Nadzira's heart is described as trembling because of Ameer's distinctive fragrance. The expression *"jantung dan hatiku bergetar"* is not intended to describe a literal physical reaction but rather to exaggerate the character's emotional state when she is close to her husband. Therefore, this excerpt is classified as hyperbole, a figure of speech that deliberately exaggerates an expression to emphasize a particular emotional meaning.

3.1.2 STRUCTURAL RHETORICAL DEVICES

Structural rhetorical devices constitute a form of emotional rhetoric that utilizes sentence structure or the repetition of specific linguistic elements to emphasize ideas and emotions. In *172 Days* by Nadzira Shafa, structural rhetorical devices function to strengthen emotional expression, enabling readers to experience the characters' inner feelings more profoundly. The findings of this study identified two types of structural rhetorical devices: repetition and rhetorical questions. Among these, repetition was the most frequently employed device.

Example 12

Context: Ameer offers a prayer to Allah.

"Ya Allah, terima kasih banyak... Ya Allah, sehatkan Zira... Ya Allah, panjangkan umur Zira."
(*172 Days*, p. 19)

Data 12 is classified as repetition, a structural rhetorical device that employs the repetition of words or phrases to emphasize a particular idea. In this excerpt, the phrase *Ya Allah* is repeatedly placed at the beginning of each clause, reinforcing the sincerity and intensity of Ameer's prayer. Furthermore, the repetition of *Ya Allah*, as the lafaz jalalah (the sacred name of Allah), expresses reverence toward God and reflects the speaker's belief that only Allah has the power to grant every supplication.

Example 13

Context: Nadzira and Ameer visit the residence of Habib Istana Seggaf.

"Aku suka ekspresinya. Aku suka senyumnya, aku suka bahasa semangatnya." (*172 Days*, p. 143)

Data 13 is classified as repetition, as it involves the repeated use of the phrase *Aku suka* to emphasize the speaker's intended message. In this excerpt, the repetition of *Aku suka* reinforces Nadzira's admiration and happiness as she expresses her appreciation for Ameer's expressions, smile, and encouraging manner of speaking. This repetition intensifies the emotional tone of the utterance and highlights the speaker's affectionate feelings.

Example 14

Context: Ameer is having an intimate conversation with Nadzira.

"Abang ganteng ya? Adek liatin Abang mulu." (*172 Days*, p. 159)

Data 14 is categorized as a rhetorical question, a question posed not to obtain an answer but to emphasize a particular intention or feeling. In this excerpt, the question *"Abang ganteng ya?"* is not intended to seek Nadzira's evaluation of Ameer's appearance. Instead, it functions as a playful expression prompted by Nadzira's continuous attention toward him. Through this rhetorical question, the author portrays the intimacy and emotional closeness between the two characters while creating a warm and affectionate atmosphere.

3.1.3 IMAGERY

Imagery is a form of emotional rhetoric that employs expressions capable of evoking sensory impressions, enabling readers to visualize, perceive, or imaginatively experience the events described by the author. In *172 Days* by Nadzira Shafa, imagery functions to reinforce the characters' emotional expression, create a more vivid atmosphere, and enhance readers' emotional engagement with the narrative.

Example 19

Context: Nadzira notices Ameer's gaze for the first time after they meet.

"Matanya yang sangat indah dengan alis dan bulu mata lentik menatapku dalam." (172 Days, :13)

Data 19 is classified as visual imagery, which refers to the use of language that creates images perceived through the sense of sight. In this excerpt, the phrase *"matanya yang sangat indah dengan alis dan bulu mata lentik menatapku dalam"* provides a vivid visualization of Ameer's physical appearance and facial expression. This imagery enables readers to imagine Ameer's figure clearly while perceiving the sincerity, care, and gentleness reflected in his gaze, thereby strengthening the emotional impact of the narrative.

Example 20

Context: Nadzira and Ameer have a photo session after their wedding ceremony.

"Hidung kami bersentuhan, jantungku pun ikut bersorak ramai." (172 Days, p. 16)

Data 20 is classified as tactile imagery, which refers to the use of language that evokes sensations perceived through the sense of touch. In this excerpt, the phrase *"hidung kami bersentuhan"* depicts the physical contact between Nadzira and Ameer, creating a strong impression of intimacy and emotional closeness. This imagery allows readers to imaginatively experience the affectionate touch shared by the two characters, thereby enhancing their emotional engagement with the narrative.

Example 21

Context: Nadzira and Ameer enjoy their first dawn together as husband and wife.

"Aku suka aroma bang Amer harum yang bikin betah." (172 Days:39)

Data 21 is classified as olfactory imagery, which refers to the use of language that evokes sensory impressions through the sense of smell. In this excerpt, the words *aroma* and *harum* describe Ameer's pleasant fragrance, creating a sensory impression that conveys comfort and emotional warmth. This imagery enables readers to imagine the fragrance experienced by Nadzira, thereby reinforcing the sense of intimacy and emotional closeness between the two characters.

4 CONCLUSION

Based on the findings of this study, it can be concluded that *172 Days* by Nadzira Shafa employs three forms of emotional rhetoric, namely figures of speech, structural rhetorical devices, and imagery. The most dominant form of emotional rhetoric identified in the novel is figures of speech, followed by imagery, while structural rhetorical devices are the least frequently employed. The predominance of figures of speech indicates that the author utilizes figurative language as a rhetorical strategy to strengthen emotional expression, enhance the aesthetic quality of the narrative, and establish emotional closeness between the characters and the readers. The use of structural rhetorical devices, such as repetition and rhetorical questions, serves to emphasize emotional expressions, making the narrative more expressive and persuasive. Meanwhile, imagery is employed to create vivid sensory experiences, enabling readers to visualize and emotionally experience the situations encountered by the characters more realistically. Therefore, emotional rhetoric in *172 Days* functions not only as an aesthetic element of language but also as a means of fostering empathy, strengthening persuasive effects, and enhancing readers' emotional engagement. Furthermore, the findings indicate that *172*

Days is relevant for implementation in Indonesian language learning at the senior high school level, particularly in teaching novel texts, as it provides meaningful examples of the use of emotional rhetoric in literary works while fostering students' literary appreciation and emotional awareness. sekaligus mengembangkan kemampuan apresiasi sastra dan kepekaan emosional peserta didik.

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