THE REPRESENTATION OF AMERICAN PARENTING IN 
PARENTAL GUIDANCE FILM

A Thesis
Submitted to Faculty of Adab and Humanities
In Partial Fulfillment of the Requirements for
The Degree of Strata 1 (S1)

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ABSTRACT


This research discusses about an American Parenting in the *Parental Guidance* film, focuses on analyzing representation which emerges in the film. The data of this research is analyzed using representation theory. Representation is the way we think about ourselves and construct our own narration. The data of this research are collected from the unit analysis and the other sources. In this research the writer uses descriptive-qualitative analysis as the method to analyze how the American parenting is represented in this film.

From the data analysis, the writer finds that Phil and Alice as the parents, cannot let the grandparents parenting their grandchildren by their own way. The parents and the grandparents have their own concepts of parenting to their children and grandchildren. This film shows that American parenting is more suitable using the old generation parenting instead of the young generation parenting.
APPROVEMENT

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LEGALIZATION

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The thesis entitled above has been defended before the Letters and Humanities Faculty’s Examination Committee on June 26th, 2014. It has already been accepted as a partial fulfillment of the requirements for the degree of strata one.

Jakarta, June 26th, 2014

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DECLARATION

I hereby declare that this submission is my own work and that, to the best of my knowledge and belief, it contains no material previously published or written by another person nor material which to a substantial extent has been accepted for the award of any other institute or degree or diploma of the university or other institute of higher learning, except where due acknowledgement has been made in the text.

Jakarta, June 26th, 2014

Nabilah Jamaluddin Mailk
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CHAPTER I
INTRODUCTION

A. Background of the Research

Nowadays watching film is one of people’s hobbies. Film is loved by many people and it really entertains us than the others because film is more realistic more than the other literature study. We can see and listen by our own self. We can feel it and live in it. It can inspire us to do something useful in our life, and also we can learn through the experiences from figure or character in the film through the dialogues and scene. Film is a unique art production and has a strong influence toward its viewer because it combines paint, technology, music, literature, and drama.¹ It means film is a unique art production combines with paint, technology, music, literature, and drama that can more entertain us than the others. In a film, someone can find many trending topics which can entertain, teach and share its viewers. One of the topic in a film that brings viewers new understanding about something is about family.

Family is the first socializing agency in the child’s life. The mother, then the father, then siblings and other relatives are the first people with whom the child has contact and the first to teach him how to live with other people.² It means family is the most important thing for any child in daily life, to teach

them how they can be better than before. Moreover, we can also learn how a family roles in real life in *Parental Guidance* film.

*Parental Guidance* film is an example of American family and its conflicts. This film is directed by Andy Fickman, and produced by Billy Crystal. The Genre is a comedy drama film which is released in 2012. This film starts with Artie Decker and Diane (the grandparents) who asked by their daughter Alice to take care of her three children while Alice and her husband Phil are going for a business-related vacation in the Hilton Head. At the first, Alice does not agree that her parents who should take care of the children, because she thinks that her parents have an old tradition for parenting, they always disapprove how the way Alice and Phil’s parenting.

There are so many problems which happen to this American family. One of them is when Artie Decker gives to his grandchildren a cake, and he leaves them for a call phone, they immediately go in it like a crazy. Even though Alice already gives him some instructions what the children like to eat. Alice and Phil already have tried to introduce them a little bit of sugar but they are like going off the rails of the crazy train. That is the mistake that Artie have done, even it makes the grandchildren happy but in Alice’s mind that is a big wrong for him and make Alice cannot trust how the way they parenting.

In this film Diane and Artie are trying to be the best grandparents for the three grandchildren. What they have done is to make them not to be the other grandparents. That means they want to do anything to make their grandchildren love them. From giving them the Super Squiters guns, until the
game which called kick the kin. All of the thing what they have done is to make their grandchildren happy and be better than before, even sometimes Alice thinks that the way how they parenting is the most wrong way and she cannot trust them for it.

Based on the synopsis of the film Parental Guidance, the writer is interested in this research by using the representation theory. According to Stuart Hall, representation is an essential part of the process by which meaning is produced and exchange between members and culture.\(^3\) It means representation has an important place in study of culture, which is produced and exchange between members by using language, signs and images which stand for or represent things.

Therefore, the writer chooses representation theory to analyze this film because she would like to expand what the film wants to represent. Parental Guidance’s film draws and represents American family, which it shows us how are American family, how the parents and the grandparents parenting their children and their grandchildren, how they can solve the problems, how the grandparents can take an action to parenting their grandchildren and doing things out of the rules which can harm the grandchildren but it can give a positive impact.

**B. Focus of the Research**

In this research, the writer focuses on representation of American family in Parental Guidance, and how the Parental Guidance film represents

American family parenting which the old and the young generations live in a one household with its conflict, problem and solution.

C. Research Question

1. How does *Parental Guidance* film represent American family parenting?

D. Significance of the Research

The significance of this research is to make readers understand more about American family parenting, and its benefits for the readers who are interested in literature and wish to know further about the representation of the American family parenting in this film.

E. Research Methodology

The methodologies of this research are including some aspects of the research such as:

1. **Objective of the Research**

   The purpose of this research is to explain the representation of American family parenting through Phil and Alice’s family.

2. **Method of the Research**

   The method of the research is descriptive qualitative method. According to Muhammad Farkhan it “is a qualitative as a method of data using verbal or nonnumeric”\(^4\) This research use qualitative as a method in which the researcher as the key element of the research try to collect the data from the various sources related to research and to analyze the data

inductively to answer the questions of the research stated above. Through this method the writer analyzes and identifies how the parenting of American family represent in *Parental Guidance* film.

3. **Data Analysis Technique**

Data obtained in this study will be analyzed qualitatively based on relevant theories and supporting data from several other supporting theories. The writer makes the description about representation analysis of American family by showing the picture, dialogue and seeing the relationship between word and sentences which is combined to other and makes a special meaning.

4. **Instrument of the Research**

The instrument of this research is the writer herself who reads, watches, marks and analyzes the data which is dealt with film script or scene through this film, then related to the theory.

5. **Unit of Analysis**

The unit of the analysis in this research is *Parental Guidance* film (2012) which is written by Lowell Ganz, directed by Andy Fickman and Produced by Billy Crystal.

6. **Place and Time**

This research was conducted in Jakarta, in the Faculty of Adab and Humanities UIN Jakarta, from May in 2013. Place of research conducted

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at Main Library UIN Syarif Hidayatullah Jakarta, Main Library UI and some in other library reference materials needed to support the writer.
CHAPTER II
THEORITICAL FRAMEWORK

A. Representation:

In “Studying Culture a Practical Introduction”, representation is one of the key practices produced. There are three possible senses to the word ‘represent’:

1. To represent means to stand in for, to symbolize. For example of the country’s flag which flow at sporting events represent the presence of the country.

2. To represent means to speak or act on behalf of. A person who represents a group in this sense may also serve a symbolic function. An example might Soekarno – Hatta, who speak and act on behalf of the Indonesia community.

3. To represent means to re-present. For example, an artist can represent a society in a novel, film and drama.

The writer uses the last definition ‘represent’ which it means to bring back (to represent), to bring back the meaning through practices of signification. Because Parental Guidance film represents American family parenting. When we represent something, we paraphrase it, translate it, summarize it, and expand on it – in a nutshell, we interpret it.\(^6\) Although if we want to represent something we should paraphrase and translate it to

\(^6\) Dan Sperber, Explaining Culture A Naturalistic Approach (UK: Blackwell Publisher, 1999), p.34
make more easier to understand. Summarize and expand it to get more information and knowledge about it.

Representation is the production of the meaning of the concepts in our minds through language. It is the link between concepts and language which enables us to refer to either the ‘real’ world objects, people or events, or indeed to imaginary worlds of fictional objects, people and events. Representation involves the using of language, signs, and images which represents things. It is the connection between concepts and language that can shows us to the real word of objects, people, or events or indeed to the imaginary worlds or fictional objects, people and events. Objects, people or events are correlated to each other, without them we cannot analyze the world meaningfully.

Representation means using language to say something meaningful about, or to represent, the world meaningfully, to other people. Representation is an essential part of the process by which meaning is produced and exchange between members and culture. Through representation, the meaning of a language in a culture exchanged. It depends on how culture gives the meaning to that language because one culture from others is different. Language is one of the media through which thoughts, concepts, ideas and feelings are represented in a culture. So language is central to meaning and culture and has always been regarded the key of cultural values and meanings.

7 Ibid. p.17
8 Ibid. p.15.
9 Ibid.
To explain how the representation of the meaning through language works the writer can use three approaches of representation:

1. Reflective approach, meaning is thought to lie in the object, person, idea or event in the real world, and language functions like a mirror, to reflect the true meaning as it already exists in the world. As the poet Getrude Stein once said, ‘A rose is a rose is arose’. It called mimesis approach, to explain how language, even drawing and painting, mirrored or imitated Nature.

2. Intentional approach, it holds that the speaker, the author, who imposes his or her unique meaning in the world through language. Words mean what the author intends they should mean.

3. Constructionist approach, we construct meaning, using representational system-concepts and signs. According to his approach, we must not confuse where things and people exist, and the symbolic practices and processes through which representation, meaning and language operate, however, it is the language system that we use to represent our concepts.\(^9\)

According to Stuart Hall’s book “Things do not mean: We construct meaning. Using representational systems concepts and signs.”\(^11\) Therefore, the concept (in mind) and the sign (language) is the important part used in the construction or production of meaning. In this research, the writer uses the construction approach to analyze the representation of American extended family through the manners and the ways of how they parenting the children.

\(^9\)Ibid. p.24-25  
\(^{11}\)Ibid. p.25
B. American Family

Family can be defined in many ways. American Heritage Dictionary of the English language offers these definitions:

1. A fundamental social group in society typically consisting of one or two parents and their children.
2. Two or more people who share goals and values, have long-term commitments to one another, and reside usually in the same dwelling place.
3. All the members of a household under one roof.
4. A group of persons sharing common ancestry.  

When Americans use the word family, they are typically referring to a father, a mother, and their children. This is the so-called nuclear family. Grandparents, aunts, uncles, cousins, and others who might be thought of as family in many other countries are usually called relatives. These usages reflect the fact that, for most Americans, the family has traditionally been a small group of people, not an extended network. A Nuclear family consists of a father, a mother, and their children. This type of family as a proportion of all families has been declining as the family form has become more diverse. Nuclear family which consist a father, mother and children and relatives consist of the other family relation such as grandparents, aunts, and others.

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Most of the Americans’ traditional only live with the nuclear family, excluded the extended family.

Families are the major source of primary socialization - settings for the first lessons children learn about their society.\(^\text{15}\) Family is an important figure for the children, they are the main source how their children should be and how they can have a good manners. That is all how the parents or grandparents parenting their children and their grandchildren. Parents’ behavior is also associated with children’s behavior; children often imitate what their parents say and do.\(^\text{16}\) Parents’ attitude is connects to the children’s behavior. Children often copy what their parents say and do. Therefore, parents and grandparents should show their good manners and figures infront of the children.

Mothers and fathers play uniques roles in the socialization of their children, and they often socialize and parent their children differently. Research shows that, in general, interactions with mothers tend to be more frequent, more directive, focus more on teaching interpersonal behaviors, and simultaneously more contentious and intimate; whereas interactions with fathers tend to involve more reaction and problem solving, be more goal oriented, and focus on instrumental behaviors such as independence and

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\(^{16}\) Lynn M. Casper and Suzanne M. Bianchi, *Continuity and Change in the American Family* (USA: Sage Publication, 2002), p.224
assertiveness.\textsuperscript{17} Culture and parent-child relationships are interdependent, and cultural differences play an important role in philosophies of child rearing.\textsuperscript{18}

American parents want to expose their children to as many aspects of life as possible. Parents also want their children to be “happy and healthy”\textsuperscript{19} It means, American parents usually want their children happy, healthy and free from any emotional problems. They want to give the best possible chance for their children to have a good life.

As parents socialize their children, they act in two broad ways. First, they provide emotional support—love, affection, warmth, nurturing, or acceptance. Second, parents exercise control—they seek to limit or change children’s behavior.\textsuperscript{20} Emotional support shows children that parents care about their actions. It makes children more positively about themselves. Parental control is consisting of the use or threat of punishment or force. But control also maybe inductive, explaining the reason for these limits to the child, requesting that the comply. The level of support and control parents exercise has a social, psychological, and academic impact on a child.

The term parenting (also parent or parental) education can refer to a process, a movement, or a field of study. As a process, it concerns the communication to parents of information, attitudes, and skills to enhance their children’s growth.\textsuperscript{21} Parenting refers to a process of the children which depends on how they parents give them the information, the good attitudes,

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\textsuperscript{17} Mary Kay DeGenova (2008), \textit{Op.cit.} p.330 \\
\textsuperscript{18} Ibid. p.332 \\
\textsuperscript{19} Gary Althan and Janet Bennett (2011), \textit{Op.cit.} p.81. \\
\textsuperscript{21} Joseph M. Hawes, \textit{The Family in America} (USA:ABC-CLIO,2001), p.745
\end{flushright}
ways, and skills are the most important thing they should have it and learn it from the parents.

Parent-child relationships are considered to be among the most important relationships individuals will ever have. The relationship a child experienced with his or her parents while growing up continues to exert a profound influence in that person as an adult.²²

Children often develop into adults much like their own parents. In the process of growing up, however, children and parents often experience much conflict. The younger generation strives to create a relatively independent life, and the older generation tries to maintain control of the children.²³ When children becomes adults, they try to change by making an independent life, although the older generation tries to control their life but it starts with a conflict.

First and foremost, parents, and sometimes other adult relatives, supply most of the love, nurturing, and care that children need in order to develop a basic sense of trust in other human beings. They also train young children in the skills they need to become more autonomous, such as walking, dressing, and feeding themselves. Later, they provide the guidance, support, and discipline children need in order to become competent members of their society.²⁴ They give their children more skills to become more self-supporting and they protect them to become competent members.

²⁴ Ibid.
According to Lynn M. Casper: What parents say and do, how they feel, and whether they approve or disapprove of their children’s behavior affects children’s well being. Children who receive feedback and advice from their parents have higher self-esteem and self-confidence, and these traits help to prepare children to make better decisions.\textsuperscript{25} Whatever parents say, do and feel, and whatever they give the agreement or disagreement of something, they should talk to their children in a good way, because it affects children’s well being that can give a good feedback and that means, it can help the children to make a better decisions.

Grandparents have been an important part of families throughout human history. In ancient times they were the repository of critical resource knowledge vital to the survival of their offspring’s families, and, in the event of an adult child’s early death, they cared for any grandchildren.\textsuperscript{26}

Grandparents and grandchildren may enjoy a special bond that is not complicated by responsibilities, obligations and conflicts inherent in the parent child relationship.\textsuperscript{27} Grandparents and grandchildren usually enjoy and they usually have a special relationship more than the children’s parents do.

According to David H. Olson and John DeFrain’s book, there are three characteristics of American family, they are cohesion, flexibility, and communication. Family cohesion is the emotional closeness a person feels to

other family members, cohesion includes both commitment and spending enjoyable time together from the family strengths model. Family flexibility is the ability to change and adapt when necessary. Flexibility also relates to dealing effectively with stress and having helpful spiritual beliefs from the family strength model. Family communication is the sharing of information, ideas, and feelings with each other. Communication is generally positive in strong families because angry outbursts and other negative interchanges simply don't work well.\(^\text{28}\)

It can be concluded that strong families are those that are high in family cohesion, family flexibility, and family communication. Commitment to the family is includes trust, honesty, dependability, and faithfulness. Spending time together means committing a considerable amount of quality time to sharing activities, feelings, and ideas, and enjoying each other’s company. Spiritual well-being is includes happiness, optimism, hope, faith, and a set of shared ethical values that guide family members through life’s challenges. Positive communication is includes having open, being cooperative rather than competitive, and sharing feelings with one another. Appreciation and affection include kindness, mutual caring, respect for individuality, and feeling of security. The most important characteristic healthy families is that they feel good about their communication with one another.

CHAPTER III
RESEARCH FINDINGS

In this chapter, the writer would like to expand how American parenting is represented in *Parental Guidance* film. This chapter consists of some points that will explicitly state how American family parenting is represented. This research will be focused on how Phil and Alice as parents build up their family and grow up their children by using some specific concepts of parenting. Later on, those concepts of parenting will lead Phil and Alice into trouble when Alice’s parents (Artie and Diane) try to practice another concept of parenting to their own grandchildren. Their different concept of parenting leads to a ruin which arises many problems to face. It directly represents how being an old generation or a young generation of American family is hard to practice because American used to practice a nuclear family a nuclear family instead of extended one. The supporting points below will describe what kind of family that Phil and Alice used to have which then lead them into trouble when grandparents change the concepts:

**A. The American Family in *Parental Guidance* film**

1. Dual Earner Family:

   Phil’s family is dual earner family, which shows that Phil and Alice are working, both of them have their own job. They are too busy for their jobs and children until they forget to have a vacation to make themselves happy and enjoy.
Alice : Yeah, I’m right here. Right. And when would that be? (on the phone)
Phil : That’s so soon. You got to be kidding me.
Harper : Dad! Dad. I’m the soysages, Turner gets the Wheatie-O’s.
Phil : Okey. Hey babe, can you take over here?
Phil and Alice: I’m on a call.

From the pictures and dialogues above, it represents that this American family is a dual earner family, which the husband and the wife are working and earning money together. They have the same responsibility. From the morning they are already have a call from their office. They are busy with their own job until they do not have any time to go for a vacation. It shows that modern American family tends to dual earner family, to get a comfortable life, suitable house, and well education. Beside that they are also using a prototype smart house. They using the high-technology in their house.

2. High-Technology Family:

Phil and Alice are example of modern parents that they use many high technologies in helping them to grow their children at home. Phil, is the one
who invent the R-life and it is really modern technology. Look at the picture below:

![Picture 3](image_url)

From the picture and dialogue above, when the grandparents come to Phil and Alice’s new house. They are shocked because a recorder suddenly says “Welcome Alice and Phil and Harper and Turner and Barker and two unknown people.” The grandparents are shocked when there is someone talking because they have no idea about what is prototype smart house which is fully automated, voice activated and everything with Hi-techonology. Phil and Alice are the examples of parent which using modern technologies. Even their house can speak by itself, greeting the owners, waking up children, and many more. Moreover, it can show us the way wherever we want to go. It
represents that the parents teach the children with high technologies and modern things.

In the opposite, the grandparents do not understand the technologies at all. Look at the picture below:

![Picture 4](00:25:48 – 00:26:00)

**Harper**: Just punch in “go to school”
**Artie**: Why is this easier than you just telling me how to get there?
**Recorder**: I heard that. (phil’s voice)
**Artie**: Whoa! Whoa! Is he in there?
**Harper**: It’s Dad, and it’s a recording. It’s just a little family joke.
**Artie**: Yeah, it’s interesting because, usually, jokes are funny. But hey, why kill time laughing.

The picture above shows when Artie Decker, the grandfather, should pick his grandchildren to their schools. He does not understand how to activate the car which using high technology. By touching the screen it can show the way to the school. Artie prefers Harper to tell him the way than he should touch the screen that he really does not understand how to use it. Besides he should also say “GO GARAGE” loudly to make the garage opens, and it should be repeated so many times until he can say it well. It clearly
shows that Artie Decker, as a grandparent, does not deserve to live together with his child and grandchildren who are in different world and era.

After Artie drops Harper and Turner to their schools he went to drop Barker also. He became in a difficult situation when he cannot open Barker’s seatbelt.

From picture above, we can see that Artie cannot open Barker’s seatbelt. He says that it is harder than his wife’s bra. He tries to open it as possible as he can, but it does not work. From here we can also see, that Artie cannot open the seatbelt, it is the simplest thing in car. It does not need any effort, it just by pressing the button and it can be open easily. After that Artie decides to take Barker’s chair and give it to the security to take care of him.

On the other hand, Diane also cannot use the Hi-tech. When everybody leaves
the home except Diane herself, she tries to do the dishes at home, but she cannot do it. It shows on the picture and dialogue below.

From the picture and dialogue above, when everybody leaves the home except Diana. She wants to do the dishes but she cannot do it, because she cannot touch the screen which can make the dishes on and works. When she touches the screen, other things that has been on instead, such as the Microwave, Garbage disposal, and vacuum cleaner. We can conclude that Diana cannot do the dishes, just because she cannot touch the screen for the dishes. That also shows us, she does not understand the Hi-technology.

3. Lack of Communication

As we know from chapter 2, communication is the most important thing in a family. Even we are far from our parents, we should ask them even at telephone, or we can meet them in the holiday, but what has happened to this family is the contrary, the family does not care to each others.
Phil : well, we could always call your parents.
Alice : (laughing) oh, you’re serious.
Phil : Yeah. They haven’t seen the kids in what, a year?
Alice : Ten months is not quite a year.
Phil : Call them.

From the picture and dialogue above, we can see that Alice does not care how many months the children have not seen their grandparents, until she says ten months is not quite a year. It means that it does not matter how many months the children have not seen their grandparents and in her opinion ten months is not a long time. Before she calls them, she says that they are not coming and they can not make it without knowing whether they are coming or not. She does not like her parents just because they disapprove of the way that Phil and herself parenting. Her father does not listen how she should parent the children, her mother is a tornado with the lipstick, from Alice’s words about her mother, it shows that her mother is an old fashioned woman. It also happens to Artie who does not want to take care of his own grandchildren.
Artie: you said yes.
Diane: Artie, we practically never see our grandchildren. We’ve never seen their new house.
Artie: They’ve never been to Fresno. I just got fired. I’m licking my wounds.
Diane: I’ll lick them. Come on! They need someone to take care of the kids.
Artie: Can’t the house do it?

From the dialogue above we can see that also Artie does not want to go to Alice and Phil’s house to take care of the children. He says that Phil, Alice and children have never been to Fresno to see them, why should they go to take care of the children. Even Diane agrees to take care of the children but she also wants to see their new house. Another careless situation that they do not care to each other by showing how they do not know that their own daughter working for the ESPN\textsuperscript{29} for five years.

\textsuperscript{29} ESPN is an abbreviation for Entertainment and Sports Programming Network.
Alice : One of my clients called. They need me to update their website immediately.
Diane : Can’t it wait until you get back?
Alice : No, it’s ESPN. There’s a crisis with the X Games.
Artie : You work for ESPN?
Alice : Yeah, I’m one of their web designers.
Honey, get in the back seat
Artie : Really? I didn’t know that. It’s interesting. ESPN. Really?

We can see from the dialogue and picture above, how they have a bad communication family. As a father, he should know where his daughter works. It means that they do not care to each other. He does not know that she has been working for the ESPN for five years.

B. The Representation of American Parenting

There are two different generation of American Parenting, they are the young generation and the old generation. The young generation as the oarents and the old generations as the grandparents. In this film, it represents how the differences way of American parenting from the both generation.

The Young Generation and The Old Generation

1. Modern and Tradition
In this film, the young generation give the children the high technology and it is modern. The young generation teach them how to use the modern things. Such as the R-life (the thing that Phil has invented) Turner the second son can use it easily. And the games that the young generation has given to them are the modern things. We can see from the pictures and dialogues below, when Turner is playing a game, Artie tries to give Turner some advice to make Turner braver in front of his friends and believe in himself.

![Picture 11](image1.jpg) ![Picture 12](image2.jpg)

(00:58:25 – 00:58:37)

Artie : Hey, you’ve been sitting here for hours. Are you playing a game? That looks like fun. Do you just press it here?

Turner : No, no, no!

Recorder : Game over!

Both : Ah...

Artie : Sorry.

From these pictures and dialogues, how Artie, the grandfather, tries to touch the screen, without knowing what the function of that button, which can make the game end in a one second by pressing that button. Turner’s expression when Artie touches it and makes the game over is really disappointed. Turner enjoys the game, but suddenly in a one second just by pressing a button it can make him lose the game, that what Artie has done.
These pictures are show that young generation let their play with the modern technology with high quality. On the other hand, the old generations have a different way to teach the children with a tradition games.

From the picture and dialogues above, we can see the old generation challenge the children to play a tradition game called kick the Can. At first, the children does not agree to play outside as Turner and Barker said, it is dirty and windy. And Harper cannot play because she should practice with the violin for her audition. But in here, the old generation try to make this tradition game an attractive game to the children, and it successful. They are excited and interested with this game until they want to play it again at night.

2. Aloneness and Togetherness
In here, the film shows us that the young generation are aloneness, they are too busy with their own activity, until they do not have time to eat together in a one table. Such as in the picture 14, They are busy with their jobs on the phone until they cannot postpone their call to eat the breakfast together in a one table. On the other hand, the old generation eat together in a one table, the togetherness make the children close to each other and they can feel how family are, such as in the picture 15.

Picture 14

(00:07:30 – 00:07:45)

Alice: come and have breakfast. You’re going to get it. You know that you always do. (on the phone) Yeah, I’m right here.

Phil: (on the phone) Right. And when would that be? That’s so soon. You got to be kidding me.

Harper: Dad! Dad. I’m the soysages, Turner gets the wheatie-O’s.

Phil: Okay. Hey. Babe, can you take over here?

Phil and Alice: I’m on a call.

From the picture and dialogues above, we can see that the young generation are too busy with their call at the breakfast. They do not eat together in a one table. It represents how the young generation are
dialyses. The parents are busy on the phone while at the breakfast time and the children eat their breakfast according to what they request.

From the picture and dialogue above, Artie and Diane try to teach the grandchildren how family eats together. They should accept what their grandmother has cooked for them by sitting together in a one table, and eating the same thing. It shows that the grandfather wants his grandchildren to respect their grandmother’s cook. Even at the first, the grandchildren disagree what Artie say. But Artie gives them some explanation how their grandmother worked very hard to make their mother’s recipe, and they should owe her
courtesy by eating it and enjoying it. Respect what she has cooked for them. The grandparents parenting the children how they should eat together by eating the same food, how they should respect what their grandmother cooked for them.

3. Inexpressive and Expressive

In this film, the young generation tend to be inexpressive, they have the way to talk with the children, they cannot say the children are wrong, even they are wrong, different from the old generation, they are expressive and they talk if the children are wrong, from that they can learn where is the wrong and the right thing.

Picture 16
(00:21:08 – 00:22:40)

Alice : And there’s another subject I’d like to discuss.
Artie : Sure, anything.
Alice : Your language.
Diane : He won’t curse. I’ll break his freaking arm.
Alice : That’s great, but that’s not what I meant. You see, there’s a way that we talk to our kids. For instance, where you would say “No”, we would say, “Consider the consequences.” Or where you would say, “Don’t!”.
We would say, “Maybe you should try this.” Or where you would say, “Quit your whining, you’re giving me a headache”
we would say. “Use your words.”
You see, that way the child feels that he has value, he has worth. His heard.
Artie : It’s a way. Let’s order.

The picture and dialogues above happens when they are having a dinner in the Healthy Tiger Resturant. They are discussing what the grandparents should do. How they should talk to their grandchildren. It shows us how the young generations would like to parenting their children with good words, without using punishment or bad words. From chapter two, proves that this American family parenting using emotional support—love which makes the children more positively about themselves. The young generations have their own way to talk with the children. Phil and Alice give an instruction to the grandparents to take care of their language. For an example, instead of saying “Don’t!” they would say “maybe you should try this”. Phil and Alice care to their children’s feeling, that would make them feel they have value and worth by how the interact with them. The grandparents respect of how they used to interact with the children.

Picture 17
(00:55:30 – 00:56:35)

Artie : Where is he?
Audience: Over there!
Artie : Barker!
Barker : Carl!
Artie : Get over here! Let’s see.
Diane : Artie?
Artie : I’m sorry! I can’t take this anymore! This whole teaching moments and protecting their self-esteem and nobody gets punished! And every game ends in a tie! All I hear is “Use your words. Use your words”. But the word they never use with there kids is “no”!

From the picture and dialogues above, when Artie, Diane and the children wants to go to the symphony. They just arrive to the symphony late. Barker says that Carl (his imagination kangaroo) want to leave. Artie does not agree that Barker and his imaginary kangaroo to leave their seats. Barker does not listen to what Artie says to him he run away to chase Carl. What Barker does, really disturbs the other audiences. It represents that Artie cannot parenting the children in the way their parents parenting them. By protecting the children’s self-esteem and nobody gets punished is not the way that Artie’s parenting them. And also by saying the words “Use your words” instead of “No!” is also not the way that Artie uses it for parenting. It shows that how the old generation have a different way of parenting the children. They cannot let the children everytime with no punishment when they are wrong. They cannot let them doing wrong things and they just say “yes” for it.

4. Healthy and Unhealthy

The young generation teaches their children to eat healthy food. They go to the restaurant that serves foods without MSG. Different with the old generation that give the children cakes, that the young generation already forbidden them. We can see from pictures and dialogues below.
When the grandparents arrive to Phil and Alice’s house, they have a family dinner in Pan Asian food. They go to a healthy restaurant which serves food without MSG, gluten, and sodium. It represents that Phil and Alice like to give their children healthy food. In contrast from the expression of Artie that he does not know what Pan Asian food is. Besides, Phil and Alice do not also give their children any food with sugar.
Diane: Now, do you have any special instructions for us? Like, what the kids like to do, what they like to eat.

Alice: Yes. Mom, great. Thank you. first of all, they don't eat any sugar.

Artie: No Carvel? That's the saddest thing i’ve ever heard in my life.

From the picture and dialogue above, it shows us that Phil dan Alice do not give their children any food with sugar, like carvel, ice cream and others. It represents us how the young generation teaches their children to eat a healthy food. They give some instructions not to let Artie and Diane give the children any food with sugar. Even at the first Artie does not agree about that, because it is the saddest thing ever if the children cannot eat sugar such as ice-cream, carvel and cake. It represent how the grandparents and the parents have different way by giving the children food. On the other day, when Artie is alone with the children in the house. When Artie makes Turner upset in the Speech Class. He tries to make him happy and gives Turner and Barker a piece of cake.

Artie: Now, this is Artie’s idea of fun. Ohh.. Look at that.

Barker: Who knew ice-cream could be a cake?
Artie: Yeah. All right, now here’s the deal. Just little pieces and you don’t tell mommy about the movie and I don’t tell her about the cake. Okay? All right? Deal? Friends again? High five! All right.

Recording: Incoming message. Urgent e-mail from “E-spen.”

Artie: ESPN.

When Alice, Diane and Harper are not at home, Artie gives Turner and Barker a piece of cake, but those children mess up the house and their faces with cake. Suddenly Alice, Diane and Harper come home, and they shocked what has happened to the house and the children.

Picture 22

(00:39:17 – 00:39:20)

Alice: Harper?
Harper: Mom! You lied to me! Yogurt is not like ice cream!
Alice: No, honey. Baby?
Harper: My favorite!
Alice: Harper! Ohh
Artie: Ohh!

From the picture and the dialogue above, when Artie gives the children a piece of cake, unexpected thing has happened. The children make everything messy from here we can see that Alice has lied to Harper, she said ice-cream is the same as yogurt, but the fact they are different Alice does not want her children eat ice-cream because it is not healthy as the yoghurt is. Yoghurt is a simple pleasure
packed with nutrients and microflora to keep you system finely tuned. The health benefits of the lactic bacteria in yoghurt are well known. These include immune system support; less constipation, stomach acidity and diarrhoea; lower body fat; protection against food poisoning bugs; stronger bones and fresher breath. A highly nutritious food, providing appetite-satisfying protein, and a clutch of vitamins and minerals, unsweetened yoghurt makes an extremely healthy snack. Do not pour off the whey liquid that separates from the milk solids – it’s full of protein. Organic milk is more nutritious than the non-organic equivalent.  

so that she said the yogurt it has the same taste with the ice-cream even it is different. From the pictures and dialogues above, it represent how Artie does not matter and let the children eat a cake and enjoy it. He does not listen to the young generation that has give him an instruction to not let them eat any kind of sugar.

5. Discipline and Care

From the picture and dialogues below, it represents how the young generation teaches their children by studying, learning and practicing. Untill Harper cannot stand with that situations.

http://www.theguardian.com/lifeandstyle/2013/sep/14/yoghurt-health-benefits-yoghurt-cake-recipe Joanna Blythman and Rosie Sykes, yoghurt, accessed on 10 March 2014 at 11:00
Alice : Would someone please explain what happened to Carl?

Diane : We were playing Kick the Can and it started to rain, so we all come indoors and I was helping Harper get dressed for her party.

Phil : A party? You’re throwing a party?

Harper : No, Dad, I’m going to a party.

Diane : For a boy who likes her.

Phil : A boy? What boy?

Alice : Tonight? The night before your audition? Are you kidding?

Diane : I told her she should go.

Alice : It’s ridiculous. It is out of the question.

Harper : Maybe it’s ridiculous for me to spend all my time practicing the violin never doing anything else and auditioning for a school tomorrow where I’m never going to do anything else the whole rest of my life. Huh?

Diane : Well, she’s using her words.

Alice : Harper. Harper! I cannot allow you to take a talent a gift which you have dedicated so much time and effort and throw it away on a whim.

Harper : I hate you and I wish anyone else was my mother!

Artie : Maybe not those words.

Alice : Thank, Mom and Dad. I couldn’t have gotten through the week without you.

From here, we can see how Alice teaches Harper to be more disciplined. She is going to the party before her audition and Alice does not agree to let Harper go. Alice thinks she should practice violin, she should focus on for her audition tomorrow, not to have fun with her friends. She should not also wear the dress for the audition and put on the make up, until Alice says, “we leave she is twelve, we come home and she is sixteen.” It represents us how the parents really discipline with the time and condition. The condition that it is the night before Harper’s audition and the time she is still twelve years old. She is still young to wear dresses to the party and put the make up on. On the other hand we can see how the old generation parenting the children.
Artie: And, listen, I’m sorry if I embarrassed you the other day.
Turner: Wh-which day was th-that?
Artie: Touche. One other thing. This Ivan kid, he’s a punk. Stand up to him. Anything he starts, you can finish. Believe in yourself. And Turner, once you believe in yourself, you can do anything. You can look trouble right in the eye and just wink at it. And everything will be okay. It’s all attitude. Now, how do you turn this on?

Turner: Th-that’s just a t-table.

From the picture and dialogue above, we can see that Artie try to give some motivation to Turner, as we know from chapter two, children who receive feedback and advice from their parents have higher self-esteem and self-confidence, and these traits help to prepare children to make better decisions. Artie tries to give Turner some advices that would make Turner not to be afraid of his friend, Ivan (that always disturb him). Here, Artie tries to get closer to his grandchild. He gives him some words that would make Turner believe in himself, to make him braver to face his friend, Ivan, who likes to disturb him at school.

CHAPTER IV
CONCLUSIONS AND SUGGESTIONS

A. Conclusions

*Parental Guidance* is such an example of film using parenting of American family, Phil and Alice as the parents, Artie Decker and Diane as the grandparents. This film shows us how the parents and the grandparents have their own different concepts of parenting that put them in a problem, conflict and different perspective. Alice does not believe in her parents’ parenting concept even for only a week. She cannot leave her children with her parents because she does not trust them at all. Their different concepts of parenting lead them to ruin which describes that the young generations and the old generations has their different way of parenting.

*Parental Guidance* represents the American family, which the young generations cannot let the old generation parenting the children with their own way. The main point in this film represents that American parenting of the young generations and the old generations are different. There are problems, conflicts, and different perspective between parents, grandparents, children almost occurred. But with love, adaptation process, togetherness and understanding, this American family becomes a strong family.

The representation in this film are dual earner family, Hi-techonology family, and Lack of communication family. The representation of American
parenting in this film are modern and tradition, dialyses and togetherness, cultured and appreciative, healthy and unhealthy, Discipline and care.

In the end, after the writer analyzes *Parental Guidance* film, the writer can take the conclusion about how *Parental Guidance* film represents American family with different way of parenting which prefer the old generation’s parenting who succeed make the children more excited, more brave, and more realistic. They tends to the old generation parenting.

**B. Suggestions**

For the other researchers who are interesting in analyzing a film, they should look, hear, and understand carefully about the film itself. It is different from novel or short story, film needs more concentration to understand it. 

The writer also hopes this thesis can become one of the references. Last, the writer hopes this thesis will be useful for the writer herself and other readers for the future improvement of studying literature. In English Letters Department, Adab and Humanities Faculty of State Islamic University Syarif Hidayatullah Jakarta.
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APPENDIX

A. Cover of the film

*Parental Guidance* is a film that directed by Andy Fickman, released in 2012 and produced by Billy Crystal.