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Hyperbole in English

Non-literal language is ubiquitous in everyday life, and while hyperbole is a major part of this, it has so far remained relatively unexplored. This volume provides the first investigation of hyperbole in English, drawing on data from genres such as spoken conversation, TV, newspapers and literary works from Chaucer to Monty Python. Combining quantitative and qualitative analyses, it uses approaches from semantics, pragmatics, discourse analysis and classical rhetoric, to investigate in detail both speaker-centred and emotive aspects of hyperbole, and also addressee-related aspects such as interpretation and interactional uptake. Illustrated with a range of diachronic case studies, hyperbole is also shown to be a main means of linguistic creativity and an important contributor to language change. The book concludes with an exploration of the role of hyperbole in political speaking, humour and literature. Original and in-depth, it will be invaluable to all those working on meaning, discourse and historical linguistics.

CLAUDIA CLARIDGE is Chair in English Linguistics at the Universität Duisburg-Essen, Germany. She is one of the compilers of the *Lampeter Corpus of Early Modern English Tracts* and is the author of *Multi-word Verbs in Early Modern English* (2000), based on the above corpus. Her main research interests lie in the fields of historical linguistics, pragmatics, discourse studies and corpus linguistics. Within these fields, she has published articles on such diverse topics as irony, similes/comparison, superlatives, questions, conditionals and discourse deixis. She has also contributed articles to various recent handbooks, such as the *Handbook of Corpus Linguistics* (2008) and the *Handbook of Historical Pragmatics* (2010).

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CLAUDIA CLARIDGE

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Hyperbole is still a largely under-researched field, in particular in contrast to the wealth of material available on other figures of speech such as metaphor and irony. This book aims to shed new light on a number of interesting aspects of hyperbole.

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