DORY'S PARADOXICAL CHARACTERIZATIONS IN DISNEY'S ANIMATED FEATURE FILM *FINDING DORY* (2016)

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Article Info	Abstract
	The appearance of Dory, the forgetful blue tang fish, as the main character in *Finding Dory* (2016), one of Disney's animated feature films, makes the film popular and has been nominated to 46 awards and won 16 awards. Previously, Dory was a helping character in the original film, *Finding Nemo* (2003). This study aimed to identify Dory's characterizations by using textual analysis to find the uniqueness of Dory in the film. The analysis resulted in Dory's paradoxical characterization where she was forgetful yet creative, reliant yet independent, and anxious yet confident. These paradoxes implied that this film portrays that negative characters can be developed into good characters. Therefore, this film can be used as media to develop characters in informal education.

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INTRODUCTION

Based on the popularity of animated film among children, the characters in a film can be a resource of character education (Rochmawati, 2016). Building character for children must be done in every life aspects through exemplification and repetition with active participation from the society (Althof & Berkowitz, 2006; Zulhijrah, 2015; Hartini, 2017; Hasanah, 2017; Wijaya & Helaluddin, 2018). Several studies related to film analysis, especially Disney's animated films have been done before. According to Donofrio (2013), films produced by Disney are funny, family-friendly, and well made. Besides, Mitayani (2010) found that one of Disney's film entitled *Finding Nemo* has some education values, like love and affection, respect, loyalty and trust, bravely, self-reliability, kindness, sensitivity and unselfishness, honesty, and leadership. Later on, after the sequel came out, research has been done by Klinowski (2017), which implies that both films imply some character education values such as empathy, spirit, cooperative, and many other soft skills. Furthermore, Dwipayani (2018) had researched to find out character education values in a Disney film entitled *Zootopia*. The result is that the film contains character development mainly in the soft skill field.

This study chose Disney's animated film entitled *Finding Dory* (2016) based on its suitability for children and the result of the research on its prequel entitled *Finding Nemo* done by Mitayani in 2010 and Klinowski in 2017 which shows a positive impression on the film. However, the previous researches focused on *Finding Nemo* and how the films teach disability yet have not revealed about characterizations of Dory in *Finding Dory* (2016). Previously, Dory was a helping character in the original film, *Finding Nemo* (2003). This shows that the forgetful fish has more characterizations to be explored, making her turned into the main character, which can be seen from along the film. Therefore, this study aims to identify the characterization of Dory in *Finding Dory* (2016) to give a view about characterizations in *Finding Dory* (2016) and contribute to the analysis related to good character exemplification through animated films.

REVIEW OF LITERATURE

This research is designed based on qualitative research from Miles & Huberman (1994). According to Miles & Huberman (1994), in qualitative research, the researcher does a lot of contact with the field of study to gain insight from it. Given (2008) explains that such research is suitable to find patterned behavior and social processes, to gain a holistic insight into a new phenomenon, and to see the human's perspective toward something. Their research model is adapted in which textual analysis is used during the process of data

analysis. Lockyer in Given (2008) explains that textual analysis is a method of data analysis focusing on the meaning-making of a text. The term text covers a broad subject, not only writing form, but also pictures, and moving pictures. Therefore, everything that is possible to gain meaning from such as advertisement, blog, fashion, furniture, architecture, television program, movie, and many more is a text, according to Lockyer (Given, 2008). She further explains that the meaning made from the text is an interpretation gained from observing the interconnection of text and element and its context. The context of a text will be different from one to another. Thus, textual analysis is not aimed to find a correct interpretation, but rather to find the possible interpretation of the text.

According to Bordwell and Thompson (2008), a film comes in the form of a narrative that consists of the plot and the story. According to Koesnosoebroto (1988), the narrative consists of several elements, namely, character, plot, theme, and setting. These elements cannot be separated from each other. Character is the inhabitant of a story. Character does not have to be necessarily human. A convincing character must be consistent, motivated, and life-like. Koesnosoebroto (1988) divides character as main/major character and minor character. The most important character is a major character, where the story is about him/her. A minor character is a less important character who helps to make the main character appears life-like.

A character is revealed through characterization, which is the presentation of a character. Perrine in Koesnosoebroto (1988) states that character presentation can be direct or indirect. Direct presentation is delivered through an exposition by the author. On the other hand, an indirect presentation can be recognized through the appearance, action, speech, and thought of the character itself.

Concerning character presentation, the use of paradox is quite common. According to Halvatzis (2018), stories are made vibrant, interesting, and authentic from paradoxical characters that are arisen from life complexity. He explains further that paradox refers to the entanglement of a character in the journey of his/her life. In addition, a paradox is a form of contrasting actions in character (Fletcher & Olwyler, 1997; Levin, 2012; Ajtony, 2012). It refers to the contrasting personal character where a character says about one thing but acts the opposite. Levin (2012) further explains that contradicting emotions, words, or actions done by someone in the story is also a part of a paradoxical character. Paradoxical character is not only a means of character revelation in literature, but it is also a representation of paradoxical life. As explained by Luna (2019), there are many examples of paradox in life such as an inferior and weak person who acts with aggressive confidence, sexual promiscuity that covers feeling of being ugly and worthless, a quiet person who tends to speak a lot, or sad people

who use happiness as a self-defense. In her analysis on paradox in Bronte's *Wuthering Height*, Levin (2012) also finds that the two characters in the novel show their paradoxes when they hide their true feeling but yearn to be understood, they also behave like two different persons on different occasions. Levin also finds that the act of scolding others while the scolder makes the same mistakes and blames others for their own wrongdoing are types of paradox. Shortly, a paradox is a state where something is done contradictory with how it is supposed to be or how it is said to be done.

DISCUSSIONS OF MAIN THEMES

Dory as a Forgetful yet Creative Character

Dory suffered from short-term memory loss, which caused her to forget things easily. Dory's forgetfulness is seen in sequence 1a, 1m, 2c, 3e, 4d, 5c, 6a, 7d, 9b, 10c, 12a, 14b, 14f, and 16a. On the other hand, Dory is strongly described as creative in sequence 1g, 3b, 5e, 6d, 7e, 8d, 9h, 10e, 12b, 14d, 15c, 15i, and 16a. These characterizations appeared from time to time in the movie.

In sequence 1a, Dory was seen to recall a line that explained her short-term memory loss. Dory mentioned her condition as "short-term remembory loss," which shows her inability to remember her condition well. In the next scene, Dory forgot the rhyme about the danger of the undertow. However, in sequence 1g, Dory created a new rhyme spontaneously when she could not remember the original rhyme that her parents told her, which shows her creativity. In sequence 1m, Dory fully forgot her parents after she got lost in the ocean. However, she kept looking for the memory about them until she met Marlin and stopped looking. In sequence 2c, Dory had lived with Marlin and Nemo. Upon taking Nemo to a field trip, Dory wanted to join him, although Marlin signaled that he had told Dory not to join the trip. Dory forgot Marlin's prohibition and offered to be Mr. Ray's teaching assistant. In sequence 3b, Dory finally began to wonder her parents whereabout that she had forgotten for years. The question from the little fish had evoked Dory's curiosity about her origin. Yet, after she got a flashback about her parents while being dragged into stingray migration, she immediately forgot about it. Furthermore, when she finally recalled about the flashback, Dory realized about her forgetfulness and begged Marlin to help her find her parents in sequence 4d.

The paradoxes are continuously depicted after the beginning. Sequence 5e tells about Dory's adventure in the ocean near The Jewel of Morro Bay, California. Dory was back in the ocean full of trash, where she remembered little sea creatures shushed her. Through their shushes, Dory's memory was triggered, resulting in her memory about her parents' name,

Jenny and Charlie. In sequence 6a, Dory was focused on finding her parents and forgot about the condition of Nemo and Marlin after the attack from the giant squid. Sequence 6d tells about Dory's idea to get help for Nemo from Sigourney Weaver. Dory swam to the water surface to follow Sigourney's voice, which came from the Marine Life Institute. In sequence 7d, Dory is seen to forget about the tag attached to her fin, although she and Hank were talking about it. However, in sequence 7e, Dory had the initiative to offer the tag to Hank in return of Hank's help to take her to the map of Marine Life Institute so she could locate her home. Furthermore, in sequence 8d, Dory had an idea to follow her instinct about Destiny by jumping into the bucket with "destiny" written on it. It led to her meeting with Destiny in sequence 9b. Dory did not recognize Destiny, who was her pipe pal. Again, this shows her forgetfulness. Sequence 9h tells about Dory's creativity to find another way to the open ocean by using a baby stroller that was parked inside the park. Dory refused to go through the pipe system due to her short-term memory loss. However, in sequence 10c, after Dory and Hank got on to the stroller, Dory forgot to follow the sign to her home and went after the sign of "the world's most powerful pair of glasses." It led to an accident where Dory and Hank were thrown into the touch pool. Sequence 10e tells about Dory, who lost Hank in the Touch Pool. During the tense situation, Dory was able to find Hank, who camouflaged as a coral.

After that, the paradoxes continue in sequence 12a, when Dory was disoriented in the pipe system on her way back to the quarantine. Yet, she got an idea to use Destiny and Bailey to direct her in the pipe system in sequence 12b. In sequence 14b, Dory could not recall the current situation when she was thrown into the ocean and got separated from Marlin, Nemo, and Hank. Sequence 14d tells about Dory following the trail of shells on the ocean floor, just like what she did as a child. It led Dory to reunite with her parents. However, Dory regretted her forgetfulness in sequence 14f. Dory felt guilty for forgetting her parents for years. After her reunion, Dory had to rescue Marlin and Nemo. Sequence 15c tells about Dory's idea to get help from Destiny to run after Marlin and Nemo that were going to be taken to an aquarium in Cleveland. Sequence 15i tells about the adventure of Dory and Hank, who drove a truck on the highway to get back to the ocean. After she got back to the coral reef, in sequence 16a, Dory is shown to forget that she was in the middle of a game. Then she finally found her family and her friends who were hiding from her in hide-and-seek.

Those sequences show the paradoxes of Dory's forgetfulness and her creativity along with the film. Dory's short-term memory loss tends to trigger her creativity as Dory has problems in memorizing, yet she has the capability to be fully aware of her forgetfulness. This is a paradox where Dory uses the fact of being forgetful as a means to help her in

remembering things. It shows that when Dory forgets about things that are happening in her life, she is able to recall them cautiously by linking small clues that she has gathered bit by bit. In other words, Dory is able to develop her creativity in facing problems caused by her short-term memory loss. Dory's forgetfulness and creativity keep appearing one after another. This shows that Dory's characterizations are stable, and the arrangement makes the story interesting without making it feels less life-like. In the beginning, she simply wanted to reunite with her parents after she remembered them. Dory then faced various problems to achieve her goals, some of which came from her forgetful habit. By alternating different ideas against her forgetfulness, such as heading home by using a bit of her memory and using her forgotten ability to speak whale to guide her passing through the confusing pipe system, Dory was able to overcome her problems. However, by the climax, she finally realizes that family is not only those who are blood-related to her but also those who stand by her when she is in need. Therefore, Dory then insisted on rescuing Marlin and Nemo as well as requested Hank to go back to the ocean with her. Her success in being reunited with her parents and extended her family was the result of her creativity that she used to solve the problems.

Dory as a Reliant yet Independent Character

The second paradox is Dory's reliance, which is opposed to her independence. Sequence 1m, 7a, 9h, 10f, 11d, 12f, 14f, 15d, 16b, and 16e depict Dory's independency in the film. While sequence 1i, 2a, 3b, 3f, 4a, 4d, 5b, 7d, 7i, 9g, 10e, 12e, and 14b show Dory's reliant character. The sequences for both characters appear one after another, with the explanation as follows.

In sequence 1i, Dory's parents assured her that they would not forget her and vice versa when Dory worried about being forgotten by her parents. It shows that Dory relied on others to deal with her disability as she believed that she could not depend on herself. However, when Dory faced a problem on her own as in sequence 1m, Dory was able to handle it. She also had grown into an adult while she was alone in the ocean. In sequence 2a, Dory's reliance appears when Dory woke up at dawn, and she began to look for Marlin and Nemo right away. After that, Marlin had to tell Dory what to do, which was going back to sleep. In addition, Dory asked Nemo to help her recall the topic of her talk during Mr. Ray's class. Not only that, but Dory was also helped by Nemo to remember the name of her home after she forgot the flashback in sequence 3f. Dory showed her reliance again in sequence 4a when she was excited about finding her parents, yet she asked Marlin and Nemo to join her. This reliance is more evident in sequence 4d when Dory pleaded to Marlin for his company since

Dory was aware of her short-term memory loss. In sequence 5b, Dory still relied on Nemo to find some assurance about recognizing her parents. Dory consulted with Nemo about what her parents might look like.

That reliance then changed into dependence in sequence 7a when Dory got separated from Marlin and Nemo and was able to calm herself down. However, she was taken into the quarantine alone. However, after she met Hank, Dory began to show her reliance to get help from others in sequence 7d. Dory asked Hank to take her to her exhibit, although Hank had his own plan to go to Cleveland. Furthermore, Dory's reliance was seen from Marlin's worry in sequence 7i. Marlin believed that Dory was alone and scared since they got separated. Not only that, but Dory also depended on Hank to remember the direction to the Open Ocean through the pipe system as in sequence 9g. Meanwhile, in sequence 9h, Dory was able to solve her fear of going through the pipe system by finding another way on her own. She found an idea to use a baby stroller to move inside the Marine Life Institute. Furthermore, Dory showed independence in sequence 10f, when Dory was encouraged to swim through the touch pool after she discovered the memory of the "Just Keep Swimming" song. Dory also saved Hank in the touch pool. Other than that, sequence 11d tells about Dory's bravery to go through the pipe system to go back to the quarantine. Even so, Dory's reliance reappeared in sequence 12e, when she was discouraged from meeting her parents and looked for some encouragement from Marlin. After that, Dory found the courage in sequence 12f after Marlin encouraged her. Furthermore, in sequence 14f, Dory reunited with her parents after she followed the trail of shells when she wandered alone in the ocean. In sequence 15d, Dory thought about what she would do to stop the truck that took Marlin and Nemo. Dory found an idea on her own by observing the situation around her. In sequence 16b, Dory is seen to be encouraged to go to the drop off alone without asking her friends to take her there. In sequence 16e, Dory is seen to realize that she could do anything on her own as long as she put her mind into it. Dory realized that after she remembered her parents' advice when she was a child and viewed her success to reunite with her parents.

The sequences above show Dory at the beginning of the film. Dory is depicted as a reliant girl since her short-term memory loss discourages her from relying on herself. However, when Dory has no one to solve her problem, Dory becomes more independent. Without her independence, Dory will not be able to find the solution for her problems that she faces along the journey to find her parents. Dory's independent value gets better by the time since she has to develop her way of remembering things and solving problems. The paradox between Dory's reliant and independent characters actually helps her to develop her

character. Her independence allows her to stand on her own to solve problems like when she swam bravely out of the dangerous Touch Pool and used her capability of speaking whale to get out of the pipe system. On the other hand, her reliance allows her to work with her friends as a team. It can be seen when she drove a truck together with Hank and when she was determined to visit the drop off alone but still allowed Marlin to join her.

Dory as an Anxious yet Confident Character

The third paradox is between Dory's anxiety and her confidence. Dory's anxiety is seen in sequence 1h, 1l, 3b, 3f, 6c, 9g, 10e, 11b, 13d, and 14b. However, there are some sequences where Dory is described as a confident girl in the film. Sequence 5b, 7a, 9h, 10f, 12d, 12f, 13c, 14f, 15d, 15i, 16b, and 16f show Dory's confidence in the film.

At first, Dory's anxiety is seen in sequence 1h when she was afraid of forgetting and being forgotten by her parents due to her short-term memory loss. After that, in sequence 1l, Dory admitted shyly to a sunfish that she could not remember her parents. In addition to that, Dory was not sure of finding her parents again in sequence 3b. Quite the contrary, Dory began to show her confidence in sequence 5b, when Dory was on her way to California. She told the little turtle that she would recognize her parents, although she had not remembered them clearly. However, Dory's anxiety reappeared in sequence 6c, when Dory felt guilty for putting Marlin and Nemo in danger and began to doubt herself. After that anxiety, Dory shows her confidence in sequence 7a. Dory is seen to believe in herself that she would overcome the problem, although she got separated from Marlin and Nemo. Nonetheless, Dory doubted herself to go to Open Ocean through the pipe system in sequence 9g. That anxiety turned into confidence in sequence 9h when Dory ordered her friends to follow her after she found the idea to use a baby stroller to move around Marine Life Institute. Dory was excited about her plan, especially since she could avoid swimming through the pipe system.

Dory's confidence does not last long. In sequence 10e, Dory felt sorry for Hank since she thought that her memory problem had caused them to be thrown into the Touch Pool. Yet, in sequence 10f, Dory found the bravery to swim through the touch pool after she remembered that her parents told her just to keep swimming when she could not remember right. In addition to that, in sequence 12d, Dory showed Marlin and Nemo that she truly could speak whale when she replied Destiny's call. Dory smiled at Nemo as she showed him her ability, which indicates her confidence. Furthermore, in sequence 12f, Dory was encouraged to meet her parents, although she was aware that her carelessness caused them to separate. In sequence 13c, Dory was eager to meet her parents when she arrived back in quarantine and

got into the tank of the blue tangs. Unfortunately, Dory got news about her parents' death. Dory became anxious in sequence 13d. Her shock was mixed with guilty feelings causing her to be disoriented and separated from her friends. Furthermore, Dory's anxiety led to her panic in the ocean when she could not remember what had happened in sequence 14b. However, in sequence 14f, Dory gained her confidence back after her parents reminded her about the success to get back to her family. After that, in sequence 15d, Dory found the bravery to leave her parents to rescue Nemo. She told her mother that she would be able to find her parents again if she lost them. Not only that, in sequence 15i, Dory told Hank her idea to jump off a cliff along with the truck to get back to the ocean. In sequence 16b, Dory wanted to visit the drop off alone. She parted with her parents and Marlin before heading to the drop off on her own. In sequence 16f, Dory enjoyed the view of the drop off with Marlin. She complimented the view, which was unforgettable for her. It shows that Dory had found her confidence in remembering things despite her short-term memory loss.

In conclusion, Dory's fight over her anxiety, although her memory loss keeps retracting her, makes Dory's journey interesting. Those sequences showing Dory's confidence is strong in the film. She believes in herself that she will be able to handle the problems that come along with her journey. However, her anxiety was firm. Dory's anxiety and confidence are paradoxical in term the way she lets her anxiety pushes her to think in a rapid and precise manner when she has problems to handle. In turn, this creativity lifts her confidence. Dory also believes in herself, although she has to fight for her goals alone when she gets separated from her friends, and she finds her confidence to meet her parents, although their separation is part of her responsibility.

CONCLUSION

The analysis of the plot development of *Finding Dory* (2016) resulted in the revelation of Dory's unique characterization. The uniqueness comes in the form of paradoxical characters. Besides her forgetful habits, Dory is intelligent and creative. Thus, she is able to gather information about her parents and reunite with them. Dory shows her paradox of being forgetful yet creative since she could make use of her awareness of her short-term memory loss to remember things. Although she is reliant, at many sequences, Dory becomes independent. Dory was reliant on her friends when they had to work together, but she could remain independent when she had no one around. Moreover, Dory does not let her anxiety stop her, but rather she embraces it and learns to be more optimistic. She could employ her anxiety about being separated from her loved ones to force herself to believe in her ability to

find them. As Dory finally reunited with her family and her friends, it shows that Dory was capable of controlling both her anxiety and confidence to reach her goals.

Acknowledgments

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