

CHAPTER 4

DATA ANALYSIS

In this chapter, the writer tries to answer the problems posed in the problem formulation. The writer focuses on analyzing the problems faced by the main character *Moana*, and how Moana fights for her freedom. All the data took from a film entitled *Moana*. This film was watched from the *Disney+ Hotstar* application. In analyzing the data, the writer uses the theories by Fadhilah (2012) and (Marzuki, 2008) on Moana's problems and Sumana (2022) on the way Moana fights for her freedom. To make it easier for the reader to follow the discussion, the writer divides the chapter into two sub-chapters.

4.1 The Problems Faced by Moana

In this subchapter, the writer shows Moana's problem. Moana experiences internal problems that come from within herself and external problems from the people around her. Based on Fadhilah (2012), there are four problems often faced by women: not confident, weakness, underestimation of a woman's ability, and disapproval of a woman's existence. Moreover, Marzuki (2008) said that women must be obedient because their position is lower than men's, so society often distrusts them. In the *Moana* film, the writer combines Fadhilah's and Marzuki's ideas about the problems faced by women because their ideas complement each other. The writer finds four problems in this film, leading to one big problem: women are inferior to men. Therefore, Moana's problems are not confident, being weak, being distrusted by society (related to the

disapproval of a woman's existence), and being unintelligent (related to society's underestimating of a woman's ability).

4.1.1 Not confident

As a young woman, Moana experiences problems that come from within herself. One of which is a lack of self-confidence. Moana's self-doubt arises when she tries to solve a problem in her village. It is when the fishermen cannot catch any fish in the whole lagoon. Moana cannot solve this fish scarcity problem by merely sailing beyond the reef. She fails to solve the problem and ends up injuring her leg. Moana loses confidence. Her failure makes her believe in what her father says: "not to cross the reef."

As a woman, Moana feels that she does not have enough experience to boost her confidence in crossing the ocean and catching fish. She says in a complaining and sad tone, "He was right. About going out there. It's time to put my stone on the mountain. (Clements, 2016, 00:20:31)" She doubts herself and then agrees with her father's opinion about not going out because it is dangerous and unsafe. Her father's words make her doubt her ability to solve problems. As the next chief, she must be able to solve the problems of her people.

Moana also doubts herself when she learns from her grandmother that the ocean chooses her to save her village from the darkness. She does not readily accept the fact that she is the one who has to save her village and her family. Moana feels that as a woman, she does not even know how to sail, an activity that men usually do. She says, "But... Why'd it chooses me? I don't even know how to make it past the reef. (Clements,

2016, 00:27:45)” Moana feels that she will not be able to do her job correctly and return Te Fiti's heart.

Moana feels very depressed when Maui, a big and strong man, even gives up fighting Te Ka, the lava monster. Maui even doubts his ability to return the heart to Te Fiti. Maui, whom she thinks is a man capable of fighting Te Ka, turns out to have left her alone. Her experience as a young woman with no knowledge and understanding of sailing makes Moana doubt herself even more. She is in doubt because she has to leave her comfort zone to continue a task that is impossible for her to complete.

Moana then asks the ocean to choose someone else who is more deserving of this formidable task. Moana feels she is not the right person to undertake a task that exceeds her capabilities. Maui's words that Moana is the wrong person chosen by the ocean make Moana even more convincing that she is not “the one.” She says, “Why did you bring me here? I'm not the right person. You have to choose someone else. Choose someone else. Please. (Clements, 2016, 01:18:01-01:18:22)” Moana feels that women always consider having a lower capacity than men. Even though she is a braver young woman, she doubts herself and feels inferior to men.

4.1.2 Weak

Moana also feels powerless when she faces problems from society; Moana's abilities as a woman are demeaned. As a woman, Moana is considered weak, unable to be independent, and unable to do anything. Women are regarded as someone who does not have the ability and power to do what they want. Faradilla (2020) stated that society

treats women not only because they are physically weak but also because they are considered “weak” mentally.

As a young woman, Moana feels unfit and unworthy to do such a difficult task that requires a lot of experience and power. Moana looks very sad and desperate when she fights with Maui. They fight because Maui accuses Moana of lying about the ocean that chooses her. Maui blames Moana because Te Ka almost destroys his hook. He says, “No, we're here because the ocean told you you're special and you believed it. (Clements, 2016, 01:17:15)” He also says, “I'm not killing myself so you can prove you're something you're not. (Clements, 2016, 01:17:26)” In his words, Maui gives up on Moana. Maui looks down on Moana, the treatment which makes Moana silent and cry.

Maui's fish hook is a historical story. An old Polynesian myth describes Maui's fish hook and how it pulled land out of the water to form the Polynesian islands. Additionally, various Polynesian myths about Maui are mentioned in the song "You're Welcome" by Maui.

Moana feels that she cannot do the task given to her because she thinks she is weak and emotional. Moreover, she does not have enough knowledge and experience. She believes she needs Maui to accompany her to deliver the heart. As stated by Ramadhan (2019), usually, men are seen as someone strong, brave, adventurous, and independent, while women are seen as powerless, dependent, and emotional. Ramadhan states that men seem to find it easier to do anything on their own because they are born to be brave and adventurous. These men's psychological traits are

supported by their solid and big bodies. Meanwhile, women are usually more petite and look weaker, so people see them as unable to do everything independently.

Moana experiences emotional confusion with her feeling when her grandmother falls ill and lies weak. At that time, her grandmother tells Moana to do her job to restore Te Fiti's heart. Moana, who hears her grandmother's instruction, feels that she cannot go at that time and leaves her sick grandmother. The emotional confusion can be seen in their dialogue.

Moana: Not now. I can't.

Gramma Tala: You must. The ocean chose you. Follow the fish hook.

Moana: Grandma.

Gramma Tala: And when you find Maui, you grab him by the ear. You say... I am Moana of Motunui. You will board my boat, sail across the sea, and restore the heart of Te Fiti.

Moana: I... I can't leave you.

Gramma Tala: There is nowhere you could go that I won't be with you. Go.

Dialogue 4.1.

Note: (Clements, 2016, 00:29:42-00:30:35)

Moana looks doubtful about carrying out her grandmother's orders, especially when her grandmother, who has always supported her, is not by her side. Moana feels weak and has no strength, although her grandmother emphasizes that she will always be there to accompany Moana whenever and wherever.

Moana, as a woman, experiences problems with her feelings. In this case, Moana feels sad and cannot leave her grandmother. It happens because women are usually closer to their families than men, so when their families, like the grandmother, have problems or are sick, they cannot leave her. Instead, she wants to stay with and look after her grandmother.

Family plays a significant role in Polynesian society and serves as a major plot point in Moana. Moana is troubled and uncertain about her place in her family and on the island at the beginning of the movie. Moana discovers her identity when she learns about her family's history as a whole, including the journeys of her ancestors.

Her powerlessness is seen even more obvious when her grandmother comes back to see her. Moana cries and hugs her grandmother, whom she misses so much. She looks very stressed and gives up as she says, "Grandma! I tried, grandma. I... I couldn't do it. (Clements, 2016, 01:19:17)" Moana as a woman, is helpless and immediately cries out all her disappointment at herself for not being able to carry out the tasks her grandmother gives her.

4.1.3 Distrusted by society

Moana faces this kind of problem from her father. Her father is the head of the village, who will pass his position to Moana as his only child. In guiding Moana to become the next chief, her experienced father will decide what he thinks is suitable for his people. Her father often disregards Moana's opinion. As a young woman, Moana often clashes with her father because of differences in opinion. As stated by Marzuki

(2008), women are often marginalized in a society that makes women distrusted by society. In this society, women are frequently relegated to the background.

The example of Moana being distrusted is shown in the film when Moana is a toddler. At that time, she always wanted to see the ocean, but her father always said she had to stay on the ground because it was where she was meant to be, not in the ocean. It shows in the following dialogue.

Moana: I wanna see (Moana runs to the sea)

Chief Tui: Don't walk away / Moana, stay on the ground now / Our people will need a chief and there you are

Dialogue 4.2.

Note: (Clements, 2016, 00:08:31-00:08:40)

Moana believes fishermen should sail beyond the reef when they cannot catch fish in the lagoon. However, her father balks at Moana's opinion, saying that a village rule forbids villagers from going over the reef on the assumption that it will keep them safe. It is historically accurate that the Moana people have ceased sailing beyond the reef. Some historians refer to this phenomenon as "The Long Pause," in which the big voyage across the Pacific Ocean, which had begun around 3,500 years earlier, was then suspended for 2,000 years for unexplained causes. Some hypotheses believe that the varying wind patterns made sailing too challenging, which may have been the reason why Moana's father warned against sailing past the reef.

During Moana's conversation with her father, both Moana and her father are angry and stubborn to keep their opinions. In the end, Moana fails to win the arguments,

as her father ignores her opinions. Here, Moana is distrusted because she is a woman.

It shows in the following dialogue.

Moana: What if... we fished beyond the reef?

Chief Tui: No one goes beyond the reef.

Moana: I know. But if there are no fish in the lagoon...

Chief Tui: Moana...

Moana: And there's a whole ocean...

Chief Tui: We have one rule.

Moana: An old rule, when there were fish.

Chief Tui: A rule that keeps us safe!

Dialogue 4.3.

Note: (Clements, 2016, 00:14:26-00:14:42)

Moana is also not believed by her father when she says she can stop the darkness in her village and save their island. Moana believes they can stop the darkness by finding Maui and returning the stolen heart of Te Fiti. However, her father throws the heart away, saying, “There is no heart. This is just a rock. (Clements, 2016, 00:28:40)” As a young woman, Moana's words are always distrusted by her father, who is more powerful in making decisions in the village. Moana’s words are considered to be just a joke.

4.1.4 Unintelligent

Moana is the first woman who will become the chief at Motunui. Moana begins to learn to solve problems in her village. However, Moana cannot solve the fish

problem when the fishermen cannot catch any fish, and they say it is just gone. It happens because the villagers do not want to follow Moana's advice to sail beyond the reef. Her father strongly opposes Moana's suggestion because he thinks it will endanger their people. As his father says, "Instead of endangering our people so you can run right back to the water! Every time I think you're past this. No one goes beyond the reef! (Clements, 2016, 00:14:45)" With a disappointed and sad expression, Moana feels she cannot solve the fish problem. The problem faced by Moana occurs because women are considered unintelligent and not thinking carefully in solving a problem. As cited by Otto (2017), women are considered much worse than men in almost every aspect of society. Women are often underestimated and worse than men in all respects by society. In this case, women are considered to lack extensive knowledge, so they cannot solve existing problems. Their opinions are not approved by society because society thinks they are stupid.

Maui thinks Moana is not smart and will give up, so he traps and locks Moana in a cave and steals her boat. Maui says that he will not go to Te Fiti with a child. Maui's words underestimate Moana's ability, which is only a young woman who seems not intelligent enough to free herself from the cave.

Maui also underestimates Moana's ability when Moana wants to save the heart taken by Kakamora, murdering little pirates who also seek Te Fiti's heart. Maui says, "They're just gonna kill ya! (Clements, 2016, 00:47:57)" Maui's words prove that he feels Moana will not be able to fight Kakamora, who is numerous and equipped with their weapons, by herself. When Moana has managed to save herself and take the heart

back, Maui also says, “Congratulations on not being dead, curly. You surprised me. (Clements, 2016, 00:49:13)” These words prove that Maui does not expect Moana's victory and her courage against Kakamora. However, these words do not make Maui stop underestimating her because he says she cannot restore the heart without him.

Maui always thinks that Moana is a young woman who is stupid and does not have enough intelligence to carry out her mission alone without the help of a man. Maui says that Moana is just a princess who wears a dress and plays with animals, so she cannot be a wayfinder. Maui considers Moana to be incapable and unable to learn to be a wayfinder. He thinks that women cannot do work that is usually done by men, in this case, wayfinding. This shows in the following dialogue.

Maui: It's called wayfinding, Princess. It's not just sails and knots. It's seeing where you're going in your mind... Knowing where you are... by knowing where you've been.

Moana: Okay, first... I'm not a princess. I'm the daughter of the chief.

Maui: Same difference.

Moana: No.

Maui: If you wear a dress, and you have an animal sidekick... you're a princess. You're not a wayfinder. You'll never be a wayfinder.

Dialogue 4.4.

Note: (Clements, 2016, 00:51:58-00:52:51)

Wayfinding is a navigation technique that can assist those looking for directions in locating their location. Moana uses the stars as a form of navigation to help her find

her way through the ocean. Polynesian explorers have utilized this navigating method for thousands of years. The wayfinders used their own hands to measure the stars to determine their location, as shown in the movie.



Figure 4.1.

Wayfinding by measuring the stars

Note: (Clements, 2016, 01:12:45)

Moana is considered to be only able to do the work done by women. Maui expects Moana to always be in the village, not having the adventure to return something beyond her abilities. Maui also thinks that Moana's journey seems to be fruitless. He said, "So... Daughter of the chief. I thought you stayed in the village. You know, kissing babies and things. (Clements, 2016, 00:55:35)" Maui thinks only men can venture out of their comfort zone because they are smart and have enough intelligence. As a woman, Moana is supposed to be able to stay in her comfort zone and do simple activities that she does not need to think about when doing it.

Moana's opinions and thoughts are also not accepted by Maui. At times Moana thinks she has another way to get past Te Ka, the lava monster, but Maui feels that women tend to jump into decisions regardless of the consequences. Maui does not

believe in Moana because she is a young woman with no experience fighting monsters before, yet she thinks she can save the village. Maui thinks that her idea is stupid and will not work. Unfortunately, when Moana continues to carry out her idea, she fails. The dialogue below proves that Maui thinks women are foolish and unintelligent to solve problems, especially problems that are not their expertise.

Maui: What... What are you doing?

Moana: Finding you a better way in!

Maui: We won't make it!

Moana: Yes, we will!

Maui: Turn around!

Moana: No!

Maui: Moana, stop!

Moana: No! Are you okay? Maui?

Maui: I told you to turn back.

Moana: I thought we could make it.

Maui: We?

Moana: I thought... I could make it. We can fix it.

Dialogue 4.5.

Note: (Clements, 2016, 01:15:23-01:16:27)

Not only does Maui underestimate Moana's abilities, but another character named Tamatoa, a male crab also underestimates and mocks her abilities when she impresses him. When Tamatoa wants to take Te Fiti's heart, Moana immediately runs

fast to avoid him. Then he says, “You can't run from me! Oh, you can...You keep surprising me. There's only so far you can get on those two little legs. (Clements, 2016, 01:04:50)” In his words, Tamatoa seems to have an idea that Moana as a young woman, could not run away from him, a large shelled creature that can walk fast on its long and big legs. Tamatoa also taunts Moana that she will not run far with her tiny legs. As a male animal, Tamatoa underestimates a young female human who is considered stupid.



Figure 4.2.

Tamatoa, a big crab

Note: (Clements, 2016, 01:00:33)

Maui and Tamatoa support the opinion that women are unintelligent. The two men are considered competent and intelligent because they have great ideas to do anything. On the other hand, Moana is regarded as a stupid woman who lacks the intelligence to think by herself.

4.2 Moana fights for her freedom

In this subchapter, the writer shows the way Moana fights for her freedom. Based on Sumana (2022), the writer found that women can be brave and smart to choose what they want. However, as a young woman, Moana has experienced a

situation where she cannot follow her heart and what she wants even since she was a toddler. Saliba (1991) said, “freedom is the ability to free oneself from what is hindering one, one's growth, one's relation with others”. In this film, Moana fights for her freedom, where she can express herself in front of any authority, speak out against what harms her, and work to improve her life and her people.

Moana is not an obedient child, especially if something goes against her will. This shows in several scenes in the film. Her father teaches Moana what to do at that time because she will become the next chief. The action of Moana's father that is against her will is when her father suddenly carries her away from the ocean. It can be seen that Moana's father does not like and strictly forbids Moana from going to the sea and doing things related to the ocean. Moana's expression changes at that time. She looks so happy as she runs into the sea and turns sad when she is taken back to the land. This change of expression proves that Moana is forced to give in and obey her father's orders even though she does not like them. Moana's father views Moana as a young woman who has no other choice but to obey her father, who is the most powerful man in their village.

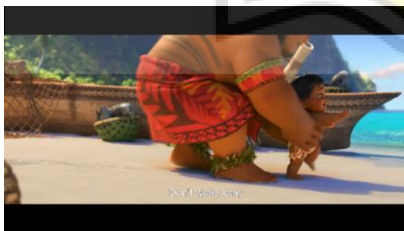


Figure 4.3.
Moana looks happy to go to the ocean

Note: (Clements, 2016, 00:08:34)

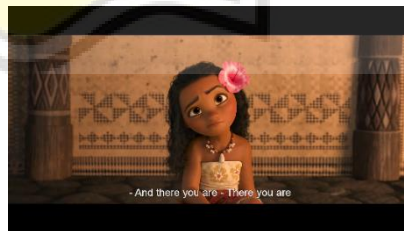


Figure 4.4.
Moana looks sad and is forced to obey her father's orders

Note: (Clements, 2016, 00:08:40)

Moana also has no freedom when she wants to meet Maui and return Te Fiti's heart, according to her grandmother's message. However, her father does not believe in the existence of a curse caused by stealing Te Fiti's heart from its first place and bringing darkness to their village. Her father thinks the incident is untrue as he says, "No one goes outside the reef. We're safe here. There is no darkness. There are no monsters. (Clements, 2016, 00:14:45)" Moana's father feels that what Moana tells about Maui and Te Fiti's heart is just a joke, so he does not allow Moana to go beyond the reef. Moana struggles to convince her father that everything she is telling is true.

When Moana is a teenager and understands more about the importance of freedom in choosing her life path, she experiences more restrictions from her father. She was restricted from finding her identity as the next chief and the freedom of her people as voyagers. The restriction starts when her people experience a problem—they cannot catch any fish even though they have searched the lagoon. Moana shows her intelligence and responsibility as a reliable leader by providing simple solutions that can solve their problems. She suggests that they should look for fish beyond the reef, which her father has strictly forbidden her to do. Her father thinks Moana has suggested it so she can return to the seas again. Her father says, "Instead of endangering our people so you can run right back to the water! Every time I think you're past this. No one goes beyond the reef!" Her father says this angrily as she plunges the oar into the sand, which makes her shocked and saddened as he is again denied of her wish. There is a difference of opinion between Moana and her father, who both stubbornly want their opinion to be heard. As a result, Moana and her father argue. Moana goes against

her father's words because she feels that as the next chief, she is fully responsible for her people, and at least they should try to solve the fish problem with the advice Moana gives. Moana also finds out that her father is very hard on Moana because he used to have the same experience as Moana. He was attracted to the ocean, but it turns out that her father had a traumatic experience. Once when he sailed in the sea with his friend, they had an accident. Their boat drowned in the ocean. At that time, he could not save his friend. His father hopes Moana will be safe by restricting Moana from sailing in the sea.

Moana's courage becomes stronger after she learns that their ancestors were voyagers. Their ancestors hid the boats to protect their people because darkness was coming, and the boats stopped coming back. Moana tries to convey this to her father, and her father also forbids and scolds her again. This time Moana goes against her father by deciding to set sail and complete the mission alone. With the support of her grandmother, Moana finally fights for herself and her people's freedom by having the courage to sail again. Moana shows her boldness in choosing her fate even in the most challenging situation, leaving her dying grandmother. Moana is sad and in a dilemma, whether to follow her parents' orders or save her island. Ultimately, she chooses to save her island because it is essential to her and includes the safety of many people.

Next, Moana shows her bravery by facing danger and sacrificing her safety. Moana fights by going against what she does not want, having the courage to speak up, being confident in expressing her identity, and leaving her comfort zone. Moana's character is different from women, who usually keep silent and let other people control

their lives. Moana dares to face danger without knowing what will happen in the future. Moana argues that, according to her, remaining silent would not solve the problems they face, so she has to have the courage to argue in front of many people.

Moana dares to do what has to be done and stops when she finds something is wrong. Moana wants her opinion and wishes to be heard as the next chief who wants to save her island and as a child who wants freedom of life choices. Moana shows that women can be responsible for solving problems and fighting against the injustice that makes their lives governed by rules and society. Moana proves that women can freely express themselves without being bonded by the rules or opinions of society. Moana dares to step out of her comfort zone into a zone she has never been to. Only a few women are willing to leave their comfort zone and enter an uncomfortable zone. However, Moana bravely challenges herself to enter the mysterious zone, an excellent example for others, especially women.