

Representation of Spouse Intimacy in Drake Doremus' Film Entitled Zoe

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Abstract

Artificial intelligence has become a significant factor in every aspect of life, including health, education, and being a life partner for people. Researchers wanted to know how humans and artificial intelligence interacted, particularly in intimate relationships. This discovery raises the topic of how to best depict the closeness between humans and artificially intelligent machines. This study uses the qualitative method and the interpretive critical paradigm to investigate the behaviors and attitudes of a cultural group. This research uses Vetere's intimacy theory as a concept Hall's representation analysis and Roland Barthes' semiotic analysis that explore denotation and connotation. Data validity is ensured through triangulation analysis, which merges data from various sources for comparison. Self-disclosure involves personal information sharing, trust is built through non-verbal interactions, and commitment is shown through long-term actions such as gift-giving, gratitude, extending an invitation for a holiday, sexual activities, reassurances, providing assistance, and attention to detail. In conclusion, AI can develop further, one of which is developing emotions to establish closer relationships with humans. This can be proven by several results that have been mentioned. Future studies should investigate how feelings of love or emotion may be programmed into robots or artificial intelligence to create romantic relationships with humans.

Keywords: *Media Studies, Intimacy, Self-disclosure, Semiotic, Representation*

Introduction

Technology is currently advancing very quickly. The rise of artificial intelligence serves as evidence of this (AI). Peter and Kühne (2018 as cited by Guzman, 2020) identify embodied robots that converse both verbally and nonverbally with humans are considered as a form of artificial intelligence. Artificial intelligence has become a significant factor in every aspect of life, including health, education, and being a life partner for people. Researchers wanted to know how humans and artificial intelligence interacted, particularly in intimate relationships. This discovery raises the topic of how to best depict the closeness between humans and artificially intelligent machines.

Film is a form of modern work that is presented as entertainment suggestions for the community, until now films are indirectly used as works of art to voice ideas and messages to the public. The film consists of a series of audio and video components that serve as a messenger. Through films, messages become easier to convey and understand by audiences. Film is not a reflection of society, but a form of reality that changes and shapes so that a new reality is formed with conventions and ideologies in culture (Turner, 2013).

Researchers utilized a film called "Zoe" directed by Drake Doremus and released in 2018 and can be accessed on the Amazon Prime Video streaming platform. The film's plot opens with one of the world's largest technology organizations hiring Cole (Ewan McGregor), a scientist who specializes in machinery/technology, pharmaceuticals, and partner synthesis. Together with Zoe (Lea Seydoux), they hope to construct a human robot that can interact with humans, understand their emotions, and maybe form a bond with them. Meanwhile, Zoe desires a serious relationship with Cole.

This film tells that a human can feel emotional closeness with a robot with a female body, and Artificial Intelligence has an emotion to build a relationship with a human. This is what attracted the author to take this film, because in the future, it is predicted that this earth will be filled with sophisticated robots that were originally used to facilitate human work, instead of turning against humans themselves. According to Shank (2014), technology affects human emotions, provides pathways for emotional expression, and interacts with affective processes to influence people's interactions, cultures, and societies.

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Inde (2012) views technology as an instrumentation in the world of life or technology can be simplified as a tool for humans to understand the world. Technology thus stands in between the human experience and the physical environment. In other words, modern technology has a significant impact on human life, influencing everything from communication to commerce to work to entertainment.

Because the relationship that develops doesn't include one human with another human, this movie is intriguing to talk about from the perspective of intimacy. However, in this instance, the familiarity between a person and an AI robot that turns out to be able to understand human emotions ended up making a human put a trust in an AI robot. The movie's depiction of a synthetic entity with human-like closeness challenges social norms and makes us reevaluate how we view love and relationships in the era of technological innovation. The urgency of this research therefore depends on its ability to clarify modern representations of intimacy and enhance larger conversations about relationships, love, and technology.

Intimacy is frequently used to refer to partners' overall experience of closeness to one another (Yoo, 2014). The deeper aspects of a person's personality gradually emerge as time goes on and intimacy increases. The deeper aspects of a person's personality gradually emerge as time goes on and intimacy increases (West & Turner, 2010). Based on a variety of theories put forward by these experts, it is possible to conclude that mutual trust, sharing, reciprocity, and commitment in a relationship contribute to intimacy.

The intimate relationship between robots (AI) and humans was previously researched by Monggilo, in his discussion of Intimacy in Spike Jonze's film *Her*. In this study, it was determined that generally speaking, the intimacy depicted in the movie "Her" fully complies with the concepts of social penetration and the growth of interpersonal relationships in the case of communication intimacy (Monggilo, 2018). It was also determined that, in the end, humans cannot be completely separated from technology, and that dependence on technology is even worse. The difference between this research and previous research is the main film discussed how intimacy is described and what are the denotation and connotation meanings in it. Meanwhile, previous research discussed the Intimacy of Communication and Computers in the film "Her" by Monggillo (2018), giving us the most dominant category and least dominant intimacy category and it explains the intimacy that occurs through quantitative method.

Representation is defined as the process of the way meaning is formed and communicated among members of a community through the use of language, signs, and images that represent objects (Hall, 2020). By utilizing language to understand real-world objects, people, and events as well as the imagined world of non-real-world items, people, and events, representation connects ideas in our brains (fictional) (Hall, 2020). Concepts in mind and language are two crucial components of representation, and these two components are linked to generate a thing's meaning.

Semiology, according to Roland Barthes, seeks to take in any kind of signs, whatever their substance and limits; pictures, gestures, sounds of music, and objects (Barthes, 1968 in Bouzida, 2014). A science or method of analysis used to examine signs is called semiotics. According to Barthes, semiology essentially seeks to understand how people perceive the world.

Based on the earlier description, the problem formulation in the current research is how intimacy is contained in the interaction that develops between humans and AI in the film "Zoe"? Also, this research discusses how intimacy is contained in the relationship that occurs between subjects (humans) and AI (computers) in Drake Doremus's movie entitled "Zoe".

Semiotics Theory

Semiology is connected to the term semiosis, which is a term used in semiotics to describe the process of creating and analysis of a sign (Bussmann, 2006 in Bouzida, 2014). Semiotics is the study of the sign. Barthes defined semiology as essentially attempting to comprehend how individuals perceive the universe. The relationship between the analysis of signs and the analysis of myths is explained by Roland Barthes's semiotic theory. There are two levels of signification according to Barthes, there are Denotation and Connotation (Bouzida, 2014) Researchers may determine the denotative and connotative meanings of each intimate scene in the movie "Zoe" by using this semiotic theory.

Representation

Representation is the process through which members of a community construct and exchange meaning via the use of language, signs, and images that depict objects (Hall, 2020). Representation connects ideas in our brains by using language to comprehend both the imagined world of non-real-world products, individuals, and situations as well as the actual world of real persons, cultures, and activities (Hall, 2020). The way language uses signs and symbols to convey ideas and interpretations about the world is a positive aspect of Hall's claim about representational systems. It is evident that "semiotic" and "discursive" methods of representation function through language and culture. The representational system also serves as a link between discursive construction, which serves as an identity for the use of language in cultural circuits or cultural laws in a society, and the practice of marking as language in producing meaning. Language and mental concepts are two essential elements of representation, and these two elements work together to create a thing's meaning. In line with Stuart Hall's theory, this study will demonstrate how intimacy is shown in the movie and explain how gestures, words, and actions are portrayed in the movie "Zoe".

Intimacy Relationship

Intimacy is frequently used to refer to partners' overall experience of closeness to one another (Yoo, 2014). Schaefer (1981 in Yoo, 2014) explained that intimacy is a multidimensional idea that can be examined in the romantic relationship's intellectual, interpersonal, affective, and physical elements. As time passes and intimacy grows, the deeper facets of a person's nature eventually show themselves. Intimacy grows and as time passes, a person's underlying personality eventually comes into focus (West & Turner, 2010). In this case, sexuality is used to refer to interpersonal connection rather than sexual activity. It is easy to get the conclusion that mutual trust, sharing, reciprocity, and commitment in a relationship all contribute to intimacy based on the various theories advanced by these specialists

Vetere et al. (2005) identified the antecedents of intimacy and categorized it as First, self-disclosure means sharing personal information that may be emotional and/or factual (Derlega et al, 1993 in Almubarak, 2018). Moreover, self-disclosure is considered vital for intimacy, as mutual revelation is necessary to sustain affection (Vetere et al., 2005). Secondly, trust is essential for the self-disclosure that characterizes intimate relationships, as it involves taking the risk of vulnerability (Vetere, 2005). Since trust must be built over time through shared experiences, intimacy in a relationship grows over time. Finally, relationship commitment is necessary, which includes sharing responsibilities, helping each other, and collaborating as a team rather than acting independently (Vetere et al., 2005 in Almubarak, 2018).

Methodology

The qualitative method is used in the current investigation. The researcher applied the interpretive critical paradigm in this investigation. The critical paradigm is a tool for examining the massive power structures that influence modern society. The critical paradigm is the one that is employed. "Cultural research" is the subject of the critical paradigm (McQuail, 2012). This tradition is heavily reliant on semiotics, which focuses on the cultural significance of media outputs like videos, music, ads, and movies which are products of culture and art their cultural meaning. According to this paradigm study, media can be used to create and advance alternative perspectives to the dominating commercial popular culture.

Purposive sampling was utilized in this study's data gathering because it is consistent with the goals and objectives of the author's research. The sample employed in the qualitative method places more emphasis on information quality, credibility, and richness than it does on quantity or representation (Raco, 2010).

In order to obtain information for this study, Stuart Hall's representation analysis and Roland Barthes' semiotic analysis were combined with descriptive methods from a variety of intimate situations in the movie *Zoe*. The scene criteria used in this study include the dialogue scene between Zoe (Lea Seydoux) and Cole (Ewan McGregor), the screen time of the two people, and the visible gestures of the two subjects. The researcher started by examining the dialog, gestures, and visuals in the movie, after which the signs and symbols were linked to get the denotative meaning (visible meaning). It will understand the meaning or denotation meaning of the data after witnessing the denotation symbol. The primary sources used by the author in this study are descriptive documentation techniques that break down each scene from the movie. Secondary sources include book and journal references that explore how close a robot and a human can become.

The Roland Barthes model is analyzed as a research analytical technique. The foundation of Barthes' analysis is the idea of connotation and denotation (Bouzida, 2014). A sign's denotation relates to tangible objects that may be perceived by the five senses of a human being. So that it may be re-perceived, it must first be "identified". Connotation is the engagement that happens when the symbol interacts with its audience's opinions, sensations, and feelings as well as their values. According to Barthes, a connotative sign's marker is the primary determinant of connotation (Riwu & Pujiati, 2018).

Triangulation analysis is used to validate the data after it has been collected. Triangulation in a data collection technique refers to gathering data by merging data from several current data sources and data collection techniques. In a different sense, triangulation can be described by various data collection methods to collect information from numerous other sources that are available for comparison (Sugiyono & Lestari, 2021). The researcher collected information from the movie scene, observation, and literature review.

Result and Discussion

The movie *Zoe* examines the question of artificial intelligence robots that could be helpful in all features of human existence, including pleasure, productivity, and intimate relationships. The drama/romance and sci-fi genres are merged in this Drake Doremus film to symbolize the advancement of society. This 1 hour 44 minutes movie had its premiere on April 21st at the Tribeca Film Festival and on July 20th in a number of other nations, including Australia, Canada, France, and the United States States and it can be accessed on Amazon Prime Video streaming platform. Using Semiotic Analysis by Roland Barthes, specifically denotation, connotation, and myth, the researcher examines how *Zoe's* video portrays intimacy. The depiction of intimate acts in this movie only focuses on the actions taken by the subject, and several of the on-screen exchanges between the actors also convey a specific message. Researchers use the antecedents of intimacy according to Vetere et al. (2005) which are self-disclosure, trust, and commitment to the Relationship.

Result

Self Disclosure

Self-disclosure involves sharing personal information, feelings, thoughts, and experiences. It’s about opening up and revealing your true self to your partner. Self-disclosure is fundamental to an emotional connection in an affectionate relationship and it involves communicating your real identity to your spouse, including your private details and weaknesses. People are more likely to extend their disclosure topics and share more personal information as their relationships become deeper and more intimate (Willems, 2020).

Table 1. Affirmation of love.

Minutes	24.33 - 25.10
Denotation	Cole is informed by Zoe that the results of the compatibility test she conducted on the two of them were negative. I wonder all the time if you think about me," Zoe said when expressing her affection for Cole.
Connotation	The phrase “All the time if you think about me” can be represented as a word of affirmation of love language. When people receive compliments or favorable feedback from their significant ones, they feel appreciated (Chapman, 2010). Zoe is contemplating the depth of her partner's emotions or the presence of their relationship in her partner's thoughts.

The connotative meaning of the scene is an acknowledgment that Zoe as an AI machine has emotional awareness by being able to feel closeness and even love towards her own maker. In this sequence, it is made obvious that Zoe has feelings that go far beyond those of her creator, specifically her love for Cole. This curiosity or reflection is quite normal in romantic relationships, as people often seek reassurance and affirmation of their importance to their loved ones.

Table 2. Sharing memories and experiences.

Minutes	30.17 – 30.31
Denotation	Zoe shared her memories and experiences with Cole about when she was 15 years old, overweight, and afraid of school.
Connotation	Sharing past experiences and memories with a partner is a way of disclosing personal information about our life, which can contribute to a deeper understanding and connection between us and our partner. Reis & Shaver (1988, as cited by Horne, 2018) explained that in a partnership, intimacy develops when individual self-disclosures are greeted with understanding, validation, and caring from the other partner. Receiving good reactions to emotional sharing will boost one's approach motivation for future self-disclosure and push the relationship down the path of intimacy growth. (Horne, 2018).

A lot of options exist for sharing your experiences with your partner to improve your connection. It strengthens the basis of your connection by fostering emotional closeness, encouraging open communication, and trust-building. Sharing strengthens your sense of belonging by fostering shared memories, validating emotions, and giving support when it's needed. In the end, it strengthens your bond and makes your relationship more rewarding. It also supports conflict resolution and enhances relationship enjoyment. The cost of intimacy is disclosure and reciprocal transparency (Vetere, 2005). The same context of connotation meaning can be seen at 30.42 – 31.38 where Zoe shared her experience at school doing assignments and also feeling lonely at school.

Table 3. Intimate space.

Minutes	39.35 – 41.20
Denotation	Zoe and Cole in the Empty Room, where can imagine what other people are saying to visual motion. There they became more comfortable with each other because they could express their feelings as much as possible until in the end they both hugged and kissed
Connotation	This can be interpreted as saying that Zoe and Cole felt comfortable with each other and at that time they both felt they were being given affection. McCornack (2013) claimed that sharing personal space with someone is a defining nonverbal element of a close relationship. Longer kisses can also indicate romantic bonding, while shorter ones indicate familial or platonic affection (Guerrero, 2006)

According to Hall's (1966 as cited by Wood, 2010) classic work on conversational lengths, the distance extending from 0 to 18 inches is the "intimate" zone in American culture, designated generally for intimate engagement with close relational partners.

Table 4. Honesty.

Minutes	54.01 – 54.07
Denotation	Cole explained that things like giving affection, giving gifts, and taking Zoe on holiday were not part of the test.
Connotation	In this scene, Cole tries to honestly demonstrate that his commitment to Zoe is genuine and not meant to test Zoe's capacity for human character Honesty may contribute to a person's self-disclosure in their personal relationship (Byerly, 2023). Honesty involves telling the truth (Bailey, 2022). Expressing honesty to our partner can strengthen the intimacy in a romantic relationship.

In America, as in many other countries throughout the world, honesty is a crucial component of a pleasant and fulfilling romantic relationship Being open and honest with your partner encourages positive interaction as well as emotional intimacy. North American culture is believed to represent an "ideology of openness," emphasizing honesty and transparency in interpersonal connections. (Afifi et al., 2007 as cited by Roggensack, 2014).

Table 5. Sharing dreams.

Minutes	56.43 – 57.06
Denotation	Cole tells Zoe about his dream trip to Iceland, where he would camp and travel together.
Connotation	Sharing dreams and events between couples contributes to an increase in intimacy in couples (Duffey et al., 2004 as cited by Kardan-Souraki, 2016). In other words, dream sharing can be a useful tool in enhancing communication, fostering emotional intimacy, and resolving conflicts in romantic relationships.

According to Olsen (2013), there is a correlation between dream-sharing frequency with a spouse and perceived relationship closeness, and, unexpectedly, males believe that dream-sharing with a partner can boost relationship intimacy.

Table 6. Openness.

Minutes	1.37.26 – 1.38.17
Denotation	When Cole stated that he saw Zoe as very genuine and that the experiences the two of them had weren't part of a test, Zoe started crying naturally.
Connotation	Openness in interpersonal communication refers to an individual's willingness to reveal information about themselves, and allow others to be open to what they want to convey while responding honestly to other people's messages (Devito, 2016). By Cole admitting this, Zoe felt relaxed and relieved to finally understand what Cole had been feeling. Zoe also felt more confident in Him as a result of this. Openness in a relationship, defined as a capacity to reveal one's feelings, thoughts, needs, and worries, is related to increased happiness in the relationship. (Guerrero, 2017 & Thompson, 2015). The same context also appears at 25.33 – 27.10 where Cole clarifies to Zoe that he is a robot or synthetic machine, he also explains that he was testing Zoe to see how far she could adapt to being human, and at minutes 30.31 – 30.41 where Cole explained that Zoe has real feelings or emotions like normal humans and it also appears at 34.43 – 35.15 when Cole explained that Zoe's creation was completely beyond expectations because Zoe could feel emotions like humans, such as high emotions and low emotions.

Research on openness between couples has been discussed previously by Kielek-Rataj (2020) who concluded that if a woman receives a high/low pleasure score due to a positive/negative view of her partner's openness (as rated by herself and her husband), the man will also receive a high/low satisfaction score. It turns out that the more open the couples perceive themselves and each other to be, the happier they are with their relationship. The stronger the communication quality, the less impact each other partner's perception of the other partner's openness has on relationship happiness. (Kielek-Rataj, 2020).

Trust

Trust is considered to be a fundamental aspect of romantic relationships (Gabbay, Lafontaine, & Bourque, 2012 as cited by Gabbay, 2020). Trust involves feeling safe and secure with your partner and trust develops when it feels that it's safe to expose your vulnerabilities to your partner and we can count on them to have your back when you are feeling most vulnerable In fact, trust could be an essential component in a partnership. Campbell et al. (2010) also claim that trust predicts relationship happiness.

Table 7. Holding hand.

Minutes	35.36 – 35.50
Denotation	Cole and Zoe held hands and touched each other's faces

Connotation	Holding hands and face touching is a tactile gesture that serves as a nonverbal form of physical affection and contact commonly observed in interpersonal relationships, facilitating the communication of emotional attachment and closeness between individuals. Hugging, kissing, touching another's face, engaging with multiple adaptors such as cleaning behaviors, holding hands, touching another's arm or leg, and even engaging in sexual intercourse are all ways of expressing affection. (Vetere, 2005).
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The tactile gesture of interlocking fingers and holding hands, which is frequently seen between couples, is a prominent example of affectionate behavior. This nonverbal sign of intimacy is frequently used in a variety of social circumstances, such as walks in the park, watching movies together, having dinner, and going on vacations. Holding hands indicates to others that individuals have an official relationship of some kind. (Pettijohn, 2013).

Table 8. Hug.

Minutes	41.33 – 42.53
Denotation	Cole and Zoe hug each other in bed.
Connotation	When we receive a hug, it increases our sense of their affection for us and raises our comfort level in their presence. Longer hugs are frequently utilized to show greater intensity of affection than shorter ones. (Vetere, 2005).

Hugging in romantic relationships is a multifaceted interpersonal behavior that occurs in various contexts. Firstly, hugging is often observed during greetings and farewells. Secondly, couples frequently engage in spontaneous hugging episodes as an expression of affection throughout the day. Finally, hugging plays a vital role in providing emotional support and comfort, particularly during challenging moments or times of emotional distress. Hugs may buffer against stresses such as conflict because they boost feelings about social support availability by tangibly transmitting care and empathy without talking with receivers (Murphy, 2018). This physical manifestation of empathy and reassurance bolsters emotional bonds, highlighting its significance as a fundamental component of intimate relationships and a means of nonverbal communication within couples.

Table 9. Gaze.

Minutes	49.16 – 49.27
Denotation	Eye contact between Zoe and Cole in bed
Connotation	Eyes can be used to display emotions and show attention in a conversation (McCornack, 2013). A similar scene is also seen at minutes 32.22 - 32.31

Focused eye contact means honesty and openness in much of the United States (Devito, 2016). Eye contact in a relationship can mean different things. It can show a strong connection and emotional closeness, creating intimacy and trust, and couples who make eye contact can communicate without words, conveying feelings and support.

Table 10. Lean on your partner's body.

Minutes	52.57 – 53.03
Denotation	Cole and Zoe leaned against each other on a bench looking at the natural view.
Connotation	Zoe and Cole signify a close and intimate connection between spouses and convey a desire for emotional closeness and comfort. Forward leans indicate immediacy, engagement, and emotion, and they tend to provide the impression of more intimacy. (Burgoon et al., 1991 as cited by Guerrero, 2006)

Leaning forward during the conversation commonly indicates closeness and interest in the subject and in the other person (Guerrero, 2006). Close distance with our partner in conversation generates comfort, and that will definitely increase intimacy in a relationship.

Table 11. Touching face.

Minutes	54.26 – 54.38
Denotation	Cole and Zoe hugged and touched each other's faces.
Connotation	The sequence is very uplifting and shows that Cole and Zoe have a strong emotional bond. Various types of non-sexual touch indicate that face touching is particularly intimate, possibly because it was ranked as the signal that delivers the strongest relational and emotional message, perhaps because the face is a more sensitive and vulnerable area of the body. (Lee & Guerrero, 2001 as cited by Gallace, 2010).

In American culture, face touching can symbolize a non-verbal expression of tenderness and a desire to convey deep emotional connection or care for the person being touched. Burgoon (1991 as quoted by Guerrero, 2006), discovered that facial contact and handholding were ranked as the most affectionate, whereas handshaking was rated as the least affectionate.

Table 12. Forehead kiss.

Minutes	1.34.58 – 1.35.01
Denotation	Cole kissed Zoe's forehead who was unconscious.
Connotation	According to Agyeman et al. (2019), a forehead kiss is a symbol of affection and adoration, as well as a calming gesture. If our spouse is having a difficult time, is stressed, or is unhappy, a gentle forehead kiss can bring comfort and reassurance, or it can be a way to communicate "I'm here for you, and everything will be okay." A forehead kiss can be an affectionate and loving gesture that strengthens the emotional bond between partners.

When a girl kisses a guy or man on the forehead, it signifies that she admires and loves him and vice versa (Agyeman, 2019). A forehead kiss also conveys care, respect, and protection in a relationship, indicating significant emotional intimacy and an intimate connection.

Commitment

Generally, commitment is defined as the intention to maintain a relationship over time (Stanley, 2010). This talks about investing in a long-term relationship. Commitment refers to a conscious decision to stay with a partner and make long-term plans for a successful and happy future together. Three aspects of commitment were described by Johnson (1999 in Stanley, 2010). Personal commitment is the desire to stay with the partner in the future, moral commitment includes principles and ideas that support persistence, and finally, structural commitment refers to how elements such as alternatives, investment, and end-of-relationship processes influence the chance of staying in a relationship with a person regardless of its quality.

Table 13. Sharing task.

Minutes	49.27 – 49.51
Denotation	Zoe makes food for dinner and Cole helps to prepare it.
Connotation	Sharing tasks and helping each other can be categorized as part of commitment and also can be categorized as an act of service in the following category, in which people would feel loved if their wives or partners genuinely helped them (Chapman, 2010). The meaning of this act of service is also contained in minutes 52.09 - 52.14 where Cole brings Zoe's belongings to be taken into the inn.

Acts of service are the fourth love language. According to Chapman (2010), this entails doing things that a spouse knows their partner would like them to do. These activities frequently include home chores, and if done with a positive attitude, energy, and planning, they can be seen as demonstrations of love since they show that one spouse is thinking about the other.

Table 14. Attention to detail.

Minutes	49.54 – 50.08
Denotation	Zoe corrects the robot's face that Cole made because the robot's face is not symmetrical.
Connotation	As an outcome of this complexity, partners in intimate relationships progressively look to each other for assistance not only in social support but also in organizing activities, memorizing dates and appointments, and completing duties (Wegner et al., 1991 in Rahman, 2023). The fact that Zoe notices and addresses the robot's asymmetrical face demonstrates an attention to detail. In an intimate relationship, partners often pay close attention to each other's needs, desires, and even imperfections, showing that they truly see and understand each other. Openness is a key factor in determining the quality of communication between partners (Thompson, 2015).

This could be interpreted as a mythical representation of the ideal lover who tries to "fix" or "improve" their partner, mirroring cultural values of self-improvement and personal development and also supporting each other in partnerships. A supportive attitude from a partner can prevent depression and conflict in the relationship and can increase emotional intimacy by providing positive experiences (Cramer & Jowert, 2010)

Table 15. Quality time.

Minutes	51.33 – 52.12
Denotation	Cole makes an invitation to Zoe for a vacation.
Connotation	Spending quality time together allows couples to engage in meaningful conversations, share experiences, and strengthen their emotional connection, all of which contribute to the overall sense of intimacy within the relationship. According to Hatfield and Rapson (1987, as referenced by Andersen, 2006), intimacy consists of numerous parts, including behavioral intimacy, which is mostly operationalized as spending time in a close space to one's partner.

Sullivan (1996 as cited by Voorpostel, 2010) considers shared leisure time to be highly valued by couples. There are two types of leisure activities. First is in-home leisure such as watching TV, cooking together, playing video games, and reading books. The second type is out-home leisure such as picnics, attending a concert together, road trips, visiting museums or other enjoyable outings.

Table 16. Giving gift.

Minutes	52.21 – 52.46
Denotation	Cole gives Zoe a gift of perfume.
Connotation	In this scene, Cole aims to demonstrate Zoe's capability to perceive the fragrance of perfume, thereby enhancing Zoe's confidence in her resemblance to typical human sensory perception. Receiving gifts, where individuals feel loved through thoughtful gifts, regardless of the cost or extravagance, as it's more about the thought and effort behind it (Chapman, 2010).

The concept of love languages, including gift-giving, has gained popularity in the United States. The concept of gift-giving as a form of agapic love, emphasizes selflessness and unconditional care. When regarded as a social exchange, gift-giving helps to create, strengthen, and maintain social connections as well as serve as a symbol of commitment; nevertheless, gifts are a means of celebrating relationships that have pure expressive value when viewed as atopic expressions of love. (Saad, 2003).

Table 17. Gratitude.

Minutes	53.45 – 54.59
Denotation	Zoe thanks Cole for everything he has given to Zoe
Connotation	From the scene above, the connotation meaning can be described as a part of gratitude for emotional support, and also recognition of love and care. Saying thank you can be categorized as part of gratitude. Lambert (2011) discovered that expressing thankfulness was associated with comfort in communicating relationship issues, an essential feature of relationship maintenance and that expressing appreciation can improve one's favorable perception of one's partner, leading to increased comfort in communicating concerns.

Gratitude expression may be a vital activity that should be encouraged in order to facilitate relationship maintenance. (Lambert, 2011). According to the limited data available, gratitude is seen as a key component of effective partnerships. For example, according to long-term married (25-40 years) couples, one of the most essential aspects leading to a good marriage is appreciation (Sharlin, 1996 as cited by Lambert, 2011).

Table 18. Sexual activity.

Minutes	54.45 – 55.32
Denotation	Intercourse activity between Zoe and Cole
Connotation	This activity in this context is typically seen as a way for couples to express their love, desire, and attraction for each other. Long-term relationships frequently involve sexual activity and confession of love may be used to gain sexual access by expressing long-term romantic desire (truthfully or insincerely) (Ackerman, 2011).

From the 1960s to the 1980s, an expanding majority of individuals in the developed world came to view sex as an indicator of excitement, and joy, as well as an expression of affection (Tang, 2013). Americans may view sex primarily as a means of procreation or within the confines of a committed relationship, others may see it as a form of personal expression, pleasure, or a combination of both.

Table 19. Caregiving.

Minutes	57.50 – 58.27
Denotation	Cole assists Zoe after she suffers an injury from being struck by a car.
Connotation	According to Bowlby (1988 as cited by Shaver, 2019), evolution created the caregiving behavioral system to protect and support those who were either chronically dependent or temporarily in need. Cole demonstrates confidence in his relationship by assisting Zoe who gets injured. Because assurance can be demonstrated by saying or doing anything to demonstrate our love for our relationship (McCornack, 2013). The same connotation context can be seen in minutes 58.28 where Cole rescues Zoe by doing surgery or performing repairs to Zoe's damaged body and at 1.34.05 – 1.34.52 where Cole checks Zoe's body in several places while she is unconscious.

Caregiving is assisting someone due to physical, mental, cognitive, or functional limitations, and caregivers feel less burdened when they perceive reciprocity in the connection (Knobloch, 2019). We have indirectly proven commitment to our spouse by helping them after an incident, which can strengthen closeness in the relationship.

Table 20. Certainty.

Minutes	1.00.33 – 1.00.48
Denotation	Zoe asked Cole what about their relationship because she is going to be disabled and Cole answered that he would try so that Zoe could remember and feel again the relationship they had created.
Connotation	Connotatively, Zoe is asking for reassurance and commitment from Cole about the relationship they created before. Will Cole return to his relationship with Zoe like before or not after the surgery? There are two main causes of unease in romantic relationships. First, people could have second thoughts or conflicting feelings about whether their spouse is indeed the "right" one for them and capable of satisfying their specific demands. Secondly, individuals could wonder whether their spouse will be trustworthy in expressing their affection and responding to their needs. Reassurance can be shown by communicating or performing everything to show our love for our partnership. (McCornack, 2013).

In the context of a relationship, reassurance can help alleviate concerns and provide a sense of security. This can create a more positive and open environment for problem-solving. When excessive reassurance seekers experience stressful events and feel depressed, they may seek reassurance from significant others, counting on them to help regulate their feelings (Katsuya, 2005 as cited by Abe, 2020). Giving our partners certainty can improve relationship satisfaction, develop security and trust, and improve conflict resolution, which can stop our relationship from weakening or ending.

Table 21. Encouraging word.

Minutes	1.36.06 – 1.36.21
Denotation	Cole stated that he missed his time with Zoe.
Connotation	The phrase “Missing you” can be categorized as part of ‘Words of Affirmation’ because it is a verbal expression of affection and longing. The ‘Words of Affirmation’ love language, as defined by Chapman, involves expressing love and affection through words, compliments, verbal encouragement, and appreciation. Giving oral compliments is a simple way to express your affection for your mate. Another dialect that can be employed is encouraging words (Chapman, 2010).

According to Chapman (2010), there are numerous methods to apply the word of affirmation. First, use encouraging words, such as “You’re doing great!”. Second, using kind words like “I Love You”. Lastly, using humble words like “Can you help me do the tasks, please?”. By using language like that in the previous example, we can verbally affirm one another and strengthen our relationship as well.

Discussion

The science fiction and drama film *Zoe* examines the possibility of robots with artificial intelligence in daily life. This film, which had its world premiere in the United States, examines how technological advancements have made robots into human partners and how society has progressed as a result. Researchers use Roland Barthes’ semiotic analysis to examine how intimacy is portrayed in the movie. This study explores how intimacy is represented in the film *Zoe*. Researchers use the condition or antecedent of intimacy from Vetere (2005) which is divided into three parts, namely self-disclosure, trust, and commitment. The results show that there are twenty-one situations in all that show the idea of intimacy with different connotations and meanings.

Word of affirmation, sharing memories and experience, dream sharing, honesty, and openness fall into self-disclosure, because with self-disclosure we can feel validated, understood, and cared for when a person shares comparable experiences (Reese, 2023). Sharing unique autobiographical memories can communicate more than just generate relationship closeness, and we are going to look at how relationship closeness may allow for the sharing of specific autobiographical memories by giving common ground, a social display, or a safety signal (Beike, 2016). Dream sharing has been found to enhance feelings of intimacy and trust within established relationships, provided the response from the partner is anticipated to be supportive and non-judgmental and also used to enhance relational intimacy and stress relief (Blagrove, 2019). Furthermore, the person who believed their spouses expressed love in their chosen love language, such as verbal affirmation and other love languages, reported higher levels of love and relationship satisfaction. This is due to the fact that partners want specific love language activities from their partners, and when they do, they feel more affection (Hughes, 2020).

Items like holding hands, hugs, eye contact, lean each other, face touching, and hugs, fall under this category since they all represent behaviors that promote trust and a sense of security and safety with a partner. The following are examples of nonverbal cues that convey warmth, intimacy, and closeness; lean each other can be categorized as Proxemics behavior, and then hugs, face touching, and holding hands can be defined as Haptic behavior, and lastly, eye contact as oculesic behavior (Andersen, 2006). Active nonverbal engagement, including behaviors like gazing, smiling, touching, and maintaining close physical proximity, plays a key role in defining intimacy in relationships and distinguishing happy from

unhappy couples, alongside self-disclosure and verbal responsiveness (Andersen, 2006). According to Collins (2000), support seekers revealed more direct support-seeking behavior when they viewed their issue as more stressful, which led their partners to provide more beneficial kinds of caring in return. Then, responsive caregiving helped seekers to feel loved and to have better moods. This category is dominantly filled by nonverbal communication because it plays a crucial role in building trust in relationships, as it allows individuals to express emotions, build deeper connections, and communicate understanding and empathy (Burgoon et al., 2021)

Commitment itself is represented in the film by giving a gift, inviting on a vacation, showing gratitude, sex intercourse, giving certainty, helping by doing things, paying attention to detail, and saying missing you to our partner fall into this category because they all involve actions that show a commitment to the relationship over the long term. Gift-giving, creativity, and emotional support are some examples of commitment expressions and both men and women see gift-giving as a means of “displaying long-term interest” (Saad & Gill, 2003). Inviting on a vacation can be included in stress tolerance, because vacations can provide some relief from these pressures and assist partners in overcoming them together (Simpson, 2017), and vacations can improve this well-being by giving a pleasurable shared experience (Gómez-López, 2019). Gordon (2012) found that those who felt appreciated more by their relationships admitted to appreciating them more, and these feelings of gratitude were linked to higher responsiveness to a partner's demands. In other words, feeling appreciated by a partner may encourage intimacy in relationship maintenance. Based on research from Olmstead (2017) It was discovered that the most dominant people are those who have made a long-term commitment to one another before engaging in sexual activity since they feel that having sex makes love itself rather than just an act of pleasure. Those concepts are categorized under intimacy because, according to Vetere (2005), commitment is the level to which a couple believes their union will last endlessly, and the concepts mentioned above are more examples of this type of commitment.

Conclusion

The author discovered that the words affirmation, sharing memories or experiences, dream sharing, honesty, and openness are all used to characterize self-disclosure because they all include revealing private information, feelings, thoughts, and experiences to other people. Non-verbal interactions like holding hands, hugging, making eye contact, leaning in close together, and touching faces are all shown as behaviors that build trust in intimacy. Giving gifts, inviting someone to go on vacation, showing gratitude or appreciation, having sex, giving reassurance in a relationship, helping with something, and paying attention to small details fall under commitment because these actions involve actions to keep the connection for the future as well. Furthermore, intimate communication can be depicted in a variety of ways, and it appears in this film that AI could develop further, one of which is acquiring emotions to establish more intimate connections with humans through the things provided above.

The difference between this research and previous research is the main film discussed how intimacy is described and what are the denotation and connotation meanings in it. Meanwhile, previous research gives us the most dominant category and least dominant intimacy category and it explains the intimacy that occurs through quantitative method.

This research has limitations because the research discourse on the relationship between humans and robots or computers needs deeper study regarding computer-mediated communication with artificial intelligence. The capacity to strengthen the arguments in this research is also limited by the fact that many journal or research references are not accessible. This research mainly discussed the dialogue and the nonverbal communication that represented intimate communication. Despite these limitations, these studies offer further evidence that robots or artificial intelligence can also experience emotions, particularly feelings of love or loyalty. Future studies should investigate how feelings of love or emotion could be programmed into robots or artificial intelligence to create romantic relationships with humans.

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