

The Husband's Expression of Love in the Shin Atashin'chi Anime

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Abstract. In literary works, love is a popular theme. Love can be shown in many various ways. There are five different methods to show love, or the language of love: words of affirmation, physical touch, quality time, acts of service, and receiving gifts. In the anime Atashin'chi, the characters all show love in various ways. This study intends to examine how the husband character in the anime Atashin'chi displays love. The semiotic theory of John Fiske is combined with the descriptive analysis method in this study. The main study subject is the anime Atashin'chi by Shin-Ei Animation. The study showed how the husband character in the anime Atashin'chi employs the formal expression of acts of service by expressing and receiving affection through acts rather than words of service.

1. Introduction

In a literary work, there are many that have the theme of romance to color a story, whether it's love for family, for couples, or for friends. According to Zahara, Harun, and Iskandar, the element of love in a work of fiction can provide a rationalist process for readers' reactions [1]. Love is an expression of feelings that can affect how to behave, how to think and can be judged as something special that is directed at someone or another. According to the online edition of the Big Indonesian Dictionary, love is really like, really love, really love, captivated, really want, really hope, miss, worry, and worry. And according to Kochar and Sharma, love is a combination of behaviors, cognitions, and emotions that often plays a crucial role in intimate romantic relationships [6]. There are different ways to express one's love. It is often referred to as a love language. The concept of love language itself was introduced by an American book writer, Dr. Gary Chapman in his book entitled Five Love Languages. The five types of love languages are words of affirmation – feeling loved due to positive appraisals, quality time feeling loved when spending time together with a partner, receiving gifts – feeling loved through getting gifts, acts of service – feeling loved when getting help from a partner, and finally physical touch – feeling loved because of physical contact [7].

Disclosure of love can be indicated by the codes implied in an action or behavior. The codes that appear are interconnected to form a meaning [8]. One of these codes can be analyzed through the study of John Fiske's theory. John Fiske's theoretical study is basically a way to dissect the concept of text study which emphasizes the structure of meaning and marking systems that are visible visually [2]. John Fiske describes three levels of television code, the first is Level 1 – Reality consisting of clothing, environment, speech, appearance, behavior, facial expressions, sound, gesture, and make-up, the second is Level 2 – Representation which consists of lighting, music, editing, camera, narration, characters, conflict, action,

setting, dialogue, and casting. The last is Level 3- Ideology which is organized into social acceptance with ideological codes such as individualism, patriarchy, class, capitalism, materialism, and race. [3].

Anime is an abbreviation that comes from the word animeshon [アニメーション], which is the pronunciation of the word animation in Japanese. Usually the mention of anime is used by people to distinguish between animated films or cartoons from Japan and those that are not from Japan, even though the word anime is actually not intended specifically for Japanese animated films [4]. Anime has quite visible differences from animation from other countries. These differences can be seen from the visual characteristics to the storyline. For example, like the setting of a place, anime usually has a more detailed and complex depiction than other simpler animations. And also the storyline of anime often raises broader themes than animation from other countries.

Atashin'chi which stands for "Atashi no Uchi" which means my home or my family is an anime produced by Shin-Ei Animation which is an anime adapted from a manga with the same title by Kera Eiko which aired from 2002 to 2009. and its sequels are entitled "Shin Atashin'chi" aired from 2015 to 2016. Atashin'chi is a slice-of-life anime that has a simple and humorous story. This anime tells the story of the daily life of four members of the Tachibana family in the city of Tokyo, consisting of a father, mother, and their two children, Mikan and Yuzuhiko. The series contains small episodes that last around 20 minutes and simply focus on the Tachibana family. They are just an ordinary family with no superpowers or anything strange except the usual weirdness that people experience with their own families. You can start watching it from the middle of the series or at the end of the series, since there is no connected plot, it can be enjoyed either way. This anime of course has a lot of expressions of love, especially love in the family environment. Apart from that, the father, or what can be called the husband has a way of expressing a love that is quite different from the other characters because he is very quiet.

Based on that, the writer intends to study the husband's expression of love in the anime Atashin'chi.

2. Method

This research is a type of research that uses an objective approach with the theory put forward by John Fiske. The research method used is the descriptive analysis method, namely collecting and presenting data points and then proceeding with the analysis. The data for the main research is the sequel to the Atashin'chi animation by Kera Eiko produced by Shin-Ei Animation in 2015-2016 (26 episodes). Data collection in this study was limited to episodes describing the expression of the husband's love for his wife only. Researchers are part of the human instrument that carries out the process of collecting and analyzing data independently.

3. Results and Discussion

The character husband or can be called the father is a characteristic middle-aged Japanese Worker who works in Downtown Tokyo. He is portrayed as a naïve, sometimes mischievous, yet thoughtful person, and he likes quiet surroundings. He is sometimes nostalgic for the days when his children were young. However, he is mostly a stoic person, often shows no emotion and speaks mostly one-word phrases [5]. And that is why he expresses his love more often with action than words.

Figure 1 was taken in episode 19 (episode 56 on the official youtube account). This episode titled Chichi no Yasashisa Otoeru koto nashi 「父の優しさ衰えることなし」 or in English titled "Father's Affectionate Ways Don't Change" tells about the husband's good behavior towards his wife in various conditions but his wife does not notice him. And, in this figure 1 is the scene where the husband thinks of his wife after getting a souvenir from his co-worker but then forgets about it until it expires so his wife is disappointed. Image A, the husband with onsen manju in his hand. Image B, the wife in his mind. Image C, the husband put the onsen manju in his bag.

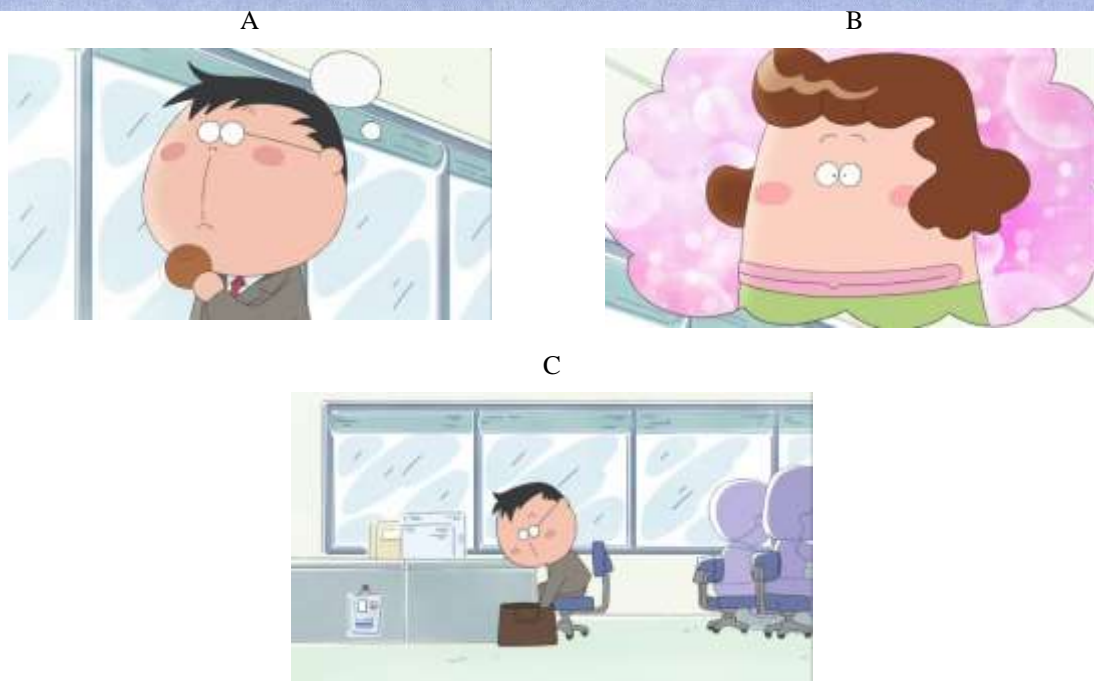


Figure 1. The husband thinks of his wife after getting a souvenir
(Episode 19, minutes 01.19-01.24)

In the reality level put forward by John Fiske, figure 1 takes place at the husband's workplace, is a scene where the husband gets onsen manju, a souvenir from his co-workers. The husband shows affectionate behavior by thinking of his wife. In the representation level put forward by John Fiske, image A and image B use a medium close-up shooting technique to show detailed expressions with the size of the shot limited to the chest to the head. While image C uses the long shot shooting technique to show when the husband puts the onsen manju into his bag. The expression of love depicted in this scene is an act of service, an act of bringing home food that his wife might like.

Same with Figure 1, Figure 2 taken in episode 19 (episode 56 on the official youtube account) with the title Chichi no Yasashisa Otoeru koto nashi 「父の優しさ衰えることなし」 or in English titled "Father's Affectionate Ways Don't Change". Figure 2 is a scene in which the husband and his wife are walking in a park. In image A, the husband is in front of his wife. In image B, the husband looks back at his wife. Image C, the husband adjusting his steps with his wife

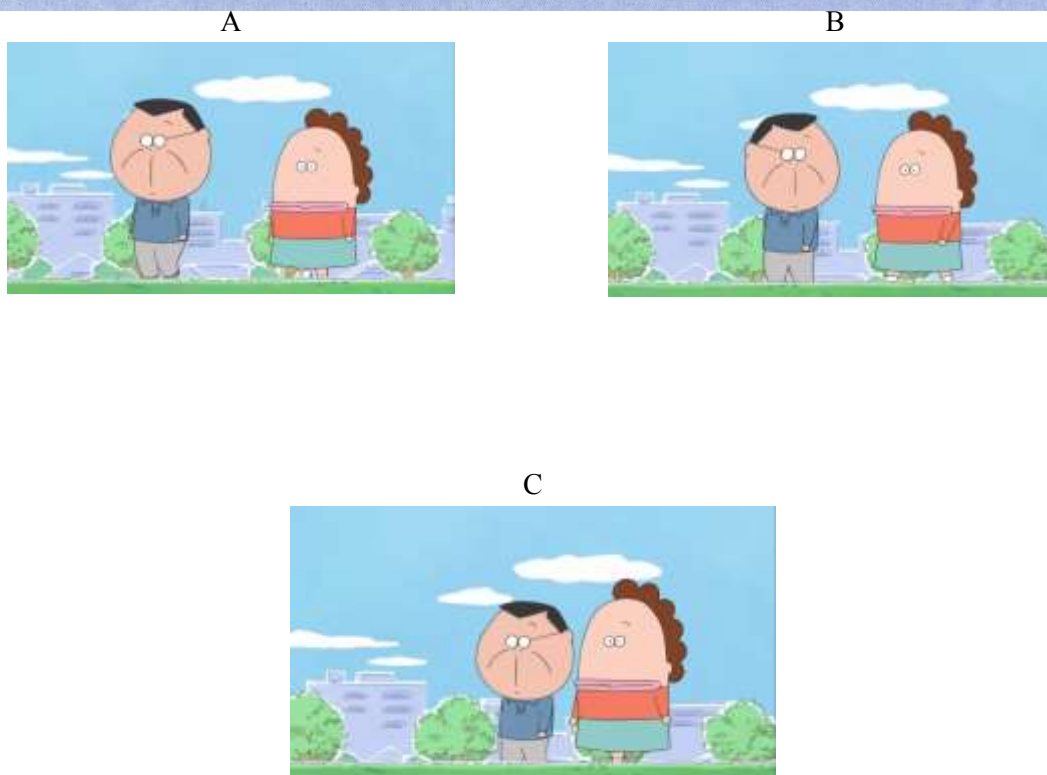


Figure 2. The husband and his wife are walking in a park
(Episode 19, minutes 03.31-03.38)

The reality level, the behavior implied in the scene is caring for his wife and the environment in this scene is in a park. The husband moves by adjusting his steps with his wife to be able to walk side by side because he steps too fast. At the representation level, the A to C images use the two-shot shooting technique, which is a type of shot that displays two people in one camera frame. This type of shot aims to show each subject that can interact with each other and be involved with movement or action in the shooting. The husband's expression of love is still in the form of action because he doesn't say anything and acts on his own without being asked by his wife.

Figure 3 taken in episode 11 (episode 33 on the official youtube account) with the title Haha tatoe heta 「母、たとえ下手」 or in English titled "Mother Isn't Good With Analogies" tells about the wife's habit of analogy, which is always associated with strange things, even though she is so fascinated by something she analogizes, it makes people a little uncomfortable with what she says. Figure 3 is a scene where the husband listens to the wife's strange chatter while enjoying the snowfall. Image A, the husband and his wife see the scenery of falling snow. Image B, the husband feels strange with his wife's analogy. In image C, the husband smiles because of his wife's analogy.

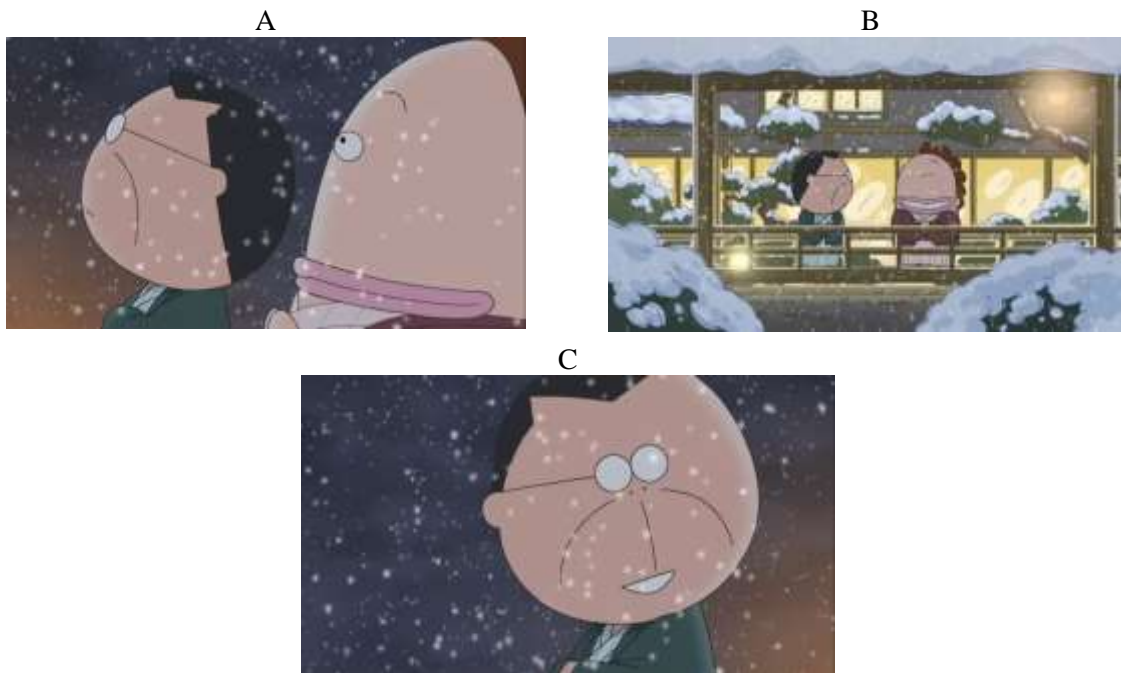


Figure 3. The husband listens to the wife's strange chatter while enjoying the snowfall
(Episode 11, minutes 07.16)

The reality level of Figure 3 is located in the hallway of a typical Japanese inn which can be seen from the kimono they wear. Here is a scene where the husband and wife enjoy the view of the falling snow. The husband's behavior here shows his affection by listening to his wife's strange chatter because previously his wife had no confidence because of her often strange words. The expression shown by husband was filled with a calm expression then smiled when his wife was comfortable again. At the representation level of Figure 3, the shooting technique for the first (A) and second pictures (B) is two shots by showing the husband and wife in one frame to show the interaction between the two. Then the third (C) shooting technique is a medium close-up, to show the husband's expression. The scene is accompanied by strings of background music using a major choir to emphasize the romantic atmosphere. The expression of love implied here is to enjoy alone time with your partner. The expression of love here can be called quality time. Figure 4 taken in episode 9 (episode 27 on the official youtube account) with the title Haha no Kaifukuhou 「母の回復法」 or in English titled "Mother's Method of Recovery" tells about the wife's habit of analogy, which is always associated with strange things, even though she is so fascinated by something she analogizes, it makes people a little uncomfortable with what she says. Figure 3 is a scene where the wife made porridge for breakfast but the husband, Mikan, and Yuzu didn't like it because it was difficult to eat it while it was hot so they ended up leaving without breakfast. Image A, the husband staring at the cake shop. Image B, the husband staring at the cake in the display window.



Figure 4. The husband who is on his way home from work
(Episode 9, minute 05.48)

Figure 4 is a scene of the husband who is on his way home from work and passing through the shopping area. He stared at the cake that was in the shop window with a guilty and regretful expression and behavior towards his wife. The first (A) shooting technique uses the long shot technique to show the cake shop being stared at by the husband's character. For the second image (B), use the medium-long shot technique. The expression of love here is included in love language in the form of receiving gifts because the husband intends to give something to his wife. Even though receiving gifts, people who give gifts intending to express their love are included in this type.

4. Conclusion

Humans do have various ways to express their love and not only have one way. But usually, an individual has a dominant habit like the husband. The husband is a representation of a husband or father in Japan and even in the world. The way of expressing the husband's love shows that a man more often shows his love with actions and enjoys time with his partner. Therefore, the husband character in the anime *Atashin'chi* has expressions of love acts of service because he more often shows and receives affection through actions, not words.

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