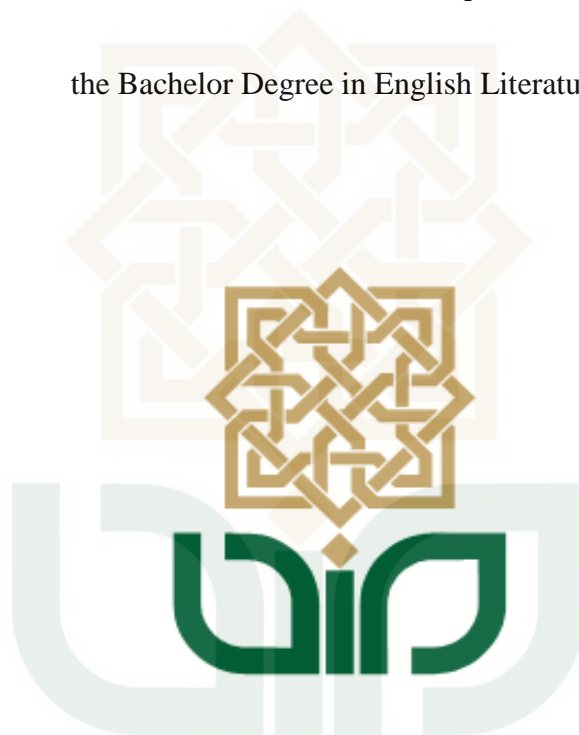


**BINARY OPPOSITIONS OF THE PARENTS' FIGURES IN  
*CORALINE* MOVIE**

A GRADUATING PAPER

Submitted in Partial Fulfillment of the Requirements for Gaining  
the Bachelor Degree in English Literature



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**2018**

## A FINAL PROJECT STATEMENT

I certify that this thesis is definitely my own work. I am completely responsible for the contents of this thesis. Other writer's opinions or findings included in this thesis are quoted or cited in accordance with ethical standards.

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Atas perhatiannya, kami ucapkan terima kasih.

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# **BINARY OPPOSITIONS OF THE PARENTS' FIGURES IN *CORALINE* MOVIE**

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## **Abstract**

This research uses the animation movie as the object, and the title of the animation movie that is used is *Coraline*. The movie *Coraline* tells about a little girl who finds a little door inside her new apartment where she meets the other parents who treat her differently from her Real parents. The problem that is found in this movie is that there are some contrasting aspects between the character of the Real and the Other Parents. This dualism causes a problematic thought for the character of Coraline. How Coraline compare and contrast her judgment over her parents is an important matter because generally a child would only have their judgment of their parents only in the imagination. The presence of the both parents makes Coraline in a difficult position. The purpose of this research is to be one of the references for those who study literature, especially the binary opposition theory. This research is a qualitative research that aims to analyze the contrasting aspects between the real and the other parents' characters with the theory of binary opposition. Not only using the theory of binary opposition, but this research is also using the film theory by Amy Villarejo to help explaining the events from the *Coraline* movie.

Keywords : Real parents, other parents, binary opposition, *Coraline*.

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# **BINARY OPPOSITIONS OF THE PARENTS' FIGURES IN *CORALINE* MOVIE**

**Oleh : Nurrochmah**

## **Abstrak**

Penelitian ini menggunakan film animasi sebagai objek penelitian, dan judul dari film animasi yang akan digunakan adalah *Coraline*. Film *Coraline* sendiri bercerita tentang seorang gadis kecil yang menemukan sebuah pintu kecil di dalam apartemen barunya dimana dia bertemu dengan orang tuanya yang lain yang memperlakukannya berbeda dari kedua orang tua aslinya. Masalah yang ditemukan dalam film ini adalah adanya beberapa perbedaan pada karakter Orang Tua Sebenarnya dan Orang Tua yang Lain. Adanya sifat yang berbeda ini menyebabkan problema kepada Coraline. Bagaimana Coraline membandingkan kedua karakter orangtua penting untuk dianalisis karena pada umumnya pandangan anak terhadap orangtua hanya ada dalam pikiran mereka saja. Tujuan dari penelitian ini yaitu sebagai referensi bagi peneliti lain yang mempelajari sastra, khususnya teori Oposisi Biner, dan juga dapat menjadi panduan bagi para orang tua dalam memperlakukan anak mereka. Penelitian ini adalah penelitian kualitatif. Penelitian ini tidak hanya menggunakan teori oposisi biner saja, tetapi juga menggunakan teori film oleh Amy Villarejo untuk membantu menjelaskan setiap peristiwa dari film *Coraline*.

Kata kunci: orang tua sebenarnya, orang tua yang lain, oposisi biner, *Coraline*.

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**MOTTO**

إِنَّ مَعَ الْعُسْرِ يُسْرًا

“Verily, with every difficulty there is relief.”

(QS 94:6)

**Treat Others the Way You Want to be Treated**

~ Anonymous ~

**ALL GOOD THINGS COME TO THOSE WHO WAIT**

(Hannibal Lecter)

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## DEDICATION

Sincerely, I dedicate my graduating paper to :

♥ My Mother & My Father ♥

My Sister

My Friends

You All



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Finally, I realize that there are many errors in the writing of this paper. Because of that, I really hope and allow all of the readers to give any suggestion to improve this paper.

Yogyakarta, February 24<sup>th</sup> 2018

The Researcher

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# CHAPTER I

## INTRODUCTION

### 1.1 Background of Study

Literature is one of the subjects of science that has been learned in all over the world. Literature has rendered a lot of entertainments for the people. According to Eagleton (1996:1), we can define literature as ‘imaginative’ writing in the sense of fiction – a kind of writing which is not literally true and real.

Movie is one of the literary works that show the audio-visual that can be watched by people at any age. Turner states that, “film was seen to be analogous to literature...” (Turner, 1999:2). Therefore, movie is also categorized as fiction, because it contains of story. The definition of a movie itself is a series of moving pictures, often telling a story, usually shown in a theater or on television (<http://dictionary.cambridge.org/us/dictionary/english/movie>). Film or movie is structured like a language. A movie is composed of fundamental units, such as shots, movies rely upon edits to join shots together into sequences (a series of shots united in time and space), just like words become sentences, Villarejo (2007:24).

Everyone likes to watch movies, but some people like to read the novels instead. By watching movies, we can also feel like we are witnessing the events in an almost real spectacle—to a much greater extent, Metz (1974:4). In addition, Metz also stated that movie can't make someone totally bored because the movie itself will take them to imagine each of the scenes that are shown in the movie.

The movie that is going to be analyzed by the researcher is an animation/fantasy movie. Animation movie is chosen because it has interesting images and full of colors. The packaging from the animation movie itself provides some unique images of people who have strange appearances that do not exist in the reality. For example, there are people who have very big size of heads, buildings that have strange architectures, dogs that have strange colors.

The title of the animation movie that is going to be analyzed by the researcher is *Coraline*. *Coraline* is a movie about an adventurous girl who finds another world in her new apartment that is a strangely idealized version of her frustrating home, but it has sinister secrets and story (<http://www.imdb.com/title/tt0327597/>). It is categorized as a dark-fantasy movie because its animation is dark and gloomy.

The story of the movie is about a girl named Coraline Jones, a short blue haired girl who likes to wear bright clothes. She likes to explore and is also a brave girl. She moves to a new apartment named Pink Palace with her parents who work as writers. Since her parents are writers, they have to write some

articles about plants which have to be submitted due to the deadline. It makes her parents very busy, and so she gets neglected and bored.

One day, her father tells her to explore their house. In the middle of exploring, Coraline finds a little door on the wall. She asks her mother to open it with a key. When the little door is opened, it turns out that the door is bricked up to the wall. She feels a little bit disappointed. At night when she is asleep, there is a little rat jumping under her bed. She wakes up and follows the rat that is entering the little door. When she opens the little door, she is amazed that there is a tunnel to another room that is not the part of her apartment.

Then she goes to the other room and she meets her Other Parents there. They look just the same as her Real Parents, but their eyes are made of buttons. She thinks that the Other Parents are nicer than her Real Parents, so she feels comfort when she is with them. The Other Parents give her a lot of presents that make her happy, such as delicious meals and beautiful decoration of her other bedroom. They also pay attention to Coraline. However, the Other Parents are not that nice to her, especially the other mother. She wants something from Coraline, and it might endanger her life.

There are two characters of parents that are portrayed in the *Coraline* movie, they are the Real Parents and the Other Parents. However, the researcher finds that there are some contrasting aspects between the Real Parents and the Other Parents. One of the contrasting aspects can be seen when the Other Parents give some presents for Coraline, whereas the Real Parents do not. The researcher

is interested to analyze the differences between the Real Parents and the Other Parents. This topic is important to be analyzed because the depictions of parents in this movie are exceptional that the Real Parents another version of parents, they are the Other Parents. This dualism is a unique phenomenon. In addition, this dualism causes a problematic thought for the character of Coraline. How Coraline compare and contrast her judgment over her parents is an important matter because generally a child would only have their judgment of their parents only in the imagination. The presence of the both parents makes Coraline in a difficult position. This movie portrays how the characters of parents can have some contrasting aspects, especially in treating Coraline.

Parents should treat their children appropriately since they are the gifts from Allah. Although they are busy with their jobs, they should not ignore their children. They should give them love so they will not feel that they are neglected and not being loved by their parents. In Islamic perspective, it is also stated in Hadith by Ibn Majah:

حَدَّثَنَا الْعَبَّاسُ بْنُ الْوَلِيدِ الدَّمَشَقِيُّ، حَدَّثَنَا عَلِيُّ بْنُ عِيَّاشٍ، حَدَّثَنَا سَعِيدُ بْنُ عُمَارَةَ،  
أَخْبَرَنِي الْحَارِثُ بْنُ النُّعْمَانِ، سَمِعْتُ أَنَسَ بْنَ مَالِكٍ، يُحَدِّثُ عَنْ رَسُولِ اللَّهِ -  
" أَكْرِمُوا أَوْلَادَكُمْ وَأَحْسِنُوا أَدَبَهُمْ " صلى الله عليه وسلم - أَنَّهُ قَالَ

"Be kind to your children, and perfect their manners." (Sunnah.com).



The hadith above says that parents should be nice to their children and treat them well. By getting close with their children, parents can give them some lessons about life, such as good manners, religion, and general things. If their children are well mannered, then it can be said that they have done their roles as parents well.

## **1.2 Research Question**

The problem that is going to be analyzed by the researcher is: how can the contrasting aspects of the parents' characters be explained in *Coraline* movie?

## **1.3 Objective of Study**

This research aims to analyze the contrasting characters of the in *Coraline* movie.

## **1.4. The Significance of Study**

The significance of this research is to be one of the references for those who study literature, especially the binary opposition theory, and to be the example of the application of the theory in a graduating paper. Another significance of this research is to know the relation between parents and their children through the characters in the movie *Coraline*. This research may also be a guidance for parents in treating or parenting their children.

## **1.5 Literature Reviews**

There are some analyses about *Coraline* movie. The first analysis is in a paper written by David Rudd entitled *An Eye for an I: Neil Gaiman's Coraline and Questions of Identity*. The paper talks about some aspects from the novel

instead of the movie, such as the setting, the characters, and the dialogues which have implicit meanings.

Coraline has also been analyzed in a graduating paper entitled *Diving into Neil Gaiman's Coraline: An All-Powerful Mother Representation Through The 'Other' Mother Character* by Meidya Laksmi Ariyanti. In her graduating paper, she analyzes the feminism issues that are portrayed by the 'Other' Mother character. Moreover, she applies Nancy Chodorow's theory.

Another analysis about the *Coraline* movie is also a paper by Andi Aroro Rossy that is entitled *Figures of Speech by Comparison in Coraline by Neil Gaiman*. He analyzes the figures of speech in the *Coraline* novel. He applies descriptive qualitative method, but he also applies the quantitative method to process the data. He finds four types of figures of speech in the *Coraline* novel, they are; simile, personification, metaphor and apostrophe.

The binary opposition theory has also been applied in the graduating paper by Romelah Isti Komah entitled *Contrasting Woman Characters in Mama Movie*. She analyzes the binary opposition of the figure of mothers is the *Mamamovie*, Edith Brennan and Annabel. In her graduating paper, she uses the binary opposition theory from Claude Levi-Strauss.

## **1.6 Theoretical Approach**

There are two characters (the Real Parents and the Other Parents) that are opposite to each other. Thus, the theory that is applied in this research is the binary opposition. The researcher uses the theory of binary opposition to analyze the contrasts between the Real Parents and the Other Parents in the *Coraline*

movie. Storey states in his book that according to Levi-Strauss, “myths are structured in terms of ‘binary oppositions’” (Storey, 2009:115). A binary opposition is a pair of related terms that are opposite in meaning (<https://prezi.com/1m-cn2bvetra/binary-opposition-theory-media-studies/>).

According to Storey, “binary opposition divides the world into exclusive categories that produce meaning such as man/woman, black/white, good/bad, rich/poor” (Storey, 2009:115). The opposition nearly categorizes two things that are the opposite each other. The opposites are related to each other because they express either the presence or the absence of one and the same thing (Bertens, 2001:62). For example, both cat and lion belong to the cat family. However, they also have a significant difference. The difference is that cat is not a dangerous animal, whereas lion is a dangerous animal.

According to Bertens, “for Lévi-Strauss, the structure of primitive thinking is binary” (Bertens, 2001:62). Our ancestors categorize the things around them in such binary that are opposite to each other. For example, they categorize light/darkness as the opposite things that have meaning as the negative aspect and the positive aspect. However, Bertens states that “light and darkness are in themselves neutral natural phenomena” (Bertens, 2001:63).

This research is also analyzed with the film theory. The film theory that is applied by the researcher is the *mise en scène*. *Mise en scène* is a French word that means the theatrical process of staging (Villarejo, 2007:28). Metz also stated that “*mise en scène* is a theatrical, and by extension, filmic term for the staging and production of a play, or the creation of sets, and the production of a film” (Metz,

1974:186). *Mise en scène* concerns with the aspects from the lighting, the costume, make-up, hair, setting, and figure behavior (Villarejo, 2007:29).

Another film theory that is used in this research is cinematography. According to Amy Villarejo, cinematography is focused on the techniques of framing and the camera angles. She also stated that anything to do that is related to camera belongs to the aspect of cinematography (Villarejo, 2007:36). The followings are the types of framing techniques according to Villarejo (2007:38):

- a. The extreme long shot (ELS), in which one can barely distinguish the human figure;
- b. The long shot (LS), in which humans are distinguishable but remained dwarfed by the background;
- c. The medium long shot (MLS), or plain american, in which the human is framed from the knees up;
- d. The medium shot (MS), in which we move in slightly to frame the human from waist up;
- e. The medium close-up (MCU), in which the we are slightly closer and see the human from the chest-up;
- f. The close-up (CU), which isolates a portion of a human (the human face, most prominently);
- g. And the extreme close up (ECU), in which we see a mere portion of the face (an eye, the lips).

## **1.7 Methods of Research**

### **1.7.1 Type of Research**

The kind of this research is qualitative research. Creswell stated that “qualitative research is a means for exploring and understanding the meaning individuals or groups ascribe to a social or human problem” (Creswell, 2009:1). The purpose of this research is to explain the contrasts from the Real Parents and the Other Parents in the *Coraline* movie. According to Crotty (1998) in Creswell (2009:4), stated that the researcher must interpret or explain the data they have found in their own version words. The researcher also uses some books, journals, and websites for more data that are related with this research.

### **1.7.2 Data Sources**

The data that are used by the researcher are from the movie *Coraline*. The definition of data itself is “a collection of facts, such as numbers, words, measurements, observations or even just descriptions of things” (<https://www.mathsisfun.com/data/data.html>). The data from the movie can be classified as the primary data. The primary data are including the frames, the dialogues that are taken from the *Coraline* movie. Not only from the movie, but the researcher also uses the data from books, journals, websites, and papers that are related to this research.

### **1.7.3 Data Collection Technique**

In this research, the researcher reads the *Coraline* movie to get the data from the movie and takes some data, such as the dialogues, the shots of the events, the actions, the characters and the characterizations from the movie that are

needed to be analyzed in this research. The researcher chooses the data from the *Coraline* movie. The data unit are the aspects of the Real Parents and the Other Parents by their utterances, performances, actions and behaviors. The data are also taken from other characters in the *Coraline* movie, such as the characters of the Ghosts Children by their utterances and actions that portray the contrasts between the characters of the Real Parents and the Other Parents.

#### **1.7.4 Data Analysis Technique**

In analyzing the data for this research, the researcher uses the objective approach. The data from the movie will be analyzed using the binary opposition. Thus, the researcher takes some data that are contained of the Real Parents and the Other Parents that are related with the variable. The researcher also takes some similarities between those characters; the Real Parents and the Other Parents. After that, the researcher analyzes the contrasting aspects such as the characterizations and the behaviors (roles as parents) from those characters with the binary opposition. To support this research, the researcher also uses the film theory to analyze the images from the movie. After that, the researcher draws the conclusion from the analysis.

### **1.8. Paper Organization**

This paper consists of four chapters. The introduction that is contained of the background of the study, research question, objective of study, significance of study, literature review, theoretical approach, the methods of research, and the paper organization is in the chapter one. Chapter two explains the intrinsic elements from the *Coraline* movie, such as the characteristic of all the characters



in the movie. The third chapter is the analysis (discussion) about the contrasts of the Real parents and the Other Parents in the *Coraline* movie. The last chapter of this research is the conclusion that is contained with the conclusion of the analysis.



## CHAPTER IV

### CONCLUSION

#### 4.1 Conclusion

The aim of the research is to explain the contrasting aspects from the parents' characters in the *Coraline* movie. Thus, the researcher applies the theory of binary opposition to analyze and to classify the contrasting aspects between the Real Parents and the Other Parents. Their contrasting aspects can be seen by their behaviors and also their appearances.

The contrasting aspects of the Real Parents and the Other Parents can be seen in the table below:

No.	The Real Parents	The Other Parents
1.	Busy	Non-busy
2.	Strict	Flexible
3.	Stingy	Generous
4.	Unattractive	Good Looking
5.	Sincere	Evil

Table 1. The Contrasting Aspects of the Real Parents and the Other Parents in the *Coraline* movie.

From the table above, it can be concluded that the ideal figure of parents for Coraline is the Real Parents. At first, they are portrayed as stingy parents, especially the Real Mother, but it is because she does not want Coraline to be consumptive. They are also pictured as unattractive parents, it is because they are

busy working so they do not have enough time to dress properly. And although they are busy and strict, they love her as a daughter, and they do not also make Coraline feel threatened and endangered. Their love for Coraline is sincere with no intentions.

It is very different with the Other Parents. They are portrayed as the perfect and caring parents, however, in the middle of the movie, they turn into creepy parents. Especially the Other Mother, who is not sincere toward Coraline. The Other Mother is nice to her in the beginning because she wants something from Coraline, something that can hurt and take her life away.

From those binaries (as seen in table 3), it can be concluded that their differences are opposite to each other. The Real Parents' characterizations (busy, strict, stingy, unattractive, and sincere) are categorized as the natural parents. Whereas the Other Parents' characterizations (non-busy, flexible, generous, attractive, and evil) are categorized as fake parents.

#### **4.2 Suggestion**

Coraline movie tells a story about the relationship between parents and their child. Moreover, the researcher focuses on the contrasting aspects of the parents' figure that are found in the Coraline Movie. Thus, the researcher analyzes them by applying the binary opposition theory. The researcher suggests to apply other theories such as psychoanalysis theory to analyze the characters in the *Coraline* movie, such as the Other Mother or Wybie Lovat, and semiotic theory to

analyze the little door in the *Coraline* movie that may indicate another meaning to the other researchers.



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