

REPRESENTATION OF CHANGING FAMILY VALUES IN HIROKAZU KORE-EDA'S MOVIE *SHOPLIFTERS*

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ABSTRACT; *In the Shoplifters movie, there is a traditional concept of family that depicts an unconventional family bound by strong emotional ties rather than biological ties. This research explores the family values that develop in the film through Van Wel's family values theory (1994). There are attachments, commitment, interdependence, closeness, trust, intimacy and love. The objective is to gain an understanding of how the relationship between Yuri and Osamu develops into a harmonious family, even though Yuri is not their biological child, by using these theories. This research uses a qualitative approach, conducting studies to identify key dialogues and scenes to explore the dynamics of the family bond. Among the seven components analyzed, trust (21.43%) and love (21.43%) emerged as the most dominant values. The research findings reveal that the movie highlights emotional connections, mutual support, and chosen kinship rather than traditional family structures. This research asserts that the movie serves as a powerful commentary on evolving family values as a medium to encourage viewers to reconsider the traditional definition of family in contemporary society.*

Keywords: *Family Values, Hirokazu Kore-eda, Movie, Shoplifters.*

ABSTRAK; Dalam film Shoplifters, terdapat konsep keluarga tradisional yang menggambarkan keluarga yang tidak konvensional yang terikat oleh ikatan emosional yang kuat daripada ikatan biologis. Penelitian ini mengeksplorasi nilai-nilai keluarga yang berkembang dalam film tersebut melalui teori nilai-nilai keluarga Van Wel (1994), yaitu keterikatan, komitmen, saling ketergantungan, kedekatan, kepercayaan, keintiman, dan cinta. Tujuannya adalah untuk memperoleh pemahaman tentang bagaimana hubungan antara Yuri dan Osamu berkembang menjadi keluarga yang harmonis, meskipun Yuri bukanlah anak kandung mereka, dengan menggunakan teori-teori ini. Penelitian ini menggunakan pendekatan kualitatif, melakukan studi untuk mengidentifikasi dialog dan adegan utama untuk mengeksplorasi dinamika ikatan keluarga. Di antara tujuh komponen yang dianalisis, kepercayaan (21,43%) dan cinta (21,43%) muncul sebagai nilai yang paling dominan. Temuan penelitian mengungkapkan bahwa film tersebut menonjolkan hubungan emosional, saling mendukung, dan kekerabatan yang dipilih daripada struktur keluarga tradisional. Penelitian ini menegaskan bahwa film tersebut berfungsi sebagai komentar yang kuat tentang nilai-nilai keluarga yang berkembang sebagai media untuk mendorong penonton untuk

mempertimbangkan kembali definisi tradisional keluarga dalam masyarakat kontemporer.

Kata Kunci: Nilai-nilai Keluarga, Hirokazu Kore-eda, Film, *Shoplifters*.

INTRODUCTION

A movie is a form of visual storytelling that conveys narratives, emotions, and ideas through moving images and sound. According to Bordwell and Thompson (2017), movies are "a powerful art form that shapes and reflects society, providing a means to explore human experiences and social realities." As a powerful medium of communication, movies serve various purposes, from entertainment to social commentary, reflecting cultural values, historical moments, and societal changes. Through cinematography, dialogue, and character development, the movie can explore complex themes, including family, identity, and morality, allowing audiences to engage with different perspectives and experiences. In the context of this study, movies act as a lens through which changing family values are represented and analyzed, providing insight into how societal shifts influence the concept of family in modern times.

The family is a tiny social group and a unit of the community. The Indonesian Ministry of Health defines a family as the smallest social unit, made up of the family's head and a number of individuals who live together under one roof in a mutually dependent relationship. According to Salvicion and Celis, families consist of two or more people who are linked by marriage, blood or even adoption, live together in a home, engage in their various tasks, and establish and preserve a culture (Irianti, 2020). It serves as the fundamental unit of society, providing emotional support, guidance, and stability to its members. Families shape individuals' identities, instill cultural and social norms, and influence personal development through shared experiences and traditions. According to Duvall and Logan, A family consists of persons linked by marriage, birth, or adoption who sustain a culture and promote each member's social, mental, emotional, and physical development. (Kimbrough et al., 2019). Over time, the structure and definition of family have evolved, adapting to social, economic, and cultural changes, leading to diverse forms of familial relationships beyond the traditional nuclear model. Family values, as defined by Doherty (1997), refer to ethics and moral principles that are traditionally upheld and transmitted to the family that consist of responsibility, honesty, loyalty, and respect for each other. These values act as guiding

principles that influence behavior, decision-making, and interpersonal relationships within the household. They are passed down through generations, shaping individuals' character and their interactions with society. However, with the impact of modernization, globalization, and shifting societal norms, family values continue to evolve, reflecting the changing roles and expectations of family members in contemporary society.

According to Van Wels' theory, which highlights seven key components of family dynamics, attachment, commitment, interdependence, closeness, trust, intimacy, and love. *Shoplifters* (2018) offers a compelling portrayal of these elements within a non-traditional family. The film emphasizes attachment, as the characters, despite not being biologically related, form strong emotional bonds, especially between the children and the adults who care for them. Commitment is portrayed through their willingness to support each other, even when survival requires illegal activities like shoplifting. Interdependence is central to the family's functioning, as each member relies on others for emotional and material support. Closeness is evident in the intimate, everyday interactions, as the family shares moments of care and affection that create a sense of belonging. Trust plays a significant role, especially as the characters navigate the complexities of their unconventional lives, relying on one another despite the secrets they keep. Intimacy in *Shoplifters* is not only emotional but also physical, as the characters express affection and tenderness, demonstrating a deep connection. Finally, love binds the family together, not through societal or legal definitions but through the genuine care they show each other. The film challenges traditional notions of family, illustrating how these key components can exist outside conventional familial structures, redefining what it means to be a family in a modern, often harsh, society.

In *Shoplifters* (2018), a similar scene can be analyzed in relation to Van Wels' (1994) theory, focusing on attachment, closeness, and love. In the film, a moment of attachment and care is portrayed when Osamu and Shota share a quiet, intimate exchange. In the scene where Osamu and Shota are hiding after a shoplifting incident, Osamu is concerned about Shota's well-being, and this dialogue captures the emotional connection between them:

Osamu	: “You alright, Shota?”
Shota	: “Yeah, just... tired.”
Osamu	: “It’s okay. We’ll figure it out. You’re safe with us. You don’t have to worry.”

Shota : “But... what if they come after us?”

Osamu : “Don’t worry. We’ll keep you safe, always. That’s what family does.”

This scene highlights attachment as Osamu reassures Shota, showing that despite their unconventional family structure, there is a deep emotional bond and a commitment to each other's well-being. This scene between Osamu and Shota demonstrates the depth of their unorthodox family dynamic. Osamu reassures Shota, despite the fact that they are not biologically related. He emphasises emotional comfort, protection, and belonging. Osamu's consoling comments, "We'll keep you safe, always," emphasize his duty as a carer and reinforce Shota's comfortable bond to him. From a psychological standpoint, Shota's concern, "But... what if they come after us?" reveals underlying anxiety and insecurity, which Osamu addresses verbally. This is compatible with the idea of a safe basis in attachment theory, in which a carer gives continuous emotional support, allowing the kid to explore the world with confidence. Attachment is a basic human need in childhood which provides a stable foundation for emotional and psychological growth. The familial tie in this moment can be examined using Van Wels' theory that family is constituted not only by biology but also by trust, emotional closeness, and mutual care. Osamu's devotion to safety and well-being reinforces the notion that family is formed by acts and emotional connections, not hereditary ties. Furthermore, the scenario speaks to larger themes of perseverance and survival in tough situations. This demonstrates the psychological significance of attachment as a coping mechanism in the face of adversity, offering a sense of security and stability in an unpredictable world. In this way, the discussion captures the core of attachment and familial love, emphasising the emotional power of human connections that go beyond traditional notions of family.

Previous studies on family values in films have explored various perspectives and contexts. For instance, Bahri, Melinda, and Nasution (2024) analyzed family values in *Turning Red*, focusing on attachment and closeness within a more traditional family dynamic. Hastuti, Linda, and Tomy (2022) examined how family values help resolve conflicts in *Coco*, emphasizing responsibility and unity. Iqlima (2020) explored family relationships in *Enola Holmes*, highlighting the independence and resilience shaped by family bonds. Nirwana (2023) investigated American family values in *Yes Day*, showing how parental roles evolve to balance

authority and flexibility. Sari and Dewi (2022) studied *My Name is Khan*, focusing on how cultural and religious backgrounds influence family values and stereotypes.

While these studies provide valuable insights into family values in different films, this research shifts its focus to the redefinition of family structures in *Shoplifters*. Unlike previous studies that largely examine biological families or cultural influences on family values, this study explores a non-traditional family bound by emotional rather than biological ties. Using Van Wel's (1994) theory, this research examines attachment, trust, and love within an unconventional family unit, highlighting how *Shoplifters* challenges societal norms regarding kinship. By analyzing key dialogues and interactions, this study contributes to a broader understanding of how films can critique and redefine the meaning of family in contemporary society.

REVIEW OF LITERATURE

Vanwel's (1994) theory delves into what makes families strong. It is like a recipe for a happy family. First, there's attachment, which is like a strong bond between family members, especially parents and children. It is what makes families stick together through thick and thin. Then there's interdependence, which means relying on each other and helping each other when needed. Closeness is also about being physically and emotionally close to each other. Trust is another key ingredient - knowing that your family has your back no matter what. And intimacy is about sharing your deepest thoughts and feelings with each other. Love ties it all together and makes the family bond even stronger. Van Wel's (1994) outlines seven key values that contribute to strong family bonds:

- a. Attachment: Attachment within a family is a multifaceted concept that includes emotional closeness and security. It's the foundation of family relationships, especially between parents and children. This bond is nurtured through shared experiences, affectionate gestures, and consistent emotional support. For example, a parent who comforts a child after a nightmare not only reassures the child, but also strengthens the attachment bond by demonstrating reliability and caring. This emotional connection forms the basis for trust and intimacy within the family unit, which promotes resilience in times of adversity.

- b. **Commitment:** Commitment to the family unit involves a deep sense of loyalty, obligation, and dedication. It's an unwavering determination to place the well-being and harmony of the family above individual interests. This commitment is demonstrated through consistent efforts to nurture relationships, resolve conflicts, and provide support. For example, setting aside regular family time in the midst of busy schedules demonstrates a commitment to maintaining strong family bonds. Such dedication fosters a sense of security and stability within the family, laying the foundation for mutual respect and cooperation.
- c. **Interdependence:** Interdependence emphasizes the interconnectedness of family members, where each individual's actions and well-being have a significant impact on others. It's the recognition that the family functions as a cohesive unit that relies on mutual support and cooperation to thrive. For example, when a family member becomes ill, others step in to share responsibilities and provide care, illustrating the interdependent nature of family relationships. family relationships. This interdependence fosters a sense of unity and solidarity, encouraging empathy and reciprocity among family members.
- d. **Closeness:** Closeness within a family goes beyond physical proximity to include emotional connectedness and a sense of belonging. It's the feeling of comfort and security that comes from shared experiences, open communication, and mutual understanding. Gathering around the dinner table to share a meal and engage in meaningful conversation is an example of family closeness. This regular interaction fosters a sense of unity and strengthens family bonds, creating a supportive environment where individuals feel valued and accepted. An example of closeness within a family is when everyone gathers around the dinner table to share a meal and talk about their day. During this time, family members engage in conversation, share stories, and support each other.
- e. **Trust:** Trust is the cornerstone of a healthy family dynamic, built on confidence and reliability in each other's intentions and actions. It's the belief that family members can rely on each other for support, understanding, and respect. For example, siblings who confide in each other about personal struggles demonstrate a high level of trust because they feel safe knowing that their vulnerabilities will be met with empathy and confidentiality. This trust provides the foundation for open communication and emotional intimacy within the family, which fosters a sense of security and belonging.

- f. Intimacy: Intimacy within the family involves the deep and vulnerable sharing of thoughts, feelings, and experiences, which fosters emotional connection and connection and understanding. It's a willingness to be authentic and vulnerable with one another, creating a safe space for expression and acceptance. For example, parents who share their own life experiences with their children not only strengthen the parent-child bond, but also cultivate empathy and mutual respect. This emotional intimacy fosters a sense of closeness and support within the family that enables individuals life's challenges together with resilience and compassion.
- g. Love: Love is the fundamental value that underlies all aspects of family life, characterized by deep affection, care, and acceptance. It's the unbreakable bond that transcends conflict and challenges, providing a sense of security and belonging. For example, prioritizing each other's happiness and well-being, even in the face of disagreement, exemplifies the enduring power of love within the family. This unconditional love fosters resilience and emotional well-being, creating a strong sense of unity and connection that enriches the lives of all family members.

RESEARCH METHODS

This research employs a qualitative analysis based on Van-Wel's (1994) theory of family attachment values. Van Wel's theory outlines seven key values that contribute to strong family bonds to strong family bonds that consist of attachment, commitment, interdependence, closeness, trust, intimacy, and love. Braun and Clarke (2020) also emphasize that a qualitative method is needed to provide in-depth understanding of human behavior, emotions, and social interactions, making it suitable for analyzing films, literature, and cultural phenomena. This approach is particularly valuable for investigating the depiction of relationships and emotional connections in the film, as it allows for an in-depth exploration of how characters interact and develop bonds within a non-traditional family structure. The primary data for this study will consist of dialogues from the film *Shoplifters*. These dialogues will be analyzed thematically using Van Wel's (1994) theoretical framework, which identifies seven key dimensions of interpersonal relationships: attachment, commitment, interdependence, closeness, trust, intimacy, and love. By examining the spoken interactions among the characters, this study aims to uncover how these relational dimensions are represented and evolve throughout the film.

The data collection process will involve transcribing relevant dialogues from the film, focusing on scenes that prominently feature expressions of emotional connection, dependency, and familial bonding. These dialogues will be categorized based on Van Wel's seven dimensions, and patterns will be identified to understand the underlying messages conveyed by the film regarding family dynamics and emotional attachments.

RESULT AND DISCUSSIONS

Table 1. frequency of Van-wel bonding theory

No.	Bonding theory	Occurrences	Percentage %
1.	Attachment	1	7.14%
2.	Commitment	1	7.14%
3.	Interdependence	2	14.29%
4.	Closeness	2	14.29%
5.	Trust	3	21.43%
6.	Intimacy	2	14.29%
7.	Love	3	21.43%
Total		14	100%

Discussions

a. Attachment

Scene: Osamu and Shota find Yuri in front of her house alone (04:18- 04:55)

Shota : Who is she? Osamu: She's arrived again. What is wrong? Where is your mom?

Shota : Hey, let's go. They will get cold.

Osamu: But she., wants to eat a croquette? **Want to eat croquette.**

In this conversation, Osamu found Yuri sitting alone in front of his porch with a sad face. Osamu showed his concern for the girl he didn't recognize and tried to talk to her. Osamu took

the initiative to give her the croquette he had just bought with Shota earlier. “Want to eat croquette?”. These conversations mark the beginning of attachment, where care and concern start to emerge. Yuri's response hesitation but eventual acceptance of the food suggests that she, too, is seeking attachment. Having likely suffered neglect, she is drawn toward the warmth of Osamu's offer. This interaction sets the stage for deeper emotional ties. The first signs of attachment appear when Osamu and Shota find Yuri in the cold, abandoned outside her home. Osamu instinctively offering her food is a simple act that sets the stage for emotional connection even, they don't have biological connection.

b. Commitment

Scene: Yuri in Osamu House with the rest of the Osamu family (05:30-05:42)

Nobuyo: how old? Yuri : (four sign fingers) Nobuyo: pre school?

yuri : (nod her head)

Nobuyo: After you have fed her, take her home.

Osamu : **It's so cold outside, I will take her home tomorrow.**

In this conversation, Osamu, Nobuyo, and Yuri are having a conversation when Yuri is brought to their house by asking intense questions about Yuri. Nobuyo seems unhappy with Yuri's arrival in the midst of their difficulties. “How old?”, Yuri just answers by hand because she is too scared to answer Nobuyo's question, “pre-school?”, again Yuri just nod her head, Nobuyo didn't want Yuri to make things difficult for himself and his family so he told Osamu to bring Yuri home. “After you have fed her, take her home” but Osamu's response was quite the opposite, “it's so cold outside, I will take her home tomorrow”. Osamu chose to have Yuri stay at their house because he cared about her. This conversation hesitation as they do not yet see themselves as Yuri's caretakers. However, their actions contradict their words Osamu delays returning her, signaling a subconscious commitment. Nobuyo solidifies her commitment when Yuri wets the bed, a moment that would have triggered punishment in her biological home. Instead, Nobuyo comforts her. This small but powerful exchange marks Nobuyo's transition from reluctance to commitment. The turning point of commitment is when Osamu and Nobuyo discuss whether to return Yuri to her abusive home. Nobuyo insists that they should not get involved. When the family discusses whether to return Yuri to her abusive

parents, Nobuyo initially resists but ultimately chooses to keep her and she wants to reinforce the idea to grow- up her through doing acts of care for her.

c. Interdependence

Scene: Osamu Shota and Yuri after successfully stealing from a shop (31:18-31:35)

Osamu: Yuri, you did a great job too

Osamu: In this situation, the trick is not to panic and wait for a clerk to go on break.

Shota : **we don't need her help**

Osamu: this is what you call work sharing

Shota : What is that?

Osamu: It means exactly what it sounds like, we are sharing the work.

In this conversation, Osamu, Shota and Yuri had just stolen a store and managed to take two very expensive fishing rods. Osamu and Shota teach Yuri how to steal and Yuri does them a favor by helping Shota to get out of the store without getting caught, but Shota says that he doesn't need Yuri help to steal because all this time he was stealing with his father in the shop. "we don't need her help". but Osamu said, "this is what you call work share", to make sure Yuri's presence can also help them and that they can work together, Osamu also emphasized the importance of cooperation in a family. This scene depicts their mutual dependence where each person has their own role. The mutual dependence is further emphasized when Osamu loses his job due to the accident he experienced, and Nobuyo takes over to steal items from the store to make money. Their discussion about money reveals how financial survival depends on everyone's contributions. The Shibata family operates through reciprocal dependence, where each member contributes in certain ways to sustain their life together.

d. Closeness

Scene Yuri and Nobuyo take a bath together (48:00-48:20)

Yuri: What happened there?

Nobuyo: this? I got burned by the hot iron.

Yuri: me too

Nobuyo: **We are the same, it's ok, it's all better.**

In this conversation, Yuri and Nobuyo bathe together and they talk about their scars where suddenly Yuri asks about the scars on Nobuyo's hand. Yuri and Nobuyo have burn scars on their hands, where Yuri got the scar from her biological parents and Nobuyo got the burn scar from her job. "What happened to you there?", Nobuyo reply " this? I got burned with the hot iron." Yuri showed her hand scars. "Me too". and Nobuyo replied warmly "We're the same, it's ok, it's all better." This conversation depicts the closeness between Nobuyo and Yuri when Nobuyo says they both have scars on their hands. The conversations between the two of them emphasize that family is built through care, even though Yuri is not her biological child. One of the most tender moments in the film occurs when Nobuyo bathes Yuri and cares for her with a level of attention that she may never have received from her biological parents. In this scene, it depicts the emotional and physical closeness between Yuri and Nobuya, who cares deeply and affectionately for Yuri, even though she is someone else's child and not his biological daughter.

e. Trust

Scene: Nobuyo give Yuri new clothes (45:49-47:05)

Nobuyo: Well, this is great, get this one.

Yuri : (Shaking her head)

Nobuyo: You don't want this? Why?

Yuri : won't you hit me? You won't hit me later?

Nobuyo: **I'm won't hit you**

In this conversation, Nobuyo and Yuri were at a clothing store and Nobuyo wanted to buy Yuri a new dress but Yuri refused. Yuri doubts Nobuyo's kindness and affection towards her and feels that if Nobuyo gives her new clothes, she will beat her just like her original mother used to do. " won't hit me? You won't hit me later?", So Yuri asked for a guarantee to confirm her trust that she now believes she is safe in this new family. Yuri's trauma makes her hesitant to trust Nobuyo. "I'm not going to hit you", Nobuyo assures Yuri that he won't hurt her like he thought he would. It can be seen that Nobuya's kindness can help Yuri overcome her past trauma caused by her parents' behavior towards her, so that Yuri can trust Nobuyo. Trust develops

through consistent interactions between Yuri and Nobuyo, who gradually get closer, and Yuri's trust can happen.

f. Intimacy

Scene: Aku and Yuri talk in front of the mirror (41:57-42:35)

Aki: Your hair is naturally brown, I'm jealous of your hair.

Yuri: **I also have another name.**

Aki: What is that?

Yuri: Sayaka.

Aki: I prefer Lin better.

Yuri: I prefer Lin better too.

In this conversation, Aki and Yuri were sitting in front of the mirror after they both wanted to see Yuri's hair after being cut short by Nobuyo. Aki looks very fascinated with Yuri who looks adorable with his new hair and convinces Yuri to choose a new name after the Osama family decides to take care of Yuri. There Aki makes Yuri comfortable with him and shares stories where Aki says that he also has another name. "I have another name too." so Yuri finally decided to choose her name. "I like Lin better". This conversation shows emotional closeness because Yuri feels safe enough to share part of her past with Aki, who responds by jokingly changing her name. By sharing their identities, they acknowledge their past while choosing a new definition of themselves within this family, which reflects the closeness of non-biological siblings with love and comfort for each other. This emotional closeness fosters a sense of intimacy and support within the family, enabling individuals to face life's challenges together despite the accompanying hardships. Although Osamu's family faces life's challenges, the love and care that envelop this family make their relationships close and filled with warm closeness.

g. Love

Scene: Osamu, Yuri and Shota talk each other about Yuri's presence in their family (31:50-32:02)

Shota : she is on her way

Osamu: Don't say that, she is your sister

Shota : She is not my sister!

Osamu: she is your sister, Yuri is your sister!

Shota : (run away)

Osamu: **you're his sister right?** It's not a huge deal. He does not mean it.

In this conversation, Osamu, Shota and Yuri walk together after successfully stealing from a store, Osamu dan Shota are debating Yuri's presence in their family, by saying that "She's not my sister!". and Osamu assured Shota that Yuri was part of their family, "she's your sister, Yuri is your sister! " and then Osamu reassured Yuri by saying "you're his sister right?". and Osamu also reassured Yuri by saying, "It's not a big deal. He doesn't mean it". The conversations show Osamu's love for Yuri by saying that Yuri is Shota's sister and also her daughter. The Shibata family reflects love where emotional bonds replace traditional family structures. Osamu's emphasis reflects the idea that family is a performative act that embodies the decision to love and care for someone without the need for blood ties. From this dialogue, a family situation is depicted that opposes biological determinism by suggesting that family is not about genetics but about consistent actions of care, commitment, and love. this dialog characterized by deep affection, care, and acceptance. It's the unbreakable bond that transcends conflict and challenges, providing a sense of security and belonging between Osamu to Yuri.

CONCLUSION

Through an analysis of Shoplifters using Van Wel's theory, this study demonstrates that family values are not solely defined by biological connections but rather by emotional bonds and mutual care. Among the seven components analyzed, trust (21.43%) and love (21.43%) emerged as the most dominant values. When family members who are not biologically related form strong bonds, trust becomes a crucial element. This is evident in Yuri, who initially feels uneasy and afraid due to her traumatic past but gradually begins to trust Nobuyo and Osamu. Through consistent acts of affection and genuine care, Yuri's emotional state shifts from fear to a sense of security and protection. This transformation illustrates how trust is built through emotional support and shared experiences, transcending biological relationships. Similarly, love acts as the foundation that binds the family together. Osamu insists that Yuri is a part of his family, despite not being her biological father. His unwavering commitment to her well-being demonstrates that love, rather than blood ties, is the true force that strengthens family

bonds. Through these two key values, Shoplifters challenges the traditional notion of family based solely on biological connections. Osamu and his family show that profound emotional experiences can shape family values, with love and trust serving as their core foundation. This shift redefines family values, transforming them from a structure traditionally based on lineage

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