

AN ANALYSIS OF METAPHORICAL LANGUAGE IN THE LYRICS OF THE ALBUM *LIVE AT THE SRN: POP PARTY* BY FOURTWNTY

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Abstract

Metaphorical language is a form of figurative language widely used in song lyrics to convey meaning indirectly. This study aims to describe the use of metaphorical language in the lyrics of the album *Live at the SRN: Pop Party* by Fourtwnty. This study employs a qualitative approach using a descriptive method. The data source consists of the song lyrics from the album *Live at the SRN: Pop Party* by Fourtwnty. Data were collected through listening and note-taking techniques, then analyzed using content analysis based on Gorys Keraf's theory. The results show that 42 instances of metaphorical language were identified in the song lyrics of the album. These findings indicate that metaphors are used to express various experiences, feelings, and ideas through figurative expressions, thereby creating a more expressive and aesthetic impression. Thus, metaphorical language serves as a stylistic element that contributes to the beauty of the language and strengthens the delivery of messages in the song lyrics of Fourtwnty's album *Live at the SRN: Pop Party*.

Keywords: metaphorical language; song lyrics; stylistics; Fourtwnty;

1 INTRODUCTION

Literary style is a series of words and sentences used by an author or speaker to express their ideas, thoughts, and experiences, conveyed through beautiful language (Ramadhan & Fatinova, 2024:94). Style, as one of the elements of a literary work, cannot be separated from the nature and conventions of literature (Pradopo, 2020:7). It can be concluded that style is a linguistic element related to word choice or diction in conveying ideas to readers or listeners, often through the use of figurative language. In literary studies, style serves to reinforce meaning while also imparting an aesthetic effect on a work. Along with the development of the Indonesian music industry, various musicians have emerged who bring a distinctive style to songwriting through the use of creative and expressive language. This stylistic approach is key to shaping the meaning and aesthetic appeal of a work, making it worth further examination. Ratna, N.K. (2017)

Literary works are inseparable from the use of style, as they are a form of expression of the author's experiences, thoughts, feelings, ideas, spirit, and beliefs, depicted through beautiful language and writing (Ernawati & Wijaya, 2023). Poetry is a literary genre rich in stylistic elements (Herman, 2024). A poem is born from the author's thoughts, feelings, messages, experiences, and imagination regarding life. Stylistic elements are an important part of conveying to the listener the emotions and situations the songwriter intends to express. Literary works embody the author's ideas, emotions, and imagination, which are expressed through various forms, including novels, short stories, poems, and dramas. Each form is characterized by carefully chosen diction and a distinctive use of language that reflects the author's unique writing style (Annisa et al., 2022, p. 85)

Song lyrics are a form of poetry composed with carefully selected and expressive words to convey the songwriter's intended message (Maulina & Dewi, 2025, p. 286). They also serve as a medium through which songwriters express their thoughts and emotions, including themes of love, sadness, and hope. Because song lyrics are constructed using specific diction and various figures of speech, they share characteristics with other literary works and are therefore worthy of scholarly investigation (Dananto & Zulianto, 2025, p. 2).

According to Gasong and Ristua (2023, p. 54), music has a significant impact on an individual's emotional state. Their findings indicate that musical melodies can influence listeners' moods, with cheerful music improving emotional well-being, while melancholic music may produce the opposite effect. Therefore, song lyrics serve as an effective medium for both self-expression and communication with listeners. Technically, song lyrics are arrangements of words resembling poetry that are conveyed through rhythm and music. Consequently, song lyrics can be regarded as poems set to music, in which language functions as the primary medium for expressing ideas in harmony with the accompanying melody (Wahyudinata et al., 2024, p. 3216).

One music group known for its skill in wordplay in its lyrics is Fourtwnty. This indie folk band was formed in 2010 and consists of Ari Lesmana, Nuwi, and Roots. Fourtwnty's works, particularly on the album *Live at SRN: Pop Party*, feature lyrics that poetically express the songwriters' feelings, ideas, and experiences. The album is a live performance recording produced by SRN Entertainment and features various Indonesian musicians from 2021 to 2024. The song lyrics in this album serve not only as entertainment, but also as a medium for conveying meaningful messages through the use of stylistic language. This makes the song lyrics part of literary works that can be analyzed scientifically. Furthermore, the growing interest among the younger generation in indie music which tends to offer freedom of expression is another key reason for selecting this research topic.

2 METHODOLOGY

This study employed a qualitative approach using a descriptive method. The data source consisted of the song lyrics from the album *Live at the SRN: Pop Party* by Fourtwnty, while the research data consisted of words, phrases, and sentences containing metaphorical language. Data were collected using reading and note-taking techniques. The reading technique was used to identify metaphorical language in the song lyrics, whereas the note-taking technique was used to record the identified data.

According to Sugiyono (2017, p. 244), data analysis is the process of organizing and managing data obtained systematically from various sources, such as field notes, documents, and other relevant materials. In this study, the collected data were analyzed descriptively based on Gorys Keraf's theory of figurative language through four stages: data identification, data classification, data analysis, and drawing conclusions. Finally, the findings were presented informally in the form of descriptive narratives.

3 RESULTS

A metaphor is a This section presents the findings of the analysis of metaphorical language in the lyrics of the album *Live at the SRN: Pop Party* by Fourtwnty. Based on Keraf's theory of figurative language, 42 metaphorical expressions were identified in the album. These metaphors represent various symbolic meanings, including emotions, life experiences, hope, interpersonal relationships, and self-reflection. The analysis of each metaphorical expression is presented below.

form of direct comparison expressed concisely without using a comparative conjunction. The relationship in meaning between two things is stated directly. Examples of metaphorical figures of speech include the expressions "the apple of one's eye" or "the flower of the nation." Forty-two instances of metaphorical figures of speech were found in the lyrics of the album **Live at SRN: Pop Party** by Fourtwnty. The forty-two instances of metaphorical language are: (1) "Trapped in a cramped space," (2) "My senses turn blue," (3) "Without your body by my side," (4) "Pull it out so it doesn't get tangled," (5) "Morning after morning, I'm trapped in ambition."

1) /Trapped in a cramped space/

In example (1), which reads /Trapped in a cramped space/, the metaphorical use of the phrase "cramped space" does not refer to a physical place but symbolizes a state of oppression or inner limitation. It appears in the song "Kusut" by Fourtwnty, specifically in the fourth line of the first verse.

2) /My senses turn blue/

Data (2), which reads /My senses turn blue/, uses a metaphor in which the word "turn blue" symbolizes sadness or a gloomy emotional state, not an actual change in color. It appears in the song "Kusut" by Fourtwnty, specifically in the first line of the second verse.

3) /Without your body by my side/

Data (3), which reads /Without your presence by my side/, contains a metaphorical figure of speech where the word “Raga” is used as a symbol of a person’s complete presence, not merely their physical form. It is found in the song titled “Kusut” by Fourtwnty, specifically in the second stanza, line five.

4) /Pull it out so it doesn’t get tangled/

Data (4), which reads /Pull it out so it doesn’t get tangled/, contains a metaphorical figure of speech: the word “tangled” does not merely refer to a physical condition but symbolizes chaotic thoughts or feelings. It appears in the song titled “Kusut” by Fourtwnty, specifically in the fourth line of the third verse.

5) /Morning after morning, I’m trapped in ambition/

Data (5), which reads /Morning after morning, I’m trapped in ambition/, uses a metaphor. The phrase “trapped in ambition” does not have a physical meaning but describes an inner state bound by excessive desire. Found in the song titled “Zona Nyaman” by Fourtwnty, specifically in stanza I, line one.

6) /Step out of your comfort zone/

Data (6), which reads /Step out of your comfort zone/, uses the metaphorical phrase “comfort zone”—not a physical place, but a stagnant state of life. Found in the song titled “Zona Nyaman” by Fourtwnty, specifically in stanza I, line four.

7) /Let the pain of the past fade away/

Data (7), which reads /Let the pain of the past fade away/, uses a metaphor where the word “Sembilu” symbolizes past wounds or pain. Found in the song titled “Zona Nyaman” by Fourtwnty, specifically in stanza II, lines 1 and 2.

8) /Let the old wounds turn blue/

Data (8), which reads /Let the old wounds turn blue/, uses a metaphor in which the word “turn blue” symbolizes wounds that are still felt or leave a mark. It appears in the song titled “Zona Nyaman” by Fourtwnty, specifically in the second verse, lines five and six.

9) /Embracing those who are starting to be kindred spirits with me/

Data (9), which reads /Embracing those who are starting to be kindred spirits with me/, uses the metaphorical figure of speech “kindred spirits,” meaning to share similar thoughts or feelings, not literally having the same soul. It is found in the song titled “Zona Nyaman” by Fourtwnty, specifically in the third stanza, lines two.

10) /Standing on one’s own two feet/

Data (10), which reads /Standing on one’s own two feet/, uses a metaphor symbolizing independence, not merely standing physically. It is found in the song titled “Zona Nyaman” by Fourtwnty, specifically in stanza V, line five.

11) /Implant my message so I won’t go astray/

Data (11), which reads /Implant my message so I won’t go astray/, uses a metaphor—the phrase “implant my message” is not literal but refers to preserving or remembering a value. It is found in the song titled “Zona Nyaman” by Fourtwnty, specifically in stanza VII, lines one and two.

12) /Please keep my soul away/

/From the allure of your breath/

Data (12), which reads /Please keep my desires away from the allure of your charm/, contains a metaphorical figure of speech. The phrase “allure of your charm” is not to be taken literally as “air,” but rather as a person’s captivating appeal or aura. It is found in the song titled “Zona Nyaman” by Fourtwnty, specifically in the first verse, lines one and two.

13) /Turns out it’s poisonous/

Data (13), which reads /Turns out it’s poisonous/, uses the metaphorical expression “poisonous,” which is not meant literally but rather as a symbol of something dangerous or painful. It appears in the song titled “Realita” by Fourtwnty, specifically in the third line of the second verse.

14) /Blue ink is just a story now/

Data (14), which reads /Blue ink is just a story now/, uses a metaphor where the phrase “blue ink” symbolizes something that was once written down (a promise or a memory), which is now merely a story. It is found in the song titled “Realita” by Fourtwnty, specifically in the third stanza, line two.

15) /This is young blood, this is young blood/

Data (15), which reads /This is young blood, this is young blood/, uses a metaphor where the phrase “young blood” symbolizes youth and emotional intensity. It appears in the song titled “Realita” by Fourtwnty, specifically in stanza VI, line one.

16) /This is a story about when bones begin to age/

Data (16), which reads /This is a story of when bones begin to age/, features a metaphorical style of language in which the phrase “bones begin to age” does not only refer to a physical process but symbolizes the aging process as a whole. It is found in the song titled “Kita Pasti Tua” by Fourtwnty, specifically in the first line of the first verse.

17) /Beginning to wander more easily/

Data (17), which reads /We begin to wander more easily/, uses the metaphorical phrase “wander,” which does not merely mean traveling but symbolizes the fact that one’s activities in life are becoming more limited. It appears in the song titled “Kita Pasti Tua” by Fourtwnty, specifically in the second line of the fourth verse.

18) /Behind my white hair/

Data (18), which reads /Behind my white hair/, uses a metaphor where the phrase “white hair” symbolizes old age. It appears in the song titled “Kita Pasti Tua” by Fourtwnty, specifically in stanza IV, line three.

19) /My eyes are already failing/

Data (19), which reads /My eyes are already failing/, contains a metaphor in which the phrase “My eyes are already failing” symbolizes old age. It is found in the song titled “Kita Pasti Tua” by Fourtwnty, specifically in stanza VII, line seven.

20) /In front of the porch/

/A fleeting shade of pink, just the two of us/

Data (20), which reads /In front of the porch, a fleeting shade of pink, just the two of us/, contains a metaphorical figure of speech. The phrase “a fleeting shade of pink” does not have a literal meaning but symbolizes a romantic, warm, and joyful atmosphere.

21) /God’s water falls/

Data (21), which reads /God’s water falls/, contains a metaphorical figure of speech: the phrase “God’s water” symbolizes rain, not water in the literal sense. It appears in the song titled “Fana Merah Jambu” by Fourtwnty, specifically in the fourth line of the first verse.

22) /One spirit with nature and your world/

Data (22), which reads /One in spirit with nature and your world/, uses a metaphor in which the phrase “One in spirit” represents a unity of feeling, not a single soul in the literal sense. It appears in the song “Fana Merah Jambu” by Fourtwnty, specifically in the eighth line of the first verse.

23) /Melting the stiffness of my legs/

Data (23), which reads /Melting the stiffness of my legs/, contains a metaphorical figure of speech using the word “Kaku” to symbolize a tense state that transforms into a fluid or soft one. It is found in the song titled “Fana Merah Jambu” by Fourtwnty, specifically in stanza I, line nine.

24) /My evening is peaceful with you/

Data (24), which reads /My evening is comfortable with you/, contains a metaphorical figure of speech where the word “my evening” is personified as a meaningful personal possession. It is found in the song titled “Fana Merah Jambu” by Fourtwnty, specifically in the third stanza, line six.

25) /Pulling over, opening a map, searching for the meaning of home/

Data (25), which reads /Pull over, open the map, search for the meaning of home/, uses the metaphorical style of language where the phrases “open the map” and “search for meaning” do not refer to their literal meanings. These are symbols of the search for life’s direction and the meaning of happiness. It is found in the song titled “Kursi Goyang” by Fourtwnty, specifically in the third line of the second verse.

26) /Your place is in the rocking chair/

Data (26), which reads /Your place is in the rocking chair/, uses the metaphorical figure of speech “rocking chair,” which is not merely interpreted as an object but as a symbol of tranquility, old age, and reflection on life. It is found in the song titled “Kursi Goyang” by Fourtwnty, specifically in the third line of the third verse.

27) /Pour the water of joy/

Data (27), which reads /Pour the water of joy/, contains a metaphorical figure of speech where the phrase “water of joy” does not refer to actual water. It symbolizes happiness. It is found in the song titled “Kursi Goyang” by Fourtwnty, specifically in the fourth stanza, line four.

28) /The fleeting pink of the song/

Data (28), which reads /The fleeting pink of the song/, uses a metaphor in which the phrase “pink” symbolizes happiness or romance, while “fleeting” indicates impermanence, making the entire phrase symbolic. Found in the song titled “Kursi Goyang” by Fourtwnty, specifically in stanza VII, line three

29) /Let go of what you feel/

Data (29), which reads /Let go of what you feel/, contains a metaphorical figure of speech because the expression “letting go of feelings” is not interpreted literally as a physical action, but rather as a symbol for expressing or releasing pent-up emotions. It is found in the song titled “Diskusi Senja” by Fourtwnty, specifically in the first line of the first verse.

30) /Sitting together to discuss feelings/

Data (30), which reads /Sitting together to discuss feelings/, contains a metaphorical figure of speech; the phrase “discussing feelings” does not refer to a literal discussion but rather means sharing feelings or confiding in someone. It is found in the song titled “Diskusi Senja” by Fourtwnty, specifically in the third line of the second stanza.

31) /As dusk gives way to night/

Data (31), which reads /As dusk gives way to night/, uses a metaphorical figure of speech where the transition from “dusk” to “night” not only denotes time literally but also symbolizes a process of change in life, such as the transition from one condition to another. Found in the song titled “Diskusi Senja” by Fourtwnty, specifically in stanza IV, line two.

32) /Don’t drown/

/In your darkest times/

Line (32), which reads /Don’t drown in your darkest times/, uses the metaphorical figure of speech “drown.” The word “drown” is not used in its literal sense, but rather to describe a person who is overwhelmed by sadness or problems. It appears in the song titled “Diskusi Senja” by Fourtwnty, specifically in verse V, lines one and two.

33) /And believe that the wheel will surely turn/

Data (33), which reads /And believe that the wheel will surely turn/, uses a metaphor where the phrase “the wheel turns” symbolizes the ever-changing cycle of life, in which difficult times will not last forever and will give way to better times. Found in the song titled “Diskusi Senja” by Fourtwnty, specifically in stanza V, lines three.

34) /Bright light is coming/

Data (34), which reads /Bright light is coming/, uses a metaphor where the phrase “bright light” symbolizes hope or happiness. It appears in the song “Diskusi Senja” by Fourtwnty, specifically in stanza V, line four.

35) /I am here as a place to share/

Data (35), which reads /I am here as a place to share/, uses a metaphor where the phrase “a place to share” does not refer to a physical location, but rather to the role of a listener or a place to pour out one’s feelings. It is found in the song titled “Diskusi Senja” by Fourtwnty, specifically in stanza VI, line one.

36) /Learning to let go of oneself/

Data (36), which reads /Learning to let go of oneself/, contains a metaphorical figure of speech; the use of the word “let go” is not meant in a physical sense, but rather as an emotional process of letting someone go. It is found in the song titled “Hitam Putih” by Fourtwnty, specifically in the first line of the third verse.

37) /This is the tale of a friend who transformed into a nematomorpha/

Data (37), which reads /This is the tale of a friend who transformed into a nematomorpha/, contains a metaphorical figure of speech. The phrase “transformed into a nematomorpha” is not to be taken literally as a physical transformation, but rather symbolizes a change in a person’s nature or condition into something different or unfamiliar. Found in the song titled “nematomorpha” by Fourtwnty, specifically in stanza I, line two.

38) /The number ten holds many stories/

Data (38), which reads /The number ten holds many stories/, contains a metaphorical figure of speech where the phrase “the number ten” does not merely refer to a number but symbolizes a specific, meaningful memory or event. It appears in the song titled “nematomorpha” by Fourtwnty, specifically in the first line of the third verse.

39) /Red water bears witness/

Data (39), which reads /Red water bears witness/, contains a metaphorical figure of speech: the phrase “red water” is not used in its literal sense but rather as a symbol that can refer to blood or an emotional event. It appears in the song titled “nematomorpha” by Fourtwnty, specifically in the third line of the third verse.

40) /Running around in the garden of my dreams/

Data (40), which reads /Running around in the garden of my dreams/, uses a metaphor where the phrase “garden of my dreams” does not refer to a real place but rather symbolizes a world of imagination or hope. It appears in the song titled “Aku Tenang” by Fourtwnty, specifically in the third stanza, line one.

41) /Think beautiful thoughts about heaven/

Data (41), which reads /Think beautiful thoughts about heaven/, uses the metaphorical figure of speech where the word “heaven” is not interpreted solely in a religious sense but as a symbol of happiness or an ideal state. It is found in the song titled “Aku Tenang” by Fourtwnty, specifically in stanza VIII, line one.

42) /Daydreaming about the soul/

Data (42), which reads /Daydreaming about the soul/, contains a metaphorical figure of speech where the word “soul” is used as a symbol of inner life or feelings, not in a physical sense. It is found in the song titled “Aku Tenang” by Fourtwnty, specifically in stanza VIII, line three.

4 CONCLUSIONS

Based on the findings, 42 metaphorical expressions were identified in the lyrics of the album *Live at the SRN: Pop Party* by Fourtwnty. These metaphors function to represent emotions, personal experiences, hopes, relationships, and reflections on life through symbolic expressions. The findings indicate that metaphorical language plays an important role in strengthening the aesthetic quality of the lyrics while conveying messages more effectively. Therefore, metaphor serves not only as a stylistic device but also as a medium for expressing deeper meanings in Fourtwnty’s song lyrics.

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