

Stockholm Syndrome As Reflected On Belle In Beauty And The Beast Movie (2017)

Arsiwela

Universitas Gunadarma

Jl. Margonda Raya No. 100, Depok 16424, Jawa Barat

Email: Arsiwela@staff.gunadarma.ac.id

Abstract: *The main concern of this study is the stockholm syndrome on Belle. Considering stockholm syndrome is a psychological phenomenon, hence this study uses two theories, namely structural theory and literary psychology. The results of this study concluded that Belle's behavior revealed the individual and situational characteristic of stockholm syndrome. The presence of the stockholm syndrome in this movie harmonizes with the whole plot of Beauty and the Beast. The results of this study concluded that Belle's behavior shows the individual and situational characteristics of stockholm syndrome. First, Belle developed indicators related to the issue of Stockholm Syndrome which are initial fear and resistance, gradual bonding, positive feelings toward the captor, defending the captor, identifying with the captor's perspective, sacrificing for the captor, internal conflict, and emotional rescue and transformation. Second, the director portrays the issue of stockholm syndrome through characters, events, setting, and style.*

Keywords: *literature, psychology, movie, Stockholm syndrome*

1. BACKGROUND

Stockholm syndrome or betrayal bond is a psychological phenomenon which developed by people who have positive connection with their perpetrators. It is a peculiar psychological romance that can be suffered by a human being. According to Nils Bejerot, stockholm syndrome is a state of psychological phenomena when a victim of crime who initially feels threatened, anxiety, and fear. Instead, it turns into sympathy, comfort, defense, and even feelings of comfortable, defends, and even has feelings of for the captors.

The term stockholm syndrome was first introduced with the robbery of Sveriges Bank Credit in Stockholm, Sweden. Jan-Erik Olsson and Clark Olofsson held the banker hostage from August 23 to 28, 1973. The case is therefore known as stockholm syndrome (medical dictionary "Stockholm Syndrome" 2015). In this case, the kidnapped victim shows loyalty, affection, and even defense of the kidnapper, despite the danger and risk to the victim. or risk to the victim.

According to McLaughlin and Marie (2015) there are some cases of stockholm disorder that happen within the society such as Natascha Kampusch is an assault on an Austrian lady who was captured when she was 10 years old. She was held hostage for 8 years and appeared the phenomenon of stockholm syndrome since she felt devastated when her host died, Colleen Stan was held when she was 20 years old and did not prosecute her kidnappers indeed after she was free and had experienced cases of violence and sexual abuse. Moreover, Patty Hearst had

the same case, Hearst is the second case that depicts stockholm syndrome. She was captured when she was 19 years old. She is the grandson of William Randolph Hearst, founder of the Hearst media empire. She was a victim of extortion but she had a positive reaction to his criminals.

The case of stockholm syndrome becomes a concern to many figures such as the police and psychologists. Besides these figures, this case is also attracting the concern of many movie directors. Movie director, William Condon is an American director and screenwriter. Condon is known for composing or directing various successful and acclaimed movies including. The Twilight Saga: Breaking Dawn Part 1 and Part 2, and Beauty and the Beast.

Beauty and the Beast is an American musical romantic fantasy movie directed by Bill Condon and distributed by Walt Disney Pictures. Beauty and the Beast is a timeless and beloved tale, has enchanted audiences for generations with its enchanting narrative of love transcending appearances. The story's central theme revolves around the transformational power of love and the idea that true beauty resides within a person's heart. However, beneath its enchanting surface lies a fascinating and occasionally controversial subtext namely the possible presence of stockholm syndrome. There will be growing love problems in this criminal case between Belle and the Beast.

2. METHOD

The research method is divided into three stages. First, view the movie carefully by taking detailed notes and paying attention to the relevant scenes, dialogues, characters, cinematography, and any elements that related to the research. Second, the data analysis stage uses analytical descriptive method. Third, the stage of presenting the results of data analysis data using the analytic descriptive method.

The research method used in this research is descriptive qualitative with the source data of the film Beauty and the Beast by Bill Condon. According to Sugiyono (2018) qualitative methods are also called anturalistic research methods because the research is carried out in natural conditions and the results of the research emphasize meaning rather than generation. This is used to examine natural objects. Because the researcher acts as a key instrument and the data collection technique is done simultaneously. As stated by Sobari & Hamidah (2017) this qualitative method will obtain descriptive data described through written language in accordance with the theory that underlies the analysis that researchers do.

3. RESULTS AND DISCUSSIONS

Literature and Psychology

Literature is an art that has elements of mind, imagination, and emotion. It is also a creative work that is used for intellectual and emotional consumption. Literary works are the expressions of life problems, philosophy, and science of the soul. As stated by Sangidu (2004) literature is a product of human thought and expression. It is influenced by the environment of the author; even it may contain the author's way of life. While, most individuals consider that literary works are the reflection of human life. In other words, literary works are utilized by authors for telling what they feel and see and what they confront within the social life including human activities. Literary works are known by individuals within the written frame, those are novel, poetry, and also play.

Literature and psychology has profound connection in human life. Both deals with the human behaviors, expression, thought, and inspiration. According to Wellek and Warren (1977) psychology can be utilized to investigate and clarify things and phenomena of human life by applying the principle of psychology within the literary work. Psychology can shape people's mind to recognize the issue as a challenge not as a fate. All things human confront are not as complicated as they imagine. Individuals can solve all the issues in the event that they see them from the positive way. In this case, psychology has an critical part to make a positive way of considering.

According to Ratna (2010), the purpose of literary psychology is to find out the psychological aspects contained in literary works, and not only to prove the truth of psychological theories, for example by describing things done by characters in the text that humans do in real life according to the author's experience. The more experience and training the author has in his or her personal life, the more ideas can be poured into the literary work, such as conflict, friendship, education, and romance. Readers will also understand the psychological aspects of the characters, both from the use of language, behavior, expression, and perception. Thus the reader can see the development of the characters, and will feel the psychological conflicts experienced by the characters such as friendship and romance conflicts in a literary work.

Like psychology, literature particularly movie has a relationship with human life. Movies are works of art that contain value in life. This can be the feeling of encouragement and expression of the creator. Movies have a real-life relationship. Psychology can be utilized to get more profoundly about message, characterization and other components of the movie.

Psychology can offer assistance reveal the reasons for character behavior. It reveals the premise of human behavior and inspiration.

Intrinsic Structure of Beauty and the Beast

Stanton (2012) argues that the intrinsic elements of literary works are story facts, which consist of characterization, plot, and setting. According to Wellek and Warren (2014), intrinsic analysis is a review of the object from the inside, without considering the relevance of the elements that exist outside of it.

Charaterizations

Nurgiyantoro (2005) states that the main character is the character whose story is prioritized. In this study, there are three main characters, namely: Belle, the Beast, and Gaston. Characterization analysis is using block characterization theory by Lajos Egri (in Sukada, 1987:135), namely: physiological, sociological, and psychological.

Belle is the protagonist of the story. She is depicted as an intelligent, independent, and book-loving young woman who is considered odd by her provincial village because of her love for reading and her desire for adventure. She is compassionate and kind-hearted, which is evident in her willingness to care for her father and her ability to see beyond the Beast's exterior to his inner goodness.

The Beast is initially portrayed as a selfish and arrogant prince who is transformed into a hideous creature as punishment for his cruelty. Over the course of the story, he undergoes significant character development. He learns to be kind, compassionate, and selfless, which ultimately leads to his transformation back into a human.

Gaston serves as the primary antagonist of the story. He is a handsome but arrogant and narcissistic hunter who is determined to marry Belle, even if it means resorting to manipulative and coercive tactics. Gaston represents vanity and superficiality.

These are some of the central characterizations in Disney's Beauty and the Beast. Each character plays a significant role in the development of the story and its themes of love, transformation, and inner beauty.

Plot

Aristotle (in Butcher, (1902) argues that plot is the arrangement of incidents or series of events. Aristotle (in Nurgiyantoro, 2005) suggests that a story consists of three stages, namely: the initial stage, the middle stage, and the final stage.

The story begins in a small French village where Belle lives with her eccentric inventor father, Maurice. Belle is known for her beauty but is also considered peculiar because of her love for reading and her independent spirit. The villagers, including the arrogant and self-absorbed hunter Gaston, have their eyes on her, but Belle dreams of a life beyond her provincial town.

Maurice sets off to showcase his invention at a fair but gets lost in the forest and stumbles upon the Beast's castle. The Beast, once a handsome prince, curses Maurice for trespassing and locks him in the castle's dungeon. Belle becomes worried about her father's disappearance and goes in search of him. She finds the castle and offers to take her father's place as the Beast's captive to save him.

Meanwhile, Gaston learns of Belle's imprisonment and becomes determined to marry her, even if it means resorting to manipulation and force. He leads the villagers in a mob against the Beast, aiming to kill him. As Belle and the Beast's relationship deepens, they fall in love. However, the curse placed on the Beast and his castle can only be broken if he learns to love and is loved in return before the last petal falls from an enchanted rose. Time is running out.

The villagers, led by Gaston, storm the castle, and a battle ensues. Belle is able to reveal Gaston's true nature to the villagers, and they turn against him. Meanwhile, the Beast is injured in the battle but manages to defeat Gaston.

Belle confesses her love for the Beast just as the final petal falls from the charmed rose. This act of selfless love breaks the curse, and the Beast is transformed back into a handsome prince. The enchanted objects in the castle also return to their human forms. Belle and the Prince declare their love for each other. The story ends with Belle and the Prince dancing in the ballroom as the enchanted objects celebrate their freedom. Belle and the Prince's love story exemplifies the theme that true beauty lies within, and they live happily ever after. Beauty and the Beast is a tale of love, transformation, and the importance of seeing beyond appearances. It has become a beloved classic in the world of animated and live-action films.

Setting

Beauty and the Beast is set in a charming French village and an enchanted castle. According to Nurgiyantoro (2005), setting can be described in three elements, namely: place, time and social.

The place setting is the French Village. The story begins in a picturesque French village. This village is a quaint and idyllic setting with cobblestone streets, small shops, and colorful cottages. It is a typical provincial town, and the villagers are characterized by their

simple lives and close-knit community. Belle's house is located in this village, and it is where much of the early part of the film takes place.

Another significant place setting is The Enchanted Castle. The primary setting for a significant portion of the movie is the Beast's enchanted castle. The castle is hidden deep within a dark and mysterious forest. It is grand and majestic but has been cursed by an enchantress, resulting in the castle and its inhabitants being frozen in time. The castle's interior is both opulent and eerie, with its grand ballroom, grand staircase, and various enchanted objects that come to life.

The time period takes place in a European village during a period reminiscent of the 18th century or earlier. The clothing worn by the characters and the architecture of the village and castle resemble styles from 18th-century France. Belle's blue dress, for example, has a distinctive 18th-century design, and the architecture of the village and the castle reflects a European Baroque or Rococo influence. In summary, while "Beauty and the Beast" doesn't provide an exact time setting, the clothing, architecture, lack of modern technology, and traditional lifestyle suggest that it takes place in a European village during a period reminiscent of the 18th century or earlier. The intentionally timeless setting allows the story to resonate with audiences across different time periods and cultures.

The social theme in Disney's Beauty and the Beast is characterized by the social structure and norms of a provincial French village. Here are some key aspects of the social setting in the movie. The story is primarily set in a small, close-knit French village. The villagers lead a simple and traditional way of life, and everyone knows each other. This setting is depicted as isolated from the wider world, emphasizing a sense of community.

Stockholm Syndrome

Stockholm syndrome is a psychological phenomenon in which hostages develop sympathy for their captors. sympathy for the hostage taker. **Origin of the Term:** Stockholm syndrome is named after an event that occurred in Stockholm, Sweden, in 1973 when bank employees were held hostage for several days. During their captivity, some of the hostages developed empathy and positive feelings toward their captors. Psychologists and experts began using the term to describe this phenomenon.

In this research, stockholm syndrome is analyzed based on the role of the main characters, namely: Belle and the Beast. Stokcholm syndrome on Belle is analyzed through two types of characteristics, namely characteristics that appear in the individual and the characteristics of the situation. De Fabrique, et al. (in Ott, 2007) propose that people who

encounter stockholm syndrome show three characteristics. (1) hostages have positive feelings towards the captors. (2) hostages show negative feelings to the rescuers. (3) the captors develops positive feelings towards hostage.

Personality Psychology

According to Freud (1980), personality is composed of three major components: the id, the ego, and the superego. Here's an overview of Freud's theory of personality: **The Id:** The id is the most primitive and unconscious part of the personality. It operates on the pleasure principle, seeking immediate gratification of basic desires and instincts, such as hunger, thirst, and sexual urges. The id is impulsive and is not concerned with social norms or consequences. **The Ego:** The ego develops in early childhood and operates on the reality principle. It serves as the mediator between the demands of the id and the constraints of the external world. The ego seeks to satisfy the id's desires in a way that is socially acceptable and realistic. It considers consequences and delays gratification if necessary. **The Superego:** The superego represents the internalization of societal and parental values, norms, and moral standards. It acts as a conscience and strives for perfection. It can be seen as the moral and ethical component of personality, often leading individuals to feel guilt or shame when they violate their own moral principles.

Id, Ego, and Superego: It can be viewed on the Beast's character through the lens of Freud's structural model of personality. The Beast's initial aggressive and impulsive behavior (**id**) can be seen as a result of his curse and anger over his transformation. Belle's influence and his attempts to win her love can be interpreted as a manifestation of his ego, which seeks to balance the desires of the id and the constraints of reality. The concept of redemption and transformation in the story can be seen as a reflection of the superego, representing societal norms and moral standards.

Freud also introduced the concept of defense mechanisms, which are unconscious strategies the ego uses to cope with anxiety and conflicts. Common defense components include suppression, denial, projection, and relocation. **Defense Mechanisms:** the Beast's initial aggression and isolation can be seen as a form of repression, as he tries to bury his human side due to the trauma of his curse. Belle's kindness and empathy might represent sublimation, as she channels her emotions into caring for the Beast and the enchanted objects in the castle.

Indicators of Stockholm Syndrome in Beauty and the Beast

Identifying indicators of stockholm syndrome in Beauty and the Beast involves examining the behavior and emotional dynamics between Belle and the Beast in the context of their captivity. While Beauty and the Beast primarily focuses on themes of love and transformation. Here are some indicators of stockholm syndrome in the film, first, **Initial Fear and Resistance**: Belle initially expresses fear and resistance to her captivity in the Beast's castle. She tries to escape and is wary of the Beast, second: **Gradual Bonding**, over time, Belle's attitude begins to change. She engages in activities with the Beast, such as reading books together and sharing meals. This bonding process occurs gradually, third, **Positive Feelings toward the Captor**, Belle develops positive feelings toward the Beast despite his intimidating appearance. She becomes sympathetic to his situation and shows kindness towards him, fourth, **Defending the Captor**: in some instances, Belle defends the Beast when others speak ill of him or question her relationship with him. This can be seen as a sign of identification with the captor, fifth, **Identifying with the Captor's Perspective**: Belle starts to see the world from the Beast's perspective and understands his past and his pain. This empathy may contribute to her attachment to him, sixth, **Sacrificing for the Captor**: Belle willingly sacrifices her own freedom to save her father and later takes his place as the Beast's captive. Her willingness to make such sacrifices for the Beast's well-being is a potential indicator, seventh, **Internal Conflict**: Belle experiences internal conflict regarding her feelings for the Beast. This inner turmoil reflects the complexity of her emotional bond with him, eighth, **Emotional Rescue and Transformation**: Belle's love and kindness towards the Beast lead to his transformation. This transformation can be seen as a reward for her loyalty and affection.

4. CONCLUSION

The concept of stockholm syndrome has been a topic of discussion in relation to the story of Beauty and the Beast. Stockholm syndrome is a psychological phenomenon where hostages or captives develop feelings of attachment, empathy, or even affection toward their captors. While some have suggested that Belle's relationship with the Beast exhibits elements of stockholm syndrome, it does important to consider the nuances of the story and its themes.

Belle is not a traditional hostage in the sense of being forcibly kidnapped or held against her will. She voluntarily takes her father's place as the Beast's captive to protect him. Initially, she is fearful and resistant to her situation, but she is also shown as strong-willed and independent.

It is important to recognize that *Beauty and the Beast* is a work of fiction and a fairy tale, and its themes and character dynamics are intended to convey deeper messages about inner beauty, love, and transformation rather than a realistic portrayal of a psychological phenomenon like Stockholm syndrome.

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