

Figurative Language In Fiddlehead's Album *Between The Richness*

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ABSTRACT

*This study aims to analyze the figurative language used in the Fiddlehead album *Between the Richness*. The album, known for its emotive and poetic lyrics, serves as a rich source for understanding how figurative language enhances the thematic depth of the songs. This research applies a qualitative approach to identify and categorize various types of figurative language. This research finds certain number of each type of figurative language. They are: 17 for metaphor, 7 for hyperbole, 1 for simile, 8 for imagery, 3 for paradox, 2 for oxymoron, 1 for alliteration, 1 for juxtaposition, 3 for Symbolism, 1 for synecdoche, 4 for personification, 2 for antithesis, and 2 for repetition. The most dominant type of figurative language used in the Fiddlehead song lyrics in the album *Between the Richness* is metaphor. The findings suggest that the use of figurative language not only intensifies the emotional impact of the music but also provides deeper insight into the experiences and perspectives shared in the album. This research highlights the role of figurative language in creating a more immersive and meaningful listening experience and offering a nuanced understanding of Fiddlehead's lyrical artistry.*

Keywords: *Emotional; Expression; Figurative Language; Lyrics; Meaning*

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INTRODUCTION

The use of figurative languages is very common in literature, poetry, as well as in song lyrics (Barung et al., 2023:32). Songs often use them to convey deep emotions and stories, making them more interesting and memorable. Moreover, song lyrics often rely on figurative language to create powerful and profound imagery, capable of evoking feelings in the listener. For example, a singer may use metaphors to describe love, sadness or hope, making the listening experience more emotional and personal.

In many cases, understanding the figurative languages in the lyrics can influence the way listeners connect with the music and interpret the meaning behind it (Dewi, 2020:2). Likewise, it causes misunderstanding and confusion as there are hidden meanings that can cause listeners to misinterpret or misunderstand the lyrics, so listeners will have difficulty interpreting the true meaning of the song or understanding what message the lyricist wants to convey.

One of many songs having complex figurative language which is interesting to be analyzed is Patrick Flynn's second album, *Between the Richness*. This album was released in May 21, 2021. It delves into deep emotional themes such as loss, grief, and change in life. Furthermore, with a combination of intense post-hardcore music and soulful melodies, Flynn conveys a message about the complexities of life and the search for meaning through a very personal emotional process.

In supporting this research, there are several previous studies that have similar topic of interest with this research. The first research is conducted by Elfis with the title "*An Analysis of Figurative language in Song Lyric on the*

S.I.G.I.T Detourn Album". This research finds that the types of figurative language include hyperbole, irony, personification, synecdoche, simile, metonymy, repetition, and metaphor. The most dominant types of figurative language found in the song lyric is metaphor (Malikhi Ragil Pamungkas, 2022:2).

The second research is conducted by Azzahra, Euis and Myta with the title "*Figurative language Analysis in Album Evolve by Imagine Dragons*". From the research findings, the researchers make a conclusion that the types of Figurative language which they have found include metaphor (23%), simile (8%), personification (15%), metonymy (36%), synecdoche (2%), hyperbole (10%), and litotes (6%) (Az-Zahra et al., 2022:1).

The third research is conducted by Kayla and Simatupang with the title "*Figurative Language in 'Four' Album by One Direction: Semantic Analysis*". 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 findings may serve as a reference for educators and students in the fields of linguistics, literature, and music studies (Kayla & Simatupang, 2025:1).

Based on the description of the 3 studies above, we can see the novelty of the research we conducted covering different research objects because the song lyrics studied came from a different band group. The next novelty is that the data analysis in this study uses the content analysis method using various references, especially dictionaries, to provide the meaning of a particular word or expression.

Furthermore, research on figurative language in the context of songs is very important to understand how figurative language functions in creating meaning and emotion. In this case, the research questions are as follow: 1) What are types of figurative language found in Fiddlehead Album *Between the Richness?*, 2) What are the most dominant types of Figurative language found in Fiddlehead Album *Between the Richness?*, and 3) How do the figurative languages found in the Fiddlehead Album *Between the Richness* convey the idea?

Definition of Figurative Language

According to Kalandadze, figurative language was once thought to be different from so-called literal language. Figurative language enriches our interactions by allowing us to express complex ideas and emotions in more relatable and vivid ways (Kalandadze et al., 2018). Meanwhile, according Wibisono and Widodo, figurative language refers to the use of words that convey meanings apart from literal interpretation. A writer is merely presenting the facts as they are when he employs literal language (Wibisono and Widodo, 2019:157). Finally, according to Teja, figurative language is used to convey emotions, ideas, and perceptions that cannot be adequately conveyed through literal meaning. Figurative Language enhances communication by enabling authors and speakers to arouse powerful emotions and conjure up vivid images (Teja et al., 2022).

Based on the description about the definition above, we conclude that figurative language is a form of language used to express meaning that is not literal and it enhances expressiveness, produces potent Imagery, and evokes strong feelings in the reader or listener in both literature and the arts. Furthermore,

figurative language stimulates imagination and allows viewers to understand the piece in their own special and distinctive ways.

Types of Figurative language

Traxler states that there are many types of figurative meaning including metaphor, idiom, metonym, juxtaposition, irony, satirical, proverbial, repetition, antithesis, hyperbole, oxymoron, and so on (Traxler, 2006). Meanwhile, according to Wibisono, Figurative language has many types, such as Metaphor, Simile, Personification, metonymy, Irony, Symbolism, Hyperbole, Paradox, Alliteration, allusion, onomatopoeia, and many others (Wibisono, 2019).

The following description describes each type of figurative language:

a. Metaphor

According to Ortony, Metaphor is a type of figurative language that compares two unlike things by stating that one thing is the other, without using "like" or "as." (Ortony, 2019). The examples of metaphor are as follow:

- 1) *The world is a stage*; this means that life is like a performance, where everyone plays a role.
- 2) *Her voice was music to his ears*; this implies that her voice is beautiful and enjoyable.

b. Simile

According to Harya, simile is a type of metaphor that compares two fundamentally different objects by using the terms "like" and "as" (Harya, 2017). The examples of simile are as follows:

- 1) *Her smile was like sunshine*; This suggests that her smile brings warmth and happiness.
- 2) *She's as busy as a bee*; This compares her busyness to that

- of a bee, which is known for being very active.
- c. Personification
According to Fata and Aprilya, personification can be used to express abstract attributes in human form or to impart human characteristics to something that is not human (Fata and Aprilya, 2021). The examples of personification are as follows:
- 1) *Fear crept into the room*; This gives fear a physical presence, suggesting it can move and influence the atmosphere.
 - 2) *The city never sleeps*; This personifies the city, suggesting it has energy and life as if it can be awake or asleep.
- d. Hyperbole
According to Carston and Wearing, the use of strong exaggeration to highlight a point or provide a dramatic effect is known as hyperbole (Carston and Wearing, 2015). The examples of hyperbole are as follows:
- 1) *I've told you a million times*; This exaggerates the frequency of telling someone something to stress frustration.
 - 2) *I have a ton of homework*; This exaggerates the amount of homework to express feeling overwhelmed.
- e. Alliteration
According to Fitria, alliteration is a type of figurative language where consecutive words in a sentence or phrase begin with the same consonant sound (Fitria, 2018). The examples of alliteration are as follows:
- 1) *The curious cat climbed cautiously up the crooked tree*; In this sentence, the Repetition of the "c" sound creates a rhythmic effect.
- 2) *Silly snakes slither silently*; These phrases use the Repetition of initial consonant sounds to create a musical quality.
- f. Imagery
According to Molla, descriptive words are used in Imagery, a form of figurative language, to help the reader visualize a scene (Molla, 2022:). The examples of imagery are as follows:
- 1) *Baby, you're a firework*; The Imagery of a firework evokes feelings of excitement and potential, encouraging self-expression and confidence.
 - 2) *Rolling in the deep*; The Imagery of "rolling in the deep" suggests a deep, emotional connection, while the idea of having one's heart in someone else's hands conveys vulnerability and trust.
- g. Synecdoche
According to Ghufraan Abdul and Hameed Ali, synecdoche is a figure of speech in which the whole is represented by a component, or vice versa (Ghufraan Abdul- Hameed Ali, 2023). The examples of synecdoche are as follows:
- 1) *All hands on deck*; In this line, "hands" is used as a synecdoche for people, referring to the individuals who need to come together to work or help in a situation.
 - 2) *I've got the ticket to the other side*; In this case, "ticket" is used as a Synecdoche to represent the opportunity or means to escape or move to a new place or phase in life.
- h. Paradox
According to Azmi, paradox is a figure of speech that seems contradictory but actually has some

truth to it (Azmi et al., 2023). The examples of paradox are as follows:

- 1) *The heart is a bloom* – from; In this line, "heart" represents emotions or the essence of a person, not just the literal organ, symbolizing love and passion.
- 2) Give me the beat boys and free my soul; In this line, "beat" refers to the music or rhythm, using part of the Song (the beat) to represent the whole musical experience

i. Oxymoron

According to Qasim, two opposing or contradictory terms that appear side by side are called oxymorons (Qasim, 2022). The examples of oxymoron are as follows:

- 1) *Hello, darkness, my old friend*; "Darkness" and "old friend" are contradictory, yet together they convey a sense of familiarity and comfort with something typically seen as negative or ominous.
- 2) *I'm a lover, not a fighter*; the oxymoron here is "lover" and "fighter," which are often considered opposites, but together they describe the internal conflict or duality of the person's nature.

j. Repetition

According to Studiobinder, repetition is a literary device where a word or phrase is used multiple times (Studiobinder, 2024). The examples of repetition are as follows:

- 1) *Let it be, let it be, let it be, let it be*; the repetition of "let it be" reinforces the idea of accepting things as they are and finding peace in letting go of control.
- 2) *And I will always love you, I will always love you*; the repetition of "I will always love

you" highlights the depth and certainty of the love being expressed, reinforcing the emotional sentiment.

k. Antithesis

According to Alwi Nurzen and Mutmainnah Sopandji, a figure of speech known as antithesis juxtaposes conflicting concepts or terms side by side (Alwi Nurzen and Mutmainnah Sopandji, 2024). The examples of antithesis are as follows:

- 1) *I'm in love with a monster*; the juxtaposition of "love" and "monster" creates an antithesis, highlighting the contrast between something traditionally positive (love) and something typically negative or frightening (monster).
- 2) *I'm your biggest fan, I'll follow you until you love me*; the antithesis here is between the fan's unconditional support ("I'll follow you until you love me") and the subtle suggestion of obsession or unrequited love, showing the contrast between admiration and desperation.

l. Symbolism

According to Zain, symbolism is a kind of figurative language in which concepts, persons, things, or events are represented by words or pictures (Zain, 2021:10). The examples of symbolism are as follows:

- 1) *I am a bird with broken wings*; the line "bird with broken wings" symbolizes the feeling of being hurt, vulnerable, or unable to fully soar. It represents a sense of loss or emotional pain that the Song's speaker is experiencing.
- 2) *The storm is rising, it's coming for me*; in this lyric, the "storm" symbolizes an emotional or

personal crisis, representing overwhelming challenges or turmoil in life that the speaker feels is approaching.

m. Juxtaposition

According to Liberalarts, juxtaposition is a figurative language device that places contrasting elements side by side to highlight their differences (Liberalarts, 2024). The examples of juxtaposition are as follows:

- 1) *I'm living on a prayer*; the Juxtaposition here is between "living" and "prayer." While living suggests action and movement, "prayer" implies dependence and hope, creating a contrast between determination and reliance.
- 2) *I'm a mess, but I'm the best*; this line juxtaposes the contradictory concepts of being a "mess" (chaotic or imperfect) with being "the best" (successful or outstanding), highlighting the contrast between personal flaws and confidence.

METHOD

This research uses a qualitative approach. Qualitative research is an essential approach in various academic disciplines and professional fields, as it seeks to understand and interpret the meanings, experiences, and social realities of people in their natural settings (Lim, 2024). This type of research employs an array of qualitative methods to gather and analyze non-numerical data, such as words, images, and

behaviors, and aims to generate in-depth and contextualized insights into the phenomena under study (Odiadi, 2024). Furthermore, according to Susanto, et al., in order to extract people's opinions, experiences, and points of view in particular circumstances, qualitative approach focuses on gathering non-numerical data through observations, interviews, and document analysis. (Susanto et al. 2024).

The object of the research is Fiddlehead's album "*Between the Richness*" which was released on May 21, 2021 (Genius.com, 2021). The data in this research are taken from 8 song lyrics in the album *Between the Richness* by Fiddlehead. They are: "Grief Motif", "The Years", "Million Times", "Eternal You", "Loverman", "Get My Mind Right", "Joyboy" and "Heart to Heart". I got the song lyrics from the Album *Between the Richness* by Fiddlehead through (Genius.com, 2021).

In collecting data, we firstly chose the band and the *Between the Richness* Album by Fiddlehead. After that we downloaded the lyrics of 8 Songs. Thirdly, we took note of the song lyrics of those 8 Songs. Finally, we sorted the song lyrics where figurative language was found.

RESULTS AND DISCUSSION

Types of figurative language found in Fiddlehead Album Between the Richness

The first song of the total 8 is "Grief Motif". Based on its lyrics, the figurative languages found can be seen in the following table.

Table 1. Figurative languages found on ‘Grief Motif’

No	Name of figurative languages	Lyrics
1	Metaphor	<i><u>I carry your heart with me I carry it in my heart</u> (Intro, Line 1-2) <u>I still have your heart</u> (Verse 2, line 14)</i>
2	Synecdoche	<i><u>Anywhere I go you go</u> (Intro, Line 5)</i>
3	Paradox	<i><u>Feel good and fall apart</u> (Verse 1, line 9)</i>
4	Hyperbole	<i><u>Forever fall apart</u> (Verse 1, line 10)</i>

The second song is "The Years". The figurative languages and the lyrics are found in the following table

Table 2. Figurative languages found on ‘The Years’

No	Name of figurative languages	Lyrics
1	Metaphor	<i><u>I think I found my way out</u> (Verse 1, line 1) <u>The sting of blinding spring is what's left of you</u> (Verse 3, line 13) <u>To new life blooming</u> (Verse 4, line 22)</i>
2	Antithesis	<i><u>Up from the true-blue way-down</u> (Verse 1, line 3)</i>
3	Simile	<i><u>Ten folded like a day</u> (Verse 2, line 8)</i>
4	Personification	<i><u>Old Death's dulling sting</u> (Verse 2, line 9)</i>
5	Paradox	<i><u>Nothing can change the pain and I don't want it to</u> (Verse 3, line 12)</i>

The third song is “Million Times”. The following table consists of the figurative language found and the lyrics that imply.

Table 3. Figurative languages found on ‘Million Times’

No	Name of figurative languages	Lyrics
1	Hyperbole	<i><u>Come home and fail with me to see that we are wrong</u> (Verse 1, line 1) <u>One more million times</u> (Chorus, line 10)</i>
2	Oxymoron	<i><u>Failed to be peacefully apart</u> (Verse 1, line 6)</i>
3	Repetition	<i><u>Come back, come back</u> (Chorus, line 7 and line 9)</i>
4	Metaphor	<i><u>What's love if not a war for peace that never ends?</u> (Verse 2, line 11) <u>To see that we are wrong</u> (Outro, line 28)</i>
5	Antithesis	<i><u>The casualty is if we end up just as friends</u> (Verse 2, line 12)</i>
6	Personification	<i><u>How do I say goodbye to a love I've loved so wild</u> (Bridge,</i>

		line 22)
7	Symbolism	Come <u>home</u> and fail with me (Outro, line 27)

The fourth song is “Eternal You”. The following table is the data of figurative language found and the lyrics that convey.

Table 4. Figurative languages found on ‘Eternal You’

No	Name of figurative languages	Lyrics
1	Imagery	<i>Except in <u>autumn</u> at the <u>drive-in rides</u> (Verse 1, line 2) With <u>memories</u> and <u>October light</u> (Verse 1, line 4)</i>
2	Symbolism	<i><u>Winning</u> in my <u>adulthood</u> (Verse 1, line 3)</i>
3	Metaphor	<i>(Time’s when) I’m <u>sinking</u> (Chorus, line 5) And <u>raging tides of life</u> (Verse 2, line 13)</i>
4	Hyperbole	<i>(Time’s when) <u>Eternal youth</u> (Chorus, line 10)</i>

The fifth song is “Loverman”. Based on its lyrics, the figurative languages found can be seen in the following table.

Table 5. Figurative languages found on ‘Loverman’

No	Name of figurative languages	Lyrics
1	Hyperbole	<i><u>Count the ways you love her, man</u> (Verse 1, line 2) <u>Walk into forever and (ever and ever and ever and ever and)</u> (Verse 1, line 8)</i>
2	Imagery	<i><u>On the sand</u> (Verse 1, line 7)</i>
3	Alliteration	<i>You’ve got a <u>Big Bad-Larry Brown-Love</u> (Chorus, line 11)</i>

The following table contains the name of figurative language and the lyrics in the sixth song, “Get My Mind Right”.

Table 6. Figurative languages found on ‘Get My Mind Right’

No	Name of figurative languages	Lyrics
1	Juxtaposition	<i><u>Old friends</u> with <u>better things to do</u> (Verse 1, line 2)</i>
2	Personification	<i><u>Hope</u> and my <u>collapsing mind</u> (Verse 1, line 4)</i>
3	Repetition	<i><u>Such, such, such</u> small towns (Verse 2, line 14)</i>

Next is the seventh song, “Joyboy”. The table below illustrates the figurative language found in the song and the lyrics that convey.

Table 7. Figurative languages found on ‘Joyboy’

No	Name of figurative languages	Lyrics
1	Imagery	<i>Sadman, turn your head, look towards the <u>white</u>, away from <u>blue</u> (Verse 1, line 2)</i> <i>Between the <u>richness of white and blue</u> (Chorus, line 7)</i>
2	Metaphor	<i>I’ve got some <u>light</u> to offer you (Verse 1, line 3)</i>
3	Hyperbole	<i>A son <u>so great and grand to view</u> (Chorus, line 5)</i>
4	Symbolism	<i>mile while we carry your <u>fire</u> (Outro, line 15)</i>

The last song is “Heart to Heart”. The following table contains the name of the figurative language and the lyrics.

Table 8. Figurative languages found on ‘Heart to Heart’

No	Name of figurative languages	Lyrics
1	Imagery	<i>look on out to the <u>oceans</u> (Verse 1, line 3)</i> <i>And see the seas all <u>shoreless</u> (Verse 1, line 4)</i> <i>In the <u>springtime afternoon</u> (Pre-Chorus, line 20)</i>
2	Metaphor	<i>I’ll be the <u>silence ringing</u> through and through and through (Pre-Chorus, line 7)</i> <i>I’ll be the sound of <u>shaking leaves</u> (Pre-Chorus, line 9)</i> <i>Look into your <u>heart</u> (Chorus, line 12)</i> <i>I’ll be the <u>sunlight</u> (I’ll be the sunlight) (Pre-Chorus, line 21)</i> <i>When the <u>moon cracks</u> into two (Bridge, line 29)</i> <i>Winter <u>burns up dry</u> (Bridge, line 31)</i> <i><u>Fire-clouds</u> for a sky (Bridge, line 32)</i>
3	Personification	<i>Falling all from <u>A breeze that pleas</u> and pleas and pleas (Pre-Chorus, line 10)</i>
4	Oxymoron	<i>When <u>daylight is too dark</u> and night’s last way too long (Chorus, line 11)</i>
5	Paradox	<i>To a love that <u>forever lives on but is gone</u> (Verse 2, line 18)</i>

The most dominant types of Figurative language found in Fiddlehead Album Between the Richness

We identify there are 13 Figurative languages used in the Fiddlehead Song lyrics in the Album *Between the Richness*. From the analysis, we find that there are 52 items of Figurative languages in accordance to the total number of data found in this

research. In detail, there are 17 for metaphor, 7 for hyperbole, 1 for simile, 8 for imagery, 3 for paradox, 2 for oxymoron, 1 for alliteration, 1 for juxtaposition, 3 for Symbolism, 1 for synecdoche, 4 for personification, 2 for antithesis, 2 for repetition. In addition, the table also shows that there is a variation number of Figurative Languages found in each Song. Concretely, there are 5 Figurative

languages found in Song 1, 7 in Song 2, 9 in Song 3, 6 in Song 4, 4 in Song 5, 3 in Song 6, 5 in Song 7, and 13 in Song 8.

Discussion

Based on the findings as described, we can discuss several points. Firstly, we have thoroughly examined the intricate use of figurative language in *Between the Richness*, illustrating how the album's lyrics leverage various rhetorical devices to deepen the emotional and thematic dimensions of the music. Rich with metaphors, imagery, hyperbole and paradox, the album contributes to creating a multi-layered narrative that speaks to personal experiences and broader human themes. The figurative language enables the band to convey complex emotions such as grief, longing, and hope, while reflecting on themes of identity, existential questioning, and the struggles inherent in the human condition. Metaphors, such as comparisons between emotional states and natural imagery, evoke a sense of vulnerability and resilience, capturing the tension between destruction and renewal. For instance, references to nature, like storms or seasons, mirror the internal turmoil of the songs' speakers, giving the listener a visceral sense of emotional conflict and catharsis. Similarly, similes create vivid images that allow the audience to draw deeper connections to the personal experiences being shared.

Secondly, Flynn uses different types of figurative language in each of his songs in the Album "Between the Richness". For example, in Song "Grief Motif" Flynn uses metaphor, hyperbole, synecdoche, paradox, in Song "Million Times" Pat Flynn uses Metaphor and Imagery, in Song "Heart to Heart" Pat Flynn uses Imagery, Metaphor, Personification, Oxymoron, Paradox,

and so on. Based on the description above, we identify that Flynn is a songwriter with a rich vocabulary because he does not only use one or two types of figurative language in his song lyrics. This is found very interesting as Flynn is actually a lecturer while he himself is a singer of metal rock band.

CONCLUSION

In the album *Between the Richness*, Fiddlehead addresses themes of loss, personal growth, and the complexities of human relationships. The album delves deeply into the emotional turmoil that comes with facing the end of significant life chapters, whether through the death of loved ones, the dissolution of relationships, or the challenge of reconciling with one's own past. Song lyrics like "The Years" explore the passage of time and the weight of growing older. The lyrics convey a sense of longing for clarity and meaning, while simultaneously grappling with the harsh realities of life. By weaving these themes into the fabric of the music, Fiddlehead uses figurative language to create a narrative that resonates with anyone who has faced moments of uncertainty or grief. Ultimately, *Between the Richness* captures the tension between vulnerability and resilience, offering a raw and introspective look at the human condition.

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