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Hyperbole in People's Online Comments

to Coronavirus News: A Pragma-linguistic Study

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Abstract

People become unbalanced due to the unexpected coronavirus epidemic and the high health damage it brings. Additionally, the quarantine increases people's sense of fear and makes them keep an eye on the news. And this leads them to actively participate in discussions by leaving comments on websites in response to these news stories. All of these factors contribute to people's exaggerated reactions to this news. This study aims to investigate the linguistic forms of these hyperbolic comments. It attempts to see how people make use of the different linguistic forms of hyperbole and what are the pragmatic functions these forms stand for. The problem of this study is that there are few studies that make use of this terrifying situation (Coronavirus outbreak) to see people's reactions to their news. The hypothesis states that people tend to magnify their reaction in such terrifying situations.

The conclusions reveal that it is common for people to exaggerate under dire circumstances, and that this propensity is manifested in a variety of language forms that convey the intensity of anxiety and concern. It is also concluded people's tendency to use hyperbolic linguistic forms that have negative evaluation is more prominent stems from their lack of confidence in the actions of their government.

المبالغة في تعليقات الناس على أخبار فيروس كورونا عبر الإنترنت: دراسة لغوية تداولية

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الخلاصة

إصيب الناس بانعدام التوازن بسبب وباء فيروس كورونا غير المتوقع والأضرار الصحية الكبيرة التي رافقته. بالإضافة إلى ذلك، فإن الحجر الصحي زاد من شعور الناس بالخوف وجعلهم يراقبون الأخبار. وهذا ما قادهم للمشاركة بنشاط في المناقشات من خلال ترك تعليقات على مواقع الويب ردًا على هذه الأخبار. ساهمت كل هذه العوامل في ردود أفعال مبالغ فيها على هذه الأخبار من قبل الناس. تهدف هذه الدراسة إلى التحقيق في الأشكال اللغوية لهذه التعليقات المبالغ فيها. تحاول معرفة كيف استخدم الناس الأشكال اللغوية المختلفة للمبالغة وما هي الوظائف البراجماتية التي تمثلها هذه الأشكال. تكمن مشكلة هذه الدراسة في وجود دراسات قليلة تستفيد من هذا الموقف المرعب (تفشي فيروس كورونا) لمعرفة ردود أفعال الناس على أخبارها. تنص الفرضية على أن الناس يميلون إلى تضخيم ردود أفعالهم في مثل هذه المواقف المرعبة. تكشف الاستنتاجات أنه من الشائع أن يبالغ الناس في ظل الظروف الصعبة، وأن هذا الميل يتجلى في مجموعة متنوعة من أشكال اللغة التي تنقل شدة القلق والانشغال. وخلصت الدراسة أيضاً إلى أن ميل الناس إلى استخدام الأشكال اللغوية المبالغ فيها التي تنطوي على تقييم سلبي ينبع بشكل أكثر وضوحاً من افتقارهم إلى الثقة في تصرفات حكوماتهم.

Introduction

The term hyperbole comes from the Greek hyper, "over" and bollen, "to throw". It had been dealt with since Aristotle who provides a definition to it explaining its application through metaphors and similes (Lausberg, 1998:410). It is considered as "a figure of speech of bold exaggeration" that is discussed within the general framework of rhetoric since the time of ancient Greeks (Preminger 1974: 359). It is a type of figurative language by which the speaker says something while meaning another (Stern, 2000). Put differently, there is match between the literal meaning and the intended meaning (Recchia, Howe, Ross & Alexander, 2010).

Hyperbole in informal talk is a regular feature where speakers use utterances containing literally impossible, inconceivable or counterfactual descriptions, narration or argumentation. Such utterances are not challenged or confronted by the listener, on the contrary, he receives them as creative concentration that have evaluative or affective purposes such as irony or humour and they will never be considered as acts of lying as McCarthy and Carter (2004: 152) propose. In this respect, Quintilian VIII, 6, 75) comments:

"[Hyperbole is commonly used even by ignorant people and peasants, which is understandable, as all people are by nature inclined to magnify or to minimise things and nobody is content to stick to what is really the case. We tolerate this habit, because we are not really asserting facts]".

Thus, one can say that hyperbole is not intended to be taken literally but it is used to produce some other intentions like satire, ridicule, etc.

This study is intended to scrutinize people's use of hyperbole in online comments. This aim, however, is two folded: first, to identify and classify the linguistic forms of this figure and second, to investigate and identify the pragmatic functions behind the use of these hyperbolic form. Since these comments are in public, there is an aim behind using them which is mainly to persuade others by their comments (opinion). To accomplish this aim, people's comments to news in BBC news channels have been considered. The study is limited to people's comments to news about coronavirus. As such, (117) comments have been collected to be analyzed according to their linguistic forms as well as their pragmatic functions.

Basically, this study is conducted to investigate the following hypotheses:
1. People's speech is characterized by the frequent use of hyperbolic forms.
2. Single word hyperbolic forms are the most widely linguistic form of hyperbole.

3. Among the different pragmatic functions, evaluation is the most frequent one.

4. Lying, deception and unjustified misinterpretation are all related to hyperbole but it is not intended to be taken literally.

As for the problem of the study, it lies in the fact that there is no study conducted to investigate hyperbole in people's comments as far as the researchers know.

Literature review

 Throughout the history, studies of hyperbole were devoted to defining and classifying it as a creative figure of speech. Recent studies, however, concentrates on its analysis as a device associated with literary works. Kreuz, et al (1996:91), for example, collect a corpus of American short stories to investigate the figurative language used in this corpus. Among the figurative devices they are account for is hyperbole. They conclude that hyperbole occurrences come second after metaphor in its frequency among the other tropes, namely idiom, irony, metaphor, simile, understatement, indirect request, and rhetorical question. Following the same procedures, Colston and Keller (1998) base their study on corpus data to analyze the rhetorical functions of hyperbole in ordinary conversation. Similarly, Cano Mora (2009) conducts a corpus analysis to investigate the rhetorical functions of hyperbole in ordinary conversation. What she finds is that hyperbole is a pragmatic category that can be manifested in any word class or lexico-grammatical configuration.

Other studies are conducted to scrutinize how hyperbole works in culture. Among these cross-cultural studies is Bolinger (1972) who comes up with a list of intensifying adjectives, and adverbs referring to the clearly exaggerated notions of extremity and absoluteness. Along the same line, McCarthy and Carter (2004) present another list in which they mention some of the most frequently used linguistic means for achieving hyperbole. Also, they make a kind of distinction between those words and expressions which occur with hyperbolic and non-hyperbolic function and hence they categorize these expressions into expressions that refer to: number, amount and quantity. In order to calculate the frequency of hyperbole in academic speech, Ohlrogge and Tsang (2004) conduct a study which is intended to see whether in academic speech people maintain the careful and cautious tone of academic prose, or they tend to exaggerate as exaggeration is part of the colloquial speech.

Hyperbole

According to OED, hyperbole is a term that is used in literature and hence defined as 'A figure of speech consisting in exaggerated or extravagant statement, used to express strong feeling or produce a strong impression and not meant to be taken literally'. For Gibbs (1999:17) hyperbole is "extravagant exaggeration by which something is represented as involving a greater intensity than in reality". Similarly, Norrick (2004: 1728) defines it as 'a figure or trope of bold exaggeration'. Leech (1983:146) sees that hyperbole is not only a rhetorical figure, but it is commonly used in everyday language as well. In Woods's view hyperbole is an exaggeration that is used in everyday language (spoken and written) for different purposes irony, emphasis, praise, and criticism (2002:6-8).

Cano Mora (2004: 14) opines that hyperbole 'is by far the trope that most often co-occurs with other figures'. She (2006:205) observes that it is used to make the listener take extra note of something either by praising or approving of someone or something or by complaining, attacking and criticizing someone or something. Similar to this opinion is that of Clardige (2011:209) who thinks that hyperbolic forms can be used to praise a character or an implied addressee so as to distinguish that target person as an extraordinary person or thing.

Burgers et al. (2016: 166) identify three main elements for defining hyperbole. These are: a) exaggeration b) the importance of the shift from the propositional meaning into what the speaker intended to say, and c) when speaking hyperbolically, there must be a specific referent assigned. Exaggeration, on one hand, is used to stress the importance of something in conversation, for example;

(1) "This is the worst thing that happened in 2005"!
By uttering the above example, something untrue is said to stress an idea what the speaker is wants to convey.

Claridge (2010) ventures that in exaggeration, there should be a large enough contrast between the literal meaning and the intended meaning so as the hearer can notice. Thus, if the following utterance is uttered in uttered when the temperature is 26 degrees, no exaggeration can be noticed by the hearer:

(2) "It is extremely hot".
Whereas an utterance like (3), if uttered in the same context, exaggeration will be very evident to the hearer to notice:

(3) "It is boiling".
In addition, Ferré (2014) weens that to exaggerate a feature, it must have a scale. And he further adds that there are two kinds of scales: a) quality scale

that refers to the value of the object being talked about which is either positive or negative (Cano Mora, 2009), and b) quantity scale which refers to the evaluation of the object (McCarthy & Carter, 2004).

(4) "It is the best painting I've seen in my entire life"!
(5) "It is the worst painting I've seen in my entire life"!

In these two examples, the two extremes 'best' and 'worst' are used to convey the intended meaning which is 'to praise' and 'to criticize' respectively. They refer to the quality of the object positively in the first utterance and negatively in the second one.

(4) "It took the waiter a week to get me my coffee".

The exaggeration appears in reference to the time. The speaker refers to his anger of the bad service by using exaggerated time quantity.
According to Claridge (2010), the quality and quantity scales can show impossibilities, for example;

(5) "There's enough food in the cupboard to feed an entire army"!
(6) "He's running faster than the wind".

In both the abovementioned examples, impossibilities is exploited to express certain attitudes. In example (5), it is impossible for the food in the cupboard to feed an army which is composed of a great number of soldiers. In utterance (6), on the other hand, the speaker wants to show that the person he is referring to is so fast and he shows this by means of hyperbole. As for the identification of hyperbole, McCarthy and Carter's (2004: 162-163) set a number of criteria for labelling hyperbole

    (a) Disjunction of context: the speaker's utterance seems at odds with the general context.
    (b) Shifts of footing: there is evidence (e.g. discourse marking) that a shift in footing is occurring to a conversational frame where impossible worlds or plainly counterfactual claims may appropriately occur.

(c) Counter-factuality not perceived as a lie: the listener accepts without challenge a statement which is obviously counterfactual.

(d) Impossible worlds: speaker and listener between them engage in the construction of fictitious worlds where impossible, exaggerated events take place.

(e) Listener take-up: the listener reacts with supportive behavior such as laughter or asserting back-channel markers and/or contributes further to the counter-factuality, impossibility, contextual disjunction, etc.

(f) Extreme case formulations and intensification: the assertion is expressed in the most extreme way (e.g. adjectives such as endless, massive) and/or extreme intensifiers such as nearly, totally are used. These are not necessarily counterfactuals or absurd worlds, as many may be heard as semi- conventional metaphors.

(g) Relevant interpretability: the trope is interpretable as relevant to the speech act being performed, and is interpreted as figurative within its context, though there may also be evidence of literal interpretations being exploited for interactive/affective purposes.

The Hyperbolic Forms

Spitzbardt (1963, cited in Claridge, 2011: 46) classifies the hyperbolic forms into seven types and these are further developed by Claridge (2011:46-57) into the following:

 i. **Numerical hyperbole:** Single word numbers are frequently used in hyperbolic expressions, for example;

(7) **"The shopping cost me a million dollars".**

The speaker's intention to show how expensive the price of shopping s/he bought by using an exaggerated number of dollars.

 ii. **Single words hyperbole:** This is the most common realization of hyperbole where the exaggerated content is exclusively or principally occurred in one word whose substitution by other more contextually appropriate word or phrase will lead to the loss of the overstatement. All lexical words can be used to in hyperbolic expressions but nouns and adjectives are the most common ones.

 a. **Nouns:** Words of quantity like *ages, loads, tons, miles*, etc. can be used in such expressions, for example;

(8) **"This bag weighs a ton".**

The word 'ton' is exaggeratedly used by the speaker to deliver that the weight of the bag is so heavy.

 b. **Adjectives:** Among the lexical words, adjectives are overused in hyperbolic expression to convey certain attitudes. Adjective of the this type are *colossal, incredible, crazy, killing,* for example;

(9) **"It's impossible to complete this puzzle".**

The difficulty of the puzzle is hyperbolically expressed by using the adjective 'impossible'.

c. **Adverbs:** Adverbs are also used in hyperbolic expressions. Some adverbs like *astronomically, endlessly, boundlessly* represent this type, for example;

(10) "Next Friday is never going to arrive".

Counting the time make patientless people or awaiting people feel that it is too long. Thus, the meaning of the above utterance is that 'next Friday' is too far.

d. **Verbs:** Unlike nouns and adjectives, only few verbs can be used in hyperbolic expressions. These are; *die, kill, love and hate,* for example;

(11) "I died of embarrassment".

No one dies as a result of embarrassment, but here it is used to exaggerate the speaker's attitude.

iii. Simile and metaphor: Some expression of simile and metaphor like *cross as the devil* are hyperbolic in their usage, for example;

(12) "She's as skinny as a toothpick".

(13) "She's my guardian angel".

The above utterances represent simile and metaphor respectively. Both are used hyperbolically to overstate the speaker's opinion of the person being talked about.

iv. **Phrasal hyperbole:** Hyperbolic meaning can be conveyed by combining words and senses. Hyperbolic phrases are further sub-divided into; verb phrase noun phrase, adjective phrase, adverb phrase and prepositional phrase, for example;

(13) "I'm so sad that I'm drowning in tears".

The expression 'drowning in tears' is impossible to happen but it is used to exaggerate sadness.

v. **Clausal hyperbole:** Hyperbole of this type is created by the combined effect of items in two or more clausal constituents, for example;

(14) "Nobody ever learns anything".

The combination of effect of each item in the clause result in a hyperbolic expression.

vi. **Comparatives and superlatives:** Such forms are used for a very forceful exaggeration, for example;

(15) "That man is as tall as a house".
(16) "The footballer is the best player of all time".
 vii. **Repetition:** The co-occurrence of the same item or phrase in strict sequence without interruption by other materials is used in hyperbolic expressions. This form is used in spoken language, for example;

(17) "He is writing this novel since years and years and years".

The above example includes a repetition of the item 'year' to overdo the time consumed for writing the novel.

The Functions of Hyperbole

In hyperbole certain value or feature is intentionally exaggerated for certain purposes. These purposes or functions are mentioned in classical rhetoric and modern pragma-linguistic approaches. In this respect, Fahnestock and Tonnard (2011: 105) assert that in using hyperbole, a piece of information is made "more psychologically salient to the audience and more conceptually important in theoverall case". According to Cano Mora (2006: 203), the most intrinsic and widely recognized one is emphasis followed by positive and negative evaluation. In line with this opinion, Kreuz et al. (1996:86) state that hyperboles are "segments that indicate emphasis through exaggeration".

Other functions are expression of surprise, simplification, interest intensification, contrast of differences, and humor. Accordingly, Hunstone & Thampson (1999:5) use the general term *evaluation* to cover the speaker's expression or the writer's attitude or feeling about the entities or propositions that is talked about. Cano Mora (2006: 205) adds that this function is two folds and thus she says:

"One can express both positive and negative opinions, emotions, attitudes, etc. Thus, people may exaggerate to fulfil positive discourse goals, such as to compliment, congratulate, praise, express sympathy, approval, delight or some other form of positive affect. Negative evaluation, on the other hand, is a form of subjective judgment whereby speakers attack, complain, condemn, criticise, express disapproval, antipathy or some other negative attitude".

In addition, Bolinger (1972:115) proposes that hyperbole is a figurative way for conveying intensification by substituting a strong for a weak synonymy. Intensity, doesn't need an object or a target on the contrary, it reflects the emotional disposition of a speaker at a moment or in general (Cacchiani, 2007:9).

Claridge (2011: 209) names another aspect of hyperbole used for persuasion namely, vagueness as. She (ibid) mentions that certain hyperbolic expressions such as 'million', 'load', "age' are vague since in their usage there is no reference to the exact amount. Making generalizations which is according to Cano Mora related to vagueness allow "speakers to avoid specifying, detailing, listing, etc." (Cano Mora, 2006: 210).

Data Collection and Analysis

In order for fulfilling the aim of the current study, data have been collected from people's comments to online BBC news. Comments containing hyperbolic expressions are randomly chosen to be analyzed and classified according to two classifications: linguistic and pragmatic. The former is concerned with the classification of the linguistic forms of hyperbolic expressions. The latter, however, is concerned with classifying the pragmatic functions behind using such expressions. The total number of the collected data are (117) comments.

Another classification done by the researcher is made between magnifying and minifying hyperbolic forms. The analyzed data reveals that there are (97) occurrences of the magnifying hyperbolic forms and they constitute (82.91%) percent of the whole data. The other type which is the minifying hyperbolic forms records (20) with (17.09 %) percent. For example;

(18) "I see a lot of people on here finding increasingly impressive conspiracy excuses for not having to care about neighbors". (magnifying hyperbole)

(19) "Stay at home and don't buy any Chinese product! Enough feeding viruses!" (minifying hyperbole)

The following table exhibits the frequency of the magnifying and minifying hyperbolic forms:

Table (1) The frequency of magnifying and minifying hyperbole

ITEM	Frequency
Magnifying	97
Minifying	20
Total	117

Whereas the percentage of these forms is shown in the following chart:

Chart (1) The percentage of magnifying and minifying hyperbole
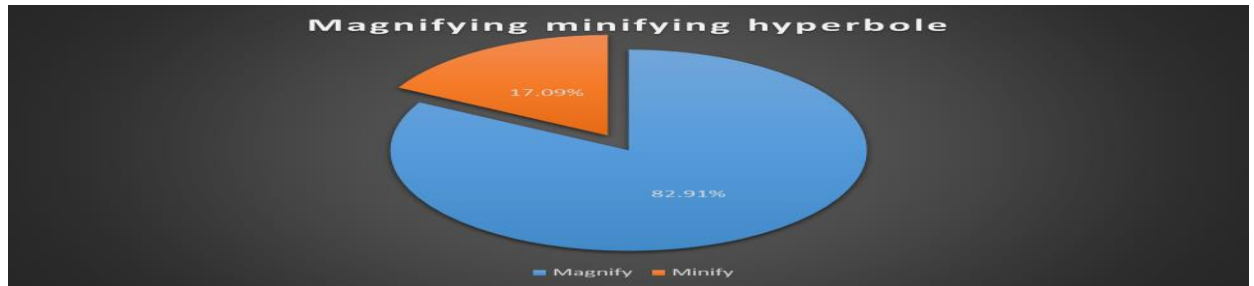
Concerning the linguistic forms of hyperbolic expressions, there are different manifestations for such analysis: lexical and grammatical. Lexical words that belong to the semantic field like nouns, adjectives, adverbs are the most widely used in hyperbolic speech (Spitzbardet, 1963:27). Other lexical words are those of numerical expressions. In the collected data, these linguistic forms record (40) occurrences making up (34.19%) of the whole data. The following table and chart display the statistics of both the lexical and grammatical forms:

Table (2) The frequency of lexical and grammatical hyperbole

ITEM	Frequency
Lexical	40
Grammatical	77
Total	117

Chart (2) The percentage of lexical and grammatical hyperbole
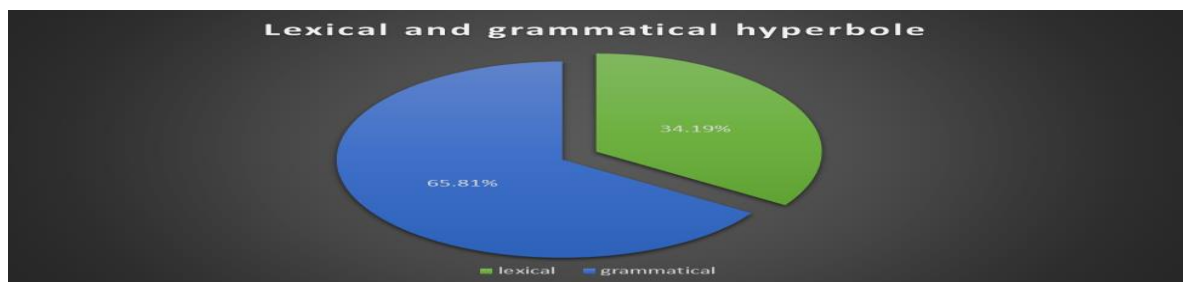
Nouns have an overwhelming presence. Their total occurrences are (22) constituting (18.80%) of the whole data. Among these words are: *lairs, joke, heartbreaking, geniuses, agenda, covidiots, heartfelt, propaganda, bioweapon, millions, 1000%, illusion, hysteria, apocalypse, loads, and peril.* For example;

(18) Heartbroken.

This hyperbolic noun is used to by one of the commenters as a response to certain news which is entitled: "**Coronavirus**: **5-year-old child is youngest victim as deaths rise - BBC News**".

Adjectives is the second type of the single words that occur in the collected data. They record (12) occurrences with (10.26%) as a ratio. Example of these words available in the data are: *inevitable, fabricated, faceless, horrific, continuous, tragic, inexcusable, irreparable, and unbelievable.* For example;

(19) Unbelievable!

The above utterance is a comment to the news entitled "**Coronavirus: Could there be a second wave? - BBC News**". It is intended to minify the news.

Adverbs as a lexical form have their share in the collected data. They record (5) occurrences with a ratio of (4.27%) of the whole data. Example of these words are suspiciously, definitely, purposely. For example;

(20) Definitely!

The above utterance is a comment to the abovementioned news. It is used to magnify the news message.

In addition to the lexical form, lexico-grammatical forms have the highest frequency in the collected data. These have manifestations, namely; simile and metaphor, phrasal hyperbole, clausal hyperbole, comparatives and superlatives, and repetition. These record (77) occurrences that make up (65.81%) of the whole data. Simile and metaphor record (22) occurrences with (18.80%) as a percentage. Simile occurrences are (5) which constitute (4.27%) of the whole data whereas metaphor occurs (17) times which makes up (14.53%) of the whole data. For example;

(21) "**The virus will spread like wild fire**". (simile)

(22) "**The heralds an ominous outlook for the immediate future**". (metaphor)

Phrasal hyperboles come up with (24) occurrences which make up (20.51%) percent. for example;

(22) "*Not one doctor* on TV tells us to strengthen our immune system".

On the other hand, clausal hyperbole record (18) occurrences that constitute (15.39%) percent. For example;

(23) "It's never going to end".

The occurrences of comparatives and superlatives are (11) and this comprise (9.40%) percent. Comparative occurs (4) times with (3.42%) percent while superlative occurs (7) times with (5.98%) percent.

(24) "There will be more preventable deaths". (comparative)

(25) "Deepest condolence". (superlative)

Finally, repetition record (2) occurrences with (1.71%) percent. For example;

(26) "Lie lie lie".

These statistics are all presented in the following table and chart:

Table (3) The frequency of the linguistic forms of hyperbole

ITEM	Frequency
Numerical hyperbole	1
Single words hyperbole:	39
a. Noun	22
b. Adjective	12
c. Adverb	5
d. Verb	--
Simile and metaphor:	22
a. Simile	5
b. Metaphor	17
Phrasal hyperbole	24
Clausal hyperbole	18
Comparatives and superlatives:	11
a. Comparative	4
b. Superlative	7
Repetition	2
Total	117

Chart (3) The percentage of the linguistic forms of hyperbole
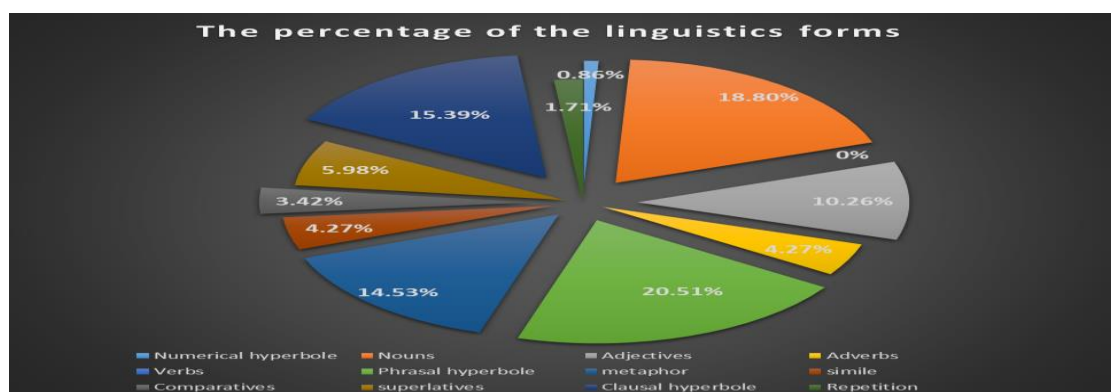
As far as the pragmatic functions is concerned, evaluation is of the highest frequency. The frequency of this function is (87) with (74.36%) percent. Evaluation comes with its two forms: positive and negative evaluation. Positive evaluation occurs (36) times with (30.77%) percent whereas negative evaluation occurrences are (51) with (43.59%) percent. For example;

(27) "Am broken". (positive evaluation)

(28) "If you really think, that if you take the vaccine, all this is going away and the new normal is just an illusion". (negative evaluation)

The function of utterance (27) is used to show the attitude of the commenter to the news and it is clearly positive. Utterance (28), on the other hand, is a negative evaluation. The participant is revealing his opinion of the whole news and he finds that what is in the news is something deceiving. The following table and chart represent the frequency and percentage of the pragmatic functions of hyperbole:

Table (4) The frequency of the pragmatic functions of hyperbole

ITEM	Frequency
Evaluation	**87**
a. **Positive evaluation**	**36**
b. **Negative evaluation**	**51**
Emphasis	**8**
Intensification	**3**
Humor	**5**
Clarification	**7**
Vagueness	**3**
Irony	**4**
Total	**117**

Chart (4) The percentage of the pragmatic functions of hyperbole
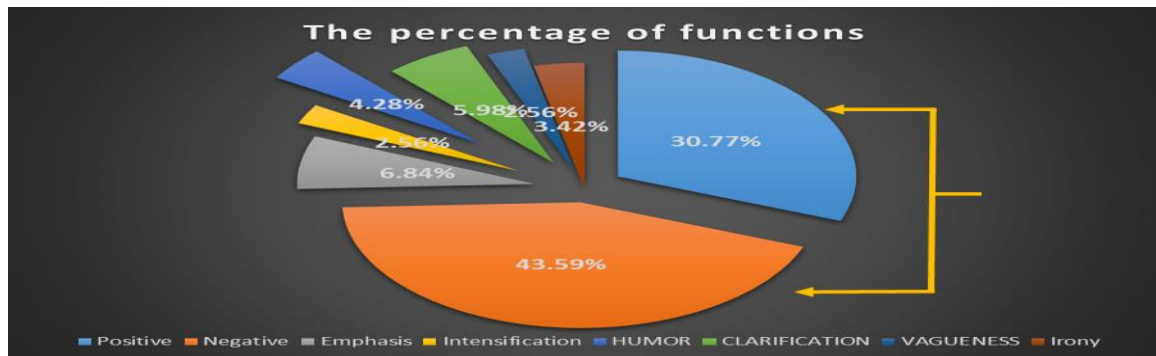
Besides evaluation, other functions like emphasis, intensification, humor, clarification, vagueness and irony have their frequencies in the collected data. The frequency of the comments that have this function is (8) occurrences with (6.84%) percent. For example;

(29) "I'm sure there will be waves 2345678910 marks of the beast".

The analysis of the collected data reveals that intensification occur (3) instances which constitutes (2.56 %) percent of the collected data. For example;

(30) "Irreparable loss to family".

Humor occurrences in the analyzed data are (5) with (4.28%) percent. For example;

(31) "The queen will live on due to her immortality".

Another function of hyperbolic forms is clarification. Its frequency is (7) times and its ratio is (5.98%) percent. For example;

(32) "The ministry of satanic misinformation really wants you to believe this nonsense".

There is another function that have instances in the collected data, namely vagueness. It records (3) occurrences with (2.56%) percent. For example;

(33) "50000 deaths from cancer, millions waiting for operations, suicides etc. More people dying but not from covid 19".

One more function which comes with a number of frequencies is irony. It occurs (4) times making up (3.42%) percent of the data. For example;

(34) "So after all this time these geniuses decided that everyone should stay at home".

The Results

Based on the analyzed data the following are the concluded remarks reached at:

1. Hyperbolic forms that magnify the item talked about in the news are more frequent than the minifying forms due to the nature of the news which mainly concentrate on coronavirus.
2. All the linguistic forms of hyperbole have frequencies in the collected data.
3. Among the lexical forms, nouns record the highest frequency followed by the adjectives.
4. An intensive use of the grammatical form is apparent in the collected data.
5. Seven types of functions have been identified in the collected data, namely evaluation, emphasis, intensification, humor, clarification, vagueness, irony.
6. The most prominent function is evaluation. Although both negative and positive evaluation have frequencies in the data, yet the frequency of the negative evaluation is higher.

Conclusions

Exaggeration is a common human inclination in everyday settings, and it gets worse the more serious the circumstance is. These days, internet comments on news stories are one of the many ways that this exaggeration manifests itself. According to this study, people utilize the different linguistic forms which supports their tendency to exaggerate and indicates how much anxiety and dread they are experiencing. It also shows that the most common hyperbolic function in comments is negative evaluation,

which might be linked to people's lack of trust in the actions of the governments.

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Appendix I

Get the latest information from the WHO about coronavirus.

OMMENTS	THE HYPERBOLIC ITEM	THE LEXICAL FORM	THE FUNCTION	MAGNIFY/ MINIFY HYPERBOLE
Ken Shilcock 3 months ago I see a lot of people on here finding increasingly impressive conspiracy excuses for not having to care about their neighbours	Increasingly impressive conspiracy excuses	Metaphor	Evaluation/ negative	Magnify
Mark Pullinger 3 months ago Your becoming a big joke,irritating & a broken record 3 REPLY	Your Becoming a big joke, irritating & a broken record	Clausal hyperbole	Evaluation/ negative	Minify
John Cath 3 months ago STAY AT HOME and DON'T BUY ANY CHINESE PRODUCTS! Enough FEEDING Viruses! 5 REPLY	Enough feeding the virus	Metaphor	Evaluation/ negative	Minify
William Saunders 3 months ago Liars	Lairs	Single words/ noun	Evaluation/ negative	Minify
Andy Anderson 3 months ago So after all this time these geniuses decided that everyone should stay at home. 2 REPLY	Geniuses	Single words/ noun	Irony	Magnify
dean bryce 3 months ago Its a joke, Argos warehouses could close down and staff be forced into Sainsbruy's warehouses putting workers at risk and forcing staff to travel over 40 miles to get there, why should people follow the rules when companies are not 5 REPLY	Joke	Single words/ noun	Evaluation/ negative	Minify
View 4 replies Giovani Lourenço 3 months ago China comunism virus 4 REPLY	China communism virus	Phrasal hyperbole	Evaluation/ negative	Magnify
Jessica John 3 months ago Lies lies lies nothings for the NHS 3 REPLY	Lies lies lies	Repetition	Evaluation/ negative	Minify
Apostolo Forrest Gump 3 months ago UK sinners and atheist people REPLY	UK sinners and atheist people	Clausal hyperbole	Evaluation/ negative	Minify

Appendix II

Coronavirus: 5-year-old child is youngest victim as deaths rise - BBC News

COMMENTS	THE HYPERBOLIC ITEM	THE LEXICAL FORM	THE FUNCTION	MAGNIFY/ MINIFY HYPERBOLE
A Nother 3 months ago (edited) Really breaks my heart, the child must have felt so scared all alone, without his mummy beside him to hold him, they love him, innocent baby died all alone. 274 REPLY View 43 replies	Really breaks my heart	Clausal hyperbole	Evaluation / positive	Magnify
Dr Gunsmith 3 months ago Heartbreaking, I have kids that age, god only knows how they are feeling, my condolences and RIP little on 101 REPLY View 3 replies	Heartbreaking	Single words/ noun	Evaluation / positive	Magnify
TheDuranceFurnace 3 months ago Country in lock down; "Hey, let's go out each night and listen to a concert." Genius, when the zombie virus comes these are the people who will kill us all. 151 REPLY	The zombie virus	Phrasal hyperbole	Evaluation / negative	Magnify
Simply Gina on YouTube 3 months ago (edited) This is the hardest part. Babies and children	This is the hardest part	Clausal hyperbole	Evaluation / positive	Magnify

Hyperbole in People's Online Comments to Coronavirus News: A Pragma-linguistic Study

Species 443764 Breen 3 months ago — Agenda21 5g mandatory vaccinations the elites plan to destroy human culture — 2 REPLY	**Agenda**	**Single words/ noun**	**Evaluation / negative**	**Magnify**
Rashid Junusbekov 3 months ago (edited) — This heralds an ominous outlook for the immediate future. My heart goes out to the victim family and the pau... — 20 REPLY	**The heralds an ominous outlook**	**Metaphor**	**Evaluation / negative**	**Magnify**
Christine Stange 3 months ago (edited) — Deepest sympathy to the little one's family ....from Upstate NY us — 2 REPLY	**Deepest sympathy**	**Superlative**	**Evaluation / positive**	**Magnify**
Stig200 3 months ago — I'm going to cancel my TV licence I'm so fed up with this crap on TV!! — 14 REPLY	**I'm so fed up with this crap on TV**	**Clausal hyperbole**	**Evaluation / negative**	**Magnify**
reece piechowicz 3 months ago — Don't believe anything the new tells you they are criminal that remove any negative attention towards them st and lie lie lie — 6 REPLY	**Lie lie lie**	**Repetition**	**Evaluation / negative**	**Minify**
M N 3 months ago — It's heart broken — 1 REPLY	**heart broken**	**Single words/ noun**	**Evaluation / positive**	**Magnify**
paco el chocolatero 3 months ago — Condolonces to family That's is tragic .... — 6 REPLY	**Tragic**	**Single words/ adjective**	**Evaluation / positive**	**Magnify**
Sheeple are Lame 3 months ago — It is inexcusable! BBC hide behind the official secrets act to keep quiet on the deaths of 10'000's kids, who were exp trafficked & killed for profit by UK establishment grooming gangs.	**inexcusable**	**Single words/ adjective**	**Evaluation / negative**	**Magnify**
Food Curls 3 months ago — Covidiots having a BBQ and being selfish... — 2 REPLY	**Covidiots**	**Metaphor**	**Evaluation / negative**	**Minify**
Kristina S 3 months ago (edited) — Any child loss is so tragic. No one is safe. Not even children. The youngest victim of infection (not in UK) was a 6 w baby. — 2 REPLY	**Tragic**	**Single words/ adjective**	**Evaluation / positive**	**Magnify**
Consumer JTC 3 months ago — What underlying health condition? Suspiciously vague — 3 REPLY	**Suspiciously**	**Single words/ adverb**	**Evaluation / negative**	**Magnify**
Heidi Stinton 3 months ago — To all on tv keeping us entertained to forget reality of life of this horrific virus pandemic.keep safe.than... — REPLY	**Horrific**	**Single words/ adjective**	**Evaluation / negative**	**Magnify**
Shannon Sharpe 3 months ago — Will there be continuous waves again — REPLY	**Continuous**	**Single words/ adjective**	**Emphasis**	**Magnify**
matilda mutale 3 months ago — Am broken — REPLY	**Am broken**	**Clausal hyperbole**	**Evaluation / positive**	**Magnify**
A. Person 3 months ago — Is heartbreaking — We are going to loose more people around the world and this has just started. Team work stay home Sending love from Norway NO — 4 REPLY	**Heartbreaking**	**Single words/ noun**	**Evaluation / positive**	**Magnify**
Christine Stange 3 months ago (edited) — Deepest sympathy to the little one's family ....from Upstate NY us — 2 REPLY	**Deepest sympathy**	**Superlative**	**Evaluation / positive**	**Magnify**

	The Hyperbolic Item	The Lexical Form	The Function	Magnify/Minify
Valencia A Pillar In God's Temple 3 months ago My Deepest Condolences Go Out To His Family and friends, May the Holy Spirit Comfort you in these times 5 REPLY	Deepest condolence	Superlative	Evaluation / positive	Magnify
Vigilant Mind 3 months ago heart felt condolence to the child's family REPLY	Heartfelt	Single words/ adjective	Evaluation / positive	Magnify
Colourwheel 3 months ago What a heart break. REPLY	What a heart break	Clausal hyperbole	Evaluation / positive	Magnify
MDF 1 3 months ago VERY VERY SAD NEWS, AND i WOULD LIKE TO EXPRESS MY DEEPEST SYMPATHY TO THIS FAMILY AND ALL THE OTHER FA WHO HAVE LOST A LOVED ONE TO THIS OUTBREAK. BUT WHY HAVE WE STILL GOT AIRCRAFT FULL OF PASSENGERS FROM COVID-19 AFFECTED COUNTRIES LANDING AT UK. Read more REPLY	Deepest sympathy	Superlative	Evaluation / positive	Magnify
vijay parihar 3 months ago Irreparable loss to family❤️ may his soul rest in peace. REPLY	Irreparable	Single words/ adjective	Intensification	Magnify
Zhengye Chen 3 months ago So sad! Deepest condolence to the family. REPLY	Deepest condolence	Superlative	Evaluation / positive	Magnify
Max Delpo 3 months ago Heartbroken 1 REPLY	Heartbroken	Single words/ noun	Evaluation / positive	Magnify
Kinky Lissa 3 months ago The most dangerous virus on this planet is humankind itself. 7 REPLY	The most dangerous virus on this planet is humankind itself	Clausal hyperbole	Evaluation / negative	Magnify
CHELLO BELLO 3 months ago Suspiciously no mention of herd immunity from the media houses.Its as if they were threatened not to use those REPLY	Suspiciously	Single words/ adverb	Evaluation / negative	Magnify
JLP Design 3 months ago I just simply do not believe these figures. They seem fabricated to me. 1 REPLY	Fabricated	Single words/ adjective	Evaluation / negative	Minify
JAQ GALLIER 3 months ago Family interview? Its just a faceless statistic 1 REPLY	Faceless	Single words/ adjective	Evaluation / negative	Minify

Appendix III

Coronavirus: The Queen gives special address during pandemic - BBC News

COMMENTS	THE HYPERBOLIC ITEM	THE LEXICAL FORM	THE FUNCTION	MAGNIFY/ MINIFY HYPERBOLE
Innovative Developers 3 months ago I am currently 27, and I think she will live longer than me. 1.5K REPLY	She will live longer than me	Clausal hyperbole	Humor	Magnify
Mugtree 3 months ago Absolutely love the Queen. An absolutely perfect speech but a wonderful monarch. God save the Queen. 12 REPLY	Absolutely perfect	Phrasal hyperbole	Evaluation/ positive	Magnify
TheDark Knut 3 months ago (edited) "We'll meet again.. in your next lives yeh mortals!" 89 REPLY	In your next lives	Metaphor	Humor	Magnify

Hyperbole in People's Online Comments to Coronavirus News: A Pragma-linguistic Study

COMMENTS	THE HYPERBOLIC ITEM	THE LEXICAL FORM	THE FUNCTION	MAGNIFY/MINIFY HYPERBOLE
Oliver Mason 3 months ago — Atleast if everyone dies, the queen will live on due to her immortality — 952 REPLY	The queen will live on due to her immortality	Clausal hyperbole	Humor	Magnify
Nawaf Abolola 3 months ago — I just realized this is the first time I heard the queen speak... mind blowing.... — 6 REPLY	Mind blowing	Phrasal hyperbole	Evaluation/ negative	Magnify
A Cat Called Sonsie 3 months ago — She is just perfect. Loved her message. — 43 REPLY	just perfect	Phrasal hyperbole	Evaluation/ positive	Magnify
TheGamingPolitician 3 months ago — Ah yes, the immortal one — 83 REPLY	The immortal one	Phrasal hyperbole	Humor	Magnify
absolutely amazing 3 months ago — Long live her majesty the queen♥, entirely inspiring words — REPLY	Entirely inspiring words	Phrasal hyperbole	Evaluation/ positive	Magnify
Hixiro 3 months ago — World finally gets hit by the sun* — Everybody: dead* — The queen: 3 billion years old — Show less — 509 REPLY	The queen 3 billion years old	Phrasal hyperbole	Humor	Magnify

Appendix IV

Coronavirus funerals: the cruel impact on families of the dead - BBC News

COMMENTS	THE HYPERBOLIC ITEM	THE LEXICAL FORM	THE FUNCTION	MAGNIFY/ MINIFY HYPERBOLE
ABHILASH JHA 3 months ago — the biggest nightmare for any person when u are not able to say a final goodbye to someone special. — 147 REPLY	The biggest nightmare	Metaphor	Clarification	Magnify
suah coco 3 months ago — This virus truly devilish in every way shape nd form...die alone, suffer alone and mourn alone — 62 REPLY	Truly devilish	Phrasal hyperbole	Evaluation/ negative	Magnify
biffalump 3 months ago — Listening to the pain of these people is hard I don't know what to say I'm heartbroken for you — 3 REPLY	Heartbroken	Single words/ noun	Evaluation/ positive	Magnify
Julie-Anne Myers 3 months ago — God bless this family losing both parents. It breaks my heart to think that could be us grieving. — 3 REPLY	Breaks my heart	Clausal hyperbole	Evaluation/ positive	Magnify
Sri Rao 3 months ago — Its heart wrenching — 50 REPLY	It's heart wrenching	Clausal hyperbole	Evaluation/ positive	Magnify
Robinson Homes 3 months ago — Absolutely terrible,my heart goes out — 7 REPLY	Absolutely terrible	Phrasal hyperbole	Evaluation/ negative	Magnify
pascal pascal 3 months ago — Menh this thing is so heart breaking,I just wanna wake up from this nightmare — 2 REPLY	Heartbreaking	Single words/ noun	Evaluation/ positive	Magnify
Anna Palang 3 months ago — Heart Breaking is happining now .. I remember the song of Sam Smith To die alone — REPLY	Heartbreaking	Single words/ noun	Evaluation/ positive	Magnify
steviegdoeslife 3 months ago — Absolutely heartbreaking. Bless them x — 6 REPLY	Absolutely heartbreaking	Phrasal hyperbole	Evaluation/ positive	Magnify

terry khan 3 months ago That's absolutely painful 👍 9 👎 REPLY	**Absolutely painful**	**Phrasal hyperbole**	**Evaluation/ positive**	**Magnify**
Marjie Toney 3 months ago This just breaks my heart 💔🥺 👍 👎 REPLY	**Breaks my heart**	**Phrasal hyperbole**	**Evaluation/ positive**	**Magnify**
Olivias Flowers 3 months ago Deepest condolences 💜 👍 5 👎 REPLY	**Deepest condolence**	**Superlative**	**Evaluation/ positive**	**Magnify**
i Kat 3 months ago This is so heart breaking 🥺❤️ 👍 👎 REPLY	**Heartbreaking**	**Single words/ noun**	**Evaluation/ positive**	**Magnify**
gil g 3 months ago This is truly heartbreaking, very moving 👍 👎 REPLY	**Truly heartbreaking**	**Phrasal hyperbole**	**Evaluation/ positive**	**Magnify**
Deez Nutz 3 months ago The (M)inistry of (S)atanic (M)isinformation really wants you to believe this nonsense. 👍 2 👎 REPLY	**The ministry of satanic misinformation**	**Metaphor**	**Clarification**	**Magnify**
Rupak Mahto 3 months ago Heart breaking 👍 👎 REPLY	**Heartbreaking**	**Single words/ noun**	**Evaluation/ positive**	**Magnify**
Kostas Georgiu 3 months ago heartbreaking... 👍 1 👎 REPLY	**Heartbreaking**	**Single words/ noun**	**Evaluation/ positive**	**Magnify**
ht moh 3 months ago Today we may be watching this, tomorrow it may be us. Tragic. 👍 1 👎 REPLY	**Tragic**	**Single words/ adjective**	**Evaluation/ positive**	**Magnify**
S K 3 months ago Heart braking! Rip everyone that did win the horrible fight with the invisible enemy, may God watch all over us 👍 1 👎 REPLY	**Heartbreaking**	**Single words/ noun**	**Evaluation/ positive**	**Magnify**
Blue Orbiter Corporation 3 months ago Propaganda. 👍 👎 REPLY	**Propaganda**	**Single words/ noun**	**Evaluation/ negative**	**Magnify**
Jiji CV 3 months ago Jesus is coming soon🙏 👍 8 👎 REPLY	**Jesus is coming soon**	**Clausal hyperbole**	**Vagueness**	**Magnify**

Appendix V

Coronavirus: Could there be a second wave? - BBC News

COMMENTS	THE HYPERBOLIC ITEM	THE LEXICAL FORM	THE FUNCTION	Magnify/ minify
Carlos Martinez 1 month ago Not one doctor on TV tells us to strengthen our immune system: vitamins, eat right, sunlight. Only vaccines and drugs. Why?	Not one doctor	Phrasal hyperbole	Clarification	Minify
fran bran 1 month ago A man made virus does not come in waves it is a bio weapon and when assessed it goes away for the most part. This virus has done its job world lock down, economic disaster and people afraid to even go near each other. This virus is to change a election thats the bottom line 3 REPLY	Bioweapon	Single words/ noun	Evaluation/ negative	Magnify
Cash Johnson 1 month ago @fran bran The real virus is people like you dragging our humanity down. I'm ashamed to be living on the same planet as some of you idiots out there, so I'm going back to my planet. Don't make me tip your flat planet, you're going to fall right of it.	The real virus like you dragging our humanity down	Simile	Evaluation/ negative	Magnify
Wizdumb37 1 month ago 50,000 deaths from cancer, millions waiting for operations, suicides etc! More people dying but not from covid19 33 REPLY	Millions	Single words/ noun	Vagueness	Magnify
andrew esson 1 month ago Only a mass media thing. I pay my tv licence and all I get is hysteria!not one bbc journalist is doing any investigation journalism. 21 REPLY View 4 replies	Hysteria	Metaphor	Evaluation/ negative	Magnify
Callie 1 month ago this is the future. world war 3 of bio weapons and drone bombs. 26 REPLY View 10 replies	World war 3 of bioweapon and drone bombs	Metaphor	Evaluation/ negative	Magnify
Wai lin 1 month ago Covid 19 make stupids sound intelligent on the internet lol. 14 REPLY	Stupid sound intelligent	Phrasal hyperbole	Irony	Minify
Fake 1 month ago There's going to be a second, third, and so on! Second wave will be the implementation of phive ggggg. The symptoms are the same as the flu. Mass death.... 25 REPLY View 8 replies	Mass death	Phrasal hyperbole	Vagueness	Magnify
Rosemary Griffin 1 month ago (edited) and the tyranny of people being locked up in their own prison cells continues, courtesy of big brother, wake up we have lost our freedom, never to return as before, to a fake reality! 13 REPLY View 6 replies	The tyranny of people being locked up in their own prison cells continues	Metaphor	Evaluation/ negative	Magnify
Gary Thom 1 month ago Hmm a second wave of social and economic suppression you mean? Definitely.. 14 REPLY View 15 replies	Definitely	Single words/ adverb	Emphasis	Magnify

Comment	Expression	Type	Evaluation	Function
Robert Lyons — IF YOU really think, that if you take the vaccine, All this is going away and the new normal is just a illusion, Enjoy your Nuggets at McDonald's.	Illusion	Single words/ noun	Evaluation/ negative	Minify
scott lomas — Well as this hole event was planned in event 201 by Bill gates and his crew I'm sure there will be waves 2345678910 mark of the beast.	Waves 2345678910 mark of the beast	Phrasal hyperbole	Emphasis	Magnify
Albert Pike — Anthrax, bird flu and even the deadly 1918 Spanish flu are being toyed around with in secret government biological weapons programs. How safe do you feel?	Biological weapon programs	Metaphor	Evaluation/ negative	Magnify
Jose Calvo Sotelo — this whole thing is designed to introduce a CASHLESS banking system. its all a lie.	Cashless banking system	Phrasal hyperbole	Evaluation/ negative	Magnify
Miele Rodriguez — The BBC would love a 2nd wave but it will be next flu season. This was not the virus we were sold. END THE LOCKDOWN! Our country is sleep walking into a totalitarian state.	Our country is sleep walking into a totalitarian state	Metaphor	Evaluation/ negative	Magnify
AlmostBipedal — There is no second wave. It's the first wave that everyone's been hiding from, finally catching up with you when you come out. The media is giving the impression that it's some kind of super intelligent virus, and it's been sneaky, and readapted to catch you. They just love to control public perception and perspective.	Super intelligent	Comparative	Evaluation/ negative	Minify
Elizabeth Francis — It's NEVER going to end. Many more will die of starvation than from the coronascam	It's never going to end	Clausal hyperbole	Emphasis	Magnify
Mathius S — Yes there will be a so called "second wave" this will be the one to try and force the public into mandatory vaccinations and social monitoring, welcome to new world order folks! If most of the experts that enforced these lock down restrictions on us aren't following the very rules they made, but instead having dirty weekends with married People, we know something is definitely not right.	Definitely	Single words/ adverb	Emphasis	Magnify
TRANZLIFT416 — There could be wave after wave until it finishes us all off.	Until it finishes us all off	Clausal hyperbole	Emphasis	Magnify
paul hoskin — It's like being at the beach you know the waves are coming and there's nothing you can do the stop it	It's like being at the beach	Simile	Irony	Minify
Dr FUNKist — Unbelievable!!!... he went straight saying... 'Swine Flu have had second wave'... failing to mention that SARS (more likely similar to COVID-19) never had second wave... Media of The Republic of Fear...	Unbelievable	Single words/ adjective	Evaluation/ negative	Minify
Catina28 — Great video keeping our fears alive... The best part of the past is, people didn't have to deal with constant media propaganda. They just took each day as it came and those who survived survived. I for one feel more panicky than ever after watching that. Hello depression	The best part of the past	Comparative	Evaluation/ positive	Magnify

COMMENTS	THE HYPERBOLIC ITEM	THE LEXICAL FORM	THE FUNCTION	Magnify/ minify
Will Taylor 1 month ago Considering in 3 weeks time half of all children will be back at school and many more will be back in the work place, the virus will spread like wild fire so yes, there likely will be a second wave because of how quickly the government will escalate things after 2 months of nothing REPLY	The virus will spread like wild fire	Simile	Clarification	Magnify
john smith 1 month ago Any decent media would try to inject an element of rationality into this but no ramp up the hysteria 1 REPLY	The hysteria	Single words/ noun	Evaluation/ negative	Magnify
shadow shadoooow 1 month ago The only danger is You ,yes you BBC. stop this disinformation tactics . I hope people will take BBc to court, for unnecessary dead's caused by fear . 8 REPLY	Disinformation tactics	Metaphor	Evaluation/ negative	Minify
Matt Rose 1 month ago The lockdown is basically over as people have seen through the bullshit! Good luck trying to put us into another lockdown/extend this one because it ain't happening, the power of the people always wins! 8 REPLY ▾ View 3 replies	The power of people always wins	Metaphor	Intensificatio n	Magnify
Shield999 1 month ago They are lying to you folks, they lie. That is what demons do. Know your rulers. Live the truth! REPLY	That is what demons do	Metaphor	Clarification	Magnify
Blue Diamond 1 month ago Why do I feel this media and government are trying to scare us into getting this poisonous vaccine- sorry for the ones who want it , you'd are getting led like lambs to the slaughter 23 REPLY	You are getting led like lambs to the slaughter	Simile	Clarification	Magnify
M D 1 month ago 1000% there will be 1 REPLY	1000%	Numerical hyperbole	Emphasis	Magnify
Manchester United 1 month ago I'm guessing the third wave during winter will be the worse when nhs will be overwhelmed. Not many people will have there will be more preventable deaths REPLY	More preventable deaths	Comparative	Clarification	Magnify
elaine elaine 1 month ago A second wave is inevitable!! Many more waves to come until we've all had it. Or until there's a vaccine which realistically won't be for another 3 years 3 REPLY	Inevitable	Single words/ adjective	Emphasis	Magnify
Israeldiegorivera2 Genius2 1 month ago BBC propaganda, Jimmy Saville news service, there was no first wave, the whole thing is a Masonic scam.	masonic scam	Metaphor	Evaluation/ negative	Magnify

Appendix VI

Coronavirus: US records highest death toll in single day - BBC News

COMMENTS	THE HYPERBOLIC ITEM	THE LEXICAL FORM	THE FUNCTION	Magnify/ minify

Jonathan Brown 3 months ago — Every day above ground is a bonus. 126 REPLY	**Every day above ground is a bonus**	**Clausal hyperbole**	**Evaluation/ negative**	**Magnify**
Hangrui Liu 3 months ago — Lockdown, no "human right" Not lockdown, No HUMAN LEFT. 282 REPLY — View 27 replies	**No human left**	**Phrasal hyperbole**	**Evaluation/ negative**	**Magnify**
Maxwell X 3 months ago — "Tell me lies tell me sweet little lies" 43 REPLY	**Sweet little lies**	**Phrasal hyperbole**	**Evaluation/ negative**	**Minify**
Jaguer91 3 months ago — This can't be real, americans are always the heroes in every movie! The most powerful country in the world... I guess reality is not as exciting.	**This can't be real**	**Clausal hyperbole**	**Evaluation/ negative**	**Minify**
smoozerish 3 months ago — When this crisis is over it will clearly demonstrate how the ultra capitalist countries such as the US and the UK have underfunded their health systems for so many decades in the pursuit of individualism and naked greed over the general well being of the populous. 21 REPLY — View 2 replies	**Naked greed**	**Phrasal hyperbole**	**Evaluation/ negative**	**Minify**
I talk To walls 3 months ago — We all wanted to survive an apocalypse, I think it's all coming together. 87 REPLY	**Apocalypse**	**Metaphor**	**Evaluation/ negative**	**Magnify**
Sonya Vincent 3 months ago — His exciting messy hairdo makes him.more valuable than the average person. 82 REPLY	**More valuable**	**Comparative**	**Irony**	**Magnify**
Ben Cheong 3 months ago — Many americans are obese so having this virus is like having a key to the death door.. 38 REPLY	**Like Having a key to the death door**	**Simile**	**Evaluation/ negative**	**Magnify**
Prof L Axis 3 months ago — Trump and Boris should be updated each moment a person dies. 17 REPLY	**Trump and Boris should be updated each moment a person dies**	**Clausal hyperbole**	**Evaluation/ negative**	**Magnify**
Robert Shapley 3 months ago — Hmm... I didn't know I was watching Chinese propaganda	**Chinese propaganda**	**Phrasal hyperbole**	**Evaluation/ negative**	**Magnify**
Arvin Ansok 3 months ago — That's an alternative to a nuclear blast... 2 REPLY — View 4 replies	**Alternative to a nuclear blast**	**Phrasal hyperbole**	**Evaluation/ negative**	**Magnify**
CrackMonkey 3 months ago — Steve McDonald "it doesnt matter if loads of people die" 5 REPLY	**Loads**	**Single words/ noun**	**Evaluation/ negative**	**Magnify**

	Purposely	Single words/ adverb	Intensification	Magnify
elizabeth johnson 3 months ago Why do they purposely kill us giving no protective gear to caretakers of covid. this is a good conspiracy to kill off people. 3 REPLY				
beejum ittahb 3 months ago highest death toll in a single day ! - we in the USA like to be the best at everything : (1 REPLY	The best	Superlative	Evaluation/ negative	Magnify
Diane O'Donovan 3 months ago Politicians who have put the nations people in peril for the sake of their political image should be sued after the pandemic passes - by the relatives of those who have died as a result of political disinformation. 9 REPLY	Peril	Single words/ noun	Evaluation/ negative	Mag nify