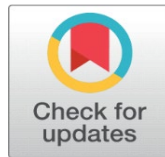
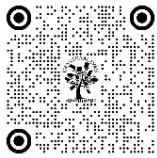


EMPLOYING CHAOS THEORY IN SELECT CARTOONS OF NODDY: UNVEILING THE UNPREDICTABLE

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ABSTRACT

Chaos Theory looks at the amazing unpredictability of nature. It has captured the beauty of the unpredictable and exhibited it in the most awesome patterns. It proposes that all seemingly natural systems are in fact controlled by complex and mysterious forces known as “strange attractors”, forces which are both random and determined. It is a peculiar paradox – it is the prediction of the behaviour of “inherently unpredictable” systems. The most important feature of chaotic systems is the conscious dependence on initial conditions. Television shows based on Noddy; an English character created by Enid Blyton have been telecasted on British television from 1955 to 2020. The paper discusses how the principles of Chaos theory can be applied in the cartoons ‘Noddy and the Dancing Spell’, ‘Noddy’s Car Trouble’ and ‘Noddy Needs Some Medicine’. Chaotic systems have a predictable nature for some time and then seemingly become arbitrary. Strange attractors are symbolic of a chaotic system. Small things can be counted as catalysts, and they act on initial conditions. The cartoons selected exhibits how certain situations are sensitive and how a slight variation in the primary phase can create quite a difference in where they end up. The structures around us are chaotic and they are prone to abrupt modifications. The chaotic systems are always there in our real-life situations. These cartoons portray examples of such real-life situations. Even the minute things that go unnoticed can cause very large problems. The chaotic systems are enough to make highly complex problems, and such complex happenings can be overwhelming

Keywords: Cartoons, Noddy, Chaos Theory, Strange Attractors, Unpredictability

1. INTRODUCTION

The two main elements of Chaos Theory are the ideas that systems- no matter how complicated they may be- rely upon an underlying order, and that very simple or small systems and events can cause very complicated behaviours or events. Long-range predictions are not possible. One of the major achievements of chaos theory is its technique to exhibit patterned yet unpredictable results through a simple set of deterministic relationships. Chaotic systems never return to the earliest state, yet the results are confined and create patterns that represent stability. It is the promise of finding an essential order and system behind complicated events that probably explains the great interest chaos theory has made in so many fields. Chaotic systems have a predictable nature for some time and then seemingly become arbitrary.

Strange attractors are symbolic of a chaotic system. Small things can be counted as catalysts, and they act on initial conditions. The cartoons selected exhibits how certain situations are sensitive and how a slight variation in the primary phase can create quite a difference in where they end up. The structures around us are chaotic that they are prone to abrupt modifications. Chaos is order masquerading as randomness. Chaos theory tries to understand order from chaos.

The cartoon 'Noddy and the Dancing Spell' has the characters Noddy, Mr. Sparks, Mr. Plod, Dinah Doll, the goblins- Sly and Gobbo, and Bumpy Dog. Noddy drives with Mr. Sparks into Toy town. Suddenly Bumpy Dog jumps into the car and lands on Noddy's head. Meanwhile, deep in the woods, the goblins, Sly and Gobbo, makes a magic powder. They are up to no good. The powder will put everyone in Toy Town under a dancing spell. They will be too busy dancing to stop the goblins' mischief. Noddy drops off Mr. Sparks in Toy Town. Bumpy Dog jumps out of the car and knocks Noddy over. Noddy gets upset because Bumpy Dog has been naughty all the way to Toy Town. So Noddy tells Bumpy Dog to go away. Noddy hears Gobbo ringing a bell. He wants everyone to come and listen to him. A crowd gathers and Gobbo shows them all the magic powder. He says it will make their feet feel great. Gobbo's powder sounds so good that everyone queues to get some. Everyone shakes the magic powder onto their feet. It makes their feet feel great. The naughty goblins wait until everyone has powder on their feet. Then Gobbo tells Sly to play his music box. As soon as the music starts, everyone starts dancing. They can't stop themselves. Sly steals sweets from Dinah Doll's stall. She is dancing so much that she can't stop him. No one can help Dinah. Everyone is dancing. Bumpy Dog is the only one who isn't dancing. He didn't try any magic powder because Noddy sent him away. Bumpy sees Noddy and knocks him down again. This time Noddy isn't upset. He asks Bumpy to stop the goblins. Sly is still playing the music box, but clever bumpy knocks the magic powder all over Sly and Gobbo. Now, the goblins are dancing too, and they don't like it. Gobbo tells Sly to stop playing the music. Sly stops the music and everyone is free from the spell. Suddenly, Bumpy Dog jumps at Sly and breaks the music box. The goblins turn to run, but it's too late. Mr. Plod is ready for them. The goblins say sorry, but it's no good. They are under arrest. Everyone is very pleased with Bumpy Dog. Dinah Doll gives him a big juicy bone as a reward. Bumpy Dog is the hero of the day. This is the storyline of 'Noddy and the Dancing Spell'. The cartoon 'Noddy's Car Trouble' has the characters Noddy, his Car, Mr. Tubby Bear, Tessy Bear and Big Ears. Noddy and his Car are driving in the country, talking to each other. They come across an arrow sign board showing two opposite directions. Noddy prefers to go to the left direction while his Car wants to go to the right side. Noddy gets upset and orders the Car to go to the left road. But the Car does not obey. An argument occurs between Noddy and his Car. Noddy gets out of the car and gives a command to the car to obey his orders. The Car goes on his way without Noddy inside. Noddy is shocked. He runs after the Car. Car does not stop. Noddy realizes his mistake. He feels sorry for being bossy. Noddy cannot bear being alone without his friend, the Car. He calls out for Car. Meanwhile Mr. Tubby Bear gets into Noddy's Car. He is not able to get it going. But on hearing Noddy's voice, the car sped away. Mr. Tubby Bear is very happy thinking that he was able to drive Noddy's car. He gets out of the car and decides to paint Car with his favourite colour- purple. Noddy's car escapes. Noddy asks about the whereabouts of his car to all those he meet. He is worried because he thinks that his car has run away and will not be his friend anymore. On the other hand, Car is enjoying his life frolicking here and there. Noddy's car happens to meet Tessy Bear and decides to have tea with her. Meanwhile Noddy is still searching for his dear car. He misses his car very much. Searching the whole of Toytown, Noddy comes to Tessy Bear and asks her whether

she has seen his car. She says yes and that his car was angry due to Noddy's bossy nature. She adds that the car had gone to the farm to see some friends. Noddy goes to the farm and when Car sees Noddy coming, he goes to hide in the shed. Thus, Noddy is not able to find his car. He is really sad. Noddy happens to meet Big Ears. He tells him the whole story. He also adds that he was feeling so bad and was ready to apologize to his car. Car overhears the conversation between Noddy and Big Ears. He comes out of his hiding place. Both of them reconcile. They become friends again.

The cartoon 'Noddy Needs Some Medicine' has the characters Noddy, Dinah Doll and the Goblins- Sly and Gobbo. Noddy is making his deliveries on his car. But he is not well. He is sneezing. Dinah Doll happens to see Noddy sneezing. Out of concern for him, Dinah Doll tells him to go and see the doctor. But Noddy does not want to see the doctor as he is scared. Dinah Doll somehow convinces him of the need to go and see the doctor and get some medicine in order to get well. Noddy finally agrees. Dinah Doll offers to go with him. After the visit to the doctor, Noddy realizes that it was okay, and he is given a medicine. Dinah Doll tells him to have the medicine. But Noddy does not have a spoon. Dinah Doll goes to take a spoon from her store. Meanwhile, the Goblins- Gobbo and Sly see Noddy sneezing. They decide to play a trick on him. The Goblins come to Noddy and tell him false stories about the medicine and cook up some stories of false side effects for a coin in return from Noddy. On hearing this, Noddy is confused and is afraid to have the 'horrible' medicine. When Dinah Doll returns with the spoon, she finds Noddy missing from the spot but finds the bottle of medicine there. She overhears the Goblins laughing and understood that the Goblins had played a trick on Noddy. She scolds them. Dinah Doll goes in search of Noddy, but Noddy tries to avoid her. Meanwhile Noddy's sneezing gets worse. Noddy hides so that Dinah Doll does not find him to give the medicine. Dinah Doll is worried because she has been searching for Noddy all over the town. Finally, she finds him, runs after him and catches him. Dinah Doll explains to Noddy that the Goblins had tricked him, and the medicine would not hurt him. He believes her and decides to have the medicine. After having the medicine Noddy feels better. Later the Goblins start sneezing and both Dinah Doll and Noddy make fun of them. Thus, the cartoon has a happy ending.

2. ANALYSIS

Figure 1



Figure 1 'Noddy and the Dancing Spell', 2024,

Source https://hello-yoshi.fandom.com/wiki/Sly_and_Gobbo

In 'Noddy and the Dancing Spell' the rejected and ignored Bumpy Dog rises to the occasion. Bumpy Dog being rejected and ignored by its master, Noddy is quite a surprise. The dismissal of Bumpy Dog becomes the strange attractor as per Chaos Theory. Noddy forsaking Bumpy Dog, a mere animal is the unimportant event.

Sly and Gobbo, the negative elements in the cartoon rising to great heights to disrupt the wellbeing of the Toy Town, is not a new incident. On the emergence of the negative powers, people in the society who are innocent, suffer due to the atrocities done by the negative elements in the society. Negative forces becoming dominant in the society is a common thing to happen now a days. Negative strands in the society become very rampant and dominant for some time. Afterwards these negative forces get overpowered and defeated by the heroic character. This heroic character then rises to the occasion. This is the usual line of thought that is seen even in the religious books. This is what Bumpy Dog does. The dog becomes the hero. By using its tactics Bumpy gets rid of Gobbo and Sly. As per Chaos Theory, this is the underlying order behind the unpredictable: the unpredictability of the events in the cartoon is replaced by a predictable, understandable and comprehensible plot. This plot is not an unexpected one, but a predictable and expected one.

Figure 2



Figure 2 'Noddy's Car Trouble', 2024

Source <https://images.app.goo.gl/iZ2xXUVnoW2A8E1F7>

In 'Noddy's Car Trouble', Noddy's dearest friend, his car does not obey his master. The strange attractor here, as per chaos theory is an arrow sign board. The car would not have disobeyed Noddy if the arrow sign board wasn't there. They would have gone on friendly terms cracking their usual jokes and Noddy would not have shown his bossy nature. The arrow sign board bring about a change in the relationship between Noddy and his car which results in Car running away and Noddy going in search of him. In the beginning we see Noddy and his car being very happy, but the arrow sign board brings an unexpected turn that is least expected by the viewers. But once Noddy realizes his fault, we can see that the cartoon takes its usual route of both Noddy and his car getting reconciled again. Thus we find order in a state of chaos. The underlying order overcomes the unpredictable move of the plot.

Figure 3



Figure 3 'Noddy Needs Some Medicine', 2024

Source <https://images.app.goo.gl/bxzeFDCseotEPH217>

As per chaos theory, in 'Noddy Needs Some Medicine', Noddy being scared to go to the doctor in the first place becomes the strange attractor. Noddy is supposed to be brave and confident in all matters, but he is being afraid to go to a doctor is awkward and strange. Being ill, going to the doctor for getting medicine is a necessity. But he does not want to go. That is quite unexpected. Later we find Noddy being too vulnerable and an easy target for the Goblins when he is alone as Dinah Doll has gone to get the spoon. We know that people who have a vulnerable mindset will always be in the danger of falling into the trap set by negative forces. The thoughts of such people will always be swayed and lured by other factors because they are not stable and steady. When they are not in the presence of good company, they look out for other medium onto which they can cling on, and they end up in danger. This is what we find in Noddy being scared and vulnerable. When he loses the company of a good friend like Dinah Doll, he falls into the trap set by the Goblins. But there is always an opportunity to be recovered and restored. Dinah Doll comes back and pursues him and finally Noddy accepts her advice and has the medicine and gets better. Hence Dinah Doll coming back to Noddy with the spoon leads to a happy ending. We find order amidst chaos and disarray.

3. CONCLUSION

We come face to face with the question of how to deal with uncertainty, confusion, the feeling of being nowhere and diversity, aroused by interchanges and deliberations in a global world. Each one of us are parts of a greater whole. This shaping relationship will continue to modify much of our existence. It has repercussions for our lives as individuals and those of our future generations. For individuals this ramification is reflected in the diversity of professional and social realms. We are sure that we are heading towards a collapse though in unpredictable ways. We need to make sure that we are able to identify the strange attractors and prepare ourselves accordingly. Chaos is everywhere. The theory teaches us to expect the unexpected. Everything is changing. The personalities of people, weather conditions, nature, science and technology, etc., - all are prone to changes. We need to find stability and order and organize ourselves for the future changes in the midst

of chaos. On a universal scale, human civilization is a single being competent of remarkable complex collaborative actions in response to environmental tasks. Hence, we need to equip ourselves to face the trauma, the challenges and the problems of the globalized world.

CONFLICT OF INTERESTS

None.

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None.

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