

Chinese Immigrant Parenting Style and Its Effect on the Main Character's Psychological Condition Reflected in *Turning Red* (2022)

Fatiha Zaidatus Salsabila

(fzaidatussalsabila@gmail.com)

Universitas Sains Al-Qur'an, Wonosobo, Indonesia

Christina

(christina@unsiq.ac.id)

Universitas Sains Al-Qur'an, Wonosobo, Indonesia

Abstract

This study is aimed to analyze : (1) Chinese immigrant parenting style in U.S.A towards main character's psychological condition reflected in Turning Red (2022), (2) the effect of parenting style on the main character's emotion and behavior is presented in Turning Red (2022). The study uses descriptive qualitative method to analyzed the film entitled Turning Red (2022) directed by Domee Shi as the objective research. The collecting data of the research method includes watching and reading, identifying, classifying, and selecting. The analyzing data of the research method by used exposing, explaining, and interpreting. The researcher analyzes the data by uses psychology of literature and parenting style approach in doing the process of the research. The result of the study: the parenting style of Chinese immigrant in U.S.A element within this research. They are firstly, psychological condition which belongs to main character is dominate with the id. It means that the id, ego, and superego are not balanced. Secondly, the effect of parenting style clearly describe on the main character which are convey their emotions in the wrong way, are not good at making decisions, lack self-confidence, and often compare themselves with other people.

Keywords: *psychological condition, parenting style, psycology of literature*

Introduction

In this period, in adolescence, children tend to want to know everything and are forming their identity. The role of parents is clearly important so that children do not fall into bad things, but that does not mean parents have the right to arrange everything for their children. It is clear that parents must equip their children with knowledge so that children do not fall into the wrong company. However, if parents put too much pressure on their child, the children will actually become rebellious because they cannot stand the protective attitude that is given. When a child failed, they became afraid of his parents because they had high hopes for him.

Parenting style is influenced by the belief and behavior shaped by the culture of where one lives (Bornstein, 2012). This kind of parenting style is often applied in traditional Asian Chinese parenting styles. Parenting often involves strict discipline, with a focus on harshly punishing undesirable behavior to train children to be obedient. This kind of background indirectly affects parents in raising children. Immigrant parents have two sources of value in parenting, namely learning cultural value of the new area after immigration and the value in their home country.

Literary Review

Psychology of Literature

Psychology and literature are the studies of human being and how about people think, act, influence and relate to each other. Psychology and literature cannot be separated because they are intertwined with each other. According to Wellek and Warren (1949), psychology of literature is psychology of writer, as the type and individual, or the study of the creative process, or the psychological types and laws existing in literary works, or finally, the influence of literature on readers (audience psychology). It means by study psychology of literature, the reader or the audience can understand about the psychology of the writer and the psychology of the character in the literary works.

Freud's Psychoanalysis

According to Freud, human personality is complex and consists of more than one component. Human theory that describes personality in terms have three constructs that are id, ego, and super-ego (Freud, 1962). There are some explanations regarding id, ego and superego according to Freud :

1. Id

The id is the only component of human nature that is present at birth. The id is the part of the human personality that gives pleasure to human.

2. Ego

According to Freud, this ego, which processes environmental awareness, therefore makes to suppress the lawless id tendencies whenever they make an incompatibly assertive move

3. Super ego

The super-ego is the part responsible of the personality for the moral aspect that pushes a person to do well. The superego begins to develop out of the ego at about age 3 to 5 years.

Immigrant

Immigrants who act as patentees experience the push and pull of their own acculturation process in the context of raising children in a new cultural environment. Because of the importance of the role as a parent, it is recommended that immigrant parents have confidence in their ability to care for children. Feelings of efficacy in parenting have been identified as one proximal way in which orientation to a new culture and ethnicity can influence psychological adjustment. Parenting efficacy refers to parents' beliefs in their ability to influence their children and the environment in ways that will encourage their children's development (Jones & Prinz, 2005).

Asian Parenting Style

In Asian parenting the strong emphasis on interdependence has "important implications for what is responded to emphasized and sanctioned in the socialization process and for the character of social relations" (Greenfield, 1994: 4).

Chao's (1995) comparisons of childrearing beliefs among immigrant Chinese and American mother provided a contrast between parenting for independent goals. Chinese mother emphasize the importance of love for fostering a close, enduring parent and child relationship, whereas American mothers emphasized the importance of love for fostering the child's self-esteem.

Keller, stated that Parenting is a cultural practice that enables children's development and the acquisition of competence in a particular sociocultural environment from birth onwards (Keller, 2003: 195). She stated that there are two different types of parenting styles in Asian parents and western parents. The types of parenting styles according to Keller are Proximal parenting and Distal parenting.

- 1. Proximal parenting style** is characterized by includes a significant amount of mother and baby being close together. According to Keller, children who are raised using proximal parenting are not good at conveying their emotions. As a result, they often express their emotions in

the wrong way, they also lack self-confidence, are not good at making decisions. they often unconsciously compare themselves with others.

2. **Distal parenting style** is characterized by encourages the child to explore their environment, leading to more independence and autonomy. in distal parenting, children tend to be released so they will not obey, they will cry and do anything to get their wishes fulfilled. They also break rules that they don't accept because they feel that the positions of children and parents are equal. From an Asian perspective, the way Western children treat their parents is a violation of politeness norms.

Children's Emotional Development

According to Chaplin (1989) in the Dictionary of Psychology defines emotion as an aroused state of an organism including conscious changes, which are profound from behavioral change. Emotion are closely related to humans because they have existed, every human being must have them. The family, school, and community environments in which adolescents live have a significant impact on how they develop emotionally. As such, parents' and other adults' positive role models as well as the moral and social values they set for their children are invaluable in helping adolescents develop emotionally.

Research Methodology

The research method which is used in this research is qualitative research. Cresswell stated that qualitative research is about an interpretation of what people see, hear and understand which is the interpretation cannot be separated from our own background, history, context and understanding (Cresswell, 2009: 176). The qualitative research focuses on finding and exploring the representation, meaning, or the enhancement of shared pattern of behavior.

The object of the research is the movie entitled *Turning Red* (2022) directed by Domee Shi The data source is taken from Disney Hotstar. The data was collected from the words, narration, subtitles provided on the Disney Hotstar. The other data are taken from several book has taken from relevant authors also some other journals and online sources. The data of this research is taken from

one source. This primary data are taken in the forms words, phrases, clause, narration, and sentences in the English subtitle of *Turning Red* (2022).

The method of collecting data in this research is uses several steps. The procedures are watching the movie and reading the scripts, identifying the data from the scripts and subtitle, classifying data and selecting the data.

After the data are collected, the next step is analyzing data by following: Exposing the data, explaining data, and interpreting data.

Finding and Discussion

The research analyzes the issue in this chapter. Chinese Immigrant Parenting Style in U.S.A and its Effect on The Main Character's Psychological Condition Reflected in *Turning Red* (2022)

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The Parenting Style on Chinese Immigrant

1. Close Physical Contact Between Parents and Children

This close physical contact between parents and children can be seen in several scenes in the film and if you pay attention, Mei often hugs her mother and father. Mei also always tries to be an obedient child and follows all her mother's wishes. This can be seen in the dialogue below:

Mei : You sicko! What are you thinking?
Why would you draw those things?
Those horrible, awful, sexy things?
It's fine. You'll move to another city,
Chage your identity.
Mommy I'm so sorry.
You are her pride and joy, so act like it!
This will never happen again.

(Turning Red, 2022 00:14:17:24-00:14:58)

From this dialogue, it can be seen that the mother has the characteristics of a proximal parent, which are related to the close physical contact between parent and child. It can be clearly seen how Mei feels that she must always follow all her mother's wishes and convince herself by saying, "*You are her pride and joy, so act like it!*". Vice versa, Mei's mother feels she has control over her child by

always interfering in everything about her child and ensuring that her child behaves according to her expectations.

2. The Child's Primary Caregiver is the Mother

The next point, the characteristics of proximal parents are that the child's main caregiver is the mother. This can be seen in one of the dialogues in the film which describes that the authority in Mei's upbringing is her mother.

Mei :Like I said,
I just want to broaden my musical horizons.
Mother :This is not music. This is filth.
And it is not worth jeopardizing your life over.
Right Jin?
See?Your father agrees. No concert. And it is final.
Mei :Okay, well, thanks for listening. Good night.
(*Turning Red*, 2022 00:38:34-00:38:55)

From this dialogue, it can be seen that the mother has the characteristics of a proximal parenting style, namely that the main caregiver is the mother. This was clearly seen when her mother did not even receive any approval from her husband and absolutely said, "This is not music. This is filth. And it is not worth jeopardizing your life over. Right Jin? See? Your father agrees. No concerts. And it is final". Her mother firmly refused and did not allow Mei to go to the concert. Even her father, who was the head of the family, could not help but object because Mei's main caregiver was her mother.

3. Parenting Always Involves Culture as a Close Guide

The next point from the characteristics of proximal parents is a parenting style that always involves culture as a close guide. This can be seen in one scene in the film which describes how Ming always instilled ancestral culture in Mei from an early age.

Mei : Hey Mom..
Mother : You are ten minutes late.
What happened? Are you hurt? Are you hungry?
How was school today
Mei : Killed it per usual. Check it out.
Mother : oh, that is my little scholar.
Today, honor student,
Tomorrow, UN Secretary General.

The ancestors would be so proud.

(Turning Red, 2022 00:07:00-00:07:19)

From this dialogue, it can be seen that the mother has the characteristics of a proximal parenting style, namely always involving culture as a close guide in her care for children. This can be seen when her mother boasts about all of Mei's perfect grades and then says, "The ancestors would be so proud." Her mother always instilled in Mei the belief in her ancestors that they would be proud of and bless Mei for studying diligently and getting perfect grades.

4. Parenting Tends to Provide Strict Boundaries and Rules

The final point to strengthen the characteristics of Proximal parents in this film is a parenting style that tends to provide strict boundaries and rules. This can be seen in several scenes in the film which describe how Ming tends to give strict boundaries and rules to his daughter Mei.

Mother: : Mei-Mei, what is this?
Mei : It is nothing. Just a boy. He's no one.
Mother : A boy?
Who is he? Did he do these thing to you?
Mei : No! It is just made up, mom!
It is not real.
Mother : That hat.
Is that the sketchy clerk from Daisy Mart?
Mei : Mom, no!
(Turning Red, 2022 00:12:40-00:12:57)

From the dialogue above, it can be seen that the mother has the characteristics of a proximal parenting style, namely giving strict boundaries and rules to her parenting style. This can be seen when her mother opens Mei's book, which contains the picture, and then her mother gets angry and asks Mei for an explanation and asks, "A boy? Who is he? Did he do these things to you?". Ming, as a mother, is angry and misunderstands, she still does not allow Mei to be close to the opposite sex, still thinks that Mei is still small, and places restrictions on the man drawn by Mei, who is a Daisy Mart employee, to stay away from Mei.

Psychological Condition of The Main Character

In the beginning of the story, Mei showed a strong desire to watch her favorite band's concert. This happened when she asked her mother for permission to watch

the concert, but at that time her mother did not allow her to go. This can be seen in the following dialogue:

Mei :Like I said,
I just want to broaden my musical horizons.
Mother ;This is not music. This is filth.
And it is not worth jeopardizing your life over.
Right Jin?
See?Your father agrees. No concert. And it is final.
Mei :Okay, well, thanks for listening. Good night.

(Turning Red, 2022 00:38:34-00:38:55)

The scene clearly shows how Mei wants to go to the concert with her friends. Due to her wishes, she was willing to argue with her mother, who was actually a strict parent, without thinking about the consequences of being scolded by her. From there, it is clear that she was showing stubbornness. It can be seen that Mei's behavior of forcing her will and even arguing with her mother shows how much Mei really wants to go to the concert.

Mei's Id is the source of this behavior. This can be seen in her desire to watch a concert and having to get what she wants even though she does not get permission from her mother. From the dialogue above, it can be understood that Mei is forcing her desire to watch the concert. She insisted on watching the concert without thinking about the consequences of being scolded by her mother. This desire is influenced by the id, which operates on the pleasure principle.

Mei can achieve her goals in various ways, including seducing her parents by trying to control her emotions in front of her parents and avoiding looking like a flaming panda in front of them. In order to get her mother's approval to go to the concert. Even so, Mei still did not get approval and ended up being reprimanded by her mother. Mei has goals and desires that she must fulfill, so she does not follow her mother's advice. Mei's ego drives all his efforts. The id is very influenced by the ego.

As a mother, Ming did not permit Mei to express her wishes in that way. Ming was concerned for her daughter's security. Ming has a tendency to think practically. She worries that Mei will be impacted by the seemingly unrestricted US culture. Furthermore, if Mei becomes overly joyful and loses control of her

emotions, she will transform into a red panda. She worries that too many people will turn her into a spectacle. As stated in the dialogue above, “*This is not music. This is filth. And it’s not worth jeopardizing your life over.*” All of Ming's behavior, which always restrains and limits everything related to her daughter, is caused by Ming's superego. Here, the superego does not come from internal factors but comes from external factors, namely, her mother. The superego of Mei here is inferior to her id and ego. Therefore, the superego comes from the other side.

As the researcher emphasizes in the entire discussion based on Freud's theory, an action is not only influenced by the id alone, but by the combined influence of external factors such as the ego and superego as the decision maker.

The Effect of Parenting Style on The Main Character’s Emotion and Behavior is Presented in *Turning Red* (2022)

1. Conveying Emotions in The Wrong Way

As can be seen from this film, Ming uses a proximal parenting style. This is characterized by her attitude toward giving strict boundaries and rules to her children. With this kind of attitude, as a result, children will be afraid to convey their wishes. They will tend to choose to convey their emotions in the wrong way. One of the scenes in this film depicts Mei lying to her mother.

Mother : Thank goodness I was here.
That degenerate want not come near you again
Now, is there anything else I should know about,
Mei-Mei?

Mei : Nope. All good.
(*Turning Red*, 2022 00:14:02-00:14:14)

From the dialogue above, it can be concluded that children raised by proximal parents are not good at conveying their emotions and will choose to lie. This was seen when Mei's mother asked if there was anything else her child would say, but Mei chose to lie by saying "Nope. All good". She said that because she was afraid of being scolded by her mother and because she wanted to always fulfill her mother's hopes and desires and look perfect in her mother's eyes. As a result, she just bottled up what she felt without telling her feelings to her family, including

her mother. This can also cause mental disorders and anxiety in a person, especially teenagers.

2. Not Good at Making Decisions

Mother : it is okey. We can do it again.
Mei-Mei?
Mei : I'm keeping it.
Grandmother : what did she say? Keeping it?
Mei : I'm keeping it!
Mother : Oh, no! Mei-Mei!
(*Turning Red*, 2022 01:09:58-01:39:41)

From the dialogue above, it can be concluded that Mei is not good at making the decisions she makes. This was because when she has made the decision to remove the panda at first and has discussed it with her family, she suddenly changed her mind and made the decision that she would keep the panda by repeatedly saying "*I'm keeping it*". From there it can be seen that the decision taken by Mei was not entirely her wish. This is because from a young age, Mei has been accustomed to not making her own decisions and choices, she must always do everything that her mother has decided and determined. As a result, Mei is less able to make decisions for herself, she will often feel indecisive and hesitate to make decisions.

3. Lack of Self-Confidence

Mother : Mei-Mei!
Mei : No. Please, no.
Mother : Mei-Mei, help!
Mei-Mei, tell him it is me!
Mei-Mei!
I will report you for trespassing
Tell him it is Mommy!
Mei-Mei! Tell him you forgot your pads!
(*Turning Red*, 2022 00:23:13-00:23:42)

From the dialogue above, it can be concluded that parents who are too restrictive and interfere too much in their children's affairs can result in children becoming lack of self-confident. This was seen when Mei's mother shouted that Mei had forgotten to bring her sanitary napkins by saying "Mei-Mei! Tell him you forgot your pads!". Her attitude of interfering too much in his child's affairs will have an impact on her own child's psychology. From there, fear, anxiety and worry emerged within Mei which gave rise to a lack of self-confidence because she was

embarrassed by her friends. This is characterized by her turning into a red panda when his emotions are unstable.

4. Compares Herself with Other People

Mei : When are they coming?
Abby : May 18th. They just announced it.
Mei : The 18th?
 There is no way this will be gone by then.
 Just go. Go become women without me
Miriam : Mei. It is gonna be okay.
Mei : No, it is not. I'm freak.
 Just leave me alone.

(*Turning Red*, 2022 00:33:03-00:33:32)

From the dialogue above it can be concluded that Mei feels that she is different from her friends. She felt that she did not deserve to go to a concert together and be a woman with her friends. Mei compared herself to not being normal like teenagers in general, Mei thought that she is strange. And it can be seen in the dialogue that says, "*No, it is not. I'm freak*". From this it can be concluded that children raised by proximal parenting often compare themselves with other people and even assume that they are different from teenagers in general.

Conclusion

After analyzing, it can be concluded that the result of parenting style applied by Chinese immigrants in the US as reflected in the film *Turning Red* is Proximal parenting style. The film contains all of the characteristics of proximal parenting style are shown on the movie. Furthermore, the psychological condition of the main character is not good. It is known that the id, ego and superego are not balanced. , id, ego and super ego, may dominate the id. After analyzing the proximal parenting style applied by Chinese immigrant. It can be conclude that all of the effect caused by proximal parenting style are shown on the movie.

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