

## **A STUDY OF FIGURATIVE LANGUAGE: HYPERBOLE, PERSONIFICATION, AND SIMILE IN *BRING ME THE HORIZON'S* *ALBUM***

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### ***ABSTRACT***

Figurative language is widely used in song lyrics to convey emotions and ideas beyond literal meaning. *Bring Me the Horizon's* album is rich with expressive devices that reflect themes of pain, despair, and survival. This research focuses on three types of figurative language—hyperbole, personification, and simile—to examine how the band's lyrics communicate emotional depth and stylistic identity. This research applied a qualitative descriptive method. The data were taken from selected songs in *Bring Me the Horizon's* album. Each lyric containing figurative expression was identified and categorized based on figurative language theories. The analysis focused on interpreting the function and effect of hyperbole, personification, and simile in the context of the lyrics. The findings indicate that all three figurative devices are present throughout the album. Hyperbole appears most frequently, used to exaggerate emotions such as despair, hopelessness, and rebellion. Personification occurs when abstract concepts like death, fear, or depression are given human qualities, making inner struggles more concrete. Similes are employed to create vivid comparisons between complex emotions and familiar imagery, thus enhancing relatability and imagery. In conclusion, Hyperbole, simile, and personification in these song lyrics make the words more powerful and meaningful. Hyperbole shows strong feelings by exaggerating emotions, simile helps listeners imagine clearly by comparing two different things, and personification makes lyrics more alive by giving human qualities to objects or ideas. Together, they enrich the beauty of the lyrics, create deeper emotions, and help the message of the song connect strongly with listeners.

***Keywords: Figurative Language, Hyperbole, Personification, Simile, Bring Me The Horizon.***

### **1. INTRODUCTION**

Language is a system of traditional spoken or written symbols that people use to communicate with one another. People require language in order to communicate, engage, and obtain information from others. According Harmer (2007), as mentioned in (Hariyanto, 2017) suggests that language is commonly utilized for communication among individuals with different first or second languages. Language can be a vital requirement in human life. It plays an important part in everyone's ability to develop positive relationships with others. Figurative language is a figure of speech used to convey information other than the literal meaning of the

words Figurative language consists of saying less than what is intended. Figurative language is frequently used in literary works. One of the literary works is a song. According to (Hatch, 1995), figurative language is often classified as similes, metaphors, allusions, and personifications. It is assumed that the writer and reader can specify that, figurative language or not, in order to identify the text and then describe the comparison. Figurative language is utilized in many forms of communication, including everyday speech, social media, movies, song lyrics, and so on. In this research, the writer focuses on the study of figurative language in Bring Me The Horizon song lyrics, especially hyperbole, personification, and simile. However, understanding the meaning of Bring Me The Horizon's song lyrics is challenging because it uses implicit meaning or indirect expression, and we must study figurative language to comprehend the meaning of their song lyrics.

## 2. REVIEW OF RELATED LITERATURE

This study Perrine (1982) defines figurative language as "any manner of conveying something other than the regular way." It can be described more literally as a way of expressing one thing while implying another. As a result, figurative language is a method of communicating meaning that is not literal.

### 2.1 Types of Figurative Language

In this research, the writer uses the Perrine's theory to classify the types of figurative languages. Perrine classify the figure of speech into:

#### 1. Metaphor

A metaphor is a direct comparison figure of speech and does not use connecting words, unlike a simile figure of speech which compares something using connecting words.

For example :

(1) I'm a riddle in nine syllables, An elephant, a ponderous house, A melon  
strolling on two tendrils.

Sylvia Plath attempts to define metaphors in her poem Metaphors in Perrin (1969). She defines the term in a way that differs from what is written in the dictionary. She wrote in the first line that metaphors are a nine-syllable riddle. According to this line, the word metaphor is something confusing or difficult to solve, similar to a riddle.

#### 2. Personification

Personification is comparing an animal, an object, or a concept with human characteristics.

For example:

(2) On a half of-reaped furrow sound asleep.

In the poem "To Autumn" by John Keats in Perrin (1969), He represents a season.

#### 3. Simile

Both simile and metaphor are used to compare things that are fundamentally different. The only difference is that in simile, the comparison is expressed by using a word or phrase such as like, as, than, similar to, resembles, or seems, even though in metaphor, the comparison is created when a figurative term is substituted for identified with the literal term.

For example:

(3) does it dry up  
like a raisin in the sun?

In the poem entitled Harlem by Langston Hughes in Perrin (1969), Hughes' used to like to compare the word.

#### 4. Hyperbole

Exaggerating something without reducing its true meaning. Put, exaggeration in emphasizing the truth. If you say, "I'm starving!" or "I'll die if I don't pass this course," you are not expecting to be taken literally; you are simply emphasizing what you mean. Based on Claridge (2011:44) classifies the formal implementation of the hyperbolic expression into seven types.

##### 1) Single-word Hyperbole

This type only occurs when a single overstatement word appears in an utterance or phrase. It indicates that omitting the exaggerated term removes the hyperbolic connotation from the text or utterance. They are named after universal quantifiers like all and every, which have features in common with pronouns like everything, -where, etc., nothing/anything, nobody, and adverbs like always, never, and ever. They all make a stringent absolute assertion with possibly global consequences. They are all subject to hyperbolic interpretation as long as the context does not impose an explicit limit on their reach.

Example :

1. "I could hear everything!". According to Claridge, the form of the hyperbolic expression of "everything" is single word because in this expression only the word "everything" is exaggerated. The expression contains an exaggerated statement where the speaker overstates that she/he can hear everything.

##### 2) Phrasal Hyperbole

If single-word hyperbole contains only one word, in phrasal hyperbole contains more than one word, then it is a combination of words. Among the other forms, this form occurs frequently. It is the specific mix of words and senses that creates the overall hyperbolic meaning. As seen in the table, this group is divided into NP, AdjP, AdvP, VP, and PP, as well as, perhaps more shockingly, sentences that include a superlative, a number, or a universal descriptor (Claridge, 2011:52).

Example : 1. "This house costs my entire money." "My entire money" means all of his/her money. He/she wants to emphasize that house costs most of his/her money by saying "my entire money".

##### 3) Clausal Hyperbole

The other form called clausal hyperbole. It is a form of hyperbole which contains two or more clausal constituents. The hyperbolic markers form a clause which consists with subject and verb. " Clausal hyperbole refers to all circumstances in which the exaggeration is produced only by the combined action of elements in two or more clausal components - as the minimal criterion. As previously stated, exaggeration can span over many clauses in a statement. In other circumstances, it may be difficult to credit hyperbolic contributions to specific elements, even when the phrase meaning is literally implausible or even ludicrous; these examples must also be listed below. (Claridge, 2011: 55).

Example : The example of the form taken from Claridge (2011:56) is :

1. Nobody ever learns anything".

#### 4) Numerical Hyperbole

In this form, the speaker or writer uses numbers as a means to create exaggerated meanings. Numerical hyperbole can be found in single word hyperbole, phrase hyperbole, or clause hyperbole. There are words that are important for recognizing numerical hyperbole, they are hundreds, thousands, millions, billions, and so on.

Example :

1. "I'd walk a thousand miles, if I could just see you tonight". By saying a thousand miles the speaker means that he is willing to travel a very long way if he has to meet his lover, but the number is not literally in thousand.

#### 5) The Role of Superlative

In hyperbole we can also find a superlative expression which indicates hyperbolic meaning. The superlative makes something so excessive and extreme that it leads to exaggeration.

Example :

1. This is craziest thing i've ever done

#### 6) Comparison

In this form, hyperbolic meaning may involve comparison. Comparing anything creates a chance to exaggerate. This category contains non-metaphorical comparisons that use explicit comparative particles like, as, and than. Maximizing an item or characteristic involves comparing it. The item within the comparison phrase is usually exceedingly implausible or altogether impossible, or the juxtaposition of the two items being compared results in a highly incongruous outcome. Claridge (2011:64) states that "comparing the item or facet in question in such a way maximizes it." Very often, the hyperbolic potential is merely contained inside the comparison sentence."

Example :

1. "She misses more words out *than* she gets in" (Claridge, 2011:65)

#### 7) Repetition

This form of hyperbole is often used in spoken language. It appears from just saying 'more X' by repeating 'X' for several times. Sometimes people tend to repeat their words over and over to emphasize something.

Example :

1. "Sexy today, sexy tomorrow, and sexy forever."

### 3. RESEARCH METHOD

This research applied a qualitative descriptive method. The data were taken from selected songs in Bring Me the Horizon's album. The source of the data in this research is BMTH's Album derived from the internet. This album was chosen as a data source because it has a lot of figurative language in the lyrics that are connected to the topic of this study. This research examines the content analysis of figurative language in BMTH's song. As the target language

of figurative language in BMTH's song, the writer investigates how to obtain contextual meaning in figurative language as the source language. The techniques that follow are used to collect data: Listening to BMTH's songs, Collect BMTH's song, Reading and comprehending the lyrics, Identifying all figurative language-containing words, phrases, and sentences, After collecting the data in previous steps, the writer categorized the data based on the types of figurative language. In analyzing the data, the writer used the theory of figurative language by Laurence Perrine. Leech's theory to classify the meanings of figurative languages in song lyric by BMTH in *Post Human: Survival Horror* and *Post Human: Next Gen* Album, Finally, the writer gets the conclusion from the analysis.

#### 4. FINDINGS AND DISCUSSION

This chapter contains the findings of data analysis that relate to the description of figurative language in Bring Me The Horizon Song. The data was formerly shown by providing a description of the metaphorical language present in the lyrics. This study analyzed 50 data of figurative language, especially hyperbole, personification, and simile expressions found across two albums by *Bring Me The Horizon: Post Human: Survival Horror* and *Post Human: Next Gen*. The data consists of 10 hyperboles from 9 songs in the *Survival Horror* album and 10 hyperboles from 8 songs in *Next Gen*.

##### 4.1 Hyperbole type In Bring Me The Horizon's Post Human : Survival Horror and Next Gen Album

Hyperbole is a figure of speech that exaggerates without taking away from its underlying meaning.

###### Data 1

Song title "Dear Diary"

*"The sky is falling"*

This lyric is an example of Phrasal Hyperbole, specifically a *Verb Phrase (VP)*. The phrase "the sky is falling" is not meant to be taken literally but instead conveys an overwhelming sense of panic or emotional collapse. Obviously, the sky cannot fall, but this exaggerated expression is often used to describe moments of personal catastrophe or existential anxiety. As Claridge (2011:52) explains, phrasal hyperbole arises from the combination of words that together create an exaggerated meaning. Here, the phrase reflects the mental and emotional weight pressing down on the speaker, evoking a sense of apocalyptic dread.

###### Data 2

Song title "Parasite Eve"

*"I know you're dying to run"*

This lyric contains a single-word hyperbole, specifically in the use of the word "dying." In literal terms, no one dies just from wanting to run away. The word *dying* here is used figuratively to express an intense and exaggerated desire to escape. As Claridge (2011:44) explains, single-word hyperbole occurs when "the exaggerate word is omitted, the hyperbolic meaning in the sentence or utterance will disappear." If we remove "dying" and replace it with "wanting", the intensity drops significantly, proving its hyperbolic function. Hence, this line

exemplifies single-word hyperbole as the exaggeration hinges entirely on one emotionally charged word.

### **Data 3**

#### **Song Title “YOUtopia” “A world’s been buried”**

This line exemplifies *clausal hyperbole*, with the idea that an entire world has been buried suggesting an impossibly large-scale loss or destruction. It transcends literal meaning and uses exaggeration to portray immense grief, perhaps linked to societal or personal collapse. Claridge (2011:55) notes that clausal hyperbole relies on the interplay of elements within a full clause to form an unrealistic, often absurd picture. Here, the dramatic visual of a buried world reflects overwhelming emotional devastation.

### **Data 4**

#### **Song Title “Kool-Aid”**

#### **“The void is a vampire fat on our blood”**

Using a *comparison hyperbole*, this lyric portrays “the void”—an abstract, nihilistic force—as a vampire that not only feeds on people but grows fat from their blood. The exaggeration lies in attributing active, grotesque traits to an intangible concept, emphasizing how consuming and damaging the void can feel. Claridge (2011:64) describes this type as relying on unlikely comparisons that maximize the emotional or conceptual intensity. This line metaphorically visualizes emptiness as a parasitic entity.

## **4.2 Personification In Bring Me The Horizon's Post Human: Survival Horror and Next Gen Album**

Personification is a category of figurative language in which an item or inanimate object is given human characteristics or feelings.

### **Data 5**

#### **“There’s a glitch in your trust” – *It’s For The Cure***

Trust, a non-physical and emotional concept, is given a mechanical or technological failure (“glitch”), suggesting that it functions like a system that can be corrupted. It presents trust as if it were a digital being capable of breaking down.

### **Data 6**

#### **“The program starts to crash” – *Luden***

This personifies reality or society as a computer program capable of crashing. It implies a system failure due to instability or unsustainability, highlighting the unnatural and controlled world the song critiques.

#### **Data 7**

**“My memories... they’re killing me one by one” – *1x1***

Memories are given the ability to perform a human action—killing. This exaggeration turns internal thoughts into active agents of harm, reinforcing how trauma can feel like a personal attack.

#### **Data 8**

**“The sun is setting on our love” – *One Day The Only Butterflies***

This metaphor treats the sun as if it deliberately acts to signify the end of love. While literal sunsets are natural, here it implies a symbolic and emotional fading, giving the sun intent and emotional relevance.

### **4.3 Simile In Bring Me The Horizon's Post Human: Survival Horror and Next Gen Album**

A simile is a figure of speech that compares two distinct objects using terms such as "like," "as," or "than."

#### **Data 9**

**"I feel itchy like there's bugs under my skin"- *Dear Diary***

**Simile Indicator: *like***

This line compares the character's anxiety or psychological discomfort to the feeling of bugs crawling under the skin. This vivid imagery intensifies the sense of paranoia and hallucination. It uses the simile structure to illustrate a mental breakdown by evoking a strong physical sensation. (Perrin, 1969)

The writer can conclude that the writer of song has conspicuous characteristics; it is more over in say something and expressing his act in utterances, even though in his song the writer finds out several kind figurative language which is different, namely hyperbole, personification, and simile.

#### **Data 10**

**"I feel itchy like there's bugs under my skin"- *Dear Diary***

**Simile Indicator: *like***

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#### **Data 11**

**"High as a kite, I'm never coming down"- *Teardrops***

**Simile Indicator: *as***

This compares the speaker's emotional or possibly drug-induced state to a kite, suggesting detachment from reality or extreme highs. It reflects a disconnection from grounded emotions or thoughts. The use of "as" clearly marks this as a simile (Perrin, 1969)

#### **Data 12**

**"Soul like a cemetery" *YOUtopia***

**Simile Indicator: *like***

The speaker compares their soul to a cemetery, suggesting emotional numbness, buried trauma, or spiritual desolation. This simile emphasizes the bleakness of the inner self by invoking imagery of death and emptiness. (Perrin, 1969)

#### **Data 13**

**"Get me low like a basement"-*liMOusIne***

**Simile Indicator: *like***

The phrase draws a comparison between emotional lowliness and a basement—something underground, hidden, and dark. It reflects a deep emotional fall, using the simile to link psychological despair with a physical low point. (Perrin, 1969).

#### **Data 14**

**"The beat in my chest sounds like a swan song"-*A bulleT w- my namE On***

**Simile Indicator: *like***

This compares a heartbeat to a swan song, symbolizing impending death or finality. It's a poetic way to portray emotional exhaustion or the end of a relationship. The simile uses sound imagery to underscore emotional fatalism. (Perrin, 1969)

### **5. CONCLUSION**

After analyzing 50 figurative language collected from two albums by Bring Me The Horizon—Post Human: Survival Horror and Post Human: Next Gen—it was found that there are 3 types of figurative language : Hyperbole, personification and simile. Some songs had some of the same forms of figurative language. Personification, exaggeration, and simile are common forms of figurative language used in this study. In addition, the writer identified various figurative languages such as oxymoron, litotes, metaphor, allusion, repetition, symbolic, and enumeration. The most common form of figure in BMTH's Album is hyperbole, which is an exaggeration utilized for particular effect. In sum, the 50 data of identified from the two albums illustrate how figurative language, when classified and interpreted through Claridge's and Perrine's typology, plays a central role in shaping the emotional, thematic, and artistic depth of Bring Me The Horizon's music. Their lyrics stand as a compelling example of how Figurative language functions powerfully in contemporary songwriting.



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