Complexity of Modern Life Overview in Belle: Ryuu To Sobakasu No Hime (2021)

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KEYWORDS	ABSTRACT
social complexity, Edgar Morin, virtual life, reality.	This research is about an overview of the complexity of *Belle: Ryuu To Sobakasu No Hime.* *Belle: Ryuu To Sobakasu No Hime* depicts the complex social dynamics between virtual life and real life. The purpose of the research is to describe the complexity of the main character's life. This research uses a descriptive qualitative method to explore and to describe more deeply the complexity of the main character's life in *Belle: Ryuu to Sobakasu No Hime*. Edgar Morin's theory about complexity in the social context is used in this research. The result of the analysis shows the complexity of the main character in *Belle: Ryuu To Sobakasu No Hime* including the main character's life as Suzu who is just an unknown person and her virtual life as Belle has extraordinary popularity. Penelitian ini tentang gambaran kompleksitas kehidupan modern yang terdapat dalam film *Belle: Ryuu To Sobakasu No Hime*. Film *Belle: Ryuu To Sobakasu No Hime* menggambarkan dinamika sosial yang kompleks antara kehidupan virtual dan kehidupan nyata. Tujuan dari penelitian ini adalah untuk mendeskripsikan gambaran kompleksitas kehidupan tokoh utama yang terdapat dalam film *Belle: Ryuu To Sobakasu No Hime*. Penelitian ini menggunakan metode deskriptif kualitatif untuk menggali dan mendeskripsikan lebih dalam tentang kompleksitas kehidupan tokoh utama dalam film *Belle: Ryuu To Sobakasu No Hime*. Teori yang digunakan dalam penelitian ini adalah teori kompleksitas Edgar Morin dalam konteks social. Hasil analisis menunjukkan bahwa kompleksitas tokoh utama dalam film *Belle: Ryuu To Sobakasu No Hime* meliputi kehidupan nyata tokoh utama sebagai Suzu yang merupakan seseorang yang tidak dikenal dan kehidupan virtual tokoh utama sebagai *Belle* yang memiliki popularitas luar biasa.

INTRODUCTION

A virtual world or virtual reality is a realm where individuals can showcase different aspects of themselves. Muhammad (2021), in his study titled "Correction of Hoaxes in the Interpretation of the Qur'an in Online Media (Surat Al Aḥzāb: 33, Fāṭir: 28, and Aḍ Ḍuḥā: 7)," posits that within this virtual realm, individuals possess the liberty to express themselves, often without boundaries. It is not uncommon for individuals to engage in fields of which they have little knowledge or expertise. The rise of virtual life can be attributed to the proliferation of social networks, where each individual is free to express their individuality.

The growth of virtual communities allows individuals to express themselves in any form. Turkle (1997, p. 3) in *Live Beyond The Screen* asserts that within virtual spaces, people will not understand us, even if we transform into "someone different." No one can recognize us due to profiles created according to our

imagination in the virtual space, rendering the virtual world anonymous. This aligns with Belle in Hanika (2016), who states that technology creates a space for individuals to interact and develop themselves.

In the virtual world, individuals can show another side of themselves, as depicted in the literary work titled *Belle: Ryuu to Sobakasu no Hime* by Mamoru Hosoda. This work narrates the life of the main character, Suzu, who creates a virtual version of herself on a social media platform called "U." On the "U" platform, Suzu expresses herself as a beautiful and talented singer. Belle, Suzu's virtual profile, quickly gains immense popularity, allowing her to hold large concerts. However, her concert is disrupted by a creature named Ryuu, a virtual identity of a dragon. Ryuu's interference leads Justice, the platform's security enforcer, to pursue Ryuu and threaten to reveal his real-world identity. Upon investigation, it is discovered that Ryuu is actually a young boy named Kei. In reality, Kei and his brother Tomo suffer abuse from their father. Suzu, as her true self, attempts to save Ryuu, whose real name is Kei. After successfully rescuing Kei from his abusive father, Suzu becomes more open about herself, even with her own father. The issue Kei faced is resolved by Belle, who ultimately reveals that Belle is Suzu in the real world. Following this, Suzu encourages users of the "U" platform to reveal their true identities. Suzu confidently performs her song in front of the platform's users, an act that touches many hearts. While rescuing Kei, Suzu is assisted by a mothers' music club that often practices with her.

The aim of this research is to analyze the complexity issues experienced by the main character, Suzu, who transforms into "Belle" on the "U" platform.

Social complexity is a concept that describes the dynamic interactions in various areas within a society. It encompasses various elements such as individuals, groups, institutions, norms, and values that interact and influence each other within a social system.

In the study titled *Issues of Complexity and Complexity Theory*, Heryana (2021) states that complexity issues arise because there are numerous variables (aspects, components) that must be considered in a problem due to interactions with the environment. For instance, in the human system, the subjects taught by teachers in elementary school are not as complex as the courses in higher education. This means that as a student matures, the experiences they encounter increase, thereby broadening their interactions with others. Consequently, the complexity of problems will continue to develop in tandem with age.

Similarly, Pavard and Dugdale, as cited in Situngkir (2011), also state that a complex system is one that is difficult, or even impossible, to explain with just a few parameters or variables without sacrificing its key characteristics and functionality. In short, the complexity of a system makes it impossible to explain simply without neglecting the important aspects that make the system unique and function in a specific way.

This research focuses on the complexities present in the life of the main character "Suzu" in *Belle: Ryuu to Sobakasu no Hime* using Edgar Morin's complexity theory. Morin, as elaborated by Blay and Piqueira (2024), outlines several concepts of complexity as follows.Self (geno-pheno-ego)-eco-re-organization. Morin attempts to explain how various factors, both internal (genetic, egocentric) and external (environmental), interact and influence the processes of organization and development in living beings. This process repeats and affects not only individuals but also communities and future generations.

a. **Hologrammatic Principle** The core of this concept is that the structure or organization of a whole can be found in its constituent parts. In other words, each part contains information about the whole, similar to how a hologram works. For example, our DNA: each cell in the body contains DNA that holds complete information about the entire body. Thus, even by observing a single cell, one can gain an understanding of the whole body, as each cell has the same information. This concept illustrates how small parts of a

system can reflect the entire system itself. Therefore, the organization or structure of the whole can be understood by studying its smaller parts.

b. **Organizational Recursion** The prefix "re-" in the context of organization has many meanings and characteristics, including replication, restarting, reinforcement, reproduction, repair, mental representation, memory, and more. Morin uses the key term "organizational recursion" to indicate that many concepts are included in complex organizations. The idea of recursion in organization refers to how feedback within the organization can change the entire organization. For example, culture in society is a form of feedback that can alter the organization of the entire society. This is different from recursive circuits that control only a part of behavior. Overall, this concept explains that complex organizations have many interacting and influencing meanings and concepts. The idea of recursion illustrates how feedback can change the organization as a whole, not just control part of the behavior.

c. **Dialogic** The dialogic concept explains an important paradigm inspired by Hegelian dialectics. However, unlike Hegelian dialectics, where two opposing ideas usually end up synthesizing or merging, in this concept, two opposing ideas remain and coexist, influencing each other. Examples include the relationship between individuals and society, body and soul, or brain and mind. These two concepts, at the same time, can complement each other, coexist, or even oppose each other (antagonistic). Instead of seeking a middle ground or solution between two opposing ideas, this concept emphasizes the importance of understanding and appreciating the coexistence of both ideas and how they influence each other.

d. **Ecology of Action** The diverse interactions and feedback in the environment where effects occur after an action is initiated often go beyond the control of the agent and cause unexpected effects, sometimes even contrary to the original plan. There are two guiding principles: 1. the consequences of actions depend not only on the agent's intentions but also on the environmental conditions where the action occurs, and 2. the long-term effects of actions cannot be predicted (Morin 2005, p. 100). It can be concluded that the ecology of action comprises unexpected and usually uncontrollable consequences, where the effects produced are not the agent's or actor's expectations (Blay and Piqueira, 2024, *The Emergence of Edgar Morin's Complex Thinking*)

This research aims to analyze the complexities in the life of the main character from *Belle: Ryuu to Sobakasu no Hime* by Mamoru Hosoda. Morin's theory is used to further examine what occurs in Suzu's life and her virtual existence on the "U" platform as "Belle."

METHOD

This research used qualitative – descriptive method to describe further about Edgar Morin's complexity theory. The data source of the research is from the movie itself, by collecting and analyzing data applying Morin's complexity theory. Moleong in Savora and Listyaningsih (2023) assert that qualitative research is research that aims to understand phenomena experienced by research subjects, such as behavior, perception, motivation, actions, and so on, in a holistic manner.

RESULTS AND DISCUSSION

In the literary work titled *Belle: Ryuu to Sobakasu no Hime*, several relevant concepts of Morin's complexity theory are found, namely Self (geno-pheno-ego)-eco-re-organization, Organizational recursion, Dialogic, and Ecology of Action, which are described as follows.

Self (geno-pheno-ego)-eco-re-organization

Data 1

るか ：あっ　すずちゃん！
Ruka ：A, Suzu-chan！
ルカ：すずちゃんもはいて！！
Ruka ：Suzu-chan mo haite
Ruka 　：Suzu, join in
すず ：いいよ　わたし。
Suzu ：Iiyo watashi
Suzu ：No, It's okay

In line with the concept of Self (geno-pheno-ego)-eco-re-organization, the scene where Suzu refuses to be photographed with her classmates is related to Suzu's own egocentric tendencies. The scene depicted shows Suzu not wanting to join her classmates for a photo because she feels she is not on the same level as them. Suzu's feeling of inferiority stems from her own ego.

Data 2

The scene depicted is related to the concept of Self (geno-pheno-ego)-eco-re-organization, whereBelle reveals her identity as Suzu, which subsequently affects the "eco," derived from "ecosystem" or environment. This scene illustrates that the "self" or individual can influence the "eco" or environment.

Data 3

The scene depicted illustrates the feedback from the "eco" or "ecosystem" or environment itself. This highlights how interactions within an environment can influence and shape the behavior and experiences of individuals within it.

Data 4

ペギー ：〝ベルー！うたえ！止めるな！
Peggy : "Beru! Utae! Tomeruna!"
Peggy : Belle, Sing! Don't stop"

Belle, who stops singing because she recalls her sad childhood, evokes sympathy from everyone. Peggy Sue, who was previously Belle's rival, encourages her to keep singing and not stop. Belle's actions, driven by her intent to investigate and help Ryuu, who has been hurt, successfully encourage many "U" platform users to care about Ryuu's situation. In the scene above, Belle manages to make everyone care about her desire to help Ryuu. This aligns with Morin's theory of Self (geno-pheno-ego)-re-organization, where both internal factors within oneself and external factors can influence individual and community development. Belle's concern for Ryuu is influenced by her painful past. Both Belle (Suzu) and Ryuu share the same fate, as they both lost their mothers. Suzu's (Belle's) compassion successfully encourages the "U" platform community to also care for Ryuu.

Dialogic

The dialogic concept explains how two different thoughts can be related and interact with each other. In the depicted scene, Hiroka expresses a differing viewpoint, stating that Kei no longer trusts Suzu.

Data 5

ひろ　：しんようされてないんだよう
Hiro : Shinyousarete naindayou
Hiro : He's not believing you

However, in the scene depicted, Shinobu offers a different perspective. Shinobu encourages Suzu to keep singing like Belle does. Shinobu's opinion contrasts with Hiroka's but remains interconnected. While Hiroka

asserts that Kei no longer trusts Suzu, Shinobu believes that Kei might trust Suzu again if she sings as Belle does.

Data 6

しのぶ　：使うのままで歌う！
Shinobu　　　: Tsukau no mamade utau!
Shinobu : Sing like you used to !

These two ideas differ from each other. Hiroka tells Suzu that Kei no longer trusts her, but Shinobu has a different opinion. Shinobu believes that Suzu can still help Kei by singing as she usually does. Due to the differing perspectives of Hiroka and Shinobu, Suzu eventually takes action to save Kei.

Data 7

すず　：違う！あなたの力になりたい
Suzu : Chigau, anata no chikara ni naritai
Suzu : No, I want to help you

Suzu wants to demonstrate her intent to help Kei. However, Kei has a different perspective. According to Kei, the people who express their desire to help him and his brother are only saying it; they never actually help. The differing viewpoints between Suzu and Kei further motivate Suzu to take immediate action to save Kei.

Data 8

けい　：　「たすける」いままでなんでもうきいた
Kei　：　"tasukeru" Ima made nandamou kiita.

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Kei  : "Help" I have heard it all until now
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Both scenes demonstrate the existence of opposing yet interconnected ideas. In the first and second dialogues, Hiroka tells Suzu that Kei no longer trusts her, implying that she cannot help him. However, this prompts Shinobu to encourage Suzu to keep singing, believing there is still a way to help Kei. In the third and fourth dialogues, Suzu's attempt to help Kei is met with rejection. Kei interprets Suzu's words as mere statements, feeling that no one truly wants to help him and his brother with the abuse they are experiencing.

Ecology of action

The concept of the "Ecology of Action" refers to the unintended and often uncontrollable consequences that occur beyond the agent's control or expectations. This highlights how actions, once initiated, interact with various environmental factors, leading to outcomes that may diverge significantly from the original intentions of the actor.

Data 9

The scene depicted shows Belle, Suzu's virtual profile on "U," gaining more followers. The increasing number of Belle's followers is beyond Belle's or Suzu's control, resulting from Suzu's initial decision to join the "U" platform and sing. This exemplifies the concept of the "Ecology of Action," where the outcomes extend beyond the agent's original intentions and expectations.

CONCLUSION

The social issues experienced by the main character in *Belle: Ryuu to Sobakasu no Hime* are influenced by several factors, including both internal and external factors. The internal factor comes from within Belle or Suzu herself. The initial step of registering on the "U" platform affects many things, starting with how Suzu gains a large following, which happens beyond her control. She then meets the dragon creature identified as Ryuu, which prompts Suzu or Belle to become compassionate towards the character Ryuu. Instead of hating Ryuu like other users, Belle feels empathetic towards him.According to the concept of Self (geno-pheno-ego)-eco-re-organization, Suzu's action of revealing her true identity for Kei (Ryuu) successfully touches many hearts. This indicates that Suzu's action managed to influence a community. Furthermore, when Eroh or Hiro, Suzu's friend, inquired about Ryuu disrupting Belle's concert, he received various responses. Some even openly wanted to reveal Ryuu's true identity, and there were those who speculated about it.The Hologrammatic Principle concept is not found in *Belle: Ryuu to Sobakasu no Hime* as it leans more towards biological contexts related to the DNA of living beings.

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