

Representation Of Disability Life In A Patriarchal Society On Anime Film Josee The Tiger And The Fish (Using Roland Barthes Semiotic Method)

Georhizky Alfrizio Bahari Sutomo¹, Adrio Kusmareza Adim²

¹ Communication Science, Faculty of Business and Communication, Telkom University, Indonesia, georhizky@student.telkomuniversity.ac.id

² Communication Science, Faculty of Business and Communication, Telkom University, Indonesia, adriokusma@telkomuniversity.ac.id

Abstract

Josee the Tiger and the Fish is one of the romance genre anime films produced in 2020. The anime film focuses on the boss and servant relationship shown by characters named Josee and Tsuneo. Josee is a woman in a wheelchair and has a Tsundere stature, this is different from the stature of women with special needs in other anime which is described as kind and gentle. In this research, the film uses qualitative research methods using the semiotic theory of Roland Barthes which contains elements of denotation, connotation and myth. The purpose of using this approach is to find the representation of disability life in a patriarchal world in the anime film Josee the Tiger and the Fish in the context of denotation, connotation and myth. As an entertainment medium, the anime film Josee the Tiger and the Fish successfully represents defabel life in a patriarchal world which is depicted in the relationship between Boss and Servant that is forged by Josee and Tsuneo. The author of this study uses aspects of Verbal Communication and Non-Verbal Communication as the unit of analysis in this study because it has the meaning of disability life in a patriarchal society in it.

Keywords-semiotics, disability, patriarchy, verbal communication, non-verbal communication

Abstrak

Josee the Tiger and the Fish menjadi salah satu Film anime bergenre romance yang diproduksi di tahun 2020. Film anime mengambil fokus terhadap hubungan boss dan servant yang ditunjukkan pada karakter bernama Josee dan Tsuneo. Josee adalah seorang wanita berkursi roda dan memiliki perawakan *Tsundere*, hal ini berbeda dengan berbeda dengan perawakan wanita berkebutuhan khusus pada anime lain yang digambarkan baik dan lembut. Dalam penelitian terhadap film ini menggunakan metode penelitian kualitatif dengan menggunakan teori semiotika Roland Barthes yang mengandung unsur denotasi, konotasi dan mitos. Tujuan menggunakan pendekatan tersebut adalah untuk menemukan representasi kehidupan difabel dalam dunia patriarki dalam film anime Josee the Tiger and the Fish dalam konteks denotasi, konotasi dan mitos. Sebagai media hiburan, Film anime Josee the Tiger and the Fish berhasil merepresentasikan kehidupan difabel dalam dunia patriarki yang digambarkan pada hubungan Boss dan Servant yang dijalin oleh Josee dan Tsuneo. Penulis penelitian ini menggunakan aspek Komunikasi Verbal dan Komunikasi Non-Verbal sebagai unit analisis dalam penelitian ini karena memiliki makna kehidupan difabel di lingkungan patriarki di dalamnya.

Kata Kunci-semiotika, difabel, patriarki, komunikasi verbal, komunikasi non-verbal

I. INTRODUCTION

Communication has evolved with the changing times. In every era, Communication evolves following how technology evolves, creating media that can channeling and express what they want to communicate.

Media is a tool or means used to convey the message of the communicator to the audience. There are some psychology experts see that in inter-human communication, the most dominant medium in communication is the human senses, such as the eyes and ears. The messages received by the senses are then processed in the human mind to control and determine its attitude towards something, before it is expressed in its actions (Cangara, 2016:137), One of the media that is now more widely used by the public is Film.

According to Cangara, Quoted by Sri Wahyuningsih (2019), Film in a narrow sense is the presentation of images through the big screen. As for the broader sense, images broadcast via TV can be categorized as films. Continued from Wahyuningsih, according to Gamble, film is a series of static images represented in front of the eyes in a row at high speed. Film is a medium for conveying a message from the communicator to the communicant. It should also be noted that the film is not only a medium of conveying messages to one or two communicant people, but the wider community aka mass.

The film always got evolutions over time, ranging from enlightenment, coloring, sound, then the emergence of unique characters, to how actual interactions are inspired by what happens in the real world.

Consciously or unconsciously, the film already represents science in the form of fantasy that most people do not really understand about it, and audience will be amazed by what is presented in the film. Like the concept of physics that people think does not exist in the real world but the theory exists in the real world and movies sometimes realize it in a view that cannot be reached by the times. Perhaps this can be a symbol of the phrase "Science can be achieved anywhere".

One of the most prominent sciences in film is Science that studies communication. Communication itself becomes a science that is underestimated by the lay people, most of them say that the science of communication is a science that only encourages speech. But unfortunately, communication is not simple as what everyone think about communication is a science to learn how to speak. what is the problem is in communication we are taught to convey information so that it can be understood both by an individual and to the wider community or the masses.

In the development of film, people can understand and also learn things related to history and civilization that occurred in the past and what happened in the present through facts and history that exist. Japan became one of the recognized countries. They are known for their technological developments and how they introduced their culture to the world. however, the Japanese also have problems internally in their society like Disabilities and Patriarchy.

Japan became a country with an effort to provide facilities for people with disabilities. But socially, people with disabilities in the country still have problems socializing, especially students with disabilities. This was conveyed by Shunsuke Nishida, he said that he had difficulty finding friends who understood his condition when he was in school. ("hidayatullah.com", 2020)

Persons with disabilities on the other hand receive unpleasant treatment from others in the form of violence and harassment. Quoting from Ariyobimo in his research on Satoshi Uematsu's Motivation and Motives as a perpetrator of violence against people with disabilities in the city of Sagami-hara, Kanagawa Prefecture, Japan (2022) In a survey conducted by the Cabinet Office on national consultation and support groups in 2017-18, 70 out of 127 cases of sexual violence under the age of 30 who answered whether they had a disability were considered to have a disability or not. Cases, accounting for 55%. The details are 16 cases of Developmental Disorder, 19 cases of mental disorders, 9 cases of mild intellectual disability and others. Hiromi Nakano (42), chairman of Shiawase Namida, explained, "There are data from overseas surveys that people with disabilities experience sexual violence about three times more than non-disabled people."

Next up is the Patriarch, Patriarchy comes from the word patriarchy, which means a structure that places the role of men as the sole ruler, the center of everything. So, patriarchal culture is a culture that is built on a hierarchy of domination and subordination that requires men and men's views to become a norm. A society that adheres to a patriarchal system places men in a dominant position and power over women. (Rokhmansyah, 2016:32)

Patriarchy in Japanese society departs from family formation. men dominate society through the position as head of the household. Domestic arrangements of traditional Japanese family structures emphasize the position of men as public figures and women as private figures. Along with modernization, which was influenced by industrialization and urbanization in the 20th century, it gave birth to modern arrangements that emphasized the male figure as the breadwinner and the female as the housewife. (Sari, 2020)

Back to the part that Japan is one of the most well-known countries in the world. Japan is also known for their expertise in the entertainment field, one of entertainment that is related to Japan is Anime. Anime is a term to refer to two-dimensional animated films made in Japan, anime is an absorption word taken from the word Animation in an English.

Anime has become a Japanese pop culture that is widely known among pop culture lovers around the world. In the last two decades Anime provides innovation in presenting storylines and animations that begin to vary. Starting from them provide CGI effects in the style of movie-based anime, the birth of talented animators and the rising popularity of old animators who are carried away because of the development of existing anime. Not only, many anime studios

are born who have their own characteristics in the presentation of animations that are different from other studios, as well as the many sources of adaptations that can be used to present an interesting storyline for the audience.

In the last two decades, many anime adaptations adapted from sources that have time gap like 4 to 5 or more years from the anime are released. Call it Attack on Titan which was released in 2013 while the source of the adaptation (the manga) was released in 2009, then there are several other anime such as:

1. Re: Zero from 2016 with source adaptation from 2012
2. Parasyte (2015) (1988)
3. One Punch Man (2015) (2009)
4. Fullmetal Alchemist Brotherhood (2009) (2001)

Another anime that feels the benefits of innovation provided this decade is Mushoku Tensei, this anime is an adaptation of the web novel released in 2012 (changed to Light Novel in 2014) and got its anime adaptation in 2021. The anime was adapted from the anime studio which debuted in the same year as the release of the Mushoku Tensei anime.

What is mentioned above are anime-based TV series, as well as many more anime titles adapted from sources that have a longer release date than the anime. Not only anime based on TV series, movie-based anime also has anime adaptations from long-standing sources.

Like other animated films, anime also has a variety of audiences from children to adults with a variety of different kinds or tastes from each individual, of course, each audience will choose and enjoy anime based on the genre they like. In producing anime, Japan usually creates its own variety of genres or categories tailored based on the age and interests of its audience. such as slice of life, comedy, romance, action, fantasy, ecchi, school, magic and sport.

Romance becomes one of the anime film genres that are much in demand by the audience, many anime films with this genre that get appreciation from the audience from the storyline they bring. One of the anime creators who succeeded with the genre is Makoto Shinkai, with anime titles that won awards in the anime category such as, 5 Centimeters per Second, The Garden Words, Your Name, and Weathering with You. In 2020 also presented an anime romance genre film, titled Josee the Tiger and the Fish adapted to Seiko Tanabe's novel with the same Title.

Picture 1.1



Josee the Tiger and the Fish's Poster
(Source: <https://myanimelist.net/>)

Josee to Tora to Sakana-tachi or Josee the Tiger and the Fish is an adaptation of Seiko Tanabe's 1985 short story. The story was previously adapted into a live-action film in 2003, as well as a drama movie in South Korea in 2020. (Kusumanto, 2021)

The anime itself was planned to be questioned in the summer of 2020 but was pushed back due the Covid-19 pandemic problem at that time so that the first release of the film was aired right on Christmas Day 2020.

The anime itself won several awards after its release in 2020. The award is nominated for the 74th Mainichi Film Awards 2021 in the Best animation film category (“www.animenewsnetwork.com”, 2020), And also nominated for the 44th Japan Academy Film Prize 2021 in the Animation of the Year category. (“japan-academy-prize.jp”, 2021).

In the animated film titled *Josee the Tiger and the Fish*, tells the story of a girl named Kumiko who names herself Josee. Josee is a disabled girl who makes her unable to walk like normal people in general so she walks with a wheelchair. In this film we will see the struggle of the life of the girl named Josee, starting from how she responds to her life, her relationship with others and her unwillingness not to be seen differently from others.

Researchers are interested in *Josee the Tiger and the Fish*, because this film illustrates how one struggles with the differences that Josee has. Unlike animated films or other Anime series where the average female character who has a disability has low self-confidence or have soft personality, we can see it in anime with titled like ‘Koe no Katachi’ we have characters name Shouko Nishimiya who illustrated as a weak but charming and soft highschool girl or Blind Girl from anime *Black Bullet* who illustrated as easy smile girl even the people around her always bullied her, but in this film Josee character is made different, Josee was illustrated as *Tsundere* and Irritable girl. So in this research the use of feminism approach with centered on the character of Josee.

Josee the Tiger and the Fish have two live action adaptation in 2003 in Japan, and 2020 the same with anime adaptation released, but this live action is made by Korea. There are several reasons why researchers choose anime adaptations over both live action. Starting from the portrayal of Josee in each adaptation, in both live action adaptations Josee is depicted as a thug or brave woman but does not have special talents, while Josee in anime adaptation has a special will and same traits like Josee in the Live action adaptation.

Another reason is that the storyline on Anime and Live action adaptation have different of development of the relationship that the male main character and Josee have as the female main character. In the anime adaptation, the development is accompanied by the personal development of both characters so as to get a conclusion on their respective feelings. While in the live action adaptation, both Japanese and Korean adaptations, have unclear conclusions because in each scene in both films we are see that they will be a compatible couple but eventually separated for reasons of respect for each other.

And the last reason has a relationship with the previous reason, there are the storyline showed in live action is very mature, both Japanese and Korean, it can be seen from the intimate relationship scene in both live action films. As for the anime adaptation more shows how their relationship develops to provide a different conclusion with the live action adaptation.

This anime focuses on the life of Josee who started a new life for her, This is because Tsuneo's presence shows her a world that Josee has never reached and experiences that she has never experienced before. This anime film does not focus on women's problems in general such as gender equality, but shows Josee's personal problems in a new environment for her and how she communicates with Tsuno and the people around her.

Therefore, researchers will examine feminism in the film *Josee the Tiger and The Fish* with a study entitled "**Representation of Disability life in a Patriarchal society on Anime Film Josee the Tiger and the Fish (Using Roland Barthes Semiotic Method)**".

II. RESEARCH METHODS

In this study researchers used qualitative research methods. Qualitative research methods prioritize the role of researchers as key instruments. According to Auerbach and Silverstein (2003), Qualitative research is research that Involves analyzing and interpreting texts and interviews in order to discover meaningful patterns descriptive of particular phenomenon. Furthermore, it is stated that qualitative research is different from traditional (quantitative) research. Quantitative research is used to test hypotheses, while qualitative research is used to find hypotheses. (Sugiyono, 2017:3)

In this study, researchers examined symbols related to Disability life in a Patriarchal society in The Anime of Josee the Tiger and the Fish using Roland Barthes' semiotic understanding. According to Budiman, quoted by Sobur (2020:71), In the framework of Barthes, connotations are synonymous with ideological operations, which he refers to as 'myths', and serve to express and justify the dominant values that prevail in a given period. In the myth there is also a three-dimensional pattern of markers, signs and signs. However, as a unique system, myths are built by a chain of pre-existing usages or in other words myths as well as a second state-of-understanding system. In myth also a sign can have several markers. Mythology studied these forms because the repetition of concepts occurred in the form of such forms. (Sobur, 2003:71)

The paradigm used in this study is the Paradigm crisis. Experts in this paradigm distinguish what is on the surface from reality itself; What appears is not reality itself. What appears does not actually reflect strong conflicts, pressures and contradictions in society, appearances based on illusions and distortions. (Manzilati, 2017:5)

The object of the study chosen by the researchers is Anime Film with Title Josee the Tiger and the Fish. The anime tells the story of a diving student named Tsuneo Suzukawa who has another job as the servant of a Young Woman after the two of them accidentally meet in the night when Tsuneo comes home from college. The young woman was different from other young women in that she used a wheelchair and lived with her grandmother. The woman is named Kunio but she calls herself Josee, a girl who is an expert in drawing. Tsuneo's presence helps Josee interact with the outside world and learn to see things from multiple points of view. As time went on, Both of them had feelings of love for each other and they began to support each other with their respective abilities.

III. RESULT AND DISCUSSION

The result of this research is to identify Detonation, Connotation and Myth contained in the anime film Josee the Tiger and the Fish. The researcher gets the results from 22 different scenes that show the representation of Disability life in a Patriarchal society shown by the female main character, Josee. The results are shown in the following table:

Roland Barthes' Semiotic	Result
<p data-bbox="415 716 537 743"><i>Denotation</i></p> <p data-bbox="378 774 808 1050"><i>Sobur explained that denotative meaning basically includes things that are indicated by words (which is referred to as referential meaning). Berger also explained that the meaning of denotation is direct, namely the special meaning contained in a sign, and in essence it can be called a picture of a signified. (Sobur, 2003: 263)</i></p>	<p data-bbox="829 716 1243 1199">The denotative meaning of the anime film Josee the Tiger and the Fish conveyed through Verbal Communication and Non-Verbal Communication is the development of Josee and Tsuneo's relationship shown in this anime film. Their relationship started from a bad impression but over time they developed a good relationship as Boss and servant. Even though sometimes they had problems in relationships both internally, between the two of them, or from external, the influence of others, but they ended up as lovers despite their status as Boss and Servant.</p>
<p data-bbox="415 1230 553 1260"><i>Connotation</i></p> <p data-bbox="378 1291 808 1659"><i>Connotation is the original nature of a sign that requires the activeness of the reader to function. In Barthes' concept, the connotative sign does not only have an additional meaning but also contains both parts of the denotative sign that underlie its existence (Sobur, 2003: 68-69). Sobur (2003: 263) adds that connotation is defined as an aspect of the meaning of words based on feelings or thoughts that arise or are caused by the speaker and listener.</i></p>	<p data-bbox="829 1230 1243 1722">The connotative meaning of the anime film Josee the Tiger and the Fish shows Disability life in a Patriarchal society presented by the character Josee with Tsuneo as part of the representation. The patriarchal ideology brought by a person with a disability in this anime film exists because of her presence in a family that adheres to that ideology so that it also affects the person in socializing. However, the patriarchal value is only held by female characters, while the male characters in this anime film hold the ideology of equality, including to people with disabilities.</p>

<p><i>Myth</i></p> <p><i>Both in myth and in connotative relations between signifiers and signifieds, Barthes places ideology with myth. Ideology exists as long as culture exists, and that is why Barthes speaks of connotation as a system of cultural expression. Culture manifests itself in texts and thus ideology manifests itself through various codes that seep into the text in the form of important markers, such as characters, settings, points of view, and others. (Sobur, 2003:71)</i></p>	<p>The myth in the anime film Josee the Tiger and the Fish shows a representation of Disability life in a Patriarchal society. The representation of Disability life in a Patriarchal society in the anime film Josee the Tiger and the Fish occurs gradually following the changes in Josee's attitude which is shown through Verbal Communication and Non-Verbal Communication in every scene shown. These stages show that These stages show that a patriarchal country like Japan continues to provide accommodation, facilities and equality in socializing to people with disabilities.</p>
---	---

IV. CONCLUSION AND SUGGESTIONS

A. CONCLUSION

After doing the analysis by using the Roland Barthes semiotic method to research the meaning of denotation, connotation and myth according to this research's purpose, researcher has found several scenes which shows the sign indicating a representation of Feminism.

1. Denotation's Meaning

The meaning of denotation is direct, so that verbal communication and non-verbal communication shown in each of the 22 scenes researched shows the development of a relationship between Josee and Tsunoe who are the female and male protagonists in the anime film Josee the Tiger and the Fish.

2. Connotation's Meaning

In Barthes' concept, the connotative sign does not only have additional meaning but also contains both parts of the denotative sign that underlie its existence. The connotative meaning of the anime film Josee the Tiger and the Fish shows Disability life in a Patriarchal society presented by the character Josee with Tsunoe as part of the representation. The patriarchal ideology brought by a person with a disability in this anime film exists because of her presence in a family that adheres to that ideology so that it also affects the person in socializing. However, the patriarchal value is only held by female characters, while the male characters in this anime film hold the ideology of equality, including to people with disabilities.

3. Myth's Meaning

The myth in the anime film Josee the Tiger and the Fish shows a representation of Disability life in a Patriarchal society. The representation of Disability life in a Patriarchal society in the anime film Josee the Tiger and the Fish occurs gradually following the changes in Josee's attitude which is shown through Verbal Communication and Non-Verbal Communication in every scene shown. These stages show that These stages show that a patriarchal country like Japan continues to provide accommodation, facilities and equality in socializing to people with disabilities.

B. SUGGESTIONS

Based on the conclusion that has been displayed by the researcher about the representation of Feminism in anime film "Josee the Tiger and the Fish", the researcher would like to give a suggestion so that further research can improve the study of Roland Barthes semiotics.

1. Academic Advice

The further research can improved by using other analysis method, such as John Fiske semiotic method or Ferdinand de Saussure semiotic method. This research could also be used as a reference for further research.

2. Practical Advice

The researcher hopes that everyone, including those who watch this anime film, will understand about feminism in the real world. Problems related to women are not only seen in big problems such as sexual harassment, domestic violence, or degrading women in the world of work, but problems related to women also occur in our daily lives such as how to establish a romantic relationship which is usually done by people who have romantic relationship.

REFERENCES

- animenewsnetwork.com. (24 December 2020). *Demon Slayer Film, Violet Evergarden Get Mainichi Film Award Animation Nods*. Access on 30 August 2021: <https://www.animenewsnetwork.com/news/2020-12-23/demon-slayer-film-violet-evergarden-get-mainichi-film-award-animation-nods/.167759>.
- Ariyobimo, N. A. (2022). MOTIVASI DAN MOTIF SATOSHI UEMATSU SEBAGAI PELAKU KEKERASAN TERHADAP PENYANDANG DISABILITAS DI KOTA SAGAMIHARA, PREFEKTUR KANAGAWA JEPANG. *Thesis of Darma Persada University*.
- Cangara, H. (2016). *PENGANTAR ILMU KOMUNIKASI*. Jakarta: PT RajaGrafindo Persada.
- hidayatullah.com. (2020). *Sekolah Dasar dan Menengah Negeri di Jepang Banyak yang Tidak Ramah Siswa Difabel*. Access on 30 August 2022: <https://hidayatullah.com/berita/internasional/read/2020/12/14/197494/sekolah-dasar-dan-menengah-negeri-di-jepang-banyak-yang-tidak-ramah-siswa-difabel.html>.
- japan-academy-prize.jp. (19 March 2021). *44th Japan Academy Film Prize*. Access on 8 August 2021: <https://www.japan-academy-prize.jp/prizes/44.html#title02>.
- Karim, A. (2014). FEMINISME : SEBUAH MODEL PENELITIAN KUALITATIF. *Journal Walisongo*, 84.
- Kusumanto, D. (2021). *Film Anime Josee, the Tiger and the Fish Diundur Perilisannya*. Access on 8 Mei 2021: <https://www.kaorinusantara.or.id/newsline/165635/film-anime-josee-the-tiger-and-the-fish-diundur-perilisannya>.
- Manzilati, A. (2017). *Metodologi Penelitian Kualitatif : Paradigma, Metode, dan Aplikasi*. Malang: Universitas Brawijaya Press.
- myanimelist.net. (25 December 2020). *Josee to Tora to Sakana-tachi*. Access on 7 January 2021: https://myanimelist.net/anime/40787/Josee_to_Tora_to_Sakana-tachi/.
- Rokhmansyah, A. (2016). *Pengantar GENDER & FEMINISME*. Yogyakarta: Penerbit Garudhawaca.
- Sari, A. Y. (2020). Ketidaksetaraan Gender sebagai Bentuk Kekerasan Terhadap Perempuan di Jepang. *Journal of International Relations*, 358-367.
- Sobur, A. (2003). *Semiotika Komunikasi*. Bandung: PT REMAJA ROSDAKARYA.
- Sugiyono. (2017). *METODE PENELITIAN KUALITATIF*. Bandung: Alfabeta.
- Wahyuningsih, S. (2019). *FILM & DAKWAH*. Surabaya: Media Sahabat Cendekia.