Research Article

Framing Morals: A Study of Moral Values in Netflix Teen Movie Finding `Ohana (2021)

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Abstract.

In an era when Netflix is the go-to source of entertainment, many families are particular about choosing the best entertainment for them, especially for their children, that serves both entertainment and educational purposes. Movies are frequently infused with moral messages. Movies also depict and suspect morally virtuous behavior through their exploration of overarching themes, the attribution of specific traits to heroic and villainous characters, and the resolution of pivotal moral dilemmas. This study utilizes a descriptive qualitative approach of moral values found in the attribution of theme and characterization of Netflix's teen movie *Finding 'Ohana* (2021) We argue the attribution of themes and dynamic characterization of the main characters in *Finding 'Ohana* (2021) that serves as a learning opportunity for young viewers to discover moral values lessons. As a result, the portrayal of moral values in *Finding 'Ohana* includes truthfulness, respect, tolerance and cooperation, hard work and functionalism, respect for human life and dignity of persons, and value of the present. We propose that utilizing movies as tools for moral education, treating them as case studies of moral dilemmas, and stimulating imaginative thinking about ethical situations through open and egalitarian discussions between adults and teenagers could enhance the effectiveness of moral education for teenagers.

Keywords: moral values, film, finding 'Ohana, identity, children and YA literatures

1. Introduction

In today's rapidly evolving world, there is a complex and multi-dimensional shift occurring in values, morals, and ethics. This transformation is driven by various factors such as changing social dynamics, technological advancements, and shifting cultural norms. Consequently, the significance of instilling moral values through education has become a pressing issue. Traditional educational institutions have long played a crucial role in nurturing character development and teaching ethical principles; however, moral education now extends beyond the confines of classrooms. Popular culture mediums like film and television exert an ever-increasing influence on the moral perspectives of young individuals today.

Films and television shows act as portals to a wide range of human experiences, presenting compelling storylines and relatable characters. This distinctive medium not only offers an opportunity for contemplation and investigation but also ignites engaging discussions within families. Through the exploration of cinematic narratives and cultural references, families are able to navigate complex moral values, self-exploration, and identity development with a collective sense of enthusiasm and comprehension. In doing so, they foster a more knowledgeable and empathetic generation.

Adolescents, as they navigate the complex journey of self-discovery and identity formation, stand to derive significant benefits from the incorporation of moral values into their lives. Open and equal discussions about moral values between children, teenagers, parents, guardians, and teachers are paramount in fostering healthy development during the crucial phase of self-discovery and identity formation. It is essential that these conversations be free from stigma, as they provide a vital framework for young minds to navigate the complexities of the world. The foundation for instilling values, teaching empathy, and building a strong sense of ethics is this open dialogue. By including teenagers in these discussions, we not only give them the power to make knowledgeable decisions but also develop their critical thinking abilities, preparing them to be mindful and accountable citizens. By working together, they can make sure that the foundation of their moral compass is based on mutual respect, understanding, and a sincere desire to learn from others' viewpoints.

In this context, the study delves into a self-discovery theme and compelling dynamic characters portrayed in Netflix's teen film *Finding 'Ohana* released in 2021 directed by Jude Weng and written by Christina Stain. Produced by Ian Bryce Productions, *Finding 'Ohana* (2021) is marketed as Generation Z's version of the Goonies, a beloved adventure film from the 1980s. *Finding 'Ohana* is rated highly and is recommended by two reliable movie review websites, metacritic.com and rottentomatoes.com [1-2]. We analyze the film's cinematic language represented by selected scenes and sequences to unravel the nuanced moral themes embedded within *Finding 'Ohana* (2021) and explore how teenagers can not only learn from but also be inspired by these cinematic narratives in their quest to construct a meaningful and ethically grounded identity. In doing so, we underscore the profound impact of popular culture on moral education and its implications for the youth of today.

2. Literature Review

In recent years, there has been an increasing interest in the study of moral values portrayed in films, particularly in children and young adult literature. Researchers have explored various films across genres to examine the moral values conveyed through characters and themes. Studies have shown that movies, including those targeted at children and young adults, can effectively convey moral values to their viewers. Moreover, movies serve both entertainment and educational purposes. They provide a platform for moral exploration and learning, allowing viewers to engage with characters and themes that reflect societal values [3]. Such studies findings suggest that the main characters in movies have the potential to impart moral values to their audiences. For example, a study on the animated film Moana (2016) and Mulan (1998) revealed that viewers credited the movie with moral values such as bravery, responsibility, and caring for family [4-5]. Strong and morally upright characters, such as the protagonist in Moana and Mulan, serve to empower individuals of all genders while also raising awareness about important issues like ecofeminism. These films shed light on the experiences of girls and women within patriarchal family structures and society at large.

Teenagers typically go through personality transformation as a result of their environment changing and forcing them to adapt. Similar to this, a study on moral values in Stand by Me Doraemon 2 (2020) discusses how the story of the beloved protagonist, Nobita, conveys messages about the importance of learning and understanding moral principles and eventually changing his ways [6]. The theme of personal transformation is also explored in a study on the animated film Boss Baby (2017), which delves into complex moral issues such as hypocrisy and materialistic desires [7]. The main character, Boss Baby, undergoes a narrative journey that ultimately leads to his transformation into a morally upright individual by the end of the story.

Multiple studies have dedicated their efforts to analyzing the ethical values depicted by characters in films, particularly with regard to sensitive and complex topics that may pose challenges for younger audiences during discussions. These issues encompass societal prejudices as well as social discrimination. Focusing on animated film Zootopia (2016), Fasikh and Natali [8] examine how it addresses racial hatred and social discrimination within contemporary society through its portrayal of intricate character dynamics. Furthermore, exploring themes of resilience, the Korean drama Miracle in Cell No. 7 (2013) serves as an exemplification of noble moral principles amidst adverse circumstances [9]. An analysis of the Academy Award-winning animated film Inside Out (2016) prompts readers to contemplate the prominent characteristics of its main characters

and their moral lessons on loyalty, respect, selflessness, and sensitivity [10]. Similarly, a study examining the live-action adaptation of Cinderella (2015), a beloved princess narrative, explores how the titular character exemplifies values such as honesty, love, and selflessness [11]. Another study with a similar impact was done on the Oscar-winning 2017 animated film Coco, which emphasizes moral principles like loyalty, love, and selflessness and shows the main character's resiliency as he overcomes challenges [12]. Additionally, research conducted on Keluarga Cemara (2018), an Indonesian box office hit highlights sacrifice and loyalty as essential traits for individuals to possess [13].

Whereas the previous studies have focused on exploring the portrayal of moral values through main characters in films, there remains a significant gap regarding how these intriguing movie themes can actually play a role in educating young audiences about moral values. Additionally, there is limited understanding on how discussions around these themes could contribute to the development of identity among young viewers following their exposure to such movies. However, the gap has only been accommodated by a recent study that examined the moral values portrayed by the main character, Dory, in the movie Finding Dory (2016) and found that they align with the ethical principles mandated by Indonesia's Ministry of Education and Culture for inclusion in school textbooks and elementary school integrated learning materials [14]. The study recommends incorporating discussions about Dory and themes presented in Finding Dory within formal classroom settings using an educative entertainment approach.

Film, as an art form and a mode of storytelling, possesses a unique ability to serve as a mirror to the realities of the world we inhabit. Its potency lies in its capacity to encapsulate and reflect various facets of human existence, offering a lens through which we may apprehend and comprehend the complexities of our shared reality. Through persuasive representation and compelling narratives, cinema transcends mere entertainment, becoming a powerful conduit for education and enlightenment. It captures the richness and diversity of human experiences, allowing us to immerse ourselves in various cultures, historical eras, and sociocultural contexts [15,16]. Film not only entertains, but also educates, providing audiences with valuable insights and deepening their understanding of life's many facets. Filmmakers use the medium to communicate truths, challenge preconceptions, and prompt contemplation through carefully crafted visual and narrative techniques, fostering a deeper engagement with the world around us [17]. In this regard, film studies not only provide a source of entertainment, but also an invaluable resource for learning about the realities that shape our collective human experience.

Dating back to the early days of cinema, filmmakers recognized the potential of their craft to convey realities and engage audiences on a profound level. Since its inception, the silver screen has been harnessed as a dynamic tool for instilling virtue, fostering introspection in viewers, and learning and understanding culture (ethnographical function of film), a tradition that continues to shape the cinematic landscape to this day. Films or movies are frequently entangled in the overlapping global-popular realms of the economic, political, and cultural, which also reflect our understanding of the world, which includes bottom-up practices that cut across the three realms [18-19].

In recent years, film's pedagogical potential has become more widely recognized. Films embodying function as public pedagogy, a specialized term coined by Giroux in his 2004 and 2008 studies, have positioned popular films and television as compelling instructional forces in a media-saturated world [15-16]. Films and television shows, through emotional engagement and persuasive representations, contribute to shaping understandings of the world, which is becoming an arena in which normative social discourses are (re)produced, negotiated, and contested [16].

In line with the findings obtained from previous studies, it can be deduced that films reversing their artistic hierarchies have the potential to transform themselves and serve as an engaging and effective educational tool for teaching moral values. By incorporating visual techniques of characterization and portrayal of theme into the moral values discussion both in formal and informal settings, educators, parents, and guardians can provide children and teenagers with valuable opportunities to analyze and reflect upon ethical dilemmas portrayed on screen. This integration of film into education can encourage critical thinking, empathy, and a deeper understanding of moral concepts while also fostering an appreciation for various perspectives and cultural differences. One film that can contribute to this field of study is Finding 'Ohana (2021), a Netflix teens film that explores themes of identity, family, and cultural heritage. Through the analysis of the attribution of characterization and theme in Finding 'Ohana, we examine the moral values and ethical dilemmas presented in the film and determine how these values can be used as educational materials for teenagers.

3. Material and Methods

This study employed a descriptive qualitative method to delve into the portrayal of moral values in the film *Finding 'Ohana* (2021) through its characters dynamics and exploration of theme. This study involves analyzing the characterization and themes portrayed in the film to identify the moral values embedded within. Content analysis is utilized to

identify and categorize the moral values depicted in *Finding 'Ohana* based on George and Uyanga's theory of moral values to guide the analysis process [20]. This theory provides a framework for understanding the different dimensions of moral values and their significance in shaping individuals' behavior and decision-making processes.

George and Uyanga have discussed the dynamics of the young generation in the context of African society, who were exposed to modern and Western values from an early age but were also expected to carry out duties, uphold the moral standards of earlier generations, and protect their reputations [20]. As societies have grown, so have values, which have changed to reflect the nature of a changing world. As a result, modern societies are experiencing an increased wave of moral decay and moral laxity. Some cherished and upheld moral values are truthfulness, respect, tolerance and cooperation, hard work and functionalism, respect for human life and dignity of persons, and value of the present. We selected the theory of moral values proposed by George and Uyanga because it aligns with the themes explored in *Finding 'Ohana*, which tells about the experiences of lost young generations as they navigate their identities within the ancestors' land and learn about moral values through captivating adventures.

The theory of formal analysis of cinematic language is employed in the analysis of moral values portrayed in *Finding 'Ohana*. A movie provides a multi-layered sensory experience through its use of visual and auditory elements. The expression of meaning through film encompasses a wide spectrum from explicit narrative details like location and time to more nuanced implicit messages including mood tone significance or characters' thoughts and emotions [21]. The narrative structure further contributes to character development and conflict resolution by establishing acts within the story progression. The mise-en-scene, individual component of a movie, entails integrating different shots to create sequences that are subsequently organized into scenes, resulting in a cohesive plot. The combination and arrangement of these elements provide structure for the entire film [21].

The study involves the collection of relevant data, which includes watching the film multiple times with English subtitles and taking detailed notes on the moral values that are evident in the scene, dialogue, actions of the characters, and overall message of the film. The data collected will then be analyzed and coded to identify common themes and patterns of moral values in the film. Results from the analysis will be presented in a comprehensive report, detailing the moral values found in *Finding 'Ohana*. The chosen approach enables a comprehensive understanding of how moral principles are represented within the cinematic narrative. By focusing on analysis of characters and

theme, this research aims to discern the nuanced expressions of ethics and values in the film.

Screenshots of the movie's scenes and sequences will be used to illustrate the analysis. Finding 'Ohana (2021) is currently available for streaming in Netflix international, including Indonesia. Netflix and its production company, Ian Bryce Productions, own the copyright to the entire film. We used a third-party application to take screenshots for the study and display them in the paper.

4. Results and Discussion

Finding 'Ohana (2021) is a captivating family adventure film set in New York City. The story centers around Pili, a twelve-year-old young girl of Hawaiian descent, and her an eighteen-year-old brother Ioane. The siblings are somewhat disconnected from their Hawaiian heritage. Their urban life and family dynamics are established in this initial setup.

The narrative takes a turn when Pili and Ioane are sent to Hawaii for the summer to stay with their grandfather, Kimo. Upon their arrival, a remarkable discovery is made: a journal left behind by their late father, hinting at the existence of a hidden treasure on the island. This revelation serves as the inciting incident that propels the story forward. Joined by newfound friends Hana and Casper, Pili and Ioane embark on a treasure hunt. They delve into the island's rich history and mythology, deciphering clues from the journal. This part of the story is marked by a series of challenges and obstacles that the group faces as they draw closer to the elusive treasure.

The pinnacle of the narrative occurs when the group locates the hidden treasure, revealing a cave filled with valuable artifacts, including precious Hawaiian cultural relics. However, their triumph is met with a formidable threat as a rival treasure-hunting family, led by the determined Monks, seeks to claim the treasure for themselves. A tense face-off ensues between the group and the treasure hunters, leading to a series of high-stakes confrontations. The characters must band together to protect the treasure, ensuring it remains safeguarded and true to its cultural roots.

In the resolution, the story finds its conclusion as Pili, Ioane, and their friends success-fully defend the treasure. Their efforts not only preserve their Hawaiian heritage and cultural history but also foster a deeper connection with their grandfather. The family chooses to embrace their cultural identity and make Hawaii their new home.

The film concludes with a heartwarming epilogue. The family gains a newfound appre-ciation for their Hawaiian heritage, and Pili and Ioane come to understand the profound

impact of their father's legacy. They make a resolute decision to fully embrace their cultural identity and continue their lives on the island of Hawaii. *Finding 'Ohana* weaves together elements of adventure, family bonds, and cultural discovery, culminating in a tale of reconnection with one's roots and the preservation of a cherished heritage. The plot structure adheres to a classic adventure narrative, with the pursuit of treasure driving the central storyline.

4.1. Characterization of the main characters, pili and ioane, in Finding `Ohana

In the movie *Finding 'Ohana* (2021), the characterization of the characters plays a significant role in conveying moral values. The study focuses on the characterization of the protagonist as well as the main point of view of the story, Pili, and some of the supporting characters—Ioane, Casper, and Hana—who serve as the story's points of view. The main plot is also driven by adult characters who are significant supporting figures, such as Pili and Ioane's grandfather, Kimo, and mother, Leilani.

The film revolves around the protagonist Pili, a twelve-year-old girl growing up in Brooklyn, New York City. She is the youngest of two siblings and has an older brother named Ioane. Initially, Pili is depicted as determined, competitive, and intelligent during her participation in the geocaching competition. However, her excitement transforms when she learns that she will not be able to compete in the final round due to her mother Leilani's decision to relocate their family back to Hawaii after receiving news about Kimo's illness - Pili's grandfather and Leilani's father. Pili's personality in the opening two scenes of the movie was perfectly captured in these two specific sequences.

The opening sequence depicts Pili and her best friend, Yoli, participating in a geocaching competition with the intention of reaching the clue location ahead of other teams. This sequence in Figure 1 predominantly features wide shots that showcase iconic landmarks in New York City, including the Statue of Liberty, Brooklyn Bridge, and Dumbo neighborhood. These visuals convey Pili's connection to a vibrant, busy, and diverse environment like Brooklyn. The initial scene is also enhanced using rapid rap music, contributing to a sense of tension and vigor within the storyline. Additionally, we see Pili's determination as she navigates through the bustling city to secure victory in the race. She assertively communicates with pedestrians while her bike propels them forward to outpace their competitors. In one memorable scene, Pili rides piggyback on her companion's bicycle while using slingshot tactics to obstruct traffic lights and take shortcuts through crowded spaces such as laundromats. Pili, with no remorse,
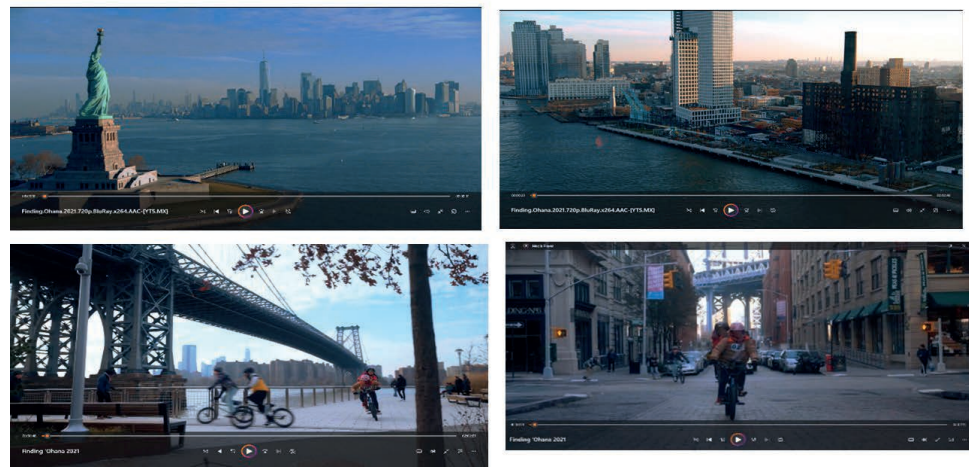
Figure 1: time 00.00.00 – 00.00.54; the landscape shots of Brooklyn New York City as Pili races to win geocache competition.

loudly shouts at the customers in the laundromat while they frantically dodge her bike. Although Pili and Yoli half-heartedly apologize to the people in their path, their intentions are solely focused on hurrying them out of the way in order to win the geocache competition.

Pili, riding on Yoli's back, repeatedly instructs her to hurry and follow her lead in taking a shortcut. Confident in her knowledge of the area, Pili convinces Yoli without any hesitation or questions asked. This includes entering a busy laundromat without permission, causing disturbance and potentially harming people inside. Through a body cam shot, we witness people being forced to move away and run to avoid colliding with Pili and their group. Although there is no verbal protest from the city residents, it portrays Pili as an unruly troublemaker who shows disrespect and creates chaos.

The next scene that reveals Pili's character in the beginning of the film takes place when her family arrives at Kimo's house in Oahu, Hawaii. From a phone conversation between Leilani and someone else, it becomes clear that they are there to check on Kimo's condition after he suffers a heart attack. Despite this serious situation, Pili is visibly unhappy with the circumstances. Upon arrival, she immediately expresses doubt about whether her grandfather "Papa Kimo" has WiFi. She then starts arguing with her brother Ioane by attempting to take his phone so she can participate in a geocache competition she previously won in New York but fears missing out on now. Ioane exhibits similar behavior when he expresses disappointment that Papa Kimo does not have WiFi, claiming it will make this summer the worst senior year for him. Meanwhile, Leilani

appears overwhelmed by her children's complaints and disturbed to discover that her childhood home is dirty and almost in ruins due to only her father living there alone.

Figure 2: 00.03.40-00.05.05 time: Pili and family arrive at Papa Kimo's house in Oahu, Hawaii.

The sequence depicted in Figure 2 reveals Pili's transition from the familiar cityscape to an unfamiliar environment filled with greenery, animals, and a lack of people. She experiences a sense of disconnection as there is no WiFi available for her geocaching activities which she had invested so much into. Similarly, Ioane, being accustomed to city life like Pili, exhibits resistance towards his mother's decision to reside in Oahu, Hawaii and feels restricted by his family dynamics leading to frequent arguments with Pili. However, the family's arrival on the island sets the stage for new adventures. This storytelling technique commonly found in children and teenage adventure genres places characters in uncharted territories that test their survival skills and adaptability amidst change.

Figure 3: 00.06.52 - 00.07.27 time Meeting Papa Kimo.

Pili and Ioane are depicted as losing touch with their Hawaiian identity. When Papa Kimo greets them in native Hawaiian language and Hawaiian English pidgins, they struggle to understand and respond. Upon reuniting with their grandfather after a long separation, Pili and Ioane's initial moments together are marked by arguments and conflict rather than joy. They find the way Papa Kimo speaks English Hawaiian pidgins to be unfamiliar, different from what they know in New York. Papa Kimo admonishes them for their disrespectful behavior while reminding them of the sacredness of Hawaii as ancestral land. When Papa Kimo offers Ioane a slice of mango, Ioane questions its cleanliness as Papa Kimo uses his pocketknife without washing it first. In response, Pili casually says "Thanks". Disappointed by this casual reply, Papa Kimo emphasizes the importance of expressing gratitude in their native language by saying "Mahalo. Go ahead, say 'mahalo'." ('Mahalo' means thank you in native Hawaiian language).

Upon hearing Pili reluctantly respond with "mahalo", Papa Kimo expresses his objection to Leilani's decision not to teach her children the native Hawaiian language. In response, Leilani defends her decision by stating that they are currently living in New York and therefore it is not practical to prioritize teaching them the Hawaiian native language. This brief interaction depicted in Figure 4 highlights the unmet expectations of older generations for younger individuals to respect and preserve their cultural heritage through practicing customs and speaking the indigenous language. In Pili and Ioane's context, residing in an urban environment has presented a challenge for them in terms of maintaining their cultural heritage. Being residents of a modern and bustling metropolis such as New York has made it difficult for them to stay rooted in their origins and fully embrace the identity of being New Yorkers, which aligns more with their lives in the city. Through this exchange, we can infer that Pili and Ioane have lost touch with their Hawaiian roots.

In the exposition sequences, Ioane is presented as a playful and mischievous character towards his younger sister, Pili. He frequently engages in jokes and tricks to taunt Pili with his scary tale about the Night Marchers that scares Pili. When meeting new people like Hana, a beautiful, caring, and funny local girl, Ioane attempts to flirt and introduces himself as E because he believes that the name "Ioane" sounds uncool and odd. However, Hana responds by expressing that "Ioane" name is actually beautiful in native Hawaiian language - it is just unfortunate that he fails to appreciate it. He persists in flirting with Hana despite the fact that she finds him annoying, and he is overconfident that she is only attracted to him because he is from the city. He boasts about how well-suited he feels for urban living while dismissing island life as unappealingly dull. At the start of the story, Ioane comes across as proud yet shallow in nature.
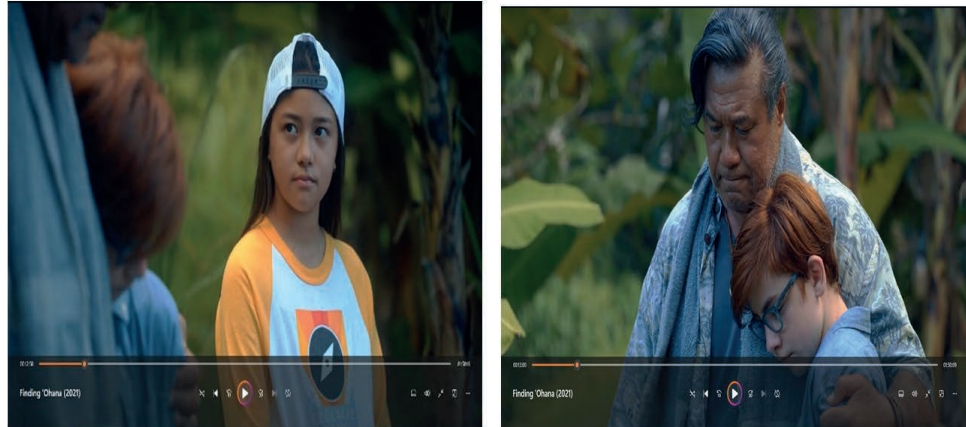
Figure 4: 00.12.58 - 00.13.00 time; First time meeting Casper.

In the opening sequence, we are also introduced to Casper and Hana, two native Hawaiians who live in the neighborhood. Pili is intrigued by Casper's unique demeanor and quirky style. However, it becomes clear to Pili that Papa Kimo enjoys having Casper around as he spends more time at Kimo's place and appreciates his respectful attitude towards Hawaiian values and nature. In a simple scene where Pili observes Papa Kimo hugging Casper after a burial ceremony for a fallen wild bird, Pili realizes that Papa Kimo is not completely indifferent to having children around him; in fact, he possesses a loving and gentle personality. It is Pili's own indifference and disrespect that makes her feel unappreciated by Papa Kimo. This brief moment highlights how children can learn values simply by observing the behavior of adults around them who exemplify those values through their actions.

4.2. Portrayal of Moral Values in Finding `Ohana (2021)

In this section, we examine scenes and sequences from *Finding 'Ohana* that nuance moral values as described in George and Uyanga's study, namely Truthfulness, Respect, Tolerance and Cooperation, Hard Work and Functionalism, Respect for Human Life and Dignity of Persons, and Value of the Present [20]. In the following sections, we discuss how each value is presented and offer suggestions on how parents, guardians, and teachers can engage young people in conversations about these values.

4.3. Truthfulness

The plot narratives *in Finding 'Ohana* revolve around the conflicts that arise when characters are not completely truthful about themselves. George and Uyanga view

truthfulness as the quality of being honest, straightforward, open, and consistent in thoughts, words, and actions.

Pili, the protagonist, begins to understand her situation by realizing the consequences of her dishonesty. She steals Monk's journal from Kimo and hides it, but she does not tell Casper the real reason why she wants to find clues in the journal for more geocaching adventures. However, after realizing the family hardships, Pili tells Casper the truth and decides to embark on a quest to find the Peruvian treasure, it is driven by her desire to help resolve family conflicts over selling their house in New York or saving Kimo's house and returning to their old lives. These reasons are actually noble intentions when searching for hidden treasure. Pili's next act of dishonesty occurs when the group lose Monk's journal inside the cave ruin and Hana inquires if Pili recalls all the clues to navigate their way out safely. Pili assures her that she does, but deep down, she is actually anxious about what lies ahead since she doesn't remember all the clues. These acts of dishonesty lead Pili into a perilous Peruvian treasure adventure which puts not only herself at risk but also Casper, Ioane, and Hana.

Pili's inner struggle begins when she becomes envious of Casper and Hana's close bond, wishing that she had a similar sibling-like relationship with Ioane. As their adventure unfolds, Pili starts to realize the importance of being honest with herself and those around her, including Ioane, Casper, and Hana. It is only when Pili drops her facade of strength and bravery and acknowledges her fears and weaknesses that she truly opens up to Ioane and her friends. From this point forward, Pili's relationship with Ioane improves as they both express their longing for each other as family and share memories of their late father (portrayed in Figure 5).

The subplot of the story is driven by Leilani and Kimo, two older characters who struggle with issues of honesty and dishonesty. Although play out as subplots through the perspectives of supporting characters, these problems ultimately drive the main plot forward. After her husband Kua's death, Leilani deceives herself and leaves Hawaii to raise her children alone in New York. This decision causes a rift between Leilani and her cultural heritage, her family, and prevents her children from knowing their Hawaiian roots. Throughout this time, she keeps hidden the true reason for leaving that staying in Hawaii constantly reminds her of Kua and intensifies her grief. As a result of this immense sorrow, she isolates herself from people who genuinely care about her well-being while pushing away even closer connections and rejecting relationships with relatives like her father. Kimo feels deep sadness as he watches Leilani and the children leave, but he keeps these feelings to himself. He chooses not to share his

disappointment with Leilani or express his true emotions. This dishonesty becomes apparent when he appears disapproving and distant upon their return to Hawaii.

Figure 5: 01.04.27 and 01.05.22 time; Pili and Ioane being honest and reconsile while almost at the same time Leilani and Kimo also reconsile and make things better.

This intriguing side story explores the emotional tension and complex dynamics of the father-daughter relationship between Leilani and Kimo. It unfolds parallel to the thrilling treasure adventure that captivates both tweens and teens inside a mysterious cave. Ultimately, Kimo and Leilani break down their barriers, opening up to one another and making a fresh start (portrayed in Figure 5). This reconciliation not only brings resolution to the narrative but also highlights the importance of honesty for all characters involved - learning to be truthful with themselves as well as with others.

When it comes to discussion of the movie, parents, guardians, and teachers can serve as honest role models in their day-to-day activities. Though adults may also make mistakes and struggle with honesty due to difficult circumstances, they need to take responsibility for their actions. Instead of imposing strict rules, they can engage in discussions with students about their experiences regarding the value of truthfulness and why it is important in daily life. It's also crucial to talk about being honest with oneself as this encourages self-reflection and recognizing mistakes. By practicing honesty, we show respect for ourselves and others by aligning our thoughts, words, and actions.

4.4. Respect

The movie *Finding 'Ohana* focuses on the importance of respect for nature, heritage, and people within native Hawaiian culture. The story follows Pili and Ioane, young native Hawaiians who have spent most of their lives in New York and are disconnected from their Hawaiian roots. Through their journey, we witness how this lost generation

rediscovers the value of respect and strives to incorporate it into their lives. According to George and Uyanga's definition, respect involves recognizing the inherent worth and rights of individuals as well as showing reverence for elders and traditional values.

After discovering that Pili had taken his book, Kimo does not scold her. Instead, he decides to take Pili on a trip to the island to teach her about Hawaiian values and culture. During their time together, Kimo emphasizes the importance of "Kuleana," or native responsibility towards the island. He explains how native Hawaiians have a deep blood connection, "Koko", with their homeland and highlights their duty in preserving Hawaiian heritage and respecting nature. Since Pili is interested in geocaching and treasure hunting, Kimo brings along Monk's journal which mentions the hidden location where Peruvian pirates supposedly buried their treasure years ago. Hoping that this will spark Pili's curiosity further while also helping her understand Hawaii better, Kimo believes that this experience will ultimately instill in Pili an appreciation for Hawaiian traditions and cultural values.

Before this event in the story, shortly after Kimo and Pili meet for the first time, they join Casper in a burial ceremony for a fallen woodpecker bird. During the ceremony, Kimo emphasizes that as Hawaiians, it is important to show respect for nature and honor the deceased by speaking kindly about them. This idea of maintaining balance in life through respecting nature is subtly hinted at throughout the film as Kua's spirit serves as a guiding force for Pili, Ioane, and Leilani on their journey back to their Hawaiian heritage and finding themselves once again. The value of respecting both nature and people are further exemplified by Hana's interaction with Ioane. Initially unaware of how to properly show reverence towards sacred places like the Kualoa cave which could possibly be an ancient tomb requiring respect, Hana teaches him about making offerings and saying prayers when entering such spaces. Having said that, Ioane arrogantly performs these rituals without taking them seriously or ridiculing them. This prompts Hana to criticize his behavior, suggesting that disrespectful actions bring negative consequences and disrupt the spiritual balance of the land.

The significance of respect is consistently emphasized in the film. The younger generation learns about the importance of respect from their elders, and they pass on this value to each other for mutual benefit in their respective situations. Learning about and embodying respect is essential for individuals to uphold honor and dignity.

It is crucial to have open discussions about the expectations and customs regarding paying respect based on beliefs and culture. Parents, guardians, and teachers should openly communicate societal norms, rules, and expectations to younger generations who may have their own set of social guidelines among peers that differ from those

of older generations. Conflict and misunderstandings can arise when there is a lack of willingness in both younger and older individuals to sit down together for an honest conversation about expectations. This can lead to accusations of disrespect or condescension towards one another. Therefore, promoting intergenerational dialogue and understanding can bridge the gap between different perspectives and foster a sense of respect for authority and the older generations. Promoting a sense of responsibility among young people can be achieved by involving them in community service and civic engagement activities.

4.5. Tolerance and Cooperation

During their thrilling adventure in the Kualoa cave, Pili and Ioane learn valuable lessons about tolerance and teamwork. Pili displays strong leadership skills by carefully navigating through dangerous paths, such as crossing a lava pool and escaping a collapsing cave, while always ensuring the safety of Ioane, Hana, and Casper. On the other hand, Ioane demonstrates compassion by putting aside his pride to help Hana overcome her fear of heights. He encourages her to sing her favorite songs while they cross a narrow bridge, with Pili and Casper joining in to boost their courage. Through this act of tolerance and cooperation towards Hana's fears that could hinder the group's progress, Ioane finds a solution by empathizing with her situation and offering support. These actions not only reflect the characters' growth and maturity, but also emphasize the importance of teamwork and understanding in overcoming challenges.

In their efforts to rescue Pili, Ioane, Casper, and Hana from the Kualoa cave, the older characters Kimo and Leilani show the importance of tolerance and teamwork. After reconciling their differences, Kimo reveals a secret: the teenagers must not take the hidden treasure as it will disrupt Hawaii's natural balance. He also warns them about the Night Marchers who would prevent any stealing attempts. Honesty is emphasized as Kimo openly discusses this with Leilani before urging her to quickly retrieve the children lest they face consequences from the Night Marchers. To seek forgiveness and avoid punishment, he reminds her to bow down in respect towards these spirits. Leilani, who has been disconnected from Hawaiian myths and culture for a long time, is skeptical of Kimo's beliefs and considers calling the police to rescue the children. However, Kimo remains calm and understanding with his daughter. He patiently explains again that Leilani may find it hard to believe this "ghost story". Eventually, Leilani agrees to cooperate and follows Kimo's instructions in order to save Pili, Ioane, Hana, and Casper.

In *Finding 'Ohana*, the story emphasizes the significance of tolerance and collaboration as the characters unite despite their individual obstacles. They lend each other support, embrace one another's imperfections, and combine their abilities to strive towards a shared objective. The importance of tolerance and cooperation is showcased by both the young and adult characters, who face their own challenges in fully understanding these values. This illustrates how values can be learned and relearned as we encounter doubts and apathy throughout life. When it comes to understanding the importance of collaboration, it's crucial to stress the need for active participation in shared tasks. By working together, we can foster a sense of individual worth within society. Additionally, parents, guardians, and teachers can highlight the significance of showing compassion towards others during times of conflict or indifference. This teaches younger generations how to be tolerant and work collectively to find solutions that benefit everyone involved or serve a greater purpose.

4.6. Hard Work and Functionalism

According to George and Uyanga, the traditional African society emphasizes the importance of hard work and functionalism for young people. They believe that basic education is necessary as it prepares them for future occupations and economic independence. In the context of *Finding 'Ohana*, functionalism can be seen when the teenage characters take on specific social roles during their adventure in Kualoa mountains - such as the leader, the thinker, the compassionate one, and the strong one. Although each character has a unique role in the plot narrative, they learn from each other's qualities to help achieve their goals.

The representation of functionalism in *Finding 'Ohana* encourages young viewers to consider their social impact on their surroundings as active participants in society. Parents, guardians, and teachers can facilitate this discussion by explaining the expected roles individuals have within a community, offering guidance and opportunities for youth to contribute and be included in decision-making processes. Additionally, they can foster an environment that values equal opportunities for learning objective reasoning while fulfilling these societal roles. This approach provides valuable lessons and experiences that promote independence among young people, which will benefit them in the future.

4.7. Respect for Human Life and Dignity of Persons

George and Uyanga posit that cherishing human life and honoring individual dignity involves upholding a connection with the eternal God, cultural or immortal deities. This connection ensures the observance of moral principles, proper conduct, submission to authority, and reverence for the traditions, beliefs, and laws of society. The film *Finding 'Ohana* emphasizes the significance of this value through its storyline and character portrayal. Pili and Ioane, representing the new generation of Hawaiians, must rediscover these values and reestablish their link with the native gods and deities. Hana and Casper, being part of the younger generation of native Hawaiians, take it upon themselves to instill these values directly and assertively in Pili and Ioane whenever there is a need to remind them of the specific rules and beliefs surrounding the sanctity of the Hawaiian Islands. Kimo, acting as a paternal figure for Pili and Ioane, opts for a gentler approach in teaching them. He extends invitations for them to immerse themselves in the culture of sacredness. This includes participating in rituals like animal burials, conversing in native languages, recounting tales and myths about the gods and deities, and, most importantly, emphasizing the concept of "Kuleana" – the native Hawaiian responsibility to uphold equilibrium in life. This entails showing respect to gods, deities, deceased individuals, animals, nature, and all living beings on Earth.

In the narrative's conclusion, having successfully located and with the intention of retrieving all the treasure, Pili makes the decision to return it to the Night Marchers. This is because the treasure is meant to remain within the Kualoa mountains, in the sacred tomb, and not meant to be discovered. If the treasure were to be outside and widely known, many individuals would attempt to find it, potentially causing harm to the natural environment and the land of Hawaii. This would disrupt the peace and the sanctity associated with Hawaiian gods and deities. The spirit of the Night Marchers serves as the guardians of the treasure as well as the protectors of the Hawaiian people (portrayed in Figure ??). Pili's choice to return the treasure is depicted as a triumph of selflessness over selfishness. Pili comes to realize that obedience and sacrifice are meant for greater causes, rather than just individual interests.

Religious education has always played a role in our educational systems. The existence of sacredness is closely tied to human nature and the understanding of the real world. Parents, guardians, and teachers can initiate discussions about religiosity after watching movies to reinforce religious morals and values that shape one's identity. Understanding religious values is essential for cultural integration within society.

Adults should openly discuss the pluralistic nature of religion and beliefs, debunking stereotypes through direct interaction with other cultures.

4.8. Value of the Present

The character development of Pili and Ioane culminates in their embrace of the importance of moral values in the present. According to George and Uyanga, valuing the present moral standards involves actively choosing to uphold high ethical principles and committing to a better future. In the end, Pili and Ioane decide to remain in Hawaii with Kimo, reconnecting with their cultural heritage, relearning Hawaiian values, and immersing themselves in nature, community, and culture. This choice not only benefits them personally but also has a positive impact on their family and friends.

Pili, despite having the opportunity to keep the treasure for herself and benefit from it, realizes that it is unethical and decides to change her mind. Ioane initially disagrees with Pili's decision and suggests a more practical perspective that keeping the treasure would solve their problems. However, he eventually understands and accepts Pili's choice after considering the moral implications of their actions on others. These two young people learn valuable life lessons about thinking beyond themselves and considering what is best for everyone involved. And as for the treasure hunt meta-narrative inside Monk's journal that Pili and Casper often tell each other throughout their journey inside the cave conclude in justice moral values. Monk, one of the Peruvian pirates, decided to record the journey to the treasure but not to give the journal to anyone else except native Hawaiian because he understands that the treasure is sacred and important for native Hawaiian as it belongs to their culture. Monk in this aspect is the direct reflection of Pili as character as they both share similar motivation of possessing the treasure for themselves and giving it up for greater purposes.

In order for moral standards to improve in modern societies, it is essential for young people to take the initiative and work towards restoring moral values. To uphold these values, parents, guardians, and teachers can engage in open discussions with youths that are inclusive and respectful. These discussions should involve explaining the importance of having good ethics and providing objective reasoning on the consequences of immoral behavior. Young people have the potential to be catalysts for positive change within their communities by embracing moral principles and becoming beacons of light amidst challenges. This will pave the way for nations to truly prosper, develop, and function effectively.

5. Conclusion

Movies and TV shows not only entertain us but also offer opportunities for moral discussions and education. They can be utilized in both formal and informal educational settings to teach moral lessons, examine ethical scenarios, and stimulate imagination when it comes to taking decisions in ethical dilemma situations. In this regard, the movie *Finding 'Ohana* serves all three purposes effectively. It facilitates discussions about young individuals learning and embracing moral values within the setting of Hawaiian traditional culture. The protagonist character Pili provides a dynamic and compelling character arc as case study that resonates with young viewers who can identify with her journey of personal growth.

Parents, guardians, and educators can go beyond using the movie as a one-way platform for showcasing moral values and lessons. Instead, they can engage in open and equitable discussions with young audiences, particularly teenagers. By addressing the moral dilemmas and issues presented in the film, such as pride, honesty, loyalty, and integrity, and exploring their real-life implications, adults and young viewers can openly converse and reflect on their own personal experiences. To ensure these discussions are productive, it's essential to maintain a non-dogmatic approach. This approach fosters trust and openness by acknowledging that adults, too, can make mistakes and unfair decisions but can learn from them and make amends. We have a few suggestions for promoting moral education in a more egalitarian and open manner, with specific roles that adults can play in both family and formal educational settings.

The family, being the fundamental unit of every society, must take steps to correct their weaknesses in restructuring their value systems. This is crucial because most young individuals learn from the elders in their families. For genuine positive change to occur in society, the family must fulfill its role as the primary and foremost agent of socialization. Parents should view themselves as standards for the younger generation and actively assume the responsibilities of mature adults. They must recognize that the future of tomorrow hinges on the groundwork laid today. Youths cannot evolve into trusted leaders if they are unable to lead with trust. Within the educational sphere, young individuals should motivate one another by engaging in interactions and establishing positive social networks. These networks can serve as sources of strength when confronted with discouraging attitudes regarding moral and ethical issues. This can pave the way for the establishment of a robust and sustainable moral foundation built on effective principles.

Acknowledgment

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