

The Analysis of Optimism Values in Hazel's Grace the Faults in Our Stars Movie

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ABSTRACT

The significance of optimistic thinking is crucial for enhancing the quality of life for individuals. This research aims to explore the value of optimism in the character Hazel Grace from *The Fault in Our Stars*. The study employs Snyder's theory of optimism, as discussed in Goleman's work (2002), as its foundational framework. Utilizing qualitative research methods, data were collected through various techniques, including data reduction, selection, presentation in the form of quotations, and drawing conclusions as the final step. Upon analyzing Hazel Grace's optimism, the findings revealed that she exhibits five indicators of high expectations, four traits of resilience (not easy to give up), five instances of self-motivation, two indicators of high self-confidence, and four traits reflecting her determination not to surrender. This research is limited to examining the optimistic values of Hazel Grace as the central character. Future studies could expand this analysis to assess the optimism levels of all characters within the narrative.



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1. INTRODUCTION

Many literary works such as novels have been made into films. Movies are an expression of personal feelings and imagination. A movie is a short story, an experience, an idea, a motif, or a part of a process that is different from a real story (Jovic, 2019). Movies can change the history of mass media in many ways. This audiovisual technology approach is used in almost all countries and not only provides entertainment but also includes various benefits that can be used for education and ease of learning. To make a good film, a filmmaker must have elements such as theme, character, plot, and setting. The most important thing is the characters, especially the main character. Without it, the audience will not be able to follow the story properly and the information will not be conveyed in its entirety.

"The Fault in Our Stars" is a 2014 American romantic tragedy directed by Josh Boone, adapted from John Green's 2012 novel. The researcher selected this film for its emotional depth, romance, and motivational themes. The narrative is poignant and engaging, showcasing characters that embody love, care, and hope. Throughout the film, the characters seek happiness, but they also confront sadness and loss. The story follows Hazel, who battles cancer from age 13 into adulthood, facing life-threatening situations yet remaining passionate about life, especially after falling in love with Gus, the male lead.

Cancer sufferers have limited interaction with society, for the most part, they are treated as special people. This treatment makes them interact less (American Cancer Society). So, it is difficult for them to interact with society and build relationships with other people. We can find examples of that situation in John Green's novels. *The Fault in Our Stars* is one such novel that Tells about cancer sufferers. This novel was written by John Green and published in January 2012. *The Fault in Our Stars* tells a story of love, faith, passion, and mortal

affection. The novel is primarily set in contemporary America and features several locations. Amsterdam. He had a deep sense of compassion, especially towards cancer patients. How love gives people the passion and strength to live. It happened with Hazel's grace Lancaster (Hazel) has a value of optimism in his life (Mahendra and Amelia 2020).

The term "optimism" is defined within the realm of psychology as a mindset that focuses on appreciating positive and pleasant experiences while maintaining hopeful expectations for the future. It embodies the quality of hope. According to the Cambridge Dictionary (2019), optimism involves highlighting the positive aspects of situations and believing that good outcomes are possible (Rodríguez et al., 2019). Furthermore, optimism serves as a source of hope when facing life's challenges. Below are key points from Snyder's "The Value of Optimism" in Daniel Goleman's "Emotional Intelligence," along with insights from Atiku Kaefa Tanjua's essay: (a) Maintaining High Expectations, (b) Persistence in Adversity, (c) Self-Motivation, (d) Strong Self-Confidence, and (e) Resilience in Difficult Times.

Several prior studies have explored the topic of optimism in film. The first article, titled "Representative of Optimism for Malay Muslim Youth in Hoore! Hoore!" (Said et al., 2022), analyzes the optimism of young Malay Muslims as depicted in the film. This research employs five indicators of Islam-based optimism derived from Imam al-Ghazali's perspective, focusing on how these traits manifest in the characters of Malay-Muslim teenagers. The second article by (Adiyat, Muhaimi, and Farmasari 2016) titled "Analysis of the Educational Values of Protagonist Characters in Front of the Class," examines the characterization of Brad Cohen. This study uses Minderop's (2005) characterization theory to identify Cohen's traits and explain the educational values represented through his character. The third article, "The Value of Optimism in the 2018 Dharan Shoe Film" by Athik Kaefa (2018), focuses on the main character, Dharan. This research emphasizes that optimism is a key theme influencing character development and audience perception, highlighting the importance of maintaining a positive outlook when facing challenges.

Researchers are interested in studying this film because the character Hazel Grace Lancaster is unique due to her history of severe illness from childhood and her experience of falling in love as an adult. This study aims to utilize Snyder's theory from Goleman's work (2002) to achieve comprehensive insights, making it the first analysis of the optimistic values represented by Hazel Grace Lancaster in "The Fault in Our Stars." Consequently, the researcher intends to conduct a study titled **"The Analysis of Optimism Values of Hazel Grace the Faults in Our Stars Movie."**

2. RESEARCH METHOD

This research employs a qualitative approach. According to Clissett (2008), qualitative research encompasses various methods for studying human experience, cognition, motivation, and behavior, and involves the collection and analysis of both spoken and written language. The researcher chose this approach to analyze the film's content, focusing on identifying optimistic values expressed through the characters' statements. The analysis technique includes data reduction or selection, presenting data in the form of quotations, and drawing conclusions as the final stage of the research.

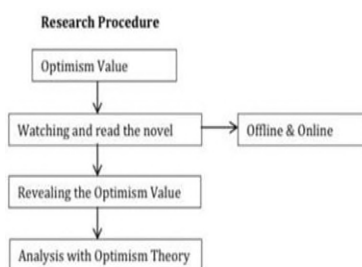


Figure 1. Showing Research Procedure

3. RESULTS AND ANALYSIS

3.1. Result

In this section, a detailed description of the data analysis is presented. Researchers analyzed *The Fault in Our Stars* with a duration of 2:12:54. The following are presented the optimistic results of Value in *Fault in Our Stars* movies, such as:

Table 1.

No	Content	
	<i>Optimism Value</i>	<i>Found</i>
1.	Have High Expectations	5
2.	Not Easy To Give Up	4
3.	Able To Be Self-Motivated	5
4.	High Self-Confidence	2
5.	Not Easy To Surrender	4
Total		20

The author conducted research by observing novels and watching the film "The Fault in Our Stars," identifying several values of optimism, as shown in the table above.

a. Have High Expectations

Hazel has high expectations that everyone should have. Strong hopes or beliefs that something will happen or that you will get something that you want, but It means you have been disappointed so many times, that you don't expect anything anymore. Five points in this section raise expectations for Hazel. This sentence shows high expectations for Hazel's character:

"Sometimes people fail to fully comprehend the commitments they're making when they promise something"

Based on this utterance, it started when Isaac talked to Hazel and told her that he was broken up by his girlfriend, and questioned the promise they made together. However, Hazel stated that everyone does not understand what their promises mean. Intent does not mean it is a promise that must be kept.

Can't I just get a lung transplant or something similar?

Based on this utterance, while attending a cancer specialist meeting, and Hazel was present in it. The doctor began to discuss how to deal with Hazel's illness as a child. With high expectations, Hazel questioned doctors about having a lung transplant or something else.

I'm so excited that I can hardly breathe!

Based on this utterance, when Hazel was in Amsterdam with her friends. He couldn't wait to be able to breathe in the freshness that was there.

Mr. Van Houten, you promised to tell us what happens, and that's why we're here.
I need you to share that with me. Surely, you've thought about it as a character

Based on this utterance, Mr. Van Houten tells Hazel to come see her in the hope that Mr. Van Houten will tell Hazel something about the character in the book. With high expectations, it turned out that Mr. Van Houten only delivered "nothing happened to them!"

And I just wish... I wish you could be happy with that

Based on this utterance, Gus declares to Hazel that he will be obsessive due to his illness. Gus states he wrote all about Hazel in his diary. With high hopes, Hazel hopes that Gus can live happily with his choice.

b. Not Easy to Give Up

Not easy to give up is an ability that is not possessed by everyone. Many people give up on themselves; in this case, people who do not give up easily on themselves can be a tough warrior who deserves appreciation. Four points in this section are not easy to give up for Hazel. This sentence shows high expectations for Hazel's character:

And that was my life: a reality show of doctor appointments and eight prescription drugs taken three times a day. But worst of all, I refuse to surrender to this.

Based on this utterance, Hazel never gave up on her life even though she always took medicine when she was a child. Survive when death comes at any time. With the support of Hazel's parents, she became stronger to be able to live a normal life.

It should have been over. Then something unexpected happened: the antibiotics worked, and I'm back and feeling strong

Based on this utterance, Although Hazel stated that it was a miracle, of course, it all came from Hazel's spirit to heal. Her parents go to great lengths to give Hazel life motivation, including a serious medical role in treating Hazel.

I know, Mom. I will. I promise. But right now, I really have to go

Based on this utterance, there was an argument between Hazel and her mother. Her mother explained that she was going to open a social class and didn't want to feel Hazel was ostracized. Hazel felt that she was not excluded at all and was happy with her mother's actions. Hazel promises to take good care of the body and be organized.

When I'd been feeling better, the nurse came in and she called me a fighter. "You know how I know," she said. "Because you called a ten a nine"

Based on this utterance, not only Hazel did not give up with her illness, the entire staff and people who took care of Hazel also persevered and did not give up. People call Hazel a fighter because she is able to survive in the midst of a deadly disease that Hazel suffers.

c. Able to be Self –Motivated

Being self-motivated means understanding what works for you. People can find motivation from various sources, both internal and external, such as personal desires, love, or financial needs. For Hazel, there are five key aspects of self-motivation that highlight her character's high expectations:

I even found myself in an experimental trial, you know, the kind that's well-known in the Republic of Cancervania

Based on this utterance, Hazel always remembers that she has always been talked about by many people because of her luck in surviving a painful illness. This is a motivation for Hazel to always live well.

I'll be fine in a minute. Unless I faint. I'm a bit of a Victorian lady, fainting-wise

Based on this utterance, Hazel's words show that she always motivates herself in various ways. This has the effect of making people happy for themselves and others. She stated that when she fainted, she would be fine in a few minutes and would look like a Victorian lady.

It's not about Amsterdam. It's about me. It's about...

Based on this utterance, Hazel is arguing with Gus about Hazel's efforts against Gus going to waste. This was immediately denied by Hazel, who stated that all decisions and beliefs were in Hazel herself to be able to keep her spirit and convince Gus to believe in her.

I can do it! Hazel is not going to stand for any more disappointments today. They are going inside

Based on this utterance, Gus and Hazel came to Van Houten's house and climbed the stairs of Van Houten's house. It was found that there were so many stairs that it made Hazel's breathing weak and there was no energy to climb the stairs. However, Hazel managed to motivate herself to get to the roof of the house where everyone had gathered there.

The usual. "Everything happens for a reason..."

Based on this utterance, Hazel realized when she grew up that everything that happened must have a reason. Give strength and resilience to what Hazel experienced. Hazel sat with her father and they encouraged each other.

d. High Self-Confidence

Self-confidence means recognizing your own value and feeling worthy of respect, love, and belonging. A person with high self-confidence tends to live with passion and enthusiasm. There are two key aspects of high self-confidence for Hazel, reflecting the high expectations for her character.

Where noting is too messed up that can't be fixed wit an apology and a peter Gabriel song. I like my version as much as the next girl does, believe me. It's just not the truth. This is the truth

Based on this utterance, Hazel is confident that the best version right now is herself. Although there are better people, it is still Hazel who is her confidence.

I's called a Cannula. These tubes give me oxygen and help me breathe.

Based on this utterance, When Hazel met the little girl. Hazel confidently and proudly gave the little girl an oxygen cylinder to try.

e. Not Easy to Surrender

Not giving up easily at this point means that one must remain enthusiastic and not easily give up on success, the health of others, firm in principles. There are four points in this section that not easy to surrender for Hazel. This sentence shows high expectations for Hazel's character:

Why stop there. Really. Just keep them coming. I'm like the Keith Ricahrds of cancer kids

Based on this utterance, Hazel did not give up on making the doctor who handled her time as a child to come back. Hazel stated that she liked the doctor's treatment.

I'll skip the graphic details about Patrick's testicular cancer. Essentially, it was discovered in his testicles, most of it was surgically removed, and although he nearly died, he survived. Now, he is divorced, friendless, and addicted to video games, using his cancer experience to illustrate that, if we're lucky, we might end up like him one day

Based on this utterance, Hazel tells the story of a person who survived a terminal illness. Hazel stated that the person could have died and until now he is alive and addicted to life. Hazel became unyielding and eager to become that person.

I'd been poked and stabbed and poisoned for years and still I trod on.

Based on this utterance, The meaning of Hazel's remarks indicates that Hazel did not give up on what happened to her. The meaning of I've been stabbed, stabbed, and poisoned for so many years signifies the doctor who has treated Hazel. Hazel didn't want to give up and just lost to the doctor who had treated her so hard.

3.2. DISCUSSION

This section presents information gathered from observations. The researchers discuss the optimism values outlined in Snyder's theory from Goleman's book (2002). The essence of this theory is that optimism values shape how statements are interpreted in conversation, contributing to the overall meaning of optimism. The analysis of optimism values in Hazel Grace from *The Fault in Our Stars* reveals significant traits such as high expectations, resilience, self-motivation, and a refusal to surrender despite her terminal illness. Specifically, the findings indicate that Hazel embodies 5 indicators of high expectations, 4 traits of not easily giving up, 5 instances of self-motivation, 2 indicators of high self-confidence, and 4 traits of resilience.

For the similarities, the research on optimism values in *The Fault in Our Stars* and the analysis of optimism in Malay Muslim youth depicted in *Hoore! Hoore!* share several similarities. Both studies emphasize resilience and self-motivation as key traits associated with optimism. In *The Fault in Our Stars*, Hazel Grace Lancaster demonstrates high expectations, a refusal to give up, and self-confidence despite her terminal illness, reflecting a strong optimistic outlook. Similarly, the characters in *Hoore! Hoore!* exhibit traits of Islam-based optimism, which include perseverance and a positive mindset rooted in Islamic teachings. Additionally, both studies highlight the role of optimism as a motivational force that influences character development and personal growth. In *Hoore! Hoore!*, the optimism of Malay Muslim youth is portrayed as essential for navigating life's challenges, akin to how Hazel's optimistic traits empower her to confront her circumstances. Furthermore, both analyses utilize qualitative frameworks to explore how optimism manifests in characters' attitudes and behaviors, providing insights into the broader implications of maintaining a positive outlook in difficult situations.

In contrast, (Adiyat, Muhaimi, and Farmasari 2016) study on Brad Cohen from *Front of the Class* employs characterization theory to identify key traits such as perseverance and self-confidence that contribute to educational values and optimism. This research suggests that optimistic portrayals can have direct implications for audience learning experiences, particularly in classroom settings. In contrast, the analysis of Hazel Grace focuses on her internal struggles and triumphs rather than educational outcomes. Additionally, Athik

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Kaefa's study on the film *Dharan Shoe* emphasizes how optimism influences character development and audience perception, reinforcing that characters who embody positive outlooks can inspire viewers to adopt similar attitudes. Overall, while both analyses highlight the significance of optimism in their respective narratives, they differ in methodology and contextual applications. The study of Hazel Grace emphasizes individual resilience against personal adversity, while the other studies explore collective cultural representations of optimism among youth and educational contexts. This diversity enriches our understanding of how optimism manifests across different cinematic narratives. This paragraph synthesizes the key points from both analyses while highlighting their similarities and differences effectively.

In conclusion, while these studies collectively highlight the role of optimism in *The Fault in Our Stars*, they differ in their focus areas, methodologies, and contextual applications. This diversity enriches the understanding of how optimism is portrayed through Hazel Grace's character and its impact on both individual viewers and broader societal perceptions of resilience in the face of adversity.

4. CONCLUSION

The results of this research, conducted using qualitative methods and incorporating Snyder's optimism theory as outlined in Goleman's book (2002), demonstrate that Hazel Grace Lancaster, a woman diagnosed with cancer at the age of thirteen, remains hopeful and committed to her ideals. She actively pursues her aspirations and accepts medical treatments by participating in social classes alongside other patients. The primary findings show that Hazel exhibits five indicators of high expectations, four traits of being unwilling to give up, five instances of self-motivation, two indicators of high self-confidence, and four traits demonstrating her reluctance to surrender. These characteristics consistently reflect Hazel's steadfast adherence to optimistic principles throughout her journey. From this research, it becomes evident that optimism serves as a powerful motivator capable of inspiring all readers. The functions of optimism include first motivating oneself to improve one's situation; secondly acting as a defensive mechanism against life's challenges; and thirdly functioning as a support system. The data clearly illustrates that optimistic tendencies and personality traits should be exemplary models for application in daily life. The value and functionality of optimism lie in providing inspirational and motivational benefits to oneself, others, and the environment. However, this research has limitations stemming from its exclusive focus on the optimistic values attributed to the main character, Hazel Grace. Therefore, future research could extend beyond analyzing just her optimism score by evaluating those of all characters in the story. This study has limitations that need to be considered. The narrow focus on the character Hazel Grace Lancaster may restrict the understanding of optimism, as it does not take into account the experiences and coping mechanisms of other characters in the story. For future research, it is recommended to expand the analysis by involving other characters in *The Fault in Our Stars*, as well as employing

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