



The Audience's Acceptance of a Single Parent in The Film "Susah Sinyal"

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ABSTRACT

Children raised by single parents often face more difficulties in family relationships than children raised in intact families. Single parents frequently struggle to balance work and parental responsibilities. Ernest Prakasa's film *Susah Sinyal* attempts to raise awareness of the phenomenon of single parenthood by depicting the relationship and struggles of a single mother and her daughter. The objectives of this study were to (1) examine how the audience interprets the representation of single parents in films, and (2) investigate how this representation influences the audience's understanding of single-parent life in the real world. This study included five children raised by single parents. This is a descriptive study that is divided into two stages using the reception analysis method. The first step is to perform content analysis or encoding. The second stage is decoding, which includes a Focused Group Discussion (FGD). The findings indicate that the representation of single parents in the film has various meanings for the audience. They felt that the film accurately represented their point of view while others said no. This film does not provide many new ideas or alternative perspectives on single-parent family life. Furthermore, the message conveyed in this film could be a reflection of Indonesian society.

Keywords: single-parent, film, reception analysis

INTRODUCTION

Single parenting has become increasingly common in many countries, including Indonesia, over the last few decades. The number of single parents is increasing, constituting a growing minority group. According to the data from the Ministry of Religion, there are approximately two million marriages each year, but the number of single parents has also doubled. As a result, it can be assumed that for every 100 people who marry, approximately ten of them choose to separate and not continue the marriage, resulting in these individuals becoming single parents. Single parents are individuals who raise children and manage the household without the assistance of their partner, whether husband or wife, as a result of divorce or the death of one of the partners.

Women and men who are single parents frequently experience emotional issues such as loss and loneliness, as well as financial difficulties and other social problems (Apirnayanti, 2013). In Indonesia, the percentage of single mothers is 14.84%, while the percentage of single fathers is 4.05% (Pagarwati & Fauziah, 2020). Several social and economic factors can contribute to this phenomenon. One of them is the shift in marriage and divorce patterns in society, which results in women and men becoming single parents. Furthermore, increased social mobility can impact this phenomenon, as better employment or educational opportunities frequently require one parent to live away from the family and be solely responsible for the children's upbringing.

The primary responsibility of parents, including single parents, is to raise high-quality children. Single parents are frequently expected to go above and beyond for their children for them to develop in the same way that children raised in intact families do. Divorce is a common occurrence that can interfere with children's development due to parents' absence. When compared to children raised in intact families, children raised in single-parent households exhibit negative behaviors such as pessimism, fear, and susceptibility to illness. They are resentful because of the loss or vacancy of a parent's role in their lives, which frequently leads to behavioral changes (Kartini, 1990).

Family conflicts that cause tension can also shape a child's personality (Rahayu, 2002). Furthermore, single parents must provide good care and care so that their children can adapt to an environment appropriate for their age because parenting is the most important factor in shaping a child's attitude. Single parents must make certain that their children receive adequate attention and care. They must set a good example and provide consistent emotional support to help children cope with the changes and challenges their family situation may bring. The openness and honesty of single parents with their children is critical. Children must be given opportunities to express their emotions, express their concerns, and ask questions.

Parenting, according to [Adawiah \(2017\)](#), refers to behavior used by parents to raise their children, which can vary and be consistent over time. This parenting style has a significant impact on the development of children, both positively and negatively. Different parenting styles will be used in each family, which will be influenced by the parents' outlook on life and personal values. Children have frequent interactions with their families during their growth period. Interactions between children and their families shape their behavior patterns toward other people in their surroundings. Children's interactions with family members influence their interactions with friends, neighbors, and society in general. This interaction can result in behavioral patterns such as the ability to form social relationships, manage conflict, demonstrate empathy, and respect the needs and boundaries of others.

The parenting style used by parents significantly influences the child's personality, including children who can grow into confident children, take the initiative in making decisions, are ambitious in achieving dreams and pursuing desires, have emotional stability, and are responsible. Furthermore, parenting styles influence adolescent emotional maturity. Parents are the first and most important institution in a child's life. The family is the first social group with which children interact socially. This interaction in the family environment will shape the pattern of children's behavior toward other people later in life. Parenting style is one of the factors that form the foundation of adolescent behavior because children will always observe, value, and imitate their parent's behavior and habits. According to [Fellasari and Yuliana's \(2016\)](#) research, parenting styles can influence adolescents' emotional maturity. The parenting style adopted by parents has a significant relationship with adolescent emotional maturity. The way parents raise and educate their children has a direct impact on adolescents' emotional development. Children are more likely to develop healthy emotional maturity when they receive positive and supportive parenting. In contrast, inconsistent, authoritarian, or unresponsive parenting styles can stifle adolescents' emotional development. Adolescents will develop the ability to manage emotions, deal with stress, and build healthy social relationships if their parents love, understand, and provide appropriate boundaries. In contrast, [Purwanti \(2013\)](#), claims that parenting and emotional maturity have nothing to do with each other.

Emotional maturity occurs when a person has a high level of awareness about his or her own needs, desires, ambitions, and integrated feelings. A person is said to be emotionally mature when he or she has a stable emotional reaction. Furthermore, emotional maturity entails the ability to suppress or control emotions that arise naturally, even in unfavorable situations. Adolescent behavior patterns are heavily influenced by emotional maturity. When a person reaches emotional maturity, he or she becomes more realistic and cautious in making

decisions, no longer acting rashly. The role of parents in developing adolescent emotional maturity is critical because parents are the first to actively manage and educate their children for them to achieve emotional maturity. Parenting style, which is a pattern of parental attitudes or treatment of adolescents, has its own influence on adolescent behavior. It affects not only emotional maturity, but also the development of their emotional, social, and intellectual competencies (Lumenta et al, 2019). A teenager is said to have emotional maturity if he exhibits characteristics such as the ability to easily convey love and affection, the ability to face the realities of life that are often not under wishes or expectations, the ability to learn life lessons, think positively about himself, is full of hopes and dreams, has an interest in giving, and the ability to resolve conflicts in a constructive way (Kapri & Rani, 2014). When parents can provide a positive environment that supports a child's growth and development of emotional maturity, this is very possible to realize. This includes emotional support, empathy-based listening, assisting youth in understanding and managing their emotions and teaching healthy self-control strategies.

However, there are still concerns in society about the success of parenting in a single-parent family. This is primarily due to the perception that single-parent families are unstable, especially if they result from divorce. There are various types of parenting, such as democratic, authoritarian, liberal, and disengaged parenting. Democratic parenting entails prioritizing the child's interests while maintaining proper control. Meanwhile, authoritarian parenting is distinguished by the imposition of strict standards, which is frequently accompanied by threats. In contrast to the liberal parenting style, which gives children a lot of freedom with little supervision. Finally, disengaged parenting occurs when parents have a limited amount of time and resources to devote to their children. It is important to note that a child's personality development is strongly linked to his or her parents' parenting style. Parents are expected to be capable of providing their children with wise and responsible parenting (Anggreni & Notobroto, 2017). Although society has doubts about the success of parenting in single-parent families, it is critical to recognize that each family has its own dynamics and challenges. Parenting in a single-parent family can provide a good environment for child development with proper support and awareness of the importance of the role of parents.

Single parents are classified into two groups: those who have never been married and those who have previously been married. The separation between spouses can be caused by a variety of factors, including employment differences, the death of a spouse, and divorce. Single parents have a dual responsibility in the family, which is to provide for their children's emotional and physical needs. Emotional needs include giving children attention and affection as well as

protection, whereas physical needs include clothing, food, education, health insurance, and other physical necessities (Apirnayanti, 2013).

Being a single mother is a difficult struggle for women because they must face the demands of raising children alone and meeting the needs of family life while also dealing with negative attitudes from their peers about their status as a single-parents. Single parents are responsible for balancing work and meeting their children's needs while providing adequate love. As the only parent present, they must be well-organized in terms of managing their time and day-to-day responsibilities. However, as a single mother, there are frequently conflicts in dividing time between being a mother and father to children and carrying out daily work tasks.

They must strike a balance between providing adequate attention and affection to children while also fulfilling their job responsibilities. Consistent presence as mother and father figures in the lives of children is a top priority, but it must also be balanced with financial needs and work demands. They fulfill their natural role as mothers by nurturing and raising children and managing the household. Even though they are working, they can keep an eye on the situation at home. Every mother must recognize the significance of assisting her children in developing mental independence. Everything revolves around love. Mothers play an important role in providing children with age-appropriate understanding. It is impossible to deny that the mother's understanding will have a significant psychological impact on the child's behavior. As a result, mothers must provide a comfortable and safe environment in which their children can develop self-confidence (Sary, 2021).

The incomplete structure of a single-family is associated with vulnerability in economic, social, and psychological aspects. Many people associate deviant behavior and delinquency in children with single-parent families. As a result, parents must set a good example for their children to prevent them from engaging in negative behavior. The role of parents as role models in the socialization process of their children has a strong influence on their attitudes and behavior and shapes the development of their personality. However, if there are no or few positive role models among single parents, socialization may be hampered. As a result, children frequently require examples from other family members or significant figures in their environment (Wahyuni, 2016).

Communication plays a critical role in facilitating interactions between individuals, and mass communication is one form of communication that has a broad impact. Although many people associate the mass media with television and radio, they frequently overlook the fact that film is also an important and influential part of the mass media. The film has a strong appeal as a form of entertainment and art that combines visual elements, narrative, and emotional

impact to convey messages to a diverse audience. As a result, certain effects can be achieved in films (Beely, 2015).

Rapid technological advancements have resulted in film becoming a more advanced product. In today's world, where science and technology are rapidly evolving, filmmakers are increasingly competing to create more creative and innovative works. Advances in cinematography, visual effects, shooting techniques, and audio processing have provided filmmakers with limitless opportunities to explore various ideas and bring them to life in stunning ways. Films are not only intended for entertainment or commercial purposes but also to influence the audience's perspective on the issues they depict, which is driven by the filmmakers' expectations for their work (Wibawa, 2013). The film has ability to reach out to various segments of society while also benefiting society as a whole. Communication occurs in a film not only between individuals or groups but also within the family context (Budi & Reni, 2012).

Film, as a form of popular culture expression, serves as both a source of entertainment and a medium of communication. The film incorporates a variety of elements, including information, entertainment, and cultural transmission. Despite being a work of art, the film conveys concepts and values concerning humanity, education, social issues, the economy, ideology, culture, history, the environment, and politics (Kristianto, 2015). The family is the smallest unit in society that plays an important role, and families are frequently raised as the central theme of films because they are the center of everyday life, which can present strong conflicts, emotions, and stories. In various ways, films construct narratives and convey messages about families. There is a communication pattern in the film that involves not only communication between individuals or groups but also communication within the family context.

When it comes to family communication, each parent takes their own approach to educating and raising their children, to assist them in becoming individuals who make a positive contribution to themselves, their families, their surroundings, and their country. In general, this parenting style has been shown to be effective in assisting children to grow up to meet their parents' expectations. However, keep in mind that some parenting styles can unintentionally shape children into individuals who are contrary to the parent's intentions.

Every family member, including parents and children, must actively participate for effective family communication to take place. One of the most important aspects of successful family communication is openness. Each family member is expected to openly share their thoughts, feelings, and experiences, both verbally and nonverbally. Each member of the family is allowed to express their views with respect and to listen attentively in healthy family communication. In addition to openness, communication ethics is very important. Parents involve

their children in family discussions without imposing their will or exerting undue control over their activities (Littlejohn & Foss, 2009).

The family's role in the process of individual development is critical. The family is not only the place where people are born and raised, but it is also the environment in which they develop psychologically, emotionally, and socially. Communication within the family unit is crucial in shaping one's self-image from an early age. Family communication entails the use of both verbal and nonverbal cues, such as words, body movements, voice intonation, and actions, all of which contribute to the formation of expectations, the expression of feelings, sharing, and caring (Beely, 2015). Growing up in a family with open communication among its members often results in individuals who exhibit positive traits in society as a whole.

Films about single parents reflect reality and frequently depict cultural stereotypes about the family and family members' roles. They also offer a real critique and a different perspective on family life. The formation of relationships and interactions among family members is emphasized in family-themed films (Sutherland & Feltey, 2010). Single-parent films typically depict three conflicts: the relationship with children, sexuality, and work (Valdivia, 1998). The abundance of films depicting single-parent families reflects contemporary society, which frequently lives with only one parent. The presence of films depicting the lives of single-parent families raises awareness of the difficulties and challenges they face in raising their children alone. The narrative presented in the film allows the audience to gain a better understanding of the complexities of single parents' roles and responsibilities. These films can also be used to spark discussion and debate about social issues concerning the family and the role of parents. They reflect various societal realities, such as divorce, the death of a spouse, or the conscious decision to become a single parent. Films can often provide a broader perspective and enrich our understanding of various family life contexts. Furthermore, the film's strong and complex characters show how single parents struggle with feelings of anxiety, worry, and guilt, and how they try to strike a balance between meeting the needs of their children and maintaining their personal lives. Films can inspire and motivate single parents while also conveying important messages about the value of social support and empathy in dealing with life's challenges.

There has been an increase in the number of family films featuring women as mothers and fathers over the last few decades, highlighting the important role women play in society. Although media freedom in Indonesia is increasing, many films still depict women as objects in various contexts and opportunities. Women's representation in films has a significant impact because films have the power to change people's perceptions.

The life of a single mother is a topic that is frequently raised in films as a

reflection of social reality. Even though films play an important role in broadening understanding of this reality, there is still a tendency to portray single mothers and the roles they play negatively. Additionally, other media content frequently reinforces stereotypes and portrays single mothers as weak, incapacitated, or unstable. This is not only harmful to single mothers individually, but it also has an impact on society's perception of them. As a result, because film can influence and shape people's views through the messages it conveys, it is frequently used as a medium to describe the reality of a single mother's life.

"Susah Sinyal" is the film being studied in this study. This film was chosen because it is an Indonesian film that features women as central characters and tells the story of a single mother's struggle to balance parenting and her work. This study is significant because most Indonesian films depict single mothers with negative images or connotations (Ghaisani, 2020). Defrienda Helga Yomia's (2020) research, "Representation of Single Working Moms in Prenjak Film: Charles Sanders Peirce's Semiotic Analysis," examines the character of single mothers in a film. The research findings show that in a patriarchal society, women often occupy the lowest position and are discriminated against, as seen in the film Prenjak.

This film depicts the character of a mother as a weak, vulnerable object, and often faces hardships and discrimination. Single mothers are also often faced with negative stigma when they work, are seen as second-class citizens, and are considered to be able to damage other people's household relationships. Gender inequality in the social system and the lack of awareness of gender issues in Indonesian films are contributing factors to this phenomenon. Another study entitled "Representasi Peran Ibu dalam Film Ibu Maafkan Aku" by Febriyanti et al (2019) showed that the character of single mothers is often associated with patriarchal culture and the social burden placed on women. Mothers are portrayed as weak objects and often experience discrimination in these film, making it reveals how films in Indonesia are less responsive to gender issues. In addition, this research also provides benefits in raising awareness of gender norms that still exist in society. This study demonstrates how women in that role bear the social burden by analyzing the representation of single mothers in films. This is critical in raising awareness of the need to overcome gender stereotypes and discrimination in the film industry, as well as encouraging changes in women's understanding and portrayal in a more just social context. As a result, the purpose of this research is to examine how the audience interprets the representation of single parents in the film depicted through the role of a single mother, and how this affects their understanding of single-family life in the real world. The difference between this research and previous research is that this research focuses not only on how to describe the character of the mother but also on how single

mothers' relationships with their children. As a result, the findings of this study will almost certainly differ from those of previous research.

The interpretive research paradigm was used in this study. Researchers hope to effectively describe the relationship between phenomena using this paradigm. Furthermore, this paradigm was chosen to gain a better understanding and explanation of social phenomena. This paradigm seeks to understand phenomena through the eyes of the people involved, allowing for multiple interpretations and hermeneutics (Elshafie, 2013). The interpretive paradigm is more sensitive to individual meanings and contributions than the positivist research philosophy, which views reality as subjective and variable depending on the individual (Alharahsheh & Abraham, 2020). Purposive sampling was used in this study. Researchers purposefully choose subjects who meet specific criteria relevant to the research objectives, such as age and relationship with parents.

This is a descriptive study that employs the Reception Analysis method. This method is used to interpret and comprehend a person's motivations for their social actions (Neuman, 2014). Reception Analysis is a type of audience research that investigates the meaning and production of human experience through the use of media that is conceptualized as text or verbal and visual discourse (Schrder, 2016). The researcher hopes to be able to provide an overview of the research phenomenon to the audience using this method so that a detailed explanation and description of the problems that occur in society can be obtained. The Reception Analysis method, which consists of encoding and decoding processes, is used to draw valid conclusions from contexts to provide knowledge, new perspectives, factual representations, or actionable guidelines. The research team watched the film and then classified all of the scenes during the encoding stage.

Unlike the decoding stage, the FGD stage involves gathering groups of people to discuss a topic with interesting goals based on complex personal experiences, perceptions, beliefs, and attitudes of participants through moderated interactions (Nyumba et al, 2018). Although qualitative content analysis does not require the use of focus groups as a data collection technique in general, focus groups can be used to complete data that cannot be obtained through content analysis. The simultaneous use of content analysis and FGD techniques is expected to yield complementary data sets, resulting in a more holistic picture of the phenomena observed. Data from the content analysis will be combined with FGD data to create a more comprehensive presentation.

The stages of the research are based on Stuart Hall's belief that the relationship between social structures, processes, and forms or structures of symbols is critical for cultural analysis. The encoding and decoding models are interconnected. This interconnection, according to Hall, is related to technology and hermeneutic processes via meaning and/or ideological movement towards a

“sign vehicle” (which in this model is called encoding) which is then translated through consumption (which in this model is called decoding). and then become a part of the structure impacted by the manufacture of the “new sign vehicle” (Bodker, 2016).

This research is divided into two stages based on this understanding. The first stage is content analysis or encoding of the “Susah Sinyal” film. At this point, the researcher attempts to capture the encoding process that applies to the film to obtain the message contained within it. The second stage of decoding involves holding focus groups with subjects chosen based on criteria, such as children from single-parent families. The subjects of this study are five children from single-parent families who are all students at Brawijaya University’s Faculty of Social and Political Sciences.

RESULTS AND DISCUSSION

Analysis of the audience's reception of the representation of single parents in the film “Susah Sinyal”

“Susah Sinyal” is an Indonesian film directed by Ernest Prakasa and produced by Starvision Productions. The film lasts 1 hour and 50 minutes and was released in theaters on December 21, 2017. The premiere of this film received an extraordinary response, with 120 thousand people watching it, and the film’s total audience was more than 2 million people. The theme of this comedy film is a single-parent family. The plot of this film revolves around a workaholic single mother who is at odds with her 17-year-old daughter. Ellen, a single mother, is a busy lawyer who lives apart from her daughter, Kiara. Kiara is a high school student who prefers to spend time with her grandmother. Their relationship is strained, and because they don’t spend much time together, they rarely communicate (Garjito, 2021).



Source: [Garjito, 2021](#)

Figure 1. Film poster of “Susah Sinyal”

In the context of communication, encoding refers to the process by which information sources translate their thoughts and ideas into a form that the recipient can understand. It entails converting information from a conceptual form to a form that the recipient's five senses can perceive or receive. The encoding process can be completed in a single step or in a series of stages that include word selection, sentence structure, voice intonation, body movements, and facial expressions. Encoding is like mentally designing a message, whereas the message itself is the concrete result of the encoding process that the recipient can feel or receive. Thus, encoding is critical in conveying information to the recipient clearly and effectively. With the decoding process, this message will be transformed into a meaningful message. The first stage of encoding or content analysis yielded 12 messages contained in this film, nine of which were related to the relationship between parents and children while three to the extended family. (Shaw, 2017).

This film contains 12 messages. The first point is that, as a single parents, parents must balance earning a living and caring for their children. This reflects the difficulties that single parents face in fulfilling their overall responsibilities. The second point is that single parents' multiple roles have an impact on the upbringing of their children. The presence of single parents who must deal with financial demands and household responsibilities frequently has an impact on the interactions and time they have with their children. Of course, this has an impact on the parenting style that is formed, both in terms of supervision, meeting needs, communicating, and emotionally involving single parents with their children. According to Nur (2019), there is a concern for parents because they must work hard while carrying out their responsibilities as single parents. Furthermore, single parents, whether fathers or mothers, must meet their affection needs, provide emotional support to their children, and deal with financial burdens on their own.

The third point is that single parents are less involved in their children's daily lives. Furthermore, single parents have many priorities, so they are often unable to be directly involved with their children's activities and only see from the parent's perspective without knowing the child's point of view. The sixth point is that single parents try to limit their children's activities without first discussing it with them. For the seventh point, even if they are not directly involved in their child's activities, single parents expect strict adherence to the rules. The eighth point is that supervision by single parents tends to be lower in terms of their ignorance of children's activities at school. Furthermore, the ninth point is the firm attitude shown by single parents when children do not obey the rules they make.

These examples demonstrate the complexities of single parents' roles and the difficulties they face in carrying out their responsibilities effectively. According

to [Salsabila and Tarigan \(2021\)](#), children must develop responsible behavior at a young age and throughout their development. According to the findings of this study, [Nurmasita and Rofiah \(2018\)](#) discovered that parental involvement has an impact on children's responsibilities. As a result, parents play an important role in shaping their children's responsible behavior. The presence of a single parent as the only source of role in the family, on the other hand, frequently presents challenges for children in terms of responsible behavior.

The tenth and eleventh points are that the extended family and those around them play a role in single-parent upbringing, as evidenced by suggestions, input, and opinions on the development of children, as well as their role in supervising children. On the twelfth point, it is stated that children become closer to their extended family and the people around them who are entrusted to look after them than to their parents. In general, these three points highlight the importance of the extended family and people around them in assisting single parents in carrying out their responsibilities effectively and creating a positive environment for child development. The concept of social capital is extremely relevant to the role and support provided by extended families for single parents. Social capital becomes a strong foundation for building a supportive environment for single parents with the role and support of the family and the surrounding community ([Razif & Utari, 2014](#)).

The decoding analysis stage of this research is FGD (Focused Group Discussion). The FGD activities were carried out twice because, in the first FGD, there were no answers that met the criteria and the research objectives had not been achieved. The results of the audience acceptance discussion are summarized in a table regarding audience opinions as follows:

Table 1. The content of the film and the audience's reception

No	Content	Dominant	Negotiated	Opposition
1.	The multiple roles of parents	4	1	--
2.	The effect of multiple roles on parenting	5	--	--
3.	Low involvement of the parent	4	1	--

Table 1. The content of the film and the audience's reception

No	Content	Dominant	Negotiated	Opposition
4.	The influence of several priorities on the direct involvement of parents in children's activities	5		--
	Differences in point of view			
5.	Restricting children's activities	3	--	2
6.	High obedience demands on children	1	--	4
7.	Low parental supervision of children	1	--	4
8.	Single parent's strictness toward children	3	--	2
9.	The role of the extended family and the people around it influence the single parent's upbringing of children	5	--	--
10.	Supervision is carried out by the extended family and people around	5	--	--
11.	Children become closer to the extended family and the people around them compared to their parents	5	--	--
12.				

Source: FGD

The following is an explanation for each point in Table 1: The first point is about parents' dual roles, specifically the obligation to work and care for their children. Because single parents must balance these dual roles, the majority of research subjects agree. One of the research subjects stated that they did not agree because single parents could delegate household responsibilities to housekeepers while working. Because there is no partner to share responsibilities in the family, single parents take on multiple roles at once (Rahayu, 2017).

The second point is the effect of multiple roles on parenting, which all research subjects agree on based on the findings of this study. Work and routine coexist (Noviar et al, 2021), which is consistent with the dual roles played by single parents, who must work and care for their children. The obligation to work and care for children creates difficulties in balancing the world of work and the role of a single parent. Parenting for single parents is not the same as parenting for whole

families. They must manage their time wisely, deal with hectic schedules, and ensure that their children receive the attention and support they need.

The third point concerns single parents' lack of involvement in their children's daily activities. The majority of research subjects agreed with the third point because many subjects lived far away from their parents, causing parents to be unaware of all aspects of their children's daily lives. Furthermore, work-related factors can cause parents to pay less attention to their children. One of the research subjects disagreed with the third point because there are still many single parents who try to be involved in their children's daily activities while working full-time. It is up to the individual, according to the subject.

The fourth point concerns the impact of competing priorities on direct participation in children's activities. All research participants agreed on this because single parents frequently prioritize work over being directly involved in their children's daily activities. Single parents' obligation to meet their families' financial needs is a high priority, so they do not have time to be directly involved in their children's daily activities. Single parents are not a new phenomenon in our society. As family heads, they face significant challenges and must shoulder multiple responsibilities. They are responsible not only as breadwinners but also as managers and educators for their children (Ghani & Azis, 2013).

The fifth point is the difference in point of view between single parents and children; as many as three research subjects agree on this point. Because parents have more experience in many areas, they tend to impose their point of view on children. Two research subjects suggest that parents can discuss these different points of view to achieve thought harmony between children and parents. Almost everyone needs social relationships with other people, including children who need to communicate with their parents, and this need is met by exchanging messages that serve as a bridge to unite humans who would be isolated if they did not communicate (Nurhidayah, 2017).

The sixth point concerns restricting children's activities, on which four subjects disagree. According to them, parents are currently making concessions to their children's activity choices. Although one of the female research subjects stated that fathers are very concerned because it is a form of a father's affection for his daughter who tends to be concerned about the future of children who are raised in an incomplete family environment (broken home).

The seventh point is that single parents expect their children to obey them completely. From these points, the four research subjects who disagreed gave identical answers, while one research subject agreed. Point eight relates to low single-parent supervision of children's activities, with three subjects agreeing because the quality time between them is relatively lacking. Meanwhile, two opposing research subjects argued that single parents frequently use technology

such as mobile phones to monitor and check on their children's activities outside the home. For example, single parents may contact their children's friends to inquire about their whereabouts and activities. Furthermore, parents can monitor their children's social media accounts, which are convenient and simple ways for them to connect, exchange information, and convey various messages (Parhan et al., 2021).

The ninth point is single parents' firmness toward their children. When children do not follow existing rules, the film depicts firmness. All subjects agreed on this because parents must remain firm if their children violate the rules. Single parents are obligated to teach their children what is wrong and right for them to become better people. Nonetheless, parents must educate their children by providing them with a good understanding, specifically by not scolding them excessively. An approach that combines assertiveness with good understanding, according to Erzad (2017), can help children understand the consequences of their actions, build discipline, and strengthen healthy and respectful parent-child relationships.

The tenth point is about the extended family and the people who influence the single parent's child-rearing. Children begin to develop social behavior through social interaction. The child has no social skills at first and must learn to adapt to others to be social. They learn this through their surroundings and interactions with family, peers, and other adults. Children can develop mature social skills if their social environment is supportive and provides positive experiences. However, if the social environment is unfavorable, children might demonstrate negative behaviors such as a lack of empathy, selfishness, or self-isolation (Syuhada, 2016). It is depicted in the film when the mother seeks advice on child development from her extended family and others around her. All research subjects agreed because suggestions from extended family and others are frequently taken into account in resolving problems that cannot be resolved between parents and children. The final decision, however, rests with the parents.

The eleventh point concerns supervision by extended family and the surrounding community. All research subjects agree on this point because the extended family and those around them are thought to be capable of providing good supervision and can influence the development of children's personalities. Then, on the twelfth point, the supervision carried out by the extended family and the people around them frequently causes children to become closer to them than to their own parents. As many as three research subjects agree with this because children spend more time with their extended family and the people around them than they do with their parents. As a result, the child will receive more attention from his extended family and the people around him. Although the three subjects agreed, two subjects disagreed because one subject felt closer to his parents than

to his extended family and the people around him, and one subject declared himself neutral (not close to his parents, extended family, or people around him).

According to [Silalahi and Meinarno \(2010\)](#), the family social system includes not only nuclear families but also families who live in a social environment. The family around the nuclear family plays an important role in providing support, assistance, and social interaction. They can offer advice, input, and opinions on children's development, as well as play a role in child supervision. Interactions with extended family, neighbors, and the surrounding community all have an impact on parenting styles and children's development in the larger social environment.

According to the overall results of the reception analysis, research subjects with backgrounds as children from single-parent families generally accept the majority of the content contained in "Susah Sinyal's" Film, though there are two contents that tend to experience rejection, namely regarding activity restrictions and high compliance demands. Based on these findings, it can be concluded that the research subjects assumed a dominant position, namely, they received the message's meaning exactly as it was sent. In this case, whether the subject realizes it or not, the subject receives the message contained in the film, whether it is meaning, value system, behavior, beliefs, etc.

The influence of representation on the audience's understanding of single-family life in the real world

According to the overall results of the reception analysis, research subjects with backgrounds as children from single-parent families generally receive the majority of the content contained in "Susah Sinyal's" film. They can relate the film's experiences and situations to their own lives as children of single parents. Acceptance of the film's content demonstrates that the film's representation has a significant influence on the audience's understanding of single-family life in the real world. Based on these findings, the research subjects assumed a dominant position, as they received the same meaning of the message as when it was sent and rejected two parenting-related contents.

Nonetheless, the film contained some content that was rejected by the majority of the research subjects, namely the Opposite Position. One of the rejected contents was the restriction of children's activities and the implementation of strict adherence to the rules. This demonstrates that the research subjects' approaches to parenting and the freedom given to children in single-parent families differ. Furthermore, the decision of single parents to entrust their children to others, such as grandparents or caregivers, has an impact on child supervision. Because there are limitations to directly supervising children's activities, single parents' supervision becomes indirect. This demonstrates that single parents' dual roles, namely earning a living and managing the household,

have an impact on their ability to provide optimal child supervision (Syuhada, 2016).

It is critical to recognize in the overall reception analysis that each research subject has unique experiences and perspectives on life as a child from a single-parent family. Acceptance of good film content and rejection of some content demonstrates the complexities of single parents' roles and influence in parenting. Understanding and support from family and the surrounding environment can help single parents carry out their responsibilities effectively and provide the necessary protection and supervision for child development (Tjhandy et al, 2021).

When it comes to the message's suitability and acceptance, it is clear that there aren't many new ideas or alternative perspectives on single-parent family life offered in this film. Furthermore, the message conveyed in this film may reflect Indonesian society. At the very least, the people portrayed in this film are no longer taboo in single-parent households. According to previous research, films depicting single parents increased by 29% in 2000, with the majority of films and television programs depicting single-parent families as the background of the main characters (Clark, 2008).

CONCLUSION

Based on the findings of the analysis of audience reception of the representation of single parents in the "Susah Sinyal" film, it can be concluded that research subjects with backgrounds as children from single-parent families generally receive the majority of the content contained in films, though two contents tend to experience rejection. Based on these findings, the research subjects assumed a dominant position, as they received the same meaning of the message as when it was sent. In terms of the impact of representation on the audience's understanding of single-family life in the real world, it is clear that there are few new ideas and alternative points of view in this film. Furthermore, the message conveyed in this film may reflect Indonesian society. It is hoped that this research will spark a new debate in Indonesian cinema about the concept of a single parent attempting to maintain family dignity through the portrayal of a single mother who plays a role in nurturing, educating, and shaping her child's personality. Furthermore, this study is expected to serve as the foundation for future research into the role of "normal" motherhood, which is rarely depicted accurately in films.

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