



## Social Rejection as Reflected in Happy Feet Film

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**Abstract:** This study aims to know the social rejections and its triggers experienced by Mumble in the movie Happy Feet. The writer uses a qualitative method to conduct the data and theory. The result shows Mumble is ostracized and ridiculed by his peers because he cannot sing like the other penguins. The rejection from the community, which values conformity, leads to feelings of isolation and sadness for Mumble. Despite the sadness Mumble experiences, the film ultimately carries a positive message of self-acceptance, resilience, and the celebration of individuality. Mumble's journey is one of overcoming adversity and embracing his unique talents, turning what initially caused sadness into a source of strength and inspiration..

**Keywords:** *Social rejection, community, resilience*

### INTRODUCTION

Movie is a motion or moving picture, it becomes one of the most favorite literary works because it could be watched by people on their free time to relax their mind from the busy activities and they do not take more time and energy to enjoy it. Movie is a visual work or a series which shown on screen, creates the illusion of moving images due the phenomenon, its considered to be an important art form, a source of popular entertainment and a powerful medium for educating or indoctrinating citizen. Norbert Wiley, said that: "Movie viewers divide their attention between the movie on the one hand, the

physical movie and other spectators on the other, etc. This also helps to regulate distance and create an aura of safety. After all, However, it is "just a movie". In real life, you can reduce your attention, but you can't look beyond the frame and glimpse a different reality like you can in a movie. If you do that a lot, you'll be living in the wrong world." (2003:174).

As a literature work, movie absolutely have a point of view to analyze, because of it the writer is going to analyze an animation movie titled Happy Feet.

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Happy Feet is a movie that invested heavily in motion capture technology for live-action characters in certain scenes, and it not only has a great story that moralizes and educates the audience.

Happy Feet is his 2006 Australian-American computer-animated musical family comedy film co-written by George Miller. The film was produced by Warner Bros, Village Roadshow Pictures and Kingdom Feature Productions' Sydney-based visual effects and animation studio Animal Logic.

This movie tells the story of a penguin named Mumble. Mumble has a terrible singing voice and no heart song, but he has a keen talent for something Penguin has never seen before: tap dancing. This film stars Elijah Wood, Robin Williams, Hugh Jackman, Nicole Kidman, Hugo Weaving, E.G. The writer is interested in analyzing this movie because it has influenced her, and perhaps other people as well, to recognize differences in society even within families.

Because we are facing social problems. The writer is also interested in showing some kind of social rejection that forced the main character to achieve the goal of solving the real problems of society.

Differences in life are everyday and include many aspects such as height, weight, hair, color, language, customs, ways of thinking, attitudes, behavior, traditions, etc.

All people have differences in their lives, but not all people know the differences. People respond well to it. With this film, the writer wants to show and remind students and others not to judge people with differences. People also want to remind our readers that when it comes to special meaning in life, differences come from God. As sociologist Ian Robertson (1987) has noted:

“Americans eat oysters but not snails. The French eat snails but not locusts. The Zulus eat locusts but not fish. The Jews eat fish but not pork. The Hindus eat pork but not beef. The Russians eat beef but not snakes. The Chinese eat snakes but not people. The Jale of New Guinea find people delicious. Ian Robertson. (p.67)” (qtd in Myers, 2008:157).

Therefore, the writer aims to analyze the Happy Feet movie in order to show the reader the power of personal control facing social rejection causing by differences.

The film depicts social rejection such as bullying, insults, discrimination, intimidation, and prejudice. Prejudice and antipathy toward others manifests itself in a variety of ways, including groups against other groups, groups against individuals, and communities against one another, community versus individual, individual versus group, individual versus community, individual versus individual, etc. In fact, each of the forms just described involves a negative evaluation of a group, community, or individual. This is the nature of prejudice, a predetermined negative judgment. Therefore, the author's aim in Happy Feet is to discuss prejudice, exclusion, bullying, and other types of social rejection with readers and reflect them in reality.

The objectives of this study is to know social rejections and its triggers experienced by Mumble in the movie

### **Theory of Social Rejection**

Social rejection occurs when a person is intentionally excluded from social relationships and social interactions as a form of social punishment. People can be rejected individually or as a group.

Additionally, rejection can be active, such as bullying, teasing, or ridiculing, or passive, such as ignoring someone.

### **Feelings associated with social rejection**

From the above discussion, it is clear that social rejection is hurtful and painful because a person feels insulted and humiliated deep down.

This means that social rejection brings many negative emotions and is psychologically stressful. The person feels abandoned, helpless, and has no one to share their deepest feelings with. Some of the emotions associated with social rejection are:

#### ***Feeling hurt***

The results of scientific research have shown that social rejection can cause sadness, hurt feelings, shame, social embarrassment, etc. Social rejection leads to feelings of neglect and abandonment. The person may experience a deep sense of emptiness that represents deep pain and suffering.

Hurt feelings after rejection can also be caused by unmet expectations or needs. If the

person is in a close relationship but is socially rejected, feelings of not being accepted or left out can make them feel sad and unhappy.

Social rejection from close friends or relatives can result in hurt feelings from disappointment at not getting along. In fact, hurt feelings are more intense when the social rejection comes from someone the rejected person cares about.

### ***Jealousy***

Social rejection can result in intense feelings of jealousy and hostility. Bitter feelings arise when we see others being accepted in a social group while we are being excluded without consciously and without much effort.

Jealousy is a negative emotion that is a natural reaction when you are cornered through no fault of your own. You may feel overwhelmed and try your best to be accepted into the group.

Research has shown that interpersonal rejection, whether personal or from a group of members, always evokes feelings of jealousy. If jealousy builds up too much over time, it can also lead to passive-aggressiveness.

### ***Loneliness***

Loneliness is also an emotion associated with social rejection. If you are intentionally rejected, you will feel uniquely alone, as if a stable sense of belonging has been taken away from you.

People may feel that no one can understand or care about other people's feelings. Additionally, feelings of loneliness resulting from social rejection are due to anxiety and

### ***insecurity.***

People may feel abandoned and alienated from group and individual life. This situation can make people anxious and restless. People's lives lack support and friendly ties, and suddenly a feeling of emptiness arises and people feel lonely.

### ***Sadness***

Social rejection is heartbreaking and can lead to intense sadness, alienation, and unhappiness. You may feel lonely, socially isolated, and deep down you may feel completely defeated.

For some people, a sudden loss of social support can lead to symptoms of depression if not addressed quickly.

### **Causes of social rejection**

The causes of social rejection can be listed as follows:

1. Lack of attachment. Lack of strong familial bond with caregivers in early and late childhood can make the person suffer from several insecurities that can stop them from forming strong adult relationships.
2. The person may always try to fit into a group but unable to do so due to his/her innate vulnerabilities and hidden trauma. This can lead to social rejection as the person may have several problems relating to others humbly and closely.
3. Individual differences. Human are born with certain key qualities and shortcomings. If a person's individual differences are not taken into consideration, then they might face social rejection by the peer group, or family members. The differences could be based on appearance, social status, educational background and many more things.
4. Poor fit and lack of compatibility with peer, or partner, or any work group
5. Failure to meet the group expectations by an individual member can lead to social rejection

### **METHOD**

This study uses qualitative research. Qualitative research requires a thorough analysis of sources and samples. The movie Happy Feet is the source for this review, examples are summaries, monologues, and dialogues. All data is collected and sorted to facilitate data classification. Instead, the story itself must come before it can be summarized.

Happy Feet (2006), this study is a qualitative study in the basics of literary criticism. The researcher employs a qualitative research methodology by employing the content analysis method. Qualitative research are methods to explore the significance of the individual or group from which social or humanitarian issues originate. Important tasks included in this qualitative research process include asking participants specific questions and collecting their data, inductively evaluating

the data to identify specific and broader themes, and interpreting the results.

For this thesis writing process, the techniques employed by the writer in the data collection are watching the movie, searching for the transcript of dialogues, and the documents that support to be analyzed. Then writer also takes notes from the film's dialog to complete the interpretation of the personalities of the major characters of this film and explain the fundamental ideas that will be analyzed.

## FINDINGS AND DISCUSSION

The writer presents the findings and discussions in this chapter. In this chapter, the writer provides the answer to the research problem. The research problem is: What social rejections and its triggers found in the Happy Feet movie?

### FINDINGS

Social rejections and its triggers experienced by Mumble

#### Social Rejection

##### 1) Feeling hurt

(sequence 31.13-31.15)

Picture 1.1 Mumble gets hurt when he sang a song together



Picture 1.2 His friend tells him to listen only



Picture 1.3 Mumble feels sorry for what he did



Picture 1.4 Mumble tries to sing a gain, but his friends mock him



Picture 1.5 Mumble friends feel jealous of his capacity of having different skills

##### 2) Jealousy

(sequence 39.25- 39.34)



Picture 1.6 His friends feel jealous and start to walk a long the snow

##### 3) Loneliness

Sequence 1.21.24.- 1.25.14



Picture 1.9. Mumble missed his mom



Picture 1.10 He saw his faced alone and confused



Picture 1. 10 Mumble feels sad after his father asks him to leave from the society

##### 4) Sadness

(Sequence 59.49 - 1. 06.31)





Picture 1. 11 Mumble's friends also feel sad of hearing Mumble has to leave from his society



Picture 1.19 He broke his relationship to Gloria

#### A. Triggering factors

- 1) Lack of attachment  
(Sequence 16.16- 17.31)



Picture 1. 13The mentor thought it was disaster

- 2) **Try to fit into a group but unable to do so due to his/her innate vulnerabilities and hidden trauma**  
( Sequence 17.49- 18.05)

- 3) **Individual differences**  
( Sequence 08.29 – 17.21)



Picture 1. 16 The different is he moved his feet when the egg is cracked again and again



Picture 1. 17 Mumble's father cursed him

- 4) **Poor fit and lack of compatibility with peer, or partner, or any work group**  
(Sequence 58.02 – 60.30)

- 5) **Failure to meet the group expectations by an individual member can lead to social rejection**  
(Sequence 1.30.11- 1.30.22)



Picture 1. 21The leader of community mocked mumble

#### Discussion

Social rejections and its triggers experienced by Mumble

#### Social Rejection

- 1) Feeling hurt

Mumble is the main character in the 2006 animated film Happy Feet. Mumble is a character who challenges societal norms, embraces his unique talents, and promotes themes of self-discovery and acceptance in the context of a vibrant and visually stunning animated film. In this film he experienced feeling hurt.

Ella : (gently) : Mumble, the thing is...

Mumble : I know. I know ELLA

Ella : ....It's better if you just listen.

( She returns to the choir. The singing resumes...a perfect harmonic MUMBLE can't help himself. He begins to TAP DANCE.)

From the above dialogue the writer concludes that Because Mumble cannot sing, he is rejected and ostracized by his fellow penguins. The other penguins, including his fellow penguins, ridicule him, making him feel like an outsider in his community.

- 2) Jealousy

It is important to note that Mumble's characters primarily focus on overcoming adversity, celebrating individuality, and challenging social norms. Although he sometimes feels inadequate, the film's story emphasizes self-acceptance and the idea that being different can be a positive and valuable quality. And in the film, it makes his friends feel jealous of him. Below is the conversation taken from scene of the film.

Amigos : Except for me, tall boy, you got the moss charisma of any body. Put that ego away Ramon, You're gonna hurt some one. .You're so jealous. Just a moment I hear people wanting something.

Amigo : Me!

Amigo ; Mombo, you girlies, Mambo..

### 3) Loneliness

Mumbles are often excluded from group activities, especially when it comes to singing and dating. The penguins, including his fellow penguins, distance themselves from Mumble, and Mumble feels alone during these community events. Mumble becomes the target of ridicule and derision from the other penguins due to his inability to sing "Heart Song" and his unconventional tap dancing.

This constant teasing contributes to his feelings of loneliness as he lacks the support and companionship of those around him.

Even though Mumble is in a group of penguins, he feels isolated due to the social norms governing his interactions with penguins.

His unique form of communication, tap dancing, further isolates him from other people and causes a deep sense of loneliness.

Although Mumble's parents love him, he initially finds it difficult to understand and accept his differences. The lack of understanding within his family makes Mumble feel even more alone. Throughout the course of the film, Mumble searches for acceptance and a sense of belonging.

His journey is marked by the mental strain of not being able to engage with the community like others, which increases his sense of isolation.

Mumble : Excuse me . What is this place?

Old dweller: You are in heaven ,Dave. Penguin heaven

Mumble : Is it anywhere near emperor land?

Old dweller: it is wherever you want it to be. Try the water, Dave . it's really real.

Despite experiencing isolation, Mumble remains resilient and determined. Ultimately, the film conveys a positive message about embracing diversity and finding your own path, emphasizing that being different is a unique strength rather than a weakness.

### 4) Sadness

Mumble is ostracized and ridiculed by his fellow humans because he cannot sing like other penguins. Rejection from a community that values harmony leads to Mumble's feelings of loneliness and sadness. More over Mumble had a problem with Gloria and Gloria left him.

Mumble : Please guys, no more singing

Amigo : .....But I know he was so sad, so sad. I will never forget him. The leader of the pack. We sing the heart of our true friend, Mumble

Gloria : Excuse me ?

Mumble: Gloria so gorgeous, Gloria so talented.

Gloria : What? Do you have problem with my singing?

Mumble: No it is perfectly fine.....

From the conversation above the writer can conclude that there are moments in the film where Mumble wishes he could be like the other penguins, singing heartsongs and fitting in effortlessly. His internal struggle with his own differences and the societal pressure to conform contribute to his emotional distress.

### Triggering Factors

#### 1) Lack of attachment

Although Mumble feels a lack of connection, the film ultimately depicts his journey as one of self-discovery, resilience, and acceptance of individuality. As the story progresses, Mumble finds a way to connect with others through his unique gifts, turning

what initially brought distance into a source of strength and connection.

Mentor : .....feel the feeling  
.....enormous feeling..so  
enormous it fills whole body.  
It must escape or you explode.  
Now open your little  
beak...come on...yes..yes..lift  
up the head ..that's it.  
Mumble ;Now.....now.....  
Mentor :  
Disaster...catastrophe.....  
I never fail  
before...never....never.....

From the conversation above the writer can sum up that Mumble feels that due to his unique characteristics and difficulties, he lacks community involvement and connection especially his singing mentor.

- 2) Try to fit into a group but unable to do so due to his/her innate vulnerabilities and hidden trauma

Although the film does not explicitly address Mumble's past trauma, the rejection and ridicule he faces in his community can be seen as a form of hidden trauma.

The emotional impact of being ostracized and ridiculed for being different contributes to Mumble's

internal conflict and hidden emotional trauma.

Memphis : Whoa little fella..you're not going nowhere till you got yourself an education. You got them singing muscle big and strong ,you got that?

Mumble : I'll try pa

The dialogue above shows that Mumble's efforts to fit in with the group are evident in his efforts to sing heartfelt songs like the other penguins. In order to be accepted, he tries to suppress his natural instincts and conform to society's expectations

Mumble's desire to belong and be part of a community drives his actions, even if it means hiding his true self.

- 3) Individual differences

Happy Feet celebrates the importance of embracing individual differences and promotes the idea that diversity and uniqueness contribute to the strength and richness of communities.

Mumble's story is one about self-acceptance and the power of staying true to who you really are.

Mumble's most notable individual difference is that he cannot sing traditional heart songs like other emperor penguins. This sets him apart from his peers and makes him an important point of contention within the community.

Despite social pressure to conform, Mumble bravely embraces individual differences.

He refuses to abandon his unique form of expression and remains true to himself even in the face of rejection and criticism.

Memphis friend : That's different..Hey come back here Mr. Mumble.... She can call him what ever the check she likes

Gloria : whoa little Mumble

Memphis : Are you ok....?

From the above conversation the writer would like to conclude that Mumble's personality is expressed through his extraordinary talent for tap dancing. Although this form of communication is unconventional in the penguin world, it is a defining characteristic of the penguin's personality and a means of self-expression.

In this case he is born to be different from other penguins. It can be seen from early scenes that he can not change. And it can be seen from the dialogue below: (sequence : 17:39)

Memphis : So what if he is a little different?

: I always kinds of liked

Mumble mother: well, I thought it was kind of thought

Memphis : *But it just is not penguin ok....*

- 4) Poor fit and lack of compatibility with peer, or partner, or any work group\

Mumble is rejected by his fellow penguins because he cannot sing his heart's song.

The community values this traditional form of communication, and any deviation from this norm by mumbles leads to social

exclusion. Mumble's unique characteristics mean that he is less compatible and incompatible with his fellow penguins and the wider penguin community.

In this case penguin community thought that Mumble is different from other penguins. It can be seen from the early scenes of the film and also the time when Mumble grew up.

Memphis: Your peculiar thought. Your strange ways.... It is why he is the way he is....

Mumble mother : .....There is nothing wrong with him...!

Memphis : Face it ,Our son's all messed up.

Mumble mother : He is not messed up, hear me?

From the conversation above the writer can conclude that Mumble is not accepted by the community even his mother still defends him. Then Mumble has to leave the ice land.

5) Failure to meet the group expectations by an individual member can lead to social rejection

Mumble's inability to live up to group expectations, especially the traditional norms of the Emperor Penguin community, leads to social rejection. In this film Mumble

Old penguin : A fool returns this day to mock our suffering. We are starving and he wants us to hippity hop. So do we hold fast to our ways.....or do we bend to the fetid fantasies of dancing fool...

Mumble considers his inability to sing his heart's songs abnormal and unacceptable, and becomes the subject of ridicule and ridicule from those around him. Communities that value conformity reject Mumble because it doesn't meet their expectations.

Mumble's failure to meet group expectations also affected his relationships within the community, including with his family and potential partners.

The social rejection he experiences affects not only his personal status but also his ability to form meaningful connections.

## CONCLUSIONS

Mumble learns to accept and celebrate his personal differences, especially his unique talent for tap dancing. He realized that conforming to society's expectations was not necessary for self-esteem and happiness. Mumble's refusal to conform leads to positive change within the Penguin community. Accepting each other's differences and recognizing the value of diversity contributes to a more inclusive and harmonious environment. Mumble forms lasting friendships with people like him who stand out from the ordinary. These connections highlight the strength that comes from embracing diversity and valuing individuality. The relationship between Mumble and her father Memphis reconciles as Memphis begins to appreciate and understand her son's unique qualities. This emphasizes the importance of family acceptance and support. Mumble assumes a leadership role within the community as his journey progresses. His courage to be different is an inspiration to others, making him a symbol of positive change and resilience.

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