



## ANALYSIS OF HYPERBOLE IN THE ENGLISH AND UZBEK LANGUAGES

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### Abstract

The paper acknowledges some differences and similarities between English and Uzbek literature in terms of hyperbole within certain examples. However, hyperbole is considered to be a production process of conversation and thus will demand the listener to be aware of the background process. By comparing and analyzing hyperbole in non-genetically related languages, some differences and similarities can be seen. Certain examples are used to illustrate.

**Keywords:** Hyperbole, epic poem, figurative speech, the recipient.

### Introduction

It is known that people from all over the world want to begin chats with the help of figurative languages, rather than saying something more merely and directly. Hyperbole is a kind of figurative language where the speaker says something while meaning another thing (Stern, 2000). In other words, the literal meaning of what is said does not match the intended meaning (Recchia, Howe, Rose & Alexander, 2010). Generally, hyperbole is used daily and makes utterances more sensitive. However, understanding hyperbole sometimes requires hearers to be more attentive and be aware of the back process. Analyzing hyperbole which is linked to culture from its linguistic point of view suggests examining the correlation between language and society. The people perceive the social realm and follow it differently due to not having the same ethnocultural community. Thus, the English people, under the influence of Western culture, have their own way to handling communication-based on national character. On the other hand, the Uzbek people have their way to create it due to the influence of Eastern culture. These national and cultural characteristics are reflected not only in the process of understanding the speech of both people but also in expressing their attitude towards phenomena.





## Literature Review

The word "hyperbole", from Greek hyperbole, was used to denote "exaggeration, extravagance", but meant "a throwing beyond". Although there are intensive researches on metaphor and irony, it is not surprising that very little know about hyperbole. When examined, it has frequently been concerning or even equated with the so-called master tropes. Indeed, some researchers appear to associate metaphor with all forms of figuration. According to Aristotle, metaphor, for example, represents a paradigm trope, which also includes simile, metonymy, personification, and hyperbole (Rhetoric 3: 10-11, Poetics 20-22; quoted in Dascal and Gross, 1999: 122). However, Gibbs (2000:12) considers hyperbole to be a type of verbal irony, along with sarcasm, understatement, jocularity, and rhetorical questions. It refers to strong feelings and creates sensitive impressions. As a figure of speech, it would not be meant to be taken literally. Hyperbole has been examined within the framework of figurative speech acts, especially rhetoric. It adds a rich aesthetic import to speaking and writing, thus it is traditionally considered the creative literary device. Therefore, researchers have become interested in the problems of hyperbole and added their contributions. For example, Leech (1983) said that hyperbole is a feature of everyday conversations which people used to exaggerate and evaluate. Also, western researchers like F. Deamer in his work "*An investigation into the process and mechanisms underlying the comprehension of metaphor and hyperbole*" (2013), C. Claridge "Hyperbole in English: a corpus-based study of exaggeration" (2010), R. Carston and C. Wearing, L. Cano Mora, C. Burgers, B.C. Brugman, K.Y. Lavalette, G.J. Steen, and others have worked in this field. It has become the object of various studies by Uzbek linguists and foreign scientists. Some Uzbek linguists like Sh. A. Abdurahmonov, L.T. Bobohonova, A. Hozhiev, have worked on hyperbole by comparison with Russian and English scientists' work. However, it was used more effectively. It was called "mubolag'a" (exaggeration) and divided into three types: tablig', ig'roq and g'uluv. Hyperbole is utilized in literature to describe as extremely beautiful, graceful, brave and etc. Alisher Navoi, the great Uzbek poet, a representative of Uzbek literature, had been a master of using figurative language.

In his Khamsa's (Quintuple) second epic poem (called "Farhad and Shirin"), he described children like: "*Gradually, the boy became so handsome and strong that he could lift a bull in one hand, pull out a tree by its roots, and move it from one place to another*".





## Main Part

Burgers et al. (2016) has defined hyperbole as "An expression that is more extreme than justified given its ontological referent" (p.166). In other words, they advised three main elements that enable us to define hyperbole. It is possible to see exaggeration in discourse. The significance of the transition from propositional meaning to what the speaker intended to say. There must be a specific referent assigned when speaking hyperbolically. Exaggeration can be seen as the first important element of hyperbole. When speaking hyperbolically, the speaker is exaggerating an element as well as expressing his attitude towards this event. When speakers exaggerate, they usually want to emphasize the importance of something (Norasetkosol, Timyam & Sriussadaporn, 2012). This type of hyperbolic sentence can be modified with some constructions like adverb + adjective/ noun (e.g. *totally funny*, *absolutely another picture*) or adjective + noun (e.g. *total mess*, *absolute rubbish*). The following example will be used to explain:

### **1. If he does not call by tonight, I will absolutely die.**

When (1) is uttered, the speaker has been waiting for his call for a long time and expresses her or his attitude like angriness towards this phenomenon. These words "absolutely die" make the utterance more exaggerated and strengthen its meaning. But to distinguish between literal meaning and intended meaning may require listeners to be aware of the background knowledge. Plus, it should also be noted that a listener can perceive any utterance according to her or his current situation, academic level, social status, gender, and other conditions that may reflect on understanding it. Furthermore, sentence (1) can be explained literally or hyperbolically according to the participants (addresser and addressee factors) in the conversation. For instance, if they are in a hospital, the speaker may mean that the person lives his last couple of hours in a bright world due to cancer. Here, the statement will be understood literally. Whereas if the speakers are a young couple and have been arguing for a long time. The girl has been waiting for phone calls from her beloved one. She has already decided not to see him anymore if he cannot call him by tonight, the utterance is a hyperbole of intended meaning. One day, they meet accidentally, but they do not feel like having any conversation.

When using hyperbole, there is a transition from propositional meaning to what the speaker intended to say. The intended meaning is less extreme than the propositional meaning. Claridge (2010) and Colston & O'Brien (2000) addressed this "difference in magnitude". The following examples will be used to highlight:





## 2. A. The person in front of me walked as slow as a turtle.

B. The person in front of me walked 5 sec.

The propositional meaning (2A), "He did not neglect anything around him while walking," is a more extreme version of "It took him a very long time to move away". The description of the event is more extreme in comparison with experience. The time the speaker intended to say it took the person to walk is much longer than in reality. The difference could also be smaller. 2B indicates that the speaker uses an extreme measure that is smaller than the intended meaning. It is also hyperbole but has another intended meaning. This can be "He went like lightning".

Finally, to completely define what hyperbole is, it is vital to note that when using hyperbole there should be a specific referent in mind (Burgers et al., 2016). The example below will be used to demonstrate:

## 3. That dress cost me a billion dollars.

Sentence (3) could be comprehended as literal if we know that the dress is decorated with high-value gold pieces of jewelry. It can also be meant hyperbolically in a different context. Here, context helps us understand the reference literally or figuratively. There are two reasons for having differences (Burgers et al., 2016). The first is prior knowledge of the topic discussed. If the addressees do know how this dress is decorated, they can easily understand the statement as hyperbole for "it is a really expensive dress". The second reason for having many possible referents can be a real or fictional event. It is understandable hyperbolically if spoken by a human. While it could be literally understood if a film actor in a movie uttered it.

In Uzbek linguistics, "hyperbole" has been analyzed within the frameworks of simile, metaphor, metonymy, and synecdoche. Similarities between object and intended meaning can be taken as the basis of hyperbole. Hyperbole is used in lof (it is a genre of Uzbek national folklore and means overstatement, exaggeration). The lof is one of the comic and humorous genres of the folklore of Uzbek people. Particularly, lof is presented in dialogical form, participants try to use different figurative speech acts and create humor through the hyperbolic image with the reference to an intended meaning. Lofchi is the kind of person who tells lof and makes people laugh.

### Original Version:

*Bir lofchi ikkinchi lofchiga o'g'lini maqtadi:*

*- Mening o'g'lim ikki yosh bo'lishiga qaramay, bo'yи chunonam o'sib ketdiki, yulduzlarni qo'li bilan ushlab ko'rayabdi.*

*Ikkinci lofchi dedi:*





- *O'g'lingiz yulduzlrni ushlayotganda boshiga biron narsa tegmadimi?*  
*Birinchi lofchi bulutni aytayotgan bo'lsa kerk deb o'yladi va javob berdi:*

- *Ha.*

*Shunda ikinchi lofchi dedi:*

- *Osha teggan narsa o'g'lim kiygan to'nning past qismi bo'ladi.*

In English translation of the original version:

*A lof-maker boasted of his son to another lof-maker.*

- *Although my son is two years old he is very tall and he is touching the stars with his hands.*

*The second lof-maker said:*

- *When your son is checking the stars does something touch your son's head?*

*The first lof-maker thought he is speaking about clouds and said:*

- *Yes.*

*Then the second lof-maker said:*

*The touching thing is the lower part of my son's coat.*

Some Uzbek linguists have focused on hyperbole like Sh.A. Abdurahmonov and A. Hozhiev. They called hyperbole "mubolag'a" (exaggeration) and divided it into three parts. Firstly, the exaggeration in the picture is acceptable to the mind, but it is not found in real life. This is called **tablig'** (meaning a strong one):

*The gold you receive and the silver you seek*

The second type is that this kind of hyperbolically describing of the phenomenon is totally inconceivable. It is called **ig'roq** or **ifrot** (overstatement, over exaggerate).

For instance:

*"Sar hovuzdan kata edi kossasi"* (The bowl was bigger than the pool ...) (Alpomish – uzbek epic poem).

The third type is superior to the first two. That is why the hyperbole in this play is so far beyond the scope of human comprehension. For example:

*"G'orog'li qilichining har hamlasi – qirq ming lashkarning bo'ynini uzardi..."* (Every attack of the Gorogli's sword stretched the neck of forty thousand soldiers).

These examples are taken from the epic poems of the Uzbek people. However, hyperbole has been used for a long time and is still in use due to its intended meaning being conveyed rather than merely saying something. At the same time, English speakers prefer to use hyperbole to stress the importance and level of the subject in conversation. The following examples are used to clarify:

4. *This is the most difficult test I have ever seen. I think no one cannot pass the test.*

Sentence (4) shows a positive emotion and the speaker used nullity (no one) to exaggerate the intended meaning. The addresser is extremely happy and excited and



showed that hyperbolically by stating that is so simple a test and anyone can pass it. Uzbek and English people have the code of conduct of a particular society, and each society has its code of conduct. Therefore, using hyperbole people pick up some words to apply in conversation. Hyperbole can be used to avoid displeasure to the other or yourself. In daily life, people are afraid of talking about the words "old", "fat", which reflects people's fear of "old" and "fat". Plus, when a third person approaches during a conversation, it helps a lot when the conversation is about him or her. He needs to be aware of the context in which two people are talking to understand that this is an exaggeration referring to him or her. Before giving an example, the following context just lied behind the conversation. Two women are too jealous of her, because he is naturally gorgeous. But they do not want to show their emotion referring to her due to jealousy. Here is an example:

*Once that woman approaches them, they may say: The brightness of her cheek would shame those stars, just showing or naming some actress or singer on purpose. "The brightness of her cheek would shame those stars" are taken from Romeo and Juliet by William Shakespeare.*

Additionally, people can utilize hyperbole to encourage to do something on purpose. For instance, a mother of a teen-aged boy encourages her son to attend the museum's opening ceremony tomorrow:

*-Tomorrow's museum opening ceremony will be full of all kinds of food and drinks, as well as a group of artists, so you should also attend this upcoming opening ceremony.*

The next day:

*Mom, there were a few elderly people, only water was distributed for a drink, and as for the artists, no one came.*

Generally, western and Uzbek people use hyperbole regardless of its use for different purposes. They are used to enhance and exaggerate the meaning of the utterance.

## Methods

The goal of this article is to detect and classify hyperbole in the English language via comparison with the Uzbek language. To compare vocabulary and lexicon, both genetically related and non-related languages need authentic materials. The basic concept of linguistic analysis is used to carry the whole article.

## Research Results

After examining the scientists' work and materials which exist in both the English and Uzbek lexicons, the following outcomes came out:





1. The study of language materials, including hyperbole in English and Uzbek, originated from different sources and has distinct characteristics as well as different motivations.
2. Understanding hyperbole requires the recipient to be aware of the background knowledge and current situation.
3. Hyperbole can also be used to apply for different purposes (motivation, keeping secrecy, upgrading the meaning).

## Conclusion

In conclusion, the title of this paper is an analysis of hyperbole. There is not a complete analysis of what hyperbole is yet. English and the Uzbek language not only have their codes of conduct but also have some similarities in the ways of saying something acceptable, referring to the intended meaning. Hyperbole is a common feature of everyday language; it is quite easy to learn, yet it is understudied. I think that when we know hyperbole, we will understand pragmatics. Therefore, we could predict a theory that can explain the context, including discourse.

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