

## AN ANALYSIS OF IRONY USED IN WEDNESDAY ADDAMS SERIES

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### *Abstract*

*In this thesis entitled An Analysis of Irony Used in Wednesday Addams Series, researchers will examine the existence the types of irony and the meaning contained in it. This research uses qualitative descriptive method. This drama series was chosen because there are many sentences that contain ironic language styles in it. The theory used to analyze the data uses semantic theory. The purpose of this research is to analyze irony sentences and then classify them based on the meaning they have so that they can produce certain types of irony. After analyzing the data, there are three types of irony, namely Verbal irony, Situational irony and Drama irony found in conversations and character interactions in each drama series.*

**Keywords :** *Irony, Drama, Semantics, Wednesday.*

### *Abstrak*

*Pada skripsi yang berjudul An Analysis of Irony Used in Wednesday Addams Series ini, peneliti akan meneliti keberadaan jenis – jenis irony dan makna yang terkandung di dalamnya. Penelitian ini menggunakan metode deskriptif kualitatif. Drama series ini dipilih karena terdapat banyak kalimat yang mengandung gaya bahasa ironi didalamnya. Teori yang digunakan untuk menganalisis data menggunakan teori semantik. Tujuan dari penelitian ini adalah untuk menganalisis kalimat – kalimat ironi kemudian diklasifikasikan berdasarkan makna yang dimilikinya sehingga dapat menghasilkan jenis ironi tertentu. Setelah melakukan analisis data, terdapat tiga jenis ironi yaitu Verbal ironi, Situasional ironi dan Drama ironi yang ditemukan dalam percakapan dan interaksi karakter di tiap series drama tersebut.*

**Kata kunci :** *Irony, Drama, Semantics, Wednesday.*

## 1. INTRODUCTION

In general, people use language to communicate and build relationships with others. According to Chomsky, language is a natural object, a component of the human mind, physically represented in the brain and part of the biological characteristics of the species (Barman, 2014: 111). Language style can be interpreted as an expression that contains words or expressions to convey a message or something to others with the aim of influencing, persuading and capturing. Tarigan in Sucipto (2014: 4), Which state that language style is beautiful language used to enhance the effect by introducing an object or element and comparing it with another, more general object or element. In this research, the researcher conducted linguistic research, namely semantics. According to Yule (2015: 164) semantics is the study of the meaning of words, phrases and sentences.

In Wednesday's drama series there are forms of language style, the variations of language style can be found in the utterances or conversations in the drama. Language style is one of the elements of language which in its division represents the content conveyed, one of which is the irony language style. Irony is a figurative language used to satirize subtly in the form of words that contradict the real meaning. Keraf (2006: 143) explain that Irony comes from the word *eioreneia* which means deception or pretense. As a figurative language, irony or satire is a form of reference to say something with a different intention or purpose from what is contained in a series of words.

In this research, the researcher will analyze the use of irony language style and the meaning of the word in question in the drama series entitled "Wednesday". Wednesday is an American horror comedy drama series produced in 2022. The series has 8 episodes and is directed by Tim Burton starring Jenna Ortega as the main character. The drama series tells the story of a teenage girl with supernatural abilities, the firstborn of the Addams family with a gothic-style appearance who can see things that not everyone can see. Wednesday Addams was expelled because she often caused trouble at her old school, so she was transferred to a special school where she belonged. Nevermore Academy is a special school that accepts children who are isolated, strange, and have special abilities such as monsters and even werewolves that cannot be accepted in the general public.

The conversations in the drama series contain a variety of language styles, especially irony language styles that seem to insinuate subtly but have a certain meaning as an affirmation or other statement. Researchers are interested in choosing this drama series because this drama provides a life lesson that is worth applying in our lives. Based on the above explanation, there are various types of irony language styles found in each episode. Researchers want to know the irony language style and the intention of using the word so

they are interested in analyzing the use of irony language style in the Wednesday Addams drama series.

## 2. METHODOLOGY

Research methods are procedures or scientific steps used in data collection to reveal new and better information about a topic as a fulfillment of research objectives. The type of research used is descriptive qualitative research. Qualitative descriptive research is data or facts that have been combined by qualitative researchers in the form of words or images. The researcher tries to find figurative language in a drama series related to a conversation. The figurative language is Irony, which is a type of satire language style. The purpose of this research will focus on the types of irony figurative language used by each speaker, as well as explaining the meaning contained in the sentence. The data source contained in this research is the drama series Wednesday. The data used in this research is in the form of phrases or sentences that are found to contain irony language style. The data obtained in this study were collected in several ways, namely by observing, watching, listening, understanding and recording. Then the data analysis was carried out in the process.

## 3. FINDINGS AND DISCUSSIONS

This chapter presents the research and discusses the types of irony and the meaning contained in the Wednesday Addams drama series.

The researcher will analyze the Irony language style and the meaning contained in the Wednesday drama which consists of 8 series. Laurence Perrine (1974 : 215) explains that irony can be divided into verbal irony, situasional irony, dramatic irony dan cosmic irony. Pettineo (2012: 7), also states in his dissertation as "the most common types of irony discussed in textbooks or anthologies", which are categorized into verbal irony, dramatic irony and situational irony.

**Table 1. SERIES ONE**

Type of Irony	Example	Analysis
Verbal Irony	Enid : "Ajax, this is my new roommate, Wednesday" Ajax : "Woah, you're in black and white! Like a living Instagram Filter"	Wednesday is very anti-colorful other than black. She was the only one whose uniform color was different from the others, which attracted people's attention. And Ajax subtly teased her for being different from others, commenting on Wednesday's appearance as if in real life she was looking at an

		Instagram filter instead of the screen.
Situational Irony	<p>Wednesday : “Which one of your spirits suggested this toe-curling tchotchke? I’m not you, Mother. I will never fall in love, or be a housewife, or have a family.”</p> <p>Morticia : “I’m told girls your age say hurtful things, and I shouldn’t take it to heart.”</p> <p>Wednesday : “Fortunately, you don’t have one.”</p> <p>Morticia : “Finally, a kind word for your mother.”</p>	Morticia understood Wednesday's cruel words because her daughter was still in puberty. Where teenagers are starting to be able to think and argue as they please, and all their words should not be taken to heart. Wednesday commented that it was a good thing her mother didn't have a heart so she wouldn't be offended easily. Instead of scolding Wednesday for her outrageous remark, she was happy to hear it and took it as a compliment. The incident is situational irony because the result is not as expected.
Dramatic Irony	<p>Ajax : “Yo, Enid! You’re not gonna believe the dirt I heard about your new roommate. She eats human flesh. Chow down on that kid she murdered. You better watch your back.”</p> <p>Wednesday : “Quite the contrary. I actually fillet the bodies of my victims, then feed them to my menagerie of pets.”</p>	Seen above when Ajax spreads bad gossip about Enid's roommate Wednesday. The irony is that he didn't realize that Wednesday had been listening to his diatribe from the moment he arrived and he was shocked. Instead of getting angry, Wednesday took it and responded with sadistic words.

**Table 2. SERIES TWO**

Type of Irony	Example	Analysis
Verbal Irony	<p>Enid : “If Bianca Barclay wins again this year, I will literally scratch my own eyes out!”</p> <p>Wednesday : “I would pay money to see that.”</p>	Wednesday didn't believe Enid's words because she is a gentle werewolf and doesn't like horrible things. So she insinuated that if Bianca really won the match and Enid clawed out her own eyes, Wednesday would praise her and she would pay to witness it.
Situational Irony	<p>Thornhill : “I thought Nevermore would be different, but there’s still a handful of teachers who will barely acknowledge me.”</p> <p>Wednesday : “I act if I don’t care if people dislike me. Deep down... I secretly enjoy it.”</p>	Mrs. Thornhill told Wednesday that there were some teachers who still did not consider her at the school. Wednesday told her that if people hurt us, we should just ignore them and not take them to heart. The irony is different for Wednesday, she really enjoys the action because she really likes to be hurt rather than loved. This is situational irony that is not as expected.

Dramatics Irony	<p>Thing follows Rowan and Mrs. Thornhill to Burlington Station. Wednesday is suspicious of Rowan's return after she witnessed Rowan being killed by a monster before her very eyes. Upon arriving at the station, Thing followed Rowan to the bathroom. Unexpectedly Thing loses track, he checks the bathroom and Rowan is not there. And as seen, the audience finds out that Mrs. Weems has disguised herself as Rowan after she transforms back into her.</p>	<p>Wednesday is suspicious of Rowan's appearance after being killed by a monster. Wednesday asks Thing (her pet stump hand) to follow Mrs. Thornhill and Rowan to the station. Unfortunately, Thing lost track of them. The irony is that the audience knows that the person is not Rowan. She is Mrs. Weems disguised as Rowan. Rowan transforms into someone else in the restroom and then transforms back into Mrs. Weems while walking down the hallway. And that's something only the audience knows.</p>
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**Table 3. SERIES THREE**

Type of Irony	Example	Analysis
Verbal Irony	<p>Antique keeper : “You two want to make yourself useful? I reckon they could use a good brush with a Tangle Teezer. It freshens up the fur.”                      Enid : “Maybe we can do that after, like, a... An extended coffee break. Right Ajax?”                      Ajax : “Uh, yeah. We’ll hit the weathervane. Want us to pick you up something?”                      Antique keeper : “No need to pay for that overpriced hipster swill.”</p>	<p>Enid doesn't like preserved animals. She and Ajax asked the antique keeper for permission to take a short break with an alibi to escape. They offered to leave something with the antique keeper while they rested and went outside for coffee. Unfortunately, the antique keeper refused and advised them not to buy expensive drinks from outside, as she could brew homemade drinks and provide a place for them to rest.</p>
Situational Irony	<p>Xavier : “You’re becoming obsessed with this monster in the woods thing.”                      Wednesday : “Would you rather I develop an obsession with horses and boy bands?”</p>	<p>Tyler commented that Wednesday was obsessed with researching monsters in the forest. However, Wednesday replied that there was no way she could be obsessed with horses and boy bands. Ironically, this will never happen to Wednesday. If it did, the whole world would probably be shocked by Wednesday's transformation.</p>
Dramatics Irony	<p>Enid and Ajax promised to meet behind the greenhouse. When Ajax was in the shower and looked in the mirror, he froze. Meanwhile, Enid had been waiting for several minutes and Ajax didn't come. Having lost her temper, Enid</p>	<p>Enid thought Ajax had broken his promise because she had waited so long. Ajax didn't break his promise, when he took a shower and looked in the mirror he froze and Enid didn't know about it. That's where the drama of irony occurs where the incident is only</p>

	screamed, scratched the school bus and broke its tires to vent her anger towards Ajax.	known by the audience.
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**Table 4. SERIES FOUR**

Type of Irony	Example	Analysis
Verbal Irony	Wednesday : “Whoever invented high heels clearly had a side hustle as a torturer.” Bianca : “As my dear mother always says ‘Fire tests gold, suffering tests a woman’.”	Wednesday was tormented by wearing high heels because they made her feet blister and ache. She assumed that the average worker who makes high heels must enjoy torturing people.
Situational Irony	Xavier : “You’re not gonna volunteer? Aren’t you pumped about disco balls and spiked punch? There’s even a DJ. MC Blood Suckaz.” Wednesday : “I’d rather stick needles in my eyes. I’ll probably do that anyway.”	Xavier asked Wednesday if she would be interested in volunteering to decorate the school's prom room. And as you can see, the answer is always out of the blue. Wednesday was more interested in piercing her eyes with needles than participating in the activity, she wasn't interested in even coming to the prom.
Dramatic Irony	Wednesday and Thing (a pet in the shape of a stump hand) entered the morgue to copy the data of the victims who were killed by monsters. She discovers a pattern that each corpse is missing one body part. Unknowingly, the surgeon and sheriff arrive and Wednesday hides in the Mortuary Cabinet. The surgeon opened the Mortuary Cabinet where Wednesday was. He didn't realize that Wednesday was still alive because her skin was very pale and her body was stiff. After the surgeon left, Wednesday felt comfortable in the Mortuary Cabinet.	As seen, when the surgeon opened the Mortuary Cabinet, he did not realize that Wednesday was still alive. He thought that Wednesday was a corpse that had just arrived. It was only known to the audience that Wednesday was still alive who was hiding in the Mortuary cabinet so as not to be caught infiltrating.

**Table 5. SERIES FIVE**

Type of Irony	Example	Analysis
Verbal Irony	Morticia : “So tell us everything.” Wednesday : “Since you’ve abandoned me here, I’ve been hunted, haunted and the target	Wednesday told her parents about her time at Nevermore school. As in the conversation above, she had been hunted, haunted and even targeted for assassination. Instead

	of an attempted murder.” Gomez : “Ah, Nevermore. I love you so.”	of being shocked, her father was very grateful for this school because all of these were things that Wednesday wanted and this school was perfect for her.
Situational Irony	Bianca : “Guessing your dad’s a no-show again this year?” Xavier : “I got a text this morning. You?” Bianca : “Gabrielle hasn’t shown her face since I started here. Probably sunning herself somewhere in the Seychelles.” Bianca mother : “My darling daughter. I made it. Wouldn’t miss this for the world.”	All parents attend parental visits to see their children, but Bianca was different. She had known that her mother would never visit her since she attended Nevermore, and she didn’t expect it. Ironically, the event did not go as she expected. Her mother came to the event for the first time and approached her, and she was shocked.
Dramatics Irony	-	-

Table 6. SERIES SIX

Type of Irony	Example	Analysis
Verbal Irony	Enid : “Everyone deserves to be celebrated on their birthday.” Wednesday : “I prefer to be vilified.”	According to Wednesday, birthdays are a reminder that she is getting closer to death, and she likes that. That’s why she doesn’t like it when her birthday is celebrated with cake or songs, rather than facing all that she’d rather be blasphemed for being calmer.
Situational Irony	Wednesday : “Goody warned I was destined to be alone. Maybe it’s inevitable. But for the first time in my life, it doesn’t feel good.”	In the beginning, Wednesday didn’t need friends and never depended on anyone. The cold and unfeeling Wednesday was used to living alone. For her, having a friend was complicated and burdensome. Ironically, when Enid moved away from her and no longer shared a room with her, she felt lonely after that.
Dramatics Irony	-	-

Table 7. SERIES SEVEN

Type of Irony	Example	Analysis
Verbal Irony	Tyler : “Yeah, your family’s very... colorful.” Wednesday : “Ironic	It’s clear that Wednesday and her family like weird things and have a dark side. Wednesday’s uncle

	considering Fester’s the black sheep. He’s harmless”	Fester has just robbed a bank and has a unique look. After surviving the interrogation of his father Tyler who is a police officer, Tyler subtly insinuates so as not to offend that Wednesday's family is colorful.
Situational Irony	Wednesday : “I want to assure you I remain as cold and heartless as the first day we met.” Dr.Kinbott : “I doubt a cold, heartless person would be sitting by her friend’s bedside feeling guilt for his condition.”	As we all know, Wednesday is a cold and heartless person. The irony is, who would have thought that a heartless person would come to visit and feel guilty about the condition of her friend who was lying limp in a hospital bed after being hit by a monster on the night of the prom night.
Dramatics Irony	-	-

**Table 8. SERIES EIGHT**

Type of Irony	Example	Analysis
Verbal Irony	Tyler : “Laurel said you were dead.” Wednesday : “I’m feeling much better now.” Tyler : “You’re like a cockroach.” Wednesday : “Please, flattery will get you nowhere.”	Tyler was surprised that Wednesday was alive and appeared before him in good health. Annoyed at Wednesday coming back to life, he insulted Wednesday like a cockroach and it didn't work on Wednesday. She was used to hearing it and it was like a compliment to her.
Situational Irony	Wednesday : “So I assume you’ll be moving in with Yoko. Leaving me in the past.” Enid : “Not ever. What about you? Will you forget about me?” Wednesday : “Enid... the mark you have left on me is indelible. Anytime I grow nauseous at the sight of a rainbow or hear a pop song that makes my ears bleed, I’ll think of you.” Enid : “Thanks. I guess.”	Their friendship seems to be out of sync as Enid loves warmth and Wednesday hates it, but they care about each other. Wednesday, who seems cold and unfeeling, actually loves Enid. She was just too proud to say it. When Enid asked her if she would remember Enid after not attending Nevermore anymore, Wednesday replied with an insult but the words meant the opposite. She will always remember her roommate.
Dramatics Irony	Wednesday : “When I came to Nevermore, romance was the last thing on my mind. But when you kissed me, you opened my eyes and suddenly it all made sense. Xavier warned me about you, but I	Wednesday was warned by Xavier that Tyler was not a good person and that he was dangerous, but she ignored all that because she was blinded by love. The audience realized that Xavier was framed by the original perpetrator and he was



	<p>didn't listen.”  Tyler : “Ironic now, huh?”  Wednesday : “Ironic would've been framing Xavier for murder while the real Hyde helped me put him away.”  Tyler : “Wait... you don't think—”  Wednesday : “I don't think. I know.”</p>	<p>accused of being Hyde's monster, which heightened the emotions of the audience.</p>
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#### 4. CONCLUSIONS

Based on the research conducted, there are types of ironic language styles, namely verbal irony, situational irony, and dramatic irony. Of the three types of irony depicted in the Wednesday drama series directed by Tim Burton, there are several examples of ironic language styles in the eight series. The researcher summarized all the examples in the eight Wednesday drama series. Among them, verbal irony is the most dominant and the least found is dramatic irony. The researcher also concluded that the meaning of ironic language style found in Wednesday drama series is to emphasize something, state or explain something, express an opinion, satirize, and describe someone's character.

#### 5. REFERENCES

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