



# Film Genre Analysis on Nussa Animated Films

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**Abstract.** The animated film Nussa is a drama, adventure, and comedy released in October 2021. This study will identify the characteristics of the Nussa animated film genre as a drama, adventure, and compatible genre film. The research method used is descriptive qualitative. The theory used in this research is the Jane Stokes genre theory, which is divided into six categories: setting, location, iconography, narrative events, characters, and structure. The results of this study found pictures and dialogue scenes that depict pieces of film with the genre of drama, adventure, and combinations. These characteristics include the setting in the month of Ramadhan and locations commonly used in daily life, such as homes, rooms, schools, and playgrounds. In the iconography, most of the characters wear a Muslim dress style. Narrative events such as Nussa's adventures in participating in science competitions, starting from the arrival of Joni as Nussa's rival in the science competition, Nussa sad because his Abah did not come home until Nussa gave up his ambition to become a champion. All the characters in the Nussa film are protagonists and several supporting characters. The plot structure uses progressive linear, which tells the story of friendship and family. As a domestically produced animated film, Nussa won the 2021 Indonesian Film Festival (FFI) award in the best feature-length animated film category. Nussa's film provides many positive, inspirational, and educational lessons.

**Keywords:** Film Genre · Adventure · Drama · Comedy · Nussa Animated Film

## 1 Introduction

The Nussa animated film is produced in collaboration with the studio The Little Giantz and Visinema Pictures. The Nussa film was previously an animated series that aired on the youtube channel in November 2018. Then it first aired on television stations in 2019. After the series' success, it won an image trophy as the best animated short film in 2019. Finally, the film Nussa was released in theaters with the same title as the series on October 14, 2021. This Nussa film was no less successful than the series, and the film Nussa received an award as the best feature-length animated film at the Film Festival Indonesia in 2021.

The animated film Nussa also attracts the attention of the Indonesian people because all groups can take many lessons from this film. It can be applied to social and family life. Then in this film also shows how the story of friendship between children with disabilities and non-disabled children. Although the main character in the film Nussa

is a person with a disability, he does not make it a limitation. Still instead, he remains grateful and enthusiastic to achieve his dream [1].

In the book, *A Short Guide to Writing about Film* by Timothy Corrigan, the genre itself comes from the French language, which means “type” or “kind” [2]. By analyzing the genre, we can categorize the film into a specific type of film. This study examines the genre characteristics in the film *Nussa* as an animated film genre drama, adventure, and comedy. The genre analysis in the animated film *Nussa* is done by describing the characteristics of the film genre, so this analysis needs to use an approach through the genre theory of Jane Stokes [3]. This theory is divided into six categories we will describe later: setting, location, iconography (style), narrative events, characters, and plot structure. To tell the characteristics of the genres in the animated film *Nussa*, evidence will be presented of pieces of the film that match the characteristics of drama, adventure, and comedy films. Then the analysis will be carried out according to the six categories of Jane Stokes’s theory. This way, the characteristics that make up drama, adventure, and comedy genre films will be found.

## 2 Literature Review

Several researchers have researched genre classification. Permana focuses his research on the horror film *Jaelangkung* produced in 2001. This article discusses genre studies, and it is concluded that judging from the narrative, the plot is that four characters in the film perform the *jaelangkung* ritual intending to eliminate the terror of ghosts in the form of small children [4]. In terms of character, the character of the monster is shown. This figure is a horror film genre convention. The monster’s function is to terrorize the main character in the film for iconographic elements (style), namely aspects of *mise-en-scene* and cinematographic techniques. The *mise en scene* aspects include lighting, makeup and costumes, players, and their movements. According to Permana, the film *Jaelangkung* shows elements of different characteristics from similar films of its predecessor. During the new order, filmmakers did not explore many film elements because the rules and regulations were still tight [4]. Therefore, the socio-political conditions at that time greatly influenced a film made in terms of stories, characters, and others.

A similar study was conducted by Devita. The article discusses the shifting genre of Disney films. This research was conducted in the film *Wreck it Ralph* [5]. The film is an animated film about the adventures of criminals in the game world. It says that the construction of several genres from the animated film *Wreck It Ralph*, such as drama, action, and fantasy. Not only that, but the characteristics of other genres are also included in the animated film *Wreck It Ralph*. The analytical knife used is a study or genre study from Jane Stokes. The findings are that Devita divides genre characteristics into primary and secondary genres. Another result, for example, is the bullying scene experienced by a character named *Vanellope*. It was explained that bullying became a social issue that attracted a lot of attention in American society [5]. It is as if the problem has become a profitable commodity in the industrial world.

Another research on genre studies is by Oktavianti on the romance drama film in the second sequel film *Ada Apa Dengan Cinta?* This article concludes that the audience has well received the convention pattern adopted by the filmmaker [6]. Films in the

romance drama genre are always in demand by the audience. The daily life theme of the sequel *Ada Apa Dengan Cinta? 2* is according to the audience's experience. For example, locations such as the atmosphere in the market, romance, friendship, different views, etc. According to Oktavianti, this film is packaged coherently so that it seems as if the audience is brought to a new world. In his findings, *Ada Apa Dengan Cinta? 2* is a romance drama film because the characteristic elements of the genre can be shown in several scenes [6]. The conventions established in the film apply to romance drama films.

Some of the studies above are very relevant to this research topic, genre analysis in films. The difference is that this research was conducted on animated films in drama, adventure, and comedy. In addition, the film's theme is about the friendship between children and families. This study aims to describe the characteristics of the Nussa animated film genre as a drama, adventure, and comedy genre film. This research is expected to provide an overview of the characteristics or classification of drama, adventure, and comedy genres in the animated film Nussa. It is also likely to be discussion material in the teaching film material.

Genre studies are conducted using a rhetorical analysis of a text or a series of texts [7]. The hypothesis is based on the text and the extent to which it can comply with the conventions of the genre. Patterns can be semiotic (symbolic), narrative or representational. Genre research was conducted by observing genre conventions in six categories, including setting, location, iconography (style), narrative events, characters, and plot structure [3]. First, setting can mean place and time, as well as its properties. The property in question is immovable objects such as tables, chairs, doors, trees, windows, furniture, etc. The settings used in a film are generally made as natural as possible within the story's context [8]. Second, location is where the scene occurs; the area can be indoor (interior) or outdoor (exterior). Third, iconography is the same as the *mise en scene* in the film. *Mise en scene* elements in the form of costumes and makeup, lighting, players and their movements (action), artistic arrangements, and other objects [9]. Fourth, the narrative relates to aspects of the film's story. Films cannot be separated from characters, problems, conflicts, locations, and times. All of these elements interact to form a chain of events with a purpose and purpose [8]. Fifth, the characters in the film can be seen from the 3D characters, namely physiological, psychological, and sociological. In addition, there is also a division of characters, such as protagonist, antagonist, tritagonist, and supporting nature. Sixth, the plot structure is the structure of the series of events in the story arranged in the film. The plot structure based on the time sequence is divided into two kinds of patterns: linear and nonlinear ways [8].

### 3 Method

The method used in this study uses a qualitative descriptive approach, where social realities or phenomena can be classified, are relatively fixed and concrete, have a causal relationship, and do not involve numerical data analysis [10]. It analyzes the film genre's characteristics using the theory of Jane Stokes. According to Stokes, it has six elements: setting, location, iconography, narrative events, characters, and plot structure. We used sources from primary data and secondary data. The primary data is the animated film

Nussa which is watched at the Online Cinema owned by filmmaker Angga Dwimas Sasongko. Secondary data is sourced from literature relevant to the topic of study, namely from books, journal articles, and online media [11].

The data collection techniques used in this research are observation and literature study. Observations made by researchers are through recorded data. Observations are carried out without participation; statements only perform one function: conducting observations [12]. The observation is done by watching the animated film Nussa repeatedly and noting essential things in each shot and scene. Another data collection technique is literature study, an effort to obtain information related to the research topic. With literature study, data can be obtained from documents such as information from books, journal articles, and supporting data from online media.

The data collected from observation and literature study will be analyzed through three interrelated stages: data reduction, data presentation, verification, and conclusion. In the description of the genre's characteristics in the animated film Nussa, the proof will be carried out by displaying snippets of images from the film's selection of shots and scenes. The choice is undoubtedly by the characteristics of drama, adventure, and comedy films, which will then be analyzed for their elements. After that, conclusions will be drawn from the characteristics of the genre used in the Nussa film.

## **4 Findings and Discussion**

The film Nussa is an animation produced by Indonesian animators under the auspices of The Little Giantz and Visinema Pictures. Nussa's story is quite simple and is the same as other animation patterns adopted from the series, extending one story topic to become a complete film, examples of animations that have been made in the film version: animation from Malaysia Upin Ipin there are also some animations from Japan such as Doraemon, Crayon Shinchan, and Detective Conan. Even though it doesn't have a fantasy story, the film Nussa still attracts attention because it focuses on the characters' emotions, especially Nussa, who struggles with her feelings before the science competition. This Nussa film is a little different from the series. In the film, many sides of the characters are not shown in the series.

### **4.1 Findings**

Genre analysis can be described from the elements used. The explanation above describes the characteristics of the drama, adventure, and comedy genres. Meanwhile, below will discuss the analysis that contains elements in the Nussa Film, which are divided into six parts: setting, location, iconography, narrative events, characters, and plot structure. The six elements mutually reinforce the characteristics of Nussa's film as a drama, adventure, and comedy genre film.

#### **4.1.1 Setting**

The film Nussa is set in the month of Ramadan, about how Nussa and others live during Ramadan. Even though they are fasting, it does not hinder their daily lives. The setting

is also set in a housing complex; it can be seen from the calm atmosphere, cleanliness, and the type of house lined up neatly. Describing Nussa, a student and also a child, the activities she does are not far from studying and playing. Under the background of the fasting month, there are several scenes of activities at the mosque, preparing takjil, breaking the fast, sahur, and takbir.

#### **4.1.2 Location**

Based on the setting of the life of the Muslim community in the month of Ramadan, the places also vary. Although the location is in many places, these places are repeatedly used. The sites operated are used in daily activities following the genre of this Nussa film which raises the genre of drama, adventure, and comedy. The drama genre takes a daily theme; of course, the places used are also commonly used in everyday life, such as homes, rooms, schools, and playgrounds.

#### **4.1.3 Iconography**

Iconography is an element that can describe the characters in the film Nussa, one of the symbols used is the dress style. Nussa film is known as Muslim educational film for children. Following the theme, most of the characters use Muslim-style clothing, such as Nussa, who is identical with her white skullcap, and Rara, with her red veil. Most of the characters in this film use Muslim clothing styles, such as the characters of Uma, Aunt Dewi, Syifa, and Bu Guru. However, not all figures also wear Muslim clothing like the Nussa family. There is Joni's family with their luxurious style of dress. In addition to the type of dress, color symbols are used in this Nussa film, which is bright and calm colors. The bright and subdued colors symbolize the cheerful atmosphere in the film. The festive atmosphere is very relevant to the Nussa film, an educational film for children.

#### **4.1.4 Narrative Event**

Narrative events in the Nussa film our daily life according to the genre it adopts, namely drama. Based on the story's setting, the narrative possibilities in this film are Nussa's adventures in participating in a science competition, starting from the arrival of Joni as Nussa's rival in making rockets to Nussa's poor condition Slumped. After a long time, Nussa became angry with his situation. Finally, Nussa realized that after overhearing his Uma and Abah talking on the phone, Nussa realized that his evil thoughts had been wrong all this time. So many cared about him. This made Nussa excited again. The shocking scene was when Nussa and Joni were locked in the lab room. At first, Nussa apologizes to Joni for accidentally damaging Joni's rocket and ends up being Joni, who is amazed at Nussa. When locked together in the lab room, you can see the difference between Nussa and Joni when they are faced with a problem; Nussa still looks calm and tries to find a way out, while Joni looks very panicked. After finally, they were found to be locked thanks to the fireworks rocket idea from Nussa. When at Nussa's house, Joni seemed very happy and even asked to stay at Nussa's home. Since that incident, Nussa, and Joni have become closer, they even studied together to make rockets. On the day of the race. Likewise, with Joni, the days he so hoped for, where his parents took the

time to accompany him to the competition. When preparing his rocket, it turned out that Joni's rocket could not ignite, and Joni was sorrowful. Seeing that, Nussa graciously resigned from the competition he had been waiting for a long time. Nussa gave a bolt to his prosthetic leg and a dynamo on his rocket, a gift from his father for repairing Joni's rocket, which was not working. When Joni won the competition, Joni called Nussa to receive the prize trophy together.

#### **4.1.5 Character**

Some of the characters in this film are elementary school children. The main characters struggle to defend their title as champions in the science fair competition. The main character, Nussa, is known as a pious, calm, and simple person. As seen from his speech and politeness to his parents and others, Nussa always uses used goods around him. Nussa has a younger sister named Rara. Rara, his innocent sister, likes to play with her cat Atta; sometimes, Rara joins Nussa in playing with his friends. The characters of Uma and Abah are also quite influential for Nussa. Abah taught him to make rockets from used goods and also became an encouragement for Nussa. There are also Syifa and Abdul as Nussa's friends who are always there for Nussa and ready to help him. Apart from Nussa as a character in the main, there is also Joni, who is Nussa's rival in science. Joni is a transfer student. Joni's family is a well-to-do family. However, he always feels lonely because his parents are too busy in their respective jobs, so Joni's attitude is arrogant and he prefers to be alone. Fortunately, there is always Aunt who accompanies Joni. Many more supporting characters, such as Pak Ukok and Babe, the teacher, and Aunt Dewi, managed to liven up the atmosphere.

#### **4.1.6 Plot Structure**

The plot structure in this film uses a linear pattern. Nussa's daily life illustrates this linear pattern from going to school to her activities after school. The journey of Nussa's character from becoming the defending champion of the science fair, the twists and turns of Nussa in defending her title, and how Nussa willingly resigned from the competition so that Joni could continue to participate in the contest. This linear pattern makes it easier for the audience to follow the storyline because this story is intended for children. So this storyline makes it easier for children to grasp the meaning of this story.

### **4.2 Discussion**

#### **4.2.1 Drama**

The drama genre is attached to the Nussa animated series with the family drama theme. The drama genre often focuses on characters that are at a crucial moment in their lives [14]. Even in the film version, this genre is still the film's central theme, even more, strengthened. Drama films are a type of film that is widely produced and in demand by film lovers. This genre tells about everyday life in the real world. The idea of drama films taken from everyday life makes this genre much in demand because the audience is often connected with the stories presented by drama genre films [15]. The audience seems to be brought into the story. Drama films have an honesty about life or the human

condition that makes sense to the audience. The raised themes are also general, such as social issues on a large scale (society) and a small scale (friends or family). Problems that arise in drama films also reflect the issues experienced by human life, dreams, desires, or ambitions.

A drama film is a presentation or story with a background or life situation that depicts a character who contradicts himself, other people, or the forces of nature. In the film, Nussa is told how Nussa feels confident after Joni's presence as a transfer student who loves science. Despite having the same interests, Nussa and Joni have differences. Joni uses sophisticated tools to make his rockets, while Nussa uses used goods.

Drama themes often raise current issues, such as social ills, concerns or injustice, bullying, household problems, or other matters that were rife at that time. In the film, Nussa also raises social issues such as social inequality. Joni, the son of a wealthy family, always uses the latest and most remarkable technologies.

Even Joni's rockets are very well-liked by his schoolmates because the missiles can be controlled using a remote control. Before Joni arrived at the school, Nussa's rocket was the one he had always been proud of and looked forward to for innovation. Nussa made her rocket by utilizing unused, used goods. So as not to be wasted. Thanks to that teaching, Nussa is good at repairing damaged items, even creating rockets.

Another life theme taken in Nussa's film is family. The Nussa family in the film is harmonious. The sibling relationship between Nussa and Rara, who loves and helps each other. Likewise, Nussa and Rara's parents always give an excellent understanding to their children. Even though Abah, Nussa's father, and Rara are away from home for work, they still communicate with each other via video calls. One time when Nussa was feeling down, Abah broke his promise to return home in Ramadan, and it hurt Nussa's heart. Nussa thought that she had lost her enthusiasm and felt unloved. Joni often feels lonely because her parents are busy with their respective jobs. Even when Joni won 1st place, her parents were still busy with their business. Even so, her aunt was always there for Joni and comforted her.

Apart from raising family issues, the film also includes many scenes that show the strong friendship side of Nussa with Abdul and Syifa. At the film's beginning, Abdul shows a strong impression as a loyal friend; when Nussa can't run fast, Abdul still waits for Nussa by running side by side, even though Nussa has told him to run first, Abdul still insists on staying beside Nussa. Not only that, but whenever Nussa felt sad, Syifa and Abdul were always beside her to cheer her up.

#### **4.2.2 Adventure**

The adventure genre is a story where the protagonist or main character goes on an epic journey, personally and geographically. Often the main character has a goal and faces many obstacles. The adventure genre can be combined with almost any other genre, such as romance and drama. Adventure is a journey, experience, or extraordinary or unexpected event that a person participates in due to coincidences. What emerges is the key to adventure. Adventure usually includes dangerous situations, narrow escapes, problems that must be solved using intelligence and skill, and courageous actions. At the opening of the film Nussa, Nussa and his sister Rara are adventuring in outer space equipped with costumes. The astronaut at the beginning of the scene, Nussa and Rara,

look amazed by the scenery around them. But suddenly, they are surprised by the arrival of a monster chasing them. The ups and downs they feel in their escape from the pursuit of monsters represent the adventure genre in this film.

The film Nussa tells how Nussa's journey was when he participated in a science competition. Initially, Nussa was the defending champion and proud of the science competition until Joni moved to Nussa's school. Nussa was not bothered by Joni's presence because, besides Nussa, many supported him and his friends, who always helped him. On the day of the race, Nussa was confident that he could win, but this time, Nussa won 2nd place.

Being 2nd place made Nussa feel down. Apart from being the 2nd place winner, many things have further affected Nussa's slump, such as Abah, who broke his promise to Nussa and Rara, and his two friends Abdul and Syifa, who seem more interested in Joni's rockets. These things made Nussa feel like he lost her enthusiasm, Abah and his friends who weren't there beside him.

Nussa's slump made him unable to think positively; as usual, everything felt wrong in his eyes. But finally, Nussa realized his thoughts were terrible when he overheard Uma calling Abah. Abah is very sorry that he broke his promise to go home early. That's what made Nussa finally realize that it turns out that his father really cares about him, and so do his friends. After that incident, Nussa became the new Nussa; the more enthusiastic Nussa was, the more sincere Nussa was when he didn't get what she wanted. With a new spirit, Nussa returned to innovate on his rocket.

### 4.2.3 Comedy

Comedy is a genre of film that is intended to entertain the audience. According to Steve Kaplan, writing a script for a comedy film is very difficult because everyone has a sense of humor, so it is tough to make everyone laugh [13]. The comedy genre in the film Nussa is light comedy because this film is a family drama, so the comedy presented is soft, like comedies that can happen in everyday life.

Several characters in the film Nussa have funny characters, such as Pak Ucok with a funny accent and are often confused by the behavior of children playing in his shop, such as when Rara, Abdul, and Nussa playing hose in front of the shop made Pak Ucok angry with his accent. Babe often jokes and is nosy with the children at school when Babe wants to help Joni carry his suitcase, but it turns out that the suitcase can be operated using a remote control and makes Babe confused when he sees his bag walking on its own without being pulled. When playing in the tree house with Nussa, Syifa, and Rara. At that time, they were playing the role of astronauts exploring outer space. Rara came as a monster who would eat the three of them, it made Nussa, Syifa, and Abdul scream, but when everyone was quiet, Abdul still shouted until Syifa reminded him they were done. Not to forget Rara with her innocent behavior that excited the audience to see her, like when Rara nagged Atta, Rara's cat, to eat in front of Rara even though she was starving and waiting for her iftar.



## 5 Conclusion

With the explanation above, it can be seen the characteristics of drama, adventure, and comedy genres are analyzed using Jane Stoke's theory. The answer is clarified by using still images from the film *Nussa* according to the characteristics of the drama, adventure, and comedy genres. The selected images also represent the description described.

*Nussa* is an educational film with drama, adventure, and comedy genres. The elements described are also supported, strengthening the drama, adventure, and comedy genres. The components used are location, iconography, characters, setting, narrative events, and plot structure. The location element uses places often used daily, such as housing, playgrounds, and schools. The style used in the iconography is the Muslim dress style used by the *Nussa* family. Each character in the film *Nussa* has its character traits, such as *Nussa*, who is known as a calm and straightforward child, in contrast to *Joni*, who is arrogant and selfish. *Nussa's* film is set during Ramadan because they carry out activities such as fasting, sahur, and takbiran. One of the narrative events in this film is when *Nussa* feels down because she feels that it is unfair to all, as well as her father, who broke his promise to return home. Finally, the plot structure used is linear because the storyline occurs sequentially. Thus, the analysis of the characteristics of the *Nussa* film genre as a drama, adventure, and comedy genre follows the characteristics of the drama, adventure, and comedy genres. Through this film, the audience is invited to feel the emotions felt by the main character. In addition, this film also contains a lot of moral values.

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