

## AN ANALYSIS OF AMERICAN CULTURE REPRESENTED IN A FILM: HOME SWEET HOME ALONE

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### ABSTRAK

Penelitian ini bertujuan untuk menganalisis budaya Amerika yang direpresentasikan dalam film berjudul Home Sweet Home Alone. Metode penelitian kualitatif adalah metode yang digunakan dalam penelitian ini dengan menggunakan observasi untuk menemukan budaya Amerika yang direpresentasikan dalam sebuah film. Film berjudul Home Sweet Home Alone merupakan versi keenam dan telah diluncurkan pada tahun 2021. Penelitian ini menemukan 5 budaya Amerika di dalam film tersebut, diantaranya; Gestur, Baju, Hubungan Keluarga, festival, dan etika makan.

**Kata Kunci:** American Culture, Film Analysis, Culture Represented

### INTRODUCTION

Culture encompasses religion, food, what we wear, how we wear it, our language, marriage, music and is different all over the world. S. Pappas state that culture is the characteristics and knowledge of a particular group of people, encompassing language, religion, cuisine, social habits, music and arts [1]. V. C. de Munck state that culture is a core concept in anthropology, and the authors propose that cultural models, which are potentially the basic units of culture, possess a causal force even though culture as a collective symbol system has no agency in itself[2]. According to C. I. T. Panggabean and A. Wardhono, Culture plays a significant role in shaping individuals' identities, influencing their perspectives, and guiding their interactions within a community[3].

American culture is a diverse and dynamic tapestry, shaped by a rich history of immigration, cultural exchange, and innovation. As a melting pot of various ethnicities, religions, and traditions, American culture is a blend of customs, values, and beliefs from all corners of the world. American culture refers to the shared beliefs, values, customs, traditions, and practices that are characteristic of the people living in the United States[4]. The language, literature, art, music, food, sports, and customs of society are just a few of the diverse topics it covers. Native American, European, African, and Asian cultures, as well as the distinctive experiences and history of the United States, are just a few of the diverse influences that may be found in American culture.

Currently, cross-cultural can be found in videos that contain the identity of their respective countries. Cross-cultural shows their habits in communicating, their habits, their activities, and others. Cross-cultural refers to the study or comparison of different cultures and how they interact with each other[5]. Cross-cultural adaptation refers to the process of modifying a measurement instrument, such as a questionnaire, to make it suitable for use in a different culture or language[6]. Cross culture understanding plays a significant role in communicating with people from different countries[7].

Culture can be represented in a film through various elements and aspects, which help convey the values, beliefs, customs, traditions, and social norms of a particular group of people or society. L. Truong state that representation contributes to the creation of safe spaces for minorities[8]. Meanwhile, according to M. Dowd, representation is a key aspect of individual empowerment in a society that so highly values media as a forecaster of culture[9]. In a society where media heavily influences cultural perceptions, the portrayal of diverse voices and experiences becomes essential for empowering individuals to assert their identities and actively

participate in shaping societal norms. Both perspectives emphasize the pivotal role representation plays in promoting inclusivity and empowerment in contemporary societies. Nicki Lisa Cole state that culture is a term that refers to a large and diverse set of mostly intangible aspects of social life[10]. M. B. S. Anastasia Gracia, Cahyani Dara and Dea Agetia Noviana have said that films have the power to showcase different cultures and provide insights into the values, beliefs, and practices of a particular society or community[11].

Film analysis is a critical examination and interpretation of various elements present in a movie, with the aim of understanding its themes, messages, artistic choices, and overall impact on the audience. It involves dissecting and evaluating the components that make up the film, including storytelling, cinematography, editing, acting, sound, and visual effects. Film analysis goes beyond a simple review; it delves into the deeper layers of a film to uncover its underlying meanings and intentions. The previous study by Marcella Barbosa Miranda Teixeira, e.t., using film analysis to analyze the aspects related to women's personal life and work illustrated in the TV series *Most Beautiful Thing* (Coisa Mais Linda, in Portuguese)[12]. The second was Xin Peng, analyze the Chinatown film culture: *The Appearance of Cinema in San Francisco's Chinese Neighborhood* by Kim K. Fahlstedt[13]. Next study by I. Cusna that study *The Aspect of Patriarchal Culture Presented in Hidden Figures "S Movie*, The aim of this research was to describe the aspect of patriarchal culture in the *Hidden Figures"s Movie*. the researcher found that there were two aspects that could be presented as patriarchal culture from the *Hidden Figures"s Movie*, they were social aspect and education aspect.[14].

"Home Sweet Home Alone" is the sixth installment in the "Home Alone" film series, and it was announced in the mid-2020s then release in november 12<sup>th</sup>, 2021[15]. The film may feature new characters and scenarios but is expected to retain the comedic and adventurous spirit of its predecessors. However, without a specific release date or plot details, it's challenging to provide a comprehensive summary of the film.

The aim of this study is to undertake a descriptive analysis of American culture as it is presented in the sixth edition of the movie "Home Sweet Home Alone". Finding and analysing cultural components in the film as a whole is the main goal.

## **METHODOLOGY**

The research approach used in this study to examine how "Home Sweet Home Alone" portrays American culture is observation-based. An observational technique enables an in-depth analysis of the numerous cultural elements represented throughout the plot, characters, and settings of the film because the main goal is to examine and comprehend how American culture is portrayed in the movie. The process of observation is seeing the movie several times critically while paying close attention to the cultural stance the movie represents.

Although observation is the main research method used in this study, it is important to recognise that this method has several drawbacks. A clearly defined analytical framework and triangulation are necessary since the interpretation of cultural representations may be subjective and susceptible to individual bias.

## **RESULT AND DISCUSSION**

In The film "Home Sweet Home Alone," released in 2021, marks the sixth installment in the popular movie series. The researcher found various aspects of American culture are represented, including gesture, fashion, family relationships, festivals, and table manners. These elements contribute to the overall storyline, offering insights into American life, family dynamics, and festive traditions.

## Gesture



This gesture in this film such as in picture touching stomache with head down mean he need an urgent thing to the toilet, or its mean he need to pee.



The finger pointed to show the object of the talking about.



The hands up with toward to front of it show up the reality meaning that describe introduction or describe the fact.



Tomb with direction show mean the location of the things that the girl need.



two hands up with two arm hol the head shows the confuse of the man, in the film shows he losted things that cost a worth \$200.000.



eyebrow up with the eyes pointed then the mouth being smile shows the weird unexpected things with what is already set then hoping the things were going on the script like before.

## **Fashion**

In the sixth edition of "Home Sweet Home Alone," the fashion choices of the characters play a role in portraying their personalities and contributing to the overall tone of the film. However, given that this is a comedy film with a focus on slapstick humor, the fashion elements are not as prominent or groundbreaking as they might be in other genres.

### **Max's Style**

Max, the troublesome kid at the center of the film, likely sports a casual and contemporary wardrobe. Since he is depicted as rebellious and independent, his clothing may reflect a certain level of edginess or uniqueness. Expect to see him wearing comfortable clothes suitable for a kid spending time at home, such as graphic tees, jeans, sneakers, and hoodies.

### **Jeff and Pam McKenzie**

As the desperate couple attempting to retrieve their valuable heirloom doll, Jeff and Pam's clothing might mirror their financial struggles. They could wear ordinary, practical, and somewhat worn-out attire to emphasize their predicament. The couple might be shown wearing casual clothing like simple shirts, jeans, and maybe even clothing with small tears or stains to indicate their challenges.

### **Buzz McCallister**

Buzz, Kevin McCallister's brother who makes a cameo appearance as a police officer, might be seen in a standard police uniform. His presence could serve as a nostalgic nod to the original films, and his uniform would reflect his current occupation as a law enforcement officer.

The fashion in "Home Sweet Home Alone" is likely to be relatively casual and contemporary, focusing more on serving the comedic storyline and reflecting the characters' personalities than making bold fashion statements.

## **Family Relationship**

The film explores various dynamics within the family, including sibling relationships, parent-child relationships, and the concept of understanding and forgiveness.

### **Sibling Relationships**

Max's relationship with his siblings is likely depicted with a mix of love, rivalry, and annoyance, as is common among siblings. Since Max is portrayed as a troublesome kid, he might have a somewhat strained relationship with his brothers and sisters. They may have typical sibling squabbles and disagreements, but ultimately, they care for each other and support one another when needed.

### **Parent-Child Relationships**

The film presents the dynamics between Max and his parents, portraying the challenges and misunderstandings that can arise between generations. Max may feel misunderstood or ignored by his parents at times, which could contribute to his rebellious behavior. On the other hand, his parents might struggle to find the balance between giving him independence and maintaining discipline.

### **Family Struggles**

The financial struggles faced by Jeff and Pam McKenzie are a central plot point in the film. This situation could lead to tension and stress within the family, as they deal with the prospect of losing their home and navigate the complexities of financial hardship.

### **Understanding and Forgiveness**

As the story unfolds, the film might explore the themes of understanding and forgiveness among family members. Max may come to realize that his assumptions about the McKenzie couple were wrong, leading to a potential change in his attitude towards them. The parents, in turn, could understand Max's perspective better, leading to a resolution and a sense of forgiveness within the family.

### **Family Bonding and Growth**

Despite the challenges they face, the film might also highlight moments of family bonding and growth. Through their shared experiences and the obstacles they encounter, the characters could come to appreciate each other more and strengthen their family bond.

### **Humor and Heartfelt Moments**

As a family comedy film, "Home Sweet Home Alone" is likely to include both humor and heartfelt moments centered around family interactions. These moments could serve to entertain the audience while also conveying important messages about family values and the importance of communication.

The family relationship culture in "Home Sweet Home Alone" is expected to be a mix of humor, challenges, growth, and ultimately, a celebration of the importance of family bonds. The film might resonate with audiences by portraying relatable family dynamics and delivering messages of understanding, forgiveness, and love within the context of a comedic and adventurous storyline.

### **Festival**

This film being in the winter, so that in this also remain to the Christmas, Its an annual festival commemorating the birth of Jesus Christ,observed primarily on December 25<sup>th</sup> as a religious and cultural celebration. Its include gift giving, also being decorated with the snowman, the houses with the beautiful lamp such as tumbler, and also with Christmas tree also adding the deer decorated.

### **Table Manner**

In this film, the table manner was found just before the meal, that adjusted with two plate and the glass right one beside the plate, then on the plate that wiper with the wrapped spoon and fork in it ready on for after the meal. All meal ready on the centered the table.

### **CONCLUSION**

The film "Home Sweet Home Alone," the sixth installment of the popular film series released in 2021, incorporates various elements of American culture, including gesture, fashion, family relationships, festivals, and table manners. Gesture plays a significant role in the film, with characters using non-verbal cues to communicate urgent needs, point out objects, and express emotions such as confusion and surprise. Regarding fashion, the characters' clothing choices reflect their personalities and circumstances. Max, the central character, likely wears casual and edgy outfits, while the McKenzie couple may don practical and slightly worn clothing to highlight their financial struggles. Family relationships are a prominent theme in the movie, depicting the dynamics between siblings and parent-child relationships. The film explores the challenges and misunderstandings that can arise within a family, emphasizing the importance of understanding and forgiveness. The festival showcased in the film is Christmas, celebrated with decorations like snowmen, beautifully lit houses, Christmas trees, and gift-giving traditions, typical of the festive season. As for table manners, the movie briefly depicts a well-set table with plates, glasses, and cutlery arranged properly before the meal, showing a glimpse of American dining etiquette.

The film "Home Sweet Home Alone" provides a lighthearted and humorous portrayal of American culture, showcasing various aspects of daily life, family dynamics, and festive traditions. The film offers a blend of comedy, relatable family experiences, and heartwarming moments that resonate with audiences while reflecting certain facets of American society.

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