

HYPERBOLE IN MELANIE MARTINEZ'S "K-12" ALBUM

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ABSTRACT

The purposes of this research are to describe the types of hyperbole found in Melanie Martinez's K-12 and to find out the most dominant type of hyperbole found in Melanie Martinez's K-12. Claudia Claridge's Hyperbole theory is used to analyze the type of hyperbole meanwhile descriptive qualitative method is used for the method of the reseach. After classifying and analyzing the data, it is found 45 data of hyperbolic expressions which are categorized into seven categories namely single-word hyperbole, phrasal hyperbole, clausal hyperbole, numerical hyperbole, superlative hyperbole, comparison, and repetition. At the end of analyzing, clausal hyperbole is found as the most dominant type of hyperbole used.

Keywords: *Literature, language, figurative, hyperbole*

INTRODUCTION

Literary work exists as the results of human thought. Literary works were created to be enjoyed and appreciated. In this case writers have ways of finding their ideas, images, and style of language to produce certain effects for the readers. Thoroughly stylistic has roles to help analyze and provide a complete picture of the value of a literary work, including song's lyrics analyzes for this research. Wales (2014, p.8) notes that the aim of most stylistics is not only to describe the formal features of the text for their own sake but to show their functional significance for text interpretation, or to link the literary effect with the linguistic cause' where this is considered relevant.

Stylistics is a branch of linguistics that examines the many styles seen in texts or utterances. The study of language as it appears in

literary works with the goal of relating it to its aesthetic functions is known as stylistics. Phonology, syntax, lexicon, and rhetoric, which includes figurative language and imagery, are all characteristics of stylistics (Leech & Short, 1984).

The study of figurative language is referred to as stylistic analysis. Figurative language is a term, sentence, or piece of writing that has two or more literal meanings and is intended to elicit imaginative responses from readers or listeners. Abrams (1999), tells those figurative languages were a conspicuous departure from what users of language apprehend as the standard meaning of words, or else the standard order of words, to achieve some special meaning or effect. Meanwhile, Perrine (1982) tells those figurative languages are broadly defined as any way of saying something other than ordinary way.

It is more narrowly definable as a way of saying one thing and meaning another. When you use figurative language, you're using a term or phrase that doesn't have its usual, literal meaning. Metaphors, similes, personification, and hyperbole are just a few examples of how to utilize figurative language (Syahrina, 2019). Melanie Martinez's K-12 album contains hyperbole, which the researcher examines. Exaggeration is used as a rhetorical device or figure of speech in hyperbole. Auxesis is another name for it in rhetoric (growth). It accentuates, provokes powerful sensations, and creates strong impressions in poetry and oratory. It is usually not meant to be taken literally as a figure of speech. People tend to exaggerate to be expressive while speaking or writing, therefore hyperbole is an interesting topic to discuss.

Humans, like all living creatures, seek entertainment to satisfy their desires. And one of the most popular forms of entertainment is music. Listening to music can be useful to the listener in a variety of ways, from relaxing to raising one's mood. Not only do people enjoy listening to music, but they also enjoy singing, whether to convey emotions or simply to have fun. When it comes to songs, people are naturally drawn to them since they are more than just melodies or music. Lyrics and rhythm are also included.

Hyperbole

Hyperbole comes from the Greek term *hyperballin*, which means "to fling over" or "to go beyond." *Hyper* literally means "over," and *baleen* means "to throw." Hyperbole is a figure of speech that uses an exaggerated or extravagant

statement to create a strong emotional response, according to Leech (1969). It is not meant to be taken literally as a figure of speech. Hyperbole is often used in humor. It says more than the truth about the size, number, or degree of something, without the intention to deceive. Barnwell (1977) proposed that "A hyperbole is a deliberate exaggeration, used for emphasis and dramatic effect." This statement is supported by Murfin and Ray (2003). "Hyperbole is a figure of speech that uses deliberate exaggeration to achieve an effect. Meanwhile Listiani (2015) gives example of hyperbole namely:

1) *I had to walk 15 miles to school in the snow, uphill.*

2) *He was so hungry; he ate that whole cornfield for lunch, stalks, and all.*

The meaning of the first sentence is he walks to school in the snow. It makes walking so far like 15 miles away. The second statement describes that he ate so much because he's very hungry. The statement above is an expression of over-statement. From the definition above it can be concluded that hyperbole is a kind of figurative language that contains an exaggeration of number, measurement, or characteristics. A figurative language is an exaggeration for the sake of comparison. When they do this, they intensify the thought, making it more vivid. This kind of figurative language is named hyperbole. In hyperbole, a statement is made emphatic by overstatement.

Types of Hyperbole

Claridge (2011) divides hyperbole in 7 types of hyperbole namely:

1) **Single Word Hyperbole**

This is called single word hyperbole because it only occurs when there is a single overstatement word in the utterance or sentence. It means that when the exaggerated word is leaving out, then the hyperbolic meaning in the sentence or utterance will disappear.

Examples: "*Will you wait just a second? I'll come with you.*" (Claridge, 2011)

2) **Phrasal Hyperbole**

If single word hyperbole only contains one single word, in phrasal hyperbole it contains more than one word, it is a combination of words.

Examples: "*The place was completely empty!*" (Claridge, loc.cit)

3) **Clausal Hyperbole**

The other form called clausal hyperbole, is a form of hyperbole which contains two or more clausal constituents. The hyperbolic markers form a clause which consists of subject and verb.

Examples: "*I'm really, really, really changed dramatically from not eating very much to scoffing my face at every single available opportunity*" (Claridge, loc.cit)

4) **Numerical Hyperbole**

In this form the speaker or writer uses numbers as one way to create hyperbolic meaning.

Examples: "*It's gonna take me like eight years to blow these*" 2. "*I'll get... you'll have to go, just go right to the back... just at the back... otherwise you're gonna be flipping through millions of pages.*" (Claridge, loc.cit)

5) **The Role of Superlative**

In hyperbole we also could find superlative expressions which indicate hyperbolic meaning.

Examples: "*They start really stinking and stuff? Oh, it's the grossest thing*" (Claridge, loc.cit)

6) **Comparison**

In this form, sometimes the hyperbolic meaning consists of comparison. By comparing something, it will become the opportunity to create a hyperbole.

Example: "*And I never phone unless I can... erm, well you know if I can possibly avoid it I never phone at the most expensive time of day. I avoid mornings like the plague if I can... possibly manage.*" (Claridge, loc.cit)

7) **Repetition**

This form of hyperbole is usually used in spoken language. Sometimes people tend to repeat their utterances for couples of time in order to emphasize something.

Example: "*Because they don't have any genuine effect. It happens over and over and over again*" (Claridge, loc.cit)

RESEARCH METHOD

The method used in this research is the qualitative method which Ary (2010) states that the qualitative inquirer deals with data that are in the form of words or pictures rather than numbers and statistics. Qualitative method stated by Sukmadinata (2009) is study, which is used to describe and analyze phenomena, social activities, attitudes, beliefs, perceptions, and people individually and group. Qualitative research is not using numerical data as an instrument for analysis. To obtain the data, the researcher selected videos based on the data required, note-taking and listening video, studying, and reading comprehensively, and categorizing data required by using thematic

markers based on the aim of this research. This method is done by formulating the problem, then followed by formulating focus of the study, collecting the data, then the data are analyzed and finally described.

RESULT AND DISCUSSION

In this part, the researchers use the data formed as the song lyrics taken from 13 songs in Melanie Martinez's album titled K-12 that have been read, underlined, and highlighted in the song lyrics. The song lyrics which contained hyperbole expressions are then analyzed with the type of hyperbole according to Claudia Claridge and the meaning behind the lyrics elaborated. The researchers have found all 7 types of hyperbole in Melanie Martinez's K-12 album.

Single Word Hyperbole

Example 1: *So you think you always squeaky.* (The Principal. Stanza 1, Line 4)

The subject of this song is a reference to the 45th President of the United States, Donald Trump. In a more general sense, it is a critique towards selfish and close-minded authority figures. The word *squeaky* here is derived from the phrase *squeaky clean* which means something that is completely clean. The term comes from the *squeaky* sound that often happens when you run your finger over a smooth, clean surface, like a countertop of a windowpane after it's been washed. According to Merriam-Webster, *squeaky clean* also means completely free from moral taint of any kind. If a person is *squeaky clean*, they have no criminal record and are not suspected of illegal or immoral

activities. In this context, the word *squeaky* refers to how "The Principal" thinks he is without flaw and unbeatable, not that he makes a *squeaky* sound when you glide your finger over his skin for how clean he is. If the word *squeaky* is replaced with another word such as "secure", this line will no longer be a hyperbole sentence.

1) Phrasal Hyperbole

I'm on display for all you fuckers to see

(Show & Tell. Stanza 3, Line 2)

The line above is categorized as phrasal hyperbole and is found in the song Show & Tell line 10. Melanie got the inspiration for the title from a fun activity where kids bring an object of theirs to school and tell their classmates about it. However, in this song, show and tell isn't fun for Melanie at all, since she, as a celebrity, feels like an object being presented to and judged by the public. From the expression *I'm on display for all you fuckers to see*, Melanie explains how as a celebrity she feels forced to put on a performance or show staged all for the public entertainment. Categorized as phrasal hyperbole because *on display* does not contain subject and verb. The phrase *on display* refers to a demonstration arranged for public viewing and is used by Melanie to exaggerate her emotion, because she is not literally on display. This hyperbole is solely to add more flair to her lyrics.

2) Clausal Hyperbole

In my grandma's lap, I'm drowning in her perfume (Recess. Stanza 1, Line 2)

In the song, Melanie reminisces the memory of her loving

grandmother who used to give her advice and warning about the music career she has wanted since she was a young girl. Her grandma left such a big impression in her life that Melanie still has recollections of how they used to spend time together. With the expression *drowning in her perfume*, Melanie overstates just how much perfume her grandma used to spray on herself that when she sits in her lap, she feels like being drowned with the scent. She used the word *drown* as if she is submerged in her grandma's perfume liquid when realistically speaking, could not have been possible.

3) Numerical Hyperbole

Down your throat a *dozen times* or near, yeah
(Orange Juice. Stanza 2, Line 3)

Orange Juice tells a story of a girl with Bulimia nervosa, also known as simply bulimia, an eating disorder characterized by binge eating followed by vomiting (purging), and excessive concern with body shape and weight. The aim of this activity is to expel the body of calories eaten from the binging phase of the process. The lyrics preceding this line is Shoving clementines and orange bacteria. The bulimic girl eats many clementine, a type of orange, and then puking all of it back out. Undoubtedly categorized as numerical hyperbole because it contains a number which is a *dozen times*. The meaning behind the expression is that the girl eats and throws up repeatedly that she shoves the clementine down her throat a dozen times, implying that she does it so many times that there is no way of knowing the exact number of times. Melanie used *dozen times* to add dramatic effect to the lyrics.

4) The Role of Superlative

You say the cruelest words
(Show & Tell. Stanza 1, Line 3)

In the song, Melanie talks about the critics and hate she receives throughout her career as a singer. Categorized as the role of superlative hyperbole because *the cruelest words* refer to the malicious and hateful comments. This expression is an amplification of the judgements and critics that Melanie received. It is exaggerated to illustrate how hurt she is by them.

5) Comparison Hyperbole

I'm pale as the loose-leaf paper
they grow
(Nurse's Office. Stanza 1, Line 3)

The first data of comparison comes from the 3rd line in a song entitled Nurse's Office, the song tells a story of a girl pleading to not be bullied anymore and to just be left alone in the 'Nurse's Office' where she can escape the mean girls and the suffering, they put her through. The girl is so sick and tired of being bothered by her bullies during class to the point of mental and physical exhaustion. With the expression *pale as the loose-leaf paper*, Melanie compares the color of her complexion to the color of loose-leaf paper. For a sentence to be considered a comparison hyperbole, it requires words such as like, as, and then. In the context of the lyrics, people usually lose color from their face when they are sick, as the result of decreased blood supply to the skin. And the most common loose-leaf paper is white in color. So, this comparison is an exaggeration, since a human face cannot possibly be in a state of paleness so severe to the

point of the skin turning paper white. Melanie uses this expression as an overstatement to add towards the dramatic effect in the song

6) Repetition

If you cheat, you will die, die
(High School Sweethearts. Stanza 7, Line 6).

The only repetition hyperbole is found in the seventh stanza of High School Sweethearts, line 6. In this song, Melanie expresses her desire for a lover who fits into all her requirements. Categorized as repetition hyperbole because of the reiteration of the word 'die' into *die, die*. This shows how Melanie will not tolerate her partner cheating and if there ever is a time when he is caught having an affair, she will not hesitate to harm or even kill him. With her double use of the word 'die' in this line, Melanie successfully expressed her warning in an exaggerated manner as well as conveying the seriousness of her threat.

According to the data above, it is concluded that this research has been settled with the most dominant hyperbole type that appears in the album K-12 by Melanie Martinez found is clausal hyperbole, the second most is single-word hyperbole, followed by comparison hyperbole, followed by phrasal hyperbole, then the role of superlative hyperbole, and finally, repetition and numerical hyperbole tied as the least dominant type.

CONCLUSION AND SUGGESTION

Based on the findings and the discussions elaborated in the previous chapter, it is found that the text describes Melanie Martinez's life

and love story, but mostly it's about her relationship with her lover which is not fully happy. As a person who loves poetry Melanie often writes with figurative language, she also gets many inspirations from old Hollywood movies, which is why her style of singing is very dramatic and old school. Melanie uses many hyperbole expressions in her songs to create the effect of drama, as her style on music is also very dramatic. According to the previous chapter, this research has found 45 data of hyperbole expressions from 13 songs of the music album K-12 by Melanie Martinez., which are *Wheels on the Bus, Class Fight, The Principal, Show & Tell, Nurse's Office, Drama Club, Strawberry Shortcake, Lunchbox Friends, Orange Juice, Detention, Teacher's Pet, High School Sweethearts, and Recess.*

Out of 7 types of hyperbole, the researchers have found all 7 types of hyperbole type in Melanie Martinez's K-12 album. The researchers found the total of 45 data from the album, 10 data of single-word hyperbole (22%), 5 data of phrasal hyperbole (11%), 19 data of clausal hyperbole (42.2%), 1 datum of numerical hyperbole (2.2%), 2 data of the role of superlative hyperbole (4.4%), 7 data of comparison (16%), and 1 datum of repetition (2.2%). Most of the hyperbole found is clausal hyperbole.

SUGGESTION

This study applied stylistic study in analyzing the text (lyrics). The application of stylistic study especially in figurative language has served a great deal of advantages in supporting the analysis in this research. The research provides the

fact that song's lyrics have a good potency to be explored because it is enriched with useful information about stylistic study and figurative language, as well as different cultures in other countries and how some people deal with their personal life.

Since songs and song lyrics may be heard and read by everyone, its deeper comprehension and exploration is highly required. It is suggested that literary studies and its applications must be learned deeply to have a better understanding in choosing the appropriate theory to be applied in the research. Based on discovering that the researchers got in this research, the researchers would like to give some suggestions for the next researcher. The researchers hope that this research can help next researchers in understanding the types of hyperbolic expression by Claudia Claridge.

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