

# The Forms of Love in the Animated Film *Hoshi Wo Ou Kodomo* Directed by Makoto Shinkai

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**Abstract.** Problems related to love are used as a theme in making anime in Japan. Many Japanese anime take the theme of the problem of love which contains a moral message about the importance of love in human life.. This article aims to describe the forms of love in anime *Hoshi wo Ou Kodomo* by Makoto Shinkai. The method used in this article is a descriptive method. The results of this research found some forms of love, brotherly love, motherly love and erotic love. The conclusion is that there is a complex and interesting romance story of this anime film.

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## 1 Introduction

Literary work is a creative activity. Literary works as works of art are creative, meaning that as a result of human creation in the form of language works that are aesthetic in nature, the results are in the form of literary works, for example, novels, poetry, short stories, drama, and others [1]. Nowadays, the development of a literary work is increasing rapidly. Not only written literature, oral literary works that have a close attachment to works of art, one example is film [2] .

The film is one type or genre in literature besides drama, prose, and poetry which presents fictional story forms, in different dimensions. The film is the result of a creative process by filmmakers that combines various elements such as ideas, value systems, views on life, beauty, norms, human behavior, and technological sophistication.[3] .Film is a literary work that functions as a medium of communication and dissemination of information. According to Pratista [4] film is a product of art and culture with use value because it aims to give inner satisfaction to the audience.

Anime (アニメ) is a literary work in the form of an animated film made in Japan. Anime has several characteristics. These characteristics include colorful pictures, characters in various situations, and storylines that are suitable for multiple groups. Like movies, anime also has specific messages that the creators want to convey to the audience. One of them is the forms of love that are depicted in every scene, conversation, and situation in the anime. The discussion in this study is an anime entitled *Hoshi wo Ou Kodomo* by Makoto Shinkai. This anime was produced by CoMix Wave Films and premiered on May 7, 2011

This anime tells the story of a young girl named Asuna who is often alone on a hill accompanied by her cat, Mimi while hearing a mysterious "radio" sound produced from a crystal fragment left by her late father. Her mother, who was rarely at home because she was busy working as a hospital nurse, made Asuna take care of herself and her home, causing her to grow up faster and become independent. One day, when Asuna was walking along the railroad tracks, suddenly she was ambushed by a strange bear-like animal. Asuna is saved by a boy named Shun who claims to be from Agartha. Not long after Shun disappeared, another boy who claimed to be Shin, Shun's younger brother appeared. From her school teacher Morisaki-sensei, Asuna learned that Agartha was the

name of an underground world, where the gates of life and death were located. Draged between a conflict of interest and the struggle for the crystal that is the key to opening the gateway to Agartha, Asuna, and Morisaki-sensei, who have agendas and personal interests, enter the world of Agartha and meet Shin again.

In this study, the writer will examine the romance aspect of the anime *Hoshi wo Ou Kodomo* using The Art of Loving theory put forward by Erich Fromm. This anime has a strong romance story, so it would be suitable to examine the romance aspect using The Art of Loving theory. Whereas regarding the concept of love used is the concept of love according to Erich Fromm which describes the five objects of love. Erich Fromm reveals in his book that love is basically not a relationship with a particular person; It is an attitude, and character orientation that determines a person's relationship to the world as a whole, not to one "object" of love

Love is not primarily a relationship to a specific person; it is an attitude, an orientation of character that determines the relatedness of a person to the world as a whole, not toward one "object" of love [5].

## 2 Result and Discussion

### 2.1 The Forms of Love in the Anime Film *Hoshi wo Uu*

The following will describe the forms of love contained in the film *Hoshi wo Ou Kodomo*. The forms contained in the film *Hoshi wo Ou Kodomo* include brotherly love, motherly love, and erotic love.

#### 2.1.1 Brotherly Love

Brotherly love in this film is the most commonly found. Brotherly love is shown by several different characters.

ユウ : 明日奈ちゃん、一緒に帰らない？

(*Hoshi wo Ou Kodomo* 00:07:51)

Yuu : "Asuna, want to go home together?"

Yuu is Asuna's closest classmate, he is also Asuna's neighbor. After school, Yuu always takes Asuna home with him. This is a form of affection for friends and a form of Yuu's attention and loyalty.

明日奈 : 大丈夫。泣かないで、ね？

(*Hoshi wo Ou Kodomo* 01:01:47)

Asuna : "Take it easy, don't cry, OK?"

As Eric Fromm has explained that brotherly love is love for fellow human beings equally, even to strangers. In this scene, Asuna was hugging and comforting a small child named Manna who was also kidnapped by Izoku and was crying in fear. Asuna also later helped Manna out of the Izoku lair and returned Manna to her family in Auramuth.

お祖父さん :まるで娘は戻ってきた方が時間だったよ。

明日奈 :お祖父さん...

(Hoshi wo Ou Kodomo 01:18:54)

Grandfather : Our time together is up, I think of you as my own daughter.”

Asuna :“Grandfa...”

This time, brotherly love was shown by Manna's grandfather who is also the village chief of Auramuth, Manna's grandfather gave lodging to Asuna, Ryuuji, and Shin for saving Manna. Even though the villagers hated their presence, Grandfather still wanted to return the favor by giving them lodging, food, and the information they wanted. In this scene, the grandfather was hugging Asuna who was about to leave, and said that he considered Asuna like his own child.

シン :泣くな!

シン :兄さん...

(Hoshi wo Ou Kodomo 01:38:47)

Shin :“Don't cry!”

Shin :“...brother”

Love for siblings can be seen when Asuna remembers Shun and makes him sad, Shin tries not to cry for his dead brother by shouting at Asuna not to cry, but in the end, he can't help but cry because of the loss of his brother. deep. In other scenes, he also mentions his brother several times while crying.

### 2.1.2 Motherly Love

Even though Asuna's mother only has a few scenes in this film, there are several gestures that show her motherly love for Asuna. There are several key quotes identified as motherly.

明日菜の母 : 明日菜、今晚、どっか夕食食べに行こうか?  
私、一日休みだ

から

(Hoshi wo Ou Kodomo 00:23:51)

Asuna mother : “Asuna, why don't we go out for dinner at...  
a place? I have a day off, you know.”

Motherly love can be seen in the scene when the mother invites her child to eat together after not doing it for a long time because she is busy working, this is done to make her child feel happy and not.

明日菜の母 : まあ、あなたびしょのれじゃない。傘持っ  
てなかったの？

明日菜 : うん、え、ちょっと、自分でふけるよ

(Hoshi wo Ou Kodomo 00:25:32)

Asunas mother : “Look at you... you're soaked! You didn't bring  
umbrella?” “

Asuna : “No, Hey.. I can dry it myself!”

In this scene, motherly love is shown by Asuna's worried mother who saw her child's condition soaked. She then helped dry Asuna's hair with a towel and then hugged her tightly because she heard the news that Asuna's friend, Shun, was found dead.

明日奈の母 : 明日奈が生まれてくれて良かったって  
ことよ。私もそう

思うわ。

(Hoshi wo Ou Kodomo 00:23:51)

Asunas mother : “That's just like how happy mother was  
when you were born,

Asuna. I think that's a blessing”

The quote above is the answer from Asuna's mother when she was asked by Asuna about what a blessing is. In his answer, it showed that he loved Asuna so much that Asuna's existence was a blessing to him.

### 2.1.3 Erotic Love

シュン: どうしても見たいものと、どうしても会いたかつた人がいたから。

でも、もう、思いのこすことはなにもない

明日菜 : 願いが叶ったんだね

シュン: うん、暗くなるまえに帰ったほうがいいよ

明日菜: うん、日暮がなきよんだら、帰るよ

シュン：明日菜、祝福を上げる、目を瞑って

(Hoshi wo Ou Kodomo 20:36-21:21)

Shun：“There's something I want to see, and there's someone I need to meet. But

now I have achieved what I wanted. I do not regret.”

Asuna：“So your wish came true?”

Shun：“Yes. You should be home before it gets dark.”

Asuna：“Yes. I will go home after the crickets stop chirping.”

Shun：“Asuna, I will give you a blessing. Close your eyes

Erotic love or it can be said love for the opposite sex can be seen in the scene where Shun says his desire to meet someone far from his home even though he knows that Shun who is sick plus will not survive long in the world above but still tries to meet that person and give gifts to those he loves.

リュウジ：十年か？一時たりとも忘れたことはない。かつて君の死

を乗り越えようと努力した..だが..ダメ

なんだ。君がい

ない世界に意味を見出すことができな

い。リサ、僕のも

とに戻ってくれ！

(Hoshi wo Ou Kodomo 01:44:02)

Ryuuji：“It's been ten years I've never forgotten you even for a moment. I've tried to let go of your death, but I can't. I can't find meaning in this world without you. Lisa, come back to me!”

The above quote was said by Ryuuji when he was mentioning his wish or request to the god Agartha, Shakuna Vimana. After his wife died, Ryuuji loved his wife very much, the only woman he loved. He could not overcome his separation from his wife, he felt lonely and empty and found it hard to live without her. so he joins with the Arch Angel so he can enter Agartha and go to the life-and-death portal to be able to bring his wife back to life. That's how much Ryuuji's love for his wife belongs to the category of erotic love, as a completely individual, unique attraction between two specific people.

### 3 Conclusion

The discussion in this study is the film *Hoshi wo Ou Kodomo* by Makoto Shinkai. This discussion discusses aspects of romance through the "Art of Loving" method by Erich Fromm assisted by structural analysis. The "Art of Loving" by Erich Fromm describes that love is not a relationship between us and certain people, but love is a relationship between a person and the world as a whole, not just one object of love. Therefore love is something that is influenced by external factors not only between two people who love each other.

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