

## Authoritarian Parenting Practices on Korean Drama: Reception Analysis on "SKY Castle"

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### ABSTRACT :

The Korean drama "SKY Castle" received the highest rating of any Korean drama, coming in at 23.78%. The drama "SKY Castle" explores authoritarian parenting and rivalry in South Korean schooling, according to director Jo Hyun Tak. SKY Castle addresses social concerns that are grounded in South Korean reality and bear similarities to social realities in Indonesia. One type of authoritarian parenting that parents in Indonesia engage in is forcing their children to choose their college and university majors. This is because parents have preconceived notions about certain majors and public universities, believing that it will ensure their children's success and financial security. The Stuart Hall reception analysis method is applied in this qualitative study. Interviews and document reviews are the data-collecting methods used in this study. Based on their cultural experiences and backgrounds, the results demonstrate that every informant's viewpoint on authoritarian parenting in the Korean drama "SKY Castle" varies. Mostly because parents of the informants have preconceived notions about certain majors, particularly STEM majors like engineering, medicine, law, and public universities, which can negatively affect both the parent-child bond and the mental health of the child. The informants concurred that SKY Castle depicts parents in an authoritarian manner; nonetheless, majority of them brought up Professor Cha's family, pointing out that other families do not treat their kids harshly. The five informants are, in summary, in a negotiated position.

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## INTRODUCTION

“Korean wave’ is a popular culture that derived from South Korea and has become a worldwide interest within the past couple of years. The Korean wave itself produces various offerings starting from Korean music; globally known as K-Pop, K-Dramas, and many more. In Indonesia, younger generations showed their genuine interest in the Korean Pop culture with the help of technology; such as social media. Korean drama is one of their biggest interest within the Korean culture itself. In 2018, the Korean drama “SKY Castle” became the drama with the highest rating in the history of Korean television with a 23.78% rating since aired (CNN Indonesia, 2019). The Korean drama “SKY Castle” tells a story about four families who live in a prestige area called SKY Castle. Only people from the upper class can live in this area, which is why SKY Castle is populated with doctors from prestige hospitals, professors, and many more. “SKY Castle” is known for their bravery in criticizing Korea’s education system and how parents tend to pressure their children to get good grades in the form of mass media; which is in a form of Korean drama. The parenting styles adopted by the parents in this Korean drama play a huge role in the relationship between parents and their children from the beginning until the last episode. According to Baumrind, there are three types of parenting styles; which is authoritarian parenting styles, authoritative parenting styles, and permissive parenting styles. (Baumrind, 2005).

Authoritarian parenting styles is when parents force and make their children obey every rule that was made by the parents. Parents who implement authoritarian parenting styles demand their children to obey what the parents think is right and tend to control their children's lives (Doepke & Zilibotti, 2019). Authoritarian parents tend to control and evaluate children's attitudes and behaviour according to the standards of behaviour they've set (Hean, 2019). Parents assume that children have very little experience with life, so they direct their children to make decisions according to what they think is right. When the child does not follow what the parents say, then the child will be given punishment.

Authoritative parenting styles define parents supporting their children to make decisions and learn from their mistakes. Similar to authoritarian parents, authoritative parents also give directions and rules that need to be obeyed by the child. Although authoritative parents often give directions to their children, authoritative parents still provide warmth, rationality, and flexibility, and apply the principle of give and take to children (Hean, 2019). Meanwhile, permissive parenting styles are the opposite of authoritarian parenting styles. Permissive parenting styles show a parent-child relationship that is free of control. Parents with this parenting style are very responsive to what their children need and want. They do not make demands on their children and tend to believe that their children can manage their lives as they see fit (Hean, 2019).

This research focuses on the parenting styles used in the Korean drama 'SKY Castle'. Authoritarian parenting style is the parenting style used by parents in the Korean drama 'SKY Castle'.



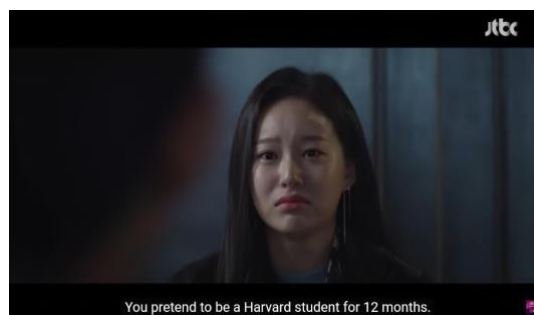
Source: (JTBC Drama, 2019b)

**Figure 1 Professor Cha Pressuring His Children On Improving Their Ranking**

Parents in the Korean drama 'SKY Castle' have shown characteristics of authoritarian parents as explained by Baumrind. The parents in the Korean drama 'SKY Castle' tend to pressure their children to get good grades. There is a scene that shows an enthusiastic father named Professor Cha; who finds out that his twin sons are grieving after one of their friends was murdered. The father sees this incident as an opportunity for his sons to improve their ranking at school because the friend who died was one of the highest-ranked students in the school. In this scene, Professor Cha shows the characteristics of an authoritarian father because he only cares about his sons' academic interests, without caring that his sons are still grieving.

The practices of authoritarian parenting affect the behaviour of their children. Authoritarian parenting style can hurt children. Children who are constantly monitored by their parents will have difficulty when they have to decide on their own. Especially if the child is in a situation that requires him to make a decision when there are no parents around (Doepke & Zilibotti, 2019).

This parenting style is closely related to the punishment that parents will give when the child disobeys their words. In order to avoid this, children do not hesitate to lie. It is not uncommon for children to become aggressive because they are always regulated by their parents (Septiana, 2021). In addition, children also have difficulty exploring and finding out what talents they have. Parents who apply this parenting style do not want their children to fail, even though letting children explore and experience the positive and negative impacts of their own decisions can make children more mature and able to find their true selves (Doepke & Zilibotti, 2019).

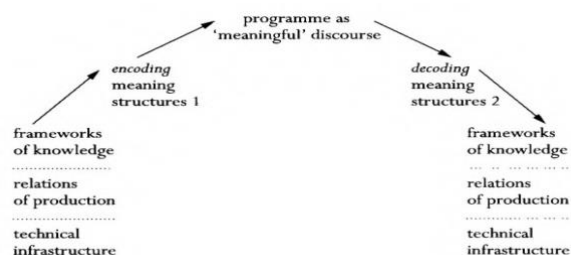


Source: (JTBC Drama, 2019a)

**Figure 2 Cha Se Ri; daughter of Professor Cha, lied to her parents that she was accepted to Harvard University**

One of the negative impacts of authoritarian parenting is that children do not hesitate to lie to avoid punishment and often become aggressive (Septiana, 2021). In the Korean drama 'SKY Castle', Professor Cha's daughter; Cha Se Ri, was found guilty on episode 14 for lying to her parents that she was accepted to Harvard University. Professor Cha's daughter failed Harvard University's entrance exam. Cha Se Ri knew her father would be furious and will punish her if she didn't get into a prestigious university; like her father. Finally, she lied to her father for a year. When she was caught lying by her parents, Cha Se Ri confessed that she was afraid that her father would be angry and punish her. She recalled how her father's face changed when he found out that she had gotten a B grade. Apart from Professor Cha's family, there was a child named Young Jae; who ended up leaving the house after his parents found out that he had a mental health disorder due to pressure from his parents, but they still forced him to focus on his university exams and pursue career in medics just like his father. After he left, his mother; Lee Myung Joo, was stressed because Young Jae was an only child. Young Jae hated his parents because they always pushed him to go to medical school to become a doctor just like his father, Young Jae didn't want to be a doctor, he was just following what his parents wants him to be. This family was shown mainly in episode 1 of the Korean drama 'SKY Castle'. The first episode which led people curious as Lee Myung Joo; Young Jae's mother, committed suicide not long after Young Jae left the house.

The representation of authoritarian parenting in the Korean drama; SKY Castle, must be discussed as authoritarian parenting is also implemented by parents in Indonesia. The survey from HSBC Value Education revealed that medical school comes as the number one major that parents want their children to go to in the future because it is thought to guarantee a child's success (Susilawati, 2016). However, every child has their own talents and skills. Forcing a child into a major that they aren't capable of will bring negative impacts on children such as experiencing depression, getting bad grades, and many more. In 2015, a university student in Yogyakarta decided to commit suicide because they were forced by their parents to pick majors that they did not want (Laisila, 2015). Moreover, one student named Adrian was forced by his parents into a major which doesn't match his talent. His parents refused his wish to pick majors related to arts and was forced to pick accounting as his major because art schools are considered to have no job prospects that are promising. As a result, his grades continued to drop because he isn't good in dealing with calculations; which is a crucial skill in accounting (Hai, 2018). The phenomenon of parents forcing their children to pick certain majors desired by parents themselves is a characteristic of authoritarian parents.



Source: (Hall, 2001)

**Figure 3 Encoding-Decoding Process by Stuart Hall**

With authoritarian parenting that can still be found in Indonesian society and the issue of authoritarian parenting being represented in the Korean drama "SKY Castle", the researcher wants to find out the audience's decoding of authoritarian parenting in the Korean drama "SKY Castle" with the application of the reception theory by Stuart Hall. The reception theory shows the significance of the audience decoding process as the receiver of the message encoded by media. Stuart Hall recognizes the fact that messages encoded by media are always open and often polysemic; depending on the background of the receiver itself, which is why he believes that there are possibilities that receivers will reject or re-interpret messages (McQuail & Deuze, 2020). The audience's acceptance of a media is divided into three levels. The three decoding positions of the audiences are dominant-hegemonic position; where the audience agrees with all the codes given by the sender of the message, negotiated position; where the audience agrees with some of the codes sent by the sender of the message and rejects other codes because they do not match their understanding, and oppositional position; where the audience has a different view so that he rejects the code that has been given by the sender of the message (Hall, 2001).

There are a lot of literature reviews that discuss audience reception from different types of media. There's research carried out by Xiang on African students reception while watching CCTV Africa (Xiang, 2018), audience reception of pornography on the movie "Men, Women & Children" (Fathurizki et al., 2018), audience reception of Moroccan Public Service Broadcasting (Zaid, 2014), Universitas Islam Bandung's Master of Communication students reception analysis of rain shamans at Mandalika on Deddy Corbuzier's podcast (Sari & Abdullah, 2022), chinese audience reception on effeminate masculinity (Zhang, 2019), gender performance and audience reception on the first transwoman doctor in Indonesia (Sihanani & Widhiasti, 2023), audience reception on HOAX that are spreading on social media (Majid, 2020), audience reception on indigenous culture representation in soap opera (Onyenankeya et al., 2020), and audience reception of the women's beauty in Korean Drama (Listiani et al., 2019).

There are also literature reviews which discuss about authoritarian parenting such as the influence of authoritarian parents on children's study motivation (Muslima, 2021), relations between authoritarian parents with bullying at school (Ningrum & Soeharto, 2015), child self-esteem and different parenting styles of mothers (Moghaddam et al., 2017), models of early childhood parenting in families in Indonesia (Fauzi et al., 2021), relation between diana baumrind's parenting style and child's academic performance (Candelanza et al., 2021), relation between parenting styles and child's well-being (Delvecchio et al., 2020), influence of parenting styles on children's behaviour (Sarwar, 2016), and construction and validation of scale of parenting style (Gafoor & Kurukkan, 2014).

There are literatures that has discussed about audience reception on Korean drama especially for topics like social issues such as bullying, beauty standards, mental health, and many more. However, there are no literature reviews which discusses topics about parenting styles as represented in Korean dramas. The Korean drama 'SKY Castle' is chosen as an object to help researcher fill in the gaps on literature that discusses audience reception by Stuart Hall as the drama itself potrayed parents who has characteristics of authoritarian parents as

mentioned by Baumrind (2005). The authoritarian parenting is in fact common in Asian countries; Indonesia is one of them. The practices of authoritarian parenting mostly influenced children's academic performance in a negative way (Odame-Mensah & Gyimah, 2018). As mentioned before, there are many students in Indonesia feel that they picked the wrong major in university as they are forced to take a certain major according to their parents' choice. These main characteristics of authoritarian parenting from an academic perspective; is also represented in the Korean drama 'SKY Castle'. Thus, the researcher wants to know the audience reception from students who are raised with authoritarian parenting, regarding the issue of parenting as represented in the Korean drama 'SKY Castle'. Hence, this research was made with the title 'Authoritarian Parenting Practices on Korean Drama: Reception Analysis on "SKY Castle"'.

Thus, the purpose of this research is to discuss the audience's reception regarding the issue of authoritarian parenting represented in the Korean drama 'SKY Castle'. The results of this study are expected to be a reference for further research, especially in the development of communication science related to audience acceptance or reception of online streaming platforms and television media. This research is also expected to make parents become more open minded regarding the practices of authoritarian parenting on children. In the hopes that in the future, parents will wisely choose methods when educating their children and avoid the practices of authoritarian parenting which tends to control, demand children, and punish children.

## RESEARCH METHOD

This research is a qualitative type because this research was made with the intention of discuss more on the issue of authoritarian parenting that occurs in society through the meaning of the authoritarian parenting scene in the Korean drama "SKY Castle" by parents who apply authoritarian parenting. The nature of this research is descriptive because this research will show data results such as answers from informants in written form; not numbers like quantitative research. Hence, the type of research is descriptive qualitative research. Creswell stated that this type of research is used to understand the meaning of an individual or group of a problem (Creswell & Creswell, 2018). The research focuses on Stuart Hall's encoding-decoding reception theory (2001). This study focuses on the encoding-decoding between message encoded from preferred readings and the decoded message received by the audience to see if they are classified in dominant position, negotiated position or oppositional position (Hall, 2001).

According to Stake, there are four data collection techniques that can be used for carrying a research, those are observation, description of contexts, interview, and document review (Stake, 1995). For this research, the data collection techniques are in the form of interviews and document review. Interview is done by collecting data by asking questions that can provoke informants to answer according to interesting experiences that have been experienced (Stake, 1995). The interview was conducted online through Zoom and Google Meet, adjusted to the time provided by the informants. Meanwhile, document review is a data

collecting technique done by examining documents such as news articles, newspapers, annual reports, and others (Stake, 1995). In this research, data from various articles are going to be collected. The research 'Authoritarian Parenting Practices on Korean Drama: Reception Analysis on "SKY Castle"' uses methodological triangulation because this research uses various data from various sources. Methodological triangulation involves the process of reviewing the same phenomenon through the data collection methods used (Stake, 1995). It helps to review the results of interviews and documents used with the concepts and theories used in this research.

## RESULTS AND DISCUSSION

The result of this research was based on interviews of director Jo Hyun Tak with the media at the product presentation of JTBC's newest drama on Friday-Saturday called "SKY Castle" on November 22<sup>nd</sup>, 2018 (Byun, 2018; M. Lee, 2018a, 2018b) and press conference to commemorate the broadcast of SKY Castle's last episode which was held on January 31<sup>st</sup>, 2019 (Y. Lee, 2019). The interview was carried via Zoom and Google Meet with total of five informants who has watched SKY Castle" from episode 1-20 and was forced by their parents to enter certain college or university majors. Here's the data of five informants for this research:

**Table 1 Data of Informants**

No.	Name	Age	Occupation	University Major	Description
1.	O.A	21	Student	Medical Physics & Biophysics	Informant 1
2.	SLV	21	Student	Medical School	Informant 2
3.	S.N	23	Video Streamer	Accounting	Informant 3
4.	W.S	22	Student	Mathematics	Informant 4
5.	A.S	24	Freelancer	English Literature	Informant 5

Source: (Interview results with informants on April, 2023)

The five participants were found in the replies of column bases on several tweets sent from January 2023 to April 2023 through Twitter base accounts; @kdrama\_menfess and @collegemenfess. The tweet sent contained the criteria of the participants sought; who watched 'SKY Castle', had been forced by their parents to enter a certain college or university. After chatting through direct message on Twitter, five participants who were willing to be interviewed are found; who were all female, within the age range of 21-24 years old, and were forced by their parents to take a certain major at university. The duration of each interview lasted for approximately 35 minutes to 1 hour 20 minutes. The interviews were conducted from April 5, 2023 to April 19, 2023. Through mutual agreement with all participants; O.A, SLV, S.N, W.S, and A.S, the identity of each participant will be disguised. This is because the informants' answers are sensitive topics as it involves their parents' behaviour.

The following table shows the list of preferred readings from interviews with Jo Hyun Tak and the readings from episode 1-20 of the Korean drama 'SKY Castle'.

**Table 2 List of Preferred Readings**

No.	Preferred Reading
1.	Jo Hyun Tak mentioned how the drama represents the reality of parents forcing their child to go through the college entrance exam process; such as joining an academy, so that their child will do well in their exam.
2.	Jo Hyun Tak reveals that the drama is not based on a true story, but the storyline is made of probable stories that might have happened in the society; as the writer herself had done extensive data research as well as adding her own imagination to it.
3.	Jo Hyun Tak was inspired by the book 'Korean Parents' that was given by SKY Castle's writer which highlights the relationship of South Korean parents and their children. He realized how South Korea's education system is going backwards as he also has seen children crowding the cafeteria and still studying at midnight.
4.	Jo Hyun Tak mentioned if Lee Myung Joo; Park Young Jae's mom in the first episode, hadn't committed suicide, she would still push Park Young Jae to enter medical school, make him become specialist doctor, head of the center, until he becomes a hospital director like his dad; despite knowing Park Young Jae doesn't want to go to medical school.
5.	Jo Hyun Tak mentioned how SKY Castle's popularity skyrocketed because education is one of the social issues that people are interested in.
6.	Depiction of parents in the Korean drama SKY Castle raises awareness about parenting.
7.	Parents in SKY Castle controls their children's life.
8.	Parents in SKY Castle are demanding on their children.
9.	Parents in SKY Castle gives punishments to their children.
10.	The Korean drama; SKY Castle, depicts Asian parents in general.
11.	The Korean drama; SKY Castle, depicts one-way communication between the parents and their children.

Source: (Results of Preferred Reading Identified by Researcher from the Korean Drama "SKY Castle" on March, 2023)

After carrying the interview with five informants, namely O.A, SLV, S.N, W.S, and A.S, here are the message decoded by each informant about their reception on authoritarian parenting as seen on the Korean drama 'SKY Castle'.

1. Informant 1: O.A, a university student, Medical Physics & Biophysics Major.

Informant 1 (O.A) was forced to take physics major as her family is from a physics background. Informant 1 watched 'SKY Castle' in early 2023, so she watched 'SKY Castle' through a video streaming platform called Netflix. Based on the first preferred reading, informant 1 agreed to the statement made by Jo Hyun Tak by saying:



*"I think if you ask me, yes. It really illustrates how influential parents are in children's lives; including their education."*

From her statement, informant 1 is in a dominant-hegemonic position.

On the second preferred reading, informant 1 partially agrees as she explained how the drama is closer to the reality of upper to middle class families:

*"If you are from an upper to middle class family, yes."*

By this statement, informant 1 is on a negotiated position.

The third preferred reading was partially agreed by informant 1 because she isn't from upper-middle class family, so she explained on how the situation is like in her middle-upper class friends by saying:

*"My friends who are in the upper-middle class, there is usually pressure from parents who want them to go to medical school. It's the same with SKY Castle, the family background is full of rich people."*

From this statement, informant 1 is on a negotiated position.

The fourth preferred reading was agreed by informant 1 as she said:

*"Definitely. Because when I started, when I was in high school, medical school was definitely glorified. In real life, the majors that are admired are medical school and law. Meanwhile, my parents are influenced by other family members. My extended family members mostly work in the engineering world."*

From her statement, informant 1 is in a dominant-hegemonic position.

The fifth preferred reading was agreed by informant 1 as she explained how the issues about education is rarely discussed:

*"Definitely, one of the things that made SKY Castle popular is because the issue is really rarely discussed."*

By this statement, informant 1 is in a dominant-hegemonic position.

On the sixth preferred reading, when discussing about if the depiction of parents in the Korean drama SKY Castle raises awareness about parenting, informant 1 disagree by saying:

*"I think, for me personally, I don't think so. I don't really care about this, about how parenting is in this drama."*

Based on her statement, informant 1 is in an oppositional position.

The seventh preferred reading was agreed by informant 1 as she added that the parents in SKY Castle are controlling the academic activities of their children:

*"Yes, controlling from the academic field. I think that's the main plot too. To the point of arranging tutoring places, competition between parents to find the best tutors. So yes, the children are controlled."*

Based on her statement, informant 1 is in a dominant-hegemonic position.

By the eighth preferred reading, informant 1 agreed to the statement by adding the scene where Young Jae was demanded by his parents to become a doctor:

*"The children were demanded by the parents. We can see from the mother who committed suicide, her son was forced to become a doctor but since he didn't want to, he run away from home."*

From the statement above, informant 1 is in a dominant-hegemonic position.

On the ninth preferred reading, informant 1 agreed by highlighting the scene when Professor Cha gives punishment to his own children:

*"What I remember is that there was this father who was a lawyer. He has a special study room, right? So, he gives punishment to his children if they don't meet the targets achieved. So, yes, there is a depiction like that."*

From informant 1's statement above, informant 1 is in a dominant-hegemonic position.

The tenth preferred reading, informant 1 partially agrees on the statement as she mentioned only Professor Cha represents the depiction of Asian parents.

*"In a way, I think they do, especially this one, the father who was lied to. They also have their own study room. My parents didn't have a room like that. However, when I was younger, some violence was involved in the teaching."*

From this statement, informant 1 is in a negotiated position.

Last, the eleventh preferred reading was agreed by informant 1 as she talked about how she relates to Yeseo in terms of making her own decision:

*"When it comes to making decisions, I also feel more like my parents never let me make my own choice. Similarly to Yeseo's mother; the mother with short hair who's the main character, also Myung Joo; the mother who finally decided to commit suicide in the first episode."*

By informant 1's statement, she is in a dominant-hegemonic position.

Based on the decoding process of informant 1, she agreed on 7 out of 11 preferred readings as listed on table 2. Since informant 1 debated and disagrees on 4 preferred readings, she's in a negotiated position.

## 2. Informant 2: SLV, a university student, Medical School.

Informant 2 (SLV) is a sixth semester medical student at one of the private universities in Jakarta. The 21-year-old medical student was forced by her parents to go to medical school in reputable universities. Informant 2 watched SKY Castle twice, when it was aired on TV and with her friends through Viu in 2019.

Informant 2 argues on the first preferred reading as she explained how she agreed that the parents did what is best for their children, but in disagree how in reality, these parents tend to ignore their children's wants:

*"For now, I can say that it's a good thing to do. It's just a bit missed because like what I said at the beginning; parents always want the best for their kids. That's why they direct, but on the other hand, in SKY Castle, they don't listen to what their children want. It's more likely to make the child mentally unstable."*

By this statement, informant 2 is in a negotiated position.

Second preferred reading was agreed by informant 2 as she said:

*"Yes. If I'm not mistaken, there was a suicide in SKY Castle. Yes, there must be a lot of pressure being a child. But we also don't know whether parents have pressure or not. That's the importance of communication, right?"*

From her statement, informant 2 is in a dominant-hegemonic position.

The third preferred reading was disagreed by informant 2 as she mentioned how parents nowadays seems to be more liberated:

*"I think for kids nowadays, I don't think so. I think they're already liberated."*

Based on her statement, informant 2 is in an oppositional position.

Informant 2 agreed on the fourth preferred reading as she mentioned how Professor Cha's family is also like Myung Joo's family by stating:

*"The twins' family are like that too. He has to pick a certain major, he has to go to a public university. The older sister too, she has to go to a university abroad if I'm not mistaken. So it's really depicted in the drama."*

From this statement, informant 2 is in a dominant-hegemonic position.

Informant 2 disagreed on the fifth preferred reading by stating that:

*"For me, it's because the storyline is light. The target market is probably teenagers who are still unstable. Then they are presented with this SKY Castle, so most of them will relate to it."*

From this statement, informant 2 is in an oppositional position.

Sixth preferred reading was also agreed by informant 2 as she stated that:

*"After watching SKY Castle, I'm more aware for sure."*

By this statement, informant 2 is in a dominant-hegemonic position.

On the seventh preferred reading, informant 2 agreed on the statement because she has experienced it herself with her parents:

*"Yes. Isn't there like one scene where the child must get a certain grade right? They have to get a perfect score. For me, since I was a kid, my current grades have always been compared to my previous grades. If it's not perfect, then they would say I'm a failure. Also, I still have to join the medical tutoring to prepare myself."*

From her statement, informant 2 is in a dominant-hegemonic position.

On the eighth preferred reading, informant 2 agreed that the parents in SKY Castle are demanding by saying:

*"Yes, obviously. I agree that parents in SKY Castle demand their children, because it's been like that from the start of the drama."*

From this statement, informant 2 is in a dominant-hegemonic position.

By the ninth preferred reading, informant 2 agreed on the statement as she mentioned:

*"Yes, until it becomes child abuse? Because he used the golf stick to hit the child."*

Based on this statement, informant 2 is in a dominant-hegemonic position.

On the tenth preferred reading, informant 2 agreed that the parents depicted Asian parent:

*"Oh yes, obviously. From the beginning, the parents had a high position, if I'm not mistaken. They always want the family name to remain good. That's why the parents push their children to be like this."*

From her statement, informant 2 is in a dominant-hegemonic position.

On the eleventh preferred reading, informant 2 agreed on the statement as she also has a similar experience with her own parents:

*"Yes, I could say it's one-way because my family is also like that. Everything is already planned by my parents; from five to ten years ahead."*

Based on her statement, informant 2 is in a dominant-hegemonic position.

From informant 2's decoding process, she has agreed to 8 out of 11 preferred readings. Since she didn't fully agree to all of the preferred readings, informant 2 is in a negotiated position.

3. Informant 3: S.N, a video streamer, Accounting Major.

Informant 3 (S.N) was a video streamer/creator who has graduated from Accounting major at a private Islamic university in Tangerang. S.N, who is 23 years old and lives in Tangerang, has graduated from college and fills her days by creating singing content on several social media platforms. Previously, informant 3 was forced by her parents to major in Accounting. Informant 3 watched SKY Castle in 2019 on Netflix.

On the first preferred reading, informant 3 argues that there are families that are harmonious and not harmonious in SKY Castle:

*"There are several families, there are harmonious families too. But the rest, they always push their children to become a doctor. I always think that Yeseo's ambition is to enter medical school. But Seri; was pushed to do it by her own father. He's always selfish and he just wants his children's existence to be seen by the upper class."*

Based on her answer, informant 3 is in a negotiated position.

The second preferred reading was agreed by informant 3 as she shared how the probable stories depicted in SKY Castle happened to her; as she was diagnosed with anxiety disorder:

*"I, myself, have also been to a psychologist. So, at that time I regularly consulted a psychologist. It turned out that I was diagnosed with anxiety because I had a fear of the activities that I was doing, because of university assignments."*

Based on this statement, informant 3 is in a dominant-hegemonic position.

The third preferred reading was disagreed by informant 3 as she said:

*"I actually don't really pay attention to such social issues."*

From this statement, informant 3 is in an oppositional position.

Informant 3 agrees on the fourth preferred reading as she added:

*"Yes, because they demand their children to study in the top 3 universities and in certain majors too, like medical school. So, the parents still think that "This is the best for our children and family and the next generation"."*

Based on her statement, informant 3 is in a dominant-hegemonic position.

On the fifth preferred reading, informant 3 agrees by saying:

*"SKY Castle is the only one that raises the issue of education within upper class families. Usually if you watch Korean dramas, it's between the romance genre or the family genre."*

From this statement, informant 3 is in a dominant-hegemonic position.

The sixth preferred reading was also agreed by informant 3 as she mentioned:

*"Yes, so I learn that there are parents who become demanding because they are pressured by other members of the family."*

Based on this statement, informant 3 is in a dominant-hegemonic position.

By the seventh preferred reading, informant 3 agreed on the statement because she added:

*"Yes. There was a book review event that was held in SKY Castle. The place where everyone usually review the books they've read; telling the others about their own opinion about the book in front of their parents. That's quite controlling, every parent judge whether the child's insight is broad or not by how the child reviewed books they've just read."*

Based on her statement, informant 3 is in a dominant-hegemonic position.

Informant 3 agreed on the eighth preferred reading, as she mentioned how the parents in SKY Castle are demanding and controlling:

*"Yes, demanding. Demanding and controlling."*

Based on her answer, informant 3 is in a dominant-hegemonic position.

By the ninth preferred reading, informant 3 argues how the parents in SKY Castle punish their children by giving unpleasant words instead of physical punishments:

*"For the punishments, I think it's more on the words that the parents use. So, it's not physical punishment. Maybe it's more about giving unpleasant words."*

From this statement, informant 3 is in a negotiated position.

On the tenth preferred reading, informant 3 disagree by saying that she didn't know much about Asian parents in general:

*"Actually, I don't really know much about it, so I don't really know."*

Based on her statement, informant 3 is in an oppositional position.

The eleventh preferred reading was agreed by informant 3 as she said:

*"I see them as children who are unable to tell their parents what they want. What do they like and every time they talk it's like they're being interrupted by their parents. Every time they want to speak, their parents won't listen."*

Based on her answer, informant 3 is in a dominant-hegemonic position.

The decoding process of informant 3 shows that she agreed on 7 out of 11 preferred readings. From this result, informant 3 is in a negotiated position because she argues on four preferred readings as stated from Table 2.

#### 4. Informant 4: W.S, a university student, Mathematics Major.

Informant 4 (W.S) is an 8th semester student, majoring in Mathematics Education, at a private university in Medan. This 22-year-old student lives in Medan and is currently spending her time providing tutoring while waiting for her thesis trial schedule. Previously, W.S had been forced by her parents to major in Education; Medical Education or Mathematics Education. She watched SKY Castle through Netflix in 2023.

On the first preferred reading, informant 4 agreed by stating that:

*"Yes, absolutely. Because the parents determine which school to go to, career choices, which university, then also how to get into the university, the ways of studying, the time for studying, even the room was arranged in such a way that the children can focus more on studying, right?"*

From this statement, informant 4 is in a dominant-hegemonic position.

The second preferred reading was agreed by informant 4 as she mentioned how mental health is one of the issues that was discussed and is currently happening in our society:

*"I think in that drama, they are still very ignorant of their children's mental health. In SKY Castle, the parents don't care if the child is tired, if they're bored, if they're really tired, they're still being pushed to study."*

Based on her statement, informant 4 is in a dominant-hegemonic position.

Informant 4 agreed on the third preferred reading by saying:

*"Yes. In Korea, the parents went all out to support their children's academic life. So I think, in general, it's in line with reality."*

From her statement, informant 4 is in a dominant-hegemonic position.

The fourth preferred reading was agreed by informant 4 as she said:

*"In my opinion, it's really depicted because the title itself is SKY Castle. SKY stands for Seoul, Korea and Yonsei. The children must go to prestigious universities, or they must join a medical school."*

Based on her answer, informant 4 is in a dominant-hegemonic position.

On the fifth preferred reading, informant 4 agreed that SKY Castle focuses on education in South Korea:

*"From my point of view, the Korean drama SKY Castle really focuses on education. So, it's about school life, but it's more about the child's relationship with his parents, and with his teacher. In SKY Castle, they're trying to show that this is the reality of educational life in South Korea, people who have to survive, people who want to improve their lives through education."*

Based on this, informant 4 is in a dominant-hegemonic position.

The sixth preferred reading was also agreed by informant 4 as she said:

*"Yes. After watching SKY Castle, I understand that it's not only me who experienced it and it turns out that what I feel is not wrong either."*

From her statement, informant 4 is in a dominant-hegemonic position.

By the seventh preferred reading, informant 4 agreed on the statement by saying:

*"In terms of academics, yes, because their grades are monitored by their parents. The twins, Cha Seojun and Cha Kijoon, were even punished by their father when their grades dropped."*

Based on her statement, informant 4 is in a dominant-hegemonic position.

On the eighth preferred reading, informant 4 argues that there are parents who are demanding and there are parents who doesn't:

*"I think yes, but not all parents in SKY Castle are pushing their children. For Kang Yeseo, her mother demands her to become a doctor like her father. The twins also have to get accepted to the law school to continue their father's career path."*

Based on this, informant 4 is in a negotiated position.

By the ninth preferred reading, informant 4 partially agreed that the parents in SKY Castle gives punishment to their children, but only on Professor Cha's family:

*"Yes, they like to give punishment to their children, but I focus more on Professor Cha's family."*

Based on her answer, informant 4 is in a negotiated position.

On the tenth preferred reading, informant 4 agreed by saying that:

*"The stereotype of Asian parents who like to nag, control their children, push their children to be this or to be that, the pressure actually comes from the top; from their grandmother, their great-grandmother, their great great-grandmother, it's like that."*

By this statement, informant 4 is in a dominant-hegemonic position.

The eleventh preferred reading was agreed by informant 4 as she also shared her experience with her parents; similar to Kijoon:

*"For me, yes. The twins; Cha Seojun and Cha Kijoon. Kijoon is the smart one, but he's a bit of a rebellious child. I'm actually similar to Kijoon. Sometimes my parents let me choose what I want to choose, but usually it's only for small things."*

From her answer, informant 4 is in a dominant-hegemonic position.

Based on informant 4's decoding process, she has agreed to 9 out of 11 preferred readings. Hence, informant 4 is in a negotiated position because she has argued on 2 preferred readings.

5. Informant 5: A.S, a freelancer, English Literature Major.

Informant 5 (A.S) is a 24-year-old freelancer from Padang. Currently, she is still looking for a job, taking CPNS tutoring, and volunteering. Previously, she was forced by her parents to major in English Literature and now she has graduated from that major. Informant 5 wasn't allowed to join Communication Science major by her parents. Informant 5 watched SKY Castle when it was aired on television in 2019.

First preferred reading was agreed by informant 5 as she said:

*"Yes, it is. It's like, demanding too. Demanding the child to be better at learning maybe."*

From her answer, informant 5 is in a dominant-hegemonic position.

Informant 5 partially agreed on the second preferred reading by saying:

*"For high schoolers, maybe yes. Sometimes each person is different when it comes to studying. Some people can really learn on their own, some people can't, and there are also those who take lessons."*

Based on her answer, she is in a negotiated position.

The third preferred reading was agreed by informant 5 as she said:

*"If we look at the school hours in Korea, it's until late at night. They even stay at school in order to improve their grades. The parents definitely want their children to go to a good university."*

Based on her statement, informant 5 is in a dominant-hegemonic position.

On the fourth preferred reading, informant 5 agreed on the statement by saying:

*"In my opinion, yes. Even Seri, she was required by her parents to enter a reputable university."*

From this statement, informant 5 is in a dominant-hegemonic position.

Informant 5 disagreed on the fifth preferred reading as she mentioned:

*"The storyline is more like educating children to follow their parents' wishes. Whereas in other dramas sometimes the storyline is more about romance, action or something like that."*

Based on her answer, informant 5 is in an oppositional position.

The sixth preferred reading was disagreed by informant 5 as she said:

*"Hm, for me, not yet actually."*

Based on her statement, she is in an oppositional position.

By the seventh preferred reading, informant 5 agreed by saying:

*"Yes, it's because they demand their child to be better than other people. Then the drama is just like justifying all means to be in the first position."*

From her answer, informant 5 is in a dominant-hegemonic position.

On the eighth preferred reading, informant 5 agreed by saying:

*"Yes, in my opinion, because even in the drama, there was this child who pretended to study abroad because her parents were demanding."*

Based on this statement, informant 5 is in a dominant-hegemonic position.

By the ninth preferred reading, she mentioned how she can't recall scenes which depicted punishments to the children:

*"I can't really recall any scenes like that."*

Based on her statement, informant 5 is in an oppositional position.

On the tenth preferred reading, informant 5 argued that some of the parents aren't like the stereotypical Asian parents:

*"Some of them. I mean it's like some might think that way. But some of the parents aren't like that either."*

Based on her answer, informant 5 is in a negotiated position.

The eleventh preferred reading was agreed by informant 5 as she mentioned how she had a similar experience with children in SKY Castle when communicating with her parents:

*"There are some scenes that I think are really relatable to my life, but there are also some that aren't. In my experience, I also always have to follow what my parents want. Like it or not, you have to follow it."*

Based on this statement, informant 5 is in a dominant-hegemonic position.

The decoding process of informant 5 shows that she agreed on 6 out of 11 preferred readings. Since she argued on more than half of the preferred readings, informant 5 is in a negotiated position.

## CONCLUSION

The research "Authoritarian Parenting Practices on Korean Drama: Reception Analysis on "SKY Castle" was carried out together with five informants who were forced by parents to enter the majors/universities chosen by their parents. The research results are made based on factors



in the reception theory namely frameworks of knowledge, relations of production, and technical infrastructure. The results show that informant 1, informant 2, informant 3, informant 4, and informant 5 is in a negotiated position. The background of each informant affects their interpretation of SKY Castle. The decoding process of each informant shows that their experiences affect greatly the decoded message. Their position in every preferred message differs depending on their background; especially social economic status. SKY Castle focuses on the reality of middle to upper-class families, which makes the five informants relate and agree to some preferred readings but also argue on some of the preferred readings. Mainly because the audience's parents have stereotypes about certain majors; especially for STEM majors such as medicine, law, engineering, and public universities, which have an impact on the parent-child relationship as well as the child's mental health. The informants agreed that the portrayal of parents in SKY Castle is authoritarian parenting, but most of them mentioned Professor Cha's family, while they mentioned that other families are not harsh to their children. In conclusion, the five informants that were interviewed are in a negotiated position.

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