



e-ISSN 2798-8260



Jurnal ISO: Jurnal Ilmu Sosial, Politik dan Humaniora Vol: 4, No 1, 2024, Page: 1-9

Representation of Authoritarian Parenting in the Korean Drama "The Good Bad Mother"

Novianti Arman^{1*}, Hastuti², Muh. Rizal Ardiansah Putra³

^{1,2,3} Jurusan Ilmu Komunikasi, Fakultas Ilmu Sosial dan Politik, Universitas Muhammadiyah Button

DOI:

<https://doi.org/10.53697/iso.v4i1.1695>

*Correspondence: Novianti Arman

Email: noviantiarman787@gmail.com

Received: 16-06-2024

Accepted: 23-06-2024

Published: 30-06-2024



Copyright: © 2024 by the authors.
Submitted for open access publication
under the terms and conditions of the
Creative Commons Attribution (CC BY)
license
(<http://creativecommons.org/licenses/by/4.0/>).

Abstract: This study examines the impact of authoritarian parenting in the drama "The Good Bad Mother." The research employs a qualitative method using Ferdinand De Saussure's semiotic analysis, where Ferdinand divides signs into two components: the signifier and the signified. The drama tells the story of a single mother who is strict with her child, especially regarding education, resulting in Kang-ho becoming a successful prosecutor. However, as a prosecutor, Kang-ho becomes cold-hearted. The findings, gathered through documentation and observation of the film's scenes, reveal several impacts on the child resulting from the parent's authoritarian parenting style. It was found that children who experience authoritarian parenting tend to feel more negative effects compared to positive ones from this style of upbringing.

Keywords: the impact of parenting style, semiotics, signifier, signified

Introduction

One form of entertainment that has been popular among Indonesians, especially women, in recent years is Korean drama, or "drakor," which has its own unique appeal. The distinctive storylines and the wide range of genres available to viewers are part of its charm. The visual appeal of the attractive and handsome actors is just one aspect of drakor's allure. Viewers enjoy various genres including fantasy, melodrama, action, crime thriller, romance, romantic comedy, historical, horror, and comedy. According to data from a poll by Katadata Insight Center (KIC) conducted by zigi.id, K-Drama is the most popular product in Indonesia. The survey revealed that 74.6% of participants stated they liked Korean dramas. A total of 1,609 Indonesians who enjoy South Korean entertainment participated in this online poll, with the majority of respondents coming from millennial and Gen Z demographics (Ahdiat, 2022).

"The Good Bad Mother" is one of the most popular Korean dramas this year. On April 26, 2023, the drama debuted on Netflix and the Korean TV network JTBC. Veteran actress Ra Mi Ran stars as Jin Young-Soon in this family-themed drama series, while Lee Do Hyun plays Choi Kang-Ho. The drama tells the story of Jin Young-Soon, a pig farmer and single mother. To ensure her son, Choi Kang-Ho, grows up to be a strong and disciplined young man, Jin Young-Soon chooses to be a strict mother, raising him with a harsh parenting style. Jin Young-Soon's strict upbringing leads Kang-Ho to become a successful adult. He becomes a well-known prosecutor, feared by many for his cold demeanor (Wattpad, 2023).

The educational strategies parents use to raise their children shape their personality and potential. There are many parenting philosophies often recommended for those who wish to raise a flawless generation capable of advancing the nation. Each parenting approach has its own qualities. Baumrind identifies three categories of parenting: Authoritarian, Authoritative, and Permissive (Ayun, 2017). One method to teach children to follow the directions of an authoritarian leader is through authoritarian parenting. As leaders, parents set all guidelines, protocols, and tasks that children must follow. Children will be punished if they do not obey their parents' rules.

Next is democratic parenting. Democratic parenting involves parents valuing the child's abilities and allowing them to be independent at certain times. By giving children some leeway, allowing them to voice their opinions, and including them in conversations—especially those touching on their own lives—children are given the opportunity to develop internal self-control, which will ultimately enable them to take responsibility for their own activities. Lastly, permissive parenting is when parents allow their children to behave as they wish without supervision or correction. This type of parenting gives children full autonomy to act as they please. Since parents never provide rules or directions, children will always act according to their own desires, even if it means their actions sometimes go against social expectations.

In the drama "The Good Bad Mother," the parenting style employed by Jin Young-Soon is authoritarian. This parenting style is characterized by parents strictly educating their children to follow all their commands, with punishments imposed if these commands are not followed. In this drama, Choi Kang-Ho always obeys his mother Jin Young-Soon's orders to study. She forbids Kang-Ho from finishing his meals, reasoning that if he is full,

he will become sleepy and unable to study. She also gets angry if Kang-Ho chooses to draw instead of study. Due to Jin Young-Soon's strict demeanor, Kang-Ho becomes a very cold and reserved child, and even as an adult prosecutor, he is known as a cold and intimidating figure.

The reason behind Jin Young-Soon's harsh parenting is her desire for Kang-Ho to avoid her fate of being merely a pig farmer. Jin Young-Soon has a dark past; she was left alone as a child after her father, mother, and sibling died in a car accident. As an adult, she lost her husband, who was murdered while she was pregnant. These experiences led Jin Young-Soon to want to protect Kang-Ho from the hardships she endured.

The reason the author chose this topic is that many parents still adopt authoritarian parenting styles. Authoritarian parenting has varied impacts on children. Some children experience positive effects, while others feel negative consequences, and some experience both. As depicted in this film, Kang-Ho, as a child of authoritarian parenting, experiences both positive and negative impacts. His mother's strict treatment makes him very disciplined, academically successful, and ultimately a successful individual. However, socially, Kang-Ho has poor social skills. He cannot blend with his peers and remains cold, leading to bullying during his school years. It can be said that parenting style significantly influences a child's future life.

From the explanation above, the author wants to highlight this drama as a research subject to illustrate how authoritarian parenting affects a child's attitude and social life, using Ferdinand de Saussure's semiotic theory. The primary aim of this research is to explore and understand the representation of the effects of authoritarian parenting by a single mother on her child as depicted in the drama series. Additionally, the study seeks to identify and analyze the signifiers (signifier) and the signified (signified) elements that illustrate the authoritarian parenting style within the context of the drama.

Methodology

This research employs a qualitative study approach, utilizing two data sources: primary and secondary data. The primary data for this research will come from direct observation of each scene in the Korean drama "The Good Bad Mother," which will serve as the main data source. Additionally, scenes exemplifying authoritarian parenting will be selected and included in the research appendices. Books on authoritarian parenting and other relevant topics will be consulted as secondary data, gathered from journals, theses, the internet, and books. The researcher will employ two data collection techniques: observation and documentation. For the observation technique, the researcher will carefully watch and analyze the drama "The Good Bad Mother" as the research object. Once scenes depicting authoritarian parenting are identified, the researcher will proceed with the documentation technique, documenting each scene that illustrates this parenting style.

The qualitative data analysis method is used to understand complex events that are difficult to measure numerically, often involving non-numeric data such as texts, observations, or interviews. This method seeks patterns, hidden elements, and deep meanings within the data to comprehend the phenomenon as a whole. In this research, the

researcher will meticulously gather and organize observational data in the form of drama scenes that clearly represent authoritarian parenting. The researcher will categorize the research topic into various scenes and look for indicators pointing to authoritarian parenting. The meanings of these signs will be interpreted using Saussure's semiotic analysis, particularly the concepts of signifier and signified. The results of this sign analysis will then be combined with an analysis of the social situation and conditions. Finally, conclusions will be drawn to determine the type of authoritarian parenting based on the analysis conducted in the previous stages, integrating the findings with the study of the social situations and conditions depicted in the drama series.

Result and Discussion

Representation of the Impact of Authoritarian Parenting in the Drama "The Good Bad Mother"

In this study, the researcher aims to analyze the representation of the impact of authoritarian parenting by a single mother using representation theory and identifying the signifier and signified of the impact of authoritarian parenting using Ferdinand de Saussure's semiotic analysis in the drama "The Good Bad Mother." The researcher found that children do not just experience a single impact from their parent's authoritarian parenting but can feel both positive and negative effects, though the negative impacts tend to be more prevalent, and the few positive impacts also significantly influence the child's life.

In previous studies, researchers often showed that children subjected to authoritarian parenting exhibited only one type of impact, such as becoming quiet, resentful, and other negative traits. This study, however, finds a difference, showing that even seemingly trivial parental comments can leave a lasting impression on a child. For instance, in the drama, after an accident causes the child's memory to regress to seven years old, Kang-ho refuses to eat anything until he loses consciousness. This behavior is traced back to his mother's past prohibition against eating until full, fearing it would make him sleepy and unfocused on his studies.

Children with authoritarian parents struggle to communicate their feelings to others, including their parents, because they are taught from a young age to follow parental orders without question, even if their hearts disagree. Poor communication within the parent-child relationship also affects the child's broader life. Such children often find it difficult to communicate and express themselves publicly because they lack these experiences at home.

According to (Prasetyani, 2023) representation is defined as the use of signs in the form of images, sounds, etc., to describe, connect, depict, or produce what is seen, sensed, imagined, or felt in a specific physical form. Simply put, representation can be understood as the process by which someone gives meaning to what they see, hear, or feel. In this drama, the researcher identifies three meanings:

1. The drama illustrates that children experience all impacts of their parent's parenting style. What differentiates authoritarian parenting is that the positive effects felt by the child are fewer compared to other parenting styles, while the negative impacts are more numerous.

2. The researcher identified 21 scenes depicting the impacts of authoritarian parenting. Among these, only two positive impacts were found: Kang-ho's academic success and becoming a successful prosecutor, and his harsh behavior towards his mother being a facade to avenge his father's death. This is shown in episode 9 at 21:24, where Kang-ho leads his cohort's oath-taking ceremony, indicating his mother's strict academic demands led to his academic and career success. The second positive impact is seen in episode 9 at 55:02, where Kang-ho pretends to be harsh to avenge his mother, showing that despite his mother's strictness, he still loves her.
3. The drama also shows that parental remarks can leave a lasting impact on children. Three scenes exemplify this: episode 5 at 50:19, where Kang-ho refuses to eat after recalling his mother's past prohibitions; episode 5 at 53:54, where he apologizes for hitting someone because he was taught to apologize even when not at fault; and episode 10 at 36:17, where Kang-ho remembers his mother's hurtful words after failing a university entrance exam.
4. Finally, the drama shows that poor communication between authoritarian parents and their children affects the child's social communication. Two scenes illustrate this: episode 1 at 50:03, where Kang-ho is bullied for being a quiet bookworm, and episode 1 at 56:49, where he prefers to rest in the school storeroom rather than socialize with peers. This indicates that children with authoritarian parents often struggle with making friends and socializing due to parental restrictions on their activities.

In conclusion, the researcher finds that children with authoritarian parents differ significantly in their social lives compared to those with parents who use other parenting styles. These children are often quiet, resentful, shy, and solitary, making it hard for them to socialize. Authoritarian parents' unilateral decisions can hinder a child's social development, leading to fear of expressing opinions since these are often ignored or belittled. Such children may also accept violence as normal, potentially becoming bullies or targets of bullying due to their inability to defend themselves.

Signifier and Signified of the Impact of Authoritarian Parenting in the Korean Drama "The Good Bad Mother"

In identifying the signifier and signified of the impact of authoritarian parenting in this drama, the researcher found 21 scenes across multiple episodes of "The Good Bad Mother." The author discovered two positive impacts from this drama, with the remainder being negative impacts. As noted by (Sari, 2020) several journals indicate that authoritarian parenting tends to have a greater negative impact than positive. In this study, two positive impacts were identified from the mother's authoritarian parenting style.

Regarding the positive impact portrayed in this drama, it demonstrates that every parenting style, including authoritarianism, can have positive effects. In the drama, the mother is strict in her child's education, to the extent of restricting his food intake. However, these actions positively affected her child, who excelled academically from elementary school through college. Moreover, he became a successful prosecutor, although driven by

his mother's directive for revenge. Despite this, it proves that authoritarian parenting also has positive impacts on a child's life.

Negative Impact of Authoritarian Parenting in the Korean Drama "The Good Bad Mother"

The negative impact of authoritarian parenting in this drama underscores its detrimental effects on a child's life. The mother's authoritarian parenting style is depicted through various restrictions: she prohibits her child from doing what he likes, prevents him from defending himself even when he is right, restricts his food intake under the belief that he will become drowsy and lose focus on studying. She instills the notion that her child only needs to study until becoming a prosecutor, after which he can do whatever he pleases. These actions significantly affect the child's development. From his time in elementary school, he becomes withdrawn and unable to socialize with peers. As he grows up and becomes a successful prosecutor, he eventually indulges in whatever he desires. He accepts bribes, collaborates with companies with extensive criminal records, and is known for his arrogance and cold demeanor both at home and in his profession. His mother's envisioned life for him is achieved, yet she remains unaware of the damaging impact her desires have had on his life and that of many others.

According to (Septiyani, 2022) the core of Saussure's theory posits that language consists of signs divided into two parts: the signifier (the marker) and the signified (the meaning). The signifier is defined as something with meaning—an aspect of language that involves what is spoken, heard, written, or read, such as images, sounds, or dialogues referring to something being conveyed. On the other hand, the signified is the mental representation, thought, or concept—a mental aspect of language, exemplified by the meaning contained within scenes or dialogues in a film. Thus, in this study, the researcher identified the signifier and signified of the impact of authoritarian parenting in the Korean drama "The Good Bad Mother." The drama portrays 21 signs illustrating the effects of authoritarian parenting by parents.

In the research findings, the researcher describes these signs according to Ferdinand de Saussure's theory, where the signifier is the capture of scenes from the drama "The Good Bad Mother," and the signified is the meaning conveyed by those captured scenes. In this drama, the researcher identified images that depict the impact felt by the child. The negative impact experienced by the child is relatively greater compared to the positive impact. In the drama, Kang-ho experiences the negative impact where from elementary school to high school, he has no friends and prefers to be alone. This impact is shown in episode 1 at the duration of 50:03 and 56:49.

Further negative impacts are evident where Kang-ho becomes a corrupt and cold prosecutor. This impact can be seen in episode 1 at the duration of 01:18:00 and in episode 2 at 08:04. Another negative impact is where Kang-ho refuses to answer calls from his mother and declines to meet her when she visits his home. This impact is shown in episode 2 at 08:24 and 22:03. Another negative impact is where Kang-ho is known to be arrogant in his neighborhood, as evidenced by the security guard muttering to himself after talking

with Kang-ho's mother. This impact is shown in episode 2 at 23:51. Another negative impact is where Kang-ho decides to sever his relationship with his mother and vehemently rejects her invitation to eat with a high tone. This impact is shown in episode 2 at 01:00:28 and 01:03:42. Another negative impact is where all the villagers are shocked by Kang-ho's rudeness towards his mother because in his hometown, Kang-ho was known as a polite child. This is shown in episode 2 at 01:05:04. Another negative impact is where, after an accident, Kang-ho's behavior and memories return to his childhood. He refuses to eat because his mother often forbade him from eating too much when he was young. This impact is shown in episode 3 at the duration of 50:19.

Another negative impact is when Kang-ho, reverting to his childhood, apologizes for mistakes he did not commit because his mother always instructed him to apologize even when it wasn't his fault. This impact is shown in episode 7 at the duration of 12:18. Another negative impact is where Kang-ho is taught by his mother to retaliate against people who insult him, but Kang-ho finds it difficult to do so because he was taught or commanded not to retaliate against insults and to accept what others say. This impact is shown in episode 7 at the duration of 12:18. In another negative impact, Kang-ho, returning to his childhood, suddenly shouts out words that his mother had said when Kang-ho failed in a university exam, and subsequently his mother realizes that her words had deeply hurt Kang-ho. This impact is shown in episode 10 at the durations of 36:17 and 36:59. In the next impact, Kang-ho's mother discovers all the misconduct that Kang-ho has been involved in. This impact is shown in episode 4 at the durations of 41:03 and 42:07. Lastly, the final negative impact is when Kang-ho rejects and even drives away a friend who asks for his help, demonstrating Kang-ho's arrogance. This impact is shown in episode 6 at the duration of 45:04.

And on the positive impacts in this drama, the researcher identified only 2 effects. The first positive impact is that Kang-ho succeeds in becoming a smart and accomplished student, evidenced by him becoming a leader in the prosecutor selection process. This impact is shown in episode 9 at the duration of 21:24. The last positive impact is that Kang-ho actually pretends to be evil only to avenge his mother's grief over his father's death. This impact is shown in episode 9 at the duration of 55:02.

Based on the explanations above, the researcher concludes that through analyzing and identifying signifier and signified, they found 21 impacts of authoritarian parenting from various episodes of the drama "The Good Bad Mother." In this drama, it is evident that there are more negative impacts than positive ones from authoritarian parenting. This also proves that children whose parents adhere to authoritarian parenting will experience more negative impacts than positive ones. Children who experience authoritarian parenting also do not feel happy because of the restrictions imposed by their parents that bind their lives.

For example, in this drama, Kang-ho rarely shows his happiness and is often lost in thought, whether he is speaking with his friends or even with his mother. Moreover, children who experience authoritarian parenting tend to vent their anger outside the home because they cannot express their feelings inside the home due to fear and respect for their parents. Taking an example from this drama, Kang-ho decides to cut off ties with his mother and loved ones just to seek revenge for his mother's grief over their child's death caused by

the Woobyek group leader. This illustrates that children who experience authoritarian parenting find it more comfortable to show their negative side outside the home because there are no controls imposed by their parents.

Conclusion

Based on the findings of the research mentioned above, the researcher concluded that each parenting style selected by parents has both positive and negative consequences. However, in the context of authoritarian parenting, there is a notable difference: the positive effects experienced by a child are fewer, whereas the negative effects are more pronounced. The positive impact that a child may experience is primarily limited to academic excellence and intelligence. Conversely, the negative impacts tend to be more prevalent and include traits such as introversion, tendencies towards vengeance, and deficits in social skills.

References

- Ahdiat, A. (2022). *K-Pop vs K-Drama, Mana yang Penggemarnya Lebih Banyak?* <https://databoks.katadata.co.id/datapublish/2022/07/24/k-pop-vs-k-drama-mana-yang-penggemarnya-lebih-banyak>
- Anisah, A. S. (2017). Pola Asuh Orang Tua dan Implikasinya Terhadap Pembentukan Karakter Anak. *Jurnal Pendidikan UNIGA*, 5(1), 70-84.
- Ayun, Q. (2017). Pola Asuh Orang Tua dan Metode Pengasuhan dalam Membentuk Kepribadian Anak. *ThufuLA: Jurnal Inovasi Pendidikan Guru Raudhatul Athfal*, 5(1), 102. <https://doi.org/10.21043/thufula.v5i1.2421>
- Farhanah, S. C. (2023). Representasi Pola Asuh Ibu Terhadap Pendidikan Anak Usia Sekolah di Korea Selatan dalam Drama Korea *Green Mothers Club*: Analisis Semiotika John Fiske (Doctoral dissertation, Universitas Pendidikan Indonesia).
- Framanta, G. M. (2020). Pengaruh Lingkungan Keluarga Terhadap Kepribadian Anak. *Jurnal Pendidikan dan Konseling (JPDK)*, 2, 126–129. <https://doi.org/10.31004/jpdk.v1i2.654>
- Irmalia, S. (2020). Peran Orang Tua dalam Pembentukan Karakter Anak Usia Dini. *Jurnal El-Hamra: Kependidikan dan Kemasyarakatan*, 5(1), 31-37.
- Marlis, M. I. (2021). Pola Asuh Orang Tua Dan Implikasinya Terhadap Pembentukan Karakter Anak. *Center for Open Science*. <https://doi.org/10.31219/osf.io/tvbjq>
- Nuraeni, F., & Lubis, M. (2022). Pola Asuh Orang Tua dan Implikasinya Terhadap Pembentukan Karakter Anak. *Jurnal Pendidikan Anak Usia Dini Undiksha*, 10(1), 137–143. <https://doi.org/10.23887/paud.v10i1.46054>
- Prasetyani, A. (2023). *Representasi Pola Asuh Orang Tua Dalam Drama Korea Sky Castle (Analisis Semiotika Model Roland Barthes)* [PhD Thesis, UIN RADEN MAS SAID SURAKARTA]. http://eprints.iain-surakarta.ac.id/7060/1/Full%20Teks_161211082.pdf
- Purnami Dewi, L. A. (2019). Peranan Orang Tua dalam Pembentukan Karakter dan Tumbuh Kembang Anak. *PRATAMA WIDYA: Jurnal Pendidikan Anak Usia Dini*, 2(2), 83. <https://doi.org/10.25078/pw.v2i2.1021>

-
- Roini, S. (2018). Peran Pola Asuh Orang Tua Terhadap Pembentukan Karakter pada Anak. *Jurnal Pendidikan Luar Sekolah*, 12(1), 21. <https://doi.org/10.32832/jpls.v12i1.2906>
- Sari, C. W. P. (2020). Pengaruh Pola Asuh Otoriter Orang Tua Bagi Kehidupan Sosial Anak. *Jurnal Pendidikan Dan Konseling (JPDK)*, 2(1), 76–80. <https://doi.org/10.31004/jpdk.v2i1.597>
- Septiyani, N. M. (2022). Pola Komunikasi Single Father dalam Film Drama (Analisis Semiotika Ferdinand de Saussure Pola Komunikasi Single Father dalam Film Fatherhood). *Tanra: Jurnal Desain Komunikasi Visual Fakultas Seni Dan Desain Universitas Negeri Makassar*, 9(2), 173–187. <https://doi.org/10.26858/tanra.v9i2.35766>
- Sunjoto, F. V. (2021). Pengambilan Keputusan Orangtua pada Pendidikan Anak: Analisis Wacana dalam Drama Korea *Sky Castle* (Doctoral dissertation, Universitas Katholik Soegijapranata Semarang).
- Wattpad. (2023). *The Good Bad Mother OST - Ina's Books*—Wattpad. <https://www.wattpad.com/story/342227122-the-good-bad-mother-ost>