

The Representation of Chinese-Canadian Parenting Styles for Daughter Depicted in Movie “Turning Red”

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Chinese-Canadian Mother, Daughter-parenting style, Movie, Semiotics, Turning Red

ABSTRACT

This study discusses the parenting styles practiced by a Chinese-Canadian mother in raising her daughter. This study applies Stuart Hall's Representation theory to analyze the representation of Chinese-Canadian Parenting Style. In addition to categorizing the daughter-parenting styles, this research applies Baumrind's theory. This study found that a Chinese-Canadian mother implements authoritarian parenting style for her daughter. It is because a mother has power over her daughter, has to be obeyed, and gives strict rules for her daughter. As a result, the daughter-parenting style of the Chinese-Canadian mother portrayed in this movie is authoritarian. Moreover, understanding parenting style is significant as it helps to understand cultural values.

INTRODUCTION

Parenting style is influenced by the belief and behavior shaped by the culture of where one lives (Bornstein, 2012). DeLoache and Gottlieb stated that parents from different cultures study various kinds of guidance on how to raise children well, both in the form of books, advice or just in training by example (Bornstein, 2013). In other words, cultural nuances have a portion in parenting in educating their children (Fitria, 2016) and its goal is aligned with the cultural context, and implemented in different ways of socialization (Bornstein and Lanford, 2010). Thus, people from different cultural backgrounds have different styles of parenting as they themselves have experienced a different pattern of caregiving. Therefore, understanding the parenting style of a certain culture, such as Chinese-Canadian, is significant as it can help one to identify its cultural values. This is because parents introduce cultural norms and values to their children through parenting (Wiswanti et al., 2020). This also applies to the Asian population residing in America.

Asian population is the largest in North America. Based on Statistics Canada and U.S. Census Bureau in 2004, these ethnic groups include the fastest growing non-European ethnicity (Yoo & Miller, 2011) and immigrants from the People's Republic of China, Hong Kong, and Taiwan make up the majority of the North. This kind of background indirectly affects parents in raising children. Immigrant parents may have a variety of factors that influence their parenting because they have to balance their existing ideas about childcare with new parenting ideas introduced after immigration. Immigrant parents have two sources of value in parenting, namely learning cultural values in their home country and the value of the new area after immigration (Costigan & Su, 2008). These differences can take the form of many things, such as obedience, responsibility, and freedom. Usually, obedience becomes a prominent thing for Asian parents whom their children have to obey parents' decision, order, and advice. Besides, Asian children are often given a responsibility to help their parents to clean the house or other things. They are also more restricted by their parents than western children.

There are already several previous researches about parenting that fall into three categories. The first is parenting in cross-cultural contexts. Such studies examine the similarity and the difference of parenting styles among countries (Gatwiri & Anderson, 2021; Martinez et al., 2020; Raj & Raval, n.d.; Sahithya et al., 2019).

The second category is the role of parenting related to children's outcome. These researches study the effects of parenting style on children's academic achievement and social behavior (Anggraini & Muti'ah, 2017; Atiqah & Ariestina, 2022; George & Mohanan, 2022; Ihunwo, 2022; Mian Mian Seet et al., 2022). The third category is parenting portrayed in the movie. Such a study found that the type of democratic parenting is shown in the animated film *Nussa and Rarra on Umma's* character much more than the permissive parenting style (Bening, 2021)

However, the previous studies have focused more on parenting and its effects on Indigenous Australians, Indonesians and Americans. Meanwhile, previous film research only focused on Indonesian films using Pierce's semiotics. Those studies have not investigated specifically on the Chinese-Canadian parenting for daughters portrayed in movies. Therefore, this paper aims to answer the gap on parenting by investigating Chinese-Canadian parenting style through the Chinese-Canadian girl who lives in Canada in cartoon movies. The movie analyzed in this research is "Turning Red", directed by Domee Shi in 2022. This movie narrates a puberty faced by a young girl and how it affects her communication with her parents. Many interesting events and dialogues are found in this movie during the puberty phase and her journey of ritual which will imprison the red panda's spirit and make Mei live a normal life.

METHOD

This paper investigates the cartoon movie "Turning Red" as the object of study, by focusing on the representation of Chinese-Canadian parenting styles for daughters that are practiced by several characters in the movie. Since the study aims to describe the parenting style, it used a qualitative method. Because the data are in the form of text, it is classified as qualitative descriptive research (Pratama & Hanum, 2019). The data collected in this study are in the form of pictures, words, phrases and sentences from the scene of the western cartoon movie "Turning Red". Furthermore, the research question formulated is what is the representation of Chinese-Canadian parenting style for daughters portrayed in western movie "Turning Red"?

To answer the research question, the data analysis was carried out using Stuart Hall's representation theory. Stuart argues that representation is a significant representation of culture and practice, representation connects meaning and language to culture, representation is an important part of the process that meaning is generated and exchanged among members. In the analysis, the approach used is a reflective approach. Thus, data processing in the form of language will be directly interpreted and investigated the representation contained. The found representation will be classified based on Baumrind's theory of parenting style. According to Baumrind (1991), there are three major parenting styles. The first is authoritarian style. In authoritarian parenting, here parents are more concerned with regulating, ordering and prohibiting children. The second is permissive style. In this permissive parenting pattern, parents make children do anything without their own parental control. The third is democratic (Authoritative) style. In democratic parenting, children can do anything, and determine what they want. However, here the parents remain the direction or controller. Communication and deliberation are the main keys to the success of this democratic parenting style.

RESULTS AND DISCUSSION

In this part, the researcher will describe five scenes that explain Chinese-Canadian parenting style for daughters depicted in the movie. The researcher classify the data into three topics, namely "A daughter has to be filial to her parent", "A daughter should not hide anything from her mother", and "Parent's over control towards the daughter".


A daughter has to be filial to her parent

In the scene (Picture 1), it can be seen that there are four friends who were chatting on the side of the road. They invite one of their friends to join karaoke. However, her best friend refuses because it was a clean-up day. Her friends also protest because she cleans every day and never takes a day off. However, Mei still does not come and runs home. Actually, she is also tired because she isn't free to go anywhere and said that what her parents decide is her decision too. In other words, a daughter must be filial to their parents, helping her to work is more important than her own freedom.

The scene (Picture 2) shows six people behind Ming Lee, namely the mother, Mei's three aunts, Mei's grandmother and father with facial expressions that reflect fear because of Ming Lee's anger. Ming Lee's anger can be seen from the expression on his face that is furious and her hands are clenched because she feels that she should not be treated badly by Mei. Ming Lee is furious at Mei who disobeys her orders to complete the expulsion ritual of the red panda spirit and instead leaves the temple for the concert. It also makes her mocked by her family.

The scene (Picture 3) denotes when Ming-Lee is watching a movie with her daughter. Then, she sees a couple on the television. The woman character seems cruel. Ming said that the man should listen to his mother to get a better woman. She believes that His mother has another woman for him that is better for him now. In other words, a mother knows everything is good for her daughter. Therefore; a daughter has to always listen to her orders.

Table 1 Data of the first topic

Visual	Words, phrases, and sentences
 <p>Picture 1: Mei cannot join karaoke</p>	<p>Miriam: Hey, we're going to karaoke today. Abby: YA! Priya: Come with us! Miriam, Abby and Priya: Please..... Mei: I...can't. It's cleaning day today. Miriam: Hey, every day is a cleaning day. Can't you just go off one afternoon? (After some argument, Mei runs to her house. At the whole road, she grumble) Mei: I am my own person, but it doesn't mean doing whatever I want. Like most of adult, I have responsibilities (She meets her mom and say) Mei: ..my move is also her move.</p>
 <p>Picture 2: Mei's mother is angry as she ignore her order</p>	<p>(Other people mock Ming because her daughter angry at her) Ming: How can she do this to her own mother?!</p>
 <p>Picture 3: Ming-Lee gives her opinion to the scene of the movie</p>	<p>(Ming-Lee, Mei's mother watch a chinese drama on TV) Ming: He should listen to his mother and marry Ling-Yee</p>

[Source: Author's work field]

Most foster in Asia, including China, requires children to be filial as a form of return. Unfortunately, this tradition is often used as a tool to satisfy parents' egos, even when the Chinese are in Canada. In Chinese culture, this attitude is called "Filial Piety". As stated by Chao & Tseng, (2002), Filial Piety is used as the basis for parenting. This means a child must obey his parents as a form of respect for their sacrifice and be grateful for making the child live in the world. From the scene from the movie "Turning Red", Filial Piety is shown when Mei can't go to karaoke together because she has to obey her mother's orders to clean the temple and when Mei's mother is furious because her child is considered not to listen to her. Furthermore, from the second picture which portrays Mei's mother's anger, it can be seen that Filial Piety that is held by Ming is not suitable with the values of Mei who grew up in Canada. This happens because May is a child born and raised in Canada, cultural differences between parents and children sometimes cause acculturation gaps between generations. As a result, communication difficulties occur which can create family conflicts and psychological problems in children because they have to adapt in school and other fields. However, Ming does not want to investigate and evaluate it. She still insists that Mei has to be filial to her in any circumstances.

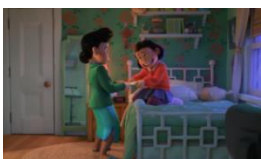
Then, from the third picture, it can be seen that mothers are often labeled as people who know their daughter's life best. This is because mothers are considered to play a major role in raising children. However, it is not uncommon for mothers to apply the wrong parenting style. Mothers often do not provide sufficient space for and should be for children starting from an early age to adolescence. This indirectly encourages a mother to do over-parenting. In the scene in Turning Red, over-parenting is seen when Ming commented on a child who disobeyed his mother, even if it was only in a film. Indirectly he revealed that a child must always obey his parents even though he has to put aside personal desires, including in choosing a mate. This is because parents always know what is best for their children.

From the explanation above, it can be seen that those two scenes represent authoritarian parenting style. This is because the child is required to obey his mother no matter what. In other words, Mei is very attached to the rule made by her mother. Everything Mei does must be approved or controlled by her mother without exception. This type, usually, is very restrictive. Children [Mei] must accept all rules without arguing and must respect parental authority (la Torre-Cruz, et al., 2014). Therefore, as a girl, Mei must obey her mother.

A daughter should not hide anything from her mother

The scene (Picture 4) denotes that Ming Lee is fighting over a diary with Mei. Mei looks embarrassed and afraid to show it. However, his mother persisted. The tension among them can also be seen from Mei's frightened expression and the shocked mother's face when she sees the picture of her child. Ming does this because she Ming wants to make sure that her child is okay no matter what. Here, it can be seen that mother does not provide privacy space for Mei. She ignored Mei's request not to open the book. In other words, a daughter should not hide anything from her mother.

Table 2 Data of the second topic

Visual	Words, phrases, and sentences
	<p>(Ming finds Mei's drawing book and is shocks because of the drawings) Mei: Mom...don't Ming; (Keep opening the book with shocked expressions)</p>

Picture 4: Ming wants to see Mei's diary

[Source: Author's work field]


From the findings, it can be seen that, unlike adult privacy, children's privacy rarely gets attention. Children's privacy is completely considered unimportant and valuable. In fact, children's privacy is a right that must be respected and should not be disturbed by anyone. Therefore, every parent is obliged to provide privacy for their children, especially for children who are going through puberty. In this period, children are looking for their identity and begin to enter their teens. They cannot be compared to children who like to talk about their problems. Children at puberty usually need more space and opportunities to solve their own problems. However, in the context of Chinese-Canadian parenting, a mother tends not to provide privacy. Mother forced her son to tell her everything. The Chinese-Canadian mother feels that she is responsible for both good and bad things that will happen to her child. However, this is not always true. Sometimes, it will make the child feel ashamed and inferior in front of his friends.

This scene represents authoritarian parenting style. This is because in such parenting, children have no control at all over themselves. Parents become absolute leaders in all aspects of their children's lives. They do not provide the slightest opportunity for children to make their own decisions, including providing privacy to solve their problems. This can make children feel inferior and shut themselves off from their friends. This is in line with research by Purnamasari & Marheni (2017) which found that children who were raised with authoritarian parenting tend to withdraw from friendship. In the film *Turning Red*, this is shown through Mei's anxiety about being embarrassed by her friends when her mother takes action to solve her problems.

Parent's over control towards the daughter

The part (Picture 5) portrayed that Ming Lee came to sneak into Mei's school to spy on her. Ming Lee wants to make sure that her child is okay on her first day of period. She also wants to make sure her child is ok and delivers pads for her child. Not long after, a security guard came who reprimanded Mei's mother. Mei looks afraid that her mother will cause a ruckus at her school and hopes that it won't happen. Mei seems afraid that her friends will notice her mother's behavior and know that she is in her menstruation phase. From this, it can be concluded that mothers always wants to give her best for the daughter. However, she, sometimes, does not consider many things, and this leads to over controlling.

Table 3 Data of the third topic

Visual	Words, phrases, and sentences
 <p data-bbox="301 1581 614 1637">Picture 5: Ming gets anxious because of her mother</p>	<p data-bbox="667 1413 1086 1442">Miriam: Your mom is outside (Written)</p> <p data-bbox="667 1447 1182 1476">Mei: (Looking outside) No, this will not happen.</p>

[Source: Author's work field]

From the findings above, it can be understood that parents must have a desire to provide the best for their children. However, not infrequently, this desire turns into excessive fear of the child because he feels that the child is not mature enough and understands to make good decisions in his life. In other words, parents have over-controlling their children. As a result, children feel offended because they are not considered worthy to decide or solve their own problems. This can be seen clearly in the *Turning Red* movie scene where Mei has a mother who is always watching and watching her all day long. Mei feels ashamed of her friends, and feels that she doesn't have the strength to protect herself.

This kind of parenting is included in the authoritarian parenting style. This is because in the film the mother is represented as someone who is over controlling her child. Wherever the child goes, the mother always monitors. This type of foster care usually doesn't involve children having the freedom to determine decisions, even for themselves because all decisions are in your hands and made by parents, while the child must obey it without there being a chance to refuse or express opinions. Characteristics of the pattern foster this one of them is power dominant parent if not allowed is said to be absolute, the child who does not obeying parents will get harsh punishment, the opinion of the child is not be heard so that the child does not have existence at home, child behavior very tightly controlled.

CONCLUSION

There are three representations of authoritarian parenting style from five data. The first is obedience to parents. This is in the form of always obeying what is ordered by parents, violation is a form of disobedience, and should not choose something based on personal desires. The second is no private space for a daughter. Parents present themselves as people who have the right to know everything about their children and make the decision to live as a daughter without first discussing it. The third is over-controlling. Parents feel that the child is still too young to take care of himself, even though the child is already a teenager. This makes parents always supervise their children excessively. In short, those three characteristics represent authoritarian parenting style.

However, this study is limited to the realm of data collection, namely in one film, "Turning Red" (2020) and one focus, namely parenting style implemented by parents in Chinese-Canadian context. It also does not consider other factors in determining parenting patterns other than the scene portrayed in the movie. Furthermore, this study implies that it can add insight into Hall's theory of Representation which can assist to understand the parenting style. Then, the use of parenting style study is hoped that it can contribute to a similar study in terms of describing the parenting style for daughters of Chinese-Canadian parents and become a reference for further research in the same discipline. Furthermore, this study implies that the results of the research in the form of a description of Chinese-Canadian parenting styles for daughters can be used by readers to get to know, understand and explain Chinese-Canadian culture related to the upbringing of their children. Then, the object of study in this research is a cartoon film that can provide entertainment as well as benefits regarding Chinese-Canadian culture through the representation of the characters in it. Moreover, for further research, the researcher gives suggestions to examine more deeply the impact of the parenting style on character's psychology.

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