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Love, Friendship, or Money?— A Meta-analysis of the Movie *Tiny Times*

作者：

廖冠宜。臺中市葳格高級中學。應外科三年丙班。

蔣羽婷。臺中市葳格高級中學。應外科三年丙班。

指導老師：

吳舒靜 老師

Abstract

With the age, our choice among love, friendship and love will be changed unconsciously. And it becomes different when we were in junior high school, senior high school and college. Male's and female's thoughts about love, friendship and money are different. In order to realize the choice among love, friendship and money, we made a survey on 100 people. The questionnaire was designed to ask what they think about love, friendship and money. As the results of the survey, we found that most male think love is more essential and most female think friendship is more important than the others. By means of the findings, we will tell the differences from the participants and redefine the meaning of love, friendship and money.

Keywords: friendship, love, meta-analysis, money, movie

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I. Introduction

1.1 Introduction of the Movie *Tiny Times*

The film is based on the first half of *Tiny Times*, the first novel in Guo's *Tiny Times* series. It depicts the friendship among four young women (Lin Xiao, Gu Li, Nan Xiang, and Tang Wanru), from Lin Xiao's perspective, in Shanghai, and illustrates the transformation of their philosophies. [1].

The director of movie *Tiny Times* is Guo Jinming. *Tiny Times* box office total of 1.51 billion is created a new record in Chinese movies. For example, *Tiny Times* 4th at the first day has made 112 million of the box office [2]! The reason why *Tiny Times* hit around the world is the story connected with life experiences and inner world.

I. 2 Motivation and Study Purpose

The story told about four girls named Lin Xiao, Nan Xiang, Gu Li and Tang Wanru. Through the four girls' friendship and their arguments on money and love, we can review the significance of life once again. In the real society, many people need to face the choice among love, friendship and money. Everyone's perspectives and thoughts are different. We have to make a wise decision in accordance with our own opinions at all of the ages.

During your lifetime, you must have the problem on how to make the best choice among love, friendship and money. The story of this movie told us if you choose money or love rather than the other, you're going to spend your life yearning for what you didn't choose. Having money, without significant others to share with can be lonely. You can have all the money, though, but you may still feel empty. Friendship could move away, which will cause heart breaking. Love makes you lose your privacy, freedom, and power to make important decisions in your life. So, how can you choose it correctly? And what should you do if you really lose it? These questions will be answered by our findings of the investigation. The purpose of the study is to investigate the opinions of the participants about love, friendship and money.

1.3 Positive and Negative Reviews from Film Critics

Taiwan's new movie will be grouped into five specific themes areas: the growth of individual memory, underclass life, feminist themes, the mainland Chinese immigrants complex, critical economic and cultural colonialism [3]. The movie *Tiny Times* how to shape a new image of women in the classification of the film made a constructive discussion on a text analysis of the film is focused on personal memories of youth in the subject.

The movie *Tiny Times* received mostly negative reviews from Chinese film critics, although it was a commercial success [1]. A *mise-en-scene* which offers an unfettered celebration of the might of commodity-driven capitalism; characters with little emotional depth; a simplistic narrative which renders what should have been its protagonists' complex rites of passage into a romp defined by merely fun, sweetness and light. Such are the flaws of **Guo Jingming's** first film, an adaptation of his own novel *Tiny Times*, its shortcomings hardly impacting its way towards becoming one of the biggest and most profitable homegrown hits in China this year [4].

What with its high production values – bolstered (or undermined, depending where one comes from) by equally high-frequency product placements – *Tiny Times* certainly offers fantastical lifestyles which is nearly unattainable for most of its viewers. But what makes the film even more beguiling is probably its inability to create empathy, as it goes without accounting for where these individuals came from and why their friendships were so rock-solid. With its flawed and contrived story, even the fun element becomes forcibly muted – which is why the highlight of the film actually lies in the end-credit sequence, with the cast letting loose as they goof around for the camera [5].

1.4 Research Questions

We conducted a survey to investigate the opinions of junior high, senior high and college students. The main research questions are listed as follows.

1. How do you face the betray behavior of your best friend?
2. If you have a serious argument with your best friends, what will you do?
3. Which is the most important, love, friendship, or money?
4. After watching the movie *Tiny Times*, do you change the previous value of friendship?

II. Method

II.1 Participants

With regard to the method of our study, we made a questionnaire to understand the participants' choice among love, friendship and money, and then we conducted an analysis from the data. We gave out 105 copies of the questionnaire, and 5 samples were invalid, so we got back 100 copies, including 37 male and 63 female; 20 junior high school students, 50 senior high school students and 30 college students.

II.2 Instrument

The questionnaire included two parts. The first part is personal information about the participants, including gender and identification. The second part is 6 research questions. Based on the results of investigation, we analyzed the data to explore our findings and made a conclusion.

III. Results

III.1 Discussions on the love, friendship and money

Before designing our questionnaire, we have some discussions on the advantages and disadvantages about love, friendship and money from the movie *Tiny Times*.

1. Love

The advantage of love is that you will have someone to care about and who cares about you, and you won't be lonely. If you are in troubled you will have someone around who can help you. You will have well prepared to overcome the future conflicts. Love makes you happy and does things in a very cheerful and nice mood. You will be able to give and receive love and affection. Love is a very beautiful feeling, which makes one feel on top of this earth and makes him or her feel important. the movie *Tiny Times*, Lin Xiao and Zhou Chong Kuang loved each other. They could support each other. Their love let Zhou Chong Kuang fight the cancer and recover healthy.

On the other hand, the disadvantage of love is that you will lose your privacy, freedom and power to make important decisions in your life. Love produces some emotional problems, like misunderstandings and may occur some cheating. When the person whom we love betrays us , it affects us greatly, which may make us angry, annoyed as well as sad. Love creates a lot of pains to our mind and you need to take a lot of time to recover and get over it. In the movie *Tiny Times*, Xi Chen loved Nan Xiang very much in the beginning, but he hurt Nan Xiang at the end, which made Nan Xiang very painful.

2. Friendship

The advantage of friendship is that you can be closed to someone and they can really help you in tough situations. Friends can understand you and they will always be there for you. You can depend on your friends to be your personal stylist. Friends are also good for your soul and spirit. You can have fun with them and everything should be fine. The strength of friendship depends on your willingness to work and keeping it intact. In the movie *Tiny Times*, their friendship of Lin Xiao, Nan Xiang, Gu Li and Tang Wanru was very strong. No

matter what happened, even if the sky were to fall down, their relationship would never ever be changed.

The disadvantage of friendship is that you have to spend time for the relationship. Your friends could potentially harm you emotionally. Your friends could move away and that always makes you heart-breaking. In the movie *Tiny Times*, Nan Xiang betrayed Gu Li because Nan Xiang needed to settle a debt for her mom. So, Nan Xiang had to betray her friends to get money.

3. Money

The advantage of money is that money can buy goods, clothes and other necessities we need. Money can improve our spiritual activities easily. We can donate money to the people in need. The right use of money may bring us a comfortable life and a cheerful heart. In the movie *Tiny Times*, take the Gu Li's for example, because the family of Gu Li was very wealthy, he could buy all he wanted and lived in a fantastic house. They lived in a different and wonderful life style.

The disadvantage of money is that people who have a lot of money may look down on people who can't have as much money as they do. Having a lot money maybe makes you become a lazy person. Money is one of the root causes of thefts, murders, frauds and other social evils. Total dependence or misuse of money may lead to be undesirable and harmful. In the movie *Tiny Times*, Gu Yuan and Gu Li's love were opposed by Gu Yuan's mother because she wanted the legacy that Gu Li's father had left. Gu Yuan's mother was mean and she did everything to get the money.

III.2 Movie popularity of the participants

According to the data analysis, more than 70% of participants have watched the movie. It's obvious that it is a big hit movie among teenagers. To our surprise, the movie popularity of the male (78.4%) who watched it is similar with that of the female (77.8%). Furthermore, the percentage of college students who watched it is reported 93.3%, which is the highest among the other two identifications. More detailed information is presented in Table 1.

Table 1 Movie popularity (unit: %)

	Yes	No
Gender		
Male	78.4	21.6
Female	77.8	22.2
Identification		

	Yes	No
Junior high	70.0	30.0
Senior high	72.0	28.0
College	93.3	6.7

III.3 How to face the betray behavior

According to the Table 2, we can see few people will betray his or her friend for money. However, the percentage of betray behavior on the male is higher than that on the female. Besides, it is reported that the percentage of betray behavior on junior high school students is higher than the others; 15.0% of junior high students said 'yes' on the betray behavior. Relatively, 6.0% of senior high students and 3.3% of college students said 'yes'. More detailed information is presented in Table 2.

Table 2 Betray friend for money (unit: %)

	Yes	No
Gender		
Male	8.1	91.9
Female	6.3	93.7
Identification		
Junior high	15.0	85.0
Senior high	6.0	94.0
College	3.3	96.7

III.4 How to deal with arguments

Based on the Table 3, there isn't a big gap to deal with arguments not only between the genders but also among the identifications. Generally, the male preferred to choose 'nothing to do' or 'pretend nothing happened' (54.0%), but the female preferred to choose 'talk to him' or 'find someone for help' (63.5%). Moreover, 35.0% of junior high students preferred 'find someone for help' to deal with arguments, 34.0% of senior high students preferred 'talk to him or her' to deal with arguments, 33.3% of college students preferred 'find someone for help' or 'nothing to do' to deal with arguments. More detailed information is presented in Table 3.

Table 3 The ways to deal with arguments (unit: %)

	Talk to him or her	Find someone for help	Nothing to do	Pretend nothing happened
Gender				
Male	16.2	29.7	29.7	24.3
Female	33.3	30.2	20.6	15.9
Identification				
Junior high	20.0	35.0	25.0	20.0
Senior high	34.0	26.0	18.0	22.0
College	20.0	33.3	33.3	13.3

III.5 The choice between love and friendship

According to the Table 4, most male will give up the friendship and choose love (91.9%), which is relatively higher than 78.8% of the female. In addition, there is few difference among the junior high, senior high school students and college students when they faced the dilemma between love and friendship. 35.0% of the junior high school students and 30.0% of the senior high school students are reported ‘give up the person you loved’, and 37.7% of college students are reported ‘fair competition.’ More detailed information is presented in Table 4.

Table 4 The choice between love and friendship (unit: %)

	Fulfill them	Fair competition	Give up the person you loved	Give up your best friend
Gender				
Male	8.1	27.0	8.1	56.8
Female	22.2	31.7	42.9	3.2
Identification				
Junior high	15.0	25.0	35.0	25.0
Senior high	18.0	28.0	30.0	24.0
College	16.7	37.7	26.7	20.0

III.6 The importance of love, friendship, and money

After watching *Tiny Times*, what do you think is the most important? In accordance with the Table 5, we can see that most male chose ‘love’ (32.4%). On the contrary, most female chose ‘friendship’ (60.3%). On the other hand, 30.0% of junior high school students, 44.0% of senior high school students, and 56.7% of college students viewed ‘friendship’ as their most important choice. The second choice is reported ‘love’ and the last is reported ‘money.’ More detailed information is presented in Table 5.

Table 5 The most important of their choice (unit: %)

	love	friendship	money	missing value
Gender				
Male	32.4	18.9	27.0	21.6
Female	12.7	60.3	4.8	22.2
Identification				
Junior high	25.0	30.0	15.0	30.0
Senior high	16.0	44.0	12.0	28.0
College	23.3	56.7	13.3	6.7

* missing value: the percentage of the participants who didn’t watch the movie.

III.7 The impact after watching the movie

No matter the genders or the identifications, most of the participants are reported that they don’t change the previous value of friendship after watching the movie, while there is still about 10% of participants said ‘yes.’ More detailed information is presented in Table 6.

Table 6 Do you change the previous value of friendship? (unit: %)

	Yes	No	missing value
Gender			
Male	13.5	64.9	21.6
Female	11.1	66.7	22.2
Identification			
Junior high	5.0	65.0	30.0
Senior high	16.0	56.0	28.0

	Yes	No	missing value
College	10.0	83.3	6.7

* missing value: the percentage of the participants who didn't watch the movie.

IV. Conclusion

Film scholars have recognized that a film's meaning arises in part from the relationship between the audience expectations and a film's awareness and a treatment of them [6]. According to this study, we realize 'love' and 'friendship' are the most things in our life. Few people may betray friend for money. Also, male's and female's thoughts about love or friendship are different, and the ways to deal with arguments are different, too. Watching movies is a good way to identify what we think, which reflects our real lives and reminds us which is the most important and who we are. Watching movies for movie-goers is not only an entertainment but also a lesson for all of the ages.

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Appendix

Questionnaire

We are working on a research about the topic of everyone's choice among love, friendship and money. Based on the discussions of the movie *Tiny Times*, we need some authentic data to understand everyone's opinions, so we design this questionnaire. Your personal information will be kept in privacy. Please take your time to complete this survey. The valuable opinions you give will be great help to our study. Thank you for your cooperation.

I. Personal Information

1. Gender: ☐Male ☐Female
2. Identification:
 - ☐Junior high school student
 - ☐Senior high school student
 - ☐College student

II. Questions

3. Have you ever seen the movie *Tiny Times*?
 - ☐Yes ☐No (If No, skip question 7 and 8.)
4. Will you betray your best friend just for money?
 - ☐Yes ☐No
5. If you have a serious argument with your best friends, what will you do?
 - ☐Talk to him or her
 - ☐Find someone for help
 - ☐Nothing to do
 - ☐Pretend nothing happened
6. If a person you loved likes your best friend, how would you choose?
 - ☐Fulfill them ☐Fair competition
 - ☐Give up the person you loved
 - ☐Give up your best friend
7. After watching *Tiny Times*, what do you think is the most important?
 - ☐Love ☐Friendship ☐Money
8. After watching the movie *Tiny Times*, do you change the previous value of friendship?
 - ☐Yes ☐No

