

7. OF EXAGGERATION

Dibakar Pal

Civil Servant in India and PhD Student
Kolkata India

E-mail: dibakarpal786@gmail.com

ORCID iD <http://orcid.org/0000-0002-7769-5707>

Abstract:

*Creative writing does not inform rather reveals. So it bears no reference. The present article is an outcome of creative writing meant for lay readers. As such free style is the methodology adopted so that pleasure of reading can be enjoyed by the common mass. As you know well that Francis Bacon (1561-1626), the immortal essayist, wrote many essays namely *Of Love, Of Friendship, Of Ambition, Of Studies, etc.* The myriad-minded genius rightly pointed out that all the words of the dictionary can be the themes of essays one can write. But little has been done, in this regard since his death, in order to finish his unfinished monumental works. In fact Bacon's way of presentation i.e., his unique individual style kindled the imagination already in me and encouraged me as well to write essays, in the light of creative writing, thus to get relief through Catharsis.*

Keywords

Exaggeration; Human nature; moral values; violence

OF EXAGGERATION

Exaggeration means to make something seem larger, better, worse, etc than it really is. It is beyond limits of truth that creates doubt. It is a negative factor. So everybody is afraid of it. But nobody can avoid it. It causes irritation. It causes annoyance. Thus exaggerated remarks ultimately aggravate the target person. A fool or a wicked person exaggerates. A wise person neither fabricates the fact nor manufactures a new one. Similarly an innocent soul describes a fact unchanged and states it as it is.

Human nature is to exaggerate to gain something. This gain may either be classical or commercial or both simultaneously. Everybody tries to magnify his good traits and minimize his faults thus to win both ways. Emotion makes one blind. It kills clarity of

thought. It escorts a lover in the kingdom of romance, far from the madding crowd. Emotion of the lover exaggerates the good traits of his fiancée hundred times and allures to love her. Later on when emotion is replaced by reality then faults of fiancée are exaggerated thousand times automatically and compel him to depart her mercilessly.

Both of these events are striking examples of exaggeration and happen at the beckon of emotion. Exaggeration when is rendered for mere enjoyment, there lies no problem. At that jovial moment fact is fabricated and colored as per the sweet will of the narrators. Each of the narrators joins the competition of exaggeration. Since, they have no base and no brake at all, they stretch the truth with immense power of imagination. But it is too bad if this is used as a weapon to defame or harm to others.

Man beats his own drum with much intensity to gain name, fame and win the game. Due to exaggeration original story remains a mystery. As such they say, in history the names are real but the fact is either full of intentional exaggeration or suppression or both. So it is the topic of research to the scholars to find out the truth. Problem arises if a single topic is exaggerated differently by different scholars.

Exaggeration may be good or bad. It is good when the suffering of a third person is highlighted with more care by a second person. Here moral values are manifested. Mother always exaggerates the pain of her children due to affection. Here affection becomes indulgence due to exaggeration. It is a bad example of exaggeration, since much indulgence gives birth to prodigal son. Children are the future of any nation. But prodigal sons are the headache of the parents and thereby liability of the society at large due to their violent attitude.

Through exaggeration man serves and satisfies his emotion. Many men, many minds. Different minds have different ways of getting satisfaction. Also they do differ in degree and dimension. Exaggeration thereby expression discloses one's identity. These various expressions are as follows.

Microscope magnifies any specimen to gather knowledge. But a wicked person tends to magnify the faults of people he dislikes. A political leader always intensifies the minimum fault of the opponent to the highest degree. As a result anger of opponent is increased thus

provoking to take revenge. Some extrovert and jovial persons exaggerate to make their stories more amusing. It kills the time and supplies oxygen to a tired nerve. Idle persons always exaggerate difficulties. Similarly, a wicked person speaks for distance and difficulties when his interest is not served, but he shows no excuse when his purpose is served. Greatly or wildly or grossly exaggerated claims seldom pay. These being false and elaborate in nature easily arises doubt.

Exaggerated laughter is meant for annoyance and causes annoyance. This laughter continues till the target person reacts. This reaction either may be violent or tender in nature depending on the personality trait of the concerned person. Sometimes a gentleman may remain aloof and the laughter disappears automatically thus not getting desired reciprocation. Exaggerated politeness has two probabilities. Either the person is a true gentleman or a finished scoundrel.

A leader always tends to overplay his role in the negotiations. The union invites danger overplaying its hand in the dispute. The hyperbole of union leader like typical travel guide does not pay always, since the language deliberately and obviously exaggerate for effect.

Some one acquires ill-fame for exaggeration of small problem or incident into an enormous one for his personal gain. Then no one believes him. He thus digs his own grave. Press also dramatizes likewise either exaggerating or minimizing the fact. In case of crisis press has important role. When a secular state experiences communal riot, then the press must not cater the fact widely. If so then panic will capture the whole country thus disturbing peace and harmony.

Some one may have fondness for overstatement. He must be careful to overstate any case. A gross overstatement of the economic benefits may cause net loss. But the importance of a good education can never be overstated. The necessity of adequate preparation for examination cannot be overemphasized. Estimation is of three kinds, overestimation, underestimation and proper estimation. The first two are the examples of exaggeration. The former if be positive in nature, then the second one is liable for negation. A fool seldom estimates properly. It overestimates when it should do opposite and vice versa thus experiences twin loss.

Amplification means explanation or clarification but never exaggeration. It is elaboration i.e., to describe or explain something in greater detail. If elaboration is not proper ambiguity or opaqueness misguides. If a person's power, rank, importance, etc. are increased he suffers from



superiority complex which provokes him to tall talks through exaggeration. His sole aim is personal aggrandizement.

Exactness is the enemy of exaggeration. A liar exaggerates but an honest person always speaks the truth. Truth is one and singular. But exaggeration is plural and many. Hence it gives birth to many lies. So it deals different lies differently.

Exaggeration is the alias of rumor which is faster than wind in propagation. He who has an inflated sense of his own importance is sure to fall. Inflated language i.e., full of impressive words but little meaning renders him a laughing stock. Such a person does suffer from superiority complex that invites distance and gives birth to hatred. Many times reports of hooliganism are grossly inflated by the press. This yellow journalism defames the press. Artificially inflated share prices or inflated salary seldom pay.

Embellishments means to make something beautiful by adding decorations, etc. It is done either to compensate deficiency or draw attraction. It has both aesthetic and commercial essence. In case of woman it ignites lust. A 16th century church with 18th century embellishment highlights the aesthetic essence of the artist. One needs to strip away the embroidery from the official statement, since embroidered details are false, but are added for effect. This malpractice invites unwanted problem to the liar.

Exaggerated description or statement of the witness renders the judgment wrong. Exaggeration needs intellect to make one believe. So whenever a fool overstates he cannot justify his story on interrogation and thereby becomes a laughing stock.

Man hankers after its goal. Many times goal remains unreachable. But he eagerly desires to achieve his objectives. In such a condition he exaggerates his capacity through imagination and dreams that he has attained the unattainable ideal virtually. This hallucination offers him intense heavenly delight that separates him from reality and gives relief. So exaggeration is not always bad. It has positive effect too. Here lies the triumph of temptation of exaggeration.

