

Reflection Of Children's Happiness By Coraline's Character In *Coraline* Film

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ABSTRACT

This study concerns the reflection of a children's happiness in the *Coraline* film. The purpose of this study is to find some reflections of the happiness of Coraline's character through the situations described in the film that can be seen from several aspects. This study used the theory of happiness by Martin Seligman. Happiness has five aspects consisting of (1) Positive Emotion, (2) Engagement, (3) Positive Relationship, (4) Meaning and (5) Accomplishment. This research included qualitative descriptive research, this study used qualitative research to analyze the problems associated with happiness on the Coraline's character and in this study the approach applied a psychological approach, the data source was taken from the *Coraline* Film. The researcher used qualitative research to analyze the dialogue script of Caroline's character in the *Coraline* included in the aspects of happiness by Martin Seligman's theory. The results of the study showed that the happiness found in Caroline's character in the film is not all through the right way. When Coraline finds a home from another world, and there is a family that is very similar to her real family, Coraline begins to feel the happiness she gets when living conditions are fine. In fact, all of that is not a real happiness, but rather create problems for Coraline's life. Thus, from every feeling of happiness that Coraline's feels, she tries to recognize and feel that not all the happiness she feels is real happiness according to what she wants to achieve.

Keywords: Coraline's , Happiness, Martin Seligman.

ABSTRAK

Penelitian ini membahas tentang refleksi kebahagiaan seorang anak dalam film *Coraline*. Tujuan dari penelitian ini adalah untuk menemukan beberapa refleksi kebahagiaan karakter Coraline melalui situasi yang digambarkan dalam film yang dapat dilihat dari beberapa aspek. Penelitian ini menggunakan teori kebahagiaan Martin Seligman. Kebahagiaan memiliki lima aspek yang terdiri dari (1) Emosi Positif, (2) Keterlibatan, (3) Hubungan Positif, (4) Makna dan (5) Pencapaian. Penelitian ini termasuk penelitian deskriptif kualitatif, penelitian ini menggunakan penelitian kualitatif untuk menganalisis permasalahan yang berhubungan dengan kebahagiaan pada karakter Coraline dan dalam penelitian ini pendekatan yang digunakan adalah pendekatan psikologis, sumber data diambil dari Film *Coraline*. Peneliti menggunakan penelitian kualitatif untuk menganalisis naskah dialog tokoh Caroline dalam

film *Coraline* yang termasuk dalam aspek kebahagiaan menurut teori Martin Seligman. Hasil penelitian menunjukkan bahwa kebahagiaan yang terdapat pada karakter Caroline dalam film tersebut tidak semuanya melalui jalan yang benar. Saat Coraline menemukan rumah dari dunia lain, dan ada keluarga yang sangat mirip dengan keluarga aslinya, Coraline mulai merasakan kebahagiaan yang didapatnya saat kondisi kehidupannya baik-baik saja. Padahal, semua itu bukanlah kebahagiaan yang hakiki, melainkan justru menimbulkan masalah bagi kehidupan Coraline. Maka dari itu, dari setiap rasa bahagia yang dirasakan Coraline, ia berusaha untuk menyadari dan merasakan bahwa tidak semua kebahagiaan yang ia rasakan adalah kebahagiaan yang hakiki sesuai dengan apa yang ingin ia capai.

Kata kunci: Coraline, Kebahagiaan, Martin Seligman.

A. INTRODUCTION

Children are the representation of the parents. It can be said that the assumption that parents are happy, children are happy too. Happy children usually have anything to do with their psychology, both spiritual and physical. According to Seligman the characteristics of a happy child are a positive psychological state in which a person has positive emotions in the form of life satisfaction and also positive thoughts and feelings about the life he lives (Seligman, 20). Children's happiness can be seen from several contexts both real and life descriptions. In everyday life, we often hear people mention or say children's literature, children's stories, or children's readings. From the above statement literature is an imaginative work of art and children's literature can also be entertaining for its readers. That is, by reading children's literature, readers especially children would get pleasure, enjoyment, and satisfaction (Wellek, 17).

Literature is a reflection of human life in the real world. As a work, literature also contains various stories that stimulate the reader to do something. Especially if the readers are children whose imaginations are just developing and are just at the stage of accepting all kinds of stories regardless of whether they make sense or not. Especially children as consumers who are considered to be still sensitive to various simulation.

Reflections or images of life that are recorded or in literature are a mirror of life or the expression of the human person in the form of experiences, thoughts, feelings, ideas, beliefs, in the form of a concrete image that evokes fascination with language instruments. Literary works can all be seen in the form of novels, films, dramas and so on (Sumardjo & Saini 19). Film is one of the literary works, the *Coraline* film contained in this study is a film that tells about the happiness of a child who then disappears for some reason. In the *Coraline* film.

Caroline is the main character who is a cheerful, happy, spoiled nature and has parents who love her. have a decent life, good neighbors and many friends. Coraline does not feel lonely and is surrounded by people who love her. But on the other hand, her parents begins to ignore and pay less attention to Caroline because of the economic demands that force her parents to work hard to live and results in less free time for their children.

This is what encourages this research to be studied in terms of psychology, especially children's psychology of literary works. The researcher focussed on the main character, Coraline. Researcher analyzed Coraline's character through happiness theory. By this film, the

researcher wanted to show that children's psychology can influence child character which can be shown by their attitude that reflects their happiness.

The reason the researcher analyzed this film was that many cases in this film occur in everyday life and not everyone is aware of it. In addition, this film can also be a lesson for parents or prospective parents to keep an eye on the development and activities of children, whether they are correct and according to their age. Even if you are busy with work or other things. *Coraline* is a story about a child who lacks attention from parents who are too busy with work, then the child seeks happiness in the wrong way.

The objective of the study could be stated as follows to describe the children's happiness reflection at the *Coraline*'s character in *Coraline* film, through the theory of children happiness and use it as a way to support the development of children's character. In this study, researcher only focuses the main character, *Coraline*. Researcher analyzed *Coraline*'s character and made correlation children happiness theory which would support children's happiness.

There are two benefits from this research to give the other researchers new knowledge such as theoretically, the results of this study can provide information to others about the theory of happiness or about what happiness elements are contained in the *Coraline* film. Practically, this study would make a good contribution and useful for prospective researchers in terms of analyzing using happiness theory by Martin Seligman.

B. LITERATURE REVIEW

1. Literary Works and Film

Literary work is the result of art, creativity, and originals. It is easy for us as laymen to understand the relationship between literature and film. Literature is also the expression of artistic and imaginative facts as a manifestation of human life and society in general, through language as a medium and having a positive effect on human life (Esten, 9). From definition above as we know literary work is something that is created as we know film either.

A film, also known as a movie, live image, theater film or motion picture, is a series of still images, which when displayed on the screen creates the illusion of a moving image due to the effect of the phi phenomenon, not only film but also mass media that have audio-visual properties, which can reach large audiences (Kridalaksana, 32).

Literary works are known in two forms, namely fiction and nonfiction. The types of literary works of fiction are prose, poetry, and drama. While examples of non-fiction literary works are biographies, autobiographies, essays, and literary criticism (Sumardjo & Saini, 18).

2. Happiness Theory

According to Martin, happiness can also be seen from other aspects. Martin calls it five aspects which are shortened to "PERMA" the word itself consists of Positive Emotion, Engagement, Positive Relationship, Meaning and Accomplishment. (97)

- a. **Positive Emotions.** Part of the essentials of well-being, such as pleasure, joy, being able to control and balance emotions in daily life physically as well as intellectually and creatively. Associated with well being are things that come into contact with physical or body, such as eating well when hungry, sleeping when tired. While pleasure has more to do with intellectual and creativity.
- b. **Engagement.** Focuses on something that is done and feels pleasure in full involvement with what is being done and relates to the soul, both physical and psychological or a mental condition that drifts together in an activity. When someone does a activity, then all attention, both physical and psychological totally directed towards these activities. Finally, no other thoughts than his activities. a person can forget about the surroundings or even for himself, such as forgetting to eat. Thing this is called an engagement. This condition is very helpful increase one's happiness.
- c. **Positive Relationships.** Everyone needs other people and improve their well being by building strong relationships with family, friends, neighbors or relationships that formed with other people or in society at large. Person who are able to build good relationships have a positive impact on the level of happiness. This is what is called social investment that cannot be valued in material terms.
- d. **Meaning.** In relation to happiness is also very close. All actions taken by humans are driven by the meaning of life in him. be grateful for what is happening in life and interpret this life according to the beliefs that are believed, have a clear stance. Do not go with the flow of other people's lives.
- e. **Accomplishment.** Achieving a target is also very influential on the level of someone's happiness. Have a purpose in life and a desire to achieve it, goals that can be obtained both small goals and big goals. It cannot be separated from an optimistic attitude previously became a reality.

3. Character and Characterization

Character is attitude or habit. Therefore, if the knowledge of one's character and attitude can be known, it can also be known how the individual would behave in certain conditions. Example kind of character such as Grumpy, Patient, Cheers, Forgiving, Not confident, Wise, Quiet, Vengeful, Traitor, Merciful, Coward, Haters, Lazy, Diligent, Arrogant, Ignorant, Insult, Hypocritical, Honest, Cunning.

According Seligman stated that character strength is a positive character that brings positive feelings. This positive character leads the individual to virtue, or positive traits that are reflected in thoughts, feelings, behavior (Park, Peterson & Seligman, 204).

Characterization is a literary device that an author uses to reveal a character personality, such as appearance, actions, dialogue, and motivation. There are two types of characterization: direct and indirect. Direct Characterization tells the audience what the personality of the character is. Indirect Characterization shows things that reveal the personality of a character.

According to Karen, characterization also has ten ways to express direct and indirect, namely; by psychological description, by physical description, by probing what she or he thinks, by what she or he says, by how she or he says it, by what she or he does, by what others say about him or her, by his or her environment, by her reaction to others, by his reaction to himself (96).

4. Previous Research

The researcher was inspired to make a study entitled Reflection of Children's Happiness by Coraline's Character in Coraline Film. After the researchers read a journal entitled An eye for an I: Neil Gaiman's Coraline and Questions of Identity. the journal contains about identity, sex, death, ontology, evil, desire and violence. The article takes a largely psychoanalytical on Coraline Film.

While from the idea that researcher have set that is Reflection of Children's Happiness by Coraline's Character in Coraline Film. Researcher focus on the main character, Coraline. Researcher analyzed Coraline's character through happiness theory. Where in the film, Coraline experiences several events that she thinks are happy. However, it ends up getting her in trouble. If the journal analyzes the novel while the researcher analyzes the film.

C. RESEACH METHOD

1. Research Design

In this research, the researcher used qualitative research to analyze the problems associated with happiness on the Coraline's character. The researcher would explain and analyze the incidents that make the main character experience happiness in *Coraline* film. Qualitative research was used in this research as an approach to get the data for analysis this film.

In this study the approach applied a psychological approach. The approach used in this research is to find out Coraline's psychological condition, especially when Coraline experiences many challenges and events that she experiences as described in Coraline's character in the film, while the theory of happiness is used to determine where Coraline's happiness comes from.

2. Data and Data Source

Data is factual information which is taken from the data source. The data source is a place where the data are taken. The data in this study are words, sentence or action related to the happiness theory of the main character in *Coraline* film. The data source of the research is *Coraline* film.

3. Data Collection

There are some techniques to get the data. The data of this study are obtained from the following steps:

- a. **Watching and understanding the film.** In this step, researcher watched *Coraline* film well every scene in the film and tried to understand the content of the story.
- b. **Choosing the data that each problem of this research.** In this step, the researcher observed based on film. The researcher saw at the scene and read the dialogue section that shows that the scene or dialogue includes the criteria of data needed, namely the happiness on the main character.

4. Data Analysis

After collecting and getting data. The researcher tried to analyze the data and clarify the data by selecting the existing needs according to the problem that the researcher wants to analyze. Yin introduced five to analyzing the data, that are compiling, disassembling, reassembling and arraying, interpreting and concluding (117).

Then the researcher analyzed the data based on the theory in review related literature to answer the research problem about happiness of the main character Coraline in the film. After that, the research took a conclusion of the research after considering the relevant data and evidence.

D. FINDING AND DISCUSSION

1. Findings

a. Positive Emotion

In the *Coraline* film, Caroline had two families. Real family and family from other realms that she found when Coraline felt lonely and unhappy with her real family and Caroline was always playing alone, singing or meeting other creatures, including a cat that she could talk to and be friends with.

Another mother: You like it here, Coraline?

Coraline: Yes, mom.

At minute 51.10, on the terrace of the house in another world, there was another mother who was similar to her real mother who was chatting casually with Coraline who had just gone around the house. Whenever Coraline felt comfortable and enjoy being in that other world, another mother always convinced Coraline to stay in that place and love that place and the researcher found that the characterization of Caroline's character are included in the influence on the environment.

b. Engagement

According to Martin, happiness can also be seen from engagement or it can be said that the soul drifts together in an activity (95).

Another dad: I want to show you something.

Coraline: What is it?

Another dad: Just come along, come here quickly.

At minute 35.30, was in a beautiful garden in another world, with a happy atmosphere, relaxing and enjoying the beautiful flowers. Coraline met another father who was similar to her real father while riding a horse around the garden and approached Coraline who was playing with flowers. The researcher found that Caroline's characterization includes what she does and how she reacts to herself.

From the statement above, it is stated that Caroline also get pleasant attention from other father. One of them was when Coraline met other father in a beautiful garden with many flowers, the other father invited Coraline to go around together to see all the contents of the garden they had. Not only that, another father also said that Coraline could visit the garden whenever she wanted. This made Coraline even more happy with other mother and father. Because, she got a lot of things.

c. Positive Relationship

According to Martin, relationship that formed with others. Person who are able to build good relationships have a positive impact on others and do not harm any party, this is also said to achieve happiness, because happiness can also come from other people.

Coraline: I know this is real.

Cat: Maybe you think this world is where your dreams come true. But you are wrong.

Coraline: Bullshit.

At minute 44.01, in the yard in another world, with a relaxed atmosphere Coraline saw a cat who always followed and looked at Coraline. After Coraline approached, it turned out that the cat could talk and knew many things about the world and the other house. The researcher found that Caroline's characterization was included in what other people said and reactions to other people.

From the statement above that there were not only mother and father from another world but there was a cat who was always there when Coraline was alone or confused about something happening. Not only that, the cat could talk and knew what Coraline wanted.

d. Meaning

In this part, although Caroline felt happy with other world families, over time other world families showed their true nature that the family was not real and only used Coraline.

Another mother: you can stay here forever if you want.

Coraline: Really?

Another mother: We would sing and play. Mom would cook your favorite food.

At minute 51.25 was in one of the rooms in the otherworldly house, with a happy atmosphere Coraline was talking to another mother who began to invite Coraline to stay with her forever and gave Coraline whatever she wanted. Researchers found that Caroline's characterization included what other people said, her reactions to herself and how she said it.

In the above statement that Caroline was more able to interpret or enjoy her life when she was in a house with another mother than in her real home. Because when she was there she was treated well according to her wishes, she did not feel alone. The other mother treated Coraline well and loved her like inviting her to sing, play and make Coraline's favorite dish. The thing she did not get in her real home, she got time with that other mother. Even though Coraline did not know what would happen next, she still enjoyed her life while in the other world.

e. Accomplishment

Coraline thought that her new family would be happy was wrong, but after knowing everything, Caroline was more comfortable and wanted to stay with her real family.

Coraline: I want to be with my real mom and dad.

Another mother: Is that how you talk to your mother?

Coraline: You are not my mother.

Another mother: apologize, Coraline!

Coraline: No!

In minute 57.38 – 57.51 being at home in another world, the situation at this time had started to be different and tense. Because at this time Coraline already knew that the world and the people here were not good, besides that Coraline did not accept that her eyes would be replaced with button eyes and would eliminate all of her original family if Coraline did not want to follow what other mother say who were in another world. The researcher found that Caroline's characterization includes what other people say, reactions to herself, reactions to others, investigating what she thinks.

From the statement above, Coraline began to realize that the another mother was not her real mother and it turned out that the another mother did good because she wanted to change Coraline's eyes with button eyes like dolls. Coraline felt trapped in another world and wanted to return to her original family, but the mother of another family did not allow Coraline to go so the other mother was very angry with Coraline and wanted to eliminate her original family. Caroline did not accept it and tried to get back with the family.

2. Discussion

Researcher applied the theory of happiness to the main character named Coraline in the *Coraline* film. Every events that occurred indicate to the reader the happiness of children.

Coraline was a small child who wanted to be happy like other children her age, but when she felt the happiness she wanted, it was a new challenge for Coraline because she had made a mistake and Coraline had to go through several events to be able to return to her original parents.

There are five aspects to be able to know that Coraline is feeling happiness, namely through these five aspects: Positive Emotion, Engagement, Positive Relationship, Meaning and Accomplishment. The main character describes her happiness and shows it through the actions that occur in her life and presents the stages of her journey according to the aspects of happiness.

In addition, From the statement above in this analysis, according to the characterizations the author found that Coraline's character can be said to be happy, it could be seen when talking to another mother, always returning to the house of the other world, feeling comfortable when with the family from the other world and being able to do what Coraline wanted when with the another mother. And then, from these findings, the researcher found that out of ten ways of expressing characterizations, Coraline's character mostly goes through what other people say, then completes with how the reactions and the environment.

What is interesting about this research is that a small child who used to get happiness like children in general, then changed after his family experienced economic problems and her life was not like before. Then, find a place that makes this main character feel happiness like before. But it turns out that all of that is only temporary and the main character has to struggle through everything to be able to return to live with her parents even though she lives a simple life. Then, the main character shows that it does not matter that her life is different, as long as she knew that she was living with her real family. In addition, this study provides information and shows a different point of view from previous research.

E. CONCLUSION

Based on the findings and discussion, it can be said that the character of Coraline in the *Coraline* film. Researcher found that Coraline is a happy, never give up, also has very sensitive feelings. The character appears when Coraline experiences the events of each event while in the other world. As a result of the happiness that exists in Coraline, researcher found several reflections of happiness from Coraline which can be seen from several aspects, namely (1) Positive Emotion, when Coraline was enjoying life with another mother. (2) Engagement, when Coraline meet a cat who knows a lot about the otherworldly house. (3) Positive Relationship, when Coraline feels love, happiness and gets what she wants when she is with another mother. (4) Meaning, when Coraline was enjoying life in that house and wanted to live forever with another mother, (5) Accomplishment, Coraline begins to realize that the mother in another world is evil and Coraline struggles to be able to return home to meet her real parents. At the end Coraline also tries to determine which happiness she really wants to get.

In connection with the findings of this study, the researcher would like to give some suggestions to:

1. **Readers**, especially students of English Literature, are expected to be able to obtain useful information about the film *Coraline* by Henry Selick if there are readers who want to know about it. the same focus in conducting a research.
2. **Criticism** from readers is needed to develop this research better. For further researchers who carry out the same focus as this research, to conduct in depth research using the theory of happiness by Martin Seligman to analyze one character in another literary work.

In case for the future researchers are conducting the same focus with this study, to conduct a research in a deeply analysis using the happiness theory by Martin Seligman to analyze one character in other literary works.

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