

CH-1: Hyperbole

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Read

From The Encyclopedia of Arabic Rhetoric

Definition

The communicator exaggerates in describing a proposition.^{[1][2][3][4]}

Types of hyperbole

There are three grades of hyperbole:

Lowest (*tablīgh*)

The proposition is exaggerated but still commonly or customarily possible, and may normally occur.

هذه السيارة من أسرع السيارات التي يمكنك شراؤها بهذا السعر.

“This car is one of the fastest cars you can buy for this price.”

Intermediate (*ighrāq*)

The proposition is conceptually possible but only hypothetically or rarely occurs.

هذه هي أسرع سيارة في العالم.

“This is the fastest car in the world.”

Highest (*ghuluw*)

The proposition is conceptually impossible or beyond belief. In order for this level of exaggeration to be "acceptable", it needs to be done with poetic license, wit, satire, imagination, literary justification, or with a modifier like "almost".

يمكنك السفر بسرعة مليون ميل في الساعة في هذه السيارة!

“You'll be travelling at a million miles an hour in this car!”

See also

- [CH-9: Diminishing Expression](#) - the opposite of Hyperbole

References

- ↑ Hussein Abdul-Raof, *Arabic Rhetoric: A Pragmatic Analysis* ^{PDF} (Oxford: Routledge, 2006), 252, [ISBN 9780415386098](#). DOI: [10.4324/9780203965399](#) [↗]
- ↑ Ḥafnī Nāṣif, Muḥammad Diyāb, Sultan Muḥammad and Muṣṭafā Ṭammām, *Durūs al-Balāgha* [↗] (Beirut: Dār Ibn Ḥazm, 2012), 112-113, [ISBN 9786144162798](#).
- ↑ W. P. Heinrichs, ‘Rhetorical Figures’, in *Encyclopedia of Arabic Literature* [↗], ed. Julie Scott Meisami and Paul Starkey (London: Routledge, 1998), 658, [ISBN 0415068088](#). DOI: [10.4324/9780203020425](#) [↗]
- ↑ Aḥmad al-Hāshimī, *Jawāhir al-Balāgha fī al-Ma‘ānī wa-al-Bayān wa-al-Badī‘* [↗] (Windsor: Hindāwī Foundation, 2019), 377, [ISBN 9781527316386](#).

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