

ABSTRACT

The phenomenon of sandwich generation refers to individuals of productive age who carry the burden of supporting two generations at once: their elderly parents and children. This pressure becomes more complex when experienced within a dysfunctional family, which is marked by disrupted basic functions such as communication, roles, and emotional support. Home Sweet Loan (2024) film illustrates the emotional and financial stress experienced by the main character as a representation of sandwich generation. This study applies Stuart Hall's reception theory, which divides audience interpretation into three decoding positions: hegemonic dominant, negotiated, and oppositional. Qualitative research method was used, with data collected through observation, interviews, and documentation. The findings show that most informants fall into hegemonic dominant position, meaning they fully accept the portrayal of sandwich generation's burden as presented in the film. They view the responsibility of supporting their families, especially their parents, as a form of financial and emotional pressure. This position is shaped by personal experiences that closely align with the film's narrative. Overall, the film is considered to effectively reflect reality of sandwich generation and serves as a meaningful medium for reflection. However, interpretation remains subjective, influenced by each audience member's background, personal experiences, and family dynamics.

Keywords: *sandwich generation, film, dysfunctional family, reception analysis, Stuart*