

FIGURATIVE LANGUAGE IN “FOUR” ALBUM BY ONE DIRECTION : SEMANTIC ANALYSIS

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Abstrak

This research investigates figurative language in song lyrics, specifically focusing on One Direction's 'Four' album, to uncover deeper meanings and evoke emotional responses. Using a qualitative method, the research collected and analyzed data based on Johnson and Arp's classification of figurative language, which consists of twelve types. The data were collected through careful listening and textual analysis of the album's official lyrics, with findings cross-verified using multiple sources. The findings reveal a total of 66 instances of figurative language in the album, distributed as follows: irony (7 instances, 10.6%), personification (6 instances, 9.1%), symbol (17 instances, 25.75%), metaphor (23 instances, 34.84%), and hyperbole (13 instances, 19.7%). The results indicate that metaphor is the most frequently used type of figurative language in the album. This study highlights the role of popular music as a creative medium for literary expression and provides insight into how figurative language can enhance listener engagement. The findings may serve as a reference for educators and students in the fields of linguistics, literature, and music studies.

Keywords: *Semantics, Figurative Language, Song, One Direction*

A. INTRODUCTION

Language is a fundamental tool that humans use to communicate with one another. Without language, effective communication would be impossible. It is essential for people to interact, exchange information, and connect with others. Harmer (2007) explains that language is commonly used for communication between individuals who do not share the same native (or even secondary) language, highlighting its importance as a basic necessity in human

life. Language plays a significant role in fostering good relationships among people.

In recent years, the study of figurative language in song lyrics has gained increasing attention, as lyrics often carry meanings that go beyond their literal interpretation. Through the use of metaphors, symbols, irony, hyperbole, and other figures of speech, songwriters embed deeper messages that listeners must interpret. This makes song lyrics a rich site for linguistic and literary analysis, especially in the context of popular music which reaches diverse global audiences.

In learning and understanding a language, people not only grasp its structure but also its meaning. There are various ways individuals express their ideas to help others understand and interpret their thoughts. One effective way is through songs. Many people channel their emotions and ideas into songs, which are compositions performed by a singer or played with musical instruments. Songs often carry messages, allowing the creator to share their thoughts and feelings with a wide audience. Nowadays, songs can express a range of emotions and themes, including love, social issues, politics, and more. Through songs, people can communicate with others, making them a powerful medium for conveying ideas and emotions, helping listeners understand the songwriter's intent.

British pop music encompasses a broad range of themes that can be explored from multiple perspectives. Songs have the potential to subtly impact people's lives, making their lyrical content, language use, style, and underlying ideas fascinating subjects of study. Songwriters often employ linguistic techniques to manipulate language in creative ways, going beyond traditional expressions with the use of rhymes, symbols, imagery, metaphors, specific vocabulary, and sounds (Rejeki, 2022; Turner, 1993). As a result, song lyrics can be seen as a form of poetry, crafted in a captivating and melodious manner by songwriters who pay careful attention to word choice, stylistic devices, rhythm, and meaning.

It is widely recognized that songs are a form of literature. However, people often struggle to grasp the songwriter's intended meaning, as the literal words of a song do not always align with the deeper message being conveyed. Songwriters frequently express their ideas implicitly, requiring listeners to look beyond the surface. Understanding the true meaning of a song often demands a deeper level of knowledge and insight.

One Direction, one of the most influential British pop bands of the 2010s, has produced songs that resonate with millions of listeners worldwide. Their album "Four," which debuted at number one on the US Billboard 200 (Billboard, 2014), presents not only catchy melodies but also lyrics filled with emotionally charged figurative language. Despite its commercial success and widespread popularity, there is a lack of academic analysis on the figurative language within their songs. Exploring the figurative expressions in this album can uncover hidden meanings, emotional subtexts, and cultural messages that may not be immediately apparent to the average listener.

Understanding how One Direction uses figurative language in "Four" is important for several reasons. It offers insight into how language shapes emotional and aesthetic experiences in music. Then it provides a deeper understanding of how pop culture communicates complex feelings and ideas through poetic devices. It contributes to the broader field of literary and linguistic studies by highlighting the role of popular music as a legitimate subject of academic inquiry.

This study focuses on figurative language because it offers rich opportunities for exploration, as authors use it to convey deeper meanings in their works. Figurative language refers to the use of expressive linguistic tools that transcend literal interpretation to convey deeper meanings and evoke vivid imagery (Kamarizki & Wuryandari, 2022). According to Johnson and Arp (2017), figurative language consists of figures of speech that should not be taken literally. From these definitions, it can be concluded that figurative language plays a stylistic role in imparting additional meaning to literary works beyond the literal interpretation of words.

Motivated by an interest in figurative language, this study focuses on the figurative

expressions found primarily in the lyrics of album "Four.". Based on this context, the researcher will conduct a study titled "The Analysis of Figurative Language Used in the Lyrics of 'Album "Four"' by One Direction."

1.1. Figurative Language

According to Johnson and Arp (2017), figurative language refers to expressions that shouldn't be interpreted solely in a literal sense. Several studies have been conducted by previous researchers. Imro'atul Husna Afriani (2014) analyzed figurative language in the lyrics of Michael Jackson's "Heal the World." Her findings revealed the presence of various figurative language elements in the song, along with their contextual meanings. Similarly, Khadijah Arifah (2016) carried out a study titled "Figurative Language Analysis in Five John Legend's Songs," where she identified the use of figurative language in John Legend's songs. From this, it can be inferred that figurative language plays a stylistic role by adding deeper meaning to literary works beyond the surface-level interpretation of the words.

1.2. Type of Figurative Language

There are 12 types of figurative language: hyperbole, irony, understatement, apostrophe, synecdoche, metonymy, symbol, allegory, paradox, simile, metaphor, and personification (Johnson & Arp, 2017). But in this study, the analyzing is focused into 5 types of figurative language that tend to be used in analyzing the lyrics there are irony, personification, symbol, metaphor, and hyperbole.

a. Irony

Irony is a contrast between expectation and reality. Example: "I knew you were lying, but I still gave in." The speaker's awareness of deception yet continued involvement reflects situational

irony, where their actions contradict logical expectations.

b. Personification

Personification is a figurative language style that attributes human characteristics to inanimate objects, animals, or plants. It differs in how much it encourages readers to imagine these non-human elements in human form (Johnson & Arp, 2017).

Example : I felt like the food kept calling me. (It suggests a strong craving or attraction to the food, as if it were drawing you in.)

c. Symbol

Symbol is a form of figurative language that conveys meaning by using symbols to serve a specific purpose. It can be broadly defined as representing something that signifies more than its literal interpretation (Johnson & Arp, 2017). Example : The eagle symbolizes power and is the national emblem of the United States, embodying longevity and considerable strength.

a. Metaphor

Metaphor is an implicit comparison between two unlike things. Example: "I'm a fool for your love." This suggests the speaker is blinded by love, likening their vulnerability to foolishness.

b. Hyperbole

Hyperbole is a form of figurative language that involves exaggerating actual facts. This exaggeration can be employed in various ways, serving to create an atmosphere that is humorous, imaginative, restrained, convincing, or unconvincing (Johnson & Arp, 2017). Example : There's plenty of food in the cupboard to feed a whole army (it doesn't genuinely believe there is enough food in the cupboard to feed an army. Rather, they are employing hyperbole to emphasize the large quantity of food they possess.)

1.3 Semantic

In language, understanding the meaning of each word is crucial for everyone.

Semantics, a branch of linguistics, is commonly defined in various ways. According to Yule (2006), semantics is the study of the meaning of words, phrases, and sentences as part of language structure. It focuses on the conventional meanings conveyed by the use of words, phrases, and sentences. Saeed (2003) defines semantics as the study of meaning communicated through language.

1.4 Meaning

According to Pateda (2001), noted that there is a connection between names and their meanings. When people envision an object, they instinctively refer to it by name. This highlights the reciprocal relationship between sound and meaning, which defines what a word signifies. In Zainurrahman (2015) meaning can be easily located in dictionaries, where it is understood as the intended concept or message conveyed through language. It represents an idea that exists and is encoded in language, whether in the form of a word, phrase, clause, or sentence. Zuhdah and Alfain (2020) stated there are typically two types of meaning: denotative meaning and connotative meaning.

a. Conotative Meaning

This is the literal or dictionary definition of a word. It refers to the explicit, objective, and factual meaning of a term, free from any emotion, cultural association, or personal interpretation. Example: The word "rose" denotes a type of flower.

b. Denotative Meaning

This refers to the emotional, cultural, or personal associations attached to a word. Connotations are the subjective meanings that go beyond the literal definition and can vary based on context, culture, or individual experience. Example: The word "rose" can connote love, romance, or beauty.

1.5 Song Lyrics

According to Zahro (2010), lyrics are the fundamental words of a song. They are not merely an accompaniment to the music but are a crucial element that defines the song's theme, character, and purpose. Lyrics contribute to the overall meaning of the song. To fully grasp the meaning, one must experience the rhythm, melody, harmony, and vocal performance of the song. The researcher concludes that song lyrics are more than just a component of a song; they are an integral part that enhances the song's value and significance. In this study, song lyrics are defined as text containing meaningful sentences with grammatical elements.

B.METHOD

This study adopts a descriptive qualitative approach to examine the use of figurative language in the lyrics of One Direction's FOUR album. The method focuses on cultural context, emphasizes the research process over final outcomes, allows for a flexible structure, and involves a systematic exploration of social and cultural phenomena. The researcher plays an active role in the study, serving as the primary instrument for data collection and interpretation (Nyoman, 2009).

For the analysis, all songs from the FOUR album were chosen as the main data source, accessed through Spotify. The selection was based on the album's popularity and its thematic unity, which provided a strong basis for investigating figurative expressions. Each track was listened to repeatedly to fully understand its emotional tone, storyline, and language style. Lyrics were transcribed and examined line by line to identify figurative elements such as metaphors, similes, personification, and hyperbole.

The analysis followed Johnson and Arp's theoretical framework, which outlines clear definitions and purposes for various types of figurative language. This framework ensured consistency in identifying and interpreting figurative expressions across the lyrics.

To strengthen the credibility of the findings, data triangulation was employed.

Researchers verified their interpretations by comparing them with existing studies on figurative language in pop music and previous analyses of One Direction's lyrical themes and styles. The team also engaged in peer discussions to minimize personal bias, collaboratively reviewing and refining interpretations. Additional secondary sources, including online lyric platforms, fan analyses, and academic commentary, were consulted to support the primary analysis.

All data collected were carefully organized in an appendix, with only the most relevant examples included in the final analysis. This thorough and reflective approach allowed the study to address its research questions effectively and maintain alignment with both theoretical concepts and contextual understanding.

C.RESULT AND DISCUSSION

RESULT

In this section, the researcher found some data after analysing the songs from the album. The percentage of the figurative language found in the lyrics is shown below :

Figurative Language	Frequency	Percentage
Irony	7	10,6%
Personification	6	9,10%
Symbol	17	25,75%
Metaphor	23	34,84%
Hyperbole	13	19,70%
	66	100%

Table 1. Percentage of Figurative Language Found in 'Four' Album

Based on the table above, it can be seen that there are 5 types found in the album, they are : Irony (7 items or 10,6%), Personification (6 items or 9,10%), Symbol (17 items or 25,75%), Metaphor (23 items or 34,84%), Hyperbole (13 items or 19,70%), and Hyperbole (13 item or 19,70%). It can be

said that the dominant types of figurative language in the album is Metaphor.

In this chapter, the researcher explains the data analysis and findings after examining the lyrics of 4 selected songs from One Direction 'Four' album, which contains a total of 12 songs. Entitled: Night Changes, Steal My Girl, 18 and Fool's Gold. The research data consists of different types of figurative language, each with its own unique characteristics from Perrine's theory. According to Johnson & Arp figurative language has 12 types, but in this study, the analysing is focused into 5 types of figurative language that tend to be used in analyse the lyrics; there are irony, personification, symbol, metaphor, and hyperbole.

A total of 66 data were analysed in this study. The definitions used in the analysis were taken from Oxford Learners Dictionaries

(www.oxfordlearnersdictionaries.com)

accessed online. Meanwhile, song lyrics and information related to songs as data sources were obtained from online media. The data were then organized based on the types of figures of speech and the songs that were the sources to avoid repetition of mentioning data sources if there were similarities in certain types of figures of speech. The data analysis results are:

DISCUSSION

Irony

A irony is a contrast between expectation and reality. In One Direction's album "Four", there are some lyric that includes a irony. This irony appears in the song "18" and "Fools Gold".

Data 1 : "I wanna love like you made me feel when we were eighteen" in song 18.

From the song 18 contains a subtle irony in its longing for a love that once felt perfect and boundless during youth. The

speaker expresses a desire to recapture the innocence and intensity of young love, yet the very act of longing acknowledges that such a feeling may no longer be attainable. This creates an ironic contrast between the idealized memory of love and the reality of growing older, where relationships become more complicated and less spontaneous.

Furthermore, the irony lies in the fact that youthful love is often romanticized despite its flaws and naivety. While the speaker yearns for the simplicity and passion of being eighteen, they may overlook the immaturity and imperfections that also defined that period of life. This longing for a past version of love highlights the impossibility of recreating an experience exactly as it was, underscoring the tension between memory and reality. Through this irony, the lyrics emphasize the bittersweet nature of nostalgia, where the past is both cherished and unattainable.

Data 2 : “Fool’s gold” in song *Fools Gold*.

The phrase “Fool’s Gold” carries a powerful irony as it describes finding beauty and value in something inherently deceptive. Fool’s gold, or pyrite, is a mineral that looks like gold but lacks its true value, symbolizing something that appears precious but is ultimately hollow or misleading. The irony lies in the speaker’s acknowledgment of being drawn to something they know is deceptive, suggesting an awareness of the illusion yet a willingness to embrace it for the sake of the beauty it represents. This creates a tension between reality and perception, highlighting the speaker’s vulnerability and emotional conflict.

Additionally, the irony deepens as the song explores the emotional weight of knowingly falling for something false. While the speaker recognizes the facade, they are

captivated by its allure and unable to resist its pull. This juxtaposition of understanding the truth and still choosing to value the illusion speaks to the human tendency to romanticize and find meaning in flawed or unattainable experiences. Through this use of irony, the lyrics capture the bittersweet complexity of love and desire, where beauty can coexist with deception, and the pursuit of something false can feel just as compelling as the real thing.

While irony appears in the song “18” and “Fools Gold”, Saif Adam’s lyrics, as analyzed by Milana and Ardi (2021), employ irony to express the spiritual dissonance between belief and human imperfection. This comparison illustrates the versatility of irony as a literary tool, capable of conveying nuanced experiences across different thematic and cultural contexts. Besides that, the study by Sihalo et al. (2021) demonstrates that irony is a versatile literary device employed across various musical genres to convey complex emotional experiences. Despite differences in context and thematic focus, the use of irony in both cases underscores its effectiveness in enhancing lyrical depth and emotional resonance.

Personification

Personification is a figurative language style that attributes human characteristics to inanimate objects, animals, or plants. It differs in how much it encourages readers to imagine these non-human elements in human form. This personification appears in the song *Night Changes and Fool’s Gold* from the same album. Such as:

Data 3 : “Everything that you’ve ever dreamed of disappearing when you wake up” in song *Night Changes*.

The line “Everything that you’ve ever dreamed of disappearing when you wake up”

uses personification by attributing a human-like action disappearing to dreams. Dreams are given the ability to vanish, which evokes the fleeting and intangible nature of aspirations and desires. This personification emphasizes the contrast between the idealized world of dreams and the reality we face upon waking. It conveys a sense of loss and impermanence, as the things we long for or imagine often seem to slip away, leaving us to confront the challenges and uncertainties of real life.

Furthermore, the personification of dreams as something that actively disappears adds an emotional depth to the lyrics, portraying them almost as entities with their own will. This amplifies the feeling of inevitability and helplessness, as if the speaker has no control over the vanishing of their hopes and desires. Through this literary device, the song captures the bittersweet nature of growing up, where the idealism of youth often gives way to the realities of life, mirroring how dreams fade when morning arrives. This personification underscores the themes of nostalgia, change, and the passage of time present throughout the song.

Data 4 : “*Fool’s gold*” in song *Fools Gold*.

The phrase “*Fool’s Gold*” uses personification by giving the concept of fake love human-like qualities, such as deception and allure. By attributing these characteristics to an abstract idea, the song brings fake love to life, making it feel like an active force that seduces and misleads the speaker. This personification emphasizes the emotional conflict experienced when someone knowingly falls for something false but irresistibly beautiful, drawing attention to the seductive and manipulative nature of deceptive love.

Additionally, the personification of fake love as something capable of ‘deceiving’ and ‘alluring’ adds depth to the

emotional narrative of the song. It portrays the experience of love as something dynamic and almost alive, capable of luring someone in despite their awareness of its falseness. This device not only enhances the poetic quality of the lyrics but also underscores the complexity of human emotions, where individuals can be drawn to illusions despite knowing the truth. Through this use of personification, the song captures the bittersweet and paradoxical nature of love, where beauty and pain often coexist.

While One Direction’s “Night Changes” and “*Fool’s gold*” utilizes personification, the study by Astuti and Setyanto (2023) demonstrates that personification is a powerful literary device used in song lyrics to enhance emotional depth and imagery. Despite differences in thematic focus, with Astuti and Setyanto analyzing Indonesian pop songs and “Night Changes” reflecting on the passage of time and the inevitability of change, both examples highlight how personification effectively conveys complex emotional states and deepens the listener’s engagement with the lyrics. Besides that, the study by Faskhalia, Muryati, and Wahyuni (2020) demonstrates that personification is a powerful literary device used in Indonesian song lyrics to enhance emotional resonance. Despite differences in context, with Faskhalia et al. analyzing love songs in the *Kerajaan Cinta* album by Dewa 19 and “*Fool’s Gold*” exploring the complexity of illusory love, both examples emphasize how personification brings abstract concepts to life, deepening the listener’s emotional connection to the themes of love, desire, and deception.

Symbol

Symbol is a form of figurative language that conveys meaning by using symbols to serve a specific purpose. It can be broadly defined as representing something

that signifies more than its literal interpretation. This symbol appears in the song *Night Changes*, *Steal My Girl*, *18 and Fool's Gold* from the same album. Such as:

Data 5 : “*Chasing it tonight, doubts are running round her head*” in song *Night Changes*.

The lyric “Chasing it tonight, doubts are running round her head” uses symbolism to represent the emotional and mental struggles of pursuing goals or dreams. The phrase ‘chasing it’ symbolizes the act of pursuing aspirations or desires, reflecting the drive and determination to achieve something meaningful. This pursuit can signify a larger life journey, where individuals are constantly striving for personal growth or success, often fueled by hope and ambition. The word ‘chasing’ evokes movement and urgency, highlighting the passion and restlessness that accompany the pursuit of one’s dreams.

On the other hand, the phrase “doubts running round her head” symbolizes the internal conflicts and anxieties that arise during this pursuit. The image of doubts “running” conveys overthinking and mental turmoil, emphasizing the obstacles that can cloud judgment and create hesitation. Together, these symbols illustrate the duality of ambition: the excitement and motivation of chasing dreams, contrasted with the fear and uncertainty that often accompany it. This combination captures the complexity of striving for something greater, portraying both the hope and vulnerability that define the human experience.

Data 6 : “*Driving too fast, moon is breaking through her hair*” in song *Night Changes*.

The lyric “Driving too fast, moon is breaking through her hair” uses symbolism to evoke a sense of fleeting beauty and the

temporary nature of freedom. The “moon” serves as a symbol of natural beauty, tranquility, and a moment of ethereal connection to the world. Its image breaking through her hair captures a fleeting, magical moment, emphasizing the idea of living in the present while acknowledging its impermanence. This symbol enhances the scene's emotional depth, reflecting the fragility of youthful experiences and the beauty found in small, transient moments.

Furthermore, the phrase “driving too fast” symbolizes the urgency and recklessness often associated with youth, where individuals chase freedom and excitement without fully considering the consequences. Paired with the symbolic moonlight, this line suggests a bittersweet contrast: the exhilaration of feeling alive in the moment juxtaposed with the inevitability of time moving forward. Together, these symbols highlight the tension between savoring life's fleeting moments and the realization that such experiences, much like the moonlight, are temporary and cannot last forever. This duality mirrors the broader themes of change, nostalgia, and the passage of time present in the song.

Data 7 : “*She belongs to me*” in song *Steal My Girl*.

The lyric “She belongs to me” uses symbolism to convey a unique emotional bond between two individuals. The phrase “belongs to me” symbolizes a deep connection and sense of intimacy, suggesting that the relationship is rooted in mutual affection and exclusivity. While not implying ownership in a literal sense, the lyric reflects the speaker's profound emotional investment and the irreplaceable role the person holds in their life. It highlights the unique bond that sets their relationship apart from others,

portraying love as a personal and cherished experience.

Moreover, this symbol carries a sense of pride and protectiveness, emphasizing how the speaker values the relationship and the person they are connected to. It suggests that the bond is not only special but also irreplaceable, making it worth defending against external influences or threats. Through this use of symbolism, the lyric captures the themes of love, loyalty, and emotional attachment, illustrating how deeply personal and significant relationships can become in shaping one's sense of identity and emotional fulfillment.

Data 8 : “*Eighteen*” in song *18*.

The word “Eighteen” serves as a powerful symbol representing the innocence, purity, and formative nature of young love. At this age, relationships are often characterized by raw emotion and unfiltered passion, untainted by the complexities and responsibilities that come with adulthood. The use of “eighteen” as a symbol evokes nostalgia for a time when love felt pure and unrestrained, highlighting the unique charm and intensity of experiencing such emotions for the first time. It encapsulates a moment in life where love is both exhilarating and transformative, shaping one's understanding of connection and vulnerability.

Additionally, “eighteen” symbolizes a period of self-discovery and emotional growth, where individuals are navigating the transition from adolescence to adulthood. This formative stage is marked by significant experiences, and falling in love during this time leaves an indelible mark on one's identity. By using “eighteen” as a symbol, the song taps into universal themes of youth, longing, and the bittersweet nature of first love. It resonates with listeners by capturing the essence of a fleeting yet impactful moment in life, making it a relatable and

timeless reflection on the power of youthful emotions.

Data 9 : “*Fool's Gold*” in song *Fool's Gold*.

The phrase “Fool's Gold” serves as a poignant symbol representing something that appears valuable or genuine but ultimately lacks true worth. In its literal sense, fool's gold (pyrite) resembles gold in appearance but does not possess the same preciousness or monetary value. Symbolically, it represents a love or relationship that initially seems authentic and fulfilling, yet is ultimately deceptive and hollow. This symbol underscores the theme of disillusionment, where the speaker realizes that what they believed to be precious and enduring is, in fact, transient and superficial.

Moreover, “Fool's Gold” symbolizes the emotional complexities of falling for something that promises fulfillment but ultimately disappoints. The allure and attractiveness associated with gold are paralleled with the initial allure and excitement of romantic love. However, like fool's gold, which cannot withstand closer scrutiny, the relationship portrayed in the song proves to be illusory upon closer examination. This symbolism captures the universal experience of grappling with the contrast between appearance and reality in relationships, highlighting the emotional turmoil of realizing that what seemed valuable and promising was, in essence, a mirage.

While symbol appears in the song *Night Changes, Steal My Girl, 18 and Fool's Gold*, the study by Sa-ae and Maisarah (2024) demonstrates that symbolism is a powerful literary device used in song lyrics to convey deeper emotional meanings. Despite differences in thematic focus, with Sa-ae and Maisarah analyzing Jackson Wang's “Drive You Home” reflecting on the passage of time and the inevitability of change. Besides that,

the study by Rosita, Purwanto, and Rosyidi (2019) demonstrates that symbolism is a powerful literary device used in song lyrics to convey deeper meanings. Despite differences in thematic focus, with Rosita et al. analyzing Westlife's songs reflecting on the passage of time and the inevitability of change, this examples highlight how symbolism effectively captures the nuances of human emotions and experiences.

Metaphor

Metaphor is an implicit comparison between two unlike things. This metaphor appears in the song *Night Changes*, *Steal My Girl*, *18 and Fool's Gold* from the same album. Such as:

Data 10 : "*Her mother doesn't like that kind of dress*" in song *Night Changes*.

The lyric "Her mother doesn't like that kind of dress" employs metaphor to symbolize disapproval that extends beyond just a literal article of clothing. In this context, the metaphorical use of "that kind of dress" suggests that the mother disapproves of more than just the physical garment; it implies criticism or objection towards choices, behaviors, or aspects of the speaker's lifestyle that the mother finds unsuitable or unacceptable. By using the dress as a metaphor, the lyric conveys a deeper sentiment of parental disapproval or conflict, highlighting the tension between individual expression and familial expectations.

Furthermore, the metaphorical dress could represent societal norms or conventions that the mother adheres to and expects her daughter to uphold. It may symbolize conformity to traditional values or standards, contrasting with the daughter's desire for independence or self-expression. This metaphorical layer adds complexity to the relationship dynamics portrayed in the song, illustrating the broader theme of navigating familial expectations and personal

autonomy. It reflects the universal struggle between individuality and societal or familial pressures, where even seemingly innocuous disagreements over clothing choices can symbolize deeper conflicts of identity and acceptance.

Data 11 : "*She belongs to me*" in song *Steal My Girl*.

The lyric "She belongs to me" utilizes metaphor to express a profound emotional connection rather than literal ownership. Metaphorically, the phrase suggests an intimate bond and a sense of exclusivity between the speaker and the person they are referring to. It conveys a deep emotional attachment and commitment, where the speaker feels a strong sense of ownership over the relationship in terms of emotional connection and closeness, rather than any actual possession.

This metaphorical expression also implies a strong sense of pride and protectiveness towards the person being referred to. It signifies that the speaker views their relationship as something special and significant, where they feel a deep sense of responsibility and dedication towards the well-being and happiness of the other person. The metaphorical use of "belongs to me" underscores the speaker's emotional investment and the importance they place on the relationship, portraying it as a source of identity and fulfillment in their life. Overall, this metaphorical phrase captures the complexity and depth of romantic love, illustrating the powerful emotions and sense of belonging that characterize meaningful relationships. It portrays love not as a possession but as a profound connection that shapes and enriches one's life, emphasizing the emotional intensity and commitment that define the speaker's feelings towards their partner.

Data 12 : “*I have loved you since we were eighteen*” in song 18.

The lyric “I have loved you since we were eighteen” employs metaphor to symbolize the enduring nature and significance of love. By tying love to a specific age—“eighteen”—the metaphor suggests that the speaker's love has existed since a pivotal moment in their life, possibly marking the beginning of adulthood or the onset of significant personal growth. This metaphorical connection to a specific time not only emphasizes the purity and innocence of young love but also underscores its lasting impact on the speaker's life.

Furthermore, the metaphorical use of age to describe love reflects its transformative power and deep emotional resonance. “Eighteen” symbolizes a time of transition and discovery, where emotions are intense and relationships are formative. By anchoring love to this period, the lyric suggests that the speaker's affection has grown and evolved alongside their personal development, highlighting the depth of their feelings and the enduring nature of their commitment. Overall, this metaphorical expression enriches the song's narrative by portraying love as a journey that spans across time, linking it to a specific moment of youthfulness and innocence. It captures the essence of nostalgia and the profound impact of early relationships, illustrating how love can shape and define our experiences as we navigate through life's transitions.

Data 13 : “*I’m the first to admit that I’m reckless, I get lost in your beauty*” in song *Fool’s Gold*.

The lyric “I’m the first to admit that I’m reckless, I get lost in your beauty” employs metaphor to vividly describe the intensity and consuming nature of love. By comparing love to getting lost in someone's

beauty, the metaphor emphasizes the overwhelming and captivating effect that the person has on the speaker. It suggests that the speaker's feelings are so powerful and all-encompassing that they lose themselves in the beauty and allure of their loved one, unable to resist the pull of their emotions.

Furthermore, the metaphor of being reckless in love underscores the speaker's willingness to embrace vulnerability and take risks for the sake of their feelings. It portrays love as something that defies logic and control, emphasizing its unpredictable and sometimes chaotic nature. The metaphorical use of recklessness highlights the passionate and spontaneous aspects of love, where emotions can lead us to act impulsively and dive headfirst into intense experiences without hesitation. Overall, this metaphorical expression enriches the song's portrayal of love by depicting it as a force that overwhelms and consumes the speaker. It captures the exhilaration and vulnerability of falling deeply for someone, illustrating how love can be both exhilarating and destabilizing, yet ultimately a transformative and profound experience in one's life.

While metaphor appears in the song *Night Changes, Steal My Girl, 18 and Fool’s Gold*, the studies by Jannah and Istiqomah (2021) and by Listiawati, Sudiatmi, and Muryati (2025) demonstrate that metaphor is a widely used literary device in song lyrics to convey complex emotions and relationships. Jannah and Istiqomah analyze conceptual metaphors in Kahitna’s songs, such as “Love is a Journey,” revealing how metaphors frame emotional experiences within familiar conceptual domains. Similarly, Listiawati et al. explore metaphor as a means of expressing internal feelings like happiness and struggle in Nadin Amizah’s lyrics. Despite differences in musical style and cultural background, all three examples

highlight how metaphor serves as a powerful tool to articulate deep emotional truths, portraying love and connection not through direct statements, but through figurative, emotionally resonant language.

Hyperbole

Hyperbole is a form of figurative language that involves exaggerating actual facts. This exaggeration can be employed in various ways, serving to create an atmosphere that is humorous, imaginative, restrained, convincing, or unconvincing. This hyperbole appears in the song *Night Changes*, *Steal My Girl*, *18 and Fool's Gold* from the same album. Such as:

Data 14 : *"Even when the night changes, it will never change me and you"* in song *Night Changes*.

The lyric "Even when the night changes, it will never change me and you" employs hyperbole to emphasize the enduring strength and permanence of a bond between two people. Hyperbole, in this context, exaggerates the idea that nothing, not even the passage of time or life's inevitable changes, can alter the deep connection and commitment shared between the speaker and their loved one. It magnifies the certainty and steadfastness of their relationship, portraying it as resilient and unwavering despite external circumstances.

Furthermore, the hyperbolic expression underscores the profound emotional impact of the relationship on the speaker. It conveys a sense of absolute certainty and confidence in the enduring nature of their love, suggesting that their bond transcends the challenges and uncertainties that life may bring. By using hyperbole, the lyric not only reinforces the theme of unconditional love and loyalty but also evokes a sense of reassurance and

comfort, highlighting the stability and security found within a strong and enduring partnership. Overall, this hyperbolic statement enriches the song's message by portraying love as a force that transcends time and circumstance. It captures the sentiment that true love can withstand any obstacle, remaining steadfast and unchanged amidst life's inevitable transformations, thereby offering a powerful and reassuring message of resilience and commitment.

Data 15 : *"She's been my queen since we were sixteen"* in song *Steal My Girl*.

The lyric "She's been my queen since we were sixteen" utilizes hyperbole to exaggerate and emphasize the depth and longevity of the speaker's feelings towards their romantic partner. By stating that their partner has been their queen since the age of sixteen, the hyperbole magnifies the significance and early establishment of their admiration and affection. It suggests that the speaker's admiration and reverence for their partner began at a very young age, highlighting the profound impact and enduring nature of their love over time.

Furthermore, the hyperbolic expression conveys a sense of unwavering devotion and commitment. It portrays the speaker's romantic partner as someone who has held a position of utmost importance and reverence in their life since adolescence, symbolizing a deep emotional connection and loyalty that has persisted through the years. This hyperbolic statement not only underscores the intensity of the speaker's feelings but also reflects their belief in the enduring strength of their relationship, despite the passage of time and life's changes. This use of hyperbole enriches the song's portrayal of love by emphasizing the profound and longstanding nature of the speaker's emotional attachment to their

partner. It captures the sentiment that true love can begin early in life and endure as a powerful and constant presence, symbolizing a bond that transcends the ordinary and remains significant throughout the ups and downs of growing up and maturing together.

Data 16 : “*I have loved you since we were eighteen*” in song 18.

The lyric “I have loved you since we were eighteen” employs hyperbole to exaggerate the timelessness and enduring nature of love. By stating that the speaker has loved their partner since the age of eighteen, the hyperbole amplifies the depth and longevity of their feelings. It emphasizes that their love began at a relatively young age, suggesting that it has been a constant and significant part of their lives for many years. This hyperbolic expression serves to underscore the profound emotional impact and lasting commitment that the speaker feels towards their partner.

Furthermore, the hyperbole in this lyric conveys a sense of romantic idealism and eternal devotion. It portrays the speaker's love as something that transcends time and continues to grow and evolve over the years. By exaggerating the length of their affection since the age of eighteen, the lyric symbolizes a deep-rooted connection and a belief in the enduring strength of their relationship. This hyperbolic statement not only emphasizes the intensity of their emotional bond but also reinforces the theme of lasting love that withstands the tests of time and life's challenges. The use of hyperbole in this lyric enriches the song's portrayal of love by magnifying the profound and enduring nature of the speaker's feelings. It captures the sentiment that true love can begin early in life and endure as a powerful and constant force, symbolizing a bond that

grows stronger and more meaningful with each passing year.

Data 17 : “*I get lost in your beauty*” in song *Fool's Gold*.

The lyric “I get lost in your beauty” employs hyperbole to exaggerate the speaker's admiration and captivation by their partner's beauty. Hyperbole, in this context, amplifies the intensity of the speaker's feelings, emphasizing that their partner's beauty is so mesmerizing and enchanting that it figuratively overwhelms and consumes them. It conveys a deep emotional response to their partner's appearance, portraying the speaker as completely absorbed and entranced by their attractiveness.

Furthermore, the hyperbolic expression serves to highlight the speaker's romanticized perception of their partner's beauty. By stating that they get “lost” in their partner's beauty, the lyric implies that the speaker feels deeply immersed and absorbed in the experience of appreciating their attractiveness. This hyperbolic statement not only emphasizes the profound impact of physical attraction but also reflects the speaker's emotional vulnerability and admiration towards their partner. It underscores the theme of infatuation and romantic passion, portraying the partner's beauty as a source of awe and fascination in the speaker's eyes. The use of hyperbole in this lyric enriches the song's portrayal of romantic love by magnifying the speaker's intense emotional response to their partner's physical appearance. It captures the sentiment of being utterly captivated and enchanted by someone's beauty, symbolizing the depth of attraction and admiration that defines their romantic relationship.

While hyperbole appears in the song *Night Changes, Steal My Girl, 18 and Fool's Gold*, the studies by Kamalia and Juanda

(2024) and Dewi (2022) illustrate how hyperbole functions broadly in song lyrics to express heightened emotional states. Kamalia and Juanda analyze hyperbolic expressions in Billie Eilish's "Birds of a Feather," identifying how exaggeration intensifies feelings of love and longing. Similarly, Dewi's study of Adele's albums "19" and "21" reveals that hyperbole is used to dramatize emotional pain and desire, enhancing the listener's emotional engagement. Despite differences in musical style and lyrical context, all three examples highlight the effectiveness of hyperbole in articulating powerful emotions, making abstract feelings more vivid and relatable through deliberate exaggeration.

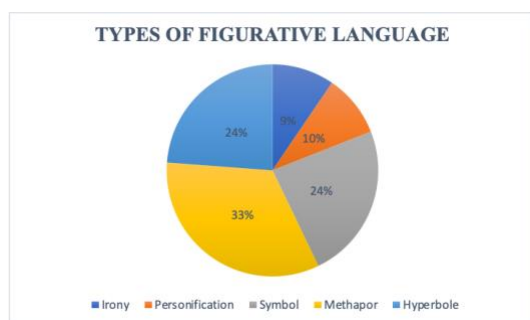


Fig.1. Percentage of Figurative Language Found in 'Four' Album

D. CONCLUSION

This study examines the use of figurative language in the lyrics of One Direction's 'Four' album. The findings reveal that various types of figurative language are utilized, including irony, personification, symbolism, metaphor, and hyperbole. According to Johnson Arp's classification, metaphor is the most frequently employed, accounting for 34.84% of the figurative language used, with 23 instances throughout the album. Symbols follow as the second most common, representing 25.75% with 17 occurrences, while personification is the least used, making up only 9.10% with 6 instances across four songs. The use of these forms of

figurative language highlights their importance in conveying the deeper meanings and intentions within the songs. Figurative language enriches the lyrics by adding emotional depth and aesthetic appeal. It not only enhances the artistic quality of the lyrics but also helps listeners connect with the underlying message and emotions expressed by the songwriters. Understanding the use of figurative language enables listeners to appreciate the songs on a deeper level, while songwriters can utilize it to increase the impact and resonance of their work.

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