

A SOCIOLOGICAL ANALYSIS OF SOCIAL INTERACTION AS PORTRAYED BY DIDO OF *BELLE* FILM

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ABSTRACT

This study concerned in finding out the types of social interaction performed by Dido character and her personality traits in *Belle* film. This study used two theories to answer the two objectives of this study which were Tischler's social interaction and Costa & McCrae's big five personality traits. The data of this study were pictures and words (in forms of narration and dialogue) related to the social interaction and personality traits of Dido character that were obtained from *Belle* film and its film script. The results of this study showed Dido as the main character of *Belle* film performed four types of social interaction such as nonverbal behaviour interaction, exchange interaction, cooperative interaction, and conflict interaction. Meanwhile, Dido's personality traits were identified into extraversion, openness to experience, agreeableness, and conscientiousness. This study concluded that in performing the social interaction, Dido character tended to take account of her objectives and also involved her personality traits to achieve the best form of interaction.

Keywords: sociology, social interaction, personality traits, character

ABSTRAK

Penelitian ini berfokus untuk mencari tahu tipe-tipe interaksi sosial yang dilakukan oleh Dido beserta sifat-sifat kepribadiannya dalam film Belle. Penelitian ini menggunakan dua teori untuk menjawab dua pertanyaan yaitu interaksi sosial milik Tischler dan lima sifat utama dalam kepribadian milik Costa dan McCrae. Data yang digunakan dalam penelitian ini berupa gambar-gambar dan kata-kata (dalam bentuk narasi dan dialog) yang berhubungan dengan tipe-tipe interaksi sosial dan sifat-sifat kepribadian karakter Dido yang diambil dalam film Belle dan skrip filmnya. Hasil penelitian ini menunjukkan bahwa Dido sebagai karakter utama dalam film Belle melakukan empat tipe interaksi sosial seperti perilaku interaksi non-verbal, interaksi pertukaran, interaksi kerjasama, dan interaksi konflik. Sementara itu, sifat-sifat kepribadian Dido diidentifikasi sebagai ekstrasvert, terbuka terhadap hal-hal baru, mudah bersepakat, dan sifat berhati-hati. Penelitian ini mengambil kesimpulan bahwa dalam melakukan interaksi sosialnya, karakter Dido cenderung mempertimbangkan terlebih dahulu tujuan-tujuannya dan mengikutsertakan sifat-sifat kepribadiannya agar dapat mencapai bentuk interaksi sosial yang terbaik.

Kata Kunci: sosiologi, interaksi sosial, sifat-sifat kepribadian, karakter

A. INTRODUCTION

Social interaction has already become the basic psychological needs that is in equal with the needs for food and thus, it is a vital to be explored. According to Tischler, a social interaction is the involvement of two or more people taking one another into account and interplay between the actions of these individuals (112). The nature of human as the social beings could not be left unaccountable since at the end of the day, human will seek and long for the social interaction. Furthermore, when it comes to discussing about social interaction, it cannot be parted with the personality traits of the people involved. There are several types of personality traits posed by people in our society. Each type plays crucial role in everyday life, most importantly in performing social interaction.

This study focuses to discuss about the social interaction and personality traits as portrayed by the main character of *Belle* film, Dido. Dido character is described as the mix-race person who has a noble lineage running in her blood. Yet, this fact could not help her to be seen and treated as the same with those people from the noble class. Thus, the writer would like to see the way Dido struggled in such condition particularly on her social interaction and the personality traits that help her to perform it. The theory of social interaction by Tischler is used to find out the types of social interaction performed by Dido character. Meanwhile, the theory of personality traits by Costa and McCrae is used to find out Dido's personality traits in the film. Hence, this study is entitled *A Sociological Analysis of Social Interaction as Portrayed in Dido of Belle Film*.

B. THEORETICAL FRAMEWORK

1. SOCIAL INTERACTION BY TISCHLER

Tischler explains that in performing social interaction, there are two elements to be held accountable based on the environments and purposes. The elements are statuses and roles. Tischler explains that *statuses* are socially defined positions that people occupy, while *roles* are the culturally defined rules for proper behaviour that are associated with every status (120). Both statuses and roles help people to pattern the types of social interaction that are required to perform as well as to provide the prediction of successfully performing the interaction. Thus, Tischler provides several types of social interaction that are in line with these two elements such as nonverbal behaviour interaction, exchange interaction, cooperative interaction, conflict interaction, and competition interaction.

a. Nonverbal Behaviour Interaction

The nonverbal behaviour refers to the way people communicate with one another by using their body movements, such as slight head nods, yawns, postural shifts, and other non-verbal cues, whether spontaneous or deliberate, effect communication (Tischler 116). However, in performing this types of social interaction may apply differently according to the attitude of culture that teaches people to express a specific manner (116). Thus, it is important to make certain that the receiver of nonverbal behaviour understands well about this norm of interaction.

b. Exchange Interaction

Every form of social interaction always involves the act of exchanging, where individuals, groups, or societies interact in an effort to receive a reward or a return for their action. Exchange interaction happens when people do something for each other with the purpose of receiving a reward in return (Tischler 117). All exchanges involve some degree of mutual dependence, where each actor depends on her/his partner in order to receive some desired good of outcome.

c. Cooperative Interaction

In performing social interaction, people may come up with various intentions as the trigger to perform the act. One of the intentions may be to achieve shared goals among people who have the same interest. This type of social interaction occurs when people act together to promote their common interests so that they could achieve the shared goals (Tischler 117). It means that people are cooperating to achieve their shared goals. The goals are concerned to be benefit for many people.

d. Conflict Interaction

In conflict interaction, people struggle with one another to attain for some commonly prized object or value (Tischler 118). In most conflict relationship, only one person can gain the advantage at someone else's expense. Conflicts arise when people or groups have incompatible values or when the rewards or resources available to a society or its members are limited. Thus, conflict always involves an attempt to gain or use power in attaining one's goal.

e. Competition Interaction

A common definition revolves around the term of competition that it is a situation created to have at least two people strive against each other for achieving their goals. This definition then being termed Tischler as another form of conflict where individuals or groups confine their conflict within agreed upon rules (118). It is a common form of interaction in the modern world that occurs not only on the sports field, but in the marketplace, the education system, and the political system (118).

2. PERSONALITY TRAITS BY COSTA AND MCCRAE

Costa and McCrae introduce the theory of personality that is well-known as the big five personality traits that can be used to assess people's traits. The five personality traits are classified as extraversion, neuroticism, openness to experience, agreeableness, and conscientiousness.

a. Extraversion Trait

Extraversion trait deals with the degree of comfort-ability of a person in his/her relationships with other people (Costa and McCrae). When a person is able to feel comfortable towards his/her own self, then it is more likely to develop this kind of trait. Since one is not possible to develop a high comfort-ability relationship with other people unless the person feels good enough as a whole being.

b. Neuroticism Trait

Neuroticism trait associates with the degree of emotional stability of a person. People with high neuroticism would be easily distracted, moody, easily stressed,

irritable, and often worried (Costa and McCrae). Meanwhile, people with low neuroticism would be more relaxed, calm, emotionally stable, and away from bad thoughts.

c. Openness to Experience Trait

Openness to experience trait refers to the degree of one's imagination or fascination (Costa and McCrae). It implies that a person accompanied with this trait is able to bring him/herself in understanding life from many perspectives. As a result, the person becomes more open to many possibilities that may happen in life.

d. Agreeableness Trait

The personality trait of agreeableness concerns on the degree of a person's sense of acceptance and tolerance with other people (Costa and McCrae). It deals on to what extent a person is able to perform his/her sense of acceptance and/or tolerance over situation or people that require to do so.

e. Conscientiousness Trait

Conscientiousness trait refers to the degree of a person in his/her sense of achieving goal and success (Costa and McCrae). The characteristics such as hard-worker, organized person, responsible, driving person, attentive, helpful, ambitious, logical, systematize, cautious, and comprehensive revolve around the trait of conscientiousness. A person who has a goal will automatically do something so that the goal is possible to be achieved. Thus, the person will have one or some of these characteristics as his/her efforts in achieving the goal.

3. PREVIOUS STUDIES

As the first previous study, it was entitled *Big Five Personality and Different Meanings of Happiness of Consumers* written by Hyunhee Woo and Hyung Jun Ahn in 2015. This study aimed to test the existence of different experiences of happiness as shown in several texts of online blogs. Woo and Ahn used online blog articles under the project named 'We Feel Fine' that collected the blog articles around the world as the object of their study. They limited the articles by applying key words such as 'I feel' or 'I'm feeling' as the ones that were used to be analysed which resulted into six articles only. In order to fulfill the objective, Woo and Ahn used big five personality theory by Costa et al. through text-mining approach. The result of Woo and Ahn's study showed that the linguistic characteristics of extroversion, conscientiousness, and openness to experience indeed affected the different meanings of happiness manifested in the articles.

As the second previous study, it was entitled *Reclaiming Female and Racial Agency: The Story of Dido Elizabeth Belle via Portrait and Film* written by Madison Blonquist in 2017. In this study, Blonquist explored to find out the truthful representation of race and gender on Dido Elizabeth Belle. Blonquist used the theory of truthful representation by Niki Saint-Phalle to explore a painting of Dido Elizabeth Belle that was presumably the work of Johann Zofanny and *Belle* film directed by Amma Asante in 2013. The result of Blonquist's study showed that the truthful representation of Dido Elizabeth Belle as portrayed in the painting and film were different. In the painting, Dido was portrayed as a mulatto woman who had to follow the British standard of beauty, particularly on the skin tone. On the other hand, the portrayal of Dido was completely different as shown in *Belle* film as

Amma Asante portrayed her to be a true individual of freedom, stable, and dignified.

C. RESEARCH METHOD

This study was referred as a qualitative study. As the research instrument, the writer herself was the instrument as the one who conducted all the steps needed in finishing this study. The data needed were in the forms of pictures and words (dialogues and narration) about the social interactions and personality traits of Dido character. The source of data were taken from *Belle* film and its script directed by Amma Asante in 2013. In collecting the data, the writer watched *Belle* film and identified the pictures and utterances (words, phrases, and/or sentences) of Dido character as shown in the film and its script that were related to the objectives of this study.

In analysing the data, the writer used the procedures of analysing the qualitative data presented by Lodico et al. such as prepare and organize the data, review and explore the data, code data into categories, construct thick descriptions of people, places, and activities, build themes and test hypothesis, and finally report and interpret the data (180). Based on the procedures of data analysis, the researcher prepared, organized, reviewed, explored, and categorized the data of social interaction based on the categorizations. The codes of categorization on social interaction and personality traits were presented below:

| No. | INDICATORS | CODE |
|-----|-------------------------------------|------|
| 1. | Nonverbal Behaviour Interaction | NvI |
| 2. | Exchange Interaction | ExI |
| 3. | Cooperative Interaction | CooI |
| 4. | Conflict Interaction | ConI |
| 5. | Competition Interaction | ComI |
| 6. | Extraversion Personality Trait | ExrT |
| 7. | Neuroticism Personality Trait | Neut |
| 8. | Openness Personality Trait | OpeT |
| 9. | Agreeableness Personality Trait | AgrT |
| 10. | Conscientiousness Personality Trait | ConT |

D. FINDINGS AND DISCUSSION

1. FINDINGS

This study concerned to find out the types of social interaction performed by Dido as the main character and the types of personality traits in *Belle* film. This study used two theories to help the writer in analysing Dido character. Social interaction theory by Tischler was used to analyse the types of social interaction that Dido character performed in the film. On the other hand, this study used personality trait theory by Costa and McCrae in analysing the types of personality trait Dido character in *Belle* film.

a. Nonverbal Behaviour Interaction

The setting of the dialogue below occurred in a slum room that involved a fragile girl around six years old, named Dido Elizabeth Belle Lindsay, Captain Sir John Lindsay (Dido's father), and a poor black woman. The eye contact of Dido implied the nonverbal behavior interaction that could be interpreted as a discomfort feeling when she met a new man. Even though at that moment, little Dido indeed felt uncomfortable meeting a stranger, yet she was able to make social interaction.



NvI 01, min. 01:30

Dido : ... (*Dido looks at Captain Sir John Lindsay meaningfully without expressing a word*).

Sir John Lindsay: How lovely she is. So much of her mother. Don't be afraid. I am here to take you to a good life. A life that you were born to. Here ..

It was not through words but her gesture behaviour. Dido performed the interaction through her stable gaze towards John Lindsay. By performing this type of social interaction, little Dido wanted to be connected with other people. She wanted to, at least, face another stranger.

b. Exchange Interaction

The dialogue below happened between Dido and Harry as the driver of carriage in the Mansfield family. They were in the Kenwood House and Dido asked him to take her to a place. She wanted to meet John Davinier. Dido wished to discuss the Zong case without any knowledge of the Mansfield family.

ExI 02, min. 58:20

Dido : Harry! Harry! **I need your help. I need you to take me somewhere.**

Harry : Alone, Miss?

Dido : I shall not be alone, I shall be with you. Please, Harry. If you don't take me, I shall be forced to go alone.

This interaction could be claimed as the exchange interaction since Dido performed the interaction in order to achieve her goal in the form of getting a help from another character. She interacted to Harry by asking a favour to be done. As the result, Dido was able to obtain her goal of meeting John Davinier.

c. Cooperative Interaction

There was a meeting held between the Mansfield family and Ashford family for the sake of Dido and Elizabeth's matchmaking. It appeared two men who had the interest for each girl.

CooI 02, min. 54:00

Oliver : So I feel my career is now set. All that remains I cannot offer you a title, Miss Lindsay for the next Lady Ashford. Well that title must fall to my brother's wife. What I am trying to say is, I can without doubt, offer you all that is due to Mrs. Oliver Ashford and I trust that this would be acceptable to you since it would very much be my privilege. **My honor, if you would agree to become my wife.**

Dido : Good Lord, Mr. Oliver. **Your... your wife?** Mrs. Ashford? I... I cannot... **I cannot think of anything... more wonderful.**

In the drawing room, Oliver proposed to Dido. Obviously, since Dido was anxiously waited for this to come, then she accepted the marriage proposal. In this context, it implied that the cooperative interaction occurred between Dido and Oliver due to the fact that they had a similar interest which was a marriage relationship. Both of them were agreed to marry each other.

d. Conflict Interaction

After experiencing by her own self the loser attitude of James Ashford, Dido decided to let her cousin, Elizabeth knew this fact. She did not want her family to be married off to such a person who had no manner and only knew of priding himself above everything. Yet, this decision did not turn out well since it created another conflict interaction between Dido and Elizabeth.

ConI 02, min. 01:13:43

Elizabeth : You... You are... You are illegitimate! Have you never wondered why you are not permitted to eat with our guests?

Dido : **My mother and father never married. You are correct. But my father acknowledged me as his child. It is yours who refuses to legitimize your position! And that is why it is not me who is beneath Mr. James, Bette. It is not me!**

The conflict interaction above happened in the drawing room of Kenwood House. Dido was in her attempt of making Elizabeth to see the truth of James Ashford. She never wanted her family to share the rest of her life to such unmannered man. Yet, Elizabeth refused to believe Dido and started to accuse her as a liar. It was clear that this conversation caused a huge conflict between Dido and Elizabeth to the point of bringing up something that was not supposed to (the thing about Dido as an illegitimate child). This conflict interaction had caused pain, anger, and hatred emotions between the two characters.

e. Extraversion Trait

The portrayal of extraversion trait in Dido character was shown when she investigated the case of Zong ship. The case involved the suspected intentional drowning ship of African slave. Since the case appeared to have something odd went on, then Dido decided to find out the truth.

ExrT 01, min. 46:05

Dido : **I have tried to keep up with the Zong. These past weeks.**

John Davinier : This pitiful! Such inability to simply know what value to put on another's life.

Dido and John Davinier discussed about the slaves case on the Zong ship that took many victims of Negro slaves. This case was popular to be discussed in the court of London society. She was sympathetic with this issue. Indeed, she wanted any change of law that set the life of slaves. And also, she fought to give the right for the slaves by providing and giving the information that was noted by Lord Mansfield to John Davinier. Here, the action of Dido implied that she had the social trait within herself. Dido was able to share her sympathy sense with other people, even if she chose to be ignorant, she would gain no lose. Yet, Dido chose to concern herself on the case.

f. Openness to Experience Trait

As an individual who was raised in a complex circumstance (Dido lived in a poor condition during her childhood and then lived in a high class environment when she entered her teenage years), this condition somehow shaped her trait of openness. The first sense was her curiosity. Dido could not help of being curious toward things that she accounted to have oddity.

OpeT 01, min. 31:38

Dido : **Mr. Davinier please, tell me what you know. Tell me. Don't render me your amusement.**

John Davinier : I can only tell you what I believe.

As shown in the conversation above, Dido asked John Davinier to tell her the truth regarding the Zong case. Dido sensed that something was off about the case and thus, demanded her right to be told about the real thing. In order to satisfy her sense of curiosity, Dido was ready to accept any possibility that might come along the revealing of truth.

Moreover, Dido also posed the sense of intellectual by sparking the curiosity. When Dido wished to know and understand something deeper than she already had, at the same time, it required her to use her critical thinking ability in understanding the situation. She felt that something was odd with the Zong case and therefore looking for the evidence to prove whether she was right or not. If Dido had no intellectual sense, then she would have accepted the Zong case as it was without further questioning the oddity.

g. Agreeableness Trait

Agreeableness trait was shown through Dido's sense of forgiving. She realised that every person made mistake including herself, and hence, she was supposed to be able to forgive other people when they made one. Here, she forgave the rude

behaviour of Elizabeth when she refused to believe the fact that James Ashford was not a gentleman.

AgrT 02 min. 01:19:58

Elizabeth : Don't you dare say a word.

Dido : **I won't ... (Her eyes gaze at Elizabeth and she touches on Elizabeth's hand softly).**

Elizabeth once insulted Dido by claiming that her position was beneath James Ashford due to the fact that Dido was an illegitimate child. Thus, Elizabeth refused to believe the fact that James Ashford assaulted Dido. Someday, it was proved that James Ashford was indeed a man of inappropriateness since there was news about him marrying another woman without the knowledge of Elizabeth.

This news caused Elizabeth in great shock and disappointed. Then, she conveyed her apology to Dido. Obviously, Dido forgave her by hugging Elizabeth softly. This situation indicated that she was not only as a forgiving person, but also softhearted and sympathetic girl even after being hurt by Elizabeth's behaviour.

h. Conscientiousness Trait

It was a fact that Dido cared so much about her family, regardless the bad circumstance they had put her in. Even if Dido had received different and unfair treatment within the Kenwood House, still she could not help herself from loving the family. This was clearly shown when Dido decided to help Elizabeth finding a better man to be her partner in life.

Const 02, min. 01:11:40

Elizabeth : I have heard nothing from him, since Vauxhall, Dido. I was certain an announcement was to be made any day... that he meant it this time!

Dido : Then he is not a man of his word. **I will help you find the kindest most wonderful of husband. And I shall ask Papa to use a portion of my inheritance for your dowry.**

Dido wanted to help Elizabeth in finding her an appropriate husband even to the point of sharing a portion of her inheritance as the dowry for Elizabeth. By giving the dowry, the goal of finding a husband for Elizabeth was possible to be achieved. Indeed, it was obvious that Dido had given a huge help for the sake of other character.

2. DISCUSSION

After analysing the data and obtaining the findings, it appeared similarities and differences of this study's findings with the two previous studies' findings. In the first previous study which was entitled *Big Five Personality and Different Meanings of Happiness of Consumers* written by Woo and Ahn, the aim was to test the different experiences of happiness as shown in several texts of online blogs articles. Woo and Ahn used the similar theory with this study which was big five personality traits by Costa and McCrae. The findings shown in Woo and Ahn's study claimed three personality traits of the big five theory to affect the different meanings of happiness manifested in those blog articles. The traits were extraversion, openness to experience, and conscientiousness. This findings were in

line with the current study's findings since Dido as the main character of *Belle* film also contained these three personality traits.

On the other hand, the difference of Woo and Ahn's findings with the current study's laid on the fact that Dido's personality traits (extraversion, openness to experience, and conscientiousness) were not merely related to the state of happiness. In fact, Dido's traits of extraversion, openness to experience, and conscientiousness related to various state in her life such as achieving her goals, helping other characters, and interacting with one to another. In addition, Dido character was found to have another personality trait known as agreeableness.

In the second previous study which was entitled *Reclaiming Female and Racial Agency: The Story of Dido Elizabeth Belle via Portrait and Film* written by Blonquist, the writer of the current study also found the similarity and differences of findings. Blonquist's study aimed to find out the truthful representation of race and gender on Dido Elizabeth Belle through the painting and film media. The result showed that Dido Elizabeth Belle was portrayed as someone who obligated to follow the British standard of beauty, while in the *Belle* film, she was portrayed as an individual of freedom, stable, and dignified.

The same finding of Dido character that she was a person of freedom, stable, and dignified also appeared in the current study. During her social interaction and within some of personality traits, these states also appeared on Dido character. On the other hand, the finding that claimed Dido character as an individual who followed the British standard of beauty did not appear in the current's findings. It was due to the fact that this study used *Belle* film as the object instead of the painting on Dido character.

E. CONCLUSIONS

In relation to the research questions, the writer concludes the conclusions of this study. Firstly, the types of social interaction performed by Dido as the main character in *Belle* film are shown as nonverbal behaviour interaction, exchange interaction, cooperative interaction, and conflict interaction. Secondly, the personality traits of Dido character are identified as extraversion, openness to experience, agreeableness, and conscientiousness.

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