

## Imagery's Power in *The Sun and Her Flowers* by Rupi Kaur

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### KEYWORDS

imagery, poem,  
power

### ABSTRACT

This research discusses a collection of poetry entitled *The Sun and Her Flowers* by Rupi Kaur. The aim of this research is to find out types of imagery and the power of imagery from the book, the title is *The Sun and Her Flowers* by Rupi Kaur. The source of data is *The Sun and Her Flowers* poem by Rupi Kaur, which was published in 2017. The method used in this research is a qualitative method for analyzing data. In this research, the writer analyzed three poems from five existing poems by using the theory about types of imagery by Diyanni (2004: 559) like visual imagery, olfactory imagery, gustatory imagery, auditory imagery, and kinesthetic imagery and the writer also found the power of imagery in the poems. The result of this analysis is to find five kinds of imagery. The most dominant type of imagery used is visual imagery. The writer also found the power of imagery in the poems. From the results of analysis, it has been proved that the power of imagery used by Rupi Kaur in *The Sun and Her Flowers* poem is very strong so it makes the readers visualize the conditions that exist in the poem so they can get an image in their minds to understand the meaning of each poem.

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### INTRODUCTION

*The Sun and Her Flowers* by Rupi Kaur is not included in the type of classical poetry. This is because *The Sun and Her Flowers* by Rupi Kaur includes the author's name and does not have a strict or rigid poetry structure. *The Sun and Her Flowers* by Rupi Kaur is also not a new kind of poetry. The new type of poetry gives the impression that it is free from the structure of writing and prioritizes the beauty of the content of the poem. Meanwhile, *The Sun and Her Flowers* by Rupi Kaur is not just a poem presented in written form because there are pictures on each sheet of the poem.

As time goes by in nowadays digital era, there is one type of poetry that is most recent and in demand by nowadays teenagers, that is digital poetry. This illustrated poetry is more relaxed and free, even though it is compared to the new poetry which is less systematic in writing than classical poetry which is systematically rigid. An example of a digital poetry writer from Indonesia is Aan Mansyur who has a best-selling work in 2016 according to PT Gramedia Indonesia with the title *Tidak Ada New York Hari Ini* because the poem presented by Aan Mansyur is digital poetry. *Tidak Ada New York Hari Ini* by Aan Mansyur is presented without being bound by the structure of poetry writing and there are pictures on each page of the poem. This is what also made *The Sun and Her Flowers* by Rupi Kaur ranked first in 2017 in the "Best Poetry" nomination held by the *Goodreads Choice Award*.

Rupi Kaur is a digital poet from Canada. She is known as "Instapoet" due to her fame when uploading all her poems through her personal Instagram account. *The Sun and Her Flowers* by Rupi Kaur became the main focus of Instagram users because of the topic that was raised by Rupi Kaur. Since then, many people in Canada, especially teenagers, have bought *The Sun and Her Flowers* by Rupi Kaur. This is because *The Sun*

*and Her Flowers* by Rupi Kaur discusses the phases of hating to accept oneself that women experience after experiencing physical and mental violence from men.

Rupi Kaur is also known as a feminist because of the essence of her poetry which always discusses violence and harassment against women. Rupi Kaur's literary works that also discuss violence and harassment against women are *Milk and Honey* published in 2014 and *Home Body* published in 2020. Rupi Kaur has also uploaded a photo on Instagram in 2015 when she was sleeping and bleeding of menstruation through her pants. Rupi Kaur's reason for doing this was because she wanted to voice that woman is not weak. Rupi Kaur wants to invite women to be able to voice their opinions and rights to show the strength of women who can also be equal to men.

The writer chose *The Sun and Her Flowers* by Rupi Kaur as the object of analysis because Rupi Kaur's poems are rarely discussed. In addition, it is also rare to find articles, journals, or theses that examine the power of imagery used to analyze digital poetry in each word used in its each poetry. There are so many teenagers who do not want to read poetry because they are considered old-fashioned in this millennial era, but Rupi Kaur tries to break the paradox. This makes Rupi Kaur make digital poetry and try to use digital elements by prioritizing the use of various images to attract readers' interest in reading so that they can experience different poetry reading experiences so they can feel the power of imagery from Rupi Kaur's poetry. Many teenagers say that the poems in the chapters "Wilting" as in the quote "my heart cracked inside my body" (line 2, page 9) and "i spend days in bed debilitated by loss i attempt to cry you back but the water is done" (line 1, page 14) make readers visualize the condition in their minds. In "Falling" chapter as in the quote "i envy the winds who still witness you" (page 28), "my lungs buckled under the pressure" (line 1, page 30), and "you break women in like shoes" (page 33) which make the readers feel the deepest sadness in each poem. This is the reason why it is very important to examine various expressions of sadness using various types of imagery and examine the power of imagery used by Rupi Kaur in these poems

## METHOD

The research method used is descriptive qualitative method. This method is used to find out the picture or state of a thing by describing it as clearly as possible based on the facts that exist to tell the solution to existing problems based on the data by presenting, analyzing, and interpreting it by reading and understanding the narrative of the story in the work literature to give meaning. Therefore, the researcher used descriptive qualitative method to determine the type of imagery used and the strength of the imagery used in *The Sun and Her Flowers* by Rupi Kaur.

## RESULTS AND DISCUSSION

The types of imagery in *The Sun and Her Flowers* by Rupi Kaur can be seen on table 1:

**Table 1** The types of imagery in *The Sun and Her Flowers* by Rupi Kaur

Imagery's Types	Number
Visual imagery	9 times
Olfactory imagery	0 times
Gustatory imagery	2 times
Auditory imagery	4 times
Kinesthetic imagery	3 times
Total	18 sentences

As explained in table 1 above, from the eighteen types of imagery were made by, visual imagery was frequently happened for nine times. Then olfactory imagery happened in zero time. While gustatory imagery happened two times in this poetry. Meanwhile the auditory imagery happened four times in this poetry. Also, the kinesthetic imagery happened three times. It can be concluded that visual imagery occurred to create mental picture on readers minds so they can visualize the condition from the poetry. The writer also found the power of imagery in the poems. From the results of analysis, it has been proved that the power of imagery used by Rupi Kaur in *The Sun and Her Flowers* poem is very strong so it makes the readers visualize the conditions that exist in the poem so they can get an image in their minds to understand the meaning of each poem.

### 1. Visual imagery

It describes something that can be seen and can be detected with the eye to create a mental picture that is seen while reading a story.

#### Excerpt 1

"my heart cracked inside my body" (*The Sun and Her Flowers*, line 2, page 9)

Based on the context, this sentence identifies that visual imagery because we can imagine and created a picture of reader's mind. The context begins when Rupi Kaur wrote "on the last day of love" on the first line, so the readers imagine that someone's heart that is inside the body crushes on the day when they are break up.

#### Excerpt 2

"spoon ladled into spoon" (*The Sun and Her Flowers*, line 4, page 18)

Based on the context, this sentence identifies that visual imagery because we can imagine and created a picture of reader's mind about couples who sleep facing each other and hug like two spoons that pressed together.

#### Excerpt 3

"you break women in like shoes" (*The Sun and Her Flowers*, page 33)

Based on the context, this sentence identifies that visual imagery because we can imagine and created a picture of reader's mind about how can someone breaks woman in like shoes because shoes is not like a human.

#### Excerpt 4

"love is a double-edged knife" (*The Sun and Her Flowers*, line 5, page 45)

Based on the context, this sentence identifies that visual imagery because we can imagine and created a picture of reader's mind about how can love is like a double-edged knife because love is not like a knife in reality.

#### Excerpt 5

"i want to honeymoon myself" (*The Sun and Her Flowers*, page 170)

Based on the context, this sentence identifies that visual imagery because we can imagine and created a picture of reader's mind about "honeymoon" that represents quality time for couples that just get married. In here, "honeymoon myself" means if Rupi Kaur wants to explains if "i" want to marry and have quality time with his or herself because only "i" that understand his or herself.

## 2. Olfactory imagery

It describes something that can be smelled using a lot of creative license with olfactory imagery by assigning an unusual smell.

### Excerpt 6

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In *The Sun and Her Flowers* did not find about the olfactory imagery.

## 3. Gustatory imagery

It describes something that can be tasted but has endless possibilities for depicting simple things in a creative way.

### Excerpt 7

"food over their necks" (*The Sun and Her Flowers*, page 156)

Based on the context, this sentence identifies that gustatory imagery because we can imagine and created a picture of reader's mind about "food" that represents everything so for he or she is not a problem at all is she or he lost anything but she or he should get the food first.

### Excerpt 8

"but are always hungry for more" (*The Sun and Her Flowers*, line 2, page 174)

Based on the context, this sentence identifies that gustatory imagery because we can imagine and created a picture of reader's mind about "hungry" that represents food is everything and always not enough for his or her stomach so for he or she is not a problem at all is she or he lost anything but she or he should get the food.

## 4. Auditory imagery

It describes something that can be heard that can be used on a large scale.

### Excerpt 9

"i hear the hummingbirds outside flirting with the flowers" (*The Sun and Her Flowers*, line 2, page 23)

This sentence represents the image of hearing voice, so it can be seen in a sentence known as something that can be heard because when the reader reads the “hummingbirds outside flirting with the flowers”, the reader will imagine how the birds talk with flowers.

#### **Excerpt 10**

“i hear the hummingbirds outside flirting with the flowers” (*The Sun and Her Flowers*, line 2, page 23)

This sentence represents the image of hearing voice, so it can be seen in a sentence known as something that can be heard because when the reader reads the “hummingbirds outside flirting with the flowers”, the reader will imagine how the birds talk with flowers.

#### **Excerpt 11**

“i hear the hummingbirds outside flirting with the flowers” (*The Sun and Her Flowers*, line 2, page 23)

This sentence represents the image of hearing voice, so it can be seen in a sentence known as something that can be heard because when the reader reads the “hummingbirds outside flirting with the flowers”, the reader will imagine how the birds talk with flowers.

#### **Excerpt 12**

“i hear the hummingbirds outside flirting with the flowers” (*The Sun and Her Flowers*, line 2, page 23)

This sentence represents the image of hearing voice, so it can be seen in a sentence known as something that can be heard because when the reader reads the “hummingbirds outside flirting with the flowers”, the reader will imagine how the birds talk with flowers.

### **5. Kinesthetic imagery**

It appeals to the human sense of touch and can be felt on the skin so that it makes the reader feel something as if it were really there.

#### **Excerpt 13**

“i popped their heads off” (*The Sun and Her Flowers*, line 7, page 11)

Based on the context, this sentence identifies the kinesthetic imagery because “popped” means someone squeezes the flowers by using his or her hand to express his or her sad emotion.

#### **Excerpt 14**

“i drew every curtain in the house” (*The Sun and Her Flowers*, line 4, page 12)

Based on the context, this sentence identifies the kinesthetic imagery because “drew” means someone creates a pattern by using his or her hand in to something to express his or her sad emotions.

#### **Excerpt 15**

“i envy the winds who still witness you” (*The Sun and Her Flowers*, page 28)

Based on the context, this sentence identifies the kinesthetic imagery because “wind” can’t see so what is why make the reader visualizes the wind when see “you”.

## CONCLUSION

This study identifies the power and the types of imagery used to analyze digital poetry in each word used in its each poetry in *The Sun and Her Flowers* by Rupi Kaur. The results of the study show that there were types of imagery and imageries have the power in these poetry. From the eighteen types of imagery were made by, visual imagery was frequently happened for nine times. Then olfactory imagery happened in zero time. While gustatory imagery happened two times in this poetry. Meanwhile the auditory imagery happened four times in this poetry. Also, the kinesthetic imagery happened three times. It can be concluded that visual imagery occurred to create mental picture on readers minds so they can visualize the condition from the poetry. The writer also found the power of imagery in the poems. From the results of analysis, it has been proved that the power of imagery used by Rupi Kaur in *The Sun and Her Flowers* poem is very strong so it makes the readers visualize the conditions that exist in the poem so they can get an image in their minds to understand the meaning of each poem.

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