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THE MEMORY OF MOTHER IN DISNEY'S FAIRY TALE MOVIES

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ABSTRACT

This study discusses the memory of mothers in Disney's fairy tale movies. This study aims to analyze the princesses' remembrances of their mothers and the effects of those remembrances using the nostalgia theory by Linda Hutcheon. Three Disney movies, Cinderella, Beauty and The Beast, and Frozen II were studied using descriptive qualitative methods. The result of this study shows that the princesses remember their mothers due to adversities faced in their lives, and this memory is accessed through several media such as mother's words, the mother's old dress, the Lullaby, and places. It is also found that those remembrances empower the princesses and have many positive and significant effects on the princesses' life, such as drawing strength and motivation, knowing the truth, reconstructing their identity, and maintaining self-identity. This positive effect occurs when the princesses have positive perspectives on the memory of past events. It means that it may have a negative effect if the past was taken as trauma or negative events. Furthermore, even though the late mothers can no longer have an influence on their children, their influence remains in the memory of the princesses.

Keywords: memory, mother, Disney, fairy tale, nostalgia

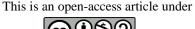
ABSTRAK

Penelitian ini membahas tentang memori ibu di dalam film fairy tale Disney. Penelitian ini bertujuan untuk menganalisis alasan para puteri dalam mengingat ibu mereka dan efek dari ingatan tersebut dengan menggunakan teori nostalgia dari Linda Hutcheon. Peneliti mengambil tiga film Disney, Cinderella, Beauty and The Beast, dan Frozen II. Tiga film Disney, Cinderella, Beauty and The Beast, and Frozen II dipelajari dengan metode deskriptif kualitatif. Hasil penelitian ini menunjukkan bahwa puteri mengingat ibu mereka karena kesulitan yang dihadapi dalam hidup mereka, dan akses memori ini melalui beberapa media seperti kata-kata ibu, baju tua ibu, Lullaby, dan beberapa tempat. Ditemukan juga bahwa kenangan-kenangan tersebut menguatkan para puteri dan memiliki banyak efek positif dan signifikan bagi kehidupan para puteri, seperti menarik kekuatan dan motivasi, mengetahui kebenaran, merekosntruksi identitas mereka dan mempertahankan identitas diri. Efek positif ini terjadi ketika para puteri memiliki perspektif positif untuk mengingat perisitwa masa lalu. Itu artinya dapat berdampak negatif jika masa lalu dianggap sebagai trauma atau peristiwa negatif. Lebih jauh lagi, meskipun mendiang ibu tidak dapat lagi memberikan pengaruh pada anak-anaknya, pengaruh mereka tetap ada dalam ingatan para puteri.

Kata kunci: memori, ibu, Disney, film, dongeng.

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INTRODUCTION

Mother's position has an integral part in human life. Her presence becomes crucial in the development of the children. However, the roles of mothers are frequently absent in some literary works. One prominent British work of literature is entitled The Cement Garden written by McEwan (1978). This novel portrays children whose mothers are retreated from the children's life. The most powerful way to erase and devalue the mother's work is through her death or absence. However, a mother, whether absent or dead, watches over her children secretly (the best mother may be a dead mother, after all). The mother of literature, good or bad, is a memorable character (Salwak, 2018).

Warner (2008), in the book entitled "From the Beast to the Blonde: On Fairy Tales and They Tellers" explains the forms of mother absence in fairy tales in two ways. The first is the death of the mother and the second is replaced by another mother who is described as a villain. Although the mother figure cannot survive until the end of the story because some of them passed away, to begin with, they all leave an important mark in the protagonist's memory.

The memory of the past with beloved ones such as family members, friends, or partners that individual has can lead them to recall the past event. The past has a significant influence on a person in living life in the present and the future. Fernanda (2017), states that a person's experience in the past is something that lies outside the body that is experienced directly or indirectly.

The absence of a mother in Disney movies has been studied by many researchers. A study by Nur et al., n.d. (2019), entitled "The Absence of Mother Figure Found in Disney Movie". They found that the absence of the mother's roles in Disney movies was influenced by Sigmund Freud's Psychoanalysis theory about Electra Complex and Oedipus Complex. The second research was conducted by Stephani M (2017), entitled "Missing Moms and the Fairytale Characters Living Without Them". She found that the heroes or heroines in almost every Disney fairytale have no biological mother, due to her death.

Following the above statement, this study has a different argument regarding the absence of mothers in Disney movies. In this sense, the researcher believes the study deals with what will prove to be an essential account that even though the characters of the mother passed away in Disney movies, the mothers are still present in the movies through the princesses' memory. Addressing this gap, this study aims to identify the princesses' reason for remembering their mother and the effect of the mother's remembrance shown clearly in the movie. The researcher will further elaborate on the issue with the theory of nostalgia by Linda Hutcheon.

LITERATURE REVIEW

A. Memory

Memories are contained the past in the sense of the self in the form of stories and narratives told by the authors (Tami, 2016). Memory is connected to the limbic system and is crucial for the experience. It is the storing of knowledge throughout time for the goal of affecting future behaviors. We can learn or build language, relationships, or personal identity if we can remember prior occurrences (Eysenck, 1982).

Memory can be classified into various types, namely short-term memory, long-term memory, episodic memory, semantic memory, autobiographical memory, and flashbulb memory. There are three important processes in long-term memory: encoding, cache, and recovery. The process by which the information is registered is called encoding. In the process

of encoding, the information will be processed and represented in memory (Einstein & McDaniel, 2004 in Matlin, 2012)

The last process is retrieval, which refers to the process of accessing information through recognition, recall, or implicitly performing relevant tasks efficiently as a result of prior knowledge. The retrieval process consists of two processes, namely recall and task recognition. (Roediger & Guyyn, 1996; in Matlin, 2012)

B. Nostalgia

Memories that are collected in our memory could lead people to feel nostalgic. Nostalgia is derived from the Greek root, namely *nostos* "to return home", and *algos* "painful". In general, nostalgia is used to depict history in literary works from the past. Nostalgia is the recollection of previous events in the form of pleasant and bad memories (Hutcheon, 2000). We may learn anything about previous events by looking at photographs, visiting historical sites, or writing letters.

Written by Immanuel Kant at the earliest 1798 that individuals will feel disappointed when they cannot return home because the individual really wants to return to a time, youth, not a place. As a result, nostalgia emerges as a reaction to the tragic truth that time is something that cannot be repeated, time is unrecoverable and different from the place. One critic briefly states this in "Odysseus misses home; Proust is looking for lost time" (Hutcheon, 1998 in Lowenthal, 2015).

The initial hypothesis of nostalgia as a medical ailment emerged in Europe in the development of better transportation facilities that occurred in big cities making it easier for residents to move. Thus, allowing someone to travel and leave the house more easily. Nostalgia in postmodernism has at least developed in the West. When information technology arises, makes us rethink not just what is called knowledge, but also what is said to be the past and its connection to the present.

Nostalgia engages over the "reversal of history" proposed by Mikhail Bakhtin that ideals that are not currently carried out will be projected in the past. This is remembered as the past condensed into priceless moments that memory and forgetting will choose, distort and restructure according to desire. (Philips 1985, 66, in Hutcheon, 1998).

Recent research on nostalgia shows the orientation of three main functions of nostalgia: existential, self-oriented, and social (Sedikides et al., 2015). Nostalgia is focused on the past and influences the future and psychological development. More specifically, nostalgia reinforces the approach to motivation, inspiration, curiosity, creativity, and, optimism.

RESEARCH METHOD

This study used the descriptive qualitative method. Creswell (2013), pointed out that qualitative research is descriptive when the researcher is concerned with the process, meaning, and understanding achieved through words or pictures. The descriptive analysis method is used to sort the data obtained in the study and then analyzed it to gain an understanding (Aglitasia Merdekawati et al., 2017). This method intends to analyze the princesses' reason for remembrances their mothers and the effects of those remembrances. The researcher read the scripts and watch the movies and took notes on the necessary data that is needed in this study. Then, the researcher classified the data based on the research questions and the theory used in this study. The nostalgia theory by Linda Hutcheon is then used to identify the reason and the effects of the remembrance of the mother.

FINDING

The death of the mothers in the early life of the Princesses, makes them face many adversities in their life. Facing adversities and obstacles makes them remember their mother through several media. The remembrances are not only a form of longing, but also give effects to the princesses in living their lives without the role of mother.

Princesses in Disney movies, especially Cinderella, Beauty and The Beast, and Frozen II have different media to remember their mothers. It is caused by the different past experiences that they have in the past. Humans have had different perspectives and hierarchies of values about the past (Wojcicka Marta, 2019). For this reason, the princesses felt different effects regarding their remembrance of their mothers.

A. The Princesses' Reason for Remember Their Mothers

1. Cinderella in Cinderella Movie

The representation of the mother's role in the *Cinderella* movie is excluded and replaced by the presence of a cruel stepmother and stepsisters. Cinderella was left by her mother in her childhood, followed by her father after marrying a widow with two daughters. Cinderella's life changed. She faces many adversities and obstacles due to her stepmother and stepsisters. It makes her remember her mother through several media.

The first media is her mother's advice. Cinderella always remembers her mother's advice in every adversity she faces. As can be seen in the following dialogue:

Cinderella: Do they treat you well?

Prince Kit: Better than I deserve, most likely. And you?

Cinderella: They treat me as well as they're able. It's not so very bad. Others have it worse, I'm sure. We must simply have courage and be kind, mustn't we?

Prince Kit: Yes, you're right. That's exactly how I feel.

(00:29:04-00:29:29)

The second media is her mother's old dress. All the maidens are invited to attend the ball in the Palace as the traditional tradition in the Kingdom. Cinderella mends her mother's old dress and wears it to attend the ball in order to feel the presence of her mother with her in the palace.

Cinderella: Fairy Godmother, my dress. I can't go in this dress. Can you mend it? Fairy Godmother: Mend it? No, no. I'll turn it into something new.

Cinderella: No, please don't. This was my mother's. And I'd like to wear it when I go to the Palace. It's almost like taking her with me.

Fairy Godmother: I Understand. But she wouldn't mind if I gee it up a bit? Wouldn't mind a nice blue?

Cinderella: No. There. It's beautiful. She'd love it. (00:49:41-00:50:46)

2. Belle in Beauty and The Beast Movie

Bella has the same reason for remembering her mother as Cinderella is facing adversity. Belle remembers her mother through the media of her father's story and the Paris of her childhood.

The first media is her father's story. Belle's mother passed away when she was a child and only has a father in her life. Bella winds up being so different from everybody else in the town. It makes the townspeople call Belle odd. To bring up her confidence in her identity, Belle's father then told a story about a girl who had the same character as herself. She is Belle's mother, as we can see in the following dialogue:

Maurice: Even back in Paris, I knew a girl who was so different, so daring, so ahead of her time that people mocked her until the day they found themselves imitating her.

Belle: Just tell me one more thing about her.

Maurice: Your mother was fearless. Fearless.

(00:13:08)

Secondly, the Paris of her childhood. Belle and the Beast visited Paris through the magic book. Belle glimpses her memories of his past when childhood was with his mother. Belle finally uncovers the truth of her mother's death by visiting the Paris of her childhood.

Belle: This is the Paris of my childhood.... Now I see it's empty and abandoned Easy to remember Harder to move on Knowing that the Paris of my childhood Is gone.

The Beast: What happened to your mother?

Belle: That's the only story Papa could never bring himself to tell. And I knew better than to ask...

The Beast: Plague.

(Flashback)

Doctor: You must leave. Now.

Belle's mother: Quickly, before it takes her too.

 $(00:17:56\hbox{-}01:19:12)$

3. Elsa in Frozen II Movie

Elsa faces a rapid rise in responsibility after both their parents passed away in a shipwreck. Elsa is concerned about being around Arendelle with her ice power. She is curious about her power's source and its origin. Those become the biggest adversities that she has to overcome by remembering her mother through the media of the scarf, Lullaby, Ahtohallan, and the Ship.

The first media is their mother's scarf, which reminds them of her whenever they have a problem which makes them feel calm, as we can see in the following dialogue:

Anna: Yup, something's wrong.

Elsa: With you?

Anna: No, with you. You're wearing mother's scarf, you do that when something's wrong.

(00:15:06-00:15:15)

The second media is the Lullaby. Elsa remembers a Lullaby, "All is Found" as a guide to starting her journey with Anna, Olaf, Kristoff, and Sven to Ahtohallan to discover the truth about her power's source and save Arendelle from being destroyed.

Iduna: Yes, she will sing to those who hear. And in her song, all magic flows. Where the north wind meets the sea. There's a mother full of memory. Come my darling, homeward bound. When all is lost, then all is found.

(00:06:06-00:07:44)

The third media is Ahtohallan. Ahtohallan is a special river that holds memories of the past. Elsa looks at her childhood memories and finds the answer to a mysterious voice that keeps bothering her in Ahtohallan. The mysterious voice belongs to her mother, destined for Elsa to discover the truth of the past.

Iduna: Where the north wind meets the sea. There's a river. Full of memory (Memory, memory). Come, my darling, homeward bound.

Elsa: **Mother!** (01:06:06)

B. The Effects of Remembrances of Mothers in Princesses' Life

1. Knowing the Truth

In *Beauty and the Beast* movie, the effect of remembrance of her mother is to know the truth behind her mother's death. Belle glimpses what must have happened and that is when she learns the truth about her mother in Paris.

The Beast: What happened to your mother?

The Beast: Plague

(Flashback)

Doctor: You must leave. Now.

Belle's mother: Quickly, before it takes her too.

(01:19:12)

In *Frozen II*, the effect of the remembrance of the mother is to know the truth about the mysterious voices. Elsa learns that the voice is that of Iduna (her mother) calling out to her.

(Elsa sings "Show Yourself" song)

Something is familiar

Like a friend, I've always known

I'm arriving, and it feels like I am home

Elsa: Mother!

(Elsa's mother, Iduna, sings the Lullaby "All is Found)"

Come my darling, homeward bound

(01:06:17)

2. Drawing Strength and Motivation

Nostalgia reflects the human ability to draw strength and motivation from memories of close rather than be burdened with the absence or loss of those relationships (E. G. Hepper et al., 2012). Losing a relationship with her mother does not make Cinderella feel sad, on the contrary, Cinderella gets strength and motivation from her memories of her mother in the past by singing the Lullaby.

Cinderella: When I am king dilly, dilly You shall be queen Lavender's green dilly, dilly Lavender's blue If you love me Dilly, dilly I will love you.

(01:30:46)

3. Maintaining Self-continuity

The effect of people's nostalgic remembrances of their mothers is to underscore the heroic role of mothers in shaping our values, character, and behavior (Allison & Goethals, 2011). The remembrance of mothers also includes mothers' tales of the highest standards of role modeling of human conduct, including exceptional acts of selflessness and sacrifice.

Narrator: Time passed, and pain turned to memory. In her heart, Ella stayed the same, for she remembered her promise to her mother. **Have courage and be kind.** (00:07:07)

In *Beauty and the Beast* movie, Belle's mother is mentioned early in the movie when Belle asks her father to tell her one more thing about her when she feels not confident with her behavior.

Maurice: Even back in Paris, I knew a girl who was so different, so daring, so ahead of her time that people mocked her until the day they found themselves imitating her.

Belle: Just tell me one more thing about her.

Maurice: Your mother was fearless. Fearless.

(00:13:05-00:13:08)

4. Reconstruction of the Identity

Individuals derive a deeper sense of selfhood, a more united self, by piecing together fragments of prior lives through nostalgia," (Iyer & Jetten, 2011). The identity continuity in

individuals brings individuals to always be connected with who they were in the past. In Disney movies, Elsa is always connected with her mother through her memory. For this reason, she finally found her identity as a Northuldran and the fifth Spirit who then settled in the Enchanted Forest to maintain the balance of magic.

Ryder: That's a Northuldra's scarf.

Honeymaren: This is from one of our oldest families.

Anna: It was our mother's... Elsa: I see it, it's mother.

Anna: Mother saved father's life that day.

Elsa: Our mother was Northuldra.

(00:40:51-00:41:29)

To sum up, we can see in the table below:

DISCUSSION

Nostalgia	Cinderella	Beauty and the Beast	Frozen II
The reason of remembering	Facing a problem with her stepmother and stepsisters	Facing trouble with her personality	Facing trouble with her identity
The Media of Nostalgia	 The advice Old dress Lullaby 	 Belle's father's story The Paris of her childhood 	 The Scarf Lullaby Ahtohallan The Ship
The Effect	Drawing strength and motivation Maintaining self-continuity	Knowing the truth Maintaining self- continuity	Knowing the truth Reconstruction of the identity

Disney is identical to animation about strong family relationships in which the presence of the mother's role in Disney movies is very rare or even eliminated. The death of their mothers in the early life of the princesses makes them coincidentally pushed into constant difficult situations and faced a rapid rise in responsibility.

In Disney movies; *Cinderella, Beauty and the Beast*, and *Frozen II*, the princesses remember their mothers when they were facing adversity in their life. Those movies are commencer in the present, and several media accomplished the princesses bring back their memory of their mothers in the past. In *Cinderella* movie, the researcher found that Cinderella remembers her mother when she is facing adversity because of her stepmother and stepsisters. The way Cinderella brings back her memory of her mother is through her mother's advice "to have courage and be kind", her mother's old dress, and the lullaby.

The first way Belle in *Beauty and the Beast* movie brings back her memory of her mother is through her father's story about her mother. As mentioned at the beginning of the movie when Belle inquires her father to inform her one more thing about her mother. Her mother is settled as an influencing force in her life. The second way is by visiting the Paris of

her childhood through the enchanted book given by the Beast. In Paris, she glimpses what occurred in the past and learns about her mother's truthfulness.

In *Frozen II*, the way Elsa brings back her memory of her mother through her mother's scarf that she usually wears to remember her mother as a source of comfort in times of worry. In the other part of the scene, she brings back her memory of her mother through the lullaby "All is Found" which guides her to Ahtohallan. Additionally, the ship also brings back their memory of their parent's death and uncovers the truth behind their parents' death.

Memories that are collected in our memory could lead people to feel nostalgic. Hutcheon (2000), describes nostalgia as the recollection of previous events in the precious or horrible memories instrument. Recalling nostalgic memories is re-explored by substantial individual life events that are allocated with the loved ones. Nostalgia in Disney movies gives many positive effects on princesses' life to overcome obstacles.

In *Cinderella* movie, the effect of that remembrance of her mother's advice helps Cinderella through all the trials in her life and shapes Cinderella's personality to be courageous and kind. Cinderella wears her mother's old dress to attend the ball in the Palace so that Cinderella can feel like she is taking her mother with her to the Palace. In the other part of the story, Cinderella who was locked in the attic by her mother brings back her memory of her mother by singing the lullaby that her mother usually sang for her when she was a child to entertain herself.

In *Beauty and the Beast* movie, the effect of that remembrance builds Belle's characteristics as independence, bookworm tendencies, strong will, and a feminist outlook come from her mother. Additionally, the effect of that remembrance builds the greatest foundation for Belle's relationship with the Beast. Whereas, in *Frozen II*, the effect of that remembrance, helps Elsa find out the truth about the woman who saved her father in the past and figure out her identity. She also learns the truth behind her parents' death through the shipwreck not because of their journey to the southern sea but due to their journey to the Ahtohallan.

By the same token, Alfirah (2017), in her thesis "Memory of War in Short Story Edward Everett Hale's 'The Man Without the Country (1963)' And 'Tim O'Brien's Show to Tell a True War Story (1990)'", used nostalgia theory by Linda Hutcheon. She discovered that several of the existing media gave the writers memories of past wars and then they put them into short stories. The media are in the form of announcements, letters, memories of something, and songs that remind them of their past. The author found the effects of nostalgia to convince the readers about the other side of the short story and change the reader's perception of the truth of the war. On the contrary with this study, the researcher found different media in remembering the past. What is more, this study also found differences in the effects of nostalgia.

It can be concluded that the media of nostalgia is specific things from the past that still exist or have similarities with other things in the present. Media of nostalgia might be different for each person as they have different experiences in the past. Moreover, humans have had different perspectives and hierarchies of values about the past. It is causing past experiences to be imprinted in the present based on their respective subjectivity. For this reason, humans view nostalgia in two ways, namely several see it as a trauma, and several as an encouragement.

In this case, the researcher has three findings. The first is the researcher found that nostalgia not only has negative effects such as loneliness and longing but also positive effects on someone. Hepper et.al. (2014), stated that most meaningful memories have a large positive impact even if they are accompanied by a tone of sadness or longing. In three Disney movies, the remembrance of the mother helps the princess to overcome the trials in their life and has

many positive significant effects on the princess's life, such as drawing strength and motivation, knowing the truth, reconstructing the identity, and maintaining self-identity.

The second is the researcher found that even though the mother characters in Disney movies, especially *Cinderella*, *Beauty and the Beast*, and *Frozen II* passed away but they still give significant influences on their daughter's life through the princesses' memory. Murata in "The Tao of Islam (1992)", the mother is nature who takes care of her children. Mother as nature can no longer exercise total effectivity upon her children, even though her effect will remain since it cannot disappear completely. In Disney movies, mothers who have passed away can no longer exercise total effectivity upon their children, but their influence remains in the memory of their children who have a positive influence on the daughter in her development and help them overcome various adversities in their lives.

Children who were abandoned by their mothers face many obstacles and have adversities in dealing with them. As a consequence of the mother's prayer and blessing loss in the children's life. Mother's prayer is one of the most powerful prayers among two other prayers. Saying in a hadith that reads: "there are three supplications that will not be rejected; the supplications by parents, the supplication of a fasting person, and the supplication of a traveler (safar) (HR Imam Baihaqi). However, the mother's figure can be presented through memory. Remembering the mother through media related to her such as advice and others can give encouragement in dealing with adversities we face.

This condition is shown in Disney movies. The princesses face adversities after being abandoned by their mothers. In every adversity they face, they always present their mothers through the memory that helps them through the adversities. The mother who passed away at the beginning of the movie leaves an important mark on the princesses' memory that can be felt by her children in the present. Thus, it can be interpreted that mothers in Disney movies have a long since they live on in the memories of the princesses.

Long life is not only symbolized by a number that shows the length of time a human being lives in the world. According to Imam Al Nawawi, long life is seen as a blessing of life. Sulaeman (2017), explains that a long life is seen by how someone who has passed away can leave work or an impression that is always remembered by humans. Although, people who have a short life but leave many things that can be felt by many people are counted as long-lived people. For instance, Rasulullah *Sallallahu 'Alayhi wassalam*, passed away decades ago, but still lives in the memory of Muslims through his legacy. Allah subhana wa' taala in QS. Al-Baqarah verse 154, means; "And call not those who are slain in the way of Allah (dead). Nay, they are living, only ye perceive not".

The last, compared with the previous study "The Absence of Mother Figure Found in Disney's Movie" by Nur et al., n.d. (2019), took Cinderella and Aladdin movie as examples of Disney movies to observe in this research. They found that the absence of mothers' roles in Disney movies was influenced by Electra Complex and Oedipus Complex in Sigmund Freud's Psychoanalysis theory. Whereas, in this study, the researcher found that mothers who died in the Disney film were present in the story through the memory of the princess. They leave lessons to their children, no matter how brief they are, and influenced everything those children do. The influence of the mother persists because it cannot disappear completely (Murata, 1992) providing a significant positive influence in the life of the daughter necessary to overcome obstacles and eventually succeeds in the face of adversity.

CONCLUSION

Memory is something necessary that makes the princess in *Cinderella, Beauty and the Beast*, and *Frozen II* recall the past of their mothers to help them overcome all the trials in their life. According to Hutcheon, the past experiences can be learned through the memory we have.

The princesses' reason for remembering their mother is facing adversities or being in difficult situations. The princesses remember their mothers through several media, namely; the mother's words, the mother's old dress, the Lullaby, and places. Thus, the effect of remembrance of the mothers is also different for each princess due to their different perspectives and hierarchies in values about the past. Although, the remembrance of the mother has positive effects on the princesses' life, such as drawing strength and motivation, knowing the truth, reconstructing the identity, and maintaining self-identity.

Mothers who have passed away in Disney movies can no longer influence their children, but their influence remains in the memory of their children who have a positive influence on the daughter in her development and help them overcome various adversities in their lives. It can be concluded that mothers who have passed away in Disney movies are having a long life since they live on their daughter's memories. They live an important mark on their daughters that influence their daughter's behaviors. Thus, mothers have a long life since the lessons that they left are still remembrance by their daughters until right now.

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