

MENTAL BINARY OPPOSITION OF WEDNESDAY AND ENID IN WEDNESDAY SERIES S1 EPISODE 1 AND 4

Nisrina Dewi Ambarwati

Program Studi Sastra Inggris, Fakultas Ilmu Budaya
Universitas Komputer Indonesia
nisrina.63720037@mahasiswa.unikom.ac.id

Tatan Tawami

Program Studi Sastra Inggris, Fakultas Ilmu Budaya
Universitas Komputer Indonesia

ABSTRACT

This research aims to analyze the binary opposition present in the characters of Wednesday and Enid in the Wednesday Addams series season 1: episode 1 and 4. This research finds the binary opposition between these characters and uncovers their meanings, drawing upon Levi Strauss's theory of binary oppositions. The descriptive qualitative method is employed, and scenes and English subtitles from the Wednesday Addams series season 1: episodes 1 and 4, available on Netflix, are used as the data source. The research identifies four opposing mental states: darkness and lightness, taciturnity and talkativeness, rigid and flexible, and indifference and care. Wednesday Addams exhibits unique mental states compared to other characters, particularly Enid, her best friend. Each of these four opposing mental states carries meaning beyond their mental states.

Keywords: Binary Opposition, Mental State, Characters, Character's Meaning

INTRODUCTION

Structuralism is a methodology for studying the parts of human culture concerning a more significant, overarching system or structure. It tries to understand the mechanisms that underpin all cultural behaviors in humans (Chunmei, 2018). Structuralism describes a particular philosophical/literary movement or moment. This term appeared in the works of French anthropologist Claude Levi-Strauss and gave rise to the "structuralist movement." The theory of structuralism has a sufficiently long historical background of evolution and growth dynamically. Structuralism is a framework or method of thinking about a group of interconnected elements in a complex whole, such as the structure of buildings, society, language, etc. Structuralism also is a theory that aims to investigate language as a social phenomenon with a system and structure that are inextricably linked in syntagmatic and pragmatic linkages (Dinneen, 1990). During its development, Roman Jakobson (Formalist) and other structuralists established the Prague Linguistic School, which also served as a platform for applying structuralist theory in literary works. The relationship is more important than the essence of "something" in structural theory. The system is a set of rules linked to form a game rule that produces meaning. Language has a structure, language is a system of signals, and language

functions at two levels: langue and parole, synchronic and diachronic, and binary opposition are the primary themes covered in the concept of structuralism. This study will go through the theory of Binary Opposition, which originated with the theory of structuralism. As a new anthropological philosophy, structuralism has several fundamental assumptions, including that links in the structure can be further simplified by being compressed or pairs of opponents (binary opposition) (Fitra, 2009). Trubetsky, who developed binary opposition theory in phonology, was the first to use "binary opposition" in modern linguistics (Trubetsky, 1969).

As stated in (Dundes, 1997) writing, binary opposition in Myth: The Propp/Levi-Strauss Debate in Retrospect "argued that binary opposition is a universal phenomenon." According to Saussure, binary opposition theory is presented as a universal paradigm for structuring human sign systems. Binary opposition is a crucial notion in structuralism, defined as a pair of linked terms or concepts with opposing meanings (Chunmei, 2018). Binary opposition means by which language units have value or meaning: each unit is defined against what it is not (Putri & Sarwoto, 2015). Each unit in binary opposition is referred to in reciprocal determination, in other words, as binary code, and it is not a contradictory relationship but a structural, complimentary one (Fogarty, 2005). Structuralists believe binary oppositions are essential in human language, cognition, and communication. Binary opposition is vital because it helps conceptual understanding of areas other than language. According to the observation, binary opposition is one of the essential applications in structural and post-cultural critique, in which the essence of something is disclosed through opposition to another item (Ahmadi, Mostaali, and M. R. Bajelani, 2013). Many branches of study employ binary opposition to communicate their ideas. Binary signifies two components, and opposition means the polar opposite. In binary opposition, the two poles must not only contradict one other but also be separate; in other words, they are bound in popular opposites, such as the positive and negative charges of a current in electricity (Makaryk, 1993). For example, angels and demons in religions such as Christianity, male and female in biology, black and white, poor and rich, and so on. By splitting things into opposites to gain a basic understanding, it can be claimed that binary opposition is the fundamental tool for categorizing information. Two terms that are opposed to one another are said to be in binary oppositions (Storey, 2009). Systems' building blocks have meanings in connection to their opposites; for instance, something may be said to as good simply because another thing is terrible. Everything in the world is contradictory and has excellent and negative values, such as beautiful and ugly, light and dark, right and left, rich and poor, and so on.

Binary opposition depicts the polar opposite of one subject and another. It explains why one subject is more prominent than the others. Binary opposition is stated as a manner of the Western mind in understanding the world that establishes a dominant relationship (Ashcroft, Griffiths, and Tiffin, 2007). Binarism has been in human cognition from the dawn of time. Dualisms in philosophy and theology (subject and object, God and man, mind and external universe, organic and mechanical, etc.) are the foundations of complete worldviews (Miller, 2007). Levi-central Strauss's premise is that our early ancestors used this straightforward model or framework to make sense of a world that gradually started to seem alien and distant (Bartens, 2001). Binary oppositions were embedded in human cognition and culture. According to Jaques Dewida, as cited (Rahayu, 2011). Structuralism

considers a binary opposition a fundamental organizer of human philosophy, culture, and language. He contended that these oppositions aid us in understanding our experiences. For example, we may consider God vs. evil, male vs. female, or nature vs. culture as binary oppositions profoundly established in our minds (Lévi-Strauss, 1963). Somehow, all of humanity is capable of identifying binary fixes. Furthermore, one side is naturally more favored than the other. For example, good is preferred over evil, up is preferred over down, and cooked is preferred over raw (Maquet, 1970).

To identify the meaning, the binary opposition discusses the opposite of the object. This study investigates the binary opposition of mental state in the characters Wednesday and Enid in the series and the meaning of mental condition in general. The binary opposition in the appearance of the characters by the way the two characters dress is one example in this research. Wednesday's character always wears dark-colored garments and is primarily black daily, implying that she has a stiff and frigid personality in contrast to Enid, who usually dresses brightly and expresses her lively and expressive personality. It is relevant to the Binary Opposition of dark vs. light subject in this example. This example can imply from Levi Strauss's premise that binary opposition is a crucial tool for categorizing information by splitting it into two parts to acquire a basic comprehension. Dark vs. Light are opposites that might reveal information about each side's personality.

Meaning is generally understood to be the element that makes the reader or listener feel a specific thing. This is due to the fact that the viewpoint is expressed through word choice and usage of specific terms that are suited to the meaning of the word itself. (Juanda, Mulyaningsih, Amalia, and Supriadi, 2023). While according to structuralists, the meaning of a literary work is obtained not from the writer's or reader's experience but from the underlying structure of conflicting ideas upon which the literary work is formed. As a result, this research's beneficial effects are likely to support theories connected to binary opposition in structuralism and future development. Aside from that, the practical goal is to assist the reader in learning more about the types of Wednesday and Enid characters in the Wednesday Addams Series Season 1 Episode 1 and 4 story to provide effect and make understand the story more perfect and knowledgeable about it.

The Use of Binary Mental State Opposition Theory on Wednesday and Enid Characters in the Wednesday Addams Series. The aspects of the analysis include finding the binary opposition of what mental conditions are seen in the two characters and bringing out the meaning of their mental conditions. This Wednesday Addams Series is about a girl named Wednesday who has a different personality from her other friends. One day, because of her bad behavior, Wednesday was expelled from school, and her parents sent her to Nevermore Academy, where her parents attended. There he meets his friend Enid, who has a very different mentality. To learn more about the issue, this research focuses on revealing the binary opposition between Wednesday and Enid characters, which refers to Levi Strauss's theory about binary oppositions.

DATA SOURCE

The data source is gathered from many video clips from the Wednesday Addams Series Episode 4, particularly from the perspectives of Wednesday and Enid. The analysis focused on how

these characters' mental states were applied as a binary opposition and how it gave information about their significance. This research was recruited from Wednesday Addams Series Episode 4 because this episode found much binary opposition between Wednesday and Enid characters.

METHODS

The qualitative descriptive method was employed as the primary method in this study. According to (Aritonang A & Heriyati, 2022), as cited in Sugiyono, descriptive methods are employed for describing or analyzing research. Additionally, qualitative research methods involve carefully studying and characterizing an object in light of that observation. According to Levi Strauss's theory, the theory used in this study is the binary opposition theory. In conducting the research, the writer used several steps in data research. First, the writer understands the plot of Wednesday Addams Series Episode 4 by observing it. Second, the writer classifies the data related to the binary opposition theory according to Levi Strauss's theory in structuralism. Third, after classifying the data, the writer will explain the meaning of the binary opposition in Wednesday Addams Series Episodes 1 and 4 that were classified before.

THEORETICAL REVIEW

Aside from past studies, there is some research on binary opposition. First, Dwi Yanti's (2019) research discusses Thor's mental and bodily states as binary opposition in the Thor film. This study employs the binary opposition of Levi Strauss's structuralism theory and Villarejo's film theory. As a result, Thor and the Villains displayed binary opposition in their own mental and physical personalities, regardless of whether they lived in the God or human universes, and the difference in character demonstrated that there was natural x cultural. Thor's mental condition in the human realm was influenced by human culture, and his physical state in the God universe was influenced by his nature as a god, as depicted in the Thor film (Yanti, 2019).

Second, consider the findings of Muhammad Al Hafizh, Faruk, and Juliasih (2016). This study focuses on the binary opposition of black and white in Jacqueline Woodson's works. The study's findings suggest that language is still strong in molding perceptions about racism, particularly in maintaining black and white as binary oppositions (Al Hafizh, Faruk, and Juliasih, 2016).

Third, Azka Auliana's (2021) research focused on the binary opposition of the primary characters, Casey and Miller, as seen through the lens of structuralism. The data is evaluated using Levi Strauss's notion of binary opposition. According to the findings of this study, Casey is a positive person, whereas Miller is regarded as a little demon. Casey is also described as positive, while Miller is described as unfavorable (Auliana, 2021).

Despite the growing number of studies on binary opposition in movies, novels, poems, and so on, the writer found that relatively few studies look at the significance of the binary opposition discovered in the characters of series movies.

RESULTS AND DISCUSSION

The research uses a literary work, a series entitled “Wednesday Addams Series 1: Episodes 1 and 4”. The result found the four most prominent binary opposition of mental state toward Wednesday and Enid characters. With the most prominent of these characters, it means that they have the meaning of their mental and also behaviors.

Table 1. The Binary Opposition of Mental State between Wednesday and Enid’s characters is based on the characters' mental state displayed by the character’s clothes and characterization.

| Wednesday | Enid |
|-------------|---------------|
| Darkness | Lightness |
| Taciturnity | Talkativeness |
| Rigid | Flexible |
| Indifferent | Care |

Table 1 shows Wednesday and Enid's characters' binary opposition of mental states. It shows that each mental state they have is different. Starts from the most prominent thing between them is that Wednesday has a Dark mentality, such as a mysterious person, and Enid is Light Mentality which means she is a very cheerful person. Then, Dark and Light also show that Wednesday is a taciturn person, unlike Enid, who is talkative. Besides, the dark and light make Wednesday a taciturnity person, and Enid is a talkativeness person. Besides that, the dark and light mentality also has rigid and flexible characteristics, which can impact how the socialization, which is Wednesday, is an indifferent person. Enid is a caring person to others.

The analysis uses a theoretical review related to the binary opposition theory from Levi Strauss's central premise is that our prehistoric ancestors created this straightforward model or structure to make sense of a world that gradually started to seem alien and distant to them (Bartens, 2001: 63). Find and explain about the binary opposition of mental stage that shown in the Wednesday Addams Series which is dark and light, taciturnity and talkative, rigid and flexible, indifferent and care, as the grand theory after the writer found the most prominent thing of mental state with the binary opposition the grand theory use of the analysis to get the meaning of that opposite.

1. Darkness and Lightness

Dark and Light is the most prominent binary opposition shown in the series. It mainly shows in Wednesday and Enid’s clothes; Wednesday always wears dark clothes in contrast to Enid, who always wears light clothes, which means this mental state shows their personality. Besides that, the Dark that Wednesday shows that she is mysterious. She likes to be alone when she does something and never tells others if she wants to do something. This scene shows that Wednesday with the personality that she is a mysterious person. In contrast to Enid, she is always cheerful whenever she meets with her friends. This binary opposition of dark and light in Wednesday, who does not like light colors and always uses black color for her life because she is allergic to colorful things and because her family is also mysterious and always wears dark clothes. The cause of why this binary

opposition appears in Wednesday characters can be seen in the Wednesday Addams Series Episode 1 as below:

Minute 10:52, Episode 1:

Wednesday Mother: "Please, excuse Wednesday. She is allergic to color."

Either they are a best friend, but when they are together, it shows their binary opposition. Another example from the dark and light is when they are in one room, and they divide the part of the room into two rooms (*Minute 20:04, Episode 1*). In that scene, Wednesday and Enid are roommates, but Wednesday divides the room into two rooms showing their every personality. Wednesday's room has a black background, with all of the pieces of stuff a black color, and Enid's room has a background of light colors such as pink, yellow, and blue it is like Enid's room is lively and cheerful; and Wednesday's room is like a rigid room.

Minute 13.41, Episode 1:

Enid: "Ajax, this is my new roommate, Wednesday."

Ajax: "Whoa. You are in black and white. Like a living Instagram filter."

This scene is when Enid introduces Wednesday to her friend at school. Without thinking, Enid's friend named Ajax, who had just met Wednesday, was surprised by Wednesday because she wore all dark clothes, and her face looked pale. Unlike Enid, who looked colorful and bright. The dark that Wednesday has also made she be an arrogant person. She rarely smiles at others, and when she meets with the other student at school, she always puts her face in an unfriendly face. Unlike Enid, she likes to talk with others with the sweet smile she always brings to every meeting with other students.

Minute 18.32 – 18:42, Episode 1:

Enid: "What the hell did you do to my room?"

Wednesday: "Dividing our room equally. It looks like a rainbow vomited on your side."

In that scene, Wednesday looks like they do not like Enid's room's light color. Wednesday. Wednesday shows that she is disgusted by things that are colored. Wednesday divides Enid's dorm room in two, where Enid's side is very colorful with bright lights, while Wednesday's side only has black and dark colors. This scene shows the binary opposition of their mental states. Wednesday is very different from Enid because this difference is the opposite of their respective characters.

2. Taciturnity and Talkativeness

Taciturnity and Talkativeness, this opposition also be the most prominent of their mental state. In the scene when Wednesday first comes to the Nevermore Academy, Enid talks so much to Wednesday to share what the Nevermore Academy is with. Her cheerful because of meeting a new friend in school and also a new friend for her dormitory. However, either Enid told the Nevermore Academy with a cheerful tone, and Wednesday answered it in sufficient words. It means Wednesday is a taciturn person, even to her dear friend.

Minute 10:28 – 10:44, Episode 1

Enid: (inhales excitedly) Howdy, roomie. Are you feeling okay? You look pale. (Movement will hug excitedly) Welcome to Ophelia Hall.

Wednesday: (did not speak a word and took a step back)

Enid: Not a huger. Got it.

In this minute is the scene while Wednesday is looking for her new dormitory, then meeting with her roommate, Enid. When Wednesday comes to her room, there is Enid, and she greets Wednesday cheerfully. Enid shows her character, who talks much like the data above. Enid asked many questions about Wednesday. However, in contrast to Wednesday, she did not show the slightest interest in talking to Enid and only responded to Enid with a backward motion which meant she was not a huger. At this minute, Wednesday has a taciturnity nature because of the habits that she has done before. Not only to her friends, but she also rarely talks to her parents. Whenever she talks to her parents, she still answers with sufficient sentences. As the example below:

Minute 5:00 – 5:04, Episode 1

Wednesday Mother: Darling, how long do you intend on giving us the cold shoulder?

Wednesday:(speaking to her driver) Lurch, please remind my parents I am no longer speaking to them.

At this minute, seen that Wednesday does not like to talk to her parents, so this is the reason why she can be a taciturnity person because the characteristic that she brings with her is to be a taciturn person does not like to talk much to anyone and can only answer according to what she has to answer.

Minute 11.20 – 11.30, Episode 1

Enid: Nevermore was founded in 1791 to educate people like us. Outcasts, freaks, monsters, fill in your favorite marginalized group here.

Wednesday: You can save the sanitized sales pitch.

This minute shows Enid talking to Wednesday about introducing Nevermore Academy to Wednesday. However, as has happened before, because Wednesday is a person who rarely speaks and only speaks in moderation, in the dialog at this minute, Wednesday also only answers as needed, unlike Enid, who has told a lot since they met. Enid, who has the character of talkativeness, has told a lot about Nevermore Academy. However, Wednesday, who has the character of taciturnity, only answered moderately and even with a cold tone.

3. Rigid and Flexible

Rigid and Flexible, Wednesday is a rigid person, and Enid is a flexible person. Wednesday's character of being rigid has been her constant character from the beginning of the episode to the end. These mental is connected to the dark and light mental that they have. Dark that Wednesday has meant to a serious person when doing something. Whenever she converses with others, she is always severe, unlike Enid; she is always funny. Enid always gives a smile and funny things in every

conversation she has. Rigid things are also shown every Wednesday, conversing with others, especially with the psychologist. The psychologist speaks to Wednesday in a polite and enjoyable environment so the psychologist can make a comfortable moment with Wednesday. However, unlike Wednesday, she always speaks with a severe tone, unlike the psychologist made in an enjoyable moment.

Minute 30:22 – 30:45, episode 1

Psychologist: I hope we can forge a relationship based on trust and mutual respect. This is a safe space, Wednesday. A sanctuary where we can discuss anything. What you are thinking, feeling, your views on the world, personal philosophy

Wednesday: That is easy. I think that this is a waste of time.

This moment shows Wednesday being taken by her teacher to see a psychologist because her previous misbehavior has sparked concerns about Wednesday's mental health. However, despite the psychologist's gentle invitation, Wednesday's response is stiff and cold.

Minute 13:54 – 14:00, Episode 1

Enid: (in a tone of joyful invitation) You should get on Insta, Snapchat, and TikTok.

Wednesday: I find social media a soul-sucking void of meaningless affirmation.

Wednesday does not like social media; when Enid asked her to join and use it, she declined it with the words of rejection being poetic and spicy 'Social media is a toxic abyss full of empty affirmations. Another Wednesday profound moment and Enid's funny moment is in the scene where a man likes Wednesday. However, he ignores it, in contrast to Enid, who has the personality of a funny woman full of love; instead, she is feeling sweetly in love with her male friend.

Minute 9:50 – 9:54, Episode 4

Enid: (squeals with delight) Oh my God! Wednesday, Addams is going to the Rave'N. My Whole World is titled! Do you know what you need? A bullet to the head? A dress?

Wednesday: I already have one.

In this minute from Episode 4, Told that Wednesday will go to a party, and Enid, her friend is pleased to hear that. Enid wants help Wednesday to choose the best look for Wednesday to attend the party. However, because Wednesday is rigid and allergic to colors, as described in point 1, she responds that she prefers to use her dress to find a new one with Enid.

4. Indifference and Care

In minute 43:05, Enid feels sad about the circumstances that befell her life. When Enid talks about her sadness on Wednesday, Wednesday responds very harshly and looks pretty indifferent to Enid's sadness.

Minute 43:05 – 44.00, Episode 1

Enid: My mom says some wolves are late bloomers, but I have been to the best Lycanologist. I had to fly to Milwaukee, would you believe it? Yeah, she says there is a chance I may never... you know.

Wednesday: What happens then?

Enid: I would become a lone wolf.

Wednesday: Sounds perfect.

Enid: Are you kidding me? My life would be officially over. I would be kicked out of my family pack without looking for a mate.

Wednesday: I am failing to see the problem here.

Enid: I could die alone.

Wednesday: We all die alone, Enid.

Enid: You suck at this. Cheering people up. (Cries shakily)

In this example, Wednesday fails to understand the meaning of Enid's story, instead responding that Enid's story looks fun and exciting. Behind that, Enid felt that this story would torment her because Enid's character is cheerful and caring, especially for herself. Wednesday is the opposite of Enid and their conversation at this minute. At this moment, Enid also feels that Wednesday is weak in supporting the story Enid has told because Wednesday has a character who has no sense of caring for others; Wednesday's character is indifferent to others because she has experienced the loss of someone mean to her. For example, the data below:

Minute 44:03

Wednesday: I was six years old, I took my pet scorpion, Nero, out for his afternoon stroll, and we were ambushed. They wondered what kind of freak would have a scorpion for a pet. Two of them held me down and made me watch... while the others ran Nero over until... it was snowing when I buried what was left of him. I cried my little black heart out. However, tears do not fix anything. So I vowed never to do it again.

This minute shows why Wednesday never cries and thus becomes a person who does not care about anything other than herself. She has a painful backstory of her pet loss and the bullying she experienced as a child. She cried but slowly began to feel that crying would not change things until she decided to become this person.

Minute 47:24 – 47:43, Episode 1

Enid: Are you sure you can trust that normie?

Wednesday: I trust that I can handle myself.

Enid: Well, good luck and safe travels. (Followed by movement will hug)

Wednesday: (took a step back)

Enid: Still not a huger. Got it.

In this minute, Enid shows her caring attitude towards Wednesday, who is going out with her male friend. Enid shows her concern by asking Wednesday about her confidence in her decision to go with the boy. After that, Enid also showed her caring nature through the kind words she gave Wednesday and hugged her before Enid left Wednesday. However, Enid's concern was so inversely proportional

to Wednesday that, in the end, Wednesday still did not want to be hugged by Enid until they left each other's place.

CONCLUSIONS

This article focuses on the binary opposition of mental state toward Wednesday and Enid characters in Wednesday Series 1: Episodes 1 and 4, corroborating with Levi Strauss's theory about Binary Opposition theory. The findings of this study summarize that there are four mental states of binary opposition in Wednesday and Enid Characters with Levi-Strauss's Binary Opposition theory. In the series, Wednesday's characters found that her character is Dark, which means she is mysterious, rigid, and taciturn. Besides it, Wednesday also is a rigid person. In every situation, she is always serious; sometimes, she speaks hard and can hurt others until she has an indifferent personality. In Contrast with Enid, she is light, cheerful, talkative, and flexible whenever she meets with her other friends. Because of her light personality, such as being cheerful, funny, and talkative, she has a caring character for others, especially her friends. These four binary oppositions of the mental state toward Wednesday and Enid characters can appear from their habits, experience, and family.

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