

The value of solidarity in *Up* (2009) film: A sociological approach

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Abstract

This research was conducted to describe the types of solidarity value reflected in *Up* movie and to analyze how solidarity value affects the characters based on Sociological theory. This descriptive study used a qualitative method in which the subject of this research is a movie by Pete Docter entitled *Up* (2009) and the object of this study is the value of solidarity in *Up* movie which was released on May 29, 2009. The data were taken in the form of dialogues and scenes to identify the value of solidarity that happened in this movie and its affects. Based on the twenty categories of Interpersonal Solidarity Scale (ISS) from Wheelless (1978) adopted to identify the value of solidarity in the movie being studied. The types of solidarity value that appeared the most are having a dislike for someone else, caring for someone else significantly more than most people they know doing numerous supportive actions for each other, being very connected to one another, someone having significant influence on my actions, and having someone else who is openly, fully, and honestly sharing numerous positive and negative traits to us. Based on data findings, among the twenty types of solidarity value the researchers found nineteen types in this movie, only one of them is not found. Furthermore, the researchers found the act of solidarity value affect the characters on the two characters namely: Carl and Dug.

Keywords: *Sociological approach; Solidarity value; Up Movie*

Introduction

Sociology in literature can be used as a tool to convey messages to society. Sociology has a way of analyzing when interacting with humans and social beings. According to Yu (2024), sociology concentrates on describing and explaining the nature of modern societies that enable and utilize new energies in patterns of social life. In the meantime, literature contains special language that can be conveyed to readers (Sarwoto, 2015), while movie as one of the literary works can make humans more thoughtful in their actions and replicate life, if containing meaningful moral lesson. Literary works such as movies can be studied further with various approaches, including with a sociological perspective. One movie that contains meaningful moral lessons for both young and adult viewers is *Up*, made by Pete Docter in 2009.

Although this movie is not a new movie, the moral lesson is still relevant to be understood in this day and age. One of the interesting moral lessons in

the movie is related to solidarity. Solidarity is mutual respect between living beings. Solidarity is important in building togetherness (Rivaldy et al., 2020). This is reflected in the *Up* movie where several characters help each other despite facing various challenges. This movie tells the story Carl's adventures with Russell. Carl Fredricksen is a parent who has a grumpy, ignorant, and stubborn nature. He has a desire to carry on his wife's dream of going to Paradise Falls. Meanwhile, Russell is a child jungle explorer on a mission to help his parents earn badges. Russell tries to go to Carl's house by offering to help. One day, Russell, a jungle explorer, visited Carl to earn the last merit badge to help the elderly. Carl and Russell who travelled to Paradise Falls with thousands of balloons made the house fly and took them away. On the way, they met a tall and colorful bird gathering food for its young. Their adventure to Paradise Falls has many lessons to learn.

This movie illustrates how important it is for us to help each other, with the value of solidarity, namely relationships between individuals and groups that are bound by a sense of loyalty and mutual trust.

This movie is considered to have no shocking scenes, but it also contains positive things such as helping each other between living things and having a sense of caring. Moreover, some important things that can be learned are always acting with a sincere heart and compassion, having the potential to do things that are beneficial to the surrounding, always be enthusiastic in living life at this time, and striving for a better life.

Vooter & Vliet (2025) stated that solidarity is a difficult concept to measure or observe, involving with the use of legal system as a tool to identify forms and changes in social solidarity. Based on Coimbra et al., (2022) and Ali et al., (2024), solidarity is the love and care that parents and children have for each other regardless of geographical distance and differences in life experiences. Beazer et al. (2024) said that solidarity exists with a particular group of actors to the extent that they are directly connected to each other and have no subgroups. Santor (2020) mentioned that empathic solidarity is a mutual sense of unified awareness and collaboration, with belief in others commitment to a common cause. Furthermore, there are six characteristics of solidarity such as complementarity, affinity, restitution, substitution, reciprocity, identity.

Meanwhile, interpersonal solidarity is happiness and excellence in all aspects of life and can be achieved through better social commitment, which is an important component in improving one's wellbeing. It was found that there was a significant correlation between interpersonal solidarity and their future goals and aspirations, as well as their wellbeing (Shahina, Chacko & Mathai, 2017). Interpersonal solidarity refers to a sense of closeness between individuals that grows out of common feelings, similarities, and close relationships between them from Wheelless' (1976). The value of solidarity in this research is adopted from Wheelless' (1978) list in which he called as "Interpersonal Solidarity Scale", which consisted of twenty interconnected types of solidarity such as being very connected to one another, someone having significant influence on my actions, completely trusting this individual, feeling quite differently about many matters, someone who is openly, fully, and honestly sharing many positive and negative aspects of oneself, not truly comprehending one another, someone else is openly, fully, and honestly sharing numerous

positive and negative traits to us, having doubts about someone else, caring for someone else significantly more than most people they know, rarely engaging with someone else, feeling love for thing person, grasping who someone else is at a deeper level, having a dislike for someone else, engaging with someone else far more than with most others they know, not being particularly close at all, having many shared interests, doing numerous supportive actions for each other, finding little common ground with someone else, feeling a strong connection to someone else, and having some unique ways of communicating privately with each other.

Meanwhile, there are several researchers who have examined the Up movie (2009) from a variety of different approaches or theories such as Gustianingsih et. a. (2023), Yudistira et. a. (2023), Sumarni (2021), Gumilar et. a. (2022), Owa et. a. (2021). There are also some researchers who chose the same topic, such as Shadiyah and Bahari (2020) and Okutan (2023) but in different literary works. However, no one has examined the same movie with the same topic. Therefore, the researchers wanted to further study the Up movie by examining the value of solidarity to find out what types of solidarity value are reflected in the movie.

Methods

This research is a qualitative research type that seeks to understand individual's lived experiences and the meanings they attach to those experiences. The researchers in this study wanted to analyze types of solidarity value are reflected in Up movie and how solidarity value affects the characters in Up movie by employing a sociological approach.

The subject of this research is a movie by Pete Docter entitled *Up* (2009) in which the main characters in this movie are Carl Fredrickson and Russell. The object of this research is the value of solidarity in Up movie. According to Ponce, Gómez-Galán, & Pagán (2022), data is any information obtained from observation, interviews, field notes, and documents that are narrative and descriptive. This data is often unstructured and collected in the form of text or images, which are then analyzed to find patterns, themes, or categories. Consists of two types of data sources were used, namely primary data

and secondary data. The primary data for this research are dialogues and scenes in the Up movie (2009), and the secondary data sources are taken from journals, articles, books, and other website sources relevant to this research.

The data collection technique is a systematic way of obtaining relevant data to answer research questions. Lune & Berg (2017) discussed techniques for collecting data that highlight the analysis of various types of documents, such as written texts, images, and records. The data collection technique in this study consisted of the following steps: watching the Up movie multiple times to understand the content of the movie, making notes of important information dealing with the chosen topic, capturing images to show scenes related to the topic being studied and noting important details on dialogues related to the topic being studied, identifying all the data to find the value of solidarity related to the object of the topic, and then categorizing the data into certain classification related to the value of solidarity adopted from Wheelless' (1978) Interpersonal Solidarity Scale (ISS).

According to Kalpokaite and Radivojevic (2019), data analysis is a systematic process of organizing, interpreting, and presenting data in order to gain meaningful insights. To identify the data analysis there were three main stages: reducing data, displaying data, and drawing conclusion. The researchers analyzed the data collected using theories and drew conclusions according to the results of the data analysis.

Findings and discussion

Having analysed the data based on the methods, the researchers came to answer what types of solidarity value are reflected in Up movie (2009) based on a Sociological approach and how solidarity value affects the characters in the movie.

Solidarity Value

The researchers' first attempt was to describe the types of solidarity values reflected in the Up movie based on a sociological approach. To address this, the researchers used the category of solidarity values derived from Wheelless' (1978), namely: being very

connected to one another, someone having significant influence on my actions, completely trusting this individual, feeling quite differently about many matters, someone who is openly, fully, and honestly sharing many positive and negative aspects of oneself, not truly comprehending one another, someone else is openly, fully, and honestly sharing numerous positive and negative traits to us, having doubts about someone else, caring for someone else significantly more than most people they know, rarely engaging with someone else, feeling love for thing person, grasping who someone else is at a deeper level, having a dislike for someone else, engaging with someone else far more than with most others they know, not being particularly close at all, having many shared interests, doing numerous supportive actions for each other, finding little common ground with someone else, feeling a strong connection to someone else, and having some unique ways of communicating privately with each other.

Interpersonal solidarity, which is the type of solidarity found in the movie being studied, refers to a feeling of closeness between individuals that arises due to shared feelings, similarities, and close interactions between them. Conceptually, people who have strong feelings of solidarity should also trust, like and be open with each other Wheelless' (1976). Wheelless' interpersonal solidarity scale has twenty items. The types of solidarity values found by Wheelless' are not only positive solidarity but there is also negative solidarity. Solidarity is a division of labour that helps form social bonds between individuals (Vooter & Vliet, 2025). Solidarity is a form of collaboration between group members in the face of various challenges, which generally stem from human actions (Fregoso, 2024).

In this study, the researchers found that having a dislike for someone else in the movie at 00:13:08 Carl tells Ellie that the view in front of his house is not very attractive, the view is not as beautiful as before. At 00:14:46 Russell visited Carl's house to see if he could help but Carl declined the offer it seems that Carl wasn't pleased with Russell's visit. At 00:17:00 a contractor worked on a construction project nearby accidentally bumped into Carl and Ellie mailbox, which made Carl dislike him. 00:24:41 Russell was in Carl's house, examined the items, and attempted to handle them but Carl

disapproved of this behavior. At 00:36:27 a large bird approached Carl, who was not pleased with its presence and Carl also requested that the bird go away.

At 00:37:40 Carl look at Kevin, who was on the top floor of Carl's house, Carl disapproved of this and asked Kevin to come down right away. At 00:48:00 Carl noticed Kevin on the roof of his house try to eat his food, this made Carl dislike and he told Kevin to come down. At 01:04:54 Russell questioned Carl about why he allowed someone else to take the bird. Carl responded that he didn't care and that it wasn't his concern. He never anticipated this situation happened to him, which ties into Carl's dislike.

The fact that the most data found is the value having a dislike for someone else of eight data which is the most findings of the twenty values of solidarity proposed by Wheelless (1978). However, from the data it was found that the solidarity value that appeared the most was the solidarity value about negative behavior. Eight data of having a dislike all of them are shown by Carl's character.

Then, four data of caring for someone else significantly more than most people they know, at 00:36:25 it's evident that Kevin is played with Russell, which clearly shows that Kevin has a strong affection for him. At minute 00:39:16 on his way to the waterfall, Russell encountered a dog. He informed that dogs weren't allowed in apartment, but he also expressed his fondness for them. At 00:42:53 Dug claimed that the old man had given him permission and mentioned that he liked Carl because he resembled his boss. At 01:11:40 Dug encounters Carl and mentions that he has been hiding under his porch. Dug keeps followed Carl because he genuinely likes him and expresses his desire to be with Carl. This demonstrates that Dug has feelings caring for someone.

The next four data of doing numerous supportive actions for each other, at 00:30:48 Russell offers to assist Carl if he needs it, this passage focuses significantly on one person try to supportive another. At 00:35:11 Russell encountered a snipe in the bushes. The snipe desired the chocolate Russell had, so he gave it to him. At 01:00:13 while on their journey, Kevin hurt his leg and make it hard for him to walk. Russell requested Carl's assistance in got

Kevin home, and Carl agreed to help. This situation illustrates the importance of supportive actions for each other. Other data at 01:21:49 Russell had experienced guilt for Carl and had expressed his regret over Carl losing his home while try to rescue Russell's beloved bird, Kevin.

Meanwhile, other solidarity values that also frequently appear, which has three data for each type, are being very connected to one another, someone having significant influence on my actions, and someone else is openly, fully, and honestly sharing numerous positive and negative traits to us. Meanwhile, the solidarity value that are not found at all is having many shared interests.

Another value of solidarity that is also shown by many characters in the Up movie shows positive behaviour, namely caring for someone else significantly more than most people they know, doing numerous supportive actions for each other, being very connected to one another, someone having significant influence on my actions, someone else is openly, fully, and honestly sharing numerous positive and negative traits to us.

Solidarity and affection

The researchers' second question attempted to find out how solidarity value affects the characters in Up movie (2009). This section seeks to analyze the effects of solidarity value on several characters in the Up movie. The acts of solidarity is done not only by the main characters, Carl and Russell. However, some other characters in the movie also perform acts of solidarity to other characters, namely Kevin, Dug, and Charles.

In the Up movie, the effect of the value of solidarity can be seen in Carl's character, at the beginning of the story the negative solidarity value appears in Carl's character. However, after meeting Russell, Carl's character now begins to change into a positive. The changes in Carl's character in the positive solidarity value are follows at 01:00:13 Kevin had seriously injured his leg and then Carl kindly helped him to get home. At 01:11:40 Carl who originally disliked Dug, now loves Dug and allows Dug to be his pet dog. At 01:23:35 Carl kindly and consciously attended Russell's event without coercion, he accompanied Russell in the presentation

of the helped parents' badge, and he presented Russell with a gift.

Then, the effect of the value of solidarity can be seen in Dug's character. Dug is a character that appears in the middle of the story. Dug is a pet dog owned by Charles, he was ordered to kidnap Kevin. The act of solidarity affects the characters, at 00:40:18 Dug met Carl, Russell, and Kevin on his way to the waterfall, and he asks Carl for permission to take Kevin as his prisoner. This shows the negative value of solidarity as he tried to kidnap Kevin. However, over time he changed for the better. Seen in the scene at 00:40:00 he tries to help Carl and Kevin in Kevin's rescue to escape Charles trap. At the end of the story, he became helpful and kind.

The value of solidarity is not only positive but there are also the negative ones, it can be seen in the main character named Carl. At the beginning of the story, he is a person who is described with negative solidarity value, he is a stubborn person, does not care about anyone and does not want to hear the words of others. Meanwhile, in the end he turns into a person who has positive solidarity value such as smiling more easily and behaving well to anyone. Furthermore, Dug when he appears in the story he looks like an evil character because he tries to kidnap Kevin until in the end he became a helper in Kevin's rescue. All in all, the researchers concluded that the act of solidarity value affect the characters one of which is Carl and Dug.

Conclusion

In summary, the researchers analyze the value of solidarity in the Up movie (2009) from the perspective of sociological approach to identify types of solidarity value are reflected in Up movie and how solidarity value affect the characters in Up movie. Through collecting and analyzing the data containing the value of solidarity, the researchers identified of twenty types of solidarity values, there are nineteen solidarity values found in Up movie (2009) with the act of solidarity affect two characters namely: Carl and Dug. The types of solidarity value found in this movie are based on the scenes and dialogues of the characters studied by the researchers. Among the twenty types of solidarity value according to Wheelless (1978), nineteen types can be found in this

movie, only one of them is not found, which is having many shared interests.

The researchers also identified some effects of solidarity value emerged in the movie. The effect negative solidarity values become positive based on the two characters, Carl and Dug. Carl's character has an effect on the value of solidarity because it is obvious that he is the main character in the movie, and he also appears from the beginning to the end of the story. In addition, there is also the character Dug who appears in the middle of the story. He is seen as a bad character until he turns into a good character.

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