

# HYPERBOLIC EXPRESSION IN THE ALBUM NICOLE BY NIKI

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## Abstract

The research entitled hyperbolic expression in the album NICOLE by NIKI focuses on knowing the hyperbole that contained in the song lyrics in this album. The purpose of this research is to find the hyperbole formula based on claridge's theory and reveal the impact of using hyperbole in the album NICOLE by NIKI. The researchers used qualitative research in conducting the research. The data was collected from the song lyrics on the NICOLE album. The researchers found 7 hyperbole formulas contained in the song lyrics on the album NICOLE by NIKI, which are single-word hyperbole, phrasal hyperbole, clausal hyperbole, numerical hyperbole, the role of superlative, comparison hyperbole, and repetition.

**Keywords:** *hyperbole; expression; impact; song; lyrics*

## 1. Introduction

Communication is important for humans and all living things in the world to interact with each other. Language is used in communication from to know or understand something. Without language, there is no way humans will communicate with each other. Karimah et al (2022) describe language is a system of arbitrary sound symbols used by members of social groups to work together, communicate and identify themselves. Humans communicate using their respective language styles in communicating. Language style refers to the way that a person uses language to communicate, it can be formal, informal, or somewhere in between. In songs, the use of language style can vary depending on the genre of music, the singer or songwriter, and the intended audience. For example, language style is often used in pop songs to create a sense of excitement or fun. In contrast, language style is more likely to be used in country songs to express strong emotions, such as love or loss.

According to Loveana et al (2021), song is a sound composition or sound played by a singer or by musical instruments. The functions of the song are as a medium to express the person's emotions and moods, as a medium of communication with others, and as entertainment. Song has a message that is conveyed using the emotions of the songwriters which is poured into the lyrics of the song using a certain language style.

Part of language style that is usually used by songwriters is often called figurative language. Figurative language in general, functions to provide imaginative pleasure for readers, so that abstract things become concrete and can be enjoyed by readers. According to Ismail et al (2020), figurative language does not mean exactly what it says, but instead forces the reader to create an imaginative leap in order to comprehend an author's point. It means that figurative language has different meanings from actual words or sentences so the reader will be difficult to understand. One of the figurative language that is often found in songs is hyperbole.

Hyperbole can be interpreted as emphasizing a point with an exaggerated statement.. According to Claridge (2011), hyperbole is an expression that exceeds the literal expression and contains more semantic attributes. The researchers conclude that hyperbole is a figure of speech that emphasizes a meaning with exaggerated statements and often hyperbole occurs in our daily conversation. Claridge (2011) stated hyperbole is divided into 7 formulas: single-word hyperbole, phrasal hyperbole, causal hyperbole, numerical hyperbole, the role of superlative, comparison, and repetition. In this study, researchers chose hyperbole as the topic of discussion of this study. Researchers chose hyperbolic expression because hyperbole is often used and found in everyday life, such as in movies, poems, and songs.

One singer who often uses hyperbole in writing her song lyrics is NIKI. NIKI play a lot of words in the lyrics of this album to make more expressive or theatrical. NICOLE is NIKI's latest album which was just released at the end of 2022 last year. In this album, there are many hyperbolic expressions used by NIKI in writing song lyrics on the NICOLE album. The researchers is interested in using song lyrics as the data and the data taken from the album "NICOLE" by

NIKI. The researchers choose this album as the object of research because some of the songs from this album are also very popular, such as High School in Jakarta, which is used on TikTok for more than 112 thousand videos, has 27 million viewers on YouTube, and has 98 million listeners on Spotify. Ocean & Engines is also one of the most popular songs from this album, with 5.3 million viewers on YouTube and 63 million listeners on Spotify. NICOLE is the second studio album by Indonesian singer-songwriter NIKI. It was released on August 12, 2022, through 88rising. This album consists of 12 songs entitled High School In Jakarta, Ocean And Engines, Before, Backburner, Keeping Tabs, Autumn, The Apartment We Won't Share, Facebook Friends, Anaheim, Milk Teeth, On Drive Home, And Take A Chance With Me.

Several previous studies that discuss hyperbole are Najooan et al (2022) that discuss about hyperbole in Moana movie, Hawung (2022) discuss about hidden meaning of hyperbole used in the song lyric of Justin Bieber's album "Changes", Astina et al (2021), this study reveals the meaning of the hyperbole in album "The Chainsmoker" where this study discusses specifically the hyperbole contained in the lyrics on the album "The Chainsmoker". This research discuss a similar topic. The researchers wants to find out about the forms of hyperbolic expression based on Claridge theory as she stated that there are seven forms of hyperbole: single-word hyperbole, phrasal hyperbole, clausal hyperbole, numerical hyperbole, the role of the superlative in hyperbole, comparison, and repetition, and the impact of hyperbolic expression in the song, so that music listeners can understand and interpret hyperbole in the songs they enjoy. This research expectedly will contribute theoretically and practically to understanding the hyperbolic expression. It is also useful for viewers who listen to the album NICOLE by NIKI to gain new knowledge regarding the formulas of hyperbolic expression contained in this album

## 2. Method

The object of this study is the song lyrics from the album NICOLE by NIKI, Spotify and YouTube's official NIKI be the sources of the data, the object are contains 12 songs that were released around August 2022. This study used a qualitative descriptive method. This type of qualitative descriptive research is often used to analyze social events, phenomena, or circumstances. According to Narbuko & Ahmadi (2015), descriptive research is a study that seeks to answer existing problems based on data. The process of analysis in descriptive research involves presenting, analyzing, and interpreting. a qualitative method was chosen for this study because, since the focus of this study is hyperbole and the object of this study is song lyrics from the album NICOLE by NIKI which are represented in the form of sentences or phrases and not numbers, qualitative methods are suitable for finding the required data.

According to Sugiyono (2013) data collection techniques are a strategic step in research because the main purpose of the research is to obtain data. In this study, the data is collected by listening to the Album NICOLE which contains 12 songs from Spotify to increase the atmosphere which can help to understand the song's meaning, reading the lyrics of the album and selecting the data for the analysis.

According to Sugiyono (2013) that data analysis techniques are the methods used with regard to answering the problem formulation and testing the hypotheses proposed in research . After collecting the data. The data analyzed based on related theories. The data that has been obtained is analyzed by categorizing the selected data into the Claridge formula, reconfirming data according to the definition and examples. Furthermore, the researchers analyzing the impact of hyperbolic expression in the lyrics using related references both on the internet and in journal and last step is conclude it.

## 3. Findings and Discussion

In this section, the researchers uses data in the form of song lyrics taken from 12 songs on the NICOLE album. Song lyrics that contain hyperbole are then analyzed using the type of hyperbole according to Claudia Claridge, and the impact of using hyperbolic expression in the lyrics is explained. Researchers have found 7 types of form hyperbole in the album NICOLE by NIKI.

### 1. Single Word Hyperbole

*"I would freeze this moment" (Anaheim)*

In the lyrics of the Anaheim song, it says that the songwriter wants to freeze the moment and live in the moment she wants with her lover, but they are not ready to make a commitment and are afraid to hurt their partner. "Freeze" literally means to change from liquid to something solid. In this lyric, freeze refers to the writer wants to stop time so she can enjoy the moment. The word freeze here has a hyperbolic impact because humans in real life cannot freeze time or moments. The hyperbolic expression in the lyrics of this song is emphasizes that they just want to enjoy the moment together without any doubts and fear of the obstacles they will face in the future also has an impact on making the lyrics of the song more beautiful to listen to. The word freeze here is included in the single word hyperbole because if the word freeze is removed, then the hyperbolic expression will be lost.

### 2. Phrasal hyperbole

*"But heaven denied" (Ocean and Engines)*

Ocean and Engines songs as a whole tell about a relationship that has ended, and the songwriter accepts it and has to move on with her life, about a feeling of sadness that exists when she realizes that this beautiful relationship has gone too soon, so the writer has to forget and move on. The line above is categorized as phrasal hyperbole because

Phrasal Hyperbole is when 2 words combined and certain senses that create a hyperbolic meaning. The word *"heaven denied"* is the hyperbolic expression where the writer wants to convey that the relationship cannot be continued, but it is expressed exaggeratedly like *"heaven denied"* which is literally impossible, and the word has an excessive impact on the song lyrics. The use of hyperbole expressions in this song is about how the author emphasizes her sadness about her relationship that has gone aground, sadness is very emphasized in the lyrics of this song.

### 3. Clausal hyperbole

*"I can hear your heart across the room pulsing through my veins" (take a chance with me)*

This song as a whole tells about someone's willingness to take risks in pursuit of a romantic relationship. She believes that they have a chance at something genuine, but she must be willing to let go of her fears and embrace what she knows is real. The song is ultimately about the regret that can come with not taking a chance on love and the potential for a meaningful relationship. The lyrics are included in clause hyperbole because there are two or more clausal components in the expression. The impact of using the hyperbolic expression in the lyrics of this song gives an impact on emphasizing the sense of connection between the songwriter and her lover, the songwriter wants to show that their relationship actually has hope and belief in the chances that exist in order to unite together.

### 4. Numerical Hyperbole

*"All I know is long gone thousand miles away" (Ocean and Engines)*

The line above is categorized as numerical hyperbole because, Numerical hyperbole is a hyperbole formula by associating the number in the sentence excessively to give the impression of the hyperbole. In this song, sadness is highlighted, through hyperbolic expression in the lyrics it gives the impact of the sadness of their relationship that has run aground.

### 5. The role of Superlative

*"To love you the loudest" (Anaheim)*

The line above is categorized as superlative, Superlatives tend to lead to overstatement since they make things sound so intense and exaggerated. The word *"loudest"* is the word that makes the lyrics exaggerated. The use of hyperbolic expressions in the lyrics of this song is to give an impact on the emphasis that they only want to enjoy the moment of being together without any hesitation and fear of the obstacles they will face in the future, which also has an impact on the more beautiful lyrics of the song to listen to.

### 6. Comparison Hyperbole

*"I fell for you faster than I fell apart" (Autumn)*

Comparison hyperbole is form of hyperbole is when something is compared and gives the impression of the hyperbole. The line above is categorized as comparison hyperbole because there is word *"than"* which refers to compare something and makes it sounds exaggerated, The hyperbolic expressions in the lyrics emphasize the complexity of love relationships, the pain of heartbreak, and the struggle to let go.

### 7. Repetition

*"f\*ck, f\*ck, f\*ck" (keeping tabs)*

Repetition is a form of hyperbole that uses repetition of words to sound exaggerated, the lyric above is categorized as the repetition hyperbole because there is a repetition of the word *"fuck"*. the word refers to bad luck, which when the word is repeated, it sounds very exaggerated or hyperbolic. The impact of using this word so that the listener is able to sense that the expressions made depict the feeling of being upset or bad luck in a exaggerated way through the song lyrics written by the songwriter. Giving an impact on emphasizing the word unlucky so that listeners can feel that anger is really highlighted in this song

## 4. Conclusion

Based on the findings, the researchers concluded that hyperbole is a form of expression and language style that is excessive or perhaps illogical, so that it has its own exaggerated impact. The meaning of hyperbolic expressions cannot be taken literally. From this research, the researchers found 7 hyperbole formulas contained in the song lyrics on the album NICOLE by NIKI, which are single-word hyperbole, phrasal hyperbole, clausal hyperbole, numerical hyperbole, the role of superlative, comparison hyperbole, and repetition.

When doing this research, there are advantages and disadvantages. The advantage is that researchers can learn and get a lot of information about hyperbolic expressions. In addition to that, the difficulty is that researchers have a little difficulty finding the hyperbola because it uses English, so that researchers spend quite a lot of time searching and analyzing research data.

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Gresik, 25 September 2023

Dear.

**Zulvanul Muslimin**  
Universitas Bina Darma

Peace be upon you, and Allah's mercy and blessings,  
Thank you for submitting a scientific article to be published in the Journal of English Teaching, Literature, and Applied Linguistics (JETLAL) (E-ISSN 2614-5871) with the title

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<http://journal.umg.ac.id/index.php/jetlal>

Thus this information is conveyed. We would like to say thank you for your nice responses

Regards  
Editor,

Noviatul Rochmah, S.Pd.,M.Pd