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CHARACTER EDUCATION IN DAVID AYER'S SUICIDE SQUAD AS TEACHING LEARNING MEDIA FOR PROFIL PELAJAR PANCASILA

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ABSTRAK

Media yang digunakan untuk proses belajar dan mengajar, khususnya dalam pendidikan karakter, beragam di era teknologi saat ini. Oleh karena itu, sangat penting bagi pengajar untuk menggunakan media yang tepat dimana siswa dapat beradaptasi dan memproses material secara cepat dan efektif. Salah satu media yang digunakan tidak hanya untuk hiburan namun juga sebagai sarana edukasi adalah film. Penggunaan film sebagai sarana belajar dan mengajar telah dibuktikan efektif melalui nilai-nilai dan moral yang merepresentasikan realita. Representasi pendidikan karakter dan pembentukan karakter dapat ditemukan dalam film Suicide Squad (2016) yang disutradarai oleh David Ayers.

Studi ini bertujuan untuk menentukan nilai pendidikan karakter dan pembentukan karakter sebagai media belajar dan mengajar Profil Pelajar Pancasila yang direpresentasikan dalam film *Suicide Squad* (2016). Dalam menyajikan analisa dalam studi ini, metode kualitatif digunakan. Persepsi nilai pendidikan karakter dan pembentukan karakter serta kategori Profil Pelajar Pancasila oleh Kementrian Pendidikan dan Budaya Republik Indonesia juga digunakan dalam studi ini sebagai landasan analisa. Hasil dari studi ini mencakup nilai pendidikan karakter yang diidentifikasi dari film yaitu dapat dipercaya dalam kategori akhlak mulia kepada sesama manusia, persaudaraan dalam kategori kebinekaan global, dan empati dalam kategori gotong-royong yang termasuk dalam Profil Pelajar Pancasila. Nilai pendidikan karakter tersebut direpresentasikan melalui pemikiran dan perilaku karakter-karakter dalam film. Hasil lain dari studi ini mencakup factor pembentukan karakter yang terdiri dari faktor fisik dan lingkungan sosial serta faktor kondisi dan peran tertentu.

Kata Kunci: Film, Media Belajar-Mengajar, Pendidikan Karakter, Pembentukan Karakter, Profil Pelajar Pancasila

ABSTRACT

The media used as teaching and learning media for character education varies especially in the current advanced technology era. Thus, it is important for teachers to use certain media where the students can easily adapt to while also effectively comprehending the material. One of the media that is often used not only as a media of entertainment but also education is film. Film as teaching and learning media is proven to be effective through the representation in the film that reflect real values and morality. The representation of character education values and character formation can be found from Suicide Squad (2016) directed by David Ayers.

This study aims to determine the character education values and character formation as teaching-learning media for Profil Pelajar Pancasila in Suicide Squad (2016). In presenting the analysis, this study applied the method of qualitative research design and the guiding perception of character education and character formation along with the category of Profil Pelajar Pancasila determined by the Ministry of Education and Culture Republic of Indonesia. The results of the study consist of the character education identified from the characters in the film. The character education values are trustworthy for the category of noble character towards human beings, comradeship for the category of diversity, and empathy for the category of mutual cooperation in Profil Pelajar Pancasila. The mentioned character education values identified from the film is represented through the character's perception and behavior towards each other in determining situations. The second result consists of the character formation factors identified from the film that consists of general physical and social environment and specific situations and roles.

Keywords: Character Education, Character Formation, Film, Profil Pelajar Pancasila, Teaching-Learning Media

INTRODUCTION

A good national character needs to be formed and nurtured to increase human resources. *Profil Pelajar Pancasila* (Pancasila Students' Profile) is the Vision and Mission of the Ministry of Education and Culture contained in the Regulations Minister of Education and Culture Number 22 of 2020 regarding Strategic Plans Ministry of Education and The Culture of the Year 2020-2024:

"Pancasila students are the embodiment of Indonesian students as lifelong students who have global competence and behave accordingly with the values of Pancasila, with six main characteristics: have faith, fear of The One Almighty God, and have a noble character, global diversity, mutual cooperation, independent, have the critical thinking, and creative." Ki Hajar Dewantara (Makarim, 2021).

Profil Pelajar Pancasila describes the expected student characteristics along with the development and progress of each individual's educational process. Profil Pelajar Pancasila is a character and ability built in everyday life and instilled in each student through education; intracurricular and extracurricular learning. According to *Undang-undang No. 20 of 2003*, Article 3 concerning the National Education System that the goal of national education is "to develop

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capabilities and shape the nation's character and civilization with dignity in the context of educating the life of the nation, aiming at developing the potential of students to become people of faith and devotion to God, to have noble, healthy, knowledgeable, capable, independent, and become democratic and responsible citizens". Article 3 of the National Education System Law is one of the main references in the formulation process of Profil Pelajar Pancasila. As time goes by, there are many problems of life in a society that do not reflect the values and dignity of the nation. Bad behavior, lack of manner and character, and the weakening of the nation's morality are examples of the erosion of the nation's values and dignity. Therefore, it is necessary to have character education embedded in human life. It means that the learning process carried out in educational institutions must be able to direct and develop good values to students which can then be implemented in everyday life. Knowing the goals of national education and all of them are loaded with character values, this is a mandate of the law, so there is no longer any reason not to carry out character education in every school (Judiani, 2010: 281).

To create a Profil Pelajar Pancasila need the formation and strengthening of character education for students. Character education is an education that teaches character, morals, behavior, and personality. Character education is a growing discipline with the deliberate attempt to optimize students' ethical behavior (Berkowitz & Hoppe, 2009; Katilmis, Eksi, & Öztürk, 2011). Character education for students is not a new thing, currently the character of a nation strengthens of the strategic priorities of national education programs, given the states of the nation must be returned to the characterization of national identity. Character education is necessary to realize an output of all the implementation of learning, it is a process to develop in students an awareness as an independent that an independent and dignified citizen is willing to fend that independence and sovereignty. In recent years, character education has given more attention to education along with the growth and progress of science and technology that is increasingly rapid.

In this era, learning a language is easier. The use of media itself is for making teaching-learning easier for students and teachers. The media can be from many sources, as long as the media gives positive changes in the learning process. One of the learning media is a movie. The movie serves a similar function to traditional fairy tales, folk songs, or other oral storytelling traditions, but with a unique ability to combine multiple stimuli into a single and powerful entity (Glover, 2009:7). Movie explore experience uniquely and students adore movies. Among the characteristics contained in the movie, media is how to enjoy it needed concentration so it can give a psychological influence on the audience. (Ardianto, 2004:34) They will think critically and learn from the movie. The movie is very effective in growing the ability to think students critically because students can fantasize so teachers and create an atmosphere of learning that is more interesting and efficient than before.

Suicide Squad is a 2016 American <u>superhero film</u> based on the <u>DC Comics</u> supervillain team <u>of the same name</u>. Distributed by <u>Warner Bros. Pictures</u>, it is the third installment in the <u>DC Extended Universe</u> (DCEU), it was written and directed by <u>David Ayer</u> and stars an <u>ensemble cast</u> including <u>Will Smith</u>, <u>Jared Leto</u>, <u>Margot Robbie</u>, <u>Joel Kinnaman</u>, <u>Viola Davis</u>, <u>Jai Courtney</u>, <u>Jay Hernandez</u>, <u>Adewale Akinnuoye-Agbaje</u>, <u>Scott Eastwood</u>, <u>Karen Fukuhara</u>, <u>Ike Barinholtz</u>, and <u>Cara Delevingne</u>. The story begins with Amanda Waller who is a secret government staff, thanks to her intelligence, Amanda can form a team called Task Force X, consisting of Harley Quinn (who is a former psychiatrist of the Joker), Dead Shoot (Sniper), Captain Boomerang (an opportunist thief), Killer Croc 3 (Killer who cannibals), El Fabio (A person who has the power of fire) deadly), Katana (A swordsman), Slipknot (rope expert who is another member of the suicide squad). They are in prison under the supervision of Colonel Rick Flag.

Some of the reasons for the movie as a movie analysis is that it reveals positive things related to social and environmental. It also contains a variety of moral messages in social life, such as mutual help between humans. There is value as a learning behavior to make someone trustworthy even in words, actions, and work. The values of honesty, tolerance, curiosity, and creativity are reflected in the movie. Through this movie, it can change the student's think from not looking at valiant or gang violence, because with their humanity and mutual cooperation, they guide the characterless student to become good characters as expected by Profil Pelajar Pancasila. It can be concluded that watching the movie "Suicide Squad" directed by David Ayer can increase the character education of students.

This research was conducted to analyze the character education contained in the movie Suicide Squad as a teaching-learning media for Profil Pelajar Pancasila by using psychological theory. Therefore, the researcher conducted the

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research under the title Character Education in David Ayer's Suicide Squad as Teaching-Learning Media for Profil Pelajar Pancasila.

RESEARCH METHOD

This study applied qualitative research design in collecting and presenting the data analysis. As this study covers the analysis on the character education that reflected the values of Profil Pelajar Pancasila found through the film "Suicide Squad" (2016) directed by David Ayers, qualitative research design is considered suitable to be applied in order to descriptively present the analysis and interpretation from the film. Creswell & Creswell (2018:257) explained that qualitative research design includes the textual data and explanation based on certain phenomena which is presented in coherent textual data instead of statistical numbers. In this sense, the data analysis of this study is developed based on the phenomena of character education representation identified from the selected film which further mirrors the values of Profil Pelajar Pancasila.

The data collection of this study includes several steps based on qualitative research design. The steps of data collection in this study starts with watching the movie. Secondly, the researcher watching the movie again and marking the potential data relating to the character education and formation. Thirdly, the researcher categorizing the data based on the aspect of Profil Pelajar Pancasila. Next, the researcher sorting the data based on the most significant evidence. Lastly, developing the data based on the guiding theories. Moreover, the technique of data analysis in this study followed the qualitative research design. Creswell & Creswell (2018:268) mentioned several steps of qualitative research design data analysis consisting organizing and preparing data, reading and looking through the data, coding the data, generating description and themes, and representing the description and themes.

FINDING AND DISCUSSION

This section is divided into three parts in the following,

1. Character Education in Suicide Squad (2016)

There are several main character education that is identified from *Suicide Squad* (2016). The character education values are represented through the characters and their interactions to each other. The character education values identified from the film consists of trustworthy, comradeship, and empathy. Each of the character education value is analyzed in the following sections based on character education values theory and Profil Pelajar Pancasila with explanation on how the character education values represented in the film.

a. Trustworthy

The character education value of being trustworthy is seen from several occasions between the characters of *Suicide Squad*. Trustworthy itself refers to the value where an individual is dependable for being honest, truthful, and responsible towards other people. An individual who is trustworthy is expected to always fulfill their responsibility and stick to their words. As defined by Ministry of Education and Culture Republic of Indonesia for the year 2020-2024, the character education value of trustworthy is included in the category of noble character towards human beings in Profil Pelajar Pancasila. Thus, the representation of trustworthy as one of the character education value identified from the film is appropriate to be applied as an alternative teaching media as students reinforces the content of film more preferable in the recent time and society. The value of being trustworthy is reflected by the characters in *Suicide Squad* as seen in the following scene and dialogues:



Picture 1 - El Diablo finally using his power to help the team [01:14:38 - 01:14:49]

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Deadshot: "I was tryna to get you there, Phil Jackson, we're good right?"

El Diablo: "..."

Harley Quinn (kissing Diablo's cheek): "I know you'll come through"

The scene and dialogue above is taken from the film where El Diablo initially denied to participate in the mission as he is afraid of hurting more people because of the power he possessed. Despite denying to participate in the fight Diablo finally helped the team when the condition gets harder which further reflected the sense of responsibility and protection he has for the team. Diablo uses his fire power to burn the witch soldiers and successfully handles the crisis that is happening at the moment. Harley's utterance that acknowledge Diablo's attempt in fulfilling his responsibility as the part of the team highlights Diablo's trustworthiness that is being appreciated not only by Harley but also from the rest of *Suicide Squad*.

b. Comradeship

The representation of comradeship as character education is seen from the interaction between the Suicide Squad members where they have their own bond to each other and they do not leave anyone behind. They also protect each other and work towards the mission with great effort. The comradeship obviously formed from their similar life background as they are the criminals or the bad guys as they addressed it to be. Despite this fact, they still managed to work hand in hand and eventually take down Enchantress from her plan to end the world. Relating to Profil Pelajar Pancasila, Ministry of Education and Culture Republic of Indonesia determined comradeship as one of the element in global diversity. Comradeship as global diversity element refers to how an individual is able to acknowledge and respect the diversity while also build a good teamwork within the diverse environment. Character education value of comradeship is analyzed from the film below,



Picture 2 - Diablo breaking Enchantress' spell

[01:47:07 - 01:47:30]

Diablo: "I can't change what I did, and you can't too!"

Harley Quinn: "He marry me..."

Diablo: "It's not real"

Deadshot: "I killed the batman"

Diablo: "No, you don't want that, she's trying to play games with you man, it's not real!"

The comradeship is seen from the scene and dialogue above where Diablo manages to break Enchantress' spell and proceeds to get the rest conscious too. This particular action is a form of comradeship as Diablo feels responsible and empathized with the other members by approaching them with the reality that actually happening. Diablo's action results in Deadshot, Harley, and Flag to regain their consciousness. Aside from practicing team work, Diablo's action is based on the feeling of comradeship he has for the team as he can just run away from the scene, leaving others behind, but he does not. Thus, comradeship or the strong bond of friendship shared between the Suicide Squad members is what makes their team work strong and overcome difficulties together.

c. Empathy

The last character education value that is identified from the film is empathy. Empathy is shared between the members of *Suicide Squad* even between Flag and Katana that does not have similar background as them. However, as they spend time together and work hand in hand in the same mission, they eventually grow empathy for each other which further leads to the act of protecting each other and work hand in hand to finish the mission although it bounds to fail. Their empathy and care for each other results in finishing the mission successfully. The particular character education value of empathy is included in the category of mutual cooperation in Profil Pelajar Pancasila. As determined by

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Ministry of Education and Culture Republic of Indonesia, the category of mutual cooperation includes the aspect of empathy where the individuals are expected to care about each other and pro-active in order to create excellent teamwork. The scene with the evidence of empathy is in the following,



Picture 3 - Diablo empathizing with Deadshot

[01:34:30 - 01:34:50]

El Diablo: "You had hope?"

Deadshot: "Don't ask question like that"

El Diablo: "Hope don't stop the world from turning, my brother. It's coming back for

you"

The scene and dialogue above shows El Diablo talking to Deadshot while the rest of Suicide Squad listening to their backstory. Deadshot tells them that he almost trusts Flag's deceiving offer as if it is possible for him to get his life back as a normal father despite his job as a hitman. Diablo who is also a criminal who lost his family in his own hands tries to talk Deadshot down into thinking that what comes around, goes around for him, and it is almost impossible to erase what they did. However, Diablo approaches Deadshot with empathy by also telling his life story and how he is such a huge sinner for killing his wife and children. This is a form of empathy where he relates to Deadshot regret and pain with his own. This is also considered as how Diablo processed his pain into responsibilities to do the right thing which is getting punished and not involved into another criminal doing. The function of empathy amongst the group strengthens their bond as a team and manage to go through the difficult times together.

2. Character Formation in Suicide Squad (2016)

Based on the character education values shared from the characters consisting trustworthy, comradeship, and empathy, the aspect of character formation which is determined by several factors such as heredity and the environmental aspects are further analyzed. The analysis to the character formation refer to the theory of character formation by Campbell and R. Bond (1982) as well as the perception of Freudian psychoanalysis that determines how one's personality is developed. The identified character formations reflected from the characters in Suicide Squad (2016) are physical and social environment and specific situations and roles that elicited corresponding behavior. The evidences gathered from the film along with the description are presented in the following sections.

a. General Physical and Social Environment

The first character formation is determined through the general physical and social environment. This is also determined through Freudian's psychoanalysis through the concept of Id, Ego, and Superego. Zhang (2020:229) explained that the correlation between Id, Ego, and Superego in Freudian psychoanalysis further leads to the formation of personality or character from an individual as it shows from their behavior and their interaction with other people. Relating to this, the character formation in this film includes demonstration on how physical condition and their environment affected their personalities. Basically the criminals who are formed into the Suicide Squad shared the similar background of being criminals which is influenced by the social poverty as well as the physical aspect that benefits them into advancing in criminals. The first character formation from Deadshot the hitman is seen through the social environment condition as he is fully oriented for the money to actually afford a proper life for himself, his daughter, and his sick ex-wife. This is seen from the following scene and dialogues between Deadshot and his elite client,

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Picture 4 - Deadshot in the middle of transaction

[0:05:47-0:06:44]

Deadshot: "I'm afraid that's not the rule, no money, no honey. (target coming) wow there's your boy right now with about 20 of his new best friends. I'm still seeing zeros over here Angie"

Angie: "Stop being cute and do your job"

Deadshot: "Oop, they're taking him out of the car. In about 30 seconds your chance is gonna closed

forever"

Angie: "Okay, okay. Relax. There's an accounting error. We've sent it"

Deadshot: "Now double it for being a dickhead, your time is ten seconds"

The particular scene and dialogues between Deadshot and his client demonstrated how the transaction is being held. Deadshot as a hitman has elite clientele who mostly come from the governmental circles which causes him as the most wanted hitman in the world. Deadshot's ability is to shoot people from great distant with a very effective hit, almost as if he never misses. His profession as a hitman is done for the money. Gotham city in the story is known as a very corrupted place with high-rated criminals where a lot of the people have to commit crimes in order to afford living. Despite that Deadshot is a father to a little girl and also an ex-husband to his sick ex-wife. This what makes Deadshot, even as the top tier criminal, still has various factors that build his character as a criminal yet also as a charming leader and loving father. Moreover, the character formation also relates to defense mechanism in terms of transference of defense. Deadshot and his extreme measure of turning into a criminal after dealing with poverty highlights defense mechanism of rationalization. Freud (1966) explained that rationalization in transference of defense causes an individual to disregard the full consequences of an action for certain justification. This is demonstrated from Deadshot's character formation into a criminal where he shoots people as his job in order to crawl out of poverty. Deadshot does not consider the moral perception in his choice of job and instead he is justifying it as serving the 'bad people' of the government with proper action of judgement.

b. Specific Situations and Roles

Another aspect of character formation identified from the characters in Suicide Squad is the factor of specific situations and roles. The specific situations and roles refer to the event happened towards the characters or the roles that they have to maintained which further influence their character formation. This particular aspect deeply engraved to the character and reflected through their perception and behavior. Relating to Freudian's psychoanalysis, certain situation and roles that human beings have within particular society that established greater force refers to the aspect of Superego from an individual's personality (Zhang, 2020:229). The first character with specific situations and roles that affected their character formation is Harley Quinn,



Picture 5 - Harley and Joker in the middle of therapy session [00:09:21 - 00:10:02]

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Waller (narrating): "Before she ran off and join the circus, she was known as Dr. Harleen Quinzel, a psychiatrist at Arkham Asylum. She was assigned to the clown himself, she thought she's curing him, but she was falling in love. Talk about workplace romance gone wrong"

Joker: "There's something you can do for me, doctor"

Harley Quinn: "Anything, I mean... yeah"

Joker: "I need a machine gun" Harley: "Machine gun?"

From the scene and dialogue above, Harley's life background is revealed. Her past as a psychiatrist is narrated by Waller as well as the beginning of her career as a criminal. The reason behind Harley's madness is that she falls in love with Joker who ends up messing with her head and turns her into his criminal partner. The specific situation of being in love and her role of Joker's psychiatrist influences her character formation that changes from a doctor into a criminal just like the Joker. The dialogue also shows how Joker has the major influence on her that leads her into doing things that is considered as murder and crime. The factor of specific situation and role is demonstrated through the significant influence towards one's character formation and in this case Harley as a criminal. Moreover, Harley's justification on her crime for her feelings for Joker is identified as transference of defense in defense mechanism that relates to character formation. To cope with her overwhelming feelings for Joker, Harley justified her doings of crime to please Joker. Freud (1966) explained that defense mechanism attends to one's ego. This means that Harley's pursue for Joker is being strengthened as she rationalizes the situations and her actions to cope with the fact that she is falling in love with a heavy criminal. Transference of defense that is characterized with the absence of subjectivity is demonstrated from the case of Harley portrayed in the film and how her character formed. However, as she joins Suicide Squad, Harley grows bond for the team and actually shows loyalty for the Suicide Squad after being accepted from her fail plan to get away with Joker. It further highlights how one's character is prone to development based on the situations they face in life.

3. Teaching Design for Students' Character Education

The teaching design of this study includes the main goal to teach character education through audio-visual media in the form of film entitled "Suicide Squad" based on Profil Pelajar Pancasila. There are basic steps on how the teaching design for students' character education is made based on Moore, Bates, and Grundling (2003). The first initial steps are determining the needs of students as well as the learning context and objectives. In this sense, this study aimed to teach character education for students in senior high school who are preparing for the next step of their educational journey to higher educations and real world. Character education becomes important as it determines how they would adjust to various situations and overcome their struggles with good morality and perception.

The next step following the initial steps are developing procedures and delivering clear instructions of the lesson (Moore, Bates, and Grundling, 2003). The procedures applied in this study is classroom-based where students are given the session of watching the film before being guided to discover the character education from the characters displayed in the film "Suicide Squad". The assessment is viewed through how well the students are engaged in the story and how they manage to notice the character formation. Thus, students' comprehension of the film and their basic knowledge on character education especially in Profil Pelajar Pancasila becomes the essential aspects to assess before, during, and after the session. Lastly, the teaching design includes the testing and evaluating to determine the effectiveness of the implementation (Moore, Bates, and Grundling, 2003). The evaluation is needed in order to find out whether implementation and students' comprehension of the character education demonstrated with film as the learning media is effective to be alternatively applied during their lesson. The result of the whole course and implementation will be reviewed and drawn into conclusion after the implementation and evaluation are done.

CONCLUSION

Based on the research finding and discussion presented in the preceding chapter, there are several conclusions drawn in this study. This study focuses on determining the representation of character education and its relation to Profil Pelajar Pancasila in the film Suicide Squad (2016) as teaching learning media as well as the character formation

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identified from the characters in the film. The first result of the study refers to the character education identified from the characters in the film. The character education values are trustworthy for the category of noble character towards human beings, comradeship for the category of diversity, and empathy for the category of mutual cooperation in Profil Pelajar Pancasila. The mentioned character education values identified from the film is represented through the character's perception and behavior towards each other in determining situations.

The second result of this study consists of the character formation factors represented by the major characters in the film. The character formation factors are general physical and social environment and specific situations and roles that related to the characters' defense mechanism namely rationalization and isolation. The factor of general physical and social environment are shown by Deadshot, Digger Harkness, and Killer Croc. Both Deadshot and Harkness become criminals for the demanding social environment where they are pressured in affording proper life within poverty. Meanwhile, Killer Croc's character formation factor is determined his unusual look that causes people to alienated him and treated him as a monster. This causes him to act as if he is a monster and become criminal. Moreover, the character formation factor of specific situations and roles is shown by Harley Quinn, El Diablo, Katana, and Flag. Harley Quinn's character formation is influenced by the specific situation where she falls in love for Joker despite initially being his psychiatrist in the asylum. El Diablo character formation is influenced by specific situation where he fails to control his power and accidentally murder his own family. Moreover, Flag character formation is influenced by specific situation where she lost her husband as someone killed him.

SUGGESTION

Based on the result of study, there are several suggestions regarding the practitioners and future researches. Using film as a media for character education is considered as a good alternative where the students can relate to the representation presented in the film while also immerse in the characters' lives shown in the film. Film as teaching learning media in the current time and society especially for the character education that related to the Profil Pelajar Pancasila is potential in bringing bigger reinforcement and comprehensiveness for the students. Moreover, it is also essential in introducing students to the character formation factors for them to comprehend how characters is built in individuals. This study also suggests future researches in exploring other aspect of using film as teaching learning media especially in the field of character education such as from the aspect of students' attitude towards using the media and how they implement it in real life.

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