

POWER DOMINATION IN BYRON HOWARD & RICH MOORE'S *ZOOTOPIA* MOVIE

Setiana Sri Wahyuni Sitepu, Annisa Rubiani

Universitas Pamulang

anasitepu21@gmail.com

Abstract

This study is aimed to uncover power domination in a film entitled *Zootopia*, directed by Byron Howard & Rich Moore. The directors portray how power domination occurs in the protagonist character in the movie. Howard reveals that the shape or size of a person's body does not hinder their dreams of becoming whatever they dream of. For example, if there are creatures that have large bodies, it does not mean they are the most powerful and feared by other creatures. Conversely, if there are small-bodied creatures, it does not mean they are always weak and are pessimistic people, who are afraid in any case, including realizing their dreams. Howard also believes that if we believe in our abilities, all the words of people who doubt our ability will not affect ourselves to stop and give up what we expect. In this case, the writer would analyze the power of domination based on their form of body shape and body size. In addition, the theory by Max Weber will be applied in this study. The result of this study disclose that physical appearance does not affect one's power. It can be seen that even though the protagonist character has small body, she also has power domination. It is proven that she could compete fairly with her opponent who has a bigger body, has the right and high self-esteem in defending the truth, and can achieve her dreams even though her body is small.

Keywords : Power domination, *Zootopia*, Max Weber, Children Literature.

1. INTRODUCTION

Power domination is not a rare thing in society. Power domination occurs because of differences in each thing. First, in the political field. Power differences often occur in politics such as who has a high position and a lot of money, so that person has more power to rule, regulate and dominate the people under him. Another power of dominance can be seen from the differences in social class. Social class in society often raises the problem of who is the most dominated in the environment. In this case, of course

there will be those who feel isolated. Social class can be seen from the ownership of the person in terms of property, employment or position. People who have abundant wealth such as large houses, large cars, or luxurious clothes will certainly look more powerful than the people who only have inadequate facilities. Apart from property, surely the person's work or position. Work is one of the factors that influence power domination. For example, in a company, there is a manager. On the other side, some work as security guards. Of course,

the manager is the one who has more power in the company. More specific cases of power domination can be seen from the shape and size of a person's body. Society will think that people who have tall and big bodies, must be strong and not beaten by anyone. Conversely, people who have a small body, then that person is a timid and weak person.

Power domination in terms of the size and shape of a person's body will make people who are victims feel isolated in society. According to (Weber, 1922) power is, as is well known, "the probability that one actor within a social relationship will be in a position to carry out his own will despite resistance, regardless of the basis on which this probability rests." The statement explains that people who have power will do what they want according to what they expect. Those who have power will not care about the state of their victims because the most important thing for them is a pleasure for themselves. Moreover, that statement also framing that sometimes the ego of a person cannot be removed because it is an ambition of their own.

A matter of domination by body shape and body size is also reflected in literary works. One of them is well described in a famous animation movie

entitled Zootopia written by Byron Howard and Rich Moore. Zootopia collected a variety of awards and nominations. At the 89th Academy Awards, the film won Best Animated Feature. Also, this movie won the Golden Globe Award for Best Animated Feature Film. At the 44th Annie Awards, Zootopia received eleven nominations and won six including Best Animated Feature and Outstanding Achievement, Voice Acting in an Animated Feature Production for Bateman. And other awards were won for this movie. Besides, Byron Howard got so many awards for producing Zootopia movies, one of them is he become a winner in Oscar (2017) for Best Animated feature Film of the Year. In 2017 too, he won Gold Derby Award for Animated Feature too. Actually, there are many awards for him but I cannot mention all of it. Therefore, for Rich Moore, he also received some nominations and awards. One of his nominations is his movie entitled Ralph Breaks the Internet was nominated for Academy Award for best Animated Feature (2018). Also, he won Academy Award for Best Animated Feature in 2016 for Zootopia.

2. DISCUSSION

In this part, the protagonist character in Zootopia film changes the circumstances and other people's points of view about the dominance of a person based on body shape or size. She proved that even though she has a smaller body size than the people around her, she can still race and fight for the sake of achieving a dream to become a police officer. She did not feel that she was weak when compared to his opponent who had a large body.

As a result, power domination in case of the dominance of body size and body shape divided into some sub points. The points are; she could compete fairly with her opponent who has a bigger body, has the right and high self-esteem in defending the truth, and can achieve her dreams even though her body is small. Therefore, further explanation about this point can be seen below:

2.1 Compete Fairly

The first test to become a police officer is to fight past several obstacles. In passing these obstacles, testers who test do not look at the hair of all participants. The officer orders all participants to pass through the existing obstacles to practice their physical appearance.



The picture was taken with full shot cinematography on minutes (06.57) to illustrate how the incident happened and also to identify the expression of the characters in the picture. From this picture, we can see how the persistence of small-bodied characters to compete against big-bodied opponents. She was very excited through these obstacles; the expression of her face was not described feeling tired or afraid because her opponent has a body larger than her. High optimism can also be seen from her eyes looking straight ahead, and also the grip of her hand that illustrates that she can pass all obstacles. Meanwhile, the opponent behind her who has a bigger body looks surprised by the presence of her in front of him. He was surprised because his opponent can pass him who has a large body, while her opponent has a small body with small steps. His expression of shock can be seen from his face, his enlarged eyeballs describing that he was amazed and doubt about what he looks in front of him.

Furthermore, when the main character manages to get past one opponent. She still was not big-headed by what she achieved. She still keep her spirit to race with her opponents. The second picture depicts one obstacle with more opponents.



The cinematography was taken by a full shot in a minute of (07.00), aimed at describing the conditions and actions which happened in the picture. From this image, we can see very contrasting differences between the creatures on it, specifically the differences in body size and shape. One of the creatures that have the smallest body size is seen competing with an opponent that has a body much bigger than her. However, even though she was small, she was not afraid and felt weak about her body condition and shape. She still tried to win and lead the competition. She did not feel inferior about the size and shape of her body.

Moreover, with her enthusiasm, she fought past her big-bodied opponents. She confidently jumped ahead of her

opponents. She jumped over a very high ice cliff. Even though her body is small, she does not feel unrivaled but rather she wants to prove that her small body is not a weakness. In addition, The lighting looks brighter behind the wall that they are climbed which indicates the victory behind on it. Finally, with enthusiasm and high optimism she managed to get past some of her opponents.

2.2 Has the right and high self-seteem.

In Zootopia, Moore also portrays that creatures who have small bodies also have high self-esteem. They also have the same right to fight what they think is wrong. The difference in body size and body shape does not mean that they lose all the rights they have. They prove that they can also reprimand the things that are wrong. This statement also strengthens with this picture;



The picture above was taken with the medium close up cinematography in a minute (04.42) aimed to shows which

framing that even though she has small bodies, she does not afraid to rebuke the person who did a crime. When she feels what is being said, she will continue to fight what is wrong. As we know, a fox is a cunning animal but she is not afraid of it. It can be seen from her fist which means that she is not afraid even though fox stares fiercely and angry at the same time. This statement can be proven by teeth of the fox that clashing.

In addition, the rabbit also raises her chin when talking to fox which means that although she is small, she also feels she has high pride. Body size does not matter to her when she feels right for what she does. We can also see the eyes of her who looked firmly at the fox which described that she was not playing with her words. She did not hesitate to look at and challenge other animals that were wrong. She proved that she also had power dominance when what she defended was the right thing. She proved that a person's dominance is not only seen from the shape and size of his/her body. Moreover, even though her body is small, she has great power to defend the truth.

2.3 Achieve her dream

Besides, the police usually appoint police officers who have ideal body postures. However, this movie cut

off that stereotype. This movie portrays that the protagonist character who has a small body can make her dreams come true as a member of the police officers. This statement is strengthened by the picture below;



The cinematography in the photo was taken by a long shot in the minute of (07.37) which describing the situation of the event being carried out, specifically the announcement of the people who could be passing the police test (can be seen from a banner that written Zootopia police academy). From the picture above, we can see that the rabbit (protagonist character) has an opponent in the form of an animal that is much bigger than her. However, that matters did not prevent her dream of becoming a police officer. She did not give up with what she dreamed of. Likewise, she should go through many challenges and obstacles, but she proved that she could make her dreams come true. She makes it without feeling afraid or feeling competed with her opponents.

From this picture, we can conclude that even though her body is

small, this deficiency does not limit her scope for expression, socializing, and competence. She proves that a deficiency that she has does not weaken and hinder someone's dream. Therefore, "Don't judge a book by its cover".

Hamilton, Peter. (2007). *Max Weber: Critical Assesment 2*. Abingdon, UK and New York: Routledge.

3. CONCLUSION

A person's physical form does not affect a person's fate. The protagonist's character in the Zootopia movie proves that statement. She proves that even though she has a small body shape and size, she can still realize her dreams. Moreover, she also has the same rights as other creatures. Therefore, a deficiency does not mean that deficiency weakens what we expected. It does not mean that these weaknesses could limit our scope for expressing ourselves. In addition, she proves that the one's power is not only seen from the shape or size of the body. As long as they feel right for a choice that is not only seen from their perspective, they will still have the same power of domination as others.

REFERENCES:

Byron Howard, R. M. (Director). (2016). *Zootopia* [Motion Picture].

D. Keltner, H. G. (2003). *Psychology Review*, 110. Power, approach, and inhibition, 265-284.