



## **Contextual Analysis of Indie Films as Film Genre**

*Dr. Ma. Enolita S. Faustino*

College of Communication, New Era University, Quezon City, Philippines

---

### **ABSTRACT**

The global adversity of the COVID-19 pandemic which has posed to be one of the greatest challenges to humanity in recent times and had lasting effects on one's well being bring the need for film and media that portray resiliency, coping, and Filipino resilience in its complexity, scope, and narrative. This study seeks to find out the portrayal of resilient traits and Filipino resilience of eleven short films from Cinemalaya Short Film Contest Category from the year 2019 to 2021 entitled "An Sadit na Planeta (The Little Planet)", "Maski Papano (I Mask Go On)", "Crossing", "Living Things", "Excuse Me, Miss, Miss, Miss", "The Slums", "Ang Gasgas na Plaka ni Lolo Bert", "Kontrolado ni Girly ang Buhay nya", "Heist School", "The Shoemaker", and "Sa Among Agwat (In Between Spaces)". Qualitative descriptive design was utilized to determine the resilient traits and Filipino resilience of the selected films through content analysis of the selected films' main character portrayal, conflict, resolution, and denouement. The researchers found out that the majority of the short films portray resilience in the theme of community (familial support) and humor (optimism). The researcher also found out that eight out of the eleven films portray positive resilience while three out of the eleven films portray negative resilience in main character portrayal.

---

### **Introduction**

Resilience has become synonymous with the Filipino identity and culture and is frequently explored in film and literature. Resilience describes the Filipino people in times of adversity. In Filipino tradition and social media, Filipinos often portray themselves as a bunch of people smiling in the face of adversity. In some way, it promotes a national image of a strong nation, one that can quickly make a joke, and a smile is an asset. Seeing this way to lighten the situation somehow uplifts the spirit and leaves a message that life is every day and resumes soon (Jocson, 2016). Nicomedes (2022) states that in the study that is anchored to the idea of Filipino anthropologist Felipe Landa Jocano, several themes were laid out parallel to the coping and resilience of the Filipino people categorized namely :(1) Letting God Be, (2) Humor, and (3) Community (Ang & Diaz, 2017). These themes, along with several others, have been identified as protective factors among Filipinos at times of distress.

Independent film, also known as indie film or indie movie, has come a long way throughout the years in integrating itself into the development and expansion of the film genre and the film industry in the Philippines. The COVID-19 pandemic brought new challenges and opportunities to the film industry in the Philippines due to the emergence of streaming sites such as Netflix, Hulu, Amazon Prime, etc. which gained prominence because people were strictly confined and quarantined to their homes prompting many people to watch movies for leisure and entertainment. Streaming sites such as Netflix showcases a library of movies, series, and shows, effectively promoting and boosting viewership, patronage, and awareness towards movies. Local streaming sites such as KTX.PH and Vivamax also followed.

Short films use the same elements of a feature film, with the only exception being in its runtime. The Academy of Motion Picture Arts and Sciences defines any film as short if its runtime is less than 40 minutes, including credits. Due to its length, short films are limited in terms of ideas that can be explored, characters introduced, etc. However, these limitations can give one opportunity to explore concepts that aren't viable in a longer format (Raindance blogspot, 2019) Short films are often made due to budget constraints, however it proves effective in helping to kickstart upcoming filmmakers gain opportunities and professional visibility.

The researchers, after considering those perspectives, decided to work on this study which focused on the identification of depictions of the resilience of Filipinos in the selected films. Specifically, it sought answers to the following problems: How do the following selected movies portray the resilient characters in terms of the following elements of character portrayal, conflict, resolution, and denouement? How is resilience developed among the main characters of each movie: An Sadit na Planeta (The Little Planet), Maski Papano (I Mask Go On), Crossing, Living Things, Excuse Me, Miss, Miss, Miss, The Slums, Ang Gasgas na Plaka ni Lolo Bert, Kontrolado ni Girl ang Buhay nya, Heist School, The Shoemaker, and Ang Among Agway (In Between Spaces)? What are the implications of the finding of the study in the fostering of Filipino movies that represent the resilience of Filipinos in the present time?

## Method

The study utilized the theory of Deconstruction developed by Jacques Derrida. According to Britannica, deconstruction is a method of literary analysis that questions the fundamental conceptual distinctions, or oppositions through a close examination of the language and logic of literary texts. It is also closely related with semiotic analysis. The researcher applied descriptive research design. The researchers made a content analysis of the selected indie short films, an analysis of the film's contents and elements. The process involved a descriptive research design that answers the research question of the study by describing the phenomena behind it (McCombes, 2020). The study contains only qualitative research because it only revolves around film analysis. The study was possible for literary criticism because it analyzed the selected indie short films.

There will be no data gathering from the population since this study focused on the content analysis of eleven (11) indie short films which were all entries from Cinemalaya year 2019 to 2021. The short films are namely: "An Sadit na Planeta (The Little Planet)", "Maski Papano (I Mask Go On)", "Crossing", "Living Things", "Excuse Me, Miss, Miss, Miss", "The Slums", "Ang Gasgas na Plaka ni Lolo Bert", "Kontrolado ni Girly ang Buhay nya", "Heist School", "The Shoemaker", and "Sa Among Agwat (In Between Spaces)". The following selected indie short films were selected in accordance with the statement of the problem. This study focuses on the analysis and criticism of portrayal of resilient traits and Filipino resilience in story elements in the selected indie short films from Cinemalaya entries on Short Film Category from the year 2019 to 2021. This study will not include other forms of independent media such as feature films, documentaries, and experimental films. This study will not cover other problems that are not necessarily connected to research regarding independent film.

To produce the content analysis of the selected indie short films, the researcher used the following elements of main character portrayal, conflict, resolution, denouement and depiction of resilience in the selected films. The researchers utilized a content analysis method in analyzing the selected films' contents and elements. The researchers watched thoroughly the selected indie films. In this study, the researchers gathered information through existing website articles and studies that help widen the scope of the study.

## Results

### 1. How do the following selected movies portray resilient characters in terms of the following elements:

#### 1.1 Main Character Portrayal:

FILM	CHARACTER PORTRAYAL
Ang Sadit na Planeta	<p><i>"Am I crazy? So what is this ? Can you read my mind?"</i></p> <p>This scene shows Arjan's bewilderment as he wakes up alone on a little planet called Planet I and is greeted by a strange voice who talks to him.</p>
Maski papaano	<p><i>"Pagkagising mo Isang araw... di mo na alam ang gagawin., what is out there ? Asan Ako ? I don't know anymore..."</i></p> <p>This shows the character Peks Mas, a sentient face mask creature, as he was all alone exploring the streets after he was thrown away and materialized in a garbage bag full of discarded masks.</p>
Crossing	<p><i>"Asaan kana ? Nagawan mo na ng paraan ?"</i></p> <p>This scene shows the security guard Gabriel as his wife texts him asking him where he is and what he's done to solve their problem in the hospital while he is boarding a bus he plans to rob in order to have enough money to save their daughter who is in critical condition.</p>

Living things	<p><i>"Bakit ang weird mo ngayon? Lahat. Nag-üba eh. "</i></p> <p>This is when the character of Kints asks her partner Charles about the things she notices about him such as his manner of sleeping and how she feels that everything seemingly has changed.</p>
Excuse me, miss, miss, miss	<p><i>"Sige na ho, nagmamakaawa po ako, may sakit po nanay ko.</i></p> <p><i>Wala po akong oras para maghanap ng trabaho. Wowowin?</i></p> <p><i>Wowowin ho? Hindi po Wowowin ang hanap ko. Trabaho ho, trabaho. "</i></p> <p>This shows the character of Vangie, a contractual sales lady employee at Trendysitas mall, practicing her plea to her boss Ma'am Charo, anticipating what the boss might say in advance in order to convince her boss to make her a regular employee which she really needs the money for her mother's maintenance medicine.</p>
The slums	<p><i>"Normal lang naman ho yung pamilya namin, okay lang kami"</i></p> <p>This scene presents the character of Pamela humbly and genuinely answering the question about her family as she was interviewed by the media crew that is currently shooting in their house for television.</p>
Ang gasgas na plaka ni Lolo bert	<p><i>"Napaka seryoso nyo naman eh. Sakto ang dating nyo dahil marami kaming sale ngayon!"</i></p> <p>This is when the character of Miyo, a record store owner who is also a widower, tries to talk to Lolo Bert, a grumpy music teacher who sarcastically answers his morning greeting as he greets him in the record store.</p>
Kontraldo ni Girly Ang Buhay Niya	<p><i>"Ate, pwede po bang mag-apply? May opening po ba kayo ngayon?"</i></p> <p>This shows the character of Girly, an innocent and poor gay teenage boy in dire need of work, as he timidly asks a store employee if they have a job opening.</p>
Heist school	<p><i>"Pucha naman! Buraot talaga eh!"</i></p> <p>This scene portrays the character of Joedel, a high school student, as he teases his friend Omar who took his wallet and took out a bill from it, calling him a freeloader.</p>
The shoemaker	<p><i>"Kung hindi ka ba naman nahilig sa lechon. Di ka sana nauna."</i></p> <p>This is the character of Grace, an aging shoemaker, talking to a framed picture of his dead husband reminiscing about the times he was still alive.</p>

Sa Among Agwat	<p><i>"Ma. What if I followed after Mako? What if I go back to school?"</i></p> <p>This scene shows Jun, a young teenage boy who works in his family's farm, as he tries to ask his mother if he can go back to school and study in order to follow his younger brother Mako who is about to be adopted and taken away by their aunt who lives in the states.</p>
Ang Sadit na Planeta	<p><i>"Am I crazy? So what is this ? Can you read my mind?"</i></p> <p>This scene shows Arjan's bewilderment as he wakes up alone on a little planet called Planet I and is greeted by a strange voice who talks to him.</p>

The scenes given above show the data that present how the main character portrayal of each movie has been shown. Eleven out of 11 main characters in the selected short films have exhibited resilient traits and values that developed over the course of the story in their portrayed roles. Each character composed of different socioeconomic statuses and social classes shows resilience in life that mirrors their community, household, interpersonal and intrapersonal relationships. This has shown the different aspects of the lives of Filipinos and how they manage to cope and endure hardships in life in community, work, school, family, and peer settings.

## 1.2 Conflict

The short films portray conflicts that pose challenges in the life of each main character. Each story presents its own obstacle for the main character in the medium of family problems, love quarrel, school frustrations, and in the field of professions. The conflicts presented in the short films mirror the real life circumstances and issues that Filipinos encounter and face everyday.

FILM	CHARACTER PORTRAYAL
<p>1.An Sadit na Planeta</p> <p><i>Man vs. Self</i></p>	<p><i>"Why is the day not moving ? Where is the day ?</i></p> <p><i>Why is there no night ? What? It is hard talking to you."</i></p> <p>This is when Arjan wakes up to find out that the voice still greets him as it's his first day on Planet I even though he knows it's already been a few days. Arjan is also confused why there is seemingly no night on the planet and that the strange voice keeps answering his questions and concerns cryptically.</p>
<p>2. Maski papaano</p> <p><i>Man vs. Self</i></p>	<p><i>"You'll go back to where you're used to. Only to find out, they don't need you anymore"</i></p> <p>This scene shows Maks Pes saddened and feeling like he has no purpose after he returned to his former owner seeing that he was already replaced by a new facemask.</p>
<p>3.Crossing</p> <p><i>Man vs. Self</i></p>	<p><i>"Hoy ikaw, anong tinatago tago mo dyan? Ha? Mukhang mamahalin yan ah. Bigay mo na sakin yan."</i></p> <p>After two robbers called a robbery on the bus before him, Gabriel covers his firearm in his back, while the robber thinks he is hiding something expensive and aggressively asks him to hand it over.</p>

<p>4. Living things</p> <p><i>Man vs. Self</i></p>	<p><i>"Anong nangyari sayo? Okay ka lang? Bakit ka flat? Papano nangyari to? Doctor gusto mo?"</i></p> <p>This scene shows Kints asking Charles if he is alright and poking him when he has suddenly become a cardboard standee after she returned from the restroom.</p>
<p>5. Excuse me, miss, miss, miss</p> <p><i>Man vs. Man</i></p>	<p><i>"Ngayon, sabihin mo sakín bakít kita isasama sa gagawin</i></p> <p><i>Kong regular sa Trendysitas? Answer me!"</i></p> <p>This is when ma'am Charo furiously asks Vangie why she should be made a regular employee in the mall after she makes her view the CCTV footage of her working and slacking off on the job. Afterwards, she gives Vangie an ultimatum to return her id because she is being dismissed.</p>
<p>6. The Slums</p> <p><i>Man vs. Man</i></p>	<p><i>"Ano ba bat kayo nagroroll nakikita nyong may sunog!"</i></p> <p>This scene shows the family panicking when they saw smoke inside the house thinking the house caught fire and the character of Pamela questioning the crew why they are still rolling, unaware that the smoke in the house was coming from a fog machine the crew brought inside intentionally.</p>
<p>7. Ang gasgas na plaka ni Lolo bert</p> <p><i>Man vs. Self</i></p>	<p><i>"Lumang luma na po ito"</i></p> <p><i>"Baka naman gaya ng sinabi nyo, magagawan ng paraan?"</i></p> <p>This scene shows Lolo Bert's distress as he finds out from Miyo that the vinyl record of a song very sentimental to him is in a worn state and may not be fixed. He pleads to Miyo if he can do something to fix his vinyl record that reminds him of his ex-boyfriend from long ago.</p>
<p>8. Kontrolado ni Girly Ang Buhay Niya</p> <p><i>Man vs. Mand</i></p>	<p><i>"Ano? Tanggap ka ba o hindi? Sinabi ko naman sayong mag</i></p> <p><i>ayos-ayos ka eh, pabigat ka lang dito"</i></p> <p>This is when Girly's father grudgingly asks him if he has a job, telling him that he's a burden in their family.</p>
<p>9. Heist school</p> <p><i>Man vs. Self</i></p>	<p><i>"Joedel, bagsak. Nako mag aral sa exam ah. Omar, Mr. Dimacayanan, you failed again. Graduating ka pa naman. What's wrong? Di makayanan ang math?"</i></p> <p>This scene shows Ms. Suzy announced the Math quiz results in front of the class and broadcast that Joedel and Omar both failed the quiz, making fun of them in the process.</p>
<p>10. The shoemaker</p> <p><i>Man vs. Self</i></p>	<p><i>"Elias? Elias! walanghiya ka! Ang kapal ng mukha mo leche ka! Sa dami mong kasalanan sakín. Di talaga kita patatawarin. Di ko patatahimikin ang kaluluwa mo! Hayop!"</i></p> <p>This is when Grace saw Elias from behind, who wasn't pleasantly surprised and started cursing him and throwing shoes at him and is still resentful for the pain Elias caused in the past who left her in order to pursue his dreams in America.</p>

<p>11. Sa Among Agwat</p> <p><i>Man vs. Self</i></p>	<p><i>"There's only one seat on the plane, Mako, and it's for you alone"</i></p> <p>This scene shows Jun telling his younger brother Mako that he can't go along with him to the States for he is going to stay in their farm house. even if he really wanted to.</p>
<p>12.An Sadit na Planeta</p> <p><i>Man vs. Self</i></p>	<p><i>"Why is the day not moving ? Where is the day ?</i></p> <p><i>Why is there no night ? What? It is hard talking to you."</i></p> <p>This is when Arjan wakes up to find out that the voice still greets him as it's his first day on Planet I even though he knows it's already been a few days. Arjan is also confused why there is seemingly no night on the planet and that the strange voice keeps answering his questions and concerns cryptically.</p>

Eight out of the eleven short films show the conflict of man vs. self whereas the main character struggles with one's self due to both external and internal factors. This type of conflict also posits that the main character of the story is both the protagonist and the antagonist. An example of this include Sa "Among Agwat", wherein Jun struggles with accepting the impending departure of his younger brother who is going with their aunt to live in the States, who he might never see again.

Three out of the eleven short films present the conflict of man vs. man whereas the main character struggles with other characters, known as antagonists. This is shown in the short film "Excuse Me, Miss, Miss, Miss" wherein Vangie, the contractual employee of a mall struggles to convince her boss ma'am Charo, a strict, short-tempered manager, to keep her job and make her a regular employee in order to continually support her ill mother.

### 1.3 Resolution

The scenes given below show data that present how resolution of each movie has been shown. The following short films depicted resilience in the resolution of the story. The personality and traits of each main character and the choices they made corresponding to the scenes in the story justifies how the story is resolved. The resolution of the story also shows how the main characters face the circumstances and develop resilience as a result. The resolutions shown in the film represent positive values such as friendship and compassion that denote Filipino resiliency and identity.

FILM	CHARACTER PORTRAYAL
<p>1.An Sadit na Planeta</p>	<p><i>"There is no big or small world. It is the same size. It is your freedom that expands it. Your incarceration reduces it. Your freedom is both your responsibility and your right"</i></p> <p>This scene shows Arjan full of hope while exploring his little planet and making the number of days higher after those early stages where he only slept and didn't want to do anything. Highlighted is Arjan climbing mountains during his journey as he learned to explore his little planet full of wonders.</p>
<p>2. Maski papaano</p>	<p><i>"I soon found out na hindi pala talaga ako nag isa. There is comfort in knowing that there are also other people out there who also try hard to get by. In the end, I didn't find myself.. we found ourselves."</i></p> <p>This is when Peks Mas finally meets others like him who are also discarded face masks and they go on doing fun activities such as dancing and taking pictures together as a group.</p>

<p>3. Crossing</p>	<p><i>"Ang galing mo kuya! Salamat!"</i></p> <p>This scene shows the people in the bus cheering and complimenting Gabriel after he skillfully shot the two robbers, saving their lives and valuable items from being stolen.</p>
<p>4. Living things</p>	<p><i>"Kung nahihirapan ka na, pwede mo naman akong iwan dito"</i></p> <p><i>"Di ko naman gagawin yun"</i></p> <p>This is when Kints took Charles, who is now a cardboard standee, to a local amusement park, who then asks her to drop him if she is already tired from carrying him around in which Kints willingly replies that she won't be able to do such a thing to him despite the difficult situation they are in that Charles could never be the same person again</p>
<p>5. Excuse me, miss, miss, miss</p>	<p><i>"Ang saklap diba? "</i></p> <p><i>"Tangina nyo"</i></p> <p><i>"Hindi ako Vangie, putangina ng buhay na to"</i></p> <p>This is when Vangie confronts ma'am Charo in her office after she discovers that there's four of them. Vangie resentfully questions why her boss would use magic to make her life easier while the rest of the employees suffer everyday just to keep their jobs. asking her if it's the only way she was able to keep her job, who then proceeds to tell her that the impossible is the only way. The exchange then explodes to Vangie cursing her boss, in which ma'am Charo denies that it wasn't her to be blamed for she also has no control about the situation, but life itself.</p>
<p>6. The slums</p>	<p><i>"Kayo mga putang ina kayo lumayas kayo sa pamamahay ko!"</i></p> <p>This scene shows Nayda furiously shouting at the media crew to leave their house immediately after the cameraman accidentally broke their TV, snapping the rest of the family's patience after the crew made them act in front of the camera as a poor and miserable family and asked them questionable questions about the state of their family all throughout their stay.</p>
<p>7. Ang gasgas na plaka ni Lolo bert</p>	<p><i>"Subukan mo kayang pumikit? Subukan mo ngang pumikit"</i></p> <p>This is when the character of Miyo patiently asks Lolo Bert to close his eyes as the two listen to the music playing in the vinyl record, in which Miyo then leans on Lolo Bert's shoulder who opened his eyes but eventually let him. A sign that the grumpy Lolo Bert finally let his guard down towards Miyo and their friendship has blossomed into something more.</p>

<p>8. <i>Kontrolado ni Girly Ang Buhay niya</i></p>	<p><i>"Ma, patulong naman sa bio-data. May opening sa convenience store"</i></p> <p>This scene shows Girly asking her mother to help her with his bio-data for there is a job opening at the convenience store. This is after Girly's father has left the family due to him trying to rape Girly's mother. Girly comforts her mother's loss and wants to help his family as soon as he can.</p>
<p>9. <i>Heist school</i></p>	<p><i>"Omar! Bagsak na kung bagsak!"</i></p> <p>This is when the character of Joedel finally finds Omar in the school at night, telling him that he didn't use the answer key they stole from Ms. Suzy's faculty room, from which only Omar was caught due to him leaving a pack of mikmik on the crime scene, pointing him as the only suspect in the heist. This shows Joedel choosing their friendship rather than passing the class alone and not letting only his friend suffer from their shared misdeed.</p>
<p>10. <i>The shoemaker</i></p>	<p><i>"Di naman nila puputulin to. Alam kong minahal mo si Manolo, hindi ako tanga Grace. Gusto ko lang naman makita ka. Di ko kasi alam kung, kung anong mangyayari sa akin sa mga susunod na araw. Gusto ko lang makasuot uli ng gawa mong sapatos."</i></p> <p>This scene shows Elias asking forgiveness from Grace and revealing that he wanted to see her because he is ill and won't live long.</p>
<p>11. <i>Ang Among Agwat</i></p>	<p><i>"Don't worry Mako. Aunt's house is a lot bigger than this. A lot more beautiful."</i></p> <p>This is when Jun tells his younger brother Mako not to worry and how beautiful their aunt's place is, finally accepting that he and Mako won't be able to see each other anymore once Mako is taken away by their aunt to live in the States and given a chance for a better future.</p>
<p>12. <i>An Sadit na Planeta</i></p>	<p><i>"There is no big or small world. It is the same size. It is your freedom that expands it. Your incarceration reduces it. Your freedom is both your responsibility and your right"</i></p> <p>This scene shows Arjan full of hope while exploring his little planet and making the number of days higher after those early stages where he only slept and didn't want to do anything. Highlighted is Arjan climbing mountains during his journey as he learned to explore his little planet full of wonders.</p>

**1.4 Denouement**

<p><b>FILM</b></p>	<p><b>CHARACTER PORTRAYAL</b></p>
--------------------	-----------------------------------



<p>1. <i>An Sadit na Planeta</i> (Positive Resilience)</p>	<p><i>"You are your freedom. The world is your freedom. Fight for your freedom. Fight for your world. Take care of your world. Thanks for fighting. Thanks for continuing."</i></p> <p>The last scene of the film shows Arjan smiling with a colorful building as his background. He is also holding a chime and sounding it, while the 360 degree shot slowly returns to normal, signifying that he has returned to the real world.</p>
<p>2. <i>Maski papaano</i> (Positive Resilience)</p>	<p><i>"We're disposable, but non-degradable. When will this end? Ano na bang araw ngayon?"</i></p> <p>The last scene of the film shows Peks Maks and the other discarded face mask characters standing in front of the two people who are the creators of the short film.</p>
<p>3. <i>Crossing</i> (Negative Resilience)</p>	<p><i>"Andar"</i></p> <p>The last scene in Crossing shows Gabriel facing the bus driver, pointing the gun at him and telling the driver to continue driving. Before this scene, his wife called him frantically telling him that their daughter is dying. This shows that due to desperation and pressure of the situation with his ill daughter, he decided to continue his original plan to rob the bus in order to save the life of his daughter despite saving it from the previous robbery attempt.</p>
<p>4. <i>Living Things</i> (Positive Resilience)</p>	<p><i>"Bakit ko naman gagawin yun? "</i></p> <p><i>"Iba na sa tong pagbabago ko. Di mo na ako mababalik dati"</i></p> <p>The last scene from Living Things shows Kints sitting on a bench in a local amusement park holding her partner Charles who is a cardboard standee. Charles tells Kints that she can no longer turn him back to who he was before. The film ends with Kints turning herself into a cardboard standee to be together with Charles. The last scene signifies that Kints accepted the changes in Charles and in the process changed herself as well.</p>
<p>5. <i>Excuse Me, Miss, Miss, Miss</i> (Negative Resilience)</p>	<p><i>"Sabi ko sayo eh. Kaya natin to!"</i></p> <p>The last scene from the movie shows Vangie going into work and being greeted by her coworkers then she walks inside the office and there are three of her in the room wearing the same red outfit her boss wears before. The three clones of her greet Vangie telling her that they will get through this. This scene tells that Vangie also used magic in order to keep herself as a regular employee in the mall where she works.</p>
<p>6. <i>The Slums</i> (Positive Resilience)</p>	<p><i>"Anong gagawin natin dyan? Gagawa tayo ng pelikula!"</i></p> <p>The last scene from The Slums shows the family taking the camera from the camera man while Pamela urges the sound guy to stay because she doesn't know how to use the sound equipment. The family then takes turns getting into the frame, introducing themselves happily, while merrily bonding together. This signifies that the family wanted to show the real version of their family and not the version the crew wanted to portray which is very different from the truth.</p>
<p>7. <i>Ang Gasgas na Plaka ni Lolo bert</i></p>	<p><i>"Sigurado ako, gagana na yan. Akala ko wala na akong mahahanap na ganyan eh. Napaka rare na nyan. "</i></p> <p>These lines were said by Miyo who hands over a copy of the sentimental old vinyl record to</p>

<i>(Positive Resilience)</i>	Lolo Bert who has been long waiting for it to be finally repaired. The last scenes in the movie shows Lolo Bert playing the vinyl record, imagining dancing with his ex-boyfriend but when the camera turned around, he was now dancing with Miyo. This sight prompted Lolo Bert to scratch the vinyl record then went back to the record store to show it to Miyo. The scratching of the vinyl record signifies that Lolo Bert has let go of the past and has decided to seek a future with Miyo.
8. <i>Kontrolado ni Girly Ang Buhay Niya</i>  <i>(Positive Resilience)</i>	<i>"Sandali! ano to? Tabi nga, mga walang utang na loob"</i>  These lines were said by Girly's father after Girly confronted him because he was caught trying to have forced intercourse with Girly's mother. This scene parallels the present in which Girly knocks down a convenience store worker who asked for sexual service in exchange for Girly to get the job in the convenience store, later on exposing the man's secret to his own wife and children. The last scene shows Girly happily dancing around the store, relieved that he fended for himself.
9. <i>Heist School</i>  <i>(Negative Resilience)</i>	<i>"Kayo ba Si jodel at si Omar ? Balita ko ninakaw nyo daw yung answer key ni Ms. Suzy ah... Isang libo, nakawin nyo yung finals namin. Game?"</i>  The last scene shows Joedel finally finding Omar in the school at night when a student comes up to them and bribes them in order to steal another exam. Excitement can be seen in the eyes of the two, implying that they accepted the offer.
10. <i>The Shoemaker</i>  <i>(Positive Resilience)</i>	<i>"Elias"</i>  These words were uttered by Grace followed by crying and forgiving Elias after she learned that he wanted to see her because of his quickly declining condition. The last scene shows Grace closing the lights in the shoe workshop, goes home to look at his dead husband's picture, then finally puts out the last candle in the window.
11. <i>Ang Among Agwat</i>  <i>(Positive Resilience)</i>	<i>"Jun, hand me his bag. Is everything he needs here? Nothing left behind?"</i>  These words were spoken by their mother Dita to Jun as they ready and dress Mako for the arrival of their aunt who will be fetching him afterwards. Jun didn't answer the question and went outside carrying the bag. The last scenes show Dita and Jun handing over Mako to his new family, and as the car went away, Jun and Dita couldn't hold back their tears as Mako was taken away from them, uncertain when will they ever see him again. This was followed by the sound of the airplane ascending and several shots of Jun looking up, wondering where his younger brother is now.
1. <i>An Sadiit na Planeta</i>  <i>(Positive Resilience)</i>	<i>"You are your freedom. The world is your freedom. Fight for your freedom. Fight for your world. Take care of your world. Thanks for fighting. Thanks for continuing."</i>  The last scene of the film shows Arjan smiling with a colorful building as his background. He is also holding a chime and sounding it, while the 360 degree shot slowly returns to normal, signifying that he has returned to the real world.

The scenes given above show the data that present how the denouement of each movie has been shown. The denouement shows how and what type of resilience was developed by the main character throughout the story as a result of the conflict and circumstances presented. The denouement also ties up loose ends that conclude the story. The denouement of the story finally imparts the lessons and values that the audiences could infer, accumulate, and contemplate on.

Eight out of the eleven short films depicted positive resilience whereas the conflicts and circumstances presented resulted in an outcome where the main character exhibited positive behavior and remained with a positive outlook. An example of this is the ending in "The Shoemaker" wherein Grace's negative outlook towards Elias and trauma changed after she saw Elias perseverance into proving himself and learning that Elias is terminally ill, allowing forgiveness within herself and Elias after all those years.

However, three out of the eleven short films portrayed negative resilience whereas the conflicts presented resulted in an outcome where the main character changed negatively and fostered self-destructive behavior and thoughts. An example of this is the ending in "Crossing" wherein despite after Gabriel saved the bus from the robbery attempt of two robbers, the frantic call from his wife while the people in the bus were cheering for him pushed him to desperation and decided to continue with his original plan, pointing the gun at the bus driver and telling it to continue driving while he does the misdeed.

The interview with the director of the said film titled "CROSSING: Cinemalaya Story with Director Marc Misa" revealed that the ending of the story was negative because the script from where it came is initially a full-length feature film script.

## 2. How resilience is developed among the main characters of each movie

The data present how resilience was developed in the main character throughout the story of each movie that has been shown. The scenes also show what resilient traits the main characters have exhibited in the story. Several themes were laid out parallel to the coping and resilience of the Filipino people categorized namely; (1) Letting God Be, (2) Humor, and (3) Community (Ang & Diaz, 2017).

Film		Letting God Be	Humor	Community
1. An Sadit na Planeta	<p>"This planet is useless without you. It revolves around nothing. It has no destination. You set the end and the beginning. It just depends on your rotation around it. Thanks for spinning"</p> <p>These words were uttered by I, the voice that Arjan hears and</p> <p>speaks to Planet I as he explores his little planet. These words indicate that Arjan eventually learned to appreciate his little planet and went on to explore it, encouraged by the voice of I, transforming from the early stages where he didn't want to do anything at all. This signifies Arjan's independence and desire to explore his planet that was gifted to him despite it being seemingly small and empty at first.</p>	✓		
2. Maski papaano	<p>"Kung anu-ano ginagawa namin just to cope and ease the pain"</p> <p>These words were said by Peks Maks as he is shown doing fun activities such as looking at the sunset and baking cookies with another discarded humanoid mask in the form of a girl. This signifies that after being discarded by his former owner and boss, Peks Maks learned to have a purpose after meeting</p>		✓	✓

	<p>another discarded humanoid mask like him. This also shows that Peks Maks endured the feeling of loneliness and being out of place after meeting others like him and realizing that being the mask of his former owner maybe wasn't his true purpose in life.</p>			
3. Crossing	<p><i>"Kinakausap kita eh. Ano ba bingi ka ba? Putangina ka. Ano? Di mo ba ako naririnig!"</i></p> <p>These words were spoken by the robber as he tries to coerce Gabriel into showing him his bag and belongings. The pressure from the life and death situation eventually pushed Gabriel into shooting the robber swiftly with the gun hidden in his back, saving the people at the bus from danger.</p>	✓		
4. Living Things	<p><i>"Sabi nila hintayin daw natin eh. "</i></p> <p><i>"Eh malay mo naman bumalik ako sa dati"</i></p> <p><i>"Eh kahit naman hindi okay lang"</i></p> <p>The exchange of dialogue between Kints and her partner</p> <p>Charles who became a cardboard standee indicates that Charles and Kints remained hopeful and patient that he would turn back again to normal. Kints reassured him that even if that didn't happen, it will be alright for her. This signifies Kints love for Charles that allowed her to endure the changes within Charles in order to save their relationship. This also shows that Kints willingly adapted to the changes because of love for her partner Charles.</p>		✓	✓
5. Excuse me, miss, miss, miss	<p><i>"Ma'am wala na ba talagang chance? Ginawa ko naman lahat. Binigay ko naman yung</i></p>		✓	

	<p><i>best ko? Kulang pa ba?"</i></p> <p>These words were spoken by</p> <p>Vangie, as she pleads to her boss in order to keep her job and become a regular employee in Trendysitas, asking for another chance and reasoning out that she has done everything and mentioning the many accomplishments that went unrecognized by her boss. This shows Vangie's endurance in dealing with her work environment and her superiors</p> <p>On a daily basis being a minimum wage earning employee working in sales, this also shows her desperation to keep her job in order to support the needs of her sick mother.</p>			
6. The Slums	<p><i>"Andun na tayo, pero yung pinapakita nila don di tayo, di tayo yun. Di natin buhay yon. "</i></p> <p>These words were spoken by Pamela as she argues with her</p> <p>father why the crew is still in</p> <p>their house, telling his father that the crew has ulterior motives in featuring their family on television. She argues that</p> <p>what the crew is trying to portray as their life is not who they really are. This shows Pamela's resilience in defending the dignity of her family and standing for them since she knows that being on television exposes them to all kinds of people and is subjected to opinions about their family.</p> <p>This also shows Pamela's endurance in defying stereotypes about poverty.</p>		✓	✓
7. Ang gasgas na plaka ni Lolo bert	<p><i>"Ang sarap pakinggan ng gantong klase ng musika no?"</i></p> <p>Para kang dinadala sa mga masasayang bahagi ng iyong nakaraan"</p> <p>These words were said by Miyo</p>		✓	✓

	<p>while music was being played</p> <p>and he was sitting beside Lolo Bert in the record store. He urged Lolo Bert to close his eyes while listening to the music who hesitated first but eventually agreed. This shows Miyo's enduring trait that he remains patient despite Lolo Bert's outbursts and snappy remarks in order to understand Lolo Bert better and to strengthen their relationship.</p>			
8. Kontrolado ni Girly Ang Buhay niya	<p><i>"Eto, pag di mo pa sila nakuha sa bag na to. Eto ang magic. Ingatan mo ah"</i></p> <p><i>"Sesewertehin ako dito"</i></p> <p>The dialogue was an exchange between Girly and his mother while she looks for something</p> <p>Girly could wear as he looks for a job again. His mother hands him a chained purse in which</p> <p>Girly responds that this will be his lucky charm. This shows Girly and his mother's endurance in facing the abandonment of his former husband and moving onward with their lives.</p>		✓	✓
9. Heist School	<p><i>"Kukunin natin yung answer key sa drawer ni ma'am Suzy sa faculty room. Pero dapat di nya malaman."</i></p> <p>These words were uttered by Joedel who plans to steal the answer key from their teacher's faculty room with his best friend Omar</p>			✓

	<p>and two other students in order for them to pass the upcoming exam of which they have failed the previous ones due to their lack of abilities in solving math problems. This shows Joedel's endurance in finding his ways around the system, which in</p> <p>this case is the school system, in order to thrive.</p>			
10. The Shoemaker	<p><i>"Yun din naman ang pinag papasalamat ko na dumating siya at tinulungan nya ako tuparin ang pangarap ko sa Marikina. Minahal ako ni Manalo, Elias. At natutunan kong kalimutan ka dahil sa kanya"</i></p> <p>These words were spoken by Grace to Elias, telling him that Manolo loved her and that made her learn to forget him, giving Elias and herself the closure that they both need. This was contrary to Grace's previous actions and mindset towards Elias in which she was resentful and hatred grew in her heart for Elias. This signifies Grace's growth and acceptance towards Elias, the person who left her and hurted her. This also shows Grace's endurance in grieving for the lost love and moving onward with her life.</p>	✓		✓
11. Sa Among Agway	<p><i>"Wouldn't it be great if we lived in something like this, Mako? That's where our bedroom would be, and mother's would be over there. The sala would be over here and we would have our own TV!"</i></p> <p>These words were said by Jun to his younger brother Mako while they were in an abandoned but furnished house somewhere nearby</p>		✓	

	<p>their fields. Jun imagines having a good home and living a good life with his younger brother and their mother, a wish that their family could live well together. This signifies Jun's hopes and dreams for his family and to live</p> <p>a good life with them. This also</p> <p>shows Jun's endurance in accepting the grim reality that he might never see his younger</p> <p>brother again once their aunt</p> <p>takes Mako to live in the states.</p>			
--	---	--	--	--

In the Filipino context, resiliency is culturally based on themes of deep spirituality, strong family ties and a good disposition in life/ Three of the eleven short films portray the theme of Letting God Be where resiliency is characterized by leaving one's circumstances up to faith and chance and also rationalization that problems are brought as a result of divine intervention. This is shown in the movie "An Sadit na Planeta" wherein Arjan listens to the strange voice called I who greets him every morning after he wakes up on planet I. Seven of the eleven short films present the theme of Humor where resiliency is characterized by smiling at the face of adversity and optimism. An example of this is in the movie "Ang Gasgas na Plaka ni Lolo Bert" wherein Miyo remains optimistic despite Lolo Bert's sarcastic remarks towards his inquiries. Seven of the eleven short films denote the theme of Community where resilience is characterized by subscribing to traditional support systems such as friends and family. This can be seen in the movie "Kontrolado ni Girly ang Buhay nya" wherein after witnessing her mother getting molested by his father who then leaves their family, Girly turns to his mother to help him fill the biodata he needs and then asking help from his mother on what to wear during interview.

## Analysis

The selected short films from Cinemalaya Short Film Category entries from year 2019 to 2021 namely: "An Sadit na Planeta (The Little Planet, "Maski Papano (I Mask Go On)", "Crossing", "Living Things", "Excuse Me, Miss, Miss, Miss," "The Slums", "Ang Gasgas na Plaka ni Lolo Bert", "Kontrolado ni Girly ang Buhay nya", "Heist School, The Shoemaker", and "Sa Among Agwat (In Between Spaces)" portrayed resilient traits and Filipino resilience through the elements of story that present different characters and situations that reflect the issues, challenges and circumstances faced by Filipinos in real life. Characters can be seen in various aspects of a Filipino's life, such as how they manage and overcome challenges at school, at home, and in the community.

The conflicts in each film taught viewers that there are always challenges in life, which can be seen in some of the various forms of conflicts with man and self. The movie's resolutions demonstrated to viewers that there is always an answer to every problem, and these films assist viewers in strengthening their resilience traits and coping techniques as they face various life challenges. The denouement of each im ties up loose ends in the story. It also denotes positive resilience and negative resilience in the main characters.

## Discussion

It is concluded that the eleven selected indie short films depict resilience in life through portrayal of different characters. circumstances and narratives where the relationship inside the community, work, school, family, and peers are explored remarkably. Majority of the selected movies deal with resilience as characterized by familial support and humor as coping techniques that are relatable to the audiences.

As part of the analysis of the films chosen, the researcher found out that despite its brevity, short films are able to deliver a lingering message to the audiences through elements of film that make up a story that is relatable and people are able to sympathize with. The researchers also found out that short films can tell the story of anyone, since there is no way of knowing how many people have gone through the same experiences and narratives featured in the films. The presented movies also can help the viewers to reflect and take inspiration on how to cope and fortify their resilience in real-life situations they are faced with.

The selected short films portray resilient traits and that specifically Filipino resiliency, through different characters, conflicts, and circumstances in each story. Each film presents different characters and circumstances that reflect societal issues and the reality of hardships in life experienced by Filipinos in community, work, school and household settings. The theme and concept of Filipino resilience has been thoroughly explored in films of recent times.

## References:

Loreto, M. (2022). Vlogging as instructional strategy: Improving English oral communication skills of Generation Z students: A case study. 9 (1), Retrieved from <https://rsujournals.rsu.ac.th/index.php>



---

Rellores M. P. Y. R., Robles, C. B. M. A., Sabanal, C., & Esplanada, D. E. (2022). How vlogging promotes tourist destination image: Content analysis of popular travel vlogs featuring Romblon. *Quantum Journal of Engineering, Science and Technology*. 3(5), (p.26-27). doi:10.55197/qjssh.v3i5.183

Olandres, A. (2014). *Tracing Back the Philippines' Blogging History*. Yugatech Philippines

Tech News & Reviews. Retrieved from <https://www.yugatech.com/tracing-back-the-philippines-blogging-history>

Peralta, R. L. (2019). How vlogging promotes a destination image: A narrative analysis of popular travel vlogs about the Philippines. *Place Branding and Public Diplomacy*, 15(3), (p.180–192) . <https://doi.org/10.1057/s41254-019-00134-6>

Sanchez D. (2023). History of vlogging, The First Vlogger, & How vlogging evolved. Dan Sanchez. Retrieved from <https://danchez.com/history-of-vlogging>

Sangeorzan, I., Andriopoulou, P., & Livanou, M. (2018). Exploring the experiences of people vlogging about severe mental illness on YouTube: An interpretive phenomenological analysis. 246, (p 422-428). doi: 10.1016/j.jad.2018.12.11