

# THE ANALYSIS OF EMOTIONAL ABUSE BASED ON RAPUNZEL'S EXPERIENCES IN DISNEY ANIMATED FILM *TANGLED*

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## Abstract

*This is a study on emotional abuse analysis based on Rapunzel's experience in the Disney animated film Tangled. The objectives of this study are to identify the categories of emotional abuse experienced by Rapunzel in the Disney animated film Tangled, and to explain the effect of emotional abuse experienced by Rapunzel in the Disney animated film Tangled. This study used a qualitative descriptive method to analyze the categories and effects in the Disney animated film Tangled. The data is taken from the film script such as dialog, narration, and monologue. The steps used to collect data such as watching movies, reading movie scripts, identifying data, clarifying data, and reducing data. This study, the found four categories of emotional abuse. Rejecting, terrorizing, isolating, and exploiting. There were five data about rejecting, two data about terrorizing, two data about isolating, and one data about exploiting. Then the writer also found the effects of emotional abuse based on the four categories above. Rejecting makes the victim feel worthless, terrorizing makes the victim feel scared and intimidated, isolating makes it difficult for the victim to interact with others, exploiting uses the victim for the perpetrator's benefit.*

**Keywords:** *Emotional abuse, Child rejection, Tangled*

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## 1. INTRODUCTION

In the book *Theory of Literature* by Wellek and Warren, it is said that "literature is a creative activity in a work of art" (15). This means that literature is a forum for conveying ideas that are felt and thought about and then poured into beautiful language with interesting words. Literary works can also take from real life stories or facts found in society, and then put them into writing, which is assembled into stories with language that attracts the attention of others. The language in literary works has aesthetic value as a means of communication, and also conveys an understanding of life in its own way. Literary works can be in the form of films, novels, and others.

That is why movies are the most appropriate learning media. One of the interesting topics to be studied today is emotional abuse, the reality of life today is that the lack of public understanding of emotional abuse has an impact on the lack of reporting of emotional abuse that has occurred. In addition, emotional abuse is difficult to detect because of its invisible effects and emotional abuse is any form of non-physical abuse committed by individuals against other individuals. Victims of emotional abuse have to face repeated threats, intimidation, and isolation that can cause them to feel anxious, fearful, self-blame, feel worthless, inferior, lack confidence in themselves, and become dependent on the abuser (Moglia 3).

Based on the above background, this research focuses on "The Analysis of Emotional Abuse based on Rapunzel's Experiences in Disney Animated Film *Tangled*", the researcher found emotional abuse as a problem in this film and this study wants to provide important information to readers about emotional abuse. Disney animated movie *Tangled* is chosen because, there are social and community issues such as emotional abuse cases that are simply introduced through art in the form of movies. So that the audience is interested in understanding the story of the movie, besides that this movie tells about the bad relationship between foster mothers and foster children and the storyline is easy to understand.

This study formulates the research questions as follows. First, what are emotional abuse categories faced by Rapunzel in Disney animated film *Tangled*, second what are the effects of emotional abuse experiences by Rapunzel in Disney animated film *Tangled*. Based on the questions above, the study has the objectives, as follows, to identify the category of emotional abuse experienced by Rapunzel in the Disney animated film *Tangled*. To explain the effects of emotional abuse experienced by Rapunzel in the Disney animation *Tangled*.

To answer the formulation of the problem, researchers use the theory of Charles Wenar. To answer the first problem formulation, namely what are emotional abuse categories faced by Rapunzel in Disney animated film *Tangled* and psychological studies to answer the second problem formulation, namely what are the effects emotional abuse experienced by Rapunzel in Disney animated film *Tangled*.

There are some previous study is related and relevant with this study, as follows, The topic of emotional abuse with the research title "Emotional Abuse in Danielle Steep's Novel "Big Girl" was written by Hastika in 2013. This study was to determine the categories of emotional abuse that occur in the main character in the novel "Big Girl",

analyze and explain consequences based on these categories. Another study that also uses emotional abuse as a topic with the research title "The Analysis of Emotional Abuse in a memoir by Richard B. Pelzer, "A Brother's Journey: surviving a Childhood of Abuse" by Martin in 2004. Briefly describe the life of the author who is the object of his research. Provides in-depth aspects of emotional abuse in this memoir by Richard B. Pelzer. This study aims to provide an explanation of emotional abuse based on its category and form.

## 2. METHOD

The data used in qualitative research is usually not in the form of numbers but in the form of descriptions or words, which have always been the main focus of several fields such as psychologists, linguistics, educational research, etc. (Miles and Huberman 1). Furthermore, qualitative research is generally used to understand people's experiences and reveal their perspectives (Johnson and Christensen 2014). There were data collection methods and data kinds in the data organization. Watching the movie, reading the movie script, identifying the data, categorizing the data, and decreasing the data were the processes in the data collection process. Furthermore, this study included two different kinds of data: primary data and secondary data. Primary and secondary data were the two kinds of data employed in this investigation. *Tangled* (2010) movie itself, including prologues, dialogues, monologues, quotes, and phrase, included the primary data. The second data that could be found in e-book, journals, and articles. Data analysis was the final stage, and the findings and discussion chapter covered the analysis's outcome. By reading the text and evaluating the data, the author employed the qualitative technique.

## 3. FINDING AND DISCUSSION

This finding and discussion explain the analysis of emotional abuse based on Rapunzel's experiences in Disney animated film *Tangled*. what are emotional abuse categories faced by Rapunzel in Disney animated film *Tangled* and what are the effects of emotional abuse experiences by Rapunzel in Disney animated film *Tangled*.

Categories of emotional abuse, Emotional abuse is divided into several categories. Charles Wenar a professor emeritus of psychology at Ohio State University, summarized through his book *Developmental Psychopathology* (395). Wenar categorized emotional abuse into seven categories to make the concept more specific.

### Rejecting

A parent or caregiver who engages in rejecting behavior toward a child will intentionally or unintentionally let the child know in various ways that he or she is not wanted. Devaluing or belittling the child are some of the ways this type of emotional abuse can manifest. Another example would be telling the child to leave, or worse, calling them names and telling them that they are worthless (Wenar 395).

Mother Gothel            **“Oh, Rapunzel. How you manage to do that every single day without fail, it looks absolutely exhausting, darling.”**

Rapunzel                **“Oh mother, it’s nothing”**

Mother Gothel            **“Then, I don’t know why it takes so long. (Laughs) Oh, darling. I’m just teasing.”**

Rapunzel                **“All right ... so, mother. As you know, tomorrow is a very big day.”**

Mother Gothel            **“Oh, Rapunzel look at the mirror?”**  
**“You know what I see, darling?”**  
**“I see a strong, confident, beautiful, young lady. Oh look, you’re here too.” (laughs)**  
**“I’m just teasing, stop taking overthing so seriously.”**  
**(Tangled, 00.10.43 – 00.10.57)**

This happens when Rapunzel, who has worked hard and tired to complete her homework, is seen as something that is not so important. However, Mother Gothel rejected Rapunzel's view by saying why did Rapunzel take so long to complete the task. Mother Gothel then asked Rapunzel to stand next to her and look in the mirror, which showed that Mother Gothel was a beautiful, strong and youthful looking woman. Mother Gothel deliberately belittles and insults Rapunzel with a joke saying that Mother Gothel has more things than Rapunzel.

Low self-esteem is one of the effects of emotional abuse, the category of rejecting that can lead to low self-esteem is a traumatic childhood experience. Children who are often labeled worthless, inadequate, or unworthy of praise tend to experience low self-esteem in adulthood. Similarly, children who often experience rejection, harsh treatment, or physical and verbal abuse. This can make them feel unappreciated.

### **Terrorizing**

Parents who use threats, yelling and cursing do serious psychological damage to their children. Not only can this cause trauma and anxiety in children, but it can also negatively impact their development in the long run. Threats directed at children with harsh words, physical injury, neglect, or even death are unacceptable. It will only cause fear and anxiety in children, and can disrupt their relationship with parents (Oliver 1).

Mother Gothel : Mother, know best ... Mother, know best

**Listen to your mother it's a scary world out there.**

Mother knows best one way or another, something will go wrong, **I swear Ruffians, thugs, poison quicksand, cannibals and snakes. The plague also large bugs men with pointy teeth.**

Mother, know best ... Mother, know best

Take it from your mumsey on your own, **you won't survive sloppy underdressed, immature, clumsy.**

**"Please, they'll eat up, alive"**

(Tangled, 00.13.20 – 00.14.21)

Mother Gothel, who is Rapunzel's foster mother, scares or intimidates Rapunzel excessively through the song she sings to her. The song is about a scary world, gangsters, thugs, cannibals, snakes, and men with pointy teeth who will eat Rapunzel alive. Mother Gothel used the song as a way to make Rapunzel afraid and isolated from the outside world, so that she would never dare to leave the tower where she was imprisoned. The song sung by Mother Gothel contains a lot of frightening and intimidating imagery.

Insecurity is the impact of terrorizing category emotional abuse, Insecurity can also affect a person's interpersonal relationships. Insecurity makes it difficult for a person to trust others, feel threatened, and need constant confirmation from others. This can lead to tension, conflict, and misunderstandings in interpersonal relationships. In addition, insecurity can also affect a person's mental health. This condition is often associated with the emergence of anxiety disorders, depression, and even personality disorders. Someone who feels insecure often tends to perceive themselves and situations negatively.

### Isolating

Parents who are categorized as emotionally abusing children in isolation may not allow the child to engage in activities with their peers. Can tell the child in his room, not exposed to stimulation. Requiring a child to stay in his room forces isolation or seclusion by keeping him away from family and friends (Wenar 395).

Mother Gothel : "You know why we stay up in this tower?"

Rapunzel : "I know, but ... "

Mother Gothel : **"Thats right, to keep you safe and sound dear. Guess I always knew this day was coming. Knew that soon you'd want to leave the nest. Soon, but not yet."**

(Tangled, 00.13.01 – 00.13.09)

Parents who perpetrate child abuse through isolation, will generally not allow the child to engage in activities that are appropriate to their peers. Mother Gothel forces Rapunzel to stay in the tower, isolating her from the outside world and her own family. Her reasoning is to convince Rapunzel that she will be safer in the tower with Mother Gothel. However, this is actually a form of isolation by Mother Gothel to utilize Rapunzel for personal gain.

Destructive behavior is the impact of emotional abuse in the isolation category, destructive behavior is often caused by psychological problems such as stress, depression, anxiety, and trauma. People who experience psychological problems often find a way out by doing destructive behavior as a form of venting. However, destructive behavior will not solve the problem, instead it will make things worse.

### Exploiting

Exploiting is the act of treating a person or in a situation as an opportunity to gain an advantage for parents. Parents who emotionally abuse children by exploiting them can make them work or do something that can benefit the parents (Wenar 395).

[This young lady, Mother Gothel hoarded it's healing power and used it to keep herself young for hundreds of years. And all had to do was sing a special song. Flower gleam and glow, let your power shine make the clock reverse, bring back what once was mine what once as mine. All right, you get the jist she sings she turns young, creepy]

**[Gothel broke into the castle and stole the child, just like that ... gone. The kingdom searched and searched, but they could not find the Princess. But deep within the forest in a hidden tower.]**

Mother Gothel : **"Flower, mother's feeling a little run down. Would you sing for me, dear? "**

**"Then we'll talk."**

Rapunzel : "Oh! Of course , mother!

(sing very fast)

"Flower gleam and glow, let your power shine, make the clock reverse, bring back what once was mine. Heal what has been hurt, change the fate's design. Save what has been lost, bring back what once was mine."

(Tangled, 00.03.11 – 00.05.08)

One example is when Mother Gothel exploited Rapunzel. Mother Gothel exploits Rapunzel by utilizing the power of Rapunzel's hair to keep Mother Gothel young and beautiful, but Rapunzel's needs are not met. This can have a negative impact on the development and health of the child, because without Rapunzel knowing it she is required to meet Mother Gothel's needs without regard for her own well-being.

Poor emotional development is one of the effects of exploiting emotional abuse, where usually unpleasant feelings are expressed as a form of dislike for something such as anxiety, anger, guilt and sadness. Rapunzel is a victim of exploitation by her foster mother, Mother Gothel. As a foster mother, Mother Gothel is supposed to protect and love Rapunzel. However, the opposite is true. Mother Gothel utilizes the power of Rapunzel's hair for her personal gain, making Rapunzel feel that the person who found her only wants her hair. The impact of this exploitation is not only felt by Rapunzel physically, but also has an impact on her perspective on others.

#### 4. CONCLUSION

Based on the findings discussed in chapter four, there are two conclusions. The first concerns the categories of emotional abuse based on Rapunzel's experience as the main character in the Disney animated film *Tangled*. The second concerns the effects of emotional abuse as experienced by Rapunzel in the Disney animated film *Tangled*.

In the animated Disney film *Tangled*, there are several categories of emotional abuse. Emotional abuse is an act that hurts or hurts a person's feelings and often occurs in a social environment. However, in this case, emotional abuse occurs in the family between the adoptive mother and the foster child. Based on Wenar's theory, there are seven categories of emotional abuse, but after analyzing the Disney animated film *Tangled*, only four categories are found in the film, namely rejection, terrorizing, isolating and exploitation.

The next discussion is the effects of emotional abuse from the rejecting category to low self-esteem, the terrorizing category to insecurity, the isolating category to destructive behavior and psychological instability, and finally the exploiting category having an impact on poor emotional development.

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