



The Characteristics of Motherhood through Mother In Michael Lloyd Green's I Am Mother

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Abstract

This research title explores the characteristics of motherhood as represented by the character Mother in Michael Lloyd Green's I Am Mother. The research focuses on one of the characteristics is nurturing. This research using a qualitative film analysis approach and obtain the data from the movie script. The findings demonstrate that the character Mother in I Am Mother embodies aspects of motherhood through the characteristic of nurturing behavior by providing food, education, protection, and guidance for Daughter's development additionally, Mother's strict control and manipulation of Daughter add complexity to the definition of ideal caregiving. This research concludes that I Am Mother reconstructs the concept of motherhood by integrating human and technological elements. The film suggests that nurturing is not limited to biological mother but can also be fulfilled by artificial intelligence.

Keywords: Motherhood, Nurturing, I Am Mother

INTRODUCTION

Becoming a mother is a gift for a woman, a mother's responsibilities include raising and educating her children in addition to making the household harmonious and happy. Motherhood is not only a biological process but also a psychological and emotional journey that influences a child's early development, where the mother plays a crucial role in providing emotional security and attachment (Winnicott, 1953, on Motherhood and Development). The physical, emotional, and psychological facets of caring for and raising a child are all part of the complicated and profoundly altering experience that is motherhood. There are many ways to become a mother, including by biological birth, adoption, or foster care. Additionally, it is experienced differently by families, communities, and people. Though there can be a lot of happiness and fulfillment in this, there can also be problems, such as stress, difficulties as a parent, and the need for a support system.

Prose, poetry and drama are the three categories into which literary works fall in three genres. The research writer feels that drama is the most interesting one, because it uses creatively developed character, dialogue, and plots, fictional drama effectively conveys the complexity of human existence. As a result of this, if a reader reads a drama text without witnessing the staging of the drama inevitably have to imagine the path of events on stage (Hassanuddin, 1996:5). The freedom of character and setting development in fictitious dramas, as opposed to stories based on actual events, enables the reader or audience to emotionally connect with the word being created. Through its many dramatic components, dramatics fiction not only provides amusement but also provokes thoughtful consideration of the issues and ideals that exist in society. This research aims to examine the role and significance of fiction in drama and its impact on the audience's perception of reality and life.

Motherhood is one of the most profound experiences in a woman's life, not only related to the biological process of giving birth but also encompassing the responsibility of caring for, guiding, and providing love. One of the key aspects of motherhood is nurturing, the important role of mothers in household, beginning from honing, loving, and nurturing children (Noer Aziza, 2020). Which refers to the process of caring for and supporting a child's growth and development, both physically, emotionally, and socially. Nurturing in motherhood includes various aspects, from fulfilling basic needs such as food and protection to providing emotional support and moral education that shape a child's character.

A mother plays a crucial role in creating a safe and loving environment, which significantly influences a child's psychological and social development in the future. The discourse on motherhood needs to be reevaluated in a way that allows for both its psychological and social implications (Julia Kristeva, 1977, Stabat Mater). The practice of nurturing in motherhood can be manifested in many ways. A mother's love and attention, expressed through touch, hugs, and positive communication, can enhance a child's sense of security and self-confidence. Additionally, a mother serves as the first educator, introducing moral values, ethics, and responsibilities to her child.

The researcher selected the movie script for I Am Mother as a source of research material because its captivating science fiction undertone. I'm Mother was well received by critics, according to Guardian article cited by Detik.com

states that the movie was nominated for six different prizes and took home four of them. These include the Feature Film VFX category, the best achievement in Mixing for a Feature Film, the Feature Film Score of the year, and the special Merit Andrew Plain Award for best film sound editing.

This paper entitled “The Characteristics of Motherhood Through Mother in Michael Lloyd Green’s I Am Mother”, aims to find out the depiction of motherhood in the characteristics of mothers focuses on Nurturing. The researcher was very interested and decided to analyze the characteristics of the main character as a Mother in the film I Am Mother. According to the film, it gives a good impression to the thesis writer and has good morals and values. This film tells the story of a mother’s struggle to educate and turn her child into a human being who has superior seeds and cares more about her surroundings, such as her family and the future population.

METHODS

This study’s research method is a qualitative approach. It means that the research writer gives a direct quotation that represents The characteristics of Motherhood Through Mother in Michael Lloyd Green’s I Am Mother.

FINDINGS AND DISCUSSIONS

“Seated at her docking station, Mother raises the infant to her chest where a plate retracts exposing a silicone nursing device to which the newborn instinctively latches. Close on milk flowing through a tube, exposed between the steel flanks of mother’s torso. Wide on mother nursing Daughter beneath a dim bulkhead light.” (Green, 2016 : 2)

From the characteristics of nurturing in the narrative is depicted through the mother’s actions in providing full attention to her baby’s basic needs. Despite using an artificial device, the mother ensures that the baby receives milk, symbolizing the fulfilment of essential needs and love. The description of milk flowing through the tube and the baby instinctively nursing emphasizes the mother’s efforts to create an environment that supports the child’s growth and wellbeing, even in an unnatural situation. This illustrates that nurturing is about providing care and affection to meet a child’s emotional and physical needs.

“Now a toddler, Daughter sits in mother’s lap face smeared with applesauce while mother feeds her at the repurposed conference table. Mother picks up a napki. Close on mechanical hand wiping food from Daughter’s chin as the toddler’s hand grips mother’s index finger” (Green, 2016 : 2-3).

From this narration of nurturing its show the demonstrated through the intimate interaction between the mother and her toddler. The mother patiently feeds the child on her lap, wipes the food off the child’s face with a napkin, and provides a loving physical connection, such as the toddler holding the mother’s finger. These actions reflect sincere affection and attention to both the child’s physical and emotional needs. This illustrates that nurturing is not only about fulfilling basic needs but also about creating warmth and a sense of security through emotional closeness.

“Mother paces patting Daughter’s back with the infant suspended from a retractable baby bjorn in mother’s chest” (Green, 2016 : 3)

The researcher found nurturing in the narration of the dialogue is reflected in the mother’s actions of pacing while patting her child’s back, providing comfort and reassurance. The infant, carried securely in a special device on her chest, highlights the mother’s effort to maintain physical closeness while ensuring the child’s emotional and physical needs, creating a strong bond while offering a sense of security and protection.

“Mother : Would you like me to heat it more ?”

“(Daughter shakes her head. Takes a bite, averting her eyes)”

“Mother : Something is troubling you”

“Daughter : I’m just not that hungry” (Green, 2016:20)

The dialogue reflects, which is the mother’s effort to provide care and emotional support to the child. By asking whether the food needs to be reheated, the mother shows concern for the child’s physical comfort. The mother’s attentive response demonstrates a nurturing attitude, where she tries to understand the child’s needs and feelings without being forceful.

“Mother : You’ll have sixty minutes to complete the first portion of your exam. If you finish before I return, you can read your book.”

“Daughter : where are you going ?”

“Mother : I have lab work to complete. And must see to the air lock”

“Daughter : what for?”

“Mother : To ensure the area wasn’t contaminated last night” (Green,2016:28)

From the dialogue reflects nurturing through the mother’s care for her child’s education and environment. The mother provides clear instructions about the exam schedule and priorities while also taking responsibility for ensuring the safety and cleanliness off the surrounding area. Through this approach, the mother supports not only her child’s academic development but also maintains a conducive environment, demonstrating her love and support for her child’s overall needs.

CONCLUSION

The conclusion of the study “The Characteristics of Motherhood Through Mother in Michael Lloyd Green’s I Am Mother” highlights how the concept of motherhood is explored through the character of Mother, an artificial intelligence that serves as a caregiver, educator, and controller in a post-apocalyptic setting. I Am Mother presents a unique perspective on the role of a mother, which is not limited to biological aspects but rather focuses on the functions and values instilled in the child being raised. Throughout the film, Mother’s character demonstrates duality in motherhood on one hand, she is loving and protective, but on the other, she is strict and even authoritarian in shaping her child’s character. This reflects the moral dilemmas in parenting, where a mother is not only responsible for disciplining and guiding the child to survive in a harsh world. Thus, motherhood in this film is not just about giving life but also about shaping a child’s character and future based on specific values.

The study also shows that Mother, as an Artificial Intelligence, represents the growing role of technology in modern parenting. The artificial intelligence in the film illustrates how technology should have over humans. The decisions made by Mother, although based on logic and efficiency, often conflict with emotional and humanitarian values, which are characteristic of traditional motherhood. Ultimately, I Am Mother offers a deep reflection on the meaning of motherhood, which is not only biological but also functional. The film invites viewers to reconsider how maternal values may evolve in an era of technological advancement. By portraying Mother as an unconventional maternal figure, the film questions whether the essence of motherhood lies in biological ties or in the active role of shaping and guiding a child’s life.

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