

# HYPERBOLIC EXPRESSIONS IN THE LYRICS OF THE FOLKLORE AND EVERMORE ALBUM BY TAYLOR SWIFT

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## ABSTRACT

This research analyzes of hyperbolic expressions in the lyrics of Taylor Swift's song from Folklore and Evermore album. Song is an effective way to express feelings and convey a message. However, sometimes there are many of song lyrics are hard to understand by the listener because the lyrics contain figures language such as hyperbole and the meanings are hidden inside. This research aims to determine the types of hyperbolic expressions and analyze the meaning that can be inferred. This research used qualitative method in collecting the data. The results of this research showed 30 hyperbolic expressions found in the songs.

**Keywords :** *hyperbole, hyperbolic expressions, song lyrics, meaning*

## INTRODUCTION

Language is one of the most essential cultural aspects. Through the language, people can communicate with other people. People use language to convey and describe what they are doing, thinking, and wanting. People communicate their thoughts, feeling, assumptions and ideas in a variety of ways, one of them is song. Musicians frequently utilize figurative language to draw listeners in. However, listeners may not always comprehend the author's goal. However when we listen to a song, we can not only listen to the music and its rhythm, we must also determine the significance of the words of the song that the composer and performer wish to convey to us. To fully understand and recognize the figurative language contained in a song, the first thing to do is learn the definition of figurative language. According to Abrams figurative language is the standard significance or sequence of words used to achieve special meaning or effect[1]. There are several types of figurative language, they are simile, personification, hyperbole, metaphor, paradox, irony and symbol. This research focuses on hyperbole. According to Keraf, Hyperbole is one type of figure of speech that contains with an overstatement, to exaggerate something[2]. Claridge classifies the formal implementation of the hyperbolic expression into seven types. They are single word, phrasal hyperbole, clausal hyperbole, numerical hyperbole, the role of superlative, comparison, and repetition.

Therefore the purpose of this research is to find out the types and explain the inferred meaning of hiperbolic expression used in Taylor Swift's songs on the folklore and evermore album. However, research on hyperbole has been done before, one of them is from Fatimah Tuzzahrah[3], she found hyperbolic expressions in Bruno Mars" songs. Then, Riky Astina, I Gusti Ayu Vina Widiadnya Putri, I Gusti Agung Sri Rwa Jayantini[4], they analyze hyperbolic expressions in The Chainsmokers album.

## METHOD

This research is explained by qualitative methods in processing or explaining the data. The researcher explain the types and meanings can be inferred of hyperbolic expressions contained in Taylor Swift's songs. The data in this research is taken from the songs on the albums Folklore and Evermore by Taylor Swift. To collect data in this research, the researchers use Spotify. Spotify is a digital music platform, podcast, and video service. The procedures for collecting and analyzing the data are listen to the song and reading the lyrics, understand the meaning of the song, and cite the hyperbolic expressions found. Then categorize them accrodging to the type of hyperbole. The last step is to explain the meaning can be inferred from the hyperbolic expression.

## RESULT AND DISCUSSION

In this research, the researcher found 30 hyperbole expressions in Taylor Swift's folklore and evermore albums. There are 7 types of hyperbole that found in this research they are, single word, phrasal hyperbole, clausal hyperbole, numerical hyperbole, the role of superlative, comparison, and repetition. The most frequently used hyperbole expression is clausal hyperbole, which is 6 data. Followed by single word 5 data, phrasal hyperbole 3 data, numerical hyperbole 4 data, the role of superlative 4 data, comparison 4 data and repetition 4 data.

The data below shows the single word hyperbole:

**‘Cause I knew *everything* when I was young**

As explained by Claridge this type only occurs if there is one exaggerate word in the utterance or sentence. As a human being, no one knows and understands all the things, especially a young human. Basically humans learn, grow and develop over the time. This song is about a girl who has been left by her lover but still believes that he would return one day. Also trying to remember the times when they were still together. The word "*everything*" is used to emphasize that she knows he will miss her, she knows he will change the ending, she knows he will be haunted by her questions and she knows he will come back to her.

The expression below shows a phrasal hyperbole.

***all the years I've given, is just shit we're dividing up***

The data above classified as phrasal hyperbole. This song tells about moving on or getting out of a bad relationship but tucked in happiness inside. But there are also things that are more destructive and painful than just a happiness. In other words, this relationship is a toxic relationship. The expression above shows that she has given a very long time to this relationship. She expresses with "*all the years*" it means to assert that it is as if years and years she gave to this relationship but it is just nonsense they share.

The lyrics below shows clausal hyperbole.

***but you would still miss me in your bones***

The sentence "*you will still miss me in your bones*" makes the lyrics above included as clausal hyperbole. Basically missing is a feeling. A feeling that describes really want and really hope for something. An example of this feeling is wanting to

meet someone. The hyperbolic expression appears because the songwriter makes an exaggeration meaning by using the words "*miss me in your bones*", by using these words songwriter shows the emphasis that the man will still miss her very much, even he can feel it until to the bone.

The data below shows numerical hyperbole.

***and when I break, it's in a million pieces***

The lyrics above are an expression of hyperbole. The lyrics definitely demonstrate numerical hyperbole because they contain the terms 'million'. In the first verse of the song, the songwriter describes herself as a mirror ball capable of presenting every version of herself. She is willing to adapt and change to please others. However, she admits that she is very vulnerable, when she "breaks" she will be very broken.

The data below shows the role of superlative.

***there goes the maddest woman this town has ever seen***

The superlative makes something so excessive and extreme that it leads to exaggeration based on Claridge. This song tells the true story of the life of a socialite named Rebekkah Harkness. After her divorce, Rebekkah became a rich socialite with lots of controversies in her life. Like the lavish parties she always had that really disturbed the neighbors because of the noise. Rebekkah even clashed with her neighbors. As written in the lyrics of this song, that clashed ended by 'kidnapping' the neighbor's pet and painting its fur green. Because of that Taylor Swift describes Rebekkah as "*the maddest woman this town has ever seen*" to emphasize that Rebekkah is a woman who is extremely crazy and trouble maker in town.

The quote below shows a comparison.

***time flies, messy as the mud on your truck tires***

The comparison Hyperbole contains explicit comparative particles such as *like, as, than*. By comparing something it becomes an opportunity to create an exaggeration. The lyrics above belong to the type of hyperbolic expression, which is classified as comparison because the lyrics clearly contain explicit comparative particles which is 'as'. The songwriter describes how time flies and it is so chaotic. She described the mess "as the mud on your truck tires" to give it a dramatic effect.

The data below shows hiperbolic expression whis is repetition.

**‘cause I love you, I swear I loved you till my dying day**

In the lyrics above there is a repetition of the word "I love you" twice, this causes the appearance of hyperbole expressions, namely the type of hyperbole repetition. Thus the feeling of love that is so deep is described. The songwriter describes a feeling of love that is very deep. By emphasizing the sentiment of love by saying "I love you" repeatedly and the phrase "till my dying day".

**CONCLUSION AND SUGGESTION**

According to the research findings, the researcher can conclude that hyperbole is a figurative language that shows or describes something with an exaggerated expression, which sometimes does not make sense, and whose meaning should not be accepted literally. In this research the researcher found 30 data. The researcher found all the types of hyperbole. They are, single word (5), phrasal hyperbole (3), clausal hyperbole (6), numerical hyperbole (4), the role of superlative (4), comparison (4), and repetition (4). From the data it can be concluded that the type of hyperbolic expression that often appears in Taylor Swift's songs is clausal hyperbole. However, the researcher hopes that this study can help readers to understand what figurative language is, in particular hyperbole. To determine the forms of hyperbole, we must first understand the branch of science known as semantics, figurative language, and then hyperbole. Furthermore, the researcher believes this research aims to be useful for readers and academics that are interested in exploring figurative language, especially hyperbole.

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