

CHARACTER DEVELOPMENT AND MORALITY: IN-DEPTH ANALYSIS OF THE ANIMATED FILM "ENCANTO"

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ABSTRACT

In this paper, the concept of analyzing film is directed in order to know the character development progress and morality of the story. Analyzing film can enhanced the knowledge given implicitly in the film's story and the morality behind it. The film analyzed here is "Encanto". The approach of "Encanto" was simply an attempt to go further into learning about the character's hidden conception. Each character in the story were highlighted due to the interest of acknowledging every character's development throughout the storyline and what kind morality represents each of them. The results over the character's development are divided into the form of themes, such as Acceptance, Self-Worth, and Resilience. From these results, the research can be converted into a conclusion of which themes that's dominantly relevant throughout the story and the rest of the plot. The highlight will also mention the result of which category of characteristics is the most appealing and what is the overall morality tale of "Encanto" as an animated film.

Keywords: Analyzing; Film; Theme; Morality; Development

INTRODUCTION

Film has been a crucial part of the entertainment media. As a result, people nowadays watch films to fill their time or even as an entertainment purpose. Welleck and Warren (1993) defines "Literature as a full creation form, emotion, and expression which designate imaginative ideas through language as media". It can be stated that as a part of entertainment because making a film needs clever ideas, colorful themes, variety of emotion and expression that will be used in the process. Film is a combination of sending a message through moving pictures, with the use of a variety of technology such as camera, color, and sound. Those requirements can produce a story with

a meaningful message shown to the audience.

Another important part in a film or movie is the characters that take part in the media itself. Characters filled the role in participating in the storytelling in the story. The characters are also identical to the film. An iconic character or a well-played character could increase the audience's interest in seeing the film. The importance of a character can also be referred to its characteristics and development. The more attractive or great design character and a more interesting or unique personality, the higher chance it will secure the hearts of the audiences. Character in literature is the representation of a human being's speech, especially in terms of

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determining themselves through the person's thoughts, speech and behavior (Roberts 1983). Characters provide an important part of elements, which often serve as both entertainment and moral education for diverse audiences. Film tends to find ways to tell the growth of a character, either implicitly or explicitly. Therefore, this type of narrative tends to be somewhat confusing but still an interesting knowledge towards the audience.

Film is a type of entertainment that can be enjoyed by many people. Therefore, there are a lot of types of genres of film for every range of age, for diverse audiences to enjoy. Watching film can connect the emotions flowing through an individual. People connecting emotions through film can be seen because of the characters playing their roles throughout the film. Some people may find a correlation from the character that they watched in that specific film. Haake and Gulz define character as related to visual presentation / appearance and impression. The physical appearance of a person shapes the expectations of other values in the character (Haake, Gulz (2008) in Hanna, 2013:4).

Character can reflect on everyday life situations, like for people in general. The role of a character is important to shape an identity. With some surrounding factors that can help shape a student's identity. Every person has their own character living up to, including students. A student's identity can be derived from their character itself. The development of a student can also be obtained from a lot of ways, such as their growth, their experiences, and even their education. The Merdeka Belajar Curriculum shows that as an individual, students

are advised to carry out their duties (learning) based on the profile value of "Pancasila". The profile value of "Pancasila" consisting of 1) faithful, devoted to God Almighty, and noble, 2) independent, 3) cooperative, 4) globally diverse, 5) critical thinking, and 6) creative. These values would help create a responsible self for better impact in conducting learning experience.

There are also many types of films that are popular in the entertainment industry. While many genres of films consist full of paid actors. There is also the other side of the genres being animated films. According to Cambridge Dictionary, animated films or animations are moving images created from drawings, models, etc. That are photographed or created by a computer. Though in this scenario, animated films are usually associated with kid's preferences. In this modern era, animated films or movies can also be appealing towards adult audiences.

In this research, we're going to talk about the recent Disney's animated film "Encanto," a 2021 animated film produced by Walt Disney Animation Studios. The film unfolds in a secluded, enchanted village where the Madrigal family reside in their magical home, "Casita." Each member of the family is blessed with a unique magical ability, from super strength to healing powers, except for the protagonist, Mirabel. As the family's magic begins to wane, Mirabel embarks on a journey to uncover the source of the problem and restore the magic that holds her family together. "Encanto" delves into complex themes of family dynamics, individual identity, and societal expectations. It explores the pressure to

live up to familial and communal ideals, the struggle for self-worth, and the importance of embracing one's true self. Through Mirabel's eyes, the audience witnesses the challenges and triumphs of a family bound by both love and high expectations. This film presents an intricate portrayal of character development, showcasing how individual troubles, personal growth and moral understanding evolve in response to familial problems and societal pressures.

Character development in "Encanto" is illustrating how each family member's unique gift contributes to their personal and moral growth. In characterization, characters are given identities with the aim that these characters will live and to progress the story itself, it's stated by Milawasri, 2017 (from Zuvyati Aryani Tlonaen: 2023). Mirabel's lack of a magical gift positions her as an outsider within her own family, prompting an exploration of themes such as self-worth, acceptance, and resilience. Her journey underscores the importance of intrinsic value over external validation, a moral lesson that resonates deeply with audiences. At its core, "Encanto" is a story about the universal search for acceptance and the courage to defy expectations. It resonates with the audiences by addressing issues and the balance between individual desires and family obligations, and the moral complexities in these relationships. Through its captivating animation, memorable music, heartfelt narrative, and the film's engaging storyline, it is all combined with its emotional depth and cultural authenticity. It makes "Encanto" a tale exploration of character development and morality

within the framework of animated storytelling.

"Encanto" offers a profound exploration of character development and morality, using the vision of magical realism to address real-world issues. The film's nuanced portrayal of the Madrigal family's struggles and growth provides a compelling narrative that encourages audiences to reflect on their own moral beliefs and the importance of personal authenticity. By analyzing "Encanto," we gain valuable insights into how animated films can effectively convey complex moral lessons and foster character development.

This research will analyze every family member that plays a role in the film and explain the context in which part that revolves growth and moral analysis. To address the problems of analyzing character development and morality, with revealing how the character growth affects each of the characters and how the morals hidden affect the storyline through film analysis, cultural studies, and the audience reception. The following state of problem questions will present:

1. How does "Encanto" address the themes of self-worth, acceptance, and resilience in the face of familial dynamics and societal pressures?
2. What are the primary moral and ethical lessons conveyed in "Encanto"?

METHODS

This research about character development and morality will be conducted using film analysis, a qualitative research method. It involves the in-depth examination and interpretation of various elements contained in the film itself. This

approach will provide a perfect understanding of the film's themes and their broader implications. All materials used for this research includes textual and visual type found in the film included the following criteria: (1) The material contains content that represents each main casts from the film, (2) The materials for this, requires the visual representation in the film, with description (subtitles) or narratives.

The data gathered for this research will be conducted through watching the "Encanto" film. From watching the film we can analyze the contents, analyzing the narratives are possible to examine the "Encanto" film's plot structure, focusing on specific key scenes that revolves around the clue that the contributes character development input and thematic progression. Analyzing narratives can also help examine the characters interactions, dialogue, and the overall storyline to understand how the narrative conveys moral lessons on each character that are relevant towards the plot or story and the entirety of the film itself. The content further elaborates on analyzing the visual elements of the film, including the atmosphere of the scene, color palette, and symbolic imagery. It is stated on the official Walt Disney's Animation Studio website that the film's amount of duration is about 90 minutes 28 seconds with a total of 40 sequences, resulting in 267,418 frames used. With this content, it can be used as a guide to identify recurring themes related to each family dynamics, identity, self-worth, acceptance, and resilience. While also analyzing how these themes are developed and represented throughout the film.

After watching the film, every sequence that happened throughout the film was examined and analyzed carefully. From the film, the data can be transcribed using Microsoft Excel. The transcription from the subtitles of the film contains dialogue that can be classified into different types of categories, such as parts that contains the actors, sequence of moments, name of activities the characters played throughout the film, the themes of self-worth, acceptance, and resilience that are written in the storyline. The type of instrument used to help gathering data for this research is table analysis. To combine and analyze each theme, the data is put into a table. This proves that the research uses film analysis, Microsoft Excel for transcription of the data, and then table analysis as the main tools of conducting this research.

While also being in the same framework with qualitative method, this study uses narrative and visual analysis. Therefore, it can perform a detailed narrative analysis using the contents key scenes, character interactions, dialogues, with plot developments, while also being able to conduct visual analysis to explore the symbolism and visual storytelling contribute to character development and the moral message of the overall story.

Thompson (2008:76) (from Farkhatu Solihah), mentioned that plot is used to describe everything visibly and audibly present in the film before us. The plot includes all the story events that are directly depicted. The plot or theme of the film is going to be highlighted as one of the main sources of the questions. The main themes being categorized are the theme of

acceptance, theme of self-worth, and the theme of resilience.

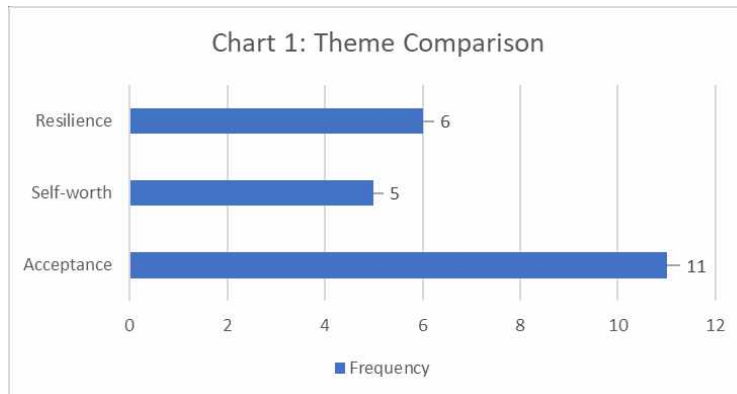
FINDINGS AND DISCUSSION

1.1.1. Findings

The findings started with the film analysis results taken as a qualitative research method. The

findings include the main themes from the film’s plot. Bordwell and The plot themes from the sequence of the film were classified according to the types of form; acceptance, self-worth, and resilience. The following table summarizes the overall result of the themes shown in the film.

Chart 1 Theme Comparison



Tabel 1 Theme Comparison

Label	Frequency
Resilience	6
Self-worth	5
Acceptance	11

In chart 1, the corresponding theme resulting of three types of elements which is acceptance, self- worth, and resilience. The chart result explains that the theme of acceptance often shown throughout the sequence. Even after a long part of conflict still resumes, the family or one of the family members still be able to perform the feel of acceptance in order to resolve their troubles. This firm of believe is shown in some sequence of the film revolving around the family when they are communicating with each other.

A. Acceptance

From the previous chart we can see that the theme of acceptance has the

highest frequency out of the rest of the theme. The data gathered from the film analysis contains about 11 sequences throughout the plot. The acceptance theme is mainly told in the film through close relations on the family. The acceptance as a theme is portrayed by the main character with another character who has a close relationship to the main character. Examples that are found in the film is Mirabel’s dialogue with both of her parents and also Mirabel’s relationship with her cousin, Antonio. One of the dialogues shown that represents the theme of acceptance, in the following dialogue:

MIRABEL: If it was all in my head, how did I cut my hand? I would never ruin Antonio's night. Is that really what you think?

JULIETA: What I think is that today was very hard for you

MIRABEL That's (not) (then) I was looking out for the family. And I might not be super-strong like Luisa, or effortlessly perfect like "Señorita Perfecta" Isabela, who's never even had a bad hair day. But... (SIGHS) Whatever...

JULIETA: **I wish you could see yourself the way I do. You are perfect, just like this. You're just as special as anyone else in this family.**

B. Self-worth

For the theme of self-worth, it is stated from the chart stood the lowest out of all the theme result, meaning that this theme doesn't really show often in the film. The total data gathered from the film contains 5 sequences throughout the plot. The self-worth theme mainly revolves around the main character of the film, which is Mirabel. All of the self-worth sequence happens in the story revolves the focus around Mirabel specifically and her relationships portrayed. The self-worth theme also shed light to Mirabel's development as a character and also highlights the pacing on Mirabel's development. From Mirabel's coping on not being able to get used on being different in the family, to Mirabel finally being able to accept herself worthy of love from her family. Some dialogue examples for this being:

Sequence 1.

JULIETA: Whoa. Mi vida, you okay? You don't have to over-do it.

MIRABEL: **I know, Mamá, I just want to do my part like the rest of the family.**

Sequence 2.

ABUELA ALMA: Open your eyes... (then, small) Abre los ojos. What do you see?

But Mirabel looks at her reflection in her doorknob. and

smiles.

MIRABEL: **I see... me (then)**

All of me.

C. Resilience

For the resilience theme, the total from the chart is 6 sequences throughout the film. Being not too far from self-worth as a theme but still stood second place for the most theme shown in the film. Resilience is the ability to cope around misfortune or after events of misfortune happened. Resilience turns of events that is clearly shown in the film is Mirabel related and some family members that relates on resolving problems with Mirabel or those who comforted Mirabel, like Bruno and Antonio. These variety of sequence is shown as a form of dialogue such as:

Sequence 1.

ANTONIO: I wish you could have a door.

Mirabel considers this for a moment, it clearly pains her but she puts on a brave face for Antonio.

MIRABEL: You know what? You don't have to worry about me,

'cause I have an amazing family... and an amazing house, and an amazing you. And seeing you get your special gift and your door... that's gonna make me way more happy than anything.

Sequence 2.

MIRABEL: (singing) Don't be upset or be mad at all... Don't feel regret, or sad at all... **Hey, I'm still a part of the family Madrigal... and I'm fine, I am totally fine I will stand on the side as you shine...**

Sequence 3.

TIO BRUNO: Mirabel. Oh, sorry, sorry, sorry, you see you're missing the point. **The fate of the family is not up to her, it's up to you. You're exactly what this family needs.** You just have to see it. (then, casual) **By yourself, after I leave.**

Discussion

From the themes of the sequence, it can be interpreted that the current three main themes do correlates in the film. This statement is supported by every following scene and sequence that has included Acceptance, Self-worth, and Resilience as an imagery relates to a hidden meaningful message that represents a certain character. Our findings reveal that previous research films tell that film production creates visual images that directs into storyline. Storyline is what defines a character and their development and their worth as a character goes. Paying attention to the storyline can reveal the in-depth meaning of the characters timeline, personality, and morality growth.

Previous research about films, defines films as such things like tool of

communication for conveying messages aimed for the audience. These messages from films can have various impacts such as entertainment, education, influence, and development for the audience. From the storytelling of the film, the messages given in the film can also identify every character in the story and their specific development. With this development, identifying a certain character growth can be conclude in a closer look of morality section (Steven Saputra & Riris Loisa in "Character Maturing in Storytelling: A Narrative Analysis of The New Found Commercial Short Film").

On previous research about films, morality is also a main conception in order to determine a character. Morality is an attempt to extract the meaning of the character's action. The narrative of the story can collectively respond to each character's morality. "It can't begin with ideas, because every idea comes after a corresponding impression; so, it must start with impressions— there must be some impressions that turn up in the soul without having been heralded by any preceding perception." (Hume, p. 147). In this analysis, the types of character's morality development are categorized in the form of Acceptance, Self-worth, and Resilience. Acceptance being a resolution fore one as a character, Self-worth is the character's internal sense of being good enough and worthy of love and belonging from other loved ones, and Resilience identify as an ability of a character to recover from or adjust easily from misfortune or change.

According to David Carr (Carr, p. 3), character has the potential to be a unique site for transformative moral relationships, much in the same way that the classics were an important cornerstone

in the development of ethics. Some characters from the cast can be confirmed to have a character containing the main three development components.

Therefore, morality and character developments can correlate between everyday activity for us people to develop their own character as a part of growing up process. Based on how all of the message proven from the film, all the knowledgeable points can benefit into personal lives, education, relationship core, and many more. main scientific findings (not experimental results).

CONCLUSIONS

In conclusion, "Encanto" offers a profound exploration of character development and morality, using film analyzing and data requirement as a tool. The film's nuanced portrayal of the

Madrigal family's struggles and growth provides a compelling narrative that encourages viewers to reflect on their own moral beliefs and the importance of personal authenticity. From all of that, the protagonist, Mirabel often included in all characteristic and development that were involved. By analyzing "Encanto," we gain valuable insights into how animated films can effectively convey complex moral lessons and foster character development.

By employing these research methods, this research will provide a thorough and deeper analysis of "Encanto," by focusing on character development and morality. This approach ensures that the study captures the complexity of the film's narrative and its impact on diverse audiences, contributing valuable insights into the educational and personalization significance of animated films as a whole.

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