



ANALYSIS OF HYPERBOLES USED IN THE LYRICS OF JOHN LEGEND'S SONGS

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Abstract: This study aimed to discover (1) What kinds of hyperboles are used in the song lyrics of John Legend? And (2) What are the contextual meanings of hyperboles used in John Legend's songs? The qualitative method was used as the research approach in analyzing and presenting the data. Three of John Legend's albums were used as the source of the data entitled Bigger Love, Love In The Future, and Darkness and Light. It was found that from those albums, there exist 27 hyperbole expressions, classified as four kinds of hyperbole; (1) Clausal hyperbole, (2) Comparison, (3) Repetition, and (4) Phrasal hyperbole. From those 4 kinds of hyperbole, 19 hyperbole expressions were found and classified as Clausal Hyperbole, 3 hyperbole expressions as Comparison, 3 hyperbole expressions as Repetition, and 2 hyperbole expressions as Phrasal hyperbole. Furthermore, the meaning of those hyperbole expressions is dominantly about the love for his mate, and the relationship that they have been through. The meaning can be derived based on the context of the songs.

Keywords: Lyric, Hyperbole, Songs, Meaning of Hyperbole.

INTRODUCTION

Literature is a medium for human beings to express their ideas, feelings, and emotions. Literature is related to all aspects of human beings' activity, any kinds of phenomena in the universe, series of horizons, and knowledge owned by human beings' (Nuriadi, 2016). One of the literary forms is a song, a part of the literary work which has the intrinsic element of poetry. It expresses a person's personal feelings and thoughts which are connected to writing or singing. It is also a kind of poetry that is generally short and characterized by a musical use of language (Nuriadi, 2018).

As far as we know, song is a part of literature. According to Meyer (1997: 1) literature is a term used for the description of written texts characterized by accurate use of language, including characteristics such as creative metaphors, well-transformed phrases, elegant syntax, rhyme, and alliteration, which are read aesthetically with author-oriented to be read aesthetically and deliberately somewhat open to interpretations. The song is an example of a literary work which is the act or art of singing. Songs as musical works with sung words have the function of expressing thoughts and feelings. The songs has two elements, such as lyrics and music. Nowadays, many songs express our feelings, such with the theme of love, society, politics, and others (Nuriadi, 2018).

Hyperbole language is a type of figure language that shows something that is exaggerated with a specific purpose. According to Keraf (2004:135), hyperbole is one type of figure of speech that contains an exaggerated expression of something. In addition, hyperbole is a type of figure of speech that is common and often found in everyday life. Sometimes used in comics, but more often used in songs. Hyperbole language usually often produces dramatic effects. Otherwise, it is used for expressing feelings that result in intense impressions and if not meant to be enamored literally. Hyperbole sentences are the language commonly used in literary language. Such as poetry, songs, etc. Hyperbole is a sentence that uses excessive words with a specific purpose. Of course, the sentences do not mean literally or the actual word. According to Nurgiyantoro (2000:300), hyperbole is a style of language whose way of speaking aims to emphasize the intention of deliberately exaggerating. From the two opinions above, it can be concluded that hyperbole language is a style that contains an exaggerated statement of reality.

According to Moeliono (2003:624), a song is the result of different cadenced sounds. A song could be a standard tone or sound combined with a melodic instrument to create music that contains rhythm or verses. Melody has components, such as verses. The tune is one way to pick up fun and satisfaction. The tune is the result of the craftsmanship of the relationship between sound and the craftsmanship of dialect, as a work of sound craftsmanship infers a song with the singer's voice. According to Sharndama and Suleiman as quoted in Akporbaro (2006) songs have various forms, some of which are rich, imaginative, and elaborated in puns, rhythms, and melodies. Those forms are reflected in the most important section in a song, namely the lyrics.

All the songs performed by John Legend have a very deep meaning. John Legend is also famous for his songs which contain the beauty of words and uses his sensitivity to express his imaginative feelings. One of his famous songs is "All of Me" which consists of

beautiful meaning, taste, and hyperbole language. Therefore, I am interested in analyzing the hyperbole language in John Legend's songs which consists of several songs. There are also several reasons why I chose hyperbole to analyze the meaning of John Legend's lyrics. It contains a lot of hyperbole expression. Therefore, that makes the song interesting to be sung and accepted by listeners.

Briefly, this research focuses on hyperbole in songs by the world-famous singer John Legend. This research analyzed several hyperbole languages contained in the song, which aims to determine the type of hyperbole language and the meaning of hyperbole language contained in the song.

RESEARCH METHODS

In this research, the researcher used the application of qualitative methods. Qualitative studies are studies of issues such as facts or include individual, organizational, situational, or procedural opinions. This study describes the use of qualitative, not quantitative methods. According to Moleong (2010:4), qualitative research is in terms of data analysis, where the data is expressed in the form of variables and the data is analyzed without statistical techniques. In this research, the researcher explained the form and meaning of hyperbole expressions used in John Legend's song. Therefore, this study used John Legend's song lyrics as qualitative data that will describe, analyze, and interpret the meaning of all hyperbole expressions in the song. In the context of this design, this research actually applies library research, not field research. This means that all data are taken from reference books and website links on the internet which are closely related to the topic of this research, namely analyzing hyperbole expressions in John Legend's songs.

FINDINGS AND DISCUSSION

FINDINGS

As stated in the previous chapter, the writer uses qualitative research method in obtaining and analyzing the data. Here, the writer only analyzed sentence in hyperbole expression. In this chapter, research would present the elaboration of analysis that is concerned with hyperbole language used in the song's lyrics, this elaboration was focused on hyperbole in order to read the meaning between the lines of those lyrics.

1.1 Identification of Hyperbole In The Song's Lyrics

After collecting the data related to hyperbole, the researcher found some hyperboles used in John Legend Album Songs' Lyrics. The data are presented below.

No	Album	Song's Title	Lyrics	Types of Hyperbole	Meaning of each Hyperbole
1.	Bigger Love	Oh Laa	(Line 9-10) "You know what I want The second, the minute I'm home"	Clausal hyperbole	Line 9, 10 He really wants to spend time with his mate at the home.
2.	Love In The Future	Who do we think we are	(Line 5-6) Let's trip the night fantastic Light it up 'til we both explode	Clausal hyperbole	Line 5, 6- Meaning that both of them are in a happy relationship.
3.	Darkness and Light	Penthouse Floor	(Line 53-54) Oh don't bring me down, I need a room up in the clouds I wanna get there babe, I wanna elevate	Clausal hyperbole	Line 53, 54-Meaning that he wants a peaceful condition.

DISCUSSION

Hyperbole used in these songs is dominantly talking about love which are including the power of love, passion, proof of love, and expectation about love. Moreover, the other expression is

revealing a sense of love for the mate and they are used exaggeratedly when the author wants to show how he feels about something.

Kinds and Meanings of Hyperbole in John Legend's Song's Lyrics

There are three John Legend albums used in this research to find the kinds of hyperbole as well as the meanings in the songs' lyrics. Those albums are Bigger Love, Love In The Future, Darkness and Light. Each album consists of 20 songs and the researcher took 5 songs from each album as the source of data. The albums and songs are presented below.

Hyperbole in Bigger Love Album

Oh laa

This song is one of the songs of John Legend in his album entitled Bigger Love launched in 2020. The researcher found hyperboles are consisted in this song lyrics. The meaning of hyperbole expressions could be found in this lyrics:

1. You know what I want

The second, the minute I'm home(Line 9-10)

According to Claridge (2011), clausal hyperbole is a hyperbole that contains two or more clause constituents. The hyperbole maker forms a clause consisting of a subject and a verb. The lyric above consisted of clausal hyperbole in which the writer trying to exaggerate his feeling in love in which he wants everything from his mate. The meaning is he really wants to spend time with his mate at the home.

Hyperboles in Love In The Future Album

Who do we think we are

In this song, the researcher found 6 lines in the lyrics that contain hyperboles. Those hyperboles are clausal hyperbole and comparative that elaborated as follows:

1. Let's trip the night fantastic

Light it up 'til we both explode (Line 5-6)

In this line, the researcher found that this line consists of clausal hyperbole. Clausal hyperbole is a form of hyperbole that contains two or more clause constituents. The hyperbole maker forms a clause consisting of a subject and a verb. In this line, it can be seen that there are two clauses that exist. The first clause "Let's trip the night fantastic" indicates that the writer wants to spend his night with his mate, this clause is connected to the second clause "Light it up 'til we both explode" which contains exaggeration of pleasure. The writer wants to convey that in the lyric context they will pass the night together and the pleasure that they get is just like an explosion. "Explode" is a parable of pleasure that they have together in the night. This lyric has a meaning of both of them are in a happy relationship.

Hyperboles in Darkness and Light Album

Penthouse floor

This song's theme is the most unique among the others because it is about social injustice in the United States. The researcher concludes it by the lyrics that he made, which talk about society's life. The title of the song represents the upper class of the higher society. Furthermore, after reading and analyzing the lyrics line, the researcher found three lines consisting of hyperbole.

1. Oh don't bring me down, I need a room up in the clouds
I wanna get there babe, I wanna elevate(Line 53-54)

There are four clause constituents in these lines, and they are categorized as clausal hyperbole. The first clause "Oh don't bring me down" indicates the writer feeling about injustice in society which sometimes classifies people by skin tone, job, etc. The second clause "I need a room up in the clouds" indicates that the writer wants to be treated equally to the others, in which the writer exaggerates the higher social position as the clouds. This hyperbole means he wants a peaceful condition. Furthermore, the third clause "I wanna get there babe" and the fourth clause I wanna elevate the last two clauses emphasize the feeling of the writer about the social class that he wants to get.

CONCLUSION

From the data analysis and discussion in the previous chapter, I conclude that there are 27 hyperbole expressions found in the song lyrics of John Legend's three albums entitled "Bigger Love, Love In The Future, and Darkness and Light. This study uses Claridge's (2011) hyperbole theory by classifying the types of hyperbole in John Legend's songs. In short, hyperbole is the use of exaggeration, intended to make a strong impression, as well as to arouse or show strong feelings. In this study, various types of hyperbole were found: (1) phrasal hyperbole, (2) clause hyperbole (3) repetition (4) comparison (5) single-word hyperbole (6) numerical hyperbole, and (7) role of superlatives. With these types of hyperbole, the researcher only found 4 types of hyperbole in John Legend's songs, namely (1) Clause Hyperbole, (2) Comparison, (3) Repetition, and (4) Phrase Hyperbole. Of the 4 types of hyperbole, 19 hyperbole expressions were found and classified as Clause Hyperboles, 3 hyperbole expressions as Comparison, 3 hyperbole expressions as Repetition, and 2 hyperbole expressions as Phrasal hyperbole. From these findings, songwriter John Legend uses a lot of clause hyperbole in exaggerating and showing feelings and intentions to listeners and followed, by Comparison, Repetition, and Phrasal Hyperbole with fewer occurrences.

Meanwhile, the researcher did not find three other types of hyperbole, superlative, numerical, and single-word hyperbole because the writer has their uniqueness and characteristics among the others.

The meaning of hyperbole in the lyrics of John Legend's songs depends on the interpretation of the hearers; since the songs' have their contexts, the interpretation of the songs' lyrics tends to vary. Meanwhile, this research found that the meaning of hyperboles in the songs was dominantly about the love for his mate, and the relationship that they have been through. The meaning can be derived based on the context of the songs. Love is friendship that has caught fire. It is quiet understanding, mutual confidence, sharing and forgiving. It is loyalty through good and bad times. It settles for less than perfection and makes allowances for human weaknesses. And Romantic relationships are those characterized by feelings of love and attraction for another person. While romantic love can vary, it often involves feelings of infatuation, intimacy, and commitment. Experts have come up with a variety of different ways to describe how people experience and express love.

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