

# Exploring the Influence of Family Education on Children in *Red Finger*

Xinyu Wang<sup>1</sup> Yuhan Sun<sup>2</sup> Jie Xian<sup>3</sup> Mengying Lv<sup>1\*</sup>

1. Sichuan Agricultural University, Chengdu, Sichuan, China

2. Konkuk University, Seoul, South Korea

3. Chengdu College of Arts and Sciences, Chengdu, Sichuan, China

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## ABSTRACT

In recent years, cases of juvenile delinquency have gradually increased, mainly due to indulging in games to kill people; blindly pursuing grades, and committing suicide by jumping off buildings when the rates are unsatisfactory; some divorced families do not care for their children and thus commit crimes, or some parents dote on their children. The child becomes a pervert and embarks on the road of crime. This article selects the novel *Red Finger* by the Japanese writer Keigo Higashino because the mother's excessive doting has made the child lawless and embarked on the road of murder. Faced with such a result, the means adopted by the parents turned out to be throwing the corpse, helping the son to cover up the crime, and even forcing the son's criminal behavior on the mother who has Alzheimer's disease. The juvenile delinquency family is fundamental, and the parents want to raise a child with a good personality; it is necessary to create a harmonious family atmosphere. The social background of *Red Finger* is Japan in the 1990s. The economic crisis broke out in Japan. Fathers have to work very hard. However, the lack of communication between fathers and children at work for a long time has affected the children's family happiness. The role of fathers is even just a figure in the mouth of mothers, and the company of parents to children. The education of children and the way of dealing with problems are subtly affecting children's life values. This paper uses Satya's family education theory to study the characters' personalities and the influence of family education on children's growth in the novel *Red Finger*.

## 1. Introduction

After his father's death, the Maehara family of three chose to live together with their mother. On the one hand, it was the family's choice, and on the other hand, it was also the impact of the Japanese bubble economy. People's income has increased on the surface, but it cannot support household expenditures well. In particular, the rise in real

estate prices <sup>[1]</sup> led to Zhong Qianyuan living with his mother.

After that, the Maehara family was a three-generation family consisting of three and Akio Maehara's mother living together. A study shows that in 1997, 58.9% of elderly over 60 in Japan would choose to live with their married or unmarried children. The rate is higher than in Germany (12.9%) and in the United States (16.1%) in Western

\*Corresponding Author:

Mengying Lv,

Sichuan Agricultural University, Chengdu, Sichuan, China;

Email: 15528133103@163.com

# Authors contributed equally to this work.

countries<sup>[2]</sup>. Tax credits for three-generation households and care allowances for family members to take care of elderly relatives were all policies introduced by the government, which had a great relationship with the high co-occupancy rate<sup>[3]</sup>. Therefore, the family structure described in the book is one of the typical Japanese family structures. Taking this family's tragedy as a lesson, many people can think about getting along with their families.

This article explains the *Red Finger* by Keigo Higashino, a Japanese mystery novel writer, based on Satya's iceberg theory in family education. The story of the work takes place in an ordinary Japanese family. In his early fifties, Akio Maehara found a girl dead in his backyard after getting off work. The murderer was his fifteen-year-old son Naomi. Under the obstruction of his wife Yaeko, Akio. To "protect" his son and family, he gave up the idea of turning himself in to the police station and instead blamed his mother, Masaie Maehara. She had Alzheimer's disease. In the end, Akio's so-called protection and love for children finally got the results it deserved. According to Satya's theory, taking the failed family education in the book as a lesson explores the typical three-generation Japanese family in the 1990s. The influence of parents, mother-in-law, and daughter-in-law relationship on children's growth, and the role children should play in the whole family system.

## 2. The Influence of Father's Role on Children in Family Education

The only thing that father Akio Maehara did not give up in the book was work, especially in the era of domestic economic explosion and when social materials were scarce. It was also one of the reasons for the lack of communication between many contemporary fathers and sons. Some fathers spent most of their time. They put their energy into work, neglect their responsibilities in family education, and affect the integrity of children in family education. The father is only a vague image in the mother's mouth, and memory for children, and Akio Maehara is a familiar figure.

"When Akio went out, his son Naomi was still in the bed, and when he came back from the company, Naomi had already hidden in the room." "Only Saturday and Sunday can be together for dinner. At this time, Naomi also tries to avoid looking at his father. When he has to speak, he will say the shortest."<sup>[4]</sup> Under Akio Maehara's long-term ignorance of Naomi's psychological state, Naomi has grown into a tepid response to his father, and even in other social circles, an unpopular person with character flaws.

In the critical period of the formation of world outlook, outlook on life, and values, family education plays a vital

role in Zhisi's growth and family happiness<sup>[5]</sup>. In everyday life, in response to Yaeko's suggestion of the child's growth, Akio Maehara did not pay enough attention and gave necessary guidance and correction. Even deliberately reduced the opportunity to contact his son, pretending not to notice any inconsistencies. Akio Maehara has a low family status. When his rebellious son committed the crime of murdering a young daughter, out of dotting on his son and cowardice towards his wife Yaeko, he did not dare to take his son to the police station to confess but chose to let the older man at home mother blame.

His attitude of escaping things was reflected in his children, playing games calmly after murdering the young girl.

Akio Maehara has always maintained an evasive attitude towards family problems. Especially in the relationship between Yaeko and Zhenghui's mother-in-law and daughter-in-law, they did not play a perfect role in lubricant but chose to escape, but instead magnified the problem. First, they ate separately, quarreled, did not want to go home, played with women outside, and showed indifference to the family. In the husband and wife relationship with Yaeko, the mobile phone was peeked by Yaeko. On the one hand, Akio Maehara did not let his wife establish a sense of trust and security in him.

On the other hand, he would no longer feel respected and trusted without privacy. For Akio Maehara, home is not a place to get warm comfort. Moreover, it is worth mentioning that the family was formed at the beginning only because both parties were of marriageable age, and there was no big inappropriate reason. It reflected the weak awareness of the family between the two parents. From beginning to end, he has an irresponsible attitude. Naomi has also grown into an unreliable person in his words and deeds.

In the usual family communication, the family has been in no effective contact for a long time. So that Akio Maehara did not perceive his mother's reminder. At the last moment, mother Zhenghui did not give up on saving the whole family. Maternal love infiltrated the heart of Akio Maehara as an adult through a small piece of wood engraved with "Maehara Zhenghui" and finally woke up.

## 3. The Influence of Mother's Role in Family Education on Children

In the novel *Red Finger*, Yaeko's love for her son Naomi as a mother is dotting and morbid dependent. One of the reasons that led Naomi to embark on juvenile delinquency was her mother's dotting. Indulgent family education will put the child at the center of the family and become the master of the family. Coddling has the following

distinct characteristics: excessive attention, connivance, overprotection, and substitution<sup>[6]</sup>.

Since the child was born, Yaeko put all her energy and attention into her son, losing her love for herself. When her husband Akio Maehara suggested that the house was not as clean as before, Yaeko, the wife, still ignored the housework. Yaeko regarded the education and training of her son Naomi as her achievement and transferred her inner needs to her son. He did not recognize his son as an independent person, so he gave him proper guidance. When Yaeko found out that her son Naomi had a hobby of young girls, after her husband Akio Maehara chose not to take action, Yaeko also decided to ignore the matter. The way Yaeko communicates with her son is a good communication gesture. Satya believes that people with a low sense of self-worth prefer to use good communication gestures to interact with others. As a mother, Yaeko did not stop and educate her son Naomi's lousy behavior in time. Instead of letting Naomi realize the seriousness of the problem, she chose to ignore her behavior. This concession to the child's bad behavior reinforces the frequency of the child's bad behavior and becomes a solid lousy habit. Yaeko over-indulges Naomi and even helps children attribute their mistakes to other aspects. Therefore, the raised son Naomi tends to be self-centered, completely ignoring the feelings of others, and it isn't easy to think from the perspective of others<sup>[7]</sup>.

When the little girl couldn't make concessions and tolerance like her mother Yaeko or was even satisfied with her rude demands, Naomi often used various means to achieve his goals and finally brutally killed the little girl. Under the excessive protection of her mother, Yaeko, Naomi lacked a sense of social morality and responsibility and became cowardly, indifferent, and cruel. After His classmates bullied Naomi at school, he didn't want to go to school and chose to escape from school. After brutally killing the little girl, the question she thought about was how to avoid soiling the floor but the little girl's body in the yard and then return to her room to play games without any reflection or regret. Naomi is strongly dependent on her mother and believes that she is underage and does not need to be responsible for what she has done, and her parents take all the responsibilities. Children with low self-efficacy often have many things done by their parents, and they will habitually think that their parents can help them accomplish anything. Still, they have no responsibility or ability to do it.

#### **4. The Influence of Husband and Wife Relationship on Children in Family Education**

The traditional family model is that of parents and

children; without one, they can not constitute a family, but as the divorce rate increases, the number of children growing up in single-parent families is also growing. Still, for teenagers under the age of 18, both parents must bear the responsibility of the children after divorce. Due to the separation of parents, the children will inevitably lack the care and education of the other party.

This article's father Akio and mother Yaeko met on a blind date, and they got married when they reached marriageable age. After they got married, they gave birth to a son, indicating that their emotional foundation was not that deep, and they formed a family. It is also their husband and wife relationship. One of the reasons for the discord is that Yaeko is working full-time to take care of children at home; Akio is busy in the company and often does not go home. The relationship between husband and wife is like a divorced husband and wife.

Yaeko was indifferent to other things except for her son. Even when her father-in-law died, she didn't feel any sadness at all. The family atmosphere was very indifferent. After her mother-in-law Zhaohui's wife passed away, she lived with her son. It seemed that they lived together. Very harmonious, but, to prevent his son from maintaining the relationship between himself and Yaeko, he pretended that he had Alzheimer's. Zhaohui also regarded Yaeko as a stranger, and the family lived in their world. It is precisely because of this that the family relationship is not harmonious. Facing such a family, Zhaofu has no idea of improvement. As long as something happens at home, he wants to escape. Therefore, his son grew up in a family atmosphere, which subtly affected his son's life. Values, in the face of his son's murder, he did not want to solve the problem together to overcome difficulties, but concealed the facts and shied the responsibility from each other.

As we all know, a harmonious family environment can give children emotional exchanges and feelings of love. If the whole family lacks ignorance and indifference, it would significantly impact children's growth.

Like the protagonist in this article, such a lack of family ties can lead to a lack of resilience and communication skills in adolescents, often alone at school, without any friends, or sometimes feeling unappreciated. If you want to attract the attention of others, you will form an anti-social personality through some extreme methods and often do things that are not in line with social values<sup>[9]</sup>. There is no trace of remorse when the crime is exposed, but he blames his parents. He regards this murder as a trivial matter, and he has no guilt or shame.

#### **5. Children's Role in the Whole Family System**

In Akio Maehara's original family, his mother adopted

a pampering and indulgent education method for Akio Maehara when he was young. Because he did not absorb the good things and transform the bad stuff from the original family, his personality was weak and incompetent, hesitant, and escaping from reality, afraid of his wife. In his newly constructed family system, he failed to play the role of father, husband, and son. A vicious circle with family as the unit formed.

Before the case, Naomi's family education was full of holes. If Naomi did not wake up as soon as possible to change the atmosphere of the whole family, it would be very likely to be influenced and lead astray. For the father, Naomi is one of the objects of his escape; for the mother, Naomi is her only hope in life; for the schoolmates, Naomi is the object of exclusion. Naomi is in such a learning and living environment and cannot grow up healthily, and it isn't easy to wake up.

Awakening is not easy for teenagers because family and school occupy a large part of their growth environment. Drawing various resources from their environment is the most normal development mode. According to Satya's family education theory, the role that a son needs to assume is not just to accept his parents, but to understand his parents by understanding their expectations for him, and to play the link of family communication through his strength, to improve the relationship between parents. The relationship between children enhances the sense of responsibility for life. Satya believes that a higher expectation value in line with the actual situation can usually be a protective factor to prevent crime. In the process of acting as a survival communication posture, the son can think in his own heart. Questions like "What happened when no one was paying attention to you?" "Would you forgive your parents if they didn't understand you the way you needed?" "How can you take care of and help yourself?"<sup>[8]</sup> When children are no longer troubled by negative emotions from family or school, they may develop a mode of consistent communication, gaining a new understanding and acceptance of life. (Not only themselves' life but also the lives of others). They seem to respond correctly and meaningfully, becoming more responsible rather than avoiding responsibility and blaming others.

Naomi's study life did not actively find the right way to solve interpersonal relationships. When everyone is unwilling to be friends with him, instead of thinking about his shortcomings and how to get along with others, he still treats people with a selfish and cold-blooded personality. When Yucai is willing to make friends with him, he treats her as his only hope, paranoid that being a friend should be her own. After the case, he was calm and did not have a clear view of right and wrong. "I showed her the doll, but

she said she wanted to go home." "It's all my parents."

## 6. Conclusions

In *Red Finger*, Akio Maehara didn't take his due responsibilities and always took an evasive attitude towards problems; Yaeko didn't take on the responsibilities of being a mother and wife, and the relationship with her mother-in-law also became very tense. The son is very doting, even morbidly dependent, and is a mother with low self-efficacy; the couple shields the child and makes the mother a scapegoat. Naomi is one of the victims of such a family. He failed to find an opportunity to change himself and his family in such a family and school life and became the murderer of the young girl. Mother-in-law Zhenghui is one of the awakened characters who bring hope to people in this book. She uses her power to save the last conscience of the whole family. The intervention of Satya's family education can provide hope for such families.

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