

Exploring Hyperbolic Expressions in LANY's Album *A Beautiful Blur*

Ully Indah Maulani^{1*}, Wilma Prafitri²

^{1,2} English Literature Study Program, Faculty of Cultural Sciences

Universitas Mulawarman

*Email: ullymaulani13@gmail.com

ABSTRAK

Penelitian ini menganalisis bentuk dan makna ungkapan hiperbola yang terdapat dalam lirik lagu pada album *A Beautiful Blur* milik LANY. Penelitian ini menggunakan metode deskriptif kualitatif dengan teori hiperbola Claridge (2011) sebagai landasan utama, yang membagi hiperbola ke dalam tujuh bentuk, yaitu kata tunggal, frasa, klausa, numerikal, superlatif, perbandingan, dan pengulangan. Sumber data berasal dari 13 lagu dalam album tersebut, dan data dikumpulkan melalui analisis lirik. Penelitian menunjukkan bahwa terdapat 40 data ungkapan hiperbola yang terbagi dalam enam bentuk, yaitu hiperbola frasal, hiperbola klausal, hiperbola satu kata, hiperbola numerikal, hiperbola perbandingan, dan hiperbola superlatif. Dominasi bentuk frasa menunjukkan bahwa penulis lagu lebih memilih cara yang puitis dalam menyampaikan emosi melalui penggunaan lebih dari satu kata untuk menciptakan efek berlebihan yang tidak realistis tetapi memiliki daya ekspresif yang kuat. Sehingga hasil penelitian ini menunjukkan bahwa hiperbola dalam lirik pada album *A beautiful Blur* milik LANY menjadi alat ekspresif yang efektif dalam menyampaikan perasaan yang mendalam dan penggunaan hiperbola dalam penelitian ini tidak hanya untuk memperindah lirik secara kebahasaan tetapi berperan penting dalam memperkuat makna emosional yang ingin disampaikan dalam album, seperti patah hati, kerinduan, ketidakpastian cinta, dan penerimaan diri.

Kata Kunci: Ekspresi, Bahasa Kiasan, Hiperbola, Lirik

ABSTRACT

This research analyzes the forms and meanings of hyperbolic expressions found in the lyrics of the album *A Beautiful Blur* by LANY. It employs a descriptive qualitative method with Claridge's (2011) theory of hyperbole as the main theoretical framework, which categorizes hyperbole into seven forms such as single word hyperbole, phrasal hyperbole, clausal hyperbole, numerical hyperbole, the role of superlative, comparison, and repetition. The data were sourced from 13 songs on the album and collected through lyrical analysis. The study found data of hyperbolic expressions, divided into six forms, phrasal hyperboles, clausal hyperboles, single-word hyperboles, numerical hyperboles, comparison hyperboles, and the role of superlative. The findings of this research show that hyperbole in the lyrics of *A Beautiful Blur* serves as an effective expressive tool for conveying deep emotions. Moreover, the use of hyperbole in this album does not merely beautify the lyrics linguistically but plays a crucial role in reinforcing the emotional meanings conveyed, such as heartbreak, longing, uncertainty in love, and self-acceptance. The songwriter prefers a poetic approach to expressing emotions by using more than one word to create exaggerated effects that are not realistic but possess strong expressive power.

Key Word: Expression, Figurative Language, Hyperbole, Lyric

A. INTRODUCTION

Language is one of the important things in human life that functions as a tool for communication. With language, people can convey thoughts, feelings, and information to others. In addition to being a means of interaction, language also reflects the culture, identity, and values of a society. Language can be understood as a complex system, consisting of various

elements such as sounds (phonology), word forms (morphology), sentence structure (syntax), and meaning (semantics) that are interconnected to form meaning (Trask, 2003). In this era of globalization, music has emerged as one of the most pervasive and impactful forms of language expression. It serves as a means not only for entertainment but also for communicating deeper emotions and ideas (Cokki et al., 2023). These implied meanings often involve figurative language, which requires a deeper analysis to be fully understood. Therefore, the study of exaggerated language in song lyrics is theoretically important because it combines the fields of semantics, pragmatics, and stylistics and provides insights into how meaning is amplified, how listeners interpret emotional cues, and how expressive language is shaped by cultural norms. Furthermore, the analysis of hyperbole is pertinent to both linguistic theory and cultural studies since it reflects larger discursive techniques employed in popular media to captivate audiences.

Song lyrics are often composed based on personal experiences and emotions, reflecting the creator's thoughts and sentiments. As explained by Milana and Ardi (2021), songs are not created in a vacuum but stem from genuine expressions of the creator's feelings and experiences. To enhance the beauty and appeal of the lyrics, songwriters frequently use figurative language, which helps convey meaning indirectly and often embeds hidden meanings in the music. Annisa and Elfiondri (2021) state that figurative language is a linguistic style used to communicate ideas that go beyond their literal. Hyperbole, in particular, is frequently used in song lyrics to dramatize experiences and evoke intense feelings, making emotions more impactful and memorable.

Among various figurative devices, hyperbole is particularly prominent in song lyrics. It is defined by McArthur (1992) in *The Oxford Companion to the English Language* as “a figure of speech that uses exaggeration for emphasis or effect.” Similarly, Abrams and Harpham (2012) in *A Glossary of Literary Terms* describe hyperbole as “bold overstatement, or extravagant exaggeration of fact or possibility.” In the context of songwriting, hyperbole serves to dramatize experiences and evoke intense emotional responses, making the conveyed sentiments more vivid, memorable, and impactful. While previous studies have broadly examined figurative language in music, they often focus on metaphor, simile, or symbolism. LANY, a Los Angeles-based pop group, is known for their melancholic tone and emotional lyrics. Their 2023 album *A Beautiful Blur* explores themes such as heartbreak, disappointment, uncertainty in love, and self-acceptance. With deep lyrics and poetic exaggeration, the album resonates emotionally with many listeners. Since its release, it has achieved significant success and widespread attention (LANY – A Beautiful Blur Lyrics and Tracklist, 2023). This research aims to analyze the forms and meanings of hyperbolic expressions in the album's lyrics, focusing on how these exaggerations contribute to the emotional resonance and thematic depth of the songs.

B. LITERATURE REVIEW

1. Song lyrics

Song lyrics represent a vital form of artistic expression that merges words with music, functioning not only as a complement to melodies but also as a potent means of delivering messages, emotions, and personal experiences. The incorporation of figurative language, including metaphors, similes, and hyperboles, enhances the richness of song lyrics and creates vivid mental images for listeners. Song lyrics often reflect moods and perspectives, becoming a tool for emotional influence and identity formation. Frith (1996), with Juslin and Västfjäll (2008)

emphasizes lyrics as mirrors of social values and emotional triggers. Structurally, song lyrics resemble poetry through their use of rhythm, imagery, and sound devices, with their primary distinction being the presence of melody. Milana and Ardi (2021) emphasize that songs are not created in isolation but emerge from genuine expressions of the creator's inner world. To enhance their aesthetic and emotive appeal, songwriters frequently employ figurative language, which allows them to communicate layered meanings and evoke vivid mental imagery.

2. Figurative Language

Figurative language is a literary tool that enriches expression through comparisons and imaginative phrasing, allowing for communication that transcends literal meanings. It includes various figures of speech such as metaphors, similes, and hyperboles, which deepen emotional and conceptual impact. Scholars describe figurative language as enhancing meaning through indirect expression, enabling deeper interpretation and vivid imagery (Arp & Johnson, 1970; Glucksberg, 2001; McArthur, 1992; Perrine, n.d.). Scholars like McArthur (1992), Arp & Johnson (1970), Perrine, and Glucksberg (2001) describe figurative language as enhancing meaning through indirect expression, enabling deeper interpretation and vivid imagery. It is essential in poetry, song lyrics, and literature, making communication more powerful and emotionally resonant. According to Arp and Johnson (1970), there are eleven types of figurative language: metaphor, simile, personification, apostrophe, metonymy, symbol, allegory, paradox, hyperbole, understatement, and irony.

3. Hyperbole

Hyperbole is a form of figurative language characterized by deliberate exaggeration to express emotions, experiences, or situations in a dramatic way. According to Arp & Johnson (1970), it can be humorous or serious and leaves a strong impression due to its unrealistic nature. Claridge (2011) explains that hyperbole comes in multiple forms—ranging from simple words to complex sentences—which help convey intensity and attract attention, enriching the listener's or reader's experience through creative and exaggerated expressions. Claridge (2011) provides a detailed typology of hyperbole, identifying seven forms: single-word, phrasal, clausal, numerical, superlative, comparison, and repetition. These forms vary in complexity and intensity, allowing songwriters to creatively amplify meaning and emotional impact. In the context of music, hyperbole functions not only as a stylistic embellishment but also as a pragmatic tool for engaging listeners and conveying heightened emotional states.

While previous studies have broadly examined figurative language in song lyrics, hyperbole remains underexplored as a distinct rhetorical strategy. This study addresses that gap by focusing specifically on hyperbolic expressions, offering a nuanced linguistic and stylistic analysis of how exaggeration contributes to emotional amplification and cultural resonance in contemporary music.

4. Previous Studies

Septiadewi and Pratiwi (2023), in their thesis *Figurative Language Found in Sophie Kinsella's Novel Remember Me*, analyzed the use of figurative language, particularly hyperbole, using qualitative methods and Perrine's theory. They identified 10 hyperbolic expressions throughout the novel. Annisa and Elfiondri (2021), in their study *An Analysis of Hyperbole Used in Anne with an E*, examined hyperbolic forms in the film *Anne with an E*, applying Claridge's and Recchia et

al.'s theories. Their findings show that hyperbole serves as a key emotional expression for characters. Dewi (2020), in her thesis *Figurative Language Analysis in Maher Zain's Selected Song Lyrics*, focused on figurative language in Maher Zain's songs and found 42 instances, with hyperbole accounting for 51%, indicating it as the most dominant type. The current study differs by specifically analyzing hyperbole in song lyrics from LANY's album. This study addresses a specific gap by concentrating on hyperbolic expressions, offering a focused linguistic and stylistic analysis of how exaggeration functions as a tool for emotional amplification and cultural resonance in contemporary song lyrics.

C. METHOD

1. Research Design

This research uses a qualitative research method. According to Creswell and Creswell (2022), qualitative methods rely on text and image data, use inductive analysis, and emphasize the researcher's interpretation of meaning. This study applies Claridge's (2011) theory of hyperbole to analyze the lyrics from LANY's *A Beautiful Blur* album and understand the meanings conveyed through hyperbolic expressions.

2. Data and Source of Data

The data source is LANY's album *A Beautiful Blur*, with songs accessed from Spotify and lyrics retrieved from Genius.com. The data include words, phrases, clauses, and stanzas from the lyrics that contain hyperbole.

3. Research Instrument

In this qualitative study, the researchers serve as the primary instrument. As stated by Tracy (2019), the researcher is responsible for collecting, identifying, and interpreting the data.

4. Data Collection Technique

The researcher downloaded the song lyrics, listened to each track via Spotify, carefully read and observed the lyrics, took notes, and identified hyperbolic expressions. These expressions were then classified and interpreted using Claridge's (2011) framework.

5. Data Analysis

Data were analyzed using the model from Miles and Huberman (2014), which includes three steps such as Data Reduction is selecting, simplifying, and abstracting relevant lyrics containing hyperbole; Data Display is organizing and categorizing the expressions based on their forms and meanings; Conclusion Drawing is verifying the results to draw valid conclusions that answer the research question.

D. FINDINGS AND DISCUSSION

This section presents the results of the study and interprets the data in relation to the research objectives. The analysis focuses on the use of figurative language, particularly hyperbole, as a stylistic device that enhances expressive depth and rhetorical impact. Drawing from selected textual examples, the discussion highlights how single-word hyperboles function to intensify

meaning, evoke emotional responses, and reflect cultural or contextual nuances. Each data point is examined to reveal patterns, implications, and the broader significance of hyperbolic expression

1. Single Word Hyperbole

a. Data 1

You're a superstar and you wear it so well

(Lany 2023, XXL, line 3)

The lyric *You're a superstar* from the song XXL features a single-word hyperbole through the use of the word superstar. Literally, the term refers to someone who has achieved exceptional fame, typically in entertainment or sports. The word superstar itself is a compound of super, meaning "above" or "beyond," and star, a common meaning for someone who shines or stands out exceptionally. When combined, within the context of the lyric, superstar is used to amplify admiration to an extreme level, implying that the person is not only admirable but almost untouchably ideal. This hyperbolic term does not just complement what it idealizes, portraying the person as exceptionally brilliant or admirable. As a one-word hyperbole, superstar captures intense admiration and emotional emphasis in a compact form, characteristic of the expressive style found in popular song lyrics.

Glucksberg (2001) defines hyperbole as figurative language that exaggerates for emphasis and is frequently employed to highlight specific qualities or elicit strong emotional reactions. The term "superstar," which is a combination of the words "super" (meaning "above" or "beyond") and "star," which is a metaphor for brilliance or fame, is not intended to be taken literally in this context. Instead, it suggests that the subject has exceptional charm or talent, elevating them to an idealized status.

The following criteria can be used to determine whether this lyric contains hyperbole:

Exaggeration beyond the truth: To highlight admiration, the person is described as a celebrity even though they are not. **Emotional intensity:** The term evokes feelings of awe and celebration. **Stylistic compactness:** A single word conveys a heightened emotional state, typical of pop lyrics aiming for immediacy and impact.

b. Data 4

I miss you XXL

(Lany, 2023, XXL, Line 12)

The word XXL in the context of the lyrics *I miss you XXL* literally stands for extra extra large, commonly used in clothing sizes to indicate something very big. However, in this song lyric, the word undergoes a metaphorical shift in meaning; when paired with the phrase I miss you, XXL no longer refers to a physical size but rather describes the intensity of longing felt by the narrator, meaning that the feeling is not ordinary or moderate but "very large" as if it could be measured by the largest clothing size.

c. Data 8

Everybody thinks I'm lyin'

(Lany, 2023, Out Of My League, Line 7)

The lyric *Everybody thinks I'm lyin'* employs hyperbole through the word *everybody*, suggesting that the songwriter feels universally distrusted regarding his relationship. While it's improbable that every individual truly believes he is lying, this exaggeration amplifies the emotional weight of his experience. It highlights the extraordinary nature of his love, implying that their relationship is so implausible that it invites disbelief from others. The songwriter's claim of universal skepticism underscores his feelings of isolation and rejection, emphasizing the gap between his self-perception and how he believes others view him and his partner. Ultimately, this line conveys a profound sense of misunderstanding and emotional intensity at the core of the song.

d. Data 28

I'm overwhelmed, I'm over it

(Lany, 2023, Alonica, Line 3)

The lyrics *I'm overwhelmed, I'm over it* from Alonica song convey a short but powerful burst of emotion. Literally, means feeling overwhelmed, burdened, or unable to cope with something. However, in the context of the song, the word does not refer to a specific or measurable pressure. Instead, it implies an extreme emotional feeling of being overwhelmed, as if the burden is so huge that it makes one powerless. This is where the hyperbolic element comes in: the songwriter's emotional burden is expressed on an exaggerated scale, beyond what can objectively be described in reality.

2. Phrasal Hyperbole

a. Data 13

Pick up the pieces of my heart, fall in love again

(Lany, 2023, Sugar & Cinnamon, Line)

In the lyrics *Pick up the pieces of my heart, fall in love again* from the song *Sugar & Cinnamon*, the phrase *pick up the pieces of my heart* employs hyperbole to express deep heartbreak. While the heart cannot literally break into pieces, this exaggeration conveys the emotional turmoil of love lost. The phrase serves as a figurative expression of someone trying to heal after heartbreak, emphasizing the journey from a shattered state to being ready to love again. By using this hyperbole, the song highlights the dramatic and hopeful process of emotional recovery, where healing involves metaphorically putting the pieces back together.

b. Data 12

Saturday, runaway, get out of the circus

(Lany, 2023, Home Is Where The Hurt Is, Line 9)

This lyric appears at the beginning of *Home is Where The Hurt is*. The lyrics that contain hyperbole are in the phrase *get out of the circus* which describes the desire to escape from the pressures of life or uncomfortable situations. The big theme of the song is about emotional pain and the search for freedom. The lyrics that contain hyperbole are in *Get Out of the Circus* which is categorized as a form of phrasal hyperbole. Structurally, the phrase *get out of the circus* is a verb phrase (VP) with an embedded prepositional phrase (PP) of the circus. Literally, the word *circus* refers to an entertainment show full of acrobatic stunts, clowns, and various

spectacular attractions. However, in the context of this lyric, circus does not refer to an actual show, but is used to describe a chaotic, stressful, or even uncontrollable life, but in this context, it is used as a hyperbolic symbol to describe a life condition or feeling that is too overwhelming and unbearable. *Get out of the circus* means trying to escape the chaos or drama of life, which is certainly not the actual circus.

c. Data 20

The fire in your eyes

(Lany, 2023, Love At The First Fight, Line 11)

The lyric *The fire in your eyes* is an example of phrasal hyperbole. This phrase uses the word fire to describe the intense emotion or burning intensity in someone's gaze. Literally, there is no fire in the eyes, but in this context, the word fire serves to intensify the meaning, conveying passion or overwhelming interest. The use of this phrase gives a dramatic effect to the reader's or listener's perception of the subject being described, that is, someone who is able to exude burning feelings through the gaze of the eyes. In this lyric, the emotion conveyed leans more toward emotional passion between two individuals in a tense relationship, to the point that it is described as containing fire—a statement that is unrealistic but highly effective both emotionally and imaginatively. Structurally, this phrase is a noun phrase, with the main noun fire and the prepositional phrase in your eyes as a qualifier. In the context of the song lyrics, this phrase functions to highlight the intensity of a person's character or feelings emotionally, not physically.

d. Data 23

You tore my world apart

(Lany, 2023, Congrats, Line 6)

In literal terms, the lyric *You tore my world apart* means “you shattered my world.” In a direct sense, this sounds like a physical act, the world being literally ripped apart or destroyed. However, of course, no world is physically torn apart in this context. What is meant here is the feeling or state of one's life being disrupted because of other's action. The hyperbolic meaning lies in the use of the phrase tore my world apart, which describes the deep emotional pain of separation, betrayal, or loss. The world being “torn apart” is an extreme hyperbole to show that the songwriter's life feels very broken. The effect is too much if translated literally, but in an emotional context, it describes the overwhelming impact felt—and therein lies the power of the hyperbole. Grammatically, this phrase is a verb phrase (VP), consisting of the verb tore, the noun phrase my world, and the adverb apart as a complement. As a form of phrasal hyperbole, it relies on the verb structure to amplify its emotional effect, emphasizing how big and powerful the emotional impact felt by the characters in the song is.

3. Clausal Hyperbole

a. Data 14

Everybody is gonna let you down

(Lany, 2023, It Even Rain In LA, Line 7)

Literally, the first clause *Everybody is gonna let you down* states that everyone will eventually disappoint us. This statement is highly comprehensive and extreme, as it is not realistically

possible for every single person—many of whom may not even know us—to hurt or betray someone. However, in a hyperbolic context, this clause expresses a deep sense of hopelessness or emotional betrayal, where the pain feels so overwhelming that it seems as though everyone is complicit.

This clause forms a cohesive and striking hyperbolic image: a person is not only let down by everyone around them, but also emotionally destroyed by life itself. This exaggerated image captures the intensity of sadness and alienation in a way that literal language cannot express.

b. Data 15

It all falls, even the stars

(Lany, 2023, *It Even Rain In LA*, Line 10)

Literally, the lyrics of *It all falls* mean that everything falls, collapses, or disintegrates, with nothing left or standing. This phrase directly describes total devastation—both physically and emotionally. Then the follow-up clause, *even the stars*, mentions that even the stars fall. Scientifically speaking, stars are distant celestial bodies that are generally considered to be stable, strong, and not easily destroyed in the eyes of everyday people.

This hyperbole suggests that the collapse described is not just personal or limited, but cosmic. It's not just about one person's life “falling apart”, but as if the entire universe is faltering. Emotionally, it depicts the immense and comprehensive sense of loss or disappointment that the songwriter feels. Even the symbols that used to give hope, such as the stars in the sky, cannot survive.

c. Data 27

I can't see tomorrow without you today

(Lany, 2023, ‘Cause You Have To, Line 20)

Literally, the lyrics of *I can't see tomorrow without you today* state that the songwriter cannot imagine and see the future if the person in question is not present now. See tomorrow here can literally be interpreted as the ability to see or imagine tomorrow, and without you today refers to the absence of someone today. So, directly, this statement conveys an emotional dependence on one's presence in the present in order to face the future.

However, the hyperbolic meaning of this statement in the absolute expression *I can't see tomorrow*. Of course, realistically, one can still imagine or visualize the future even when grieving or losing someone. But by saying that the future cannot be “seen” without that person, the songwriter is reinforcing feelings of loss or love that are so intense that the future feels lost or impossible. This is a form of clausal hyperbole, as the combined clauses *I can't see tomorrow and without you today* together create a dramatic and exaggerated effect that emphasizes the depth of emotion felt.

d. Data 29

Where the sun is out all the time

(Lany, 2023, *Alonica*, Line 7)

In the lyrics of *Alonica*, *where the sun is out all the time*, the songwriter expresses with hyperbole to describe *Alonica* as a perfect place and always brightly lit. But in reality, there

is no place in the world that is constantly sunny without experiencing darkness or bad weather. Even arctic that experience longer durations of day or night will eventually experience changes. So, in reality, Alonica is not a place that actually has sunshine all the time, but a representation used to express a feeling of peace and happiness.

By exaggerating the reality of Alonica as a place where the sun shines all the time, the use of hyperbole shows that Alonica is not only a geographical location, but also a symbol or representation used by the songwriter of the happiness and emotional comfort that the singer may have felt. The sun in these lyrics symbolizes constant happiness, which contrasts with her emotional state in Los Angeles. By describing Alonica as a place where the sun never dims, the singer wants to emphasize that there, she feels safe, calm, and free from sadness.

e. Data 35

I would burn down the world if you wanted it

(Lany, 2023, No, Line 8)

In the lyric *I would burn down the world if you wanted it*, the main clause expresses an extreme and physically impossible action, emphasizing the songwriter's willingness to destroy everything for their loved one. The supporting clause provides emotional context, reinforcing the intensity of the statement. While the literal interpretation is nonsensical, the hyperbolic meaning conveys an irrational level of emotional sacrifice, illustrating a love so profound that it blurs the line between logic and emotion. In the context of the song *No*, this lyric also reflects desperation and deep sadness, suggesting that the songwriter equates losing love with losing everything.

4. Numerical Hyperbole

a. Data 16

Haven't slept a second in the last seven nights

(Lany, 2023, Heartbreak Can Wait, Line 21)

The lyrics contain two forms of hyperbole that effectively express extreme emotional suffering. The phrase *haven't slept a second* suggests that the speaker has not slept at all, emphasizing a level of anxiety, sadness, or psychological distress so severe that it disrupts the basic function of sleep. This common hyperbole highlights the intensity of the speaker's emotional state. The second phrase, *in the last seven nights*, reinforces the first hyperbole by indicating a prolonged period of suffering. This numerical hyperbole exaggerates the duration of the speaker's distress, evoking images of chronic fatigue and serious emotional devastation. Together, these phrases create a powerful hyperbolic image of someone so emotionally scarred that they cannot rest for seven consecutive nights. This rhetorical effect evokes empathy from the listener, illustrating the depth of the narrator's hurt and underscoring the intensity of their feelings of loss or heartbreak. Overall, hyperbole in these lyrics serves as a tool to convey the dramatic intensity of emotions in a compelling and evocative manner.

b. Data 22

26 going on 12

(Lany, 2023, Congrats, Line 5)

The lyrics *26 going on 12* literally imply that someone is 26 years old but acts like a 12-year-old. The phrase *26 going on 12* represents an exaggerated comparison that highlights a significant gap between physical age and emotional maturity. Hyperbolically, this expression is used to highlight the emotional immaturity or childish behavior of someone who is an adult. *26 going on 12* becomes a sharp and ironic way to show disappointment or criticism, as if a mature physical age doesn't match the level of maturity one should have. The huge difference in numbers creates a dramatic contrast, reinforcing the songwriter's expression of frustration or wonder.

c. Data 25

Walk a thousand miles

(Lany, 2023, 'Cause You Have To, Line 8)

The phrase *a thousand miles* in the lyrics of *Walk a thousand miles* from the song *Cause You Have To* is a clear example of numerical hyperbole, which is a form of language that exaggerates quantity or distance to emphasize a feeling or situation. Literally, a thousand miles means 1,609 kilometers. This is a very long distance and almost impossible to walk.

However, in the context of this lyric, the number functions as a symbol that illustrates the magnitude of a person's sacrifice and dedication to their loved ones. This hyperbole reinforces the emotional meaning that the singer is willing to go through all odds and go beyond the limits of his physical capabilities to show his seriousness and loyalty. By using large and extreme numbers, the lyrics convey the intensity of feelings dramatically and allow the listener to feel the depth of the intended commitment.

d. Data 31

Made up of a thousand colors

(Lany, 2023, Alonica, Line 25)

Literally, this phrase states that something (which can be interpreted as an atmosphere, a place, or even a feeling) is made up of a thousand colors. However, in reality, it is not visually or physically possible for something to have a thousand colors that can be distinctly perceived by the human eye. The use of the large number *a thousand* here is a form of numerical hyperbole, intended to illustrate the emotional richness, beauty, and complexity of Alonicaa metaphorical place in the song that symbolizes an inner space filled with calm, authenticity, and self-acceptance.

This hyperbole strengthens the idea that Alonica is a place (or a state of mind) full of positive emotional nuance, where one can experience a sense of wholeness and inner beauty. Compared to the outside world (such as LA), which is portrayed as dull or exhausting, a thousand colors create a stark contrast: the outer world is monotonous, while Alonica is vibrant and full of life.

5. The Role of Superlative

a. Data 11

That they break your heart in the nicest way

(Lany, 2023, I Pray, Line 9)

The lyric *That they break your heart in the nicest way* from the song *I Pray* by LANY exemplifies superlative hyperbole filled with emotional depth. It expresses a desire for a breakup that minimizes pain while revealing the songwriter's inner conflict and genuine feelings for their loved one. The phrase *break your heart* denotes a painful act, but the addition of *in the nicest way* creates a striking contrast, highlighting the paradox that there is no truly "nice" way to break someone's heart. In the broader context of *I Pray*, the narrator is depicted as someone letting go of a loved one for their happiness, despite the deep hurt it causes. This lyric emphasizes themes of sacrifice and acceptance, as the songwriter not only wishes for the other person's well-being but also hopes that if heartbreak must occur, it happens as gently as possible. Ultimately, it reflects a selfless love intertwined with the pain of an unfulfilled connection.

6. Comparison

a. Data 24

Chasin' a heart is like chasin' a ghost

(Lany, 2023, 'Cause You Have To, Line 1)

The lyrics *Chasin' a heart is like chasin' a ghost* from 'Cause You Have To use comparison hyperbole by using the word like. The song compares the act of chasing someone's heart for seeking love, a relationship, or an emotional commitment to chasing a ghost, which is essentially impossible because ghosts are intangible and elusive. Literally, someone cannot catch a ghost, and this impossibility is used hyperbolically to highlight the songwriter's deep frustration and emotional exhaustion. The heart they are chasing feels as unreachable, unreal, and elusive as a ghost.

7. Discussions

The analysis of LANY's album *A Beautiful Blur* identified 35 hyperbolic expressions across its 13 songs, categorized into six forms based on Claridge's (2011) theory: single-word, phrasal, clausal, numerical, superlative, and comparison. Phrasal hyperbole dominated with 19 instances, reflecting LANY's preference for multi-word exaggerations to convey intense emotions. Other forms included 4 single-word hyperboles (e.g., *superstar* in *XXL*), 8 clausal hyperboles (e.g., *Everybody is gonna let you down*), and 4 numerical hyperboles (e.g., *Haven't slept a second in the last seven nights*). These findings underscore hyperbole's role in amplifying emotional narratives throughout the album.

Phrasal hyperbole emerged as the most frequent form, illustrating LANY's lyrical style of blending words to create vivid, exaggerated imagery. Examples like *Bloodstream, full of desert lightnin'* and *Pick up the pieces of my heart* demonstrate how phrases amplify emotions such as passion or heartbreak. This dominance suggests LANY prioritizes layered expressions over simpler forms like single-word hyperbole, which appeared only four times. The prevalence of phrasal hyperbole aligns with the album's themes of love, loss, and self-discovery, offering listeners a poetic yet intensified portrayal of emotional experiences.

Unlike prior research on novels or films, this study's focus on a single album allowed deeper scrutiny of hyperbole's structural forms. For instance, Hijri Iffat Annisa and Elfiondri (2021) noted phrasal hyperbole's dominance in film dialogue, while Ni Luh Putu Septiadewi (2023) broadly identified hyperbole in novels without categorizing forms. This study's specificity—such as distinguishing numerical hyperbole (walk a thousand miles) or

superlative role (break your heart in the nicest way)—reveals LANY’s nuanced use of exaggeration. Such granularity advances understanding of how hyperbole functions uniquely in musical lyrics compared to other media.

Claridge’s framework includes repetition as a hyperbole form, yet none appeared in *A Beautiful Blur*. This absence highlights LANY’s avoidance of repetitive emphasis, favoring instead complex phrases or clauses for emotional impact. For example, clausal hyperboles like *Where the sun is out all the time* (*Alonica*) rely on complete thoughts rather than repeated words. This stylistic choice reinforces the album’s introspective tone, where elongated expressions mirror the protracted nature of heartbreak and healing, distinguishing LANY’s lyricism from artists who employ repetition for rhythmic or emphatic effects.

The study confirms hyperbole’s centrality in *A Beautiful Blur*, with phrasal constructions serving as the primary vehicle for emotional exaggeration. By dissecting forms like numerical or superlative hyperbole, the research illuminates how LANY crafts relatable yet heightened narratives. The contrast with broader studies on figurative language underscores the value of genre-specific analysis, particularly in music, where lyrical economy and emotional resonance intersect. Ultimately, LANY’s hyperbolic expressions transform personal turmoil into universal anthems, resonating deeply with listeners through deliberate, artistic overstatement.

E. CONCLUSION

This research analyzed the use of hyperbolic expressions in LANY’s *A Beautiful Blur* album using Claridge’s (2011) theory. The analysis focused on selected song lyrics from all thirteen songs in the album: *XXL*, *Out Of My League*, *Sugar & Cinnamon*, *I Pray*, *Home Is Where The Hurt Is*, *It Even Rains In LA*, *Heartbreak Can Wait*, *(Saturday Night) 3:22 A.M.*, *Love At First Fight*, *Congrats*, *Cause You Have To*, *Alonica*, and *No*.

This research concludes that song lyrics can be explored through literary theories, particularly figurative language theory, because they share aesthetic and structural elements with poetry such as imagery, emotional expression, and compact language. The album *A Beautiful Blur* by LANY demonstrates how lyrics can employ hyperbolic expressions to enhance emotional depth and artistic expression. By treating lyrics as literary texts, this *study* shows that popular music holds literary value and can be meaningfully explored through concepts such as figurative language. This approach allows for a deeper understanding of how language is used to convey complex emotions in creative and engaging ways.

These hyperboles captured the album’s emotional themes, such as heartbreak, longing, emotional vulnerability, and self-reflection. For instance, *XXL* revealed overwhelming longing and memory, *Out Of My League* expressed admiration and unworthiness, *Heartbreak Can Wait* reflected deep emotional pain, while *Alonica* offered imagery of peace and escape.

The analysis showed that hyperboles in the lyrics amplify emotional intensity and dramatize personal experiences. Phrasal and clausal hyperboles made abstract feelings like love, pain, and hope more vivid and relatable, enhancing the listener’s emotional engagement with the music.

In conclusion, the use of hyperbolic language in *A Beautiful Blur* is not just decoration in the lyrics, but an important part of the storytelling. By using exaggerated expressions, the songs help listeners feel better and understand the emotions being expressed.

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