

The Representation of an Ideal Family in Neil Gaiman's *Coraline*

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Abstract

The type of research used in this thesis is qualitative research in which the data are taken from collecting the words, quotations, sentence and narration that stated in *Coraline* by Neil Gaiman. The primary data are taken from Neil Gaiman's *Coraline* in the form of dialogues, sentences, and narration stated by the character about how an ideal family is represented in the novel. Then, the secondary data are taken from books, internet, and another source related to the representation of an ideal family. This research analyzes the ideal family concept in *Coraline* by Neil Gaiman with the theory of representation by Stuart Hall. The concept of an ideal family is explained by using the constructionist approach and focuses on the discursive formation. The discursive formation is applied to analyze the discourse of an ideal family that is shown in *Coraline*. The finding of this research shows that the purpose of the main character, Coraline in hoping to have an ideal family in her life is to feel loved by her parents. The representation of an ideal family in *Coraline* is depicted through the two aspects, those are how they define a family, and the importance of a good parenting.

Keywords : Representation, Ideal Family, Neil Gaiman, *Coraline*

1. INTRODUCTION

Coraline by Neil Gaiman tells about the only child named Coraline who just moved into a childless neighbourhood. Her parents work from home, they rarely have time to talk with Coraline and they do not provide Coraline and the households with delicious foods. Her mother does not cook for the whole family and her father makes a recipe that Coraline does not like. Coraline is depicted as a girl who is lonely and does not have any companionship in her life. Coraline feels more lonely when she moves into an environment with no peers. Coraline's mother is a workaholic mother who does not really care about what Coraline does in her life. Everytime Coraline tries to interact with other people, her mother always warns her to not making a mess. As it is stated before, Coraline's father is a workaholic too. Whenever Coraline wants to have a quality time with her father, he always asks Coraline to leave him alone. Instead of having a quality time with his daughter, he is usually busy with himself. Knowing that her parents cannot keep her company, Coraline usually does something boring, like counting all of the doors and windows. Her boredom gets worse because she is on a school holiday and has no one to play with.

Novel is a part of literary works, novel is the representation of life experiences that is told by the conflict stories and the characters. The big thing in life starts within a family. The first education comes from a family. A family is where we get our first education. We cannot choose which family we have, because we are destined to be born in a certain family. Sometimes we expect to be born in another family which is richer and have anything we do not have. The problem that happens in the novel is about the main character, Coraline who wants to have an ideal family. This research analyzes the ideal family concept in *Coraline* by Neil Gaiman with the theory of representation by Stuart Hall. The concept of an ideal family will be explained by the aid of Hall's theory of representation.

There are many researches used Stuart Hall theory, Hanifah (2016) delivered the construction of beauty discourse. Hanifah uses theory of representation by Stuart Hall and using discursive method to find the beauty discourse and the ideologies of the novel. She also uses encoding in which the process of meaningful discourse is produced and constructed to find the discourse of beauty in the novel of *Ugly Series* and the ideological interest in it. I use this thesis as my previous research because I find that we use the same theory, it is a theory of Representation by Stuart Hall. Her thesis gives me contribution to understand how to apply the theory of Representation by Stuart Hall.

The second previous research is written by Septiana (2017). This research analyzes the ideal female body constructed in the society in *Afraid to Love* novel by Eileen Goudge. Hadini Tri Septiana uses theory of representation by Stuart Hall and discursive approach by Michele Foucault to analyze the data. The result of the research shows that physical appearance is powerful in the society and people are more concerned with someone who has a perfect body image. Physical appearance is considered as the main factor for being accepted in the society. In this case I use the similar theory that is the theory of representation by Stuart Hall. Besides, her thesis focuses on the representation of the ideal female body while my research focus on the representation of an ideal family. However, this research helps me to know and to give me deeper understanding on how to apply the theory of representation by Stuart Hall.

By reviewing those previous researches, we know that both of these theses give contributions to the researcher about the work of theory of representation by Stuart Hall. The purpose of reviewing those previous researches is to help the researcher in understanding how to apply the theory of representation in order to analyze how is the discourse of an ideal family represented in the novel *Coraline* which is written by Neil Gaiman.

2. METHOD

The type of research used in this thesis is qualitative research in which the data are taken from collecting the words, quotations, sentence and narration that stated in *Coraline* by Neil Gaiman. The primary data are taken from *Coraline* by Neil Gaiman. The primary data are in forms of dialogues, sentences, and narration stated by the character about how an ideal family is represented in the novel. Then, the secondary data are taken from books, internet, and another source related to the representation of an ideal family.

The data source of this research is *Coraline* by Neil Gaiman. There are some dialogues, sentences and narration in the novel. There are several steps in the way of processing the data and relate it with the theory. The first thing to do is close reading. Reading the novel to understand the novel and to get the important data. After close reading, the next step is collecting and classifying the important data in the form of dialogues, sentences and paragraphs from the source data relating to the ideal family. The last step is analysis.

After collecting and classifying the data then I start to analyze them. The analysis is done to answer the research questions. The first research question is about the way the novel represents an ideal family concept. The analysis focuses on the data which tell about that issue of an ideal family and relate them to the theory of representation. I apply Hall's theory of representation which has some approaches to analyze the data and this research uses discursive approach because it tells how discourse produces meaning.

The next analysis is finding the critical position of the author towards the concept of an ideal family represented in the novel. There are three possible position of the authors, those are supporting, opposing, and negotiating. The author can be supporting when h/she agrees on the concept of an ideal family, can be opposing

when h/she disagree on the concept of an ideal family, and can be negotiating when h/she just want to explore the concept of ideal family. I try to find whether the author agrees or disagrees towards the concept of an ideal family in the novel of *Coraline* by reading the information about the author and the concept of an ideal family depicted in the novel. Besides, the ending of the story clearly denotes the critical position of the author. The final step is drawing conclusion. The conclusion sums up the understanding of the whole analysis. Hopefully, this research will give a contribution for the next researcher who has the same topic with my research.

3. FINDINGS AND DISCUSSION

3.1. The Representation Of Ideal Family

a. Defining Family

The family, as a permanent community of a man, a woman and children (and perhaps other relations) in a common household, has undergone a complicated development. (Marečková, Marie, 2011:1). Family can be kin and non-kin, and is often about care and trust in the context of enduring relationships (Murray, Lesley and Barnes, Marian. 2010:533). *Coraline* is the only child in the households. Having no companion in her life makes Coraline feels bored about it. Everytime she tries to cope with her loneliness, she finds that there is no other way out. She lives with her workaholic parents in a tiny house. She does not have a lot of friends because she often moves to one place to another place. Coraline realizes that being the only child is not an easy thing to do. She does not have a sibling who can be her life-time companion, she always does everything by herself, she rarely shares ideas with children around her age, and the hardest part is she has to deal with her workaholic parents who barely have time for her. Somehow, she envies other families to have a perfect life picture. All Coraline wants is a better family who can always keep her companion.

b. Parenting and The Family

Coraline by Neil Gaiman is about a girl named Coraline who just moved into a new house with her workaholic parents, who never have time for Coraline. Coraline feels bored and with her curiosity to explore her new house, she finds a secret door which she later finds out that the door opens into other world where there are replicas of her parents and neighbors, where cats and dogs can talk. She starts visiting the alternate world where she receives kindness and love from her other parents. The ‘other’ world actually represents the world that Coraline has been dreamed of. It is told in the story that Coraline gets the love and affection from her ‘other’ parents in that world. While, in real life Coraline does not get the kind of attention from her real parents. It can be seen from the quotation below when Coraline is actually expected to come with her ‘other’ mother.

In comparison with demographic developments in the nineteenth century, the twentieth century was marked by a gradual slowing of demographic growth, reaching zero in the nineteen nineties. This trend was not caused by wars or deportations, although eighty million Europeans were affected by these, but rather by changes in generative behaviour. It was, until the nineteenth century, usual to have as many children as possible in the first year of marriage. The death rate was high, and children worked and were later meant to provide for their parents in their old age. A decline in the child mortality rate resulting from advances in medicine and hygiene was accompanied by family planning and control of the birth rate. Growing demands on consumption, what is more, meant an increase in family expenditure on providing for children. (Marečková, Marie, 2011). It explains

that the working family tends to ignore their children because they need to fund the whole family. A working couple usually have only a child in their marriage. They limit the birth rate by following some family planning. It is done because they do not want to give more burden to their lives by having many children. Although they only have a child to be raised, they still face some difficulties to make money for their child. A working couple tend to have a little time for their child. They only care about their life survival. Therefore, the children in a working family usually crave for more attention and affection from their parents.

“How are your dear mother and father?” asked Miss Spink. “Missing,” said Coraline. “I haven’t seen either of them since yesterday. I’m on my own. I think I’ve probably become a single child family.” (Gaiman, 2002:36).

Coraline feels lonely whenever her parents are busy with their works. She always finds some activities to make her boredom goes away, such as playing with her neighbors, roaming around her environment, and make some drawings. So, it does not make a big difference when she knows that at the moment her parents are not home yet.

Coraline’s father was home. Both of her parents worked, doing things on computers, which meant that they were home a lot of the time. Each of them had their own study. (Gaiman, 2002:11)

Coraline’s parents do not prioritize her as their daughter, instead they always be busy with their works. Families have experienced outside pressures and internal family conflicts. There has always been desertion by spouses, illegitimate children, and certainly spouse and child abuse (Engels, Friederich, 2010). It means that there always be an internal and external conflicts in a family. Internal and external are the two types of conflict that drive a plot forward. Both types of conflict are usually necessary to make a story interesting to readers. Although they are different, internal and external conflicts are related (Richards, 2017). Internal conflict is a complication that happens within a character; it may be a moral dilemma the character is facing, or it may take the shape of a choice or a desire. The conflict when Coraline feels she is ignored by her parents can be categorized as an internal conflict. While the external conflict in *Coraline* happens when she finds that she has no friends in her environment. She feels trapped in a neighbourhood full of old people. The external conflict occurs between two or more characters, or a character and his environment; external conflict involves an interaction with the setting and other characters of the story (Richards, 2017).

The moment when Coraline’s loneliness becomes stronger, the other mother makes an attempt to make Coraline love her more by offering a warm place for Coraline. The other mother even says to Coraline that they would be happy if Coraline stay with them in their house. From the quotation above, it can be seen that Coraline seems interested with the her other mother’s demand.

Food becomes the simple proof of affection and attention form parents to their children. A simple affection can be shown by the way parents serve their children her favorite foods. Remembering what are their children’s most favorite food shows an uncountable love of parents to the children. Food is also plays a big role as the manifestation of love and service of a parent to a child. In *Coraline* it is shown that due to the busy activities that their parents have in their daily basis, Coraline always prepare her own foods by only heating some simple frozen foods. It represents her parent’s lack of regard for her. Coraline’s mother seems having no time to prepare some proper meals for her daughter. She prefers to work over due rather than spending a little time to

specially cook for Coraline. Therefore, Coraline's father seems to be selfish when he prepares his own favorite foods to himself.

Coraline finally realizes that the most precious thing in the world is her father and mother. The moment when the other mother kidnaps her parents by making them trapped in a big mirror makes Coraline regretting her past feelings towards her real parents. She feels that she is not grateful enough to be her daughter. The picture of her father and father in the mirror makes Coraline more miserable. All she wants now is her parents to be free and they finally can get back together as a whole family. The family, as a permanent community of a man, a woman and children (and perhaps other relations) in a common household, has undergone a complicated development. Family life in Europe underwent significant transformation during the twentieth century. Europe experienced two world wars and a great economic crisis during 20th century. Parliamentary democracy was threatened by totalitarian regimes, which at first enjoyed mass acceptance. It was, however, also a century of social modernisation, economic development and progressive globalisation. (Marečková, Marie, 2011). It means that there is a strong connection between the progressive globalization with the family life in Europe during the twentieth century. It is shown in *Coraline* that both of Coraline's parents work so hard in order to make money for the family. Staying with her working parents, Coraline thinks she should get more attention from her parents. A complicated relationship between Coraline and her parents show a lack of communication that is caused by their parents' dense schedule to focus on funding the family.

Parenting is not an easy task to be done. Coraline realizes that she was being too ungrateful and taking everything she has for granted. Being stucked with her other mother in the other world makes her sick about it. How hard it is for the magic stuff in her other mother's house asking her to play with her, she won't be interested with it. Coraline really longs for her real parents. Coraline's mother is not interested to other things than to her own works. She is pictured to always sit in front of her computer screen, typing something, doing her works from home. Having a parent who works from home does not give so much advantages to Coraline. Both of her parents seem to be more enjoying their works rather than spending time with their daughter. There seems no time for Mr. and Mrs. Jones to just talk and chill with Coraline. Going home seems to be impossible for Coraline now. Coraline's mother is being selfish to her in choosing her outfit. She does not know the style that Coraline loves the most.

They went to the department store to buy the school clothes. Coraline saw some Day-Glo green gloves she liked a lot. Her mother refused to buy them for her, preferring instead to buy white socks, navy blue school underpants, four gray blouses, and a dark gray skirt. "But Mum, *everybody* at school's got gray blouses and everything. *Nobody's* got green gloves. I could be the only one." Her mother ignored her; she was talking to the shop assistant. (Gaiman, 2002:21)

The selfishness of Coraline's mother is reflected by the way she chooses some clothes to Coraline. Her mother insists Coraline to wear the outfits she chose for her, even the model is not the usual model that Coraline's school friends wear. In the quotation above Coraline tries to explain that she does not feel confident in wearing that kind of outfits. But, apparently her mother ignores her and still bought the clothes. As a mother, Coraline's mother should be paying more attention to what her daughter really wants. A little thing absolutely matters for a kid like Coraline. The bad response from her mother at the clothing shop will definitely stay in her

mind. It is for hard to children to erase both of the most happy and awful moments. The childhood memories stay along with its pain and happiness.

Old people who saw their family members most frequently and provided care for their grandchildren paradoxically felt lonely. 67 % of old people in Greece complained of loneliness, 63 % in Portugal and 51 % in Italy, while just 25 % in Denmark and 38 % in the Netherlands suffered from loneliness. These correlations between the frequency of family visits and the feeling of loneliness point to the differences in the conception of family ties, influenced by the social situations of families, the standard of social services and the culture of these countries (*Marečková, Marie, 2011:4*). Loneliness becomes the main problem that exist in a family. Loneliness is not only experience by children in the family, but the old people also experience loneliness. There are some factors in a conception of family ties. First, family ties is connected with the social situations of families, second it is related with the social services and the culture of the countries. The social situations of Coraline's family becomes the main reason why Coraline does not get the full affection and attention from her parents. Coraline's family belongs to the middle class society in which the parents need to work hard in order to stay alive. Being the only child, Coraline always feels lonely and abandoned. She never has someone who always listens to her whenever she wants to be listened. She never has a special quality time with her parents. The most ironic part is that Coraline never gets the special treatment from her parents, even though she is the only child in the family. It seems like Coraline's parents take her presence for granted.

Caroline's mother actually loves her, but she cannot express it wholeheartedly. It is shown in the quotation above when Coraline's mother warns Coraline to be wrapped in a warm clothing, so she won't get sick. There are five different types of mother, those are perfectionist, unpredictable, the best friend, the me-first mother, and the complete mother. The perfectionist mother is depicted as a mother who wants everything to be undercontrolled and neat. This type of mother thinks that the judgement from other people of their children's appearance is more important than the true affection she can give to the children. The second type of mother is unpredictable mother. The unpredictable mother is explained to be a mother who has an excessively emotional to her children. So that, a little mistake that is done by the children make them easily angry. The third type of a mother is the best friend. The best friend mother treats her children like her best friend. They set no boundaries in order to make a special connection with her children. The fourth type of a mother is the me-first mother. This type of mother always make herself as the priority above the children. The most important thing is the children have to deal with her point of view in everything. The last type is the complete mother whom are not necessarily perfect herself but whatever her emotional circumstances, she is committed to motherhood regardless of other responsibilities outside the home (Poulter, 2019). Based on the five mother types, Coraline's mother is categorized into the me-first mother. She always makes her job as her priority rather than taking care of her daughter and fulfilling her daughter's emotional needs. When the other mother shows their affection by the foods she always cook for Coraline, the real mother shows their love by giving Coraline a warning whenever she lets her off to somewhere. Moreover, Coraline's mother expresses her love by always yelling whenever Coraline makes some mistake.

Coraline's mother still plays a role in the household. It can be seen through her responsibility in serving lunch for her husband and her daughter. As a career woman, she spends so much time on doing her works instead of just chilling with her husband and Coraline. From the quotation above we know that Coraline's mother tries her best to melt the cold situation between her and Coraline. She actually knows that what she has

been doing as a career woman all this time is not really good for her daughter's growth. She realizes that a good parenting is needed in order to make her daughter be a nice child.

Coraline's other mother knows exactly her weakness. Coraline always thinks that an ideal mother should serve a yummy food for the whole family. Mrs. Jones, Coraline's mother is depicted as a mother who barely knows about her daughter's character. Hence, she does not give so much attention to Coraline. She does not even care about what is new with her daughter's growth. She is not interested to other things than to her own works. As a working mother, she puts everything behind her job. The most important thing is she can work hard and help her husband to make money for the whole family. She realizes her position as a middle-class parent who cannot have time to spend more time with her daughter. She shows the responsibility of being a mother by working hard. Since Coraline's real mother only focuses on her job, she does not have a good skill in cooking. Coraline cannot deny that her other mother's cooking skills is awesome compared to her real mother's skill. Coraline's mother serves only simple foods for the entire family's members. She just needs to put it inside the microwave and wait until it is done. The other mother seems to be successfully steals Coraline's heart.

Coraline has been growing up as an independent girl. She realizes that her parents are busy doing their business. Her father with his endless projects of writing, and her mother with her tons of ideas that she should write them down before it is gone. Both of Coraline's parents are writers who are bad at cooking. It is seen from the quotation above when Coraline's father tries to make some weird recipe that Coraline hates. Instead of eating the odd food that her father just made, she decided to microwave chips and pizza. Despite of being ignorant, Coraline's parents always serve Coraline with instant foods, such as pizza, chips, frozen chicken, and many others. Coraline's obsession in having a perfect mother who can cook yummy foods for her is clearly reflected in the quotation above. She obviously never feels satisfied with her mother's cooking. She tells that her mother's chicken always tastes plain. Moreover, Coraline also says that her mother's lack creativity in cooking makes her so done with it. When her mother cooks, she just makes the simple recipe with a low difficulty. A basic recipe cannot make Coraline gets the foodgasm she craves for. The worst thing is when her father tries to make some foods for the whole family members. It always turns out weird for Coraline. She does not even want to taste it a bit. Here the representation of a disappointment from a daughter to her parents are clearly seen by the way Coraline explains about the foods comparation between her real parents and her other mother.

Mr. Jones, Coraline's father is depicted as a decent man who works as a writer. He works by himself in his house. From the quotation above we can see that Coraline's father is actually almost the same with her mother. He does not want to make a special bond with her daughter. Mr. Jones gives the example of a bad parenting. As a father he should make time for her daughter. Whatever the condition is, he has to separate between his work time and his quality time with family, especially with her daughter, Coraline. Working at home has both of the negative and positive impacts for the parenting in the households. The negative side is when he cannot prioritize his family, he will be ended up as a workaholic who works all the time without even witnessing the growth of her daughter. As it is depicted when Mr. Jones asks Coraline to do a non sense thing in order to make her go away from him. As a writer he should give a better way to teach his daughter about some other beneficial things to get rid of her boredom.

Coraline is born and raised in a middle-class family. Her parents need to work extra to make a lot of money for her. Realizing that her parents rarely available for her, Coraline tries to not complain much whenever her father cooks a strange recipe for her. Her father knows when he does not work, he cannot make a living for

his family. Both parents would creatively weave their different ways of loving into a tapestry of knitted emotions, verbal expressions, affectionate displays, and intellectual harmony (Brennen, 2018). It means that there are some ways for parents to show their love to their children, such as saying directly to their children, reflecting the attention from their actions, and equalizing their point of view with their children. From the quotation above, Coraline's father fails to make Coraline understand that he actually tries to show his affection by cooking some foods for her. He also fails in displaying his love to Coraline. Men do not receive a great deal of encouragement to delve deeply into fatherhood. The message society is giving is that a father's love is not so important as a mother's love (Brennen, 2018). It means that father's love is seen as something less important by the society. The social construction about father's love influence people's thought about how a father should do to his family in order to learn properly in a fatherhood. The same thing happens with Coraline's father who learns to perform better as a father by making some foods for Coraline. Instead of respecting her father's trial, Coraline shows her dissatisfaction with her father by making another food by herself.

As a mother who always makes her own choice to be the priority in the household, Mrs. Jones, Coraline's mother makes Coraline think she does not love her wholeheartedly. Coraline does not feel the chemistry between a mother and a daughter with her mother. Therefore, a child should never feel as if they need to earn mother's love. This will leave a void in their heart all of their life. A mother's love needs to be given unconditionally to establish trust and a firm foundation of emotional intimacy in a child's life (Savage, 2007). It means that Coraline's mother can build the emotional intimacy by giving an unconditional love such as the full affection and attention. The trust foundation that Coraline's mother give to Coraline is not really A mother's love needs to be pure, so the children feel really loved by their mother.

European family life has undoubtedly remained unified on the threshold of the twenty-first century, in spite of numerous differences. Problems remain, however, in state social and family policy, as women engaged in the working process give preference to their own plans and their need for self-fulfilment. They play an active part in public life, while also fulfilling their duties responsibly in private life. The principal task facing state family policy for the twenty first century is, then, to ensure a harmonious balance between professional activities and family life. Although the nuclear family still predominates statistically, there are clear signs of a new model of more extended families that do not share a traditional common home or residence, but rather mutual emotional ties. (Marečková, Marie, 2011). It means that it is hard for working families to socialize with the people who live in surrounding and to focus on fulfilling their duties in private life. The two of them cannot run together, because when the working families choose to focus more on their jobs, they lose the chance to engage more with the people who live in their surrounding. And the opposite is when they choose to socialize more, they need to face the fact that they lose their working time to earn money for the whole family members. In *Coraline*, Coraline real parent tend to be the type of a working family who choose to lose their time to socialize with their neighbour. They prioritize their jobs rather than getting to know their neighbour better. As the consequences, Coraline's parent are known as an ignorant parent.

When she feels bored and invites her father to play with, he keeps saying he was busy to work and even does not turn around to look at her. Both of her parents almost have no time to take care of her. Therefore, it makes Coraline feel alone and unhappy towards her family, particularly her mother. In contrast to Coraline's real parents, the other mother emphasizes that she is an idealized image of a perfect mother who only cares about her daughter by stating how Coraline used to be while staying with her real parents,

The ideal family does not exist in the world. Every family has its own problems. When the family is categorized as a working family, the children need to face the consequences of being alone and do not get the extra attention from their parent. A working parent is actually not ignorant to their children, but their life necessities make them work harder than the upper-class families. An upper class family also faces some problems. They socialize more often rather than the middle class family. The upper class family need to maintain the good relationship with the other upper class family. For the consequences, they have a little time for their children. Working-class and poor families struggled with severe economic shortages (including lack of food in the poor families) that often led to additional labor or complexity (long bus rides, missed appointments), but the pace of their daily life was much less hectic than that of the middle-class families (Lareau, 2007). It means that the lower class family struggle to fulfill the life necessities. When the children from upper and middle class family do not get the extra attention from their parents, the children from a lower class family gets the full affection from their parents. But the consequence is they need to live with a little money.

3.2. The Critical Position Of The Author

The narrative voice is not Coraline's, but hers are the only thoughts and feelings we are told about, so she is at the centre of the story. This is the best point of view from which to tell a story about a child: the telling voice is an adult's, so it can plausibly observe and say things a child would not, but all the sympathy is with the child. Gaiman brings it off with a skill that you wouldn't notice unless you were looking for it (Pullman, 2002). Coraline in the beginning of the story is not really happy with her parents. Because Coraline's parents are workaholic. They both are writers who spend so much time in writing and brainstorming. They barely have quality time to build a strong connection between parents and daughter. Coraline's parents are shown to be selfish, because they cannot share their time for the family and their works. All they can think is working and earning money. Due to this condition, Coraline craves for a full affection from an older person to replace her parents' affection that she barely gets.

Through this novel, it can be seen that Gaiman is on the opposing side of the concept of ideal family as a standard in the society. This novel delivers that we need to accept our family in any condition and situation. In the novel, the main character, Coraline finally accepts her family as the way they are. She realizes that there is no thing such a perfect family. It is her responsibility to accept her family as the way they are. Instead of complaining too much, she has to be more grateful for the family where she belongs to.

In *Coraline*, Gaiman wants to show his thought that social class matters to define an ideal family in London during 20th century. Through *Coraline*, Gaiman focuses on the picture of a character named Coraline who is from a middle class to define an ideal family. It is depicted in the story that both of Coraline's parents are working and always prioritize their works over their daughter. They need to fulfill the life necessities by working hard. Getting a lack of attention and affection is the consequences of growing up in a working class family.

4. CONCLUSION

The representation of ideal family in *Coraline* explains how powerful is the parenting strategic in shaping a child's character in the family. The characters of a child is the representative of the character of the parents. The parents must take care of their children. No matter how busy and dense are the activites, the parents should give a proper parenting to their children. Childhood memory of a kid is mainly about the awful events and the

most happy events. So, parents need to shape their children to be good children. The representation of an ideal family in *Coraline* is depicted through the two aspects, those are how they define a family, and the importance of a good parenting.

The result of this research shows that the purpose of the main character, Coraline in hoping to have an ideal family in her life is to feel loved. At the beginning of the story, Coraline thinks that the family she has is not ideal. Because she feels empty and plain. She pictures an ideal family as a family with a lovely parents who always be presence and can make a proper quality time with their children. Since she does not get the perfect picture of an ideal family in her real family, she finds comfort in her ‘other’ family. Coraline’s ‘other’ parents are depicted to be totally different with Coraline’s real parents. Her ‘other’ mother is a caring, lovely, and loves to cook her a yummy foods. While her ‘other’ father is portrayed to be an interesting father who sings songs, always makes time for her, and gives a full attention for her. Coraline prefers to live with her other parents. But later, she found out that her other parents are not as good as they look.

The gratefulness of Coraline is represented when she realizes that she feels safe, loved, and well treated, although her parents do not give her so much time to build a strong chemistry, they still care about Coraline’s education and living. Being workaholic, they actually want to earn a good money for Coraline. They make sure Coraline lives in suffice. Coraline also realizes that it is her duty to love her parents as the way they are. She finally feels thankful with the family where she belongs.

The author of *Coraline* wants to show that everyone has a different definition of an ideal family. The concept of an ideal family that is constructed on people’s mind is affected by their socio-cultural, economical, and political background. Moreover, in *Coraline*, Gaiman wants to show his thought that social class matters to define an ideal family in London during 20th century. As a working class family, Coraline’s parent need to fulfill the life necessities by working hard. The consequence of being in a working family is getting a little attention and affection. Through his novel, he also gives some proofs that the most important part is to always be thankful for everything we have, including our family. Gaiman wants to deliver his thought that comparing our family to the other’s family is not necessarily to be done.

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