

**Interpersonal Communication Strategies Between Aladdin and Princess
Jasmine in Disney's *Aladdin* (2019)**

Suriyani

Suriyanighoziah09@gmail.com

Universitas Negeri Makassar

Abd. Halim

abd.halim@unm.ac.id

Universitas Negeri Makassar

Muh. Hasbi

emhasby@unm.ac.id

Universitas Negeri Makassar

ABSTRACT

Interpersonal communication plays an important role in developing relationships, particularly between individuals from different social backgrounds. Disney's *Aladdin* (2019) portrays the interaction between Aladdin, a young man from a lower social class, and Princess Jasmine, a member of the royal family. Their relationship demonstrates how communication can help overcome social status differences and build mutual understanding. This study aims to identify the interpersonal communication strategies employed by Aladdin and Princess Jasmine and explain how these strategies contribute to managing social status differences and building trust. This study employs a qualitative descriptive method to analyze dialogues, scenes, and nonverbal behaviors in *Aladdin* (2019). The findings reveal that the characters employ two major interpersonal communication strategies, namely identity negotiation strategy and relational development strategy. These strategies are reflected in self-presentation, supportive communication, trust-building behaviors, and empathetic interaction. The findings further show that these communication strategies help reduce social distance, strengthen emotional connections, and foster mutual understanding despite differences in social status. In conclusion, interpersonal communication strategies function as important means of developing trust and maintaining interpersonal relationships in the film. The findings also suggest that film-based communication analysis can be used as a learning resource to help students understand interpersonal communication, particularly through the analysis of verbal and nonverbal communication.

Keywords: Interpersonal Communication; Communication Strategies; Identity Negotiation; Relational Development; Social Status Differences

INTRODUCTION

Interpersonal communication is a fundamental aspect of human interaction that enables individuals to exchange meanings, express emotions, negotiate identities,

and develop relationships. According to DeVito (2019), interpersonal communication is a dynamic process involving emotional engagement, mutual influence, and the construction of relational understanding. Through communication, individuals establish connections, reduce uncertainty, and build trust within various social contexts. Recent studies emphasize that interpersonal communication is not merely the exchange of messages but also a strategic process used to achieve relational goals. Knapp, Vangelisti, and Caughlin (2022) explain that communication functions as a dynamic process through which individuals negotiate relational identity, emotional meaning, and social positioning. Communication strategies such as supportive interaction, empathy, self-disclosure, and active listening contribute significantly to relationship development and mutual understanding.

One factor that often influences interpersonal communication is social status difference. Social status refers to an individual's position within a social hierarchy shaped by socioeconomic background, authority, and institutional roles. Differences in social status may create power imbalances, communication anxiety, and relational distance, which can affect interpersonal interactions. These differences may also be reflected through verbal and nonverbal behaviors, such as language choices, facial expressions, eye contact, gestures, and body posture. However, effective communication strategies can help individuals manage these differences and establish more balanced relationships.

The representation of interpersonal communication can also be observed in films, which often portray various forms of social interaction and relationship development. Disney's *Aladdin* (2019) presents the relationship between Aladdin, a young man from a lower social class, and Princess Jasmine, a member of the royal family. Their contrasting social backgrounds initially create social distance and relational imbalance. Nevertheless, throughout the film, both characters employ various communication strategies that enable them to develop trust, mutual understanding, and emotional closeness. As a live-action remake of the 1992 animated film, *Aladdin* (2019) also reinterprets several aspects of its characters and their interactions. Previous comparative discussions indicate that the live-action version provides more developed characterization and more nuanced emotional and physical performances, including subtle facial expressions, gestures, and body language. These features make the 2019 version particularly relevant for examining how verbal and nonverbal communication are represented in interpersonal interactions.

Previous studies on *Aladdin* have primarily focused on cultural representation, gender roles, social status, and moral values portrayed in the film. Although these studies provide valuable insights, limited research has specifically examined interpersonal communication strategies employed by Aladdin and Princess Jasmine, particularly in relation to differences in social status. In addition, limited attention has been given to how verbal and nonverbal communication work together in representing the negotiation of social distance and relational development

between characters from different social backgrounds. Therefore, further investigation is needed to examine how interpersonal communication strategies contribute to relationship development between individuals from different social backgrounds.

Unlike previous studies, this research focuses on the interpersonal communication strategies employed by Aladdin and Princess Jasmine in managing social status differences. Furthermore, this study integrates the analysis of both verbal and nonverbal communication to provide a more comprehensive understanding of how communication strategies function in developing trust and mutual understanding between the characters. By focusing on the live-action *Aladdin* (2019), this study examines how interpersonal communication is represented through the characters' verbal exchanges, facial expressions, gestures, eye contact, and other nonverbal behaviors. This approach offers a broader perspective on the role of interpersonal communication within film narratives. Therefore, this study aims to analyze the interpersonal communication strategies employed by Aladdin and Princess Jasmine in Disney's *Aladdin* (2019). Specifically, the study seeks to identify the communication strategies used by the characters and explain how these strategies help manage social status differences and build trust throughout their interactions.

LITERATURE REVIEW

Interpersonal Communication

Interpersonal communication is a process through which individuals exchange messages, meanings, and feelings in order to establish and maintain relationships. According to DeVito (2019), interpersonal communication involves interactions between individuals who influence one another through verbal and nonverbal communication. This form of communication enables individuals to share experiences, express emotions, and develop mutual understanding in various social contexts. Interpersonal communication is not limited to spoken language but also includes nonverbal elements such as facial expressions, gestures, eye contact, posture, and tone of voice. These verbal and nonverbal aspects work together to convey meaning and influence how messages are interpreted. In interpersonal interactions, nonverbal behaviors can also reinforce, complement, or modify verbal messages, particularly when individuals express emotions, attitudes, and relational intentions. Effective interpersonal communication therefore occurs when individuals are able to communicate clearly, respond appropriately, and create a supportive environment that facilitates understanding and relationship development. In interpersonal relationships, communication serves as a fundamental mechanism for building trust, reducing uncertainty, and fostering emotional connection. Through continuous interaction, individuals negotiate meanings, express personal identities, and strengthen relational bonds. Therefore, interpersonal communication provides an important theoretical framework for examining how Aladdin and Princess Jasmine interact, manage social status

differences, and develop a meaningful interpersonal relationship throughout the film.

Interpersonal Communication Strategies

Interpersonal communication strategies refer to purposeful communication behaviors used to manage interactions and achieve specific relational goals. Knapp, Vangelisti, and Caughlin (2022) explain that interpersonal communication is a strategic and goal-oriented process in which individuals deliberately select communication behaviors to influence relational outcomes. Through communication, individuals seek to build trust, reduce uncertainty, foster understanding, and develop interpersonal relationships. The strategic nature of interpersonal communication is reflected in various communicative behaviors, such as openness, emotional responsiveness, supportive interaction, active listening, and emotional validation (Canary & Yum, 2023; Wright & Bell, 2022). These behaviors contribute to relational quality by facilitating mutual understanding, strengthening trust, and supporting relationship development. Communication strategies are therefore understood as deliberate efforts to manage interaction and influence how relationships evolve over time.

Interpersonal communication strategies are expressed through both verbal and nonverbal communication. Verbal communication conveys explicit meanings through spoken interaction, while nonverbal behaviors such as facial expressions, gestures, eye contact, posture, and tone of voice can reinforce and provide additional meaning to verbal messages. Based on this strategic perspective, the present study focuses on two communication strategies, namely Identity Negotiation Strategy and Relational Development Strategy. These strategies provide complementary perspectives for examining the interaction between Aladdin and Princess Jasmine: Identity Negotiation Strategy explains how the characters construct, present, and adjust their identities during interaction, while Relational Development Strategy explains how their communication contributes to the gradual development of trust, emotional closeness, and interpersonal connection. Together, these strategies are used to examine how the characters manage social status differences and develop interpersonal understanding throughout the film.

Identity Negotiation Strategy

Identity Negotiation Strategy refers to the communicative process through which individuals establish, maintain, and negotiate their identities during interpersonal interactions. Ting-Toomey (1999) explains that identity is not a fixed characteristic but a dynamic aspect of communication that is continuously shaped through interaction with others. Through communication, individuals seek recognition, acceptance, and respect while presenting desired aspects of themselves within social relationships. The process of identity negotiation becomes particularly

important when individuals interact across different social, cultural, or relational backgrounds.

Recent studies continue to support the view that identity is dynamically constructed through communication. Dorjee and Ting-Toomey (2020) demonstrate that identity negotiation can be used to understand how individuals manage complex identity differences and social contexts. Similarly, Kuiper (2021) explains that identity has multiple interconnected dimensions that are expressed and negotiated through communication. Trinh and Faulkner (2023) further demonstrate that individuals use identity negotiation strategies when managing gaps or conflicts between different salient identities. These studies reinforce the view that identity negotiation involves ongoing communicative processes through which individuals respond to differences in how they understand and present themselves.

In interpersonal interaction, identity negotiation can be expressed through both verbal and nonverbal communication. Individuals may use language choices, self-disclosure, facial expressions, eye contact, gestures, and other communicative behaviors to present particular aspects of their identities and influence how they are perceived by others. Through these behaviors, individuals can manage social differences, reduce uncertainty, and establish greater mutual understanding. Identity negotiation therefore becomes relevant when communication takes place between individuals who occupy different social positions or have different social backgrounds. In the context of this study, Identity Negotiation Strategy provides a framework for examining how Aladdin and Princess Jasmine construct, present, and adjust their identities during their interactions. Aladdin's lower social position and Jasmine's royal status create differences in their social identities and relational positioning. Therefore, their communication can be understood as a process of negotiating these differences while seeking recognition, acceptance, and mutual understanding. The strategy is reflected in how the characters present themselves, respond to each other's identities, and adjust their communication throughout their interactions.

Relational Development Strategy

Relational Development Strategy refers to communicative behaviors that facilitate the formation and growth of interpersonal relationships. According to Knapp (1978), relationships develop through a gradual process in which individuals increase their level of interaction, understanding, and emotional involvement over time. Communication plays a central role in this process, as it enables individuals to establish connections, exchange personal information, and strengthen relational bonds. The development of interpersonal relationships is characterized by increasing trust, openness, and mutual understanding between individuals. Recent studies continue to emphasize the importance of communication in relational development. Guest and Denes (2023) found that relationship stages are associated with changes in relational tensions, indicating that interpersonal relationships develop through different stages and involve changing relational dynamics. Lee and

Ng (2024) further demonstrate that communication satisfaction is associated with relationship satisfaction, showing that the quality of communication can contribute to positive relational outcomes. These findings support the view that communication plays an important role in maintaining and developing interpersonal relationships.

Supportive communication also contributes to relational development by helping individuals respond to each other's emotional and interpersonal needs. Youngvorst and Jones (2025) found that the quality of supportive communication can influence emotional and cognitive outcomes during supportive interactions. This finding reinforces the importance of supportive communication in creating positive interpersonal experiences and strengthening relational connections. In interpersonal interactions, relational development can be expressed through verbal and nonverbal communication, including openness, empathy, supportive responses, attentive listening, facial expressions, gestures, eye contact, and tone of voice. These behaviors can encourage trust, reduce uncertainty, and strengthen emotional connections between individuals. As relationships progress, continuous communication allows individuals to develop greater understanding and relational closeness. In the context of this study, Relational Development Strategy provides a framework for examining how Aladdin and Princess Jasmine gradually develop trust, emotional closeness, and interpersonal understanding despite their differences in social status. The strategy focuses on how their communication changes throughout their interactions, particularly through openness, empathy, supportive responses, and other verbal and nonverbal behaviors that contribute to the development of their relationship.

Social Status Differences

Social status differences refer to variations in individuals' positions within a social hierarchy that are shaped by factors such as socioeconomic background, authority, education, and social roles (Thompson & Holmes, 2023). These differences can influence how individuals perceive one another and interact in interpersonal relationships. Individuals from different social backgrounds may experience unequal access to resources, opportunities, and social power, which can affect communication patterns, expectations, and relational dynamics. In interpersonal communication, differences in social status may create power imbalances that influence how individuals express themselves and respond to others. Park and Lee (2021) argue that individuals from lower social positions may experience greater uncertainty or communication anxiety when interacting with higher-status individuals. Similarly, Liu and Chen (2022) explain that perceived power differences can influence communication behaviors and affect the development of trust and interpersonal closeness. These differences may be reflected not only in verbal communication but also in nonverbal behaviors, including eye contact, facial expressions, gestures, posture, and tone of voice. Such behaviors can communicate confidence, hesitation, authority, respect, or discomfort during interpersonal interaction.

However, social status differences do not necessarily prevent the development of meaningful interpersonal relationships. Communication can function as a means of negotiating social boundaries, reducing perceived distance, and creating greater mutual understanding. Through supportive interaction, empathy, openness, and trust-building behaviors, individuals from different social backgrounds may gradually establish more balanced interpersonal relationships. Verbal and nonverbal communication can support this process by allowing individuals to adjust their behavior, respond to each other's emotional cues, and develop greater relational understanding. In the context of this study, social status differences provide the social context in which the interpersonal communication strategies of Aladdin and Princess Jasmine are examined. Aladdin is presented as a young man from a lower social class, whereas Jasmine belongs to the royal family and occupies a higher social position. This difference creates an initial social distance and potential power imbalance between the characters. Therefore, this study examines how Identity Negotiation Strategy and Relational Development Strategy are employed through verbal and nonverbal communication to manage these differences, reduce social distance, develop trust, and establish mutual understanding throughout their interactions.

Previous Related Study

Several previous studies have examined Disney's *Aladdin* (2019) from different linguistic, cultural, and communication perspectives. Rahman (2021) analyzed cultural representation in Disney films through a case study of Aladdin. The study found that the film reflects various cultural identities and values through its characters, settings, and narrative elements. Although the study provides important insights into the cultural representation of the film, it does not specifically examine the interpersonal communication strategies used by Aladdin and Princess Jasmine. Sari and Putra (2022) investigated moral values and gender roles in *Aladdin* (2019). Their findings revealed that the film presents various moral messages and gender representations that influence character behavior and social expectations. However, their study primarily focused on moral values and gender representation rather than the communication processes through which the characters develop interpersonal relationships.

More recently, Sitanggang (2025) examined female talk in *Aladdin* (2019) using a sociolinguistic perspective. The study analyzed the language used by Princess Jasmine and Dalia and found that situational context, power relations, and social status influenced the characters' communication. This study is relevant to the present research because it demonstrates that social status and power relations can shape communication in *Aladdin* (2019). However, it focuses primarily on female language features rather than the interpersonal communication strategies used by Aladdin and Jasmine to negotiate identity and develop their relationship. Another recent study by Lestari, Muttaqin, and Prasetyoningsih (2024) analyzed requesting strategies in *Aladdin* (2019). Using a descriptive qualitative method, the study

examined the strategies used by characters when making requests and found several types of requesting strategies, including hints, questioning the hearer's ability or willingness, suggestory formulae, statements of wishes and needs, and imperatives. Although this study demonstrates how specific communicative strategies operate in the film, its focus is limited to requesting speech acts rather than broader interpersonal communication strategies and relational development.

Studies of verbal and nonverbal communication in film also demonstrate the importance of analyzing communication beyond spoken dialogue. Garibashvili and Lazviashvili (2022), for example, examined verbal and nonverbal discourse in animated movies and emphasized that nonverbal communication can convey meaning through eye contact, facial expressions, gestures, and spatial relationships. Similarly, Lubis and Bahri (2023) examined gestures in *Everything Everywhere All at Once* (2022) and demonstrated how gestures and facial expressions can communicate meaning in relation to the context of characters' utterances. These studies support the use of both verbal and nonverbal communication in film analysis. However, they do not specifically examine how verbal and nonverbal behaviors function as interpersonal communication strategies in relationships characterized by social status differences.

Based on these previous studies, research on *Aladdin* (2019) has addressed cultural representation, moral values, gender roles, female language, and specific speech acts. Other film studies have also examined verbal and nonverbal communication as meaningful elements of character interaction. Nevertheless, limited attention has been given to how Aladdin and Princess Jasmine use interpersonal communication strategies to manage differences in social status and develop their relationship. Therefore, the present study addresses this gap by examining Identity Negotiation Strategy and Relational Development Strategy through both verbal and nonverbal communication. The study specifically focuses on how these strategies are used to negotiate social identities, reduce social distance, develop trust, and foster mutual understanding between Aladdin and Princess Jasmine throughout the film.

METHOD

Design and Samples

This study employed a qualitative descriptive research design to analyze the interpersonal communication strategies used by Aladdin and Princess Jasmine in Disney's *Aladdin* (2019). A qualitative descriptive approach was selected because the study focuses on describing and interpreting interpersonal communication behaviors as they are presented through dialogue, scenes, and nonverbal interactions in the film. The data consisted of selected verbal and nonverbal interactions between Aladdin and Princess Jasmine that reflected Identity Negotiation Strategy and Relational Development Strategy in the context of social status differences. Disney's *Aladdin* (2019), with a duration of approximately 128 minutes, served as the primary data source.

Instrument and Procedure

The researcher served as the primary instrument in collecting, selecting, and interpreting the data. The data were collected through several systematic procedures. First, the researcher watched *Aladdin* (2019) repeatedly to gain a comprehensive understanding of the storyline, characters, and interpersonal interactions presented in the film. Second, scenes containing interactions between Aladdin and Princess Jasmine were identified and selected based on their relevance to the research objectives. Third, relevant dialogues were transcribed, while significant nonverbal behaviors, including facial expressions, gestures, eye contact, posture, and tone of voice, were observed and documented. Finally, the selected data were categorized according to the two communication strategies examined in this study: Identity Negotiation Strategy based on Ting-Toomey (1999) and Relational Development Strategy based on Knapp (1978).

Data Analysis

The data were analyzed using the interactive model proposed by Miles, Huberman, and Saldaña (2014), which consists of data condensation, data display, and conclusion drawing. During data condensation, the researcher selected and categorized relevant dialogues and nonverbal interactions based on the research objectives and the two communication strategies. In the data display stage, the categorized data were organized systematically to identify patterns of Identity Negotiation Strategy and Relational Development Strategy in the interactions between Aladdin and Princess Jasmine. Finally, conclusions were drawn by interpreting how the identified communication strategies were employed through verbal and nonverbal behaviors to manage social status differences, develop trust, and strengthen interpersonal relationships throughout the film.

RESULT AND DISCUSSION

The findings revealed that Aladdin and Princess Jasmine employed two interpersonal communication strategies throughout the film, namely Identity Negotiation Strategy and Relational Development Strategy. These strategies were reflected through verbal and nonverbal communication and contributed to managing social status differences between the characters. Through these communication strategies, the characters gradually developed trust, emotional connection, and mutual understanding despite their contrasting social backgrounds.

A total of four representative data were selected from the film to illustrate the interpersonal communication strategies identified in this study. The data consisted of selected dialogues and relevant nonverbal behaviors between Aladdin and Princess Jasmine. Two data were categorized as Identity Negotiation Strategy, while the other two were categorized as Relational Development Strategy. Each data was analyzed based on the characters' verbal and nonverbal behaviors and their

relevance to identity negotiation, relational development, and social status differences. The findings and discussion are presented in the following sections.

Data 1



Aladdin identifies Jasmine's social background through observation (Minutes 14.19 – 14.50)

Jasmine: "I'm... I'm Dalia." (Ritchie, 2019, 00:14:19–00:14:50)

Aladdin: "Dalia... from the palace." (Ritchie, 2019, 00:14:19–00:14:50)

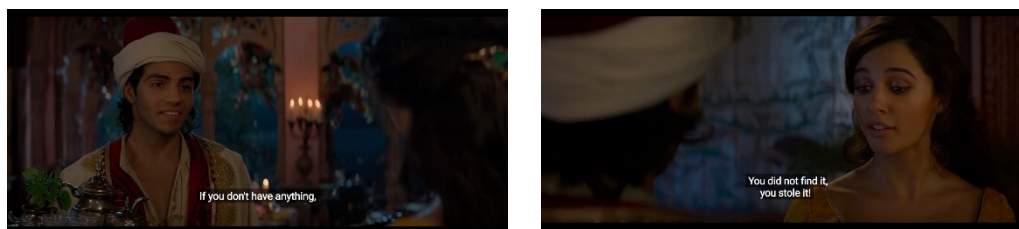
Jasmine: "How could you tell?" (Ritchie, 2019, 00:14:19–00:14:50)

Nonverbal Behavior

When Jasmine introduces herself as "Dalia," she hesitates and displays a cautious facial expression while speaking. Her hesitation is also accompanied by a reserved manner and limited eye contact. When Aladdin responds, he maintains steady eye contact with Jasmine and speaks in a calm and confident tone. His relaxed posture and composed facial expression remain consistent throughout the interaction. After Aladdin identifies her connection to the palace, Jasmine shows a surprised expression and widens her eyes, while maintaining her attention toward Aladdin. Her facial expression changes noticeably as she reacts to Aladdin's observation.

This interaction demonstrates Identity Negotiation Strategy through the negotiation and presentation of social identities during interpersonal communication. Jasmine initially presents herself as "Dalia" rather than revealing her identity as a princess, indicating an attempt to control how she is perceived by Aladdin. Her hesitation and cautious nonverbal behavior support this attempt to manage her identity during the interaction. Aladdin, however, recognizes her connection to the palace and responds confidently, positioning himself as observant and socially aware despite his lower social status. His verbal response and composed nonverbal behavior also influence how Jasmine perceives him. The interaction therefore illustrates that identity is not simply presented by one individual but is also negotiated through the responses and perceptions of the interaction partner. In this context, communication allows Aladdin and Jasmine to gradually recognize and adjust to each other's social identities, reducing the initial social distance between them.

Data 2



Aladdin jokes about stealing Jasmine's bracelet (Minutes 28.10 – 28.21)

Aladdin: "If you don't have anything, you have to act like you own everything. So, what do you say? I did find your bracelet." (Ritchie, 2019, 00:28:10–00:28:21)

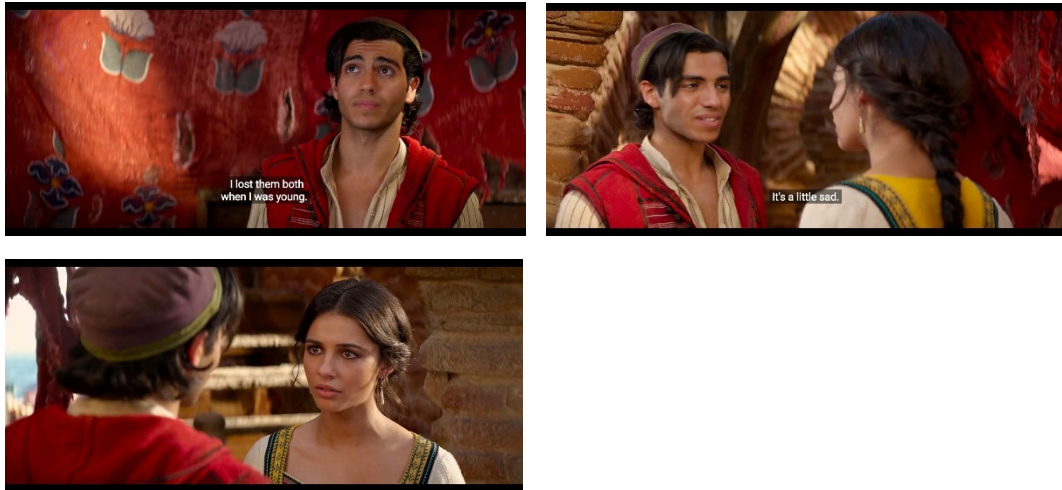
Jasmine: "You did not find it, you stole it!" (Ritchie, 2019, 00:28:10–00:28:21)

Nonverbal Behavior

When Aladdin says, "If you don't have anything, you have to act like you own everything... I did find your bracelet," he smiles confidently and speaks in a playful tone. His relaxed posture and composed manner reflect self-assurance and comfort during the interaction. In contrast, Jasmine responds with a serious facial expression, direct eye contact, and a firmer tone, indicating her disapproval of Aladdin's statement and her refusal to accept his attempt to describe the situation differently.

This interaction demonstrates Identity Negotiation Strategy through humor, self-presentation, and the management of social identity. Aladdin uses humor and confident communication to present himself in a positive manner despite his disadvantaged social position. By saying that he "did find" the bracelet rather than admitting that he stole it, he attempts to frame his behavior in a way that protects his self-image and influences how Jasmine perceives him. His confident smile, playful tone, and relaxed posture reinforce this self-presentation. Jasmine's serious response, direct eye contact, and firmer tone indicate that she does not accept Aladdin's framing of his behavior and instead challenges his presentation of himself. Their contrasting responses demonstrate that identity negotiation is shaped not only by how individuals present themselves but also by how others respond to and evaluate that presentation. In the context of their different social backgrounds, the interaction allows Aladdin to negotiate his identity beyond his disadvantaged social position while Jasmine responds from a different social and moral perspective. This interaction therefore illustrates how verbal and nonverbal communication can be used to present, challenge, and negotiate identities during interpersonal interaction.

Data 3



Aladdin shares his childhood loss with Jasmine (Minutes 15.54 – 16.03)

Aladdin: "I lost them both when I was young." (Ritchie, 2019, 00:15:54–00:16:03)

Jasmine: "What?" (Ritchie, 2019, 00:15:54–00:16:03)

Aladdin: "It's a little sad." (Ritchie, 2019, 00:15:54–00:16:03)

Nonverbal Behavior

When Aladdin says, "I lost them both when I was young... it's a little sad," he displays a serious facial expression, speaks in a soft tone, and briefly avoids eye contact, indicating sadness and emotional vulnerability. His nonverbal behavior reinforces the personal and sensitive nature of his disclosure. In response, Jasmine maintains a concerned facial expression and attentive gaze when asking, "What?", indicating that she is engaged in the interaction and interested in understanding Aladdin's experience.

This interaction demonstrates Relational Development Strategy through self-disclosure and empathetic communication. By sharing the loss of his parents, Aladdin reveals a personal and vulnerable aspect of his life, allowing Jasmine to gain deeper insight into his experiences and emotions. His sincere verbal expression, together with his serious facial expression, soft tone, and brief avoidance of eye contact, reinforces the emotional significance of the disclosure. Jasmine's concerned expression and attentive gaze demonstrate an empathetic and supportive response to Aladdin's disclosure. Rather than focusing on their different social positions, both characters engage with the emotional experience being shared. This interaction therefore creates an opportunity for greater interpersonal understanding and emotional closeness. Through self-disclosure and an attentive

response, their communication helps reduce interpersonal distance and contributes to the development of trust between them.

Data 4



Aladdin and Jasmine relate to each other's feelings of being trapped by their social positions (Minutes 16.12 – 16.28)

Aladdin: "Sometimes I feel like I'm....." (Ritchie, 2019, 00:16:12–00:16:28)

Jasmine: "Trapped, like you can't escape what you were born into?" (Ritchie, 2019, 00:16:12–00:16:28)

Nonverbal Behavior

When Aladdin says, "Sometimes I feel like I'm.....," he displays a serious facial expression, speaks in a soft tone, and briefly avoids eye contact, reflecting emotional vulnerability and discomfort. When Jasmine responds, "Trapped, like you can't escape what you were born into?", she maintains an attentive gaze and an empathetic facial expression, indicating that she is actively listening and attempting to understand Aladdin's feelings. Her response also shows that she recognizes and articulates the emotion that Aladdin has difficulty expressing.

This interaction demonstrates Relational Development Strategy through emotional openness, empathy, and mutual understanding. Aladdin begins to disclose his feelings about being constrained by his social circumstances, although he initially struggles to express them fully. Jasmine responds by completing his thought and identifying the feeling of being "trapped," demonstrating empathy and an understanding of his emotional experience. Her response allows Aladdin to feel understood and creates an opportunity for deeper emotional communication between them. Although Aladdin and Jasmine occupy different social positions, both characters recognize a shared experience of being constrained by circumstances associated with their social identities. This shared understanding helps reduce interpersonal distance and contributes to the development of emotional closeness and trust between them. The interaction therefore illustrates how empathetic communication and emotional openness can support the gradual development of an interpersonal relationship despite differences in social status.

The analysis reveals that Aladdin and Princess Jasmine employ two interpersonal communication strategies throughout the film, namely Identity Negotiation Strategy and Relational Development Strategy. These strategies are expressed through both verbal and nonverbal communication and contribute to the characters' efforts to manage differences in social status. The findings indicate that communication does not merely function to exchange information but also enables the characters to construct identities, respond to each other's emotional experiences, and gradually develop interpersonal closeness. Thus, the two strategies work together in addressing social distance and developing mutual understanding between Aladdin and Jasmine.

Identity Negotiation Strategy is reflected in Aladdin's efforts to construct and manage how he is perceived by Jasmine despite his lower social position. In the first two data, Aladdin uses confidence, humor, self-presentation, and social awareness to present himself beyond the negative image associated with his background as a street thief. In the first interaction, Jasmine attempts to conceal her identity by introducing herself as "Dalia," while Aladdin recognizes her connection to the palace. In the second interaction, Aladdin uses humor to present his behavior in a more favorable way when discussing Jasmine's bracelet. These interactions demonstrate that identity negotiation occurs through both the presentation of identity and the response of the interaction partner. This finding is consistent with Ting-Toomey's (1999) view that identity is continuously negotiated through communication. It is also supported by Trinh and Faulkner (2023), who demonstrate that individuals use communicative processes to negotiate and manage different salient identities. Their study shows that identity negotiation involves responding to gaps or tensions between how individuals understand and present their identities, which is relevant to Aladdin's attempts to manage how Jasmine perceives him.

The findings further show that identity negotiation is supported by nonverbal communication. Aladdin's confident eye contact, relaxed posture, facial expressions, and playful tone reinforce the identity he attempts to present, while Jasmine's hesitation, surprised expression, and direct responses indicate how she evaluates and responds to his self-presentation. Therefore, identity negotiation in the film is not limited to verbal statements but also involves nonverbal behaviors that influence interpersonal perceptions. This finding supports the broader view that identity is constructed and negotiated through interaction rather than existing as a completely fixed characteristic. In the context of social status differences, Aladdin's communication allows him to present himself based on his personal qualities and abilities rather than being defined solely by his lower social position.

Relational Development Strategy is reflected through self-disclosure, emotional openness, empathy, and supportive communication. The third data shows Aladdin disclosing the loss of his parents, which reveals a vulnerable and personal aspect of his life. Jasmine responds with concern and attentive behavior, creating an interaction in which personal disclosure is met with emotional attention. In the

fourth data, Aladdin begins to express his feeling of being “trapped,” while Jasmine recognizes and completes the emotion he is struggling to articulate. These interactions indicate that relational development occurs as the characters become increasingly open to sharing personal experiences and responding to each other’s emotional needs. This finding is consistent with Knapp’s (1978) view that interpersonal relationships develop through increasing interaction, openness, and emotional involvement.

Recent research also supports the finding that relational development involves changes in relational interaction over time. Guest and Denes (2023) found that relationship stages are associated with differences in relational tensions, with more advanced stages of relationship development being associated with lower levels of dialectical tension. This supports the present finding that as Aladdin and Jasmine become more emotionally open and responsive to one another, their interaction becomes increasingly intimate and understanding. Furthermore, Youngvorst and Jones (2025) demonstrate that the quality of supportive communication can influence outcomes in supportive interactions, particularly emotional improvement and cognitive reappraisal. This finding supports the present study’s observation that Jasmine’s attentive and empathetic responses contribute to a more supportive interaction when Aladdin shares personal and emotional experiences.

The findings also demonstrate that verbal and nonverbal communication work together in the development of the relationship. Aladdin’s self-disclosure is accompanied by a serious facial expression, soft tone, and brief avoidance of eye contact, which communicate vulnerability beyond the literal meaning of his words. Similarly, Jasmine’s attentive gaze and concerned facial expression reinforce her verbal responses and communicate empathy. In the fourth interaction, her attentive gaze and empathetic expression further support her verbal recognition of Aladdin’s feelings. These findings indicate that nonverbal behaviors provide additional relational meanings and help communicate emotional states that may not be fully expressed through words alone.

The two communication strategies are also closely related to the social status differences between the characters. Aladdin is initially positioned as a young man from a lower social class, whereas Jasmine belongs to the royal family. This difference creates an initial social distance and influences how the characters present themselves and respond to one another. Identity Negotiation Strategy enables Aladdin to manage the way his identity is perceived, while Relational Development Strategy allows both characters to gradually move beyond their socially defined positions through openness, empathy, and emotional understanding. The findings therefore suggest that social status differences function as an important context that shapes their communication rather than preventing interpersonal connection altogether.

Overall, the findings demonstrate that Identity Negotiation Strategy and Relational Development Strategy function as complementary processes in the interpersonal

relationship between Aladdin and Princess Jasmine. Identity negotiation helps the characters manage how they present and perceive one another, while relational development enables them to build emotional closeness through openness, empathy, and supportive interaction. Verbal and nonverbal communication operate together within both processes, allowing the characters to communicate identity, emotion, and relational meaning. Therefore, the findings suggest that interpersonal communication can help reduce perceived social distance and facilitate mutual understanding between individuals from different social backgrounds. In the context of *Aladdin* (2019), the characters' developing relationship illustrates how communication can gradually shift their interaction from one shaped by social status differences toward one based increasingly on personal understanding, trust, and emotional connection.

CONCLUSION

This study aimed to analyze the interpersonal communication strategies employed by Aladdin and Princess Jasmine in Disney's *Aladdin* (2019), particularly in the context of their different social backgrounds. The findings reveal two interpersonal communication strategies employed by the characters, namely Identity Negotiation Strategy and Relational Development Strategy. Identity Negotiation Strategy is reflected through self-presentation, confidence, humor, and the negotiation of social identity, particularly in Aladdin's efforts to manage how he is perceived despite his lower social status. Relational Development Strategy is demonstrated through self-disclosure, emotional openness, empathy, and supportive communication, which contribute to the gradual development of trust and emotional closeness between the characters.

The findings further indicate that both verbal and nonverbal communication play important roles in these strategies. Verbal expressions, facial expressions, eye contact, tone of voice, and body posture work together to communicate identity, emotions, and relational meanings. Through these communication processes, Aladdin and Princess Jasmine gradually develop greater understanding and emotional connection despite their different social positions. Overall, this study concludes that interpersonal communication strategies can help individuals manage social distance and develop meaningful interpersonal relationships across different social backgrounds. In *Aladdin* (2019), Identity Negotiation Strategy and Relational Development Strategy function as complementary processes that allow Aladdin and Jasmine to negotiate their identities, respond to each other's emotional experiences, and gradually develop trust and mutual understanding despite their differences in social status.

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