



Maleficent (2014) and Attachment Theory: Understanding the Emotional Depths of Villainy

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ABSTRAK

Tujuan penelitian ini adalah menganalisis tema balas dendam dan cinta pada karakter utama film Maleficent dengan menggunakan teori attachment. Pendekatan yang digunakan adalah kualitatif, dengan teori attachment sebagai landasan utama. Teori attachment, yang diperkenalkan oleh Bowlby dan Ainsworth, menjelaskan bagaimana ikatan emosional terbentuk antara individu. Data diperoleh melalui pengamatan film dan analisis dialog yang relevan. Analisis ini mengkaji balas dendam dan cinta dalam Maleficent menggunakan teori keterikatan. Metode kualitatif menganalisis dialog kunci untuk mengeksplorasi ikatan emosional. Hasilnya menyimpulkan bahwa film ini membawa pesan tentang kekuatan cinta dan balas dendam yang dapat melampaui perbedaan.

ABSTRACT

The purposes of the analysis are to discuss the revenge and love of the main character in Maleficent movie through attachment theory. The method used for this analysis is qualitative method. The theory for this analysis is used from attachment theory, initially introduced by John Bowlby and Mary Ainsworth, serves as a widely accepted explanation for the development of affectional bonds between individuals (Bowlby, 1983). The data for this analysis are taking by watching the movie and analysis the dialogue from the movie that related. This analysis examines revenge and love in Maleficent using attachment theory. A qualitative method analyzes key dialogues to explore emotional bonds. This result concludes the film with a message about the power of love, revenge that

can transcend differences.

1. INTRODUCTION

Sumardjo and Saini in Sholihah (2021) states that literature is a human personal expression in the form of experiences, thoughts, feelings, ideas, enthusiasm, and belief in a form of concrete images that evoke enchantment with language tools. Literature refers to both written and spoken works, stemming from the Latin word meaning "writing formed with letters." It encompasses artistic and intellectual works such as poetry, drama, fiction, and non-fiction, which serve as mediums to express ideas, emotions, and cultural values. At its core, literature connects readers with the vast spectrum of human experiences while also reflecting societal norms, personal struggles, and universal truths. Through its rich language, well-developed characters, and intricate plots, literature offers multiple layers of meaning, allowing readers to uncover new perspectives and insights with each encounter. Shauna et al. (2022) further emphasizes that literature is a medium through which authors communicate their ideas, thoughts, and experiences, fostering a connection between the writer and the reader across time and space.

According Ainsworth and Wittig in Robledo et al., (2022) attachment theory is probably the prime contemporary scholarly construct in terms of which human bonding is conceptualized and investigated, with a vast body of literature largely- but not exclusively -focusing on the different attachment styles described and their consequences and application in human life across the lifespan. By Sonkar (2021) attachment can be defined as a great relationship, long enduring and emotional tie between two people. Here; in child development, researchers can describe attachment as a relationship between a child and their caregiver. Attachment is important for the child's safety, successful interactions with peers, stress regulation, adaptability, and it also provides a Secure Base Thompson et al. (2022) attachment theory acknowledges a gap in understanding how early experiences with caregivers become internalized and influence future relationships. This is often referred to as a "black box." While researchers agree with attachment theory that the need for attachment is a fundamental human trait present from birth, researchers propose an additional layer of explanation. Within this biological drive to form attachments, researchers argue that individual differences in trusting parental support arise, at least partially, through the mechanisms of classical and operant conditioning described by learning theory. Movies, as defined by

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Annisa in Mizan et al. (2023) films are usually shown to people who are not involved in the story, such as moviegoers. Much like literature, movies often explore deep human emotions and experiences, offering audiences a way to reflect on and engage with different aspects of life. Characters, as noted by Aquino in Indah Pratiwi et al., (2022) characterization is a way of analyzing the main character's development and personality that deals with the method of constructing a fiction image of a person complete with the person's characteristics, features, and motivation. Disney's "Maleficent" is a striking example of visual storytelling that delves into the psychological depths of its characters. The film explores complex themes of revenge, love, and redemption, inviting viewers to reflect on real-world emotions such as betrayal, pain, and the struggle to trust again after being hurt. Through its intricate portrayal of human motivations, the film challenges traditional notions of good and evil, showing how choices are shaped by deep emotional experiences. This essay will examine the moral themes of "Maleficent," focusing on how the film reflects the complexities of human nature and the consequences of our actions.

A study on the film Maleficent by Arni (2021) titled "An Analysis of the Humanity Value on Maleficent Movie and Its Contribution to the Students' Character Building," examines how the human values portrayed in the movie can aid in developing students' character. The research identifies eight key humanity values embedded in the narrative, they are truth, trust, helping, admit mistakes, affection, peace, pride, policy. Research on attachment theory was conducted by Suharyanti et al. (2021) under the title "Attachment Theory: How a Marvelous Mother Guided an Adopted Child." This study uses attachment theory to analyze the bond between a mother and child as portrayed in the film The Blind Side. Erica & Hendrawan (2024) Kevin's Developmental Psychopathology Portrayal in The Movie "We Need to Talk About Kevin". The film explores Eva's struggles with her son Kevin, whose hostility grows into violence, ending in a tragic massacre. Using a non-linear narrative, it examines how family dynamics, parenting, and Kevin's development contribute to his troubling behavior. The findings highlight the efforts made by Leigh Anne Tuohy to support Michael Oher, such as adopting him into her family and guiding him toward becoming an American football player. Through her emotional and practical support, Leigh Anne helps Oher discover his potential, find his identity, and achieve happiness as an individual. The research emphasizes that the power of a mother's love can have a transformative impact, as seen in Oher's journey to becoming a successful football player. This study illustrates how attachment theory can be applied to explore themes of emotional connection, guidance, and personal growth.

This research aims to examine the portrayal of villains in the film Maleficent. Over time, the traditional depiction of villains as one-dimensional and inherently evil has become less acceptable to society. Maleficent provides a nuanced exploration of a villain's backstory, highlighting the importance of analyzing such films to understand shifts in storytelling and their cultural significance. Additionally, the growing focus on mental health in films underscores the relevance of attachment theory in character development. This approach offers valuable insights into the emotional and psychological factors that shape behavior, fostering empathy and a deeper understanding of complex characters. This research is especially relevant for educators and therapists who use media to address topics like trauma, resilience, and emotional regulation with students or clients. By examining how attachment theory shapes characters like Maleficent, this study also explores broader media trends that influence societal views on morality, forgiveness, and redemption.

Based on Using Hazan and Shaver's in Abadi (2023) framework of attachment styles—secure, anxious-ambivalent, and avoidant— researchers can analyze Maleficent's emotional journey and villainy. The events and relationships in the movie reflect her evolving attachment style, influenced by betrayal and eventual healing. Although attachment theory has been extensively utilized in psychology, its application to the analysis of cinematic villains—particularly iconic characters like Maleficent—remains relatively underexplored. Maleficent reimagines its titular character, transforming her from a traditional symbol of evil into a deeply emotional, traumatized, and relatable figure. By examining this transformation through the lens of attachment theory, this research aims to investigate how early relationships and trauma influence identity and behavior. By combining film studies, psychology, and literary analysis, this study offers a comprehensive exploration of how audiences respond to complex characters like Maleficent. In a time when society places increasing importance on empathy and understanding diverse experiences, this research adds to the ongoing discourse on representation and the complexity of storytelling. Additionally, it highlights how attachment wounds—such as betrayal or abandonment—can drive both destructive and redemptive traits, providing valuable insights into the crafting of future narratives.

2. METHODS

According to Bryman in McMullin (2023) qualitative research questions are more interested in understanding and interpreting the socially constructed world around us. This means that data are collected

through documents, observation and interviews, and the latter are often recorded in order to analyze these as documents. Conduct a comprehensive review of existing literature related to revenge, love, and character development in film narratives. Explore scholarly articles, books, and critical analyses that discuss similar themes in other movies or literary works.

In grounded theory, a prominent qualitative research methodology introduced by [Glaser and Strauss in Flandez-paycana \(2024\)](#) the emphasis lies in generating theory that emerges organically from the data itself. Unlike deductive approaches, where hypotheses are formed based on existing theories and then tested, grounded theory adopts an inductive process. Researchers immerse themselves in the data, iteratively analyzing and coding it to identify patterns, categories, and themes that lead to the development of a new theory.

Film Analysis: Multiple viewings of "Maleficent" (2014) are essential to uncover the layered complexities within the narrative structure and character development. The initial viewing should focus on cataloging scenes that prominently feature themes of revenge and love, noting specific timestamps and context for future reference. During subsequent viewings, pay particular attention to the subtle nuances in character interactions, such as changes in tone of voice, body language, and facial expressions that reveal deeper emotional states. Visual elements like lighting, color schemes, and camera angles provide important cues about power dynamics and emotional atmosphere, particularly in scenes transitioning between light and dark themes. The film's musical score should also be analyzed for its role in emphasizing emotional beats and character transformations, especially during pivotal moments of revenge or love.

Character Profiling

By [Nurgiyantoro in Dion et al. \(2023\)](#) the notion of character can be interpreted as a person or group of people who are displayed in a narrative work where readers can see a tendency that is expressed either through words or actions. The character analysis begins with creating detailed psychological profiles for Maleficent, Aurora, and King Stefan, focusing on their core motivations and emotional triggers. Each character's background story needs to be examined to understand how past experiences shape their present actions and decisions. The evolution of relationships between characters should be tracked chronologically, noting significant shifts in dynamics and emotional connections. Special attention should be paid to how revenge and love influence each character's decision-making processes and behavioral patterns throughout the narrative. The internal conflicts of each character, particularly Maleficent's struggle between vengeance and maternal love, provide crucial insights into their psychological development.

Content Analysis

Specific scenes featuring revenge or love should be analyzed systematically, documenting dialogue, actions, and symbolic elements that contribute to these themes. Each scene should be categorized based on its primary emotional focus (revenge or love) and its impact on character development and plot progression. The visual symbolism, such as Maleficent's wings, the throne, and the magical barrier, needs to be interpreted within the context of power, loss, and redemption. Dialogue analysis should focus on both explicit statements and subtle subtext that reveal characters' emotional states and motivations. The interconnection between revenge and love scenes should be examined to understand how these opposing forces drive the narrative forward.

Data Synthesis and Interpretation

The analysis should be synthesized through the lens of attachment theory, examining how early bonds and betrayals influence later relationships and emotional development. The broader societal implications of the film's themes need to be considered, particularly regarding concepts of family, forgiveness, and the cycle of violence. Modern viewers' potential connections to these themes should be evaluated, considering how personal experiences might influence interpretation of the narrative. The transformation of revenge into love presents a powerful commentary on human nature and the possibility of emotional healing. The final interpretation should integrate psychological theory with narrative analysis to provide a comprehensive understanding of the film's message about love's triumph over revenge.

3. RESULT AND DISCUSSION

Results

Table 1. Analysis of Maleficent Movie

Scene	Quantity
Revenge	5
Love	4

The analysis of Maleficent movie (2014) reveals an intriguing balance between revenge and love

scenes, with revenge slightly predominating in a 5:4 ratio but ultimately being overcome by love's transformative power. Revenge scenes, including the Wings Theft, Curse Statement, Maleficent look at Aurora Hateful, King Steffan Attack Maleficent Area, and Final Battle, showcase Maleficent's journey through trauma and vengeance, characterized by dark themes and powerful displays of magical retribution. In contrast, the four love scenes - Young Love, Growing Bond with Aurora, and True Love's Kiss - demonstrate the gradual healing of Maleficent's character through developing maternal bonds and rediscovering her capacity for affection, and Aurora Coronation. While revenge scenes dominate the first half of the film, the love scenes carry greater emotional weight in the latter half, illustrating how love's quality transcends revenge's quantity. This careful balance reflects the complexity of human emotion and healing, suggesting that while vengeful impulses might initially outnumber loving ones, the transformative power of love ultimately proves stronger in enabling personal redemption and growth.

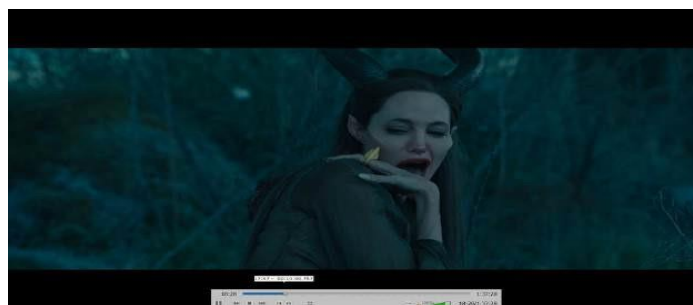
According to [Arni \(2021\)](#) researchers discovered that Maleficent's emotional transformation stemmed from her personal experiences, particularly the traumatic betrayal by King Stefan. Attachment theory suggests that early-life wounds significantly hinder Maleficent's ability to form secure attachments as an adult, which can lead to the development of maladaptive behaviors, such as anger, a desire for revenge, and emotional isolation. Based on [Suharyanti et al. \(2021\)](#) Maleficent's life journey illustrates how emotional wounds affect her sense of attachment. Specifically, her attachment to Stefan was fractured due to the betrayal he caused, which in turn shapes her identity and leads her down a path of criminal behavior as she struggles with abandonment and distrust. Studies show that the emotional turmoil Maleficent experiences is reflected in her actions and relationships throughout the film. The findings of this research highlight how attachment theory provides a more empathetic view of Maleficent's character. Instead of portraying her as purely evil, this theory underscores her emotional vulnerability and deep human need for connection. This perspective challenges the conventional belief that criminals are inherently evil, offering a more nuanced understanding of their motivations and actions, shaped by past trauma.

Discussion

Attachment theory is probably the prime contemporary scholarly construct in terms of which human bonding is conceptualized and investigated, with a vast body of literature largely – but not exclusively – focusing on the different attachment styles described by Ainsworth and Wittig in [Robledo et al. \(2022\)](#) and their consequences and application in human life across the lifespan. Similarly, the original focus on attachment to parental figures has been expanded to encompass romantic partners, parents, siblings, children and friends, adult relationships and the ways in which attachment influences parenting styles.

By previous study in [Cornelial and Limanta \(2022\)](#) researchers analysis reveals that Maleficent's descent into evil occurs when there is an imbalance among her id, ego, and superego. Conversely, she is able to return to her good nature when these elements of her psyche are in harmony. Additionally, throughout her journey of personality transformation, Maleficent encounters reality anxiety, neurotic anxiety, and moral anxiety. To cope with these anxieties, she employs defense mechanisms, including aggression, intellectualization, and apathy. In this part researchers will show you about revenge and love scene in the Maleficent (2014) that researchers have analysed in previous.

a. Wingss Theft Scene



King Steffan: “Maleficent? (make sure Maleficent has slept, then cut Maleficent wings).

Maleficent: “ARRRGHHH” (Wailing her wings after she wake up).

According to [\(Suharyanti et al., 2021\)](#) the traumatic scene of Stefan cutting off Maleficent's wings represents a profound betrayal that fundamentally disrupts her secure attachment style, much like how early childhood trauma can shatter one's basic sense of trust and safety. The physical loss of her wings symbolizes not just a violation of bodily autonomy, but also the severing of a secure emotional bond, leading Maleficent to develop an avoidant attachment pattern as a protective

mechanism against future emotional pain. Her transformation from a trusting, open-hearted fairy to someone guarded and vengeful illustrates how severe attachment injuries can fundamentally alter a person's ability to form and maintain close relationships. The deep sense of betrayal by someone she trusted intimately mirrors the impact of attachment trauma in human relationships, where a significant breach of trust by a primary attachment figure can lead to long-lasting emotional and behavioral changes. This pivotal moment sets the stage for Maleficent's journey of healing through her unexpected bond with Aurora, suggesting that while early attachment wounds can be devastating, they aren't necessarily permanent, and new secure attachments can facilitate emotional recovery.

b. Curse Statement Scene at Aurora Christening



Maleficent: “Listen well, all of you. Listen well, all of you. The princess shall indeed grow in grace and beauty, beloved by all who meet her. That's a lovely gift.

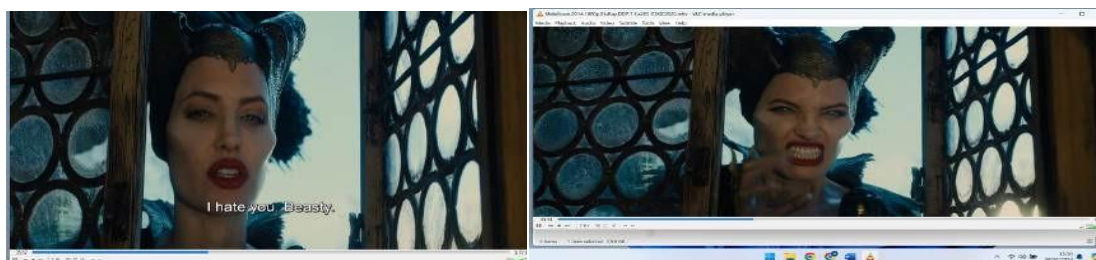
King Stefan: “Don't do this.”

Maleficent: “But before the sun sets on her 16th birthday, she will prick her finger on the spindle of a spinning wheel and fall into a sleep like death, a sleep from which”.

King Stefan: “I beg you”.

By (Arni, 2021) in previous search a dramatic entrance that disrupts the peaceful blessing ceremony, Maleficent storms into King Stefan's castle, interrupting the three good fairies as they bestow their gifts upon baby Aurora. With a display of magnificent yet terrifying power, Maleficent mockingly presents her own "gift," declaring that while Aurora will grow up beloved by all, she will prick her finger on a spinning wheel's spindle on her sixteenth birthday and fall into a death-like sleep. When Stefan begs for mercy, Maleficent adds a cruel twist to her curse - only true love's kiss can break it, though she delivers these words with bitter irony, having learned through Stefan's betrayal that true love doesn't exist. The curse reaches its climax as Maleficent proclaims "This curse will last till the end of time, no power on Earth can change it," demonstrating her magical supremacy over the good fairies' powers. Before vanishing in a swirl of green magic, Maleficent leaves the gathered crowd in stunned silence, transforming what should have been a joyous celebration into a moment that sets in motion both her path to redemption and Aurora's destiny.

c. Maleficent Look at Aurora Hateful Scene



Maleficent: “I hate you. Beasty” (looking at Baby Aurora).

Baby Aurora: (Smiling to her).

By Suharyanti et al. (2021) and Arni (2021) in previous study and attachment theory lense the compelling scene from the film, Maleficent's first encounter with Aurora reveals the depth of her

hatred, stemming from King Stefan's betrayal. As she looks upon the innocent child, her expression is filled with contempt and bitterness, viewing Aurora not as a person but merely as an instrument for her revenge. The stark contrast between Maleficent's darkness and Aurora's pure innocence creates a powerful visual narrative, emphasizing the emotional chasm between them. This moment serves as a crucial starting point in their relationship, establishing Maleficent's initial antagonism before her gradual transformation throughout the story. This scene effectively sets up one of the story's central conflicts while hinting at the complex character development to come.

d. King Stefan Attack Maleficent Area



Soldiers: "It's Her!"

In the first attack scene, Stefan and his men storm the peaceful Moors at night, armed with iron weapons and shields that can harm fairies. They attempt to ambush Maleficent, who swoops down from the sky to defend her forest home. Despite being outnumbered, she fights back fiercely using her powerful magic and wings, throwing soldiers aside and protecting the magical creatures of the Moors. Her strength and determination show why she is the forest's feared protector. The soldiers' iron weapons burn when they touch her, but Maleficent's powers prove too strong for this first invasion attempt, forcing Stefan and his men to retreat. This battle marks the beginning of the war between the human kingdom and the Moors, showing how Stefan's hatred and ambition start to destroy the peace between the two realms. So, by attachment theory by [Arni \(2021\)](#) researchers development again this scene showed that Maleficent revenge because Stefan stole her wings.

e. Final Battle Scene



Maleficent: "It's over" (Gripping King Steffan's neck) King Stefan attacks then pulls Maleficent and pushes her.

Maleficent: "Ahh".

Even though in the last King Steffan falls from the castle and dead.

[Suharyanti et al., \(2021\)](#) by this attachment theory previous study. In the climax final battle, King Stefan and Maleficent clash in his dark castle. Maleficent discovers her stolen wings locked away in a glass case, still alive and beating after all these years. While fighting Stefan, she manages to break the case holding her precious wings. In a powerful moment, her wings sense their true owner and fly back to her, reattaching themselves to restore her full power. The reunion with her wings transforms Maleficent back to her true, magnificent form. With her strength fully returned, she soars through the castle while Stefan desperately tries to defeat her. Their battle becomes more intense as they crash through windows and battle in the air, with Stefan refusing to give up his hatred. In the end, Maleficent's restored power proves too strong for Stefan, whose obsession with destroying her leads to his own downfall. This scene represents not just Maleficent regaining her physical power,

but also reclaiming the part of herself that Stefan stole years ago, bringing her story full circle as she finally heals from his betrayal.

f. Young Love Scene



Narrator: "He told it was true love's kiss".

In *Maleficent* (2014), the young love between Maleficent and Stefan is portrayed as a pure and innocent bond, rooted in a friendship that blooms into affection. They meet as children when Stefan, a human peasant, ventures into the Moors, Maleficent's magical forest realm. Though Maleficent is initially cautious, Stefan's kindness and admiration for her world eventually break down her walls. As they grow older, their bond deepens, and they share a genuine, tender romance.

Their love is symbolized by Stefan's gift to Maleficent a simple gesture that holds deep meaning, representing his promise of devotion. However, Stefan's ambition and desire for power eventually overshadow his love, leading him to betray her trust in a devastating way. This betrayal transforms Maleficent's love into anger and ultimately lays the foundation for her curse on his daughter, Aurora. The contrast between their youthful love and Stefan's eventual treachery underscores the themes of innocence lost and the corruption of power.

g. Maleficent Growing Bond with Aurora Scene



Aurora: "You're my fairy godmother".

Maleficent: "What?".

[Bowlby \(1983\)](#) by this attachment theory previous study. In *Maleficent* (2014), the bond between Maleficent and Princess Aurora grows gradually, filled with unexpected warmth and affection. Initially, Maleficent is focused on her curse, cast in revenge against King Stefan, aiming to make Aurora a pawn in her plan. She watches over the young princess from a distance, at first just ensuring her curse will play out as intended. However, Aurora's innocence, joy, and unwavering kindness slowly melt Maleficent's heart.

As Aurora grows, she begins to see Maleficent as a "fairy godmother," unaware of Maleficent's original dark intentions. Their connection deepens through small moments: Maleficent protects her from danger in the forest, they share laughter, and Aurora is fascinated by the beauty of the Moors. Maleficent, once hardened by betrayal, finds herself caring deeply for Aurora, trying to protect her from the curse she herself cast.

h. True Love's Kiss Scene



Maleficent: “Sweet Aurora, you stole what was left of my heart. And now I have lost you forever”.

Aurora: “Hello godmother”.

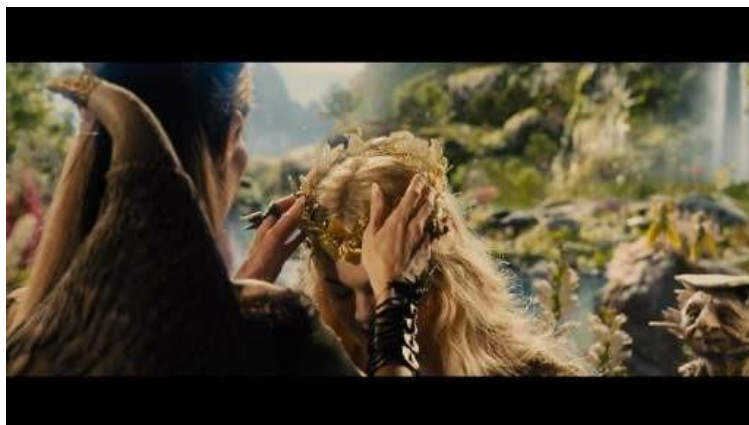
Maleficent: “Hello beasty”.

In *Maleficent* (2014), after Princess Aurora falls into the deep, cursed sleep induced by Maleficent’s spell, Maleficent is devastated. She had tried to lift the curse but was unable to, as she had made it unbreakable by design. Desperate, Maleficent brings Prince Phillip to Aurora’s bedside, hoping that his kiss will awaken her, fulfilling the requirement of “true love’s kiss.”

However, Phillip’s kiss does not work, and Aurora remains asleep. Heartbroken, Maleficent confesses her regret over the curse, admitting her love for Aurora and promising to protect her forever. She leans down to give Aurora a gentle, sorrowful kiss on her forehead. Unexpectedly, this act of genuine love awakens Aurora from her slumber, breaking the curse.

This scene redefines the traditional fairy-tale notion of “true love” as not necessarily romantic, but rooted in deep, selfless care and connection. Maleficent’s love for Aurora is pure and unconditional, born out of their shared bond and the redemption she finds through protecting her. This act of true love not only frees Aurora but also brings healing and closure to Maleficent’s own journey, showing that love, in its truest form, can transcend bitterness and pain.

i. Aurora Coronation Scene



Maleficent: “Our kingdoms have been unified. You have your queen.” (All cheering).

In *Maleficent* (2014), the scene of Aurora’s coronation is a beautiful and hopeful moment, symbolizing the unity between two worlds that were once divided: the human kingdom and the magical Moors. After awakening from the curse that nearly destroyed her, Aurora fully understands the love and sacrifice that Maleficent, who has become a protector and mother figure to her, has shown. Their deep bond leads Aurora to embrace her role in bringing these two worlds together. During the coronation ceremony, Aurora wears a simple crown, reflecting her humility and genuine heart. Magical creatures from the Moors gather to witness this historic event, alongside humans, signifying that the barriers between them have fallen. Beside Aurora, Maleficent stands proudly, knowing that Aurora will lead with justice, compassion, and love that has grown within her throughout her journey. Aurora’s coronation represents not only her ascension as queen but also as a symbol of unity and harmony between humans and magical beings. Through Aurora, Maleficent finds forgiveness and hope, while the kingdom sees a new path toward a more peaceful future. This scene concludes the film with a message about the power of love, friendship, and peace that can transcend differences.

4. CONCLUSION

The central arc of *Maleficent* explores the complex interplay between revenge and love through an attachment theory lens. At the film's start, Maleficent suffers a profound betrayal by her trusted friend and romantic partner, King Stefan. This devastating breach of trust leaves deep emotional scars, causing Maleficent to erect powerful walls of protection around her heart. Seeking vengeance, Maleficent curses the innocent infant Aurora, an act driven by her lingering resentment. However, as she secretly watches over Aurora, something shifts within Maleficent, as seeing the child's pure, loving nature begins to chip away at the hardened exterior she had built up.

Maleficent's gradual transformation from ruthless avenger to Aurora's protective "fairy godmother" demonstrates the restorative potential of forming new, healthy attachments. By allowing herself to open up and care for Aurora, Maleficent gradually heals the broken bonds from her past. The final battle with Stefan, in which she reclaims her stolen wings, symbolizes Maleficent regaining her full emotional and spiritual wholeness. The film suggests that while betrayal may lead down a dark path of vengeance, the restoration of loving connections can break that cycle. Maleficent's journey highlights how unresolved attachment issues drive destructive behavior, but also how the heart's capacity for love can exceed even the deepest wounds.

The conclusion drawn from this research is that Maleficent's character provides a nuanced portrayal of evil, which is more comprehensively understood through the lens of attachment theory. It highlights how past experiences of attachment and trauma influence her emotional responses and actions, while also suggesting the potential for healing and redemption through the formation of new, secure attachments. This research enhances our understanding of how attachment theory can be applied to villains, offering valuable insights into the emotional depth and psychological complexity of characters like Maleficent.

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