AN ANALYSIS OF HYPERBOLE IN LOVE SONG LYRICS

Kartika Mentari¹, Yusrita Yanti², Elfiondri²

¹Student of English Department, Faculty of Humanities, Bung Hatta University
2Lecturer of English Department, Faculty of Humanities, Bung Hatta University

Email: Kartikamentari69@yahoo.com

Abstract

The research aims to describe the form and the function of hyperbole in a number of song lyrics by Bruno Mars, Adele, and Celine Dion. According to Bullinger (2010:7) hyperbole is the use of exaggerated terms for the purpose of emphasis or heightened effect. The form can be mean to exaggerate, to emphasize, to compare, to show depth of an emotion, something impossible to happen or to give additional information. The data of this research were taken from a number of song lyrics that consist of hyperbole. In this research the writer uses semantic theories. The method used in this research is descriptive analysis method by Moleong (2006 :112). The result shows there were seven forms of hyperbole used in the lyrics in terms of using single word, phrasal hyperbole, clausal hyperbole, numerical hyperbole, the role of superlative, comparison, and repetition. The writer also found four functions of hyperbole they are to exaggerates, to emphasize, and to show the depth of emotion, and something impossible to happen.

Keywords: hyperbole, forms, functions

Introduction

Language is one of the important things in human life. Talking about the language, as a human being the people cannot separate themselves from involvement of social communication and interaction. According to Antilla, R. (1972:12), language is a system of arbitrary vocal symbols by which the members of a speech community cooperate and also they communicate using the language.

Communication can be built if there is an understanding between speakers and hearer in other words. In our daily life, all of the people use language to communicate and interact to each other. It is also a significant tool in transferring human’s mind. When people communicate, they transfer the message. Sometimes in using language, people do not always convey their message with the words that have literal meaning and people need language to express their mind, ideas, and also their feeling to one another.

Globalization bring business grows rapidly with high competitiveness. Music industry, especially liven up by the presence of many great talents from all over the world to produce many hits singles with a deep and
touching lyrics. Lyric is a media to express and to communicate what the author thinks or feels about. In other words, lyric is a result of any kind of emotion of its author.

Love song is one of the most preferred and desired kind of music by most people worldwide. In a love song lyric, mostly the authors like to exaggerate in the parable exaggerating. The romantic words are words expressed in their lives of someone who is in love. Whenever people hear or see the lyric, people get a pleasure. The people can express their purpose directly and indirectly. When they want to say something directly they can tell it in exact words. But, indirectly people were shared the emotion and expression between the listener and the singer or song writer. People can understand what is the singer or the song written want to talk to with different way and deep emotion or meaning. Based on explanation above, the writer concludes that song lyric is a kind of indirectly communication.

Hyperbole is exaggeration for a specific literary effect and overstatement. On the other hand, hyperbole is an expression to make something looks bigger or greater than it really is. According to Kennedy, X. J. (1983:687) stated that the word hyperbole is derived from Greek language, that are ‘hyper’ which means ‘over’ and ‘ballien’ means to ‘throw’. So, from the meaning it can be said that hyperbole or over statement is a statement containing exaggeration to emphasize a point.

Bullinger (2010:7) states that hyperbole is the use of exaggerated terms for the purpose of emphasis or heightened effect. The form can be mean to exaggerate, to emphasize, to compare, to show depth of an emotion, something impossible to happen or to give additional information. This is the example of hyperbole that proposed by Barnwell, K. (1980: 37).

(1) “I am frozen to death.

From the example (1), in this statement, she wants to show how cold her body is. It means here that she is very cold. From this statement, it is clear that she wants to make the emphasis about her feelings by saying exaggerated expression

**Methodology**

This research, the writer was conduct by using a descriptive research because it described the form and the function of hyperbole. According to Moleong (2006 :112) states that analyzing the data is an
effort to identify the related data and to classify the data based on the topic and it is effort to structuralize them into descriptive form to represent the analysis to the readers in basic description. In doing the research, the researcher uses descriptive analysis method in analyzing to collecting the data.

The writer used Sudaryanto theory. Sudaryanto (1993:145) wrote that there are two kinds of methods to present the result of the analysis. They are informal and formal methods. In the informal method, the result of the data analysis is presented by using natural language or by using the writer’s own words, but in the formal method the result of analyzing the data is written in sign and symbol signifying the rule in this research. The writer uses informal method in representing the result of the data analysis. The writer reports the result of the research by using words and does not use any numerical calculation because the research is held in qualitative method.

The sources of the data analysis take the number of love song lyrics are Just The Way You Are, Grenade, It will rain, I’ll be waiting, Melt My Heart to Stone, Make You Feel My Love, Hiding My Heart Away, My Heart Will Go On, One and Only, and A New Day Has Come.

There are three steps of analyzing the data based on Moleong:

1. Reduction Data

It is process to select important data which relates to the researcher. The researcher classified, and writer organized and also arranged the related data.

2. Representing Data

It is a process to explain the data with more information about the data. The data is usually presented in graphic, matrix, and chart in order the researcher is easy to make the people understand.

3. Verification

It is a process after representing the data. The researcher made a conclusion or verification. In conducting the research, the researcher has done some steps above that are reduction data, representing data and verification.

The author should analyze the data and find whether the theory was supported whether it is right. In representing the data the writer wrote the data base in love song lyrics that taken in internet, if the lyrics make capital letter or small letter, the writer follow size of letter without change the size
Findings and Discussion

The writer would like to describe the result of data analysis taken from ten love songs lyrics by Bruno Mars, Adele, and Celine Dion. From the data, the writer found that all of forms of hyperbolic proposed by Claridge, C. (2011). Classified of hyperbolic form of hyperbole is divided into seven forms. There are Single-Word hyperbole, Phrasal hyperbole, Clausal Hyperbole, Numerical Hyperbole, The Role of the Superlative, Comparison, and Repetition. After identify the hyperbolic form, the following steps of this chapter to identify the function of hyperbole is divided into five forms. There are to exaggerates, to emphasize, show the depth of emotion, and something impossible to happen.

Data 2 :
“Take a bullet straight right through my brain
Yes, I would die for you, baby.”

In the example (2), the quotation above happens to the woman. Grenade is a song about unrequited love and although he realized, he was not able to avoid feeling it and continue to do the same ignorance, repeatedly.

This song tells about the story of a man’s love for a woman, but she never loves him. He was willing to sacrifice for the woman, but the woman didn’t reply. She opposite the man who wants to throw into the trash was so hated her with him. He is too loves with her even willing to die for her. In the lyrics, it is an expression of an excessive songwriter who said that he could not live without someone she loves. The use of single word ‘die’ shows depth of the men’s emotion about this case. In other words, he is willing to die for their loved ones. The single-word hyperbole with the word ‘die’ exaggerates the emotion that the man feels.

Data 3 :
“Cause there’ll be no sunlight if I lose you, baby.”

From the example (3), that is phrasal hyperbole. In the lyrics tells about the power of love, because someone who loves is encouraging her life. In this case, tells of a fear someone to lose who is in loved. In this story of a man who really does not want to lose the woman because the man can’t forget the memories that once he made along these women. The love of a man who is very
excessive for the woman to her blind and no longer know anything to do something for the sake of the woman he loved.

The ‘no sunlight’ also means of sadness for lose the love. This is expression of hyperbole in phrase ‘no sunlight’ is exaggerated of someone who doesn’t want to lose her. Impossible to happen if there is no sunlight if the men loss of the woman he loves. It is the expression of the man who the woman did not want to lose. That is also of emphasize how much he loves her. In this phrase of no sunlight also exaggerates the effect becomes something impossible to happen.

Data 4:
“And when you smile, the whole world stops and stares for a while ‘Cause girl you’re amazing, just the way you are.”

From the example (4) is clausal hyperbole. The quotation above is expressed by the men. This song tells the story of a man who so admired the woman he loves. The praise expressed in this song. In the lyrics is much persuasion from the bottom of my heart. “Just the way you are” is the best ever. Every day the man always throws a compliment to the woman he loves. The woman he loved so always looked at the woman and was amazed.

In this statement ‘the whole world stops and stares’ for a while there is a phrase that contains hyperbole. The phrase the whole world stops means of admiration for the man to someone because she is beautiful and wonderful. There is something impossible to happen in this phrase because this is expression of the man who exaggerates impossible to happen.

Data 5:
“And there is no one there to dry your tears, I could hold you for a million years to make you feel my love.”

From the example (5), that is numerical hyperbole. In the lyrics tells about the feelings of a woman who is ready to do anything to someone she loves. This song has the lyrics are very romantic and has a deep meaning in expressing one's feelings towards someone she loves. Therefore, with deep and touching lyrics are expected to listeners of this song can love a person can feel how the more than anything.

The use of numerical hyperbole with the word ‘millions’ makes the situation becomes bigger and impossible to happen. It is would not be possible someone could live millions of years. This is clearly a
hyperbole. No one can really live that long. Humans in general can only live for 70-80 years. Therefore, it can be said that “millions” here means as long as the author lives. The use of hyperboles in the lyrics along with the use of hyperbole creates a special effect. The listeners would be blown through the use of the suitable exaggeration. The hyperbole is used to describe how much she loves him.

Data 6:
“I couldn’t much higher, my spirit takes flight.”

From the example (6), that is superlative. In the lyrics tells still about the story above. The song tells the story about someone who has been desperate and stops expecting. In the other word, the man who always expects a reply from a man's love is now no longer expected much. The spirit to fight for the love of the man had disappeared.

The use of the role of the superlative ‘higher’ shows the depth of the woman’s emotion about this case. She disappointed to the man because he didn’t love her and lied. The superlative ‘higher’ means he can no longer to act further to attract the attention of the woman. It is the expression of the man he has given up trying to get to the heart of the woman he loves. The role of the superlative hyperbole with the word of ‘higher’ exaggerates the emotion that the woman feels.

Data 7:
“Oh her eyes, her eyes make the stars look like they’re not shining
Her hair, her hair falls perfectly without her trying
She's so beautiful, and I tell her every day.”

From the example (7), that is comparison hyperbole. In the lyrics tells about admiration for a man to a woman who was considered so pretty with just the way you are. This song tells about of the compliments that contains leveled against a beautiful woman who caught his attention. The praise recited from head to the toe. In this case the man is very fond of the woman and always praised.

The hyperbole with the word ‘like’ is comparison hyperbole because of this category goes back to antiquity includes non-metaphorical comparison which contain explicit comparative particles.

Data 8:
“Ooh, you'd watch me burn down in flames
You said you love me you’re a liar, because you ever, ever, ever did, baby.”
From the example (8), hyperbole occurs repetition form. In this data form of hyperbole only happens in one form. In the lyrics tells about of the betrayal of love. In this story of two lovers who no longer trust the words of the man because he had and often lied to the woman. He easily comes in the life of the man and also easy going. He always made him into a slave of love, but he remained patient. In the lyrics of this song tells the anger of a man against a woman who is always playing with his feelings. Many provision of these men always she received, but she never received their love. This story tells us that the woman was the one who betrayed and very nasty to the man who sincerely love. The repetition of the word ‘ever’ give emphasize that the disappointed of the man to the woman because she always fool the man.

Data 9 :
“But now the sky has cleared and it’s blue, And I see my future in you.”

From the example (9) tells about the story of a person who feeling very loved and will not be replaced. In deep feeling towards the person cannot be replaced by others. In this lyrics mention that the person was the one that he loves her. He was the first and last of his life. The longer and the more the feelings are always growing and not replaced.

The function of hyperbole in the statement ‘I see my future in you’ is to emphasize that he wanted to live together with the person she loves. There is an overstatement because of his love to the person who makes him confident to live with the person he chose to accompany her in the future.

Data 10 :
“If you ever leave me, baby
Leave some morphine at my door.”
Cause it would take a whole lot of medication
To realize what we used to have,
We don't have it anymore”

From the example (10) the lyrics shows how afraid the man is of losing his lover. The first two lines are related to the last three lines. The lines ‘If you ever leave me, baby’ and ‘Leave some morphine at my door’ describe how painful his feeling is if his lover ever leaves him. Morphine is a powerful and addictive drug used for stopping pain and making people calmer. However, the morphine in this line should not be interpreted literally. Instead there is a connotative meaning within this line. This
line implies that if the man loses his girl, he will feel great.

*Morphine* denotes a drug used for stopping pain but it also connotes a sense of delusion, which is a false belief about ourselves or the situation we are in. In the lyrics, it connotes much time and effort. The *morphine* represents the idea that the great sadness will take much effort to relieve. It means that in this case to emphasize implied that the man needs much time, and effort to forget his lover if she leaves him because every memory they have will always reminds him of her.

Data 11:

“But like everything I've ever known
You'll disappear one day,
So *I'll spend my whole life hiding my heart away*

From the example (11), in this song tells about accidental meeting with a woman who made him stunned at first sight. Then the man began to love the woman and began to know him. At the meeting anyway, he immediately liked her. During the first meeting with the woman, the man has a dark past with a woman before. After having love with a new woman he knew it, soon turned out that the woman had to go out of the city and leave the man. The man returned to upset against a woman.

From the explanation the writer know the function hyperbole is show depth of an emotion for the man. The sentence *I'll spend my whole life hiding my heart away* describe expresses disappointment of a man who repeatedly abandoned by a woman he loves. The sentence *I'll spend my whole life hiding my heart away* shows how deep the disappointment that the man feels. The hyperbolic in the sentence above means that to show depth of an emotion for the man.

Data 12:

“And when you smile
the whole world stops and stares for a while
’Cause girl, you’re amazing, just the way you are”

From the example (12) the function of hyperbole above is something impossible to happen. In the lyrics tells about in the lyrics tell about the beauty of women who expressed by the author to the woman he adored. In addition, the author tells part of the beautiful part of someone women from the eyes, hair, face, lips, and smile. Besides that, the author did not hesitate to praise the woman with a much exaggerated
significance. Every day the man always throws a compliment to the woman he loves.

The quotation above describes the praise that was brought up with so excessive that it becomes something would not be possible. In this statement ‘the whole world stops and stares for a while’ it is a reality that will not be possible in life. It is only assuming that the smile of a woman is very attractive and can captivate a man who was later declared by the expression. There is something impossible to happen in this phrase because this is expression of the man who excessive impossible to happen. The quotation ‘the whole world stops and stares for a while’ means of admiration for the man to someone because she is beautiful and wonderful. The quotation above is to show the depth of emotion by the author.

**Conclusion**

In this research, the writer finds all of seven forms of hyperboles that proposed to Claridge, C. (2011) they are: single word hyperbole, phrasal hyperbole, clausal hyperbole, numerical hyperbole, the role of superlative, comparison, and repetition. The writer explains the hyperbolic forms and the function of the hyperbole.

Based on all the findings and analysis, the seven hyperbolic forms have their own sense in the sentence. The form can be mean to exaggerate, to emphasize, to compare, to show the depth of emotion, something impossible to happen or to give additional information.

In general, all of the findings have non literal meaning because each of the data has implied meaning or more than one meaning behind the literal meaning. After analyzing each the forms, the writer can get more understanding the function of hyperbole to read the whole lyrics. In the other word, the writer realized that the lyric is very interesting because of the use of hyperbolic forms in.

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Bibliography


