Linguistika Kultura

Personality and Emotion Development of Parenting Style in the Novel Coraline

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ABSTRACT

Parenting style is something that is close to us in our daily lives, and it is because of this that we have become the person we are today. A parenting style from parents to their children can affect the development of a child's personality and emotions in their process toward adulthood. The purpose of this study is to see how Coraline's personality is affected by the different parenting styles between real parents and 'other parents.' This study uses New Criticism as an approach to analyze the characterization and plot of the story and, therefore, examines how Coraline's personality is affected by the different parenting styles between the real parents and the 'other parents'. Therefore, the method used in this study is descriptive-qualitative. The results of this study found that the personality of Coraline was formed because of parenting styles from her parents and Coraline's emotions change depending on what her parents gave.

Keywords: *Coraline, parenting style, personality and emotions, family.*

ABSTRAK

Gaya pengasuhan adalah sesuatu yang dekat dengan kita dalam kehidupan sehari-hari, dan karena inilah kita menjadi orang yang kita kenal sekarang. Gaya pengasuhan orang tua terhadap anak-anak mereka dapat mempengaruhi perkembangan kepribadian dan emosi anak dalam proses mereka menuju dewasa. Tujuan dari penelitian ini adalah untuk melihat bagaimana kepribadian Coraline dipengaruhi oleh perbedaan gaya pengasuhan antara orang tua yang sebenarnya dan 'orang tua lain.' Studi ini menggunakan New Criticism sebagai pendekatan untuk menganalisis karakterisasi dan alur cerita, dan oleh karena itu, meneliti bagaimana kepribadian Coraline dipengaruhi oleh gaya pengasuhan yang berbeda antara orang tua yang sebenarnya dan 'orang tua lain'. Oleh karena itu, metode yang digunakan dalam penelitian ini adalah deskriptif-kualitatif. Hasil penelitian ini menemukan bahwa kepribadian Coraline terbentuk karena gaya pengasuhan dari orang tuanya dan emosi Coraline berubah tergantung pada apa yang diberikan oleh orang tuanya.

Kata kunci: Coraline, gaya pengasuhan, kepribadian dan emosi, keluarga

PENDAHULUAN

Studies on the psychology of literature has urged many researchers to get into it. The researchers' knowledge about literature and literary works enable them study literature in a better way (Ferdinal et al., 2020). The issue of colonization (domination) has been among many psychological problems people have faced recently, either geographically or politically (Bediharjo & Ferdinal, 2022). This issue has encouraged more studies on human struggles

(Siregar, 2021), love obsession (Febrin, 2022), women's rights (Ferdinal, 2020), hardwork and sacrifice (Salim, 2023), trauma (Wipi & Ferdinal, 2022), and body matters (Dewi et al., 2024). These areas are then furthered to the issues of the relationship between trauma and personal development (Rozadi, 2022), love and loyalty (Zinta, 2023). These can be observed through the perspective of hero's h journey (Kurniawan, 2023). Researcher's interest in those universal issues were then applied to certain works by different authors from different literatures, including British author like Neil Gaiman.

Coraline is a British children's fantasy novella by Neil Gaiman that was published in 2002. Gaiman's wrote this novella in a dark fantasy and horror genre, which sets it apart from the typical bright, humorous, and happy children's stories. However, it is possible that young adult readers can also read the book, although it is frightening and a little unsettling, for children as well. This novella has won several awards, such as the Bram Stoker Award for Best Work for Young Readers in 2002, the Hugo Award for Best Novella, and the Nebula Award for Best Novel in 2003.

The writer finds this novella very interesting to analyze because it tells the story of a young girl named Coraline, who has just moved into a flat that looks terrible because it is old and fragile, and there are many oddities in it. She moves in with her mother and father. Her daily life is very boring because her father and mother ignore her—busy working at home with deadlines that haunt them, until finally Coraline finds a strange door that turns out to be a way to an 'other world,' where there is a flat that looks like the flat she lives in now, but the people in the flat have the opposite character to those in the flat in the real world. What amazes Coraline is that in the other world, there are 'another mother' and 'another father,' who accept her and treat her very well compared to her real parents. But the strange and horrible thing was the eyes of the 'other mother' and 'other father' were made of buttons. Coraline puts this aside, as she is happy to be amongst her 'other parents'. Eventually, Coraline discovers that the 'other parents' want her to stay forever with them in the other world by telling her to sew buttons on her own eyes and the eyes of the 'other parents' too. Coraline finally realizes that the 'other parents' are not as nice and sweet as she thought, and she wants to be back with her real parents in the real world, who treat her in their way.

Coraline's emotions and personality throughout the story change as she relates to her real parents and other parents. This illustrates the issue of different parenting styles between real parents and other parents, where the role of parents in treating their children greatly influences their children's personalities. Arulsubila and Subasree (2016) through their research from The International Journal of Indian Psychology found that the foundation of a child's

personality development is their family. Aspects of family life, like how parents raise their parenting style and parental attitudes, greatly impact teenager's psychosocial and personality growth. Different parenting styles in the family environment significantly influence children's emotional and mental health (Ong et al., 2018) From this study, the writer can learn how to appropriately care for children—how to treat children properly without harming their personality or emotions when interaction with others or their parents. This is the author's concern about children who should receive love from their parents but instead worsen the development of their own children's personalities and emotions.

Previously, the writer has found some studies that have discussed about the related topic of Coraline by Neil Gaiman. Naraswari et al. (2023) examine the motion of the ideal family in Coraline by Neil Gaiman through Stuart Hall's theory of representation. The theory of an ideal family is described through the constructionist perspective, emphasizing discourse shaping. The ideal family portrayed in Coraline highlights the significant impact of parenting strategies on a child's character development within the family unit. Kinayang (2019) also examined and contrasted the parenting approaches of Coraline's real mother and her other mother. To evaluate the parenting approach, she offers a summary of how both mothers are portrayed. Kinayang offers proof from the character's dialogue and actions to enhance the portrayal of the characters. Next, she divides the parenting style into three categories. The genuine parents show both assertive and indifferent caregiving. On the flip side, the other mother has an authoritative parenting style.

This study uses the New Criticism theory to analyze Coraline, real parents, and other parents' characterization, as well as analyze the plot of the story. These two things are the formal elements in the novel. The plot shows Coraline's changing emotions when she interacts with her parents and other parents. According to Tyson (2006), "The only way we can know if a given author's intention or a given reader's interpretation actually represents the text's meaning is to carefully examine, or "closely read," all the evidence provided by the language of the text itself: its images, symbols, metaphors, rhyme, meter, point of view, setting, characterization, plot, and so forth, which, because they form, or shape, the literary work are called its formal elements." (p. 137). New Criticism is an approach that emphasizes interpreting literary works based on the text itself; only the text or passage is relevant (Tyson, 2006). This writing is focused on the text without connecting it with the author's background, historical background, or the reader's response through the novel Coraline. The significance of the aspects of a literary work arises from the unique quality of literary language, which, according to New Criticism, sets it apart from both scientific and ordinary language (Tyson, 2006). There is a term called organic unity in New

Criticism. This is "the working together of all the parts to make an inseparable whole" (Tyson, 2006, p. 138). The form and meaning of a literary work, or at least a great literary work, evolve together. It's much like a complex living organism whose parts cannot be separated from the whole. If a text has organic unity, all of its formal elements work together to establish the work's theme or overall meaning (Tyson, 2006).

The main problem of this study is that the difference in parenting styles between a real mother and the other mother influences Coraline's development. This research problem is further divided into several research questions, as listed below.

1. How does Coraline present Coraline's emotional changes?
2. How does characterization describe the personality of the character?
3. How does the story relate the parenting styles of real parents to other parents?

METODOLOGI PENELITIAN

The writer used the descriptive-qualitative method, where the data was collected from specific passages in the novel in the forms of utterances, dialogue, or actions related to the topic to analyze. The steps of the writer in collecting the data include (1) Reading the novel several times, (2) Choosing an interesting topic to analyze, (3) Marking passages, utterances, dialogue, or action that relate to the topic, and (4) collecting the data and entering the data into the discussion and analysis section of the articles.

RESULTS &DISCUSSION

Plot and characterization are two essential elements of a literary work. Both elements are the intrinsic elements. The plot is how a story's events are depicted. While the characterization refers to the description of each character's personality, behavior, and physical appearance in the story. New Criticism practiced intrinsic criticism, which focused solely on the text's context and language. This approach ensures that interpretations remained within the text's itself (Tyson, 2006). The characterization of the characters in Coraline is very clearly depicted through the plot of the story. But to further explore and analyze according to the topic of this study, the writer will first analyze the plot that is divided into five parts: exposition, rising action, climax, falling action, and resolution.

1. Exposition

Coraline and her family—father, and mother -- move into an old flat, and the day after they move in, she goes exploring. She is bored in her flat because her parents are very busy

working at home. She is trying to get attention from her parents, but her parents just ignore her and tell her to do something else so that Coraline does not disturb their work. Coraline spends her time alone exploring the old flat and meets the other neighbors—Miss Spink, Miss Forcible, and Mr. Bobo.

'What should I do?' asked Coraline.

'Read a book', said her mother. 'Watch a video. Play with your toys. Go and pester Miss Spink or Miss Forcible, or the crazy old man uptairs.'

'No' said Coraline. 'I don't want to do those things. I want to explore.'

'I don't really mind you d,' said Coraline's mother, 'as long as you don't make a mess' (p. 11)

Coraline had watched all the video. She was bored with her toys, and she'd read all her books. (p. 11)

Coraline's father was home. Both of her parents worked, doing things on computers, which meant that they were home a lot of time. Each of then had their own study.

'Hello, Coraline,' he said when she came in, without turning round.

'Mmph,' said Coraline. 'It's training.'

'Yup,' said her father. 'It's bucketing down.'

'No,' said Coralin, 'it's just raining. Can I go outside?"

'What does your mother say?'

She says, "You're not going out in weather like that, Coraline Jones".'

'Then, no'

'But I want to carry on exploring.''Then explore the flat,' suggested her father. 'Look—here's a piece of paper and a pen. Count all the doors and the windows. List everything blue. Mount an expedition to discovery the hot-water tank. And leave me alone to work' (p. 11)

'What shal I do?' repeated Coraline.

'Draw something.' Her mother passed her a sheet of paper and a ballpoint pen. (p. 18)

Coraline went to see her father.

He had his back to the door as he typed. 'Go away,' he said cheerfully as she walk in.

'I'm bored,' she said.

'Learn how to tap-dance,' he ssuggested, without turning round.

Coraline shook her head. 'Why don't you play with me?' she asked.

'Busy,' he said. 'Working,' he added. He still hadn't turned around to look at her. (p. 18)

Coraline was bored. (p. 23)

She was still bored, and her mother wasn't yet home' (p. 23)

2. Raising Action

Coraline faces the conflict. She founded a door that allows her to go to 'other world' and then she meets with her 'other parents'. Coraline is happy at first , but then she realizes there is something wrong with her 'other mother' or the Beldam. She makes her real parents go. Coraline feels lonely and sad. But she tries to get her real parents back.

Coraline went through the door.

She wondered what the empty flat would be like—if that was where the corridor led.

Coraline walked down the corridor uneasily. There was something very familiar about this. (p. 24)

...'Coraline?'

It sounded like her mother . Coraline went into the kitchen, where the voice had come from. A woman stood in the kitchen with her back to Coraline. She looked a little like Coraline's mother Only....

Only her skin was white as paper.

Only she was taller and thinner.

Only her fingers were too long , and they never stopped moving, and her dark-red fingernails were curved and Sharp.

....Her eyes were big black buttons. (p. 24)

'Who are you?' asked Coraline.

'I'm your other mother,' said the woman. 'Go tell your other father that launch is ready.' (p. 25)

...The man turned around.

His eyes were buttons—big and black shiny. (p. 25)

...This is more like it, though Coraline. (p. 26)

...'Do you like it here?'

'I suppose,' said Coraline. 'It's nore interesting than at home.' (p. 34)

She was home.

Her mother still hadn't returned from her shopping expedition.

She waited for her parents to come back. (p. 38)

Coraline woke up in the night. She went into her parents' bedroom, but the bed was made and empty.

All alone, in the middle of the night, Coraline began to cry. There was not other sound in the empty flat. (p. 39)

...In the mirror Coraline's mother and father stared at her. (p. 40)

Coraline knows that her parents have gone because of the Beldam. After that, she calls the police. She is really brave.

'Police,' said a gruff male voice. (p. 41)

3. Climax

Coraline has to meet with her other parents, especially the Beldam to let her real parents out and return to their flat—to the real world. She fights back against the other mother and is very brave in challenging her.

I will be brave, though Coraline. No, I am brave. (p. 45)

...'You're lying. You stole them.' (p. 45)

'You're sick,' said Coraline. 'Sick and evil and weird.'

'Ypu aren't my mother,' said Coraline. (p. 56)

'If I lose I'll stay here with you for ever and I'll let you love me....'

'And if you don't lose?'

'Then you let me go. You let everyone go—my real father and mother, the dead children m, everyone you've trapped here.' (p. 65)

4. Falling action

Finally, Coraline makes her real parents come back. But, even though the other mother lets her real parents out, the terror is not over to Coraline. Her other mother still wants to steal the key to the door to go to the other world, and she still wants to make Coraline live with her.

5. Resolution

The other parents fail to make Coraline stay in the other world. Coraline defeats her other mother, and she is relieved to have her parents back. From what has been analyzed above, the writer found the characterization of Coraline, real parents, and other parents as follows.

First, Coraline is a brave and independent girl who does everything alone. It can be seen from the several times she calls herself an explorer, then explores the flat and the neighborhood alone, even facing the other mother, who is a devil alone. She has good manners when interacting with her neighbors, but not with the other parents, after realizing they are the devil.

'Because,' she said, 'when you're scared but you still do it anyway, that's brave.' (p. 43)

Second, Coraline's real mother and real father often neglect her because they are busy working. They are optimistic about their work. But behind it all, her real mother and father are very caring and supportive of Coraline. They protect Coraline. They do not let Coraline play in the rain and pay attention to Coraline when she wants to go to school.

You're not going out in weather like that, Coraline Jones' (p. 11).

'When do you go back to school?' asked her mother.

'Next week,' said Coraline.

'Hemph,' said her mother. 'I suppose I shall have to get you new school clothes. Reminder me, dear, or else I'll forget,' and she went back to typing things on the computer screen. (p. 17)

Third, Coraline's' other parents are very demanding and manipulative. She just wants Coraline to be with them, so they say things that are not true.

'Whatever would I have done with your old parents? If they have left you, Coraline, it must be because they became bored of you, or tired. Now, I will never become bored of you, and I will never abandon you. You will always be safe here with me.' The other mother's wet-looking black hair drifted around her head, like the tentacles of a creature in the deep ocean.

"They weren't bored of me," said Coraline. "You're lying. You stole them." (p. 45)

Fourth, Coraline's real parents treat Coraline as well as she can. They are busy with work and optimistic about it, but they actually care a lot for Coraline. They do not let Coraline go out when it is raining, Coraline's father keeps trying to cook food for her, and he even protects her from bee stings (p. 42-43). But even because of that, Coraline is determined, brave, attention-seeking, and straightforward. She also shows boredom when around her real parents. Compared to when she is with her other parents, who treat Coraline very differently from her real parents. Her other father always cooks delicious food, and her other mother is always gentle and caring. Still, it is all just a trick and a manipulative act to make Coraline feel comfortable around them and then want to stay forever with them in the other world. The first time Coraline met her other parents, she was thrilled.

The relationship between the different parenting styles of real parents and other parents is that when with real parents, Coraline becomes an independent child, which makes her brave, although when with them, she feels bored and ignored. When they are not around, Coraline feels sad and misses them. With her lies, she becomes a defiant child, even though she is delighted at first.

CONCLUSION

Coraline's parents' apparent indifference makes her become a child who does everything to get their attention. But when she meets the other parents who are kind and considerate to

her, she is happy and content, but it does not last forever. The difference in parenting style between the two parents builds Coraline's personality and emotions. Coraline becomes a mature teenager.

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