



# Hyperbole Expression in “Cinderella” 2021

## Selected Soundtrack Songs

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### Abstract

Hyperbole is a figure of speech that is commonly used in a range of literary works, as well as in ordinary English. A figure of speech that exaggerates a setting or situation in a remark. One of them appears in the song's lyrics. Songwriters utilize hyperbolic language to convey meaning to listeners, making the message more profound and emotive. The goal of this study was to determine how often the song writers used hyperbole in six selected soundtracks from the movie of Cinderella 2021. In addition, the researcher also analyzed the types of meaning contained in each song lyric which indicated hyperbole based on Leech'theory. This study conducted a qualitative method using referential equivalent techniques in describing hyperbole and its types of meaning that the authors found proposed by Sudaryanto. The researcher found 17 data containing hyperbolic expressions in the six selected soundtrack songs in the movie of Cinderella 2021. The songs that contain the most hyperbolic expressions are found in two song titles entitled “Somebody To Love” and “Whatta Man / Seven Nation Army” each appearing as many as four times. There are four types of meaning in the six soundtracks including connotative meaning, emotive meaning, social meaning, and thematic meaning. Furthermore, the type of meaning that appears most often in the six songs is connotative meaning. Finally, there is

one lyric which has thematic meaning and one of the song lyrics has a combined meaning, namely social and connotative meaning.

**Keywords:** *Hyperbole; Meaning; Song Lyrics; Cinderella 2021; Semantics*

## 1. Introduction

Prose and other literary works regularly employ figurative language, as does everyday speech. Many of them also appear in lyric poetry or songs. Song lyrics contain a lot of figurative language. Abrams and Harpham (2015) defined that figurative language was a significant deviation from what is understood by a competent language user with the standard meaning of a word or a standard sequence of words to achieve a certain meaning or effect. Examples of hyperbolic expression that can be found in a novel *Almayer's Folly* such as "... *his daughter the inner meaning of his life*". According to Perrine (1974) hyperbole is an exaggerated expression used to further the truth. According to Keraf (2016), who agrees with Perrine, hyperbole is a type of figure of speech that overstates by bringing up a subject.

As an example of a phenomenon that can be found in the lyrics such as, "*Only boys who save their pennies make my rainy day*". A line of song entitled *Material Girl*, one of the musical soundtracks for the film *Cinderella 2021*. These lyrics can be categorized as hyperbole because the writer gives an exaggerated effect by using the word "only" means that there was nothing else that could make a girl *rainy day*. To understand the significance of the figure of speech, Leech (1981) in his book entitled *semantic: The study of meaning* declared seven types of meaning, such as conceptual meaning, connotative meaning, social meaning, affective meaning, reflected meaning, collocative meaning, and thematic meaning.

The researcher analyzed the song lyrics in the soundtrack for the film *Cinderella 2021*. The movie has fourteen songs that were sung in various scenes. One of the *Cinderella* movies that carries a musical concept. These songs contain figures of speech, one of which is hyperbole. The figurative style of songwriting has good reasons. According to Perrine (1974) the top four main reasons for using figurative language. First, figurative

language conveys to the reader the imaginative enjoyment of literary works. Second, it is a way to bring additional images to the poem, create a concrete summary, and make the literary work more sensual. Third, the way to add emotional power to useful statements and convey attitudes with information. And finally, as a technique to say a lot with a short compass.

By all means, many similar researchers have studied this phenomenon. The first is Jati (2020) This study aims to find out the types of metaphors found in two song options entitled Drown and Throne. Then describe what the denotative and connotative meanings contained. As a result, the researcher found three types of metaphors including: conventional metaphors, mixed metaphors and new metaphors. The writer also mentions that the most dominant type of metaphor is conventional metaphor.

Another researcher that did this study was (Wijaya & Afriana, 2022). They conducted descriptive qualitative research as the main method of analysis. The researchers identified Imageries in Sing to the Dawn novel by Minhong Fo through figurative language contained in the novel by using Laurence Perrine's theories. As a result, it found some kinds of imagery related to Laurence Perrine's theories. The most imagery expression that appeared in this novel was auditory imagery or sense of sound.

One of the reasons for researchers, as discussed above, is the necessity of discussing figurative language. The number of similar studies, such as the two studies mentioned above, demonstrate this. The current study looks into the phenomenon of one of the figurative languages, hyperbole, and categorizes the meanings included in the selected lyrics for the soundtrack of the Cinderella 2021. Riemer (2010) stated meaning is the heart of language, hence it must qualify as a language in order to be useful. Then, one must be able to articulate meaning in such a way that its essential aspects are not lost.

## **2. Literature Review**

### **Conceptual Meaning**

The conceptual meaning is the actual meaning or that is based on the conditions of the concept, therefore it is also called the denotative or cognitive meaning. Larson (1998)

noted that this meaning is also known as the basic meaning, which is the first or proposed definition of a term; in other words, the first application that comes to mind acquired at a young age is also associated with physical issues. Aligned with Leech This meaning is a central factor in communication that has a function which is an essential part of a language that is difficult to define (Leech 1981). Leech prioritizes conceptual meaning because to its complex structuring based on the contractiveness principle and hierarchical structure.

*Secretary Is the Heart* (Citraresmana, 2020)

The example may be deduced that secretary could be mapped onto a body organ inside the chest, especially the HEART. The heart is not only an organ, but also a central element of the body, and having one is regarded brave. The goal of conceptual meaning is to give an adequate semantic representation for a sentence or proposition. A sentence is composed up of abstract symbols. Conceptual meaning allows us to identify one meaning from the meanings of other sentences.

### **Connotative meaning**

According to Leech (1981) Connotative meaning is an expression's communicative value in addition to its strictly conceptual content. It is something that goes beyond the literal meaning of a term and suggests its characteristics in the real world. It is more than just the dictionary definition. If we're talking about connotation, we're really talking about the "real word experience." It can be said that this meaning must be considered to refer to and cannot be interpreted only conceptually. Furthermore, connotative meaning might encompass hypothetical features of a referent as a result of the viewpoint selected by an individual, group, or society as a whole.

*"Iold you i'd change"* (Gee et al., 2022)

The example connotatively means someone who wants to change his life to be a good human being. Connotative meaning is seen as accidental, comparatively unstable,

indeterminant, open ended, and varies according to age, culture, and individual, whereas conceptual meaning is not. It can be formalized using a small number of symbols.

### **Social Meaning**

Social meaning also called stylistic meaning refers to a word that reflects its users' social surroundings. Ogden and Richards (1923) stated the information conveyed by a language statement about specific social features is referred to as social meaning (stylistic meaning). The presence of several utterances or words as dialects reflects the geographical or socioeconomic origin of speakers. This interpretation also reveals information about the social relationship between speakers and listeners. According to Leech (1981) a word can explain a social situation like decoding the social meaning of a text through our recognition of different dimensions and levels of style in the same language. Furthermore, when a dialogue can refer to a geographical and social speaker or also a status determination scale. For example, on one end of the scale is formal and literary English, while on the other is colloquial, familiar, and lastly English slang. For instance, "*come on yaar, be a sport. Don't be Lallu*". Young Indians speak the social meaning of the sentence above. These differences in social meaning demonstrate social variations based on the speakers' area, geographical factors, and social rank. This is due to the fact that styles reveal the speaker's geographical place and social status. Style informs us about the period, field, and status of the conversation.

### **Affective or Emotive Meaning**

Affective meaning refers to the emotional associations or affects that words provoke in the reader or listener. It is what is communicated about the listener's personal feelings or attitude. The essence of this meaning represents the speaker's personal feelings, such as his attitude toward the audience or anything he says. Leech (1981) stressed that the conceptual or connotative substance of the language utilized directly conveys this meaning. Moreover, the affective meaning is essentially a parasitic category

in the sense that we rely on the mediation of other categories of meaning such as conceptual, connotative, or stylistic to communicate our feelings.

*"Today, we celebrate the triumph not of a candidate, but of a cause, the cause of democracy."*  
(Hoshan, 2022)

The example is proof how someone expresses the affective meaning through his personal feelings that his election triumph is not a personal victory as a person, but rather a victory for the entire country. In this sense, someone attempts to convey his message to his audience by claiming that democracy has been established and achieved by his efforts. The speech represents his opinions regarding the entire "cause" of the nation.

### **Reflected Meaning**

The meaning that emerges from many conceptual meanings, if a grasp of a word in its use immediately raises some of our responses to other meanings. This connotation is frequently seen as a suggestion contained in a linguistic usage. In other words, reflective meaning is a meaning that combines one conceptual meaning with another conceptual meaning and is derived via personal or historical experience. "The meaning which arises in cases of multiple conceptual meaning, when one sense of a word forms part of our response to another sense" (Leech, 1981, p. 16).

Reflected meaning occurs at the lexical level of language when a term has more than one mental meaning or numerous conceptual meanings. In such circumstances, we partially respond to one sense of the word while also responding to another. According to Leech, *'the Comforter'* and *'the Holy Ghost'* refer to the third person of the Trinity in church services. They are religious expressions. However, there is an unconscious response to their non-religious meanings as well. As a result, the 'comforter' sounds warm and comforting, whilst the '*Ghost*' sounds fantastic or even horrible. One meaning of the word appears to rub off on another, particularly by relative frequency and familiarity (for example, a ghost is more frequent and familiar in no religious sense).

### **Collocative Meaning**

Collocative or associative meaning encompasses the entire relationship of meaning with reason outside of language. This refers to the language user community, the individual using the language, the language user's feelings, the values of the language user community, and the evolution of words based on the language user's wishes. Associative meaning is classified into numerous forms, including collocative meaning, reflective meaning, stylistic meaning, affective meaning, and interpretive meaning. The associations a word gets as a result of the meanings of words that tend to appear in its environment are referred to as collocative meaning (Leech, 1981). In other words, collocative meaning is the meaning that a word obtains when it is in the presence of other words. Certain words collide or co-occur. Collocative meaning refers to associations formed by a word's common or habitual co-occurrence with particular types of terms. For instance, the word *pretty* is associated with *girls, ladies, villages, gardens, or flowers*, whereas the word *handsome* is associated with *men, youth*, and others. As a result, there are forms such as *pretty girl* and *handsome boy*, but *pretty boy* and *handsome girl* are unsuitable.

### **Thematic Meaning**

When the meaning is conveyed by the way in which the speaker or writer organizes the message that arises as a result of the emphasis or focus of conversation in a sentence or statement It can be called as Thematic meaning (Leech, 1981). An active sentence, for example, has a different meaning than a passive sentence. The two sentences have different communicative qualities in that they portray different contexts but have the same real conditions in which active sentences can be correct reports but passive sentences are inaccurate or vice versa.

*A man stayed in the room*

*The room was stayed by a man.*

The first statement describes who stayed in the room, whereas the second sentence describes where a man stayed is the focus. Changing the focus of a statement changes its meaning as well. Despite the fact that they are in the same context of meaning, the choice of words chosen and emphasized to represent the information to be given impacts the meaning of the sentence said.

### **Hyperbole**

According to Abrams and Harpham (2015) Hyperbole refers to extreme exaggeration of fact or potential. It can be utilized for serious, sarcastic, or comedic effect. They confirmed by giving famed example in the seventeenth century such as Ben Jonson's gallantly hyperbolic compliments to his lady in "*Drink to me only with thine eyes,*". The hyperbolic expression embedded since it is impossible human drink using "thine eyes". Another example of hyperbole was found as follows:

*"This problem kills me"* (Astina et al., 2021)

The aforementioned phrase is hyperbole since it appears repetitive and has additional connotations. Connotative meaning is used to categorize the data because the phrase "this problem kills me" can be interpreted differently than it actually means.

### **3. Method**

This study utilized the descriptive qualitative method. Something was referred to in the broadest sense as research that produces descriptive data into people's own written or spoken words and observable behavior called qualitative methodology, Taylor, Bogdan, and DeVault 2016). Furthermore, the impolite utterances of a jury were taken as the data source. The data were collected by using the observation method (Sudaryanto, 2015b). The utterances were observed by using a nonparticipator technique because the researchers did not get involved in conversation.

The researcher observed only six out of fourteen soundtrack song in Cinderella 2011. The songs cover of Rhythm Nation /*You Gotta Be, Somebody To Love, Let's Get Loud,*

*Somebody To Love, Am I Wrong, Shining Star*. Data source was taken from genius.com.

There are steps for collecting data. (1) The researchers watched the movies (2) the songs were scripted from oral to written documents. (3) Then, the researcher highlighted sentences which were considered as hyperbolic expression and identified the types of meaning based on theory of Abrams and Harpham (2015) and Leech (1981). (4) The data were classified as related to hyperbolic expressions and classified into the type of meaning.

Next, the data were analyzed by using the referential equivalent techniques. Therefore, the interpretation of data was based on context. Sudaryanto (2015) confirmed that comparing data with theory is similar to finding similarities and differences. Finally, the research result was presented by using the informal method. The researcher identified and classified the data based on the expert theories.

#### 4. Result

The data that has undergone analysis is displayed in this section. Following identification, the researcher discovered 38 hyperbolic expressions in 12 songs from Cinderella 2021 soundtrack in the following table.

*Table 1. The occurrence of hyperbole in the songs*

<b>Song Title</b>	<b>Frequency</b>
<b>Rhythm Nation /You Gotta Be</b>	1
<b>Somebody To Love</b>	4
<b>Am I Wrong</b>	2
<b>Shining Star</b>	3
<b>Whatta Man / Seven Nation Army</b>	4
<b>Let's Get Loud</b>	3
<b>TOTAL</b>	17

The six selected soundtrack included in the Cinderella 2021 film are listed in the table above. Each song's lyrics contain a hyperbolic expression based on Abrams and Harpham's theory of hyperbole. The songs comprised a total of seventeen expression of hyperbole.

#### **Data 1**

The songs are played at the start of the film as a mash-up. "Rhythm Nation" is sung by the entire cast while "You Gotta Be" is performed by Cabello as an introduction to her iteration of Cinderella. The hyperbolic expression appears once, namely at stanza three and the second line as follows.

*Try and keep your head up to the sky (Genius, Stanza 3, Line 2)*

In Data 1 can be classified as a hyperbolic expression. It is hard to keep the head up for an extended period. The author intends this as an exhortation to someone to remain confident in something. As a conclusion, Data 1 contains a connotative meaning because looking up at the sky is not the true meaning, but there is an intended meaning, which is to constantly be confident and dare to face obstacles.

#### **Data 2,3,4,5**

The song entitled "Somebody to Love" by Queen, Prince Robert has been told by his father to locate any appropriate woman to marry and create an heir. While watching the changing of the guard, the prince sings this Queen anthem, aided by the choir in the royal chapel and the guards. In this song the hyperbolic expression appears four times as follows:

*Each morning I get up, I die a little  
can barely stand on my feet (Genius, Stanza 1, Line 2)*

The lyrics are regarded as overblown expressions because it is impossible for everyone who wakes up each morning get "die a little" and "can barely stand". In addition, this is so irrational and perplexing as to how they died but just a little. In that way, it shows

the audience how the prince's love story in the movie. As a result, according to Leech's theory of meaning, the data falls into the category of affective meaning because it expresses a sense of weakness and a lack of passion for doing activity. The next hyperbolic expression is found in the second stanza, line five as follows.

*I have spent all my years in believin' you* **(Genius, Stanza 2, Line 5)**

The data tell the listener that the singer is religious but has been given a life partner. Such as "*I have spent all my years*", This phrase has a hyperbolic expression since the singer appears to spend all of her time believing. According to theory, this data is classified as social meaning because it incorporates human faith in God. It describes the writer's social life as a believer. Religion is a social phenomenon that has existed from early human civilizations to the present day. The next hyperbolic expression is found in the fourth stanza, line three as follows.

*I work 'til I ache my bones* **(Genius, Stanza 4, Line 3)**

The singer wants to show listeners how hard he strives. The data "*'til I ache my bones*" is categorized as an exaggeration intended to pity and attract the listener's attention. Because the singer tries to indicate how much the effort has done, this data can be evaluated using the theory of affective meaning.

*They say I got a lot of water in my brain* **(Genius, Stanza 7, Line 6)**

The overstatement in this data because the human brain is unlikely to hold water. The lyrics inform listeners that the singer was subjected to a great deal of humiliation. As a result, the data falls under the category of connotative meaning. The lyrics of "*water in my brain*" are not literal, but maintain intended meaning. Water has many positive

implications, including purity, fertility, and the source of life. However, the word "water" is present in the brain, it has a negative connotation. The opposite connotation is for someone who is thought to be overly dreamy and unworthy of ambition.

#### **Data 6,7**

The song is titled "Am I Wrong" by Nico & Vinz. Cinderella, Prince Robert, Vivian and the rest of the cast join in on this rendition, singing their hearts out because they all want something more out of the lives they're endlessly stuck in. The hyperbolic expression appears 2 times as follows.

*I'm walking down this road of mine, this road that I call home* **(Genius, Stanza 1, Line 5)**

The lyrics "this road I call home" exemplifies the hyperbole in the lyrics. The author uses this statement to enlighten the listener by stressing the word "road," which the author refers to as a dwelling or somewhere to reside. Because it is extremely unlikely that road is a home or a place to reside, this data includes hyperbolic expressions.

Listeners can interpret the meaning of the songs by employing connotative meanings based on this data. The reason for this is that the author's intended meaning for the term "road" is a long procedure that someone must go through to reach prosperity. The next data is in stanza 3 in line 2 as follows.

*My prediction, I'mma be on top of the world* **(Genius, Stanza 3, Line 2)**

The lines above are classified as hyperbolic statements, with the sentence "I'mma be on top of the world" being an illogical expression. In general, it is impossible to be at the end of the planet. As a result, the author's objective is clear. Because the author does not transmit it clearly, but there is a specific meaning intended, the meaning of the lyrics above can be classified as connotative. The phrase "on top of the world" is close to success or accomplishment.

### **Data 8,9,10**

The next song is entitled "Shining Star". This song is performed by the fantastic godmother. She appears in front of Cinderella and determines to transport her to the prince's ball by summoning a carriage and horses, three footmen, and a real-life dress based on Cinderella's sketch. The researcher discovers three hyperbolic expressions in this song, as detailed below.

#### *When you wish upon a star (Genius, Stanza 3, Line 4)*

The data above is a hyperbole expression since there are illogical terms and the author exaggerates a circumstance. Of course, no human can be upon the stars. As a result, we can deduce that the author used this expression to describe something specific. As a result, the researcher believes that the meaning contained in the data is connotative. The reason because the phrase "upon a start" connotes a circumstance involving a high-class community, celebrities, authorities, or other prominent people. The next data is in stanza 3, line 3. For more details, as follows.

#### *Shining bright to see*

#### *What you could truly be (Genius, Stanza 3, Line 3)*

This data is classified as a hyperbola since it appears in the sentence "Shining bright to see." The reason for this is that people cannot shine brightly. Singers appear to exaggerate in order to capture the attention of the audience. Furthermore, with such a writing style, the lyrics will sound more beautiful.

The data can be comprehended using connotative meaning, according to the reasoning above. The lyrics are not conceptually studied, but something is intended. The author's intention is to show that everyone has the right to pursue their dream and

abilities. Further hyperbole is found in the lyrics in the fourth stanza, in the second line as below.

***Shining star for you to see***

What your life can truly be (**Genius, Stanza 4, Line 2**)

Similar to the prior data, this data has a hyperbolic expression since there is an excessive placement of words, and is difficult to find in real life. Researchers identified this data due to the inability of giving stars to someone to utilize as visual assistance. As a result, this information is included in the connotative meaning, in which the author employs the "Shining star" object to indicate the existence of hope or the advent of assistance.

**Data 11,12,13,14**

The next song is called "Whatta Man / Seven Nation Army". When Prince Robert makes his entrance to the royal ball, the single women of the kingdom perform the old Lynda Lindell song to entice him. He responds to this by singing the White Stripes song to his male buddies, asking them to help him leave. The hyperbolic expression in the lyrics of the song appears four times as follows.

***The man that's made a difference in my world (Genius, Stanza 3, Line 2)***

The hyperbolic expression in data 11 emerges because the lyrics state that a man can make a difference in a woman's world. The lyrics are overstated because how a man makes a difference in a woman's world when women don't own the planet. In addition, Men and women share the same world. The lyrics can be classified as thematic meaning. The singer tries to underline the concept of the word "the man". Thus, the emphasis or focus of discussion in the data to explain how the man is. The third stanza's thirteenth line contains the next hyperbola, which is as follows.

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*You so crazy*

*I think I wanna have your baby (Genius, Stanza 3, Line 13)*

The songs sung by a group of ladies at a royal feast addressed to the prince in data 13 contain hyperbolic phrases. Praising someone who is admired creates an overblown impression. It is exceedingly improbable that a royal is insane. As evidenced by the next lyrics, "I think I wanna have your baby." If the prince is crazy, the singer cannot possibly wish to marry him.

This data belongs to affective meaning because it refers to the emotional impact of the words on the listener. The singer attempts to convey admiration and intrigue with a prince in an impolite tone. Listeners can picture how charming the prince is based on the writing style of the songs. Then the next hyperbole expression is in the fifth stanza and the second line. Then the next hyperbolic expression is found in the fifth stanza and the second line below.

*A seven nation army couldn't hold me back (Genius, Stanza 5, Line 2)*

Since the data claims that the armies of the seven nations are unable to make the singer tremble, the data above includes exaggerated expressions to convey the singer's emotions. A man cannot possibly defeat armies from seven different countries on singer own in real life. The method to investigate the song's meaning is through affective meaning. This is because the song's lyrics demonstrate to the audience how tenaciously the singer handles his issues. Another hyperbolic expression is found in the same stanza in the fourth line as follows.

*Taking their time, right behind my back (Genius, Stanza 5, Line 4)*

The hyperbole in the aforementioned data is identified since there is a declaration that the singer can take time behind their backs. Thus, the words can be regarded to be

overly exaggerated because time is an abstract concept, which means that time cannot be behind someone's back. As a result, the connotative meaning is conveyed in the lyrics. The lyrics above do not communicate the real meaning, but the author wishes to convey that many people are dealing with or discussing the singer, and the singer was disturbed.

### **Data 15,16,17**

The final song on Cinderella 2021's soundtrack, "Let's Get Loud," is played at the end of the movie after all the happy endings, and the entire kingdom participates in the dancing and singing. The frequency of hyperbole in this song consists of 3 times as follows.

*Every feelin' every beat*

*Can be so very sweet, you gotta taste it (Genius, Stanza 3, Line 3-4)*

The data is a hyperbolic expression because the lyrics are not true in actual life. Furthermore, "feelin'" and "beat" allude to the sound of music, which cannot be consumed and taste sweet. Because the author discusses music, the data above falls under the area of social meaning. Music is something that is inextricably linked to humanity. In the next datum, the researcher discovers the following lyrics in the fourth stanza, exactly in line one.

*Life's a party, make it hot (Genius, Stanza 4, Line 1)*

The data above demonstrates hyperbole when the writer asserts that life is only about partying. The author also mentions that the party can be hot. As a result, the researcher finds that the meaning included in the data employs both social and connotative meaning. The word "party" has a social sense because it refers to a culture that exists in the writer's social life. Dancing is one of the activities featured during a party. Furthermore, the term "hot" refers to energetic and joyous behavior at the party.

The final datum in this song is presented in the next stanza and line as follows.

*Dance, don't ever stop whatever rhythm (Genius, Stanza 4, Line 2)*

This data also includes a hyperbola in the phrase "Dance, never stop." The author uses exaggerated expressions to encourage the audience to dance. This phrase is hard for humans to perform without pausing since people have limitations and require rest. This type of expression is effective for making an impression on listeners. As a result, the data presented above falls under the category of social meaning, where "dance" is one of the people's habits or culture depicted in the movie.

## 5. Conclusion

In this study, the authors discovered seventeen data points with hyperbolic expressions in six soundtracks from the film Cinderella 2021. "Somebody To Love" and "Whatta Man / Seven Nation Army" are the most prominent songs featuring hyperbolic expressions. The researcher then discovered four types of meaning in the six soundtracks including connotative meaning, emotive meaning, social meaning, and theme meaning. One of the lyrics in the song "Let's Get Loud" combines social and connotative meaning. Then there's a thematic meaning that appears only once in the hyperbola lyrics of the song "Whatta Man / Seven Nation Army." On the other hand, the meaning that emerges frequently in the lyrics of the six songs is connotative meaning.

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