



Jurnal Review Pendidikan dan Pengajaran
<http://journal.universitaspahlawan.ac.id/index.php/jrpp>
 Volume 8 Nomor 2, 2025
 P-2655-710X e-ISSN 2655-6022

Submitted : 29/05/2025
 Reviewed : 03/06/2025
 Accepted : 05/06/2025
 Published : 17/06/2025

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THE ROLE OF FAMILY IN SHAPING ENOLA HOLMES'S IDENTITY IN *ENOLA HOLMES* (2020)

Abstrak

Studi ini sampai pada hubungan yang lebih mendalam antara keluarga dan karakter utama dalam film *Enola Holmes* (2020) dengan pertanyaan penelitian yang dihadirkan: Apa pengaruh dari keluarga terhadap perkembangan karakter Enola Holmes? Pada penelitian ini, langkah yang diambil adalah dengan menggunakan metode deskriptif kualitatif serta menggunakan teknik pengumpulan data yang meliputi pengamatan film, analisis dialog, serta studi pustaka. Kemudian, data tersebut akan dianalisis dengan menggunakan Teori Sistem Keluarga dari Murray Bowen, khususnya konsep pembedaan diri yang berkonsentrasi pada emosi yang ada dalam keluarga. Dari hasil pengamatan, terlihat bahwa pengasuhan Eudoria Holmes yang mendorong anak untuk bersikap otonom serta berpikir secara kritis berdampak langsung terhadap kemunculan karakter Enola yang kuat, cerdas, dan pemberani. Di lain sisi, interaksinya dengan Mycroft mencerminkan perjuangan dari pendekatan tradisional dan modern, serta dukungan emosional yang tidak langsung dari Sherlock membantu dalam pertumbuhan emosional Enola. Fokus utama penggunaan kata "fokus" dapat diartikan untuk mengupgrade kalimat agar terkesan lebih formal oleh akademisi atas penelitian ini adalah menyebutkan pengaruh sebuah keluarga baik secara langsung atau tidak kepada anak dan juga nilai-nilai yang diajarkan menjadikan sebuah dampak besar dalam membentuk karakter seorang anak yang beranjak yang sedang beranjak remaja. Maka dari itu, disarankan kepada para orang tua dan pendidik untuk beralih ke otoritatif demi memancing pikiran kritis anak, dan media serta pembuat kebijakan untuk menciptakan iklan sosio bapak yang berdampak positif terhadap usia muda yang berdaya.

Kata kunci: Pengaruh Keluarga, Perkembangan Karakter, Enola Holmes, Teori Sistem Keluarga

Abstract

The study aims to explore the part of family dynamics in the character development of the protagonist in the movie *Enola Holmes* (2020), thereby presenting the research question: In what ways does family impact Enola Holmes's character growth? Using a descriptive qualitative method, data was gathered via scene observation, dialogue analysis, and pertinent literature review. These were then assessed in light of Murray Bowen's Family Systems Theory, with particular emphasis on the concept of differentiation of self, which emphasizes an individual's ability to maintain a distinct identity in the presence of emotional demands from family. The findings show that Enola's strong, smart, and courageous character develops as a result of Eudoria Holmes's forward-thinking parenting style promoting independence, critical thinking, and freedom of expression. Moreover, her contact with Mycroft shows a conflict between conventional and modern values, whereas Sherlock's gentle emotional support helps Enola to acquire emotional maturity. This research emphasizes how the family environment whether by presence, absence, or instilled values greatly affects the character growth of teenagers. Parents and teachers should therefore adopt a democratic style of parenting that encourages critical thought, and media and politicians should promote representations of gender-equal parenting to raise independent and empowered young people.

Keywords: Family Impact, Character Development, Enola Holmes, Family Systems Theory

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INTRODUCTION

The word *media* derives from the Latin term *medium*, which literally refers to *conveyor* or *middle*. Media are thus conduits or routes that transport messages from the source to the receiver (Hawa, 2023). One of the several forms of media is the audio visual form often referred to as film. Many people find film as an audio visual device very interesting. Creativity can give rise to several ideas, ranging from adaptations of books and factual accounts to allusions from someone's personal notes (Siregar, 2022).

Among the movies drawn from a Novel is *Enola Holmes*. Directed by Harry Bradbeer in 2020, *Enola Holmes* tells the story of a smart and independent teenage girl sets out to find her Mother, who somewhat vanishes. The younger sister of famous detective Sherlock Holmes. Enola, charts her path apart from the direction of her two elder brothers. Strongly influenced by her Mother, Eudoria a non conformist Enola is urged to reject social patriarchal constraints and follow her values, engage in critical thought. This story shows how much a person's character may be shaped by their family upbringing.

Data from (Yolanda & Prihanto, 2022) reveal a strong and important connection between father roles and teenage character growth. Though other unappreciated factors contribute to the balance, the influence of fathers about 69 does. Five percent helps to shape a character. This knowledge emphasizes how crucial primary family members are, including their Mother roles in establishing a good foundation for the moral development of kids.

This also fits with the results of (Hadian et al., 2021), who stress how much the family environment molds a kid's character. Parenting style, communication, and emotional closeness build the foundation for instillation of good ideals. *Enola Holmes's* aim to live by her convictions clearly show these values; this is the product of a family setting that, despite not being conventional, is philosophically and emotionally effective. Hence, even without all family members being physically present, the movie shows how a strong and open family structure can transmit important values across generations and mold a child's character completely.

According to (Runtiko, 2021) in *Kajian Literatur Naratif Pendekatan Teoritis Komunikasi Keluarga* asserts that family communication serves as a systemic process whereby each member's actions and values affect the dynamics of the whole family. This fits *Enola's* development, in which her relationship with Eudoria is both emotional and systematic; every contact between them creates a family communication pattern that promotes independence, opposition to social standards, and critical thinking. Through the emotional ties among its members, a family's natural character is formed. It is a setup whereby every family member has rules to be honored and particular responsibilities to carry out. Each family member is expected to react to one another based on their respective roles inside defined boundaries and to create behavioral patterns enabling predictability of future occurrences inside the family (Permana, 2024). In *Enola Holmes*, *Enola's* interactions with her Mother, Eudoria, which, despite their peculiar family dynamic, promotes *Enola's* independence, critical thought, and resilience, shape her identity and arm her to face the world bravely.

Furthermore, (Sugitanata, 2024) studies emphasize how successfully restoring family harmony through Bowen's Family Systems strategy depends much on correcting emotional communication, upholding functional roles within the family, and striking equilibrium among its members.

Furthermore, the research by (Satria et al., 2021) indicates that family dynamics are much influenced by the quality of family interpersonal communication including in the context of technology use such online games. Open and responsive communication helps families to negotiate disagreements arising from diverse interests or habits more gently. This is consistent with the portrayal in *Enola Holmes*, where Eudoria's openness in defining *Enola's* identity and allowing room for discovery is absolutely crucial to a workable family system as Bowen's family systems theory describes. Therefore, good human contact forms the basis for constructing strong families able to adjust to societal changes both in modern family settings and in fictitious stories like *Enola Holmes*.

This article poses the research question: “In what ways does the family shape the character development of Enola Holmes in the film *Enola Holmes* (2020)?” This investigation seeks to examine the impact of family dynamics, notably the link between Enola and her Mother, in influencing Enola’s character formation. By looking at this movie, the research aims to raise awareness of familial roles in teen character development, therefore expanding the body of knowledge inside film studies and character education especially with respect to depictions of independent young woman raised from supportive and progressive parenting.

METHOD

With the researcher serving as the major tool, the descriptive qualitative research approach—as mentioned by (Sugiyono, 2019) seeks to examine topics in their real surroundings. Using inductive analysis for data interpretation, this approach aims to methodically, factually, and accurately depict the links between the phenomena being studied. Triangulation, combining observation, thorough interviews, and documentation, are used in the approaches of data gathering. Meaning is given more weight than general application in this research type, so it is especially appropriate for in-depth investigation of social phenomena including the influence of family in forming a character in a movie.

Murray Bowen’s Family Systems (Sugitanata, 2024) postulates that families are dynamic systems in which people interact and influence one another. Emphasized in the theory is the idea that interactions and contacts between family members have a major impact on every person’s overall development and welfare. Agreeing with this, (Rosyidah et al., 2023) contend that a supportive family system is especially helpful in fostering resilience and psychological well-being, especially in difficult conditions. Enola Holmes’s character clearly shows the connection between personal development and family dynamics.

This family systems theory is especially useful for understanding how the dynamics within the movie *Enola Holmes* (2020) influence Enola’s character in both emotional and behavioral ways. Enola develops in a household noted for intricate relationships inside the novel, therefore influencing her attitude toward problems and worldview. Enola’s convictions and brave defiance against societal norms are greatly shaped by the impact of family members, particularly her Mother, who instills independence and freedom together with her father’s absence.

This study comprises phases concentrating on the means family affects Enola’s personality, collecting information via examination of film scenes, conversations, and character interactions, and analyzing this data by theme extraction relevant to family dynamics. This study grounded in Family Systems Theory aims to investigate and explain how family ties influence Enola’s character growth, which is key to the research question. The study’s main source of data is the 2020 film *Enola Holmes*, albeit other publications on Family Systems Theory and earlier research looking at the effects of family or environmental forces on personality development serve as backup evidence.

RESULTS AND DISCUSSION

Enola Holmes (2020) offers more than just a tale of adventure and problem-solving; it also delves into the intricate nature of familial relationships that significantly impact the growth of its protagonist, Enola Holmes. Growing up in an unconventional family setting, Enola is exposed to a range of treatments, expectations, and values from her family most notably from her Mother, her elder brother Mycroft, and Sherlock Holmes. Formation of her emotional and moral compass depends much on how her family members interact with her, therefore affecting who Enola becomes and her reactions to challenges she encounters in life.

This portion of the study will show several illustrations from the movie illustrating how Enola’s family members’ attitudes and deeds directly shape her character growth. Every aspect from her Mother’s stress on self-reliance to Mycroft’s autocratic monitoring and Sherlock’s subtle approval-helps to shape Enola into a brave, smart, confident person. Key scenes in the

film that demonstrate how Enola Holmes's growth rests on family dynamics as a major element rather than simply context will be emphasized in the study.

Education and Freedom of Thought from Her Mother:

Mycroft : Tell me, at least she gives you an education

Sherlock: She appreciates the education

Enola : She taught me herself, she made me read every book in Ferndell's library.

Shakespeare, Locke, the encyclopedia, Thackeray, and the essay of Mary

Wollstonecraft, and I did in my own account. For my own learning. Mother said that the best way to become a woman.

(09.30 - 10.05)

Mycroft, Sherlock, and Enola's argue in this scene about various points of view on education; Enola discloses that her Mother, Eudoria, instructed her alone utilizing traditional books and critical thinking. According to Family Systems, According to (Satria et al., 2021) in the magazine PARAHITA, theory is an adaptive system assisting change (morphogenesis) with Eudoria establishing a pattern of openness and freeing communication on children's character growth. Though their research emphasizes kids who play online games, the underlying idea is still pertinent: active engagement and communication within the family like Enola's experience will help to produce a good learning environment and reinforce a child's identity favorably. This scene also fits with the idea of the family as a system of character intervention, whereby the basis for internalizing morals and values is found (Hambali, 2024). The family system intervention technique views the family as an active promoter of moral and intellectual growth as well as a place of emotional connection. Emphasizing critical thinking, independence, and moral sensitivity, Eudoria's parenting reveals a deliberate effort to create Enola's personality inside the family system.

Mycroft Wishes for Enola to Conform to Traditional Expectations of Women:

(Mycroft wants Enola to prepare for a more traditional life like most other women, which goes against the values instilled in her by their Mother. As a result, he even seeks the help of Miss Harrison to enroll Enola in her finishing school)

(11.52 - 14.54)

In this scene of the movie, Mycroft Holmes tries to make Enola a traditional woman by enrolling her in a finishing school, which goes against the principles of freedom and self-reliance their Mother taught them. According to family systems theory, this shows an effort to maintain homeostasis, or family systems equilibrium, with Enola representing change (morphogenesis) and Mycroft defending traditional values. (Runtiko, 2021) in *Jurnal Common* clarifies that family communication is systematic and shapes meaning and identity very much. The tension between Mycroft and Enola underscores the dynamic between compliance and change in the family system and highlights an authoritative communication style that creates a value conflict inside the family. Moreover, another study clarifies that people who successfully maintain a healthy emotional detachment in family relationships, just like Enola with Mycroft, are better able to handle problems and safeguard their independence (Chandrakusuma & Aditya, 2023).

Interactions with Sherlock Holmes:

(She was intelligent)

Enola : I have kept all of your clips and your cases that I could ever find.

Sherlock: That's flattering.

Enola : She meant to go. She's not coming back.

Sherlock: No. The truth is, Mother always had a reason for everything. Her way of doing things. And those kind of mysteries that always the most satisfying to unpack.

Enola : I don't want a mystery Sherlock. I want my Mother back here and my life as it was.

Sherlock: You're being emotional. It was understandable but unnecessary.

(12.58), (17.16 - 17.55)

Given that Enola exhibits a strong emotional attachment to her absent Mother and Sherlock reacts with logic and emotional detachment, the relationship between the two characters in the film can be explained by family systems theory, particularly the concepts of differentiation of self and emotional cutoff. This conflict illustrates the strain within the family system brought on by the absence of a primary caregiver their Mother. This aligns with the findings of (Wardoyo & Pujiani, 2024), who emphasize that family and educational environments have a significant impact on personal development, especially with regard to emotional flexibility and the ability to cope with change. The dissolution of Enola's family structure causes her to go through an identity crisis, just as students may struggle academically due to changes in educational systems. (Sholeh, 2023) emphasizes how unrestrained emotional reactions can cause conflict within the family. Sholeh asserts that emotional distance and incomplete attachments are significant causes of family disputes. Enola's emotional bond with her Mother contrasts with Sherlock's detachment, illustrating how various coping mechanisms impact family communication and dispute resolution.

Enola Confronts for A Fight Combat Against Men from Her Mother's Training:

Enola : First is histories, she always said that.

Eudoria : Learning history is always becomes the only way to begin the day.

Enola : Then we lunch, learning microphysics. And after lunch, I focus on fitness. And continue for a fight combat. (50.38 - 53.45)

In this scene, Enola describes her daily educational routine with her Mother, Eudoria, which consists of studying history, microphysics, combat training, and physical fitness. This method uses a non-traditional parenting style to help Enola develop critical thinking and independence. According to family systems theory, their relationship is an adaptive system that promotes change (morphogenesis), and it is crucial for the Mother and daughter to communicate openly. This is like what Paramida and Ramadhina (2021) did in the *Journal of Language*, where they used Sally in the 2020 movie *Misbehavior* to challenge the stereotype about women. Eudoria, like Sally, goes against the norms by teaching Enola. The discussion shows how education and open communication can help a family system to challenge the traditional gender roles.

Murray Bowen's Family Systems Theory (Sugitanata, 2024) says that families are dynamic systems where the interactions among its members have a big impact on personal growth and well being. Eudoria's organized approach to Enola's education starting from history then science, fitness and fighting shows family involvement, therefore this is. A happy home is very important for children's brain and academic development according to (Azmah et al., 2025). Eudoria's advice shows how frequent interaction among family members helps to build Enola's confidence, autonomy and mental growth.

CONCLUSIONS

A closer look at the movie *Enola Holmes* (2020) through the lens of differentiation of self within Bowen's Family Systems Theory reveals the role of family in shaping adolescent character. Enola's independence, ability to think critically, emotional strength, and bravery all show how her Mother, Eudoria Holmes, raised her in a progressive way and gave her emotional support. Eudoria taught Enola values that shaped her identity by supporting non traditional education and going against patriarchal norms, even though Mycroft tried to make her follow traditional gender roles. Enola's relationship with Sherlock shows how emotional detachment and intellectual affirmation helped her self-differentiation. This means parenting grounded on values and support can produce resilient and independent individuals who can manage healthy relationships. So parents and caregivers should promote open communication and critical thinking to their children from an early age, educators should consider incorporating family systems in character education and researchers should explore the effects of different parenting styles on adolescent development in various cultural settings. Policymakers and society should advocate for gender equality and progressive parenting through educational programs and media representation to produce a empowered and genuine younger generation.

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