

The Problem-Solving Process Utilizing Drifting in Akina in the Anime Series Initial-D

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Abstract. *This research explores the process of adolescent problem resolution in Japan, specifically examining how drifting is employed as a means of conflict resolution among individuals within the context of the anime series titled "Initial D." The primary objective of this study is to gain insights into the process of problem resolution among adolescents through the utilization of drifting techniques. Adopting a qualitative research design with a thematic analysis approach, the researcher analyzes data extracted from episodes 1 to 5 of the anime "Initial D." The data collection entails transcribing dialogues that depict adolescents engaging in drifting races in Akina, competing against the tofu delivery driver, Takumi, a young man honing his skills to become the fastest racer in Akina, Japan. The findings from the investigation indicate that drifting emerges as a viable option for individual problem-solving among adolescents. This research also sheds light on the process of problem resolution adopted by both parties when seeking to resolve their conflicts through drifting. In conclusion, drifting serves as a medium for adolescent problem resolution in "Initial D," driven by the aspiration to surpass the fastest racer in Akina.*

Keywords: AE86, Hachi-Roku, Drifting, Takahashi, Takumi Fujiwara

INTRODUCTION

Drifting" is a technique employed in one of the high-powered motorized sports, necessitating the drifter to navigate their vehicle in a sideways position through turns and bends. The term "drift" originates from the English language, denoting a state of gliding or sliding, which in the context of this sport could be interpreted as controlled skidding. Drifting itself was first introduced in Japan in 1970 by Kunimitsu Takahashi, who was born in Tokyo, Japan on January 29, 1940.

Kunimitsu Takahashi, also known as "Kuni-san," was a professional racer who initiated his career as a motorcycle racer in 1958. He became the first Japanese racer to secure the title of World Grand Prix champion, winning a total of four World Grand Prix races throughout his career. Transitioning to four-wheel racing in 1965, he joined Nissan's racing team in 1970 and achieved an impressive string of 50 consecutive victories.

A limited number of individuals are aware that some drifters engage in illegal drifting activities, particularly on downhill mountain roads. For adolescents facing challenges during their developmental years, drifting can sometimes serve as an outlet for resolving issues and reaching mutual agreements, as portrayed in the anime "Initial-D."

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In the anime "Initial-D," a group of teenagers is depicted engaging in one-on-one drift duels on mountain slopes, accompanied by a tofu delivery driver named Takumi Fujiwara. Takumi Fujiwara, a responsible young man who carves his own path, emerges as the fastest racer in the Kanto region of Japan. Takumi drives an AE86 (Hachi Roku), an older model car that is consistently underestimated by his opponents. Nonetheless, he continues to excel due to his skill and diligent efforts.

Based on the aforementioned analysis, it can be understood that drifting serves as an option for resolving issues or individual challenges within the adolescent demographic. However, what is the underlying process? In other words, how do conflicting parties (adolescents) navigate the resolution of their problems through drifting? The present author raises this theme as a research topic, employing the context of the anime series "Initial-D." This series elucidates how problems are addressed and resolved among Japanese adolescents by means of drifting down Mount Akina, primarily during the nighttime.

LITERATURE REVIEW

In this research, the researcher employed the PRISMA (Preferred Reporting Items for Systematic Reviews and Analytics) methodology to determine the appropriate data sources for the study. The researcher utilized the software Publish or Perish for data retrieval, using keywords such as "Japanese car drifting," "drift car young Japan," and "balapan drift di Jepang" (drift racing in Japan). A total of 100 pieces of literature were initially collected. In the subsequent stage, the researcher eliminated 92 sources that deviated from the research theme, resulting in 6 downloadable articles.

Moving forward, only 3 pieces of literature remained pertinent to the research theme. The researcher conducted an analysis and identified one piece titled "Penggambaran Proses Penemuan Identitas Diri dari Tokoh Utama Anime Initial D" (Depiction of the Self-Discovery Process of the Main Character in the Anime Initial D). This piece of literature explores the depiction of the self-discovery process among adolescents through the character Takumi Fujiwara, who is the main protagonist of the anime series Initial D. The anime is an adaptation created by Noboru Mitsusawa based on the drama-genre manga authored by Shuichi Shigeno.

The manga "Initial D" draws inspiration from the early popularity of drifting in Japan, notably catalyzed by Keiichi Tsuchiya in 1987. Therefore, if the anime incorporates elements of Keiichi Tsuchiya's life story, such similarities do indeed exist, though adapted to suit production needs. The researcher's chosen theme is based on the literature entitled "Penggambaran Proses Penemuan Identitas Diri dari Tokoh Utama Anime Initial D."

RESEARCH METHOD(S)

The researcher employed a qualitative methodology with a thematic analysis approach. Thematic analysis is a method used to analyze data with the objective of identifying patterns and themes within the collected data. In this context, the researcher conducted an analysis of data derived from the anime titled "Initial-D." This approach allows for the identification and exploration of themes present in the dataset as assembled by the researcher.

FINDINGS AND DISCUSSION

Identification is the process of recognizing, categorizing, or placing an object or individual within a specific class based on certain characteristics. According to JP Chaplin, as translated by Kartini Kartono and cited by Uttoro (2008: 8), identification involves the recognition and classification of an object or individual. Poerwadarminto (1976: 369) defines identification as the determination or establishment of the identity of a person or object.

In the case at hand, Takahashi aims to secure an undefeated reputation by challenging Takumi, also known as Hachi-Roku, on Akina in the anime "Initial-D." Takahashi is part of a sibling duo, including Ryosuke Takahashi and Keisuke Takahashi, who are enthusiastic drifters in the Akagi region. Renowned for their speed, they have outpaced numerous top racers within their domain. In this scenario, Takahashi's fame precedes him among the Akina locals, including the leader of the Speed Stars racing group, Iketani. Iketani imparts information to Itsuki about the Takahashi siblings, describing them as the fastest drift racers in Akagi. This statement is relayed by Iketani during a dialogue as follows:

“見せてもらうぜ 赤木 最速と言われる 高橋兄弟の走りを”

‘Misete morau ze Akagi saisoku to iwa reru Takahashi kyōdai no hashiri o’

“Let me explain, the Takahashi brothers, people call them the fastest in Akagi”

The quoted passage reinforces the notion that the Takahashi siblings are indeed renowned for being the fastest drivers in the vehicles they pilot.

The researcher identifies the genesis of the conflict in the anime "Initial-D" as originating when the Takahashi siblings visit Akina with the aim of conquering the fastest racers in the area. Iketani asserts his claim as the top racer within the Speed Stars group, a local racing faction in Akina. The Red Suns concur and designate Iketani as their representative against him.

As Keisuke Takahashi practices on the slopes of Mount Akina, he encounters an AE86, also known as Hachi-Roku. Keisuke Takahashi struggles against a drifter navigating the slopes of Mount Akina, piloting the AE86 driven by Takumi Fujiwara, or Hachi-Roku. Indirectly, Takahashi expresses his desire to challenge Hachi-Roku on Saturday night at 10 PM. The following quote provides evidence of Keisuke Takahashi's intention to face off against Takumi Fujiwara or Hachi-Roku.

”俺の敵はお前だけだ 出てこい86”

‘Ore no teki wa omae dakeda detekoi 86’

“You are my opponent show yourself eight six”

The quoted passage indicates that Keisuke is awaiting and challenging the AE86 (Hachi-Roku) to face him.

The researcher analyzes the process leading to the resolution of the conflict during the match between Keisuke Takahashi and Takumi Fujiwara, also known as Hachi-Roku. The leader of the Speed Stars group, Iketani, suffers an accident during practice in his pursuit of victory on Saturday night at 10 PM. Eventually, Iketani hands over the responsibility to Takumi Fujiwara upon realizing that Keisuke Takahashi had been defeated by Takumi previously while Keisuke was practicing drifting on the slopes of Mount Akina. The following quote underscores Iketani's faith in Takumi or Hachi-Roku.

“ハチロク は ハチロクでも ただなハチロクじゃないたかはしけいすけ
はで自分行ったんだ,見た目はただの パンダツルエのだけど中身はカリ
カリのモンスターマシーンだって”

*‘Hachiroku wa hachiroku demo tadana hachirokuji
~yanaitakahashikeisukehade jibun itta nda, mitame wa tada no pandatsurue
nodakedo nakami wa karikari no monsutādashīn datte’*

“Eight Six is Eight Six but not an ordinary Eight Six, Keisuke Takahashi himself said that from the outside it looks like an ordinary Trueno Panda, inside there is a monster machine.”

Takumi's prowess as a skilled racer on Mount Akina becomes evident. As the predetermined moment arrives, the match between Takumi and Keisuke Takahashi unfolds. Takahashi accelerates his Mazda RX7 FD, setting it apart from Takumi Fujiwara's Toyota AE-86, also known as Hachi-Roku. Takumi, in contrast, maintains a steady pace in his ordinary AE-86. Initially, Takumi falls behind Keisuke Takahashi during the race, a development that brings satisfaction to Keisuke as he notices Takumi trailing behind.

In a composed manner, Takumi navigates the track's sharp bends on Mount Akina, knowing the intricacies of the course well. At an opportune juncture, Takumi makes his move by overtaking Keisuke Takahashi from the inner side of his car, capitalizing on Keisuke's struggles with drifting. The variable that determines the victory has been determined before the match begins by the Red Suns group, namely calculating the fastest time that crosses the finish line first, the following quote states that calculating the fastest time.

“スタートとゴール地点で無線を2台使ってカウントするんだ

Sutāto to gōru chiten de musen o 2-dai tsukatte kaunto suru nda

“Counting using two radios at the start and end points”

It can be inferred that the presence of two active radios from the start line and the finish line, if the finish line has been crossed by one of the participants, is the winner in this drift race on Mount Akina. Takumi Fujiwara, who won the event, is described by Ryosuke Takahashi as follows.

“俺たちは完全な また 潔く認めよう”

“Oretachi wa kanzen'na mata isagiyoku mitomeyou”

“this is a fair defeat. Let us accept gracefully-this is a fair defeat.

Let's accept it gracefully”

The quotation explains that Takumi won the match against Keisuke Takahashi by drifting on the slopes of Mount Akina, the challenger conceded defeat and the matter was resolved.

This section includes the data collection procedure(s), the duration and location of the research, and the findings of data analysis (which can be supported by illustrations in the form of tables or pictures, **not** raw data, and **not** a printscreen of analysis results), a review of the relationship between the results and the basic concepts, and/or the results of hypothesis testing (if any), as well as the suitability or contradiction with the findings of prior studies. This section could also cover theoretical and practical implications of the research findings. Each figure and table utilized must be cited and explained in the text, in addition to being accompanied by numbered and referenced sources. The sample that follows demonstrates how to write subtitles, sub-subheads, sub-sub-subheads, etc.

CONCLUSION AND RECOMMENDATION

Based on the research presented, it can be concluded that the case in the Initial-D anime involves two main characters, namely the Takahashi brothers (Ryosuke Takahashi and Keisuke Takahashi) who want to take the title of invincibility from Takumi Fujiwara or Hachi-Roku in the Akina area. The Takahashi brothers are known as the fastest drift racers in the Akagi area and they are famous for their speed that beats many other racers.

Trouble started when the Takahashi brothers visited Akina and challenged Takumi Fujiwara to a match. Iketani, the head of the Speed Stars racing group, who claims to be the greatest racer in his group, Iketani was training for the match but he had an accident, after Iketani's accident, he allowed Takumi to become the opponent of the Takahashi brothers. While Keisuke Takahashi was training on the slopes of Mount Akina, he met Takumi who was drifting a Toyota AE-86 or Hachi-Roku. Keisuke was interested in fighting Takumi and challenged him on a Saturday at 10pm.

The match took place, and Takumi used his drifting skills to beat Keisuke Takahashi in a Mazda RX-7 FD. Victory was decided by the fastest time across the finish line, and Takumi came out on top. After the match, Ryosuke Takahashi conceded defeat gracefully, and the matter was resolved. Thus, the conclusion of this case is that Takumi Fujiwara won the match against the Takahashi brothers and held the title of undefeated in the Akina area. Takumi's victory also helps solve the problems that arise in this Initial-D anime story.

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