

CHAPTER I

INTRODUCTION

1.1 Background of study

Ultimately, Hiccup's evolution from an insecure adolescent to a peace-driven leader underscores the film's larger commentary on prejudice, change, and the courage to challenge norms. It invites audiences especially younger viewers to consider the power of empathy and the importance of staying true to one's values, even in the face of societal rejection.

Furthermore, Hiccup's arc can be interpreted through the lens of identity politics and cross-cultural understanding, as it subverts traditional hero narratives. Instead of achieving greatness through domination, Hiccup achieves leadership through compassion, strategic thinking, and bridge-building between species. This inversion of the typical masculine hero archetype reflects a broader cultural shift toward valuing emotional intelligence and inclusive leadership.

Hiccup's character development unfolds through a series of internal and external conflicts his bond with Toothless, a wounded dragon he chooses to heal rather than kill, becomes a catalyst for his transformation. This relationship challenges the deep-rooted beliefs of his community and forces Hiccup to redefine not only who he is, but what it means to be a Viking. His journey is not simply one of personal growth but also a symbolic reconstruction of identity in the face of generational and cultural resistance.

How to Train Your Dragon (2010), directed by Dean DeBlois and Chris Sanders, offers a rich case study in exploring universal themes such as courage, self-acceptance, emotional maturity, and the tension between individual values and societal expectations. The protagonist, Hiccup Horrendous Haddock III, is portrayed as a teenage Viking who feels out of place in a culture that glorifies violence and physical strength. As the son of the Viking chief Stoick the Vast, he is expected to become a dragon slayer and a warrior, yet his personality and inclinations lead him toward empathy, curiosity, and innovation.

The development of the main character in a film is one of the essential literary elements, serving not only to shape the narrative but also to guide the audience through the emotional and psychological journey of the protagonist. In animated films, this element becomes particularly powerful as it merges visual storytelling with deep character-driven arcs.

Christopher Vogler's Character Arc Theory is very relevant in understanding Hiccup's journey. According to Vogler, main characters in narratives often go through three main stages: Ordinary World, Call to Adventure, and Return with New Knowledge. Hiccup begins his story as a character who does not fit into the Viking tradition, not a talented warrior, but rather an intelligent observer and thinker. The Call to Adventure comes when he discovers that the Vikings are at war with dragons, and he sets out to prove that not all dragons are enemies. The relationship with Toothless becomes key in his character development from an insecure young man to a leader who understands and embraces differences. This transformation reflects the courage to challenge social norms, such as when Hiccup chooses to speak to dragons as friends instead of enemies, which is an action that does not conform to the expectations of Viking society.

Henri Tajfel's Social Identity Theory provides additional context on how Hiccup deals with identity conflict. In the film, Hiccup is faced with a choice between traditional Viking values that include assertiveness, strength, and competition, and the new bond he builds with Toothless, which emphasizes forgiveness, cooperation, and understanding. This conflict not only affects how he is viewed by his society but also how he views himself. This relationship is a representation of how individuals can struggle to find their place in a world filled with prejudice, and how accepting oneself can be a challenge in overcoming strict social norms.

Human-Animal Relationship Theory is also very relevant in analyzing Hiccup's relationship with Toothless. This theory emphasizes how emotional connections between humans and animals can influence personal growth, changing individuals' perceptions of the world around them. In this movie, the relationship between Hiccup and Toothless becomes a metaphor for fighting prejudice and opening up space for a paradigm shift in Viking society towards dragons. Their relationship is not only based on physiological needs, but also emotionally as they learn to accept and understand each other, which affects the way Hiccup views himself as a Viking leader and citizen.

Previous research has extensively discussed the technical aspects, narrative structure, and themes of *How to Train Your Dragon*, but rarely has it focused in depth on Hiccup's character change in the context of identity. This research will fill this gap by analyzing how Hiccup's relationship with Toothless affects his growth and how this, in turn, redefines the relationship between Vikings and dragons. The aim of this research is to provide deeper insight into how

narratives such as this depict the journey of identity in the face of strict social norms, as well as the relevance of this story in the context of modern culture.

This research aims to analyze Hiccup's character development and the factors that influence his transformation. Specifically, this research will explore the role of Hiccup's relationship with Toothless, the themes of self-acceptance and courage, and the impact of his identity journey on society. In doing so, it will contribute to a deeper understanding of how narratives such as *How to Train Your Dragon* portray identity development.

1.2 Reasons for Choosing the Topic

In *How to Train Your Dragon*, Hiccup's character has a significant transformation from a young man full of doubts to a confident leader who understands his role in Viking society. This study offers an opportunity to analyze how Hiccup navigates challenges that affect how he views himself, how he embraces his role as a leader, and how this journey reflects a shift in his concept of personal identity.

Hiccup's transformation from a shy and insecure man to a leader who braves obstacles reflects how individuals can influence social change in their communities. This study allows us to analyze how Hiccup embraces his identity that differs from the norms of Viking society, and how he leads his community to accept this new role. This study emphasizes the importance of courage in the face of social change and how each individual's change can contribute to a broader transformation in society.

The relationship between Hiccup and Toothless serves not only as a central plot point in the film, but also as a vehicle to explore themes such as friendship, trust, and acceptance. This study offers insight into how the interaction between Hiccup and Toothless helps Hiccup find the courage to act outside of social expectations, as well as how this relationship reflects the importance of human connection in shaping and transforming identity. This analysis also looks at how this closeness helps Hiccup overcome his fears and shapes him into a better leader.

Examining Hiccup's character transformation provides an opportunity to develop critical analysis skills, a deep understanding of relevant themes in literature and culture, and the ability to connect concepts from academic theories to popular media. This study also enriches knowledge about the use of symbolism, narrative, and characterization in animated films to depict personal journeys and character transformation.

1.3 Research Question

1. How does Hiccup's character change in *How to Train Your Dragon* reflect his journey of self-discovery and the challenges of conforming to societal norms?
2. In what ways does the relationship between Hiccup and Toothless shape Hiccup's identity in *How to Train Your Dragon*?
3. What role does the relationship between Hiccup and Toothless play in shaping Hiccup's transformation from an insecure boy to a leader who challenges social norms?

1.4 Objectives of the Study

The objectives of the study is to analyze Hiccup's character transformation in *How to Train Your Dragon*, which reflects his journey of self-discovery as he seeks acceptance in Viking society and realizes that he does not have to conform to existing norms. His relationship with Toothless shapes his understanding of empathy, self-confidence, and the true nature of dragons, ultimately leading him to grow into a leader who dares to challenge tradition and bring change to his society.

1.5 Significance of the Study

This study has significance from an academic perspective. In an academic context, this study makes a significant contribution to the understanding of how character change in animated films can reflect the process of identity and personal development. Through the analysis of Hiccup's character in *How to Train Your Dragon*, this study deepens insight into how animated films use the theories of Character Transformation, Social Identity, and Human-Animal Relations to depict the journey of identity related to the themes of courage, self-acceptance, and fighting prejudice. This study shows how Hiccup changes from an insecure young man to a leader who dares to fight social norms, especially in the relationship between humans and other creatures. Socially and culturally, this study is important because it links themes in *How to Train Your Dragon*, such as the relationship between humans and dragons, with issues in society. Through the analysis of Hiccup's relationship with Toothless. This study can also be used as a moral education tool to teach about the importance of courage to accept oneself and relate inclusively to others, both in the context of school, education, and social policy.

1.6 Outline of the Study Report

The Study is organized into 5 chapters. Same as the other research, each chapter consist different topic.

Chapter I consist an introduction to this study, In this chapter there are six sub chapters, which are background of the study, reason fo choosing the topic, research questions, objectives of the study, significance of the study and the outline of study report

Chapter II consist an literature review. In this chapter there are three subchapters, which are theoretical background, previous research, conceptual framework. Theoretical background contains character arc theory, social identity theory, human-animal relationship theory. Previous research contains some research relevant to the topic. Lastly, conceptual framework contains framework of thought based on previous theoretical studies and research.

Chapter III consist of the research methodology. In this chapter there are five sub-chapters, which are research design, source of data, method of data collection, method of data analysis and research procedure

Chapter IV is about findings and discussions of the research. This chapter contains general description, detailed results.

Chapter V in the last chapter which consist of only two sub-chapter, such as the conclusions and suggestions,