

Visual Allegories in The Truman Show: A Study of Metaphor, Simile, and Personification

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Abstract: *Symbolism in film enhances the story by adding depth and meaning to characters and themes. In The Truman Show, the use of metaphor, simile, and personification helps uncover the deeper symbolism of the film and its broader messages. This research takes a qualitative approach by analyzing the film's script through content analysis. The process involves outlining the topic, organizing the thesis, gathering information from both the film and online resources, and examining how these symbols contribute to the film's overall meaning. In the study, the use of personification is found to be the most prominent, making up 41.2% of the instances, followed by metaphor at 35.3%, and simile at 23.5%. These literary devices help to build the narrative and explore important themes, such as the nature of reality, the power of the media, and individual freedom. By using these devices, The Truman Show invites viewers to reflect on how media shapes our perceptions of the world and our sense of self. The film serves as a warning about the dangers of turning real life into entertainment, showing how this can strip away the humanity of those involved. It also underscores the importance of privacy and authenticity in leading a meaningful life.*

INTRODUCTION

Language is an essential tool in human communication, serving as the bridge that connects individuals and communities. It allows us to articulate our thoughts, share our emotions, and convey complex ideas with clarity and precision. Through spoken or written forms, language becomes a vehicle for expression, enabling us to communicate not only factual information but also the depth of our personal experiences. By fostering dialogue and understanding, language plays a pivotal role in building relationships and establishing social cohesion. It creates a shared framework for interaction, helping individuals from diverse backgrounds find common ground. Whether through casual conversation, formal discourse, or creative storytelling, language shapes our interactions and enriches our relationships by allowing us to empathize with and relate to one another. Beyond mere communication, language influences how we perceive and interpret the world. It has the power to shape cultural identity, preserve traditions, and inspire collective action. In essence, language is more than a means of expression; it is a cornerstone of human connection

and the foundation of shared experiences that define who we are as individuals and as a society.

According to Sultanov (2022), language is a tool of communication that humans use to exchange messages and information, both verbally and in written forms. Each language has its distinct grammar, vocabulary, and structure, while also incorporating cultural and social elements to strengthen identity and nurture connections between individuals and communities. A fundamental tool for human communication, language has the ability to convey messages and information through various forms. It means language serves as a powerful medium for sharing knowledge, making it an indispensable aspect of cultural and social identity. It connects individuals and groups, fostering relationships and building bridges of understanding. By providing a framework for communication, language allows us to articulate thoughts, share experiences, and preserve the rich tapestry of traditions and values that define our communities. Beyond its role in connection, language profoundly influences how we perceive and interpret the world. It shapes our interactions, coloring the way we understand and engage with those around us. Through the words we use and the narratives we create, language not only reflects our worldview but also has the power to transform it, enabling us to experience life from diverse perspectives. Language is a cornerstone of social cohesion and progress, creating shared experiences that unite people across cultures and generations. Its evolution mirrors the dynamic nature of human societies, adapting to cultural, social, and technological changes. This adaptability underscores its critical role in communication, making it a vital tool for bridging divides, promoting understanding, and advancing collective growth. In essence, language is more than a system of words—it is the foundation of human connection, a repository of knowledge, and a catalyst for unity and progress in an ever-changing world.

Symbolism is when something—like an object, person, or event—stands for something deeper, representing ideas or qualities beyond its literal meaning. In literature and art, symbolism adds layers to the work, giving the audience a chance to explore deeper meanings and interpretations. It plays an important role in storytelling by helping convey larger themes and ideas.

In film, symbols can help the audience better understand the story and its characters. These symbols often represent key themes like reality, freedom, and individuality. A good example of symbolism is found in Harper Lee's novel *To Kill a Mockingbird*. The mockingbird in the story symbolizes innocence and beauty. The bird is vulnerable, and its harm reflects how innocent people, particularly those marginalized or oppressed, are exposed to injustice and violence. Through this symbol, Lee emphasizes the importance of protecting innocence, making the point that just as it is wrong to kill a mockingbird, it is also wrong to harm innocent people.

In *The Truman Show*, the use of metaphors, similes, and personification plays a key role in conveying the film's ideas and message. These literary devices help the filmmakers communicate complex emotions and concepts to the audience in a more understandable and impactful way. Through metaphors, similes, and personification, the film creates a symbolic language that represents bigger themes like the nature of reality, freedom, and individuality. For example, when Truman's life is compared to a "show," it symbolizes the artificial world he lives in and his lack of freedom. These devices make it easier for the audience to grasp the deeper meanings behind Truman's struggle and his desire for authenticity.

A metaphor is a way of describing something by saying it is something else, even if that doesn't make literal sense. It helps create strong symbols by comparing two things that may seem unrelated but share similar qualities. In *The Truman Show*, the domed set is a metaphor for Truman's world. It represents the limits and boundaries of his reality, showing how he is trapped

inside an artificial space. The sea, on the other hand, acts as a metaphor for Truman's longing for freedom and escape. It symbolizes his desire to break free from the constraints of his controlled life. These metaphors highlight key themes of the film, like individuality, authenticity, and the search for personal meaning.

Similes are a way of comparing two things using "like" or "as" to show their similarities. They help create clear, vivid pictures that make complex emotions and ideas easier to understand. In *The Truman Show*, a simile compares Truman to a prisoner in his own life. This powerful image symbolizes the film's message about the dangers of conformity and the need for individuality. By using this simile, the film highlights Truman's struggle to break free from a life that is controlled and confined, showing how important it is to live authentically and embrace personal freedom.

Personification is when something that isn't human, like an object, idea, or animal, is given human qualities. It's often used to create strong symbols that carry deeper meanings. In *The Truman Show*, the character of Christof is personified as a god-like figure. He controls and manipulates Truman's life, treating it as a form of entertainment for the world. This personification symbolizes the power and influence of the media and entertainment industries, showing how they can control people's lives and shape society in harmful ways. It highlights the dangers of such power and its impact on both individuals and the larger community.

In storytelling and art, metaphors, similes, and personification are powerful tools that help connect the story to the emotions of the audience. These literary devices are essential because they take complex ideas and feelings and make them easier to understand. They form an important part of how creators communicate with their viewers, helping to shape the meaning behind a story.

When used together, these techniques create deep symbolism, especially in film, where they can reveal hidden layers of meaning. By looking closely at how metaphors, similes, and personification are used in movies, we can uncover the deeper messages the filmmakers want to share. These themes often reflect larger ideas about life, humanity, and society. Through these devices, films can present universal truths and emotional experiences in ways that resonate with people from all walks of life, showing the power of cinema to connect us to the human experience.

THEORETICAL REVIEW

A. Symbolism

"Symbolism is one aspect of modernism that approaches mysticism and emphasizes using abstract concepts expressed through concrete and detailed images of ancient literature" (Hasanov & Ernazarova, 2023). It means that symbolism is a distinguishing characteristic of modernism. It often imbues a sense of mysticism by communicating abstract ideas through vivid and tangible representations drawn from a rich trove of imagery in ancient literature.

Hartoko and Rahmanto state in their book on communication semiotics that "Symbols are universal, meaning they are related to archetypes (repeated life experiences), for example, sleep as a symbol of death" (Nazihah & Anggraini, 2019). Therefore, symbols are powerful tools for communication that transcend language barriers and cultural differences. They allow individuals to convey complex ideas and emotions with simple images or gestures. Hartoko and Rahmanto's book on communication semiotics says symbols are universal because they relate to archetypes. Archetypes are recurring patterns of thought, behaviour, or experiences shared across different cultures and periods.

Preminger states, "Symbolism is a sign that shows no natural relationship between signifier and signified, and its meaning is determined by convention" (Eko et al., 2021). It means symbolism is a sign that does not have a natural connection between what it represents and the symbol itself. Instead, its meaning is established by convention or an agreed-upon understanding of what a symbol represents.

"Symbolism is a literary element that transforms the complexity of reality into something easier to understand, thereby enabling writers to impart significant meaning and emotion" (Leroy et al., 2020). It shows that symbolism is an influential tool writers use to convey complex ideas and emotions to their readers in a more accessible way. By using symbols, writers can create a deeper, more profound meaning in their work and connect with their readers more emotionally. Symbolism can enhance a literary work's overall impact and significance.

"Symbolism refers to using symbols or objects to represent abstract ideas or concepts. It is a literary device used in various art forms, including literature, poetry, music, and visual arts" (Rastle, 2022). Symbolism is a literary device that uses symbols or objects to represent abstract ideas or concepts. Symbolism can be found in various art forms, such as literature, poetry, music, and visual arts.

Symbolism is a literary and artistic device that uses symbols or objects to represent bigger, abstract ideas or concepts. It is a key feature of modernism, which often blends with mysticism and draws on imagery from ancient literature. Symbols are powerful because they are universal—meaning they are connected to common experiences and archetypes that many people recognize. Their meanings are often agreed upon by convention, making them easily understood across different cultures and contexts. Writers and artists use symbols to express complex ideas and emotions in a simpler way, allowing audiences to connect with deeper meanings. By incorporating symbols into their work, they enhance the impact and significance of their creations in various art forms, such as literature, poetry, music, and visual arts. This approach allows for richer storytelling and a more profound connection between the artwork and its audience.

B. Metaphor

"Metaphor is a type of speech that compares two things with a similar feature. It is a means of knowing and reflecting a reality surrounding a person and a product of a cognitive work of thought" (Yusupova et al., 2022). It means that metaphor is a powerful tool in language that helps us compare and better understand the world around us. By drawing connections between two things that might seem very different, metaphors allow us to see things in new ways and gain fresh insights. Creating metaphors also involves thinking processes that help us make sense of our experiences and communicate complex ideas. Because of this, metaphors are essential in both our language and thinking, shaping how we perceive the world and how we share those perceptions with others. They allow us to express deeper meanings and connect with others on a more profound level.

Herrero defines metaphor as a "derived term from generation to generation and crystallizes based on 'parallelism' and 'comparison' between the real meaning from terms and meaning comparison" (Rahmadhanti et al., 2022). A metaphor is a term that is created and passed down through generations. It forms when we compare something real to something figurative, finding a connection between their meanings. This comparison helps the metaphor come to life, allowing it to express a deeper idea or concept. The key to creating a metaphor is the contrast between the literal and figurative meanings, which helps highlight the connection. Additionally, metaphors evolve over time, with cultural transmission playing a big role in their development. As societies

change, the metaphors we use shift too, passing on new meanings to future generations.

According to Lakoff and Johnson, "Metaphors are not solely limited to linguistic expressions but are intrinsic to our cognitive processes and comprehension of the world. They contend that metaphors are not just confined to language, but instead, they shape our thinking and behavior" (Maoula et al., 2022). Metaphors are not just tools used in language; they are essential to how we understand and interact with the world. They help connect abstract ideas with real-life experiences, making complex concepts easier to grasp. Metaphors shape the way we think and act by influencing how we see the world around us. When we recognize the powerful role of metaphors in our daily lives, we gain a deeper understanding of how language affects our thoughts and behaviors. By using metaphors, we can explain feelings, ideas, and situations in ways that make them more relatable and meaningful.

"Metaphors are variations of the language style used by humans, particularly in literary works such as song lyrics" (Windle et al., 2020). It means metaphors are a common style of language used by people, especially in literature. They allow us to express complex ideas and emotions by comparing one thing to another, making these ideas easier to understand. Through these comparisons, metaphors create a deeper connection with the audience, helping them relate to the message more personally. By adding layers of meaning, metaphors make language more interesting and powerful, enhancing communication and fostering creativity. This makes metaphors an important tool for both expressing thoughts and engaging others in meaningful ways."

A metaphor is defined as a figure of speech that describes something by saying it is something else, often to help the listener or reader understand it better" (Yu et al., 2023). It implies a metaphor is a powerful tool in language that helps us communicate complex ideas and concepts in a way that's easier to understand. By comparing one thing to another, metaphors make abstract ideas more relatable and accessible. They can evoke emotions, create vivid images in our minds, and offer fresh perspectives on topics we're already familiar with. This makes metaphors not just useful, but also an effective way to express deep thoughts and connect with others on a more emotional level.

In summary, a metaphor is both a language and thinking tool that compares two things that seem different to help us better understand the world. It's a common style used in literature and everyday communication to express complex ideas and emotions. By using metaphors, we can create deeper connections with others, making abstract or difficult concepts easier to grasp and relate to. This makes metaphors a powerful way to share meaning and evoke understanding in a more engaging way.

C. Simile

"Simile is a figure of speech that compares two things normally considered different, using vivid or startling images to suggest unexpected connections between them" (Samadova, 2022). A metaphor is a rhetorical device that allows writers and speakers to compare two things that might seem very different, using creative and descriptive language. Instead of explaining something directly, a metaphor helps paint a picture in the audience's mind by saying one thing is another. This comparison adds depth and emotion to the message, making it more engaging and easier to understand. By using metaphors, writers and speakers can express complex ideas in a way that resonates with their audience.

"Similes commonly employed in literature and poetry involve comparing two distinct objects or ideas to produce a vivid or powerful description, stimulating the reader's imagination"

(Chakrabarty et al., 2020). Similes are a popular literary tool used to create a visual and emotional connection between two things that might seem unrelated. By comparing them using the words "like" or "as," similes make complex ideas and emotions easier to understand and more memorable for readers. These comparisons help paint vivid pictures in the reader's mind, making abstract concepts feel more familiar and relatable. By using similes, writers can make their stories or messages more engaging and emotionally impactful.

According to Keraf, "A simile is an explicit comparison that directly states that something is the same" (Tanur et al., 2022). It means simile is a way of making a clear and direct comparison between two things. Unlike other forms of comparison, a simile doesn't leave anything to be implied—it explicitly states the similarity. It uses specific words like "like" or "as" to link the two things together. For example, saying "as brave as a lion" makes it clear that the person is being compared directly to the lion in terms of bravery. This straightforward approach helps readers easily understand the comparison and visualize the connection.

According to Pradopo, "Simile is a figure of speech that compares one thing to another using comparative words such as 'bagai,' 'bagaikan,' 'sebagai,' 'bak,' 'seperti,' and 'semisal'" (Juliansyah et al., 2019). A simile is a comparison that uses words like "like" or "as" to show how two different things are similar. It helps highlight a shared quality or characteristic between them. For example, saying "as fast as a cheetah" compares someone's speed to the cheetah, making it clear that both are fast. The use of comparison words makes it easy for the reader to understand the similarity and visualize the connection between the two objects or things.

"A simile is a tropically ambiguous idiom that allows for a literal or a figurative interpretation. It is a figure of speech that compares two things that are not alike, using "like" or "as" (Egan et al., 2023). It means that using similes in language is a creative and effective way to compare two things that might seem completely unrelated. By saying something is "like" or "as" something else, similes help the listener or reader better understand or visualize the subject being described. For example, saying "her voice is as sweet as honey" allows the audience to imagine the pleasant, gentle quality of her voice. Similes make descriptions more vivid and easier to relate to, adding depth and meaning to the way we communicate.

It is concluded that simile is a rhetorical device used in literature, poetry, and speech to compare two things that may seem very different. It does this by using vivid, imaginative, and descriptive language to highlight their similarities. By comparing one thing to another using words like "like" or "as," similes help create a visual and emotional connection between the two. This makes complex ideas and emotions easier to understand and more memorable for readers, as it allows them to relate to the subject in a fresh, engaging way. Similes bring depth and clarity to language, making descriptions more impactful.

D. Personification

Wolosky defines "Personification as a figure of speech in which things are endowed with human qualities or are represented as possessing human form" (Fata & Aprilya, 2021). Personification is a literary device where human qualities and characteristics are given to non-human things, like animals, objects, or even abstract ideas. This technique helps make these things feel more relatable and familiar to the reader or audience. For example, saying "the wind whispered through the trees" gives the wind a human action, making it easier to imagine and connect with. By using personification, writers and speakers can make their stories or messages more vivid and engaging, allowing the audience to connect with the subject matter on a deeper and more emotional level.

"Personification is a figure of speech that gives living qualities to non-living objects or ideas through the use of comparative similes and metaphors" (Sayakhan, 2019). Personification is a literary device where human qualities or characteristics are given to things that aren't human, like animals, objects, or even abstract ideas. This technique helps make the subject matter more relatable and engaging for the reader or audience by allowing them to connect with something in a human way. Throughout history, personification has appeared in many forms of literature and storytelling. For example, Death is often portrayed as a human-like figure, or objects like toys or trees might be given the ability to talk in children's stories. This makes the story more interesting and helps the audience understand complex ideas through familiar human experiences.

"Personification is a figure of speech that attributes human qualities or actions to non-human entities, such as abstract or concrete objects, natural elements, or animals" (Ali & Ayyed, 2021). In summary, personification is a rhetorical technique often used to make non-human things more relatable and familiar to the reader or audience. By giving human-like traits to inanimate objects, abstract ideas, or animals, the writer or speaker can create a more engaging and memorable experience. This technique has been used throughout history, from ancient myths where gods were given human emotions and characteristics to modern advertising campaigns featuring talking animals. Personification helps bring stories and ideas to life, making them more interesting and easier for people to connect with.

"Personification is considered a subtype of metaphor and is frequently used as a source domain to create an emotional connection between a viewer and a product" (Jahameh & Zibin, 2023). Personification is often used to create an emotional connection between the audience and an object, making it more relatable and memorable. By giving human qualities to something that isn't human, like a product or an idea, it helps the audience feel a deeper emotional link to it. For example, in advertising, personifying a product—like showing a smiling, animated character representing a brand—can make the product feel more approachable and engaging. This emotional bond makes the product stand out and leaves a lasting impression on the audience.

"Personification is a literary technique that involves attributing human qualities or characteristics to non-human entities, such as animals, objects, or abstract concepts" (Mahendran & Akash, 2021). Personification is a powerful literary tool that allows writers to bring non-human things to life by giving them human qualities or characteristics. By doing so, writers can make objects, animals, or even abstract ideas feel more relatable and meaningful to the audience. For example, saying "the sun smiled down on the earth" makes the sun seem warm and friendly, like a person. This technique helps create vivid images and emotional connections, making the story or message more engaging and memorable.

It implies that Personification is a literary device that gives human-like qualities or actions to non-human things, such as animals, objects, abstract ideas, or natural elements. It is a type of metaphor that is often used to create an emotional connection between the reader or audience and the thing being described. By attributing human traits to something non-human, personification makes that thing feel more alive and relatable, helping it stand out and become more memorable. For example, saying "the wind whispered through the trees" helps us connect with the wind in a more personal way, making the description feel more vivid and engaging.

E. Film

"A film is a visual medium that tells a story or conveys information through a series of moving images" (Swarniti, 2023). A film is a captivating visual medium that combines storytelling and communication through the use of moving images. It is a unique and powerful

form of artistic expression, capable of transporting audiences to different worlds, stirring emotions, and inspiring deep thought. With its blend of visuals, sound, and narrative, film creates immersive experiences that entertain, educate, and connect people across cultures and perspectives. It has the ability to spark imagination and leave lasting impressions, making it one of the most impactful art forms in modern society.

“The film is one of the mass media of communication in the form of audio and visual which has a story concept” (Dimpleby & Burton, 2020). A film is a powerful communication medium that blends audio and visual elements to present a story or concept. As a form of mass media, it engages a wide audience through its storytelling ability. By combining striking visuals, compelling sounds, and a well-crafted narrative, films can evoke a range of emotions, deliver meaningful messages, and inspire thoughtful reflection. This unique combination makes film an influential tool for entertainment, education, and cultural connection.

“Film is one form of audio-visual media and is considered part of mass media products” (Simanjuntak et al., 2021). Film is a unique medium of communication that brings together visuals and audio to create a powerful and immersive experience for its audience. As part of the broader category of mass media, film is designed for widespread distribution and consumption. It plays an important role in shaping culture, sharing information, and providing entertainment to audiences around the world. With its ability to captivate and connect people, film has become a significant tool for storytelling and cultural expression.

“Film is an image that contains life and can be enjoyed by the audience” (Hasan et al., 2022). It is Film is a powerful medium that captures moments of life and transforms them into visual stories, inviting audiences to immerse themselves in the essence of human experiences. By blending images, sounds, and emotions, it portrays the richness of feelings like joy, sorrow, love, and adventure. A film has the unique ability to transport viewers to new worlds, offering perspectives and stories that connect deeply with their own lives. Through its artistry, film becomes a window into the vibrancy of existence, leaving a lasting impression on those who experience it.

“Film can be defined as a form of visual storytelling that uses moving images and sounds to convey a narrative or message to an audience” (Sanjaya, 2022). Film is a powerful medium of artistic expression and communication that brings stories to life through the combination of moving images and sound. It provides a platform for filmmakers to share captivating narratives, ideas, and emotions with audiences around the globe. Through its unique blend of visuals and audio, film has the ability to entertain, inspire, and connect people, making it one of the most impactful forms of storytelling.

As a final point, film is a captivating visual medium that blends audio and visuals to share stories, concepts, and messages with a broad audience. As a form of mass media and a distinctive artistic expression, it holds the power to transport viewers, stir emotions, spark ideas, and reflect the essence of life. Through moving images, sound, and engaging narratives, film serves as a platform for visual storytelling, allowing filmmakers to present compelling ideas and connect with audiences around the world in meaningful ways.

RESEARCH METHODS

This research adopts a qualitative approach, using content analysis to explore visual allegories in the Truman show: a study of metaphor, simile, and personification. The goal is to uncover the symbolic meanings behind these literary devices and their contribution to the film's themes and messages. The study begins by outlining the research topic and structuring the thesis,

with the film's script as the primary source of data. Secondary sources, such as academic articles, books, and online resources related to symbolism and film analysis, are also included to support the findings.

Through content analysis, metaphors, similes, and personification are systematically identified and examined to reveal how they enhance the narrative and highlight themes like reality, freedom, individuality, and media's role in shaping identity. Each device is analyzed for its symbolic significance, focusing on how it reinforces the film's message about media manipulation, the construction of reality, and ethical concerns in entertainment.

The research framework draws from literary theory and film analysis, incorporating insights from existing studies on symbolism in cinema. While limited to *The Truman Show* as a case study, the findings offer valuable perspectives on the role of literary devices in film, though they may not apply universally to all cinematic works. Additionally, the study's focus is confined to literary devices, leaving out other important aspects of filmmaking, such as cinematography and sound, which also play a vital role in shaping the film's meaning.

RESULTS AND DISCUSSION

This section presents an analysis of *The Truman Show*, offering a detailed examination of the film for research purposes. The focus lies on exploring the use of metaphor, simile, and personification within the film's script. The study is guided by X.J. Kennedy's (1979) theory of figurative language, which identifies eight types of figurative expression, including metaphor, irony, simile, personification, hyperbole, allusion, metonymy, and symbol. However, this analysis specifically emphasizes metaphor, simile, and personification. The study examines the entire film, which runs for 1 hour and 42 minutes, using the script as the primary source of data. The writer has successfully identified and categorized 17 examples of figurative language into three sections: metaphor, simile, and personification. These findings provide a structured approach to understanding how figurative language is employed in the film to enrich its narrative and thematic elements.

1. Analysis of Metaphor in The Truman Show Film



Figure 1.

While the world he inhabits is in some respects counterfeit, there's nothing fake about Truman himself

In the line spoken by Christof, "While the world he inhabits is in some respects counterfeit, there's nothing fake about Truman himself," a metaphor is used to highlight the contrast between Truman's genuine nature and the artificial world he lives in. The word "counterfeit" is a key part of this metaphor, suggesting that the world Truman occupies is fake and lacking in authenticity. This comparison emphasizes Truman's true character, his real emotions, and his genuine experiences, positioning him as a symbol of truth in a world that is entirely fabricated. The

metaphor helps convey Truman's authenticity in the midst of the constructed reality that surrounds him.



Figure 2. That's the whole ball o' wax

Truman : Paper, Harold...please.
 Harold : Paper.
 Truman : Ooohhh...I might as well pick one of these up while I'm at it.
 Harold : For the wife.
 Truman : She's gotta' have 'em.
 Harold : Anything else, Truman?
 Truman : That's the whole ball o' wax.
 Harold : Catch ya' later Truman.

In the line where Truman says, "That's the whole kit 'n' caboodle" and "That's the whole ball o' wax," he uses metaphors to express his satisfaction with having obtained all the newspapers and magazines he wanted. These expressions suggest a sense of completeness, as if Truman has everything he needs at that moment. While these metaphors may seem simple, they reflect Truman's casual attitude toward the everyday aspects of his life within the constructed reality of The Truman Show. Even though these phrases don't directly connect to the film's deeper themes, they highlight Truman's contentment and a sense of fulfillment in his current environment.

2. Simile in The Truman Show Film

The second analysis will focus on the use of similes in The Truman Show. Based on the data collected, the writer has identified four similes in the film. Similes, which compare two things using "like" or "as," help to create vivid and relatable images for the audience. By examining these similes, the analysis will explore how they contribute to the film's narrative, themes, and the emotional connection between the characters and the viewers. Each simile provides a unique insight into the characters' experiences and the constructed world they inhabit.



Figure 3. You're talking like a teenager/Maybe I feel like a teenager

In the film, Meryl says, "You're talking like a teenager," using the simile "talking like a teenager" to compare Truman's way of speaking to that of a teenager. This simile highlights that Truman's behavior or speech reflects the typical characteristics associated with teenagers, such as impulsiveness or emotional expression. Truman replies, "Maybe I feel like a teenager," indicating that his emotional state is similar to that of a teenager. This simile suggests Truman is experiencing emotions like excitement, restlessness, or a sense of rebellion, which are often linked to the teenage years. The use of this simile helps convey Truman's growing awareness of his reality and his desire for independence and self-expression.



Figure 3. You okay? You look like st**

In the film, Marlon says to Truman, "You okay? You look like st." This sentence uses a simile to compare Truman's appearance to something unpleasant, specifically "st." By using this simile, Marlon emphasizes how bad Truman looks in that moment. The comparison highlights Truman's disheveled or unwell appearance, adding intensity to Marlon's negative assessment of how Truman is feeling. The use of the simile helps convey Marlon's concern, but also reinforces the negative state Truman is in during this scene.

3. Personification in The Truman Show Film



Figure 4. An Aircraft In Trouble Began Shedding Parts As It Flew Over Seahaven Just A Few Moments Ago

In the film, the radio announces: "Here's a news flash just in: an aircraft in trouble began shedding parts as it flew over Seahaven just a few moments ago." This statement uses personification, as it gives the aircraft the human-like ability to "shed parts." In reality, aircraft don't shed parts on their own, but by attributing this action to the plane, the statement creates a vivid image of the aircraft struggling and falling apart while flying over Seahaven. This

personification helps convey the severity of the situation, emphasizing the aircraft's distress in a dramatic and engaging way.



Figure 5. Let This Music Calm You Down

In the film, the radio says, "Let this music calm you down." This is an example of personification, as it gives the music human-like qualities. By saying the music can "calm you down," it suggests that the music has the ability to soothe or relax someone, which is a characteristic typically associated with people or living things. Through this personification, the music is portrayed as having the power to influence the listener's emotions, making it feel more alive and active in the scene.



Figure 6. What should we do with a drunken sailor?

In the film, Truman sings, "What should we do with a drunken sailor? What should we do with a drunken sailor early in the morning." The repetition of the phrase can be seen as a form of personification, where the concept of the "drunken sailor" is used symbolically. By repeating this question, Truman indirectly compares his own rebellious behavior and confusion about his reality to that of a drunken sailor, someone who needs to be controlled or dealt with. This personification highlights Truman's struggle against the constraints of his world and his desire for freedom, much like a sailor who is out of control and needs to be managed.

CONCLUSION

The study titled "Visual Allegories in The Truman Show: A Study of Metaphor, Simile, and Personification", utilizing X.J. Kennedy's theoretical framework, provides a compelling

analysis of the film's use of literary devices. The research concludes that all three devices—personification, metaphor, and simile—are skillfully integrated into the film's narrative. Among these, personification is the most frequently employed (41.2%), followed by metaphor (35.3%), with simile being the least common (23.5%). This distribution highlights how these elements collectively enhance the storytelling and thematic depth of the film.

Metaphors in *The Truman Show* play a significant role in underscoring contrasts between Truman's authenticity and the artificiality of his world. For instance, the metaphor of a "counterfeit" world encapsulates the deceptive, fabricated reality constructed around Truman. Such metaphors highlight the tension between truth and illusion, central to the film's narrative. Phrases like "the whole kit 'n' caboodle" express Truman's contentment with his perceived life, serving as an ironic contrast to the audience's awareness of the orchestrated nature of his existence.

Personification, being the most prevalent device, breathes life into abstract concepts and reinforces the overarching influence of media within the story. Christof's comparison of constructed realities to those readily accepted by people reflects a societal tendency to uncritically embrace narratives, drawing a parallel between the fictional world of Seahaven and the real world. This comparison emphasizes the shared foundation of deception that permeates both worlds.

Similes, though less common, are no less impactful. For example, Truman's comparison to a "star" underscores his central role as the unwitting protagonist of a manufactured spectacle. This device captures the duality of his existence—both a celebrated figure and a manipulated subject of entertainment.

The study demonstrates that the careful integration of metaphor, simile, and personification not only enriches the film's narrative but also invites viewers to reflect on broader themes such as authenticity, media manipulation, and the human inclination to accept constructed realities. Through these devices, *The Truman Show* transcends its story to deliver a profound commentary on the nature of truth, identity, and agency in a media-saturated world. Similes are artfully woven into the narrative of the film to draw meaningful parallels and enrich its underlying themes. Truman's behavior, for instance, is likened to that of a teenager, a comparison that vividly highlights his impulsive and rebellious nature. This association paints Truman as someone grappling with the constraints of his environment, much like an adolescent yearning for freedom. When Truman openly declares, "I feel like a teenager," the statement becomes a window into his internal state, reflecting both his excitement at newfound possibilities and the restlessness that drives him to challenge the boundaries of his carefully constructed world.

Another powerful simile appears in Truman's observation that "the whole world revolves around me somehow." This metaphor encapsulates his growing suspicion that his life is not as ordinary as it seems. What initially sounds like an exaggerated sense of self-importance gradually reveals his dawning awareness of the orchestrated nature of his existence. This realization underscores a pivotal moment in Truman's journey, as he begins to question the authenticity of everything around him.

Furthermore, similes are used to shape others' perceptions of Truman, particularly through Marlon's assessment of his appearance. Truman's looks are compared to something negative and unpleasant, emphasizing the scripted nature of Marlon's dialogue and the calculated attempts to manipulate Truman's self-image. This portrayal not only underscores the emotional detachment in their friendship but also serves to reinforce the artificiality of the relationships in Truman's life. Personification is used to give life to non-human elements and create vivid imagery. The

aircraft shedding parts personify its distress and disintegration. The music is displayed as having a calming effect. Truman exemplifies the ferry, suggesting its control over its location. The camera, music, wind, and curtain are personified, implying their deliberate manipulation of the audience's perception. Christof's world is displayed as having knowledge surpassing Truman's self-awareness. The repetition of "What should we do with a drunken sailor?" personifies Truman's defiance. The actors are displayed as conveying phony emotions.

In conclusion, "The Truman Show" masterfully employs metaphor, simile, and personification to elevate its narrative, enriching its exploration of profound themes and offering deep insights into the human experience. These literary devices intricately weave together Truman's journey, highlighting his authenticity in stark contrast to the artificial world around him. By framing his relationships and struggles through such figurative language, the film paints a vivid picture of the tension between truth and illusion, acceptance and rebellion, and emotional manipulation versus genuine connection.

The metaphors within the story underscore the disparity between Truman's innate humanity and the controlled environment he inhabits. Similarly, similes bridge the gap between the familiar and the extraordinary, helping audiences relate to Truman's emotions as he grapples with his awakening. Personification breathes life into the media's pervasive influence, portraying it as an omnipresent force that manipulates perception and emotions. Together, these devices not only enrich the storytelling but also prompt viewers to reflect on their relationship with media and reality.

The film's thematic depth lies in its invitation to question the nature of reality and the ethics of media manipulation. It challenges audiences to recognize how the lines between entertainment and dehumanization can blur when real lives are turned into spectacles. Truman's journey to reclaim his agency and escape a world of constructed narratives serves as a powerful reminder of the importance of truth and individuality.

Moreover, "The Truman Show" emphasizes the value of privacy as an essential element of authentic living. In a world increasingly saturated by surveillance and public exposure, the film's message resonates as a call to protect our personal spaces and cherish the freedom to live unscripted lives. Ultimately, through its narrative and its rich use of literary devices, "The Truman Show" inspires audiences to uncover the truth behind facades, navigate the media's influence with awareness, and reclaim control over their own destinies.

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