

Roald Dahl's Family Values

Through the Analysis of *The Witches* and *Matilda*

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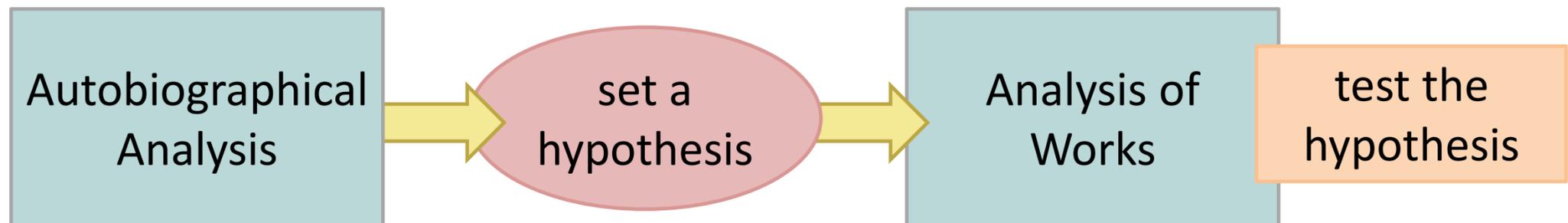
Background

In Dahl's works, there are depictions of family that are not ideal, but few studies have focused on the families
→ The subject is **Roald Dahl's family values**

Aims

1. To explore Dahl's family values
2. To consider the significance of Dahl's family depictions

Methods



Analysis of historical background and Dahl's Autobiographies

Conventional gender roles \Leftrightarrow Diversification of values



Father: Harald

Positive, had Challenge spirit, Financial strength
He died when Dahl was 3

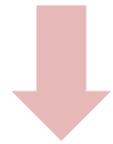


Mother: Sofie

Reliable
affectionate

Grandparents

Affectionate
Told Dahl Norse mythology



It can be thought that Dahl wanted his father to stay by side



She was idealized because of the above elements



They may have been thought ideal as affectionate and cultured adult

【The hypothesis of this study】

Dahl thought that **being reliable, having a sense of security, being supportive, having deep affection, and respecting attitudes** are ideal elements within a family

Analysis of Characters



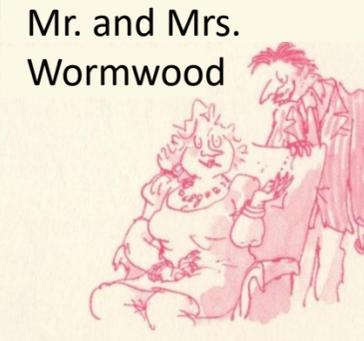
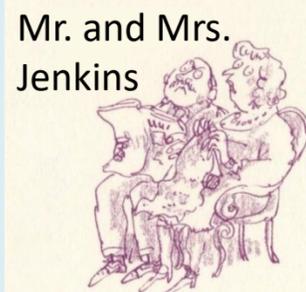
The Boy's family

- Close family
- Build good relationship through conversation



The Jenkins family

- Bruno boasts his father's authority, and feels love through actions
- Parents leave Bruno to do as he like



The Wormwood family

- parent is negative about Matilda's studying
- Matilda hate her parents



The New Honey family

- satisfied with their relationship
- Talk almost equally



The Old Honey family

- Trunchbull let Honey to do housework and Ruled by fear



Comparison of Family Relationships

Emotional relationship

The Boy's family...**Strong**

The Jenkins family...**Not strong**

The Wormwood family...**Weak**

The Old Honey family...**No connection**

The New Honey family...**Strong**

Equality in relationship

The Boy's family...**Equal**

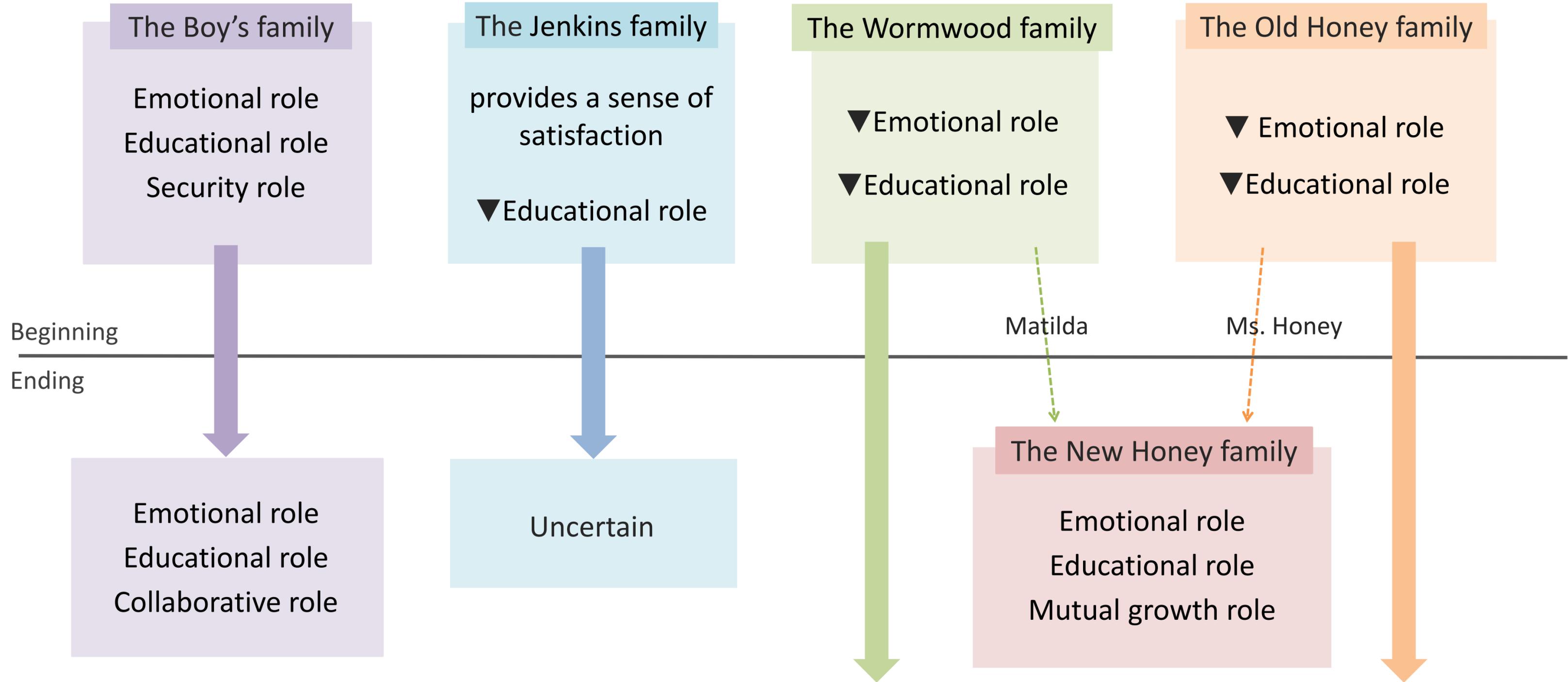
The Jenkins family...**Unequal**

The Wormwood family...**Unequal**

The Old Honey family...**Completely unequal**

The New Honey family...**Equal**

Analysis of the Structure of the Works



Comparison of family roles

Security role

The Boy's family...**Guaranteed**
The Jenkins family...**Guaranteed**
The Wormwood family...**Not guaranteed**
The Old Honey family...**Not guaranteed**
The New Honey family...**Guaranteed**

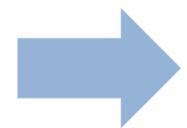
Educational role

The Boy's family...**High**
The Jenkins family...**Low**
The Wormwood family...**Low**
The Old Honey family...**Low**
The New Honey family...**High**

Conclusion 1

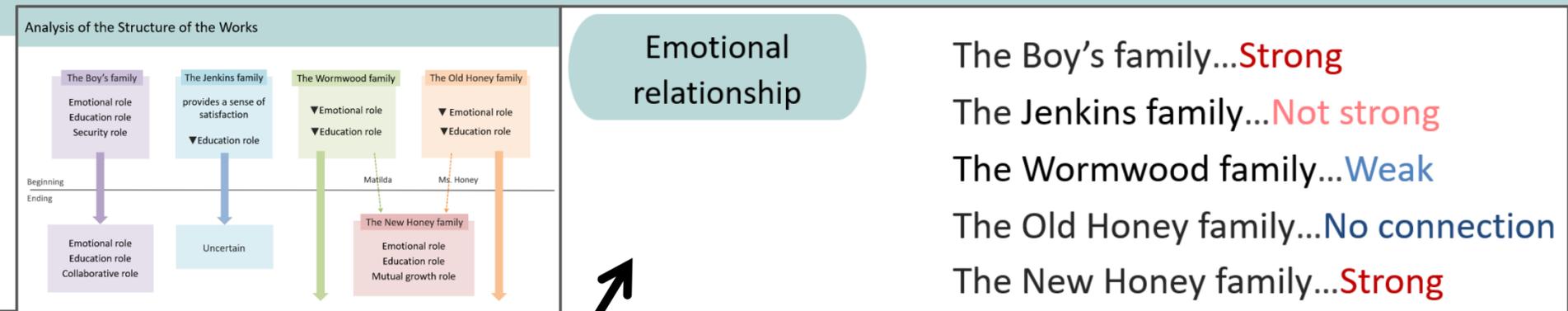
Dahl depicted families which have **strong emotional relationships, high equality in relationships, Security and educational roles** ideally.

This corresponds with the elements of the hypothesis.

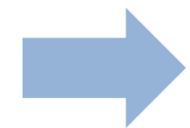


The hypothesis of this study is **reasonable**

Conclusion 2



- There are differences in reconfiguration process and the degree of good and evil
- Even if the family is relatively ideal, reconfiguration is required



His family depictions have significance in presenting “gradual”
family reconfiguration, family images, and a view of family that
assumes change