

STYLISTIC SIGNIFICANCE OF HYPERBOLE IN LITERATURE

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ANNOTATION

This article deals with the use of hyperbole as a stylistic device which is very popular in oral and written speech. The article gives information about the theoretical and practical significance of hyperbole in stylistics and tries to explain this phenomenon from stylistic point of view.

Key words: lexical stylistic device, exaggeration, stylistic function, an impact, figurative speech, deliberate use, logical and emotive meaning.

Hyperbole is a lexical stylistic device emphasis achieved through deliberate exaggeration. Hyperbole is one of the common, widely used expressive means of our everyday speech (e.g. "You have made this mistake a thousand times"). Hyperbole can be created by all notional parts of speech. It is vital that the speaker and the hearer should clearly perceive that the exaggeration serves not to denote actual quality or quantity but indicates the emotional background of the utterance.

Hyperbole is aimed at exaggerating quantity or quality. When it is directed the opposite way, when the size, shape, dimensions, characteristic features of the object are not overrated, but intentionally underrated, we deal with understatement. English is well known for its preference for understatement in everyday speech. "I am rather annoyed" instead of "I'm infuriated", "The wind is rather strong" instead of "There's a gale blowing outside" are typical of British polite speech, but are less characteristic of American English.

A hyperbole is a figure of speech used in the English language. The word hyperbole has its origin in the Greek language and means excess or exaggeration. By definition, a hyperbole is nothing but a trope composed of exaggerated words or ideals used for emphasis. Also described as 'the implied simile', hyperbole is a figure of speech in which statements are exaggerated to create an impact and are not supposed to be interpreted literally. Hyperboles are commonly used in prose and poetry. Although valued in creative writing, hyperboles are avoided in formal style or business writing.

Hyperboles are exaggerations to create emphasis or effect. As a literary device, hyperbole is often used in poetry and prose, and is frequently encountered in casual speech. An example of hyperbole is: "The bag weighed a ton". Hyperbole helps to make the point that the bag was very heavy, although it is not probable that it would actually weigh a ton. On occasion, newspapers and other forms of media use hyperbole when speaking of an accident, to increase the impact of the event. This is more often found in tabloid newspapers, which often exaggerate accounts of events to appeal to a wider audience.

Similarly to its uses in mass media, hyperbole can be used by political parties or organizations as a tool for overstating the impact or necessity of legislation or task rules. Hyperbole appears in the figure speech, including in premeditated exaggeration property of subject or phenomena,

intensifying expressiveness by adding to opinion emphatic character. The fact is that hyperbole may be performed to variations. From one side hyperbole may exaggerate the sign of subject or phenomena, but on the side - underestimate it. This phenomena is called 'meiosis' in the linguistic literature. Next example based on exactly to underestimation phenomena:

"A man little for she was of a pocket size crossed her hands on a middle" Hyperbole expresses figurative characteristics. The author or speaker aspires to intensify expressions, underline positive or negative quality of describing persons, subjects with the help of this expressive means! It is used widely in folks, in the (old) ancient epic poets in any time and nation /exploit and others/.

Hyperbole is used in the present artistic literature in different goals:

"He heard nothing. He was more remote than the stars" (S. Chaplin)

Here using hyperbole serviced way at expressing emotional condition of speaker, narrating about his exploited friend. Hyperbole may be used to create humorous effect on the reader.

Hyperbole is a device which sharpens the reader's ability to make a logical assessment of the utterance. This is achieved, as in case with other devices, by awakening the dichotomy of thought and feeling where thought takes the upper hand though not to the detriment of feeling. Hyperbole is often used in descriptions. It emphasizes some qualities of a person or thing by exaggerating them, as in this selection¹.

Hyperbole is a device which sharpens the reader's ability to make a logical assessment of the utterance. This is achieved, as in case with other devices, by awakening the dichotomy of thought and feeling where thought takes the upper hand though not to the detriment of feeling. Hyperbole is common in tall tales. Here is an example:

At three weeks, Paul Bunyan got his family into a bit of trouble kicking around his little tootsies and knocking down something like four miles of standing timber.

Hyperbole is often used in descriptions. It emphasizes some qualities of a person or thing by exaggerating them:

The skin on her face was as thin and drawn as tight as the skin of onion and her eyes were gray and sharp like the points of two picks

—Flannery O'Connor, "Parker's Back" Hyperbole can also be used to describe a person's emotions. Hyperbole is common in humorous poetry. Hyperbole can make a point in a light-hearted way. It can be used to poke fun at someone or something. For example, read this description of a dull town.

It's a slow burg—I spent a couple of weeks there one day.

Some examples of hyperboles would be:

- "I've seen this movie a million times"
- "It was so cold, I saw polar bears wearing jackets"
- "she is so dumb, she thinks Taco Bell is a Mexican phone company" Here are some common examples of hyperboles:
- I am so hungry I could eat a horse.
- I have a million things to do.

¹ www.hyperbole.com from wikipedia the free encyclopedia

- I had to walk 15 miles to school in the snow, uphill.
- I had a ton of homework.
- If I can't buy that new game, I will die.
- He is as skinny as a toothpick.
- This car goes faster than the speed of light.
- That new car costs a bazillion dollars.
- We are so poor; we don't have two cents to rub together.
- That joke is so old, the last time I heard it I was riding on a dinosaur.
- They ran like greased lightning.
- He's got tons of money.
- You could have knocked me over with a feather.
- Her brain is the size of a pea.
- He is older than the hills.

The principle sphere of accepting hyperbole in artistic and everyday speech. Hyperbole often co-operates with other stylistic device-metaphor and simile in the artistic speech. In connection with this, one may distinguish - specific form of hyperbole metaphoric hyperbole or hyperbolic metaphor are the bases for excessive exaggeration quality or sign.

It can also encourage consumers to buy products. Marketing research, from Roger J. Kreuz, PhD for the Military Personnel Research Science Workshop in Memphis TN, 04 June 2001, has found that 75 percent of ads used at least one figure of speech. This was quoted Krueze's research. Examples of hyperboles in advertising are "adds amazing luster for infinite, mirror-like shine" (Brilliant Brunette shampoo).

The characteristics of hyperbole. Actually is truly impossible for humans to believe?) plays with the vacillation between a literal comment on the preceding hyperbole and a playful confirmation of it. In fact, the two of them are engaging in some kind of language play with a clearly humorous touch (they are aware of the audience, of course). George Harrison's comment, however, may also have a more serious aspect to it: he uses the exaggeration to emphasize his dissatisfaction with having to perform one and the same song too often, implying that he is fed up with it. This could be a real or a mock complaint; in any case, it transports evaluative, emotional meaning. Thus, hyperbole can have various attitudinal functions which might overlap in actual usage, like joking and complaining in this case.

1. The main stylistic function of hyperbole is to express emotions.
2. In hyperbole the emotive meaning usually dominates over the logical one. e.g. I would give you a million worlds to see you
3. Hyperbole is widely used in the oral type of speech .The speaker uses hyperbole to make his speech vivid and convincing: e. g. I had to drag it out of him. It seems ages since we had a real talk.
4. Hyperbole is a stylistic device which is also based on the interaction of logical and emotive meaning, it gives a deliberate exaggeration: million - coloured rainbow (Shelley). Actually, there are seven colours in the spectrum, Shelley's hyperbole emphasizes the beauty of that rainbow.

So, hyperbole is a statement fancifully exaggerated through excitement or for a effect. By such overstatement something is represented as much greater or less, better or worse.

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