Symbolic Violence Toward the Main Character Bianca Pieper in The Script of The Movie The Duff (2015)

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Abstract. This study aims to describe the symbolic violence experienced by Bianca Pieper and Bianca Pieper's response to symbolic violence. Symbolic violence is invisible violence because it is not physical violence. Symbolic violence is carried out by a person or group that dominates another class and results in a violent process. The problem is that Bianca Pieper, the main character in The Duff, experiences symbolic violence and how she responds to this symbolic violence. The method used to collect data is a movie script. Data analysis techniques carried out descriptively, then followed by conclusion. In conclusion, it shows that Bianca Pieper received symbolic violence from the people around her, such as her friends. In addition, the writer knows how Bianca reacted to the symbolic violence she experienced.

Keywords: capital; class distinction; habitus; symbolic violence

Kekerasan Simbolik Terhadap Tokoh Utama Bianca Pieper dalam Naskah Film The Duff (2015)


Kata kunci: modal; pembedaan kelas; kebiasaan; kekerasan simbolik
INTRODUCTION

Power can be meant as domination. In the link between language and dominance, Bourdieu (1991) said that language is not only means of communication but also an instrument of action and power. It means that language can be used to dominate others in social life. Social dominance refers to the act done consciously or not by the dominant person to the dominant person. This act is in the form of symbolic violence and symbolic power (Amelia & Suganda, 2022; Cholifatillah, 2020; Sukmawati, 2022).

According to Bourdieu (1991), symbolic violence is in contrast to overt violence, and it is soft, invisible violence, unrecognized that undergone based on trust, obligation, personal loyalty, hospitality, gifts, and debts, in a word, of all the virtues honoured by the idea of honour.

Symbolic violence is submission to the power, real or symbolic, applied by a dominating person or group over the dominated social agents in a particular arena (Bourdieu & Wacquant, 1992). Based on Bourdieu’s analysis in a society like Kabylia, where domination has to be continued primarily through interpersonal relations rather than institutions. Symbolic violence is a necessary and effective means of exercising power. Bourdieu used the concept of symbolic violence to clarify how power is used in soft methods by people who have power over people who do not. Symbolic violence is the imposition of categories of perception or thought which dominate social agents.

In this case, the writer chose to analyze symbolic violence. The author thinks that cases of violence are worrying. One of the phenomena of violence is symbolic violence, which is a hidden violence that the perpetrator does not feel, the victim does not realize, and even others do not recognize. Furthermore, the writer chose film as a means to analyze symbolic violence.

According to Merriam-Webster, a dictionary movie is of literary work, and it is also known as a film. A movie is a type of visual communication that uses moving pictures and sound to tell the story inside the movie or to entertain people. There is a movie that is related to symbolic violence, which is THE DUFF (2015). That movie is an American teen comedy film directed by Ari Sandel and written by Josh A. Cagan based on the novel of the same title by Kody Keplinger. This movie was produced by Susan Cartsonis, McG, and Mary Viola and distributed by Lionsgate and CBS films.

This movie tells the main character Bianca Pieper, a teenager who experienced symbolic violence at her school. She had two best friends, Casey Cordero and Jess Harris. Casey and Jess were beautiful and sexy girls, different from Bianca, who had a fat body. Initially, she enjoyed herself until one day, and she experienced symbolic violence from friends and teachers. In this film, the writer wants to know that symbolic violence may impact a person’s mentality. As an additional point to expose, this movie got some praise in some awards as a nominee. Those were the Teen Choice Award for comedy film, comedy actress, comedy actor, and best kisses in 2015 and the people’s choice award for a comedy film in 2016.

METHODS

This research analyzed the symbolic violence toward the main character Bianca Pieper in the movie THE DUFF (2015). This research was a qualitative method that dealt with literature. For the research approach, the writer used a qualitative approach. While analyzing this research, the writer used descriptive analysis (Bogdan & Biklen, 2007).

Data collection is collecting information from all the relevant sources to find the answer to the research problem. The researcher used the
technique to collect the data in document studies by taking text dialog from the movie script and screenshots. Data analysis is a process of evaluating the data to get the information and conclusion based on the problem. The technique to analyze this research's data was an interpretation using the theoretical method. The theoretical method uses ideas and abstract principles related to a particular subject. The writer used the theory from Bourdieu (1992).

RESULT AND DISCUSSION

The results of this study showed that the main character Bianca Piper experienced symbolic violence, which appeared in the movie THE DUFF (2015), and Bianca's response toward the symbolic violence that she experienced. As described in the result of the study above, the symbolic violence that Bianca Piper experienced and her response toward symbolic violence are shown by the dialog and some screenshots in the movie. For the detail, the researcher found the number of symbolic violence the main character Bianca Piper experienced are sixteen (16) quotations or dialogues.

The symbolic violence that the main character Bianca Piper experienced
She experienced two symbolic violence, namely Euphemization and sensors (Sari & Sugiarti, 2012) experienced, and it is explained as follows:

1. **Optimization**
   Optimization is a symbolic violence mechanism that works subtly so that the violence committed is invisible, unrecognizable, and takes place under one's consciousness (Rusdiarti, 2003).

2. **Sensor**
   Sensors make symbolic violence a form of preserving all values considered as forms that are believed to be accurate, such as "morals of honor" in the form of respect, appreciation, and politeness, which are contrasted with "low morals" such as violence, inappropriateness, immorality.

The Response of Bianca Piper toward symbolic violence
Bianca Piper's response to symbolic violence is that she feels emotional, angry, and sad.

1. **Angry**
   Anger is characterized by opposition to someone after being mistreated (Deffenbacher, 2006). Bianca Piper feels annoyed and frustrated because people around her think she is the duff.

2. **Sad**
   Sadness is characterized by feelings of disadvantage, loss, and helplessness. When people are sad, people often become quieter, less excited, and more withdrawn. Bianca Piper is feeling sad and crying because she has experienced symbolic violence. Bianca also stays away from her friends, Jess and Casey, by unfollowing her friend's social media.

3. **Oppose**
   Oppose is to state an action, existence, experience, or understanding of a person. Bianca Pieper, the main character in The DUFF Movie (2015), fights symbolic violence by changing how she dresses. Bianca is ready to come to the homecoming party. Bianca also responded by writing an article about her experiences with symbolic violence. In the previous section, the writer has shown that the main character Bianca Piper experienced symbolic violence, which appeared in the movie THE DUFF (2015), and Bianca's response to the symbolic violence she experienced.
person or class dominates another person or class through their power or perception. For example, Caitlyn is a person who comes from the upper economy class. She wears branded clothes and drives an expensive car. In her college, she meets Bella. Bella is a person who comes from a lower economic class. Bella has a simple performance even though she went to college by public transportation. Someday, Caitlyn showed off her new phone to Bella, and she insulted Bella because Bella did not have enough money to buy a new phone like Caitlyn. It is called symbolic violence because Caitlyn used her power as a rich person to dominate Bella. To do symbolic violence, people must have capital or habitus as their modal that can be fought in the arena. In the example above, Caitlyn has capital that is economic capital, which is why she can do symbolic violence toward Bella.

According to Bourdieu (1992), symbolic violence is submission to the power, real or symbolic, applied by a dominating person or group over the dominated social agents in a specific arena. Therefore, Bourdieu defined symbolic violence as a power used by dominant people to weaken people in a specific arena. Symbolic violence is the imposition of categories of perception or thought which dominate social agents. When a class dominates another class, it will result in a violent process. To operate this dominant act through violence, the dominant class always attempts to make the action unrecognizable. Therefore, the dominant class has the power to dominate the disadvantaged and burdened class. This violent mechanism is then called symbolic violence with two types: euphemization and sensors.

1. Optimization
Optimization is a symbolic violence mechanism that works subtly so that the violence committed is invisible, unrecognizable, and takes place under one's consciousness (Rusdiarti, 2003).

2. Sensor
Sensors make symbolic violence a form of preserving all values that are considered as forms that are believed to be accurate, such as "morals of honor" in the form of respect, appreciation, and politeness, which are contrasted with "low morals" such as violence, inappropriateness, immorality.

These findings are consistent with the theory by Bourdieu (1992) about symbolic violence. In the SV1 sensors, the sentence "Bianca, she has the hottest friends," which is said by a boy in her school, showed that he did symbolic violence toward Bianca because she did not have a good body like Casey and Jess, who had the hot ass and hot rack. The symbolic violence that the boy does is shown by giving the imposition of his perception that a girl should have an ideal body. This quotation matches the theory from Bourdieu (1992) that Symbolic violence is the imposition of categories of perception or thought that dominate social agents.

In the SV2, the sentence, "Bianca, you have to have an actual invite to get in, and I only a certain amount." The conversation above occurred in the school corridor when Madison wanted to invite Jess and Casey to her party but did not invite Bianca. That conversation, as the main character Bianca Pieper got symbolic violence from Madison. Bourdieu (1992) classified sensors that symbolic violence as submission to the power, real or symbolic, applied by a dominating person or group over the dominated social agents in a specific arena. In the conversation above, Bianca cannot come to the party without an invitation because Madison has power over the party, she has economic capital as a modal to make a party, and she has the authority to invite people she wants because it is her party. Bianca had to have the invitation to come in. It can be
said that Bianca had to be submissive to the power of Madison. 

In the SV3, the type of symbolic violence is optimization. Mr. Arthur did symbolic violence toward Bianca by saying: 

"I want you to step out of your comfort zone and bring your special brand of journalistic gravitas to an article about homecoming."

Here, Mr. Arthur has the power to dominate Bianca because he has symbolic capital as a teacher while Bianca is a student, so she has to obey the command from the teacher. She had to write an article about homecoming even though she did like to go to the party. Then in SV4, the type of symbolic violence is optimization. When Jess said, "it is a party, you should wear something cute," from that sentence, she said, "Okay. How about this? It is a little darker, kind of sexy". It was symbolic violence because of the imposition of Jess’s perception on Bianca that going to a party need to dress up excessively, such as wearing a good dress.

In the SV5, Wesley said to Bianca, "Looking very handsome tonight." In that sentence, the type of symbolic violence is sensors. Wesley mocks Bianca’s appearance for being different. Wesley asked Bianca about Casey and Jess to get information about Casey and Jess by asking:

"Have they asked about me? Do they do other things together that I might be able to join in on or just watch."

Wesley utilized Bianca to get information about Casey and Jess. Bianca is obedient to Wesley, and she gives information to Wesley because he has symbolic capital, which is his handsome face and his popularity. Bourdieu classified that as euphemization.

While in the SV6, Wesley did symbolic violence to Bianca by saying, "that is your job as their DUFF." Furthermore, he said, "DUFF. D-U-F-F. Designated Ugly Fat Friend." Like a previous explanation, in this case, the symbolic violence type from Bourdieu is classified as sensors. Wesley had symbolic capital to dominate Bianca because he was handsome and popular, so that he could call Bianca 'DUFF'. Moreover, that makes Bianca feel annoyed.

Then, SV7 had the type of symbolic violence optimization. Bianca’s mom does symbolic violence to Bianca to make Bianca obey the school's rules by saying, "Bianca, let us go. You will be late for school." Bianca took a long time to dress up. Here, her mom asked her to dress up quickly. Bianca got symbolic violence because she had to go to school on time. It was the rule from the school that the students had to already at school on time. The school had the power to make the students obey its rules, and Bianca had to do it as a student.

Then, in SV8, it is optimization. When Bianca came out of her room, he wore terrible clothes. She didn't dress up appropriately when it was time to go to school. Her mom said, "you look crazy." That sentence clarified that Bianca's mom gave her imposition of perception that Bianca should wear proper clothes when going to school; it is called a manner.

Next, in the SV9, symbolic violence is sensors types. Jess did symbolic violence to Bianca by saying: "I need a layman's opinion" that sentences showed that Bianca is a layman in terms of fashion. Here Jess had symbolic capital because she is better than Bianca if it is related to fashion, as it showed in the statement, "you are not a fashion expert'.

Next, in SV10 when Bianca said, "why else would two superhot, popular girls wanna be friends with somebody like me?" She realized that her friends were better-looking than her. It is symbolic violence of types sensors because of the
imposition of the perception that a popular girl has to be friends with a person who has the same level. Here, Bianca did symbolic violence to herself because she thought that Casey and Jess had symbolic capital: their beautiful face, hot body, and popularity in the school. In this case, Casey responded, "Okay, just because you think one of us is better-looking than you." Casey has to power to do symbolic violence because she has symbolic capital, which is her popularity in the school.

In the SV11, the statement from Wesley.

"You got a uni-boob, your posture sucks, and your clothes fit weird because you wear the wrong size bra."

It was symbolic violence and had two types it is sensors and optimization. Indirectly he conveyed his thought about Bianca, which made Bianca unconfident about herself. It can be called symbolic violence because Wesley's thoughts can dominate Bianca that a girl is supposed to be sexy and dress up appropriately like a literal girl.

Next, in the SV12, Wesley said, "First impressions matter, so take some pride in your appearance."

Toward Bianca. It was symbolic violence, and it was an optimization type. Because Wesley's perception is that first impression is essential, Bianca must pay attention to her appearance, at first sight to change people's perception that she is a good and beautiful girl. Furthermore. In SV13, Wesley said, "You need to start dressing more like you and less like Wreck-It Ralph." It was symbolic violence and types it is optimization through the imposition of the perception that dressing like self is essential, and it showed that Bianca needs to dress more like her. Wesley advised Bianca to follow people's perception to dress like herself. In SV14, the headmaster did symbolic violence to Bianca and all the students by making new rules. It showed when he said:

"Malloy High will now be put under Internet martial law. Each student will be required to turn in their phones to teachers and retrieve at the end of the day until we have gotten to the bottom of this."

Here Bianca and all the students had to obey the rules not to use their phones in school anymore. The school has the power to make the student obey the rules. Moreover, it is symbolic violence is euphinition.

It also happened in the SV15 when the teacher said:

"Drop them in the box. You can pick them up after school, maybe."

It is the symbolic violence optimization type. Because the teacher asked the students to collect their phones from the teacher because there was a new rule that they were not allowed to use their phones in the school; in this case, the teacher has the power to do symbolic violence because the teacher has symbolic capital as a teacher to make the student obey the rules.

The last is in the SV16. Toby was the guy whom Bianca loved, and he invited Bianca to come to his house. He knew that Bianca loved him after watching the video that Madison shared. Even though Toby knew that Bianca loved him, he still asked Bianca questions to for getting information about her best friends (Casey and Jess). It showed from his question "Is it intimidating?" and "do they have dates to the homecoming dance next weekend?"

In this case, Toby did symbolic violence sensors toward Bianca by utilizing her to get information about Casey and Jess. Here, Toby can do symbolic violence because he has the power to do it. He knew Bianca loved him, so he approached Bianca to utilize her for his business.

As described in the discussion above, nine (9) quotations exist. It is
SV1, SV4, SV8, SV10, SV11, SV12, SV12, and SV13, which is consistent with the theory from Bourdieu (1992) symbolic violence is submission to the power, real or symbolic, applied by a dominating person or group over the dominated social agents in a particular arena. Therefore, Bourdieu defined symbolic violence as a power used by dominant people to weaken people in a specific arena.

The second theory is from Bourdieu (1992). Symbolic violence is submission to the power, real or symbolic, applied by a dominating person or group over the dominated social agents in a specific arena. Therefore, Bourdieu defined symbolic violence as a power used by dominant people to weaken people in a specific arena.

It has been known that there are seven (7) quotations it is SV2, SV3, SV5, SV6, SV7, SV9, SV14, SV15, and SV16, which is the theory Grenfell, (2012) that Symbolic violence is the imposition of categories of perception or thought which dominate social agents.

The responses of Bianca Piper toward symbolic violence

According to Bourdieu (1986), it is possible to resist the daily violence; Bourdieu also gave an example using a train driver’s remark as an example of response toward violence. There were several ways that Bianca made a response in the movie THE DUFF (2015). In RS1, when Casey and Jess help Bianca to look beautiful at Madison’s party by choosing a beautiful dress, Bianca says, “I think I'm just gonna stick with the old lucky party shirt.” As a response, Bianca was choosing her t-shirt. It did not affect her to look beautiful at Madison’s party. She liked her style so, she dressed like she was. RS2 Bianca splashed a glass of water on Wesley’s face, as shown in figure 4.2. It was her response to symbolic violence from Wesley because she was furious toward Wesley. It happened because Wesley told Bianca that she was a DUFF and utilized Bianca to get information about Casey and Jess to get closer to them when they were at Madison’s party. Bianca also said that Wesley was stupid. Next, in RS3, since Wesley told Bianca that her friends made her the DUFF, she was angry with her friends, and she kept away from them by unfriending them on social media. It is shown in Bianca’s statement “Unfollowed y'all on Twitter” and 'I'm blocking your ass on Tumblr. And you, you're off my Snapchat”.

Bianca unfriended her friends as her response to not being the DUFF anymore. Then, the response that Bianca did was in RS4. Bianca asked for Wesley’s help because she did not want to be the DUFF anymore, so, she told her desire to Wesley by saying: “I don’t want to be anybody’s DUFF anymore, okay? I want to be my own person. I’m tired of being the approachable one. I want to be the dateable one” not only saying her desire, but she also gives an offer to Wesley in order to not be rejected by Wesley. She said: "Okay, here is my offer. I will make sure you pass science if you help me with this".

The following response of Bianca was shown in RS5 in the screenshot when Bianca was crying, as shown in figure 4.3. She was unfortunate when almost all the students laughed at her after they watched the video of Bianca and insulting Bianca's body. She went directly to the toilet and cried inside the toilet alone. Then, RS6 Bianca responds that she wanted to tell Wesley what just happened to her by saying, "I'd like to talk to you.” Then, in RS7, here the researcher put a screenshot as figure 4.4 to show that Bianca tried to look beautiful at the homecoming party by wearing a beautiful dress and necklace, changing her hairstyle, and she had to makeup on her face. RS8 showed that Bianca did not care about the label DUFF anymore because she said: "There's always going to be somebody prettier or
more talented or richer than you. You label everybody to try to keep them down, but you end up missing out on all this great stuff around you...just don't tear me down for not giving a shit about your labels, because in the end, they're meaningless."

Those sentences clarified that Bianca already realized that the label people gave her was meaningless and made Bianca more confident than before.

The last response of Bianca was shown in the RS9. Here Bianca wrote an article about her experience being the DUFF, which showed in her statement. "The site has thousands of comments and likes. But they're positive this time". Bianca tried to inspire people with her writing. She made her experience as the DUFF understand that a label was meaningless and could not define herself by saying, "it's not about popularity or even getting the guy. It's about understanding that no matter what label is thrown your way, only you can define yourself. Take it from a DUFF!"

As a result, after analyzing the data and processing it in the quotations in the result of the study and has been discussed in the discussion, the writer can say that the data of this result are consistent with the theory from Bourdieu (1992). There are seven (7) quotations (SV1, SV4, SV8, SV10, SV11, SV12, SV13) that show Symbolic violence is the imposition of categories of perception or thought which dominate social agents. There are nine (9) quotations (SV2, SV3, SV5, SV6, SV7, SV9, SV14, SV15, SV16) that match with the theory from Bourdieu (1992) that symbolic violence is submission to the power, real or symbolic, applied by a dominating person or group over the dominated social agents in a particular arena.

The result of this research had a relation to the previous studies. The result of the first previous study was from Wulandari (2013) with the title. "Domestic Violence Reflected in Nujood Ali’s and Delphine Minoui’s i am Nujood, Age 10 and Divorced Memoir (2010) : A Feminist Perspective”.

Wulandari’s research is that the main character Nujood receives symbolic violence in the form of Nujood's obedience, father's affection, Nujood's guilt, Nujood's loyalty, and Nujood's fear. Compliance, affection, and guilt are symbolic violence done by her father to Nujood for Nujood to approve the marriage he proposed with a man she did not know. Nujood's loyalty and fear were the symbolic violence her husband made to Nujood during the child's marriage. In this case, Nujood is the agent with weak capital, so she is the dominant person.

Second is Syahril (2012) from Gadjah Mada University with the title "Cultural Production Field and Symbolic Violence Analysis toward Novel Banat Al-Riyadh in Sociology Perspective Pierre Bourdieu."

The result of Syahril’s research is that Syahril found that novel Banat Al-Riyadh shows symbolic violence in some form, that is, state symbolic violence against society, patriarchal symbolic violence (men against women), and symbolic family violence against children.

However, the result of this research is that the symbolic violence that the main character Bianca Pieper experiences in the movie THE DUFF (2015) is in the form of the dominance of power, the exploration of the female body, utilization and utilization, and insult. First, the dominance of power showed that Bianca had to be obedient to the power of the people around her. For example, Bianca needs to write an article about the homecoming party, which is she did not like going to the party and there is a rule that no more phones allowed in the school. Second, exploration of the female body. Such as, Bianca's body was commented on because she did not have an ideal body. Third, Bianca was utilized by Wesley and Toby to get information about Bianca's
friends, Casey and Jess. The last insulting, Bianca was insulted because she was a DUFF of her friends. While her response to Bianca toward symbolic violence was crying, splashing a glass of water, and trying to change her fashion style, Bianca also unfriended Casey and Jess on her social media. She wrote an article about her experience as 'the duff' to inspire people.

Bianca Pieper's response to symbolic violence is that she feels emotional, angry, and sad.

1. Angry
   Anger is characterized by opposition to someone after being mistreated (Deffenbacher, 2006). Bianca Pieper feels annoyed and frustrated because people around her think she is the duff.

2. Sad
   Sadness is characterized by feelings of disadvantage, loss, and helplessness. When people are sad, people often become quieter, less excited, and more withdrawn. Bianca Pieper is feeling sad and crying because she has experienced symbolic violence. Bianca also stays away from her friends, Jess and Casey, by unfollowing her friend's social media.

3. Oppose
   Oppose is to state an action, existence, experience, or understanding of a person. Bianca Pieper, the main character in The DUFF Movie (2015), fights symbolic violence by changing how she dresses. Bianca is ready to come to the homecoming party. Bianca also responded by writing an article about her experiences with symbolic violence.

CONCLUSION
In this paper, the writer concluded that there are sixteen symbolic acts of violence that the main character Bianca Pieper experiences in the movie THE DUFF (2015), and there are nine responses of Bianca Pieper toward symbolic violence that she experienced. The symbolic violence is shown in the quotations that have been explained.

The symbolic violence that the main character Bianca Pieper experiences in the movie THE DUFF (2015) are sixteen, and it is shown in the quotation and some screenshot that the researcher already explained in the previous chapter. That symbolic violence is in the form of the dominance of power, the exploration of the female body, utilization, and insulting. The writer would give examples from the previous chapter about the form of symbolic violence that Bianca Pieper experienced. First, the dominance of power showed that Bianca had to be obedient to the power of the people around her. For example, Bianca needs to write an article about the homecoming party, which is she did not like going to the party and there is a rule that no more phones allowed in the school. Second, exploration of the female body. Such as, Bianca's body was commented on because she did not have an ideal body. Third, Bianca is utilized by Wesley to get information about Bianca's friends, Casey and Jess. The last, insulting, Bianca was insulted because she was a DUFF of her friends.

Bianca Pieper responded by obeying the rules, crying, doing opposition such as splashing a glass of water, changing her fashion style to look beautiful at a homecoming party, and writing an article about her experience to inspire people.

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