



**AKEELAH ANDERSON'S STRUGGLE IN PURSUING
AMERICAN DREAM BASED ON MASLOW'S HIERARCHY
OF NEEDS THEORY IN *AKEELAH AND THE BEE* MOVIE**

A THESIS

**In Partial Fulfilment of the Requirements for the Bachelor Degree Majoring
American Cultural Studies in English Department
Faculty of Humanities Diponegoro University**

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DIPONEGORO UNIVERSITY

2020

PRONOUNCEMENT

The writer honestly confirms that she compiles this thesis entitled “African American Children Struggle in Achieving Dream as Depicted in Akeelah Anderson’s Character in Akeelah and the Bee Movie” by herself and without taking any results from other researches in S-1, S-2, S-3 and in diploma degree of any university. The writer ascertains also that she does not quote any material from other publication or someone’s paper, except from the references mentioned.

Semarang, 5th March 2020

Desy Auralita

MOTTO AND DEDICATION

“The flower that blooms in adversity is the most rare and beautiful of all”

(Mulan, Walt Disney)

“When the time is right, I, the Lord, will make it happen”

(Isaiah 60:22)

“The best way to not feel hopeless is to get up and do something. Don’t wait for good things to happen to you. If you go out and make some good things happen, you will fill yourself with hope”

(Barack Obama)

“Some are born great, some achieve greatness, and some have greatness thrust upon them.”

(William Shakespeare)

This thesis is dedicated to my beloved family and friends,

also everyone who helped me get through this paper.

Thank you very much.

APPROVAL

**AKEELAH ANDERSON'S STRUGGLE IN PURSUING
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ACKNOWLEDGEMENT

Praise to God, who has given strength, health, and spirit to me so this thesis entitled “Akeelah Anderson’s Struggle in Pursuing American Dream Based on Maslow’s Hierarchy of Needs Theory in *Akeelah and the Bee* Movie” came to a completion. On this occasion, I would like to thank all those people who have contributed and supported me to the completion of this thesis.

The deepest gratitude and appreciation are extended to my thesis advisor, Arido Laksono, S.S., M.Hum who has given his continuous guidance, helpful correction, moral support, advice, and suggestion in completing this thesis.

My deepest gratitude also goes to the following:

1. Dr. Nurhayati, M. Hum as the Dean of Faculty of Humanities Diponegoro University.
2. Dr. Agus Subiyanto, M.A as The Head of English Department Faculty of Humanities, Diponegoro University.
3. All of the lectures in English Department, especially those teaching the American Cultural Studies, who have given their knowledge and and experience.
4. My lovely mother Khristi Candra Sari. Thank you mom, for your endless love and support. Thank you for being a mother also a father in my life. I am so lucky to have you by my side. Without you, I cannot

imagine how my life would be right now. Moreover, my beloved grandfather, Sugeng Widada, and my beloved grandmother, Sri Kristinah, who have given me prayer, support, and endless love in many aspects of my life. Thank you for all the wise and good advices.

5. The lovely person who is always be by my side through thick and thin, Rozhian Adyatama. Without you, I could not be a strong person like I am now. Thank you so much for teaching me about life that will not always be as perfect as I want. Thank you so much for your endless love and support. I cannot wait to make other journeys with you. I love you!
6. My lovely bestfriends in English Department, Pia, Fira, Mita, and Indy. Without you all guys I cannot survive the hard time during college days. You guys are amazing! Thank you for always be by my side since day one. Keep being amazing and lovely as you are now. See you on top.
7. My sisters Adindra and Lia who have given me amazing memories since I was a child. Thank you for your support and advice. I am so grateful to have you as my friends and sisters. God bless you.
8. My Cabe Hangat gang, Lucky, Dita, Ana, and Fitri. Although we are separated by distance and rarely meet each other but your support and love are always sent to me. Thank you for being a good listener for me. You guys never get tired of me and my story. I love you!
9. My friends from KKN, Yola, JP, and Dede. Thank you for always cheering me up when I am down. Moreover, thank you for your love and support.

10. My work mates, Bang Udin and Leni. Thank you for being the reason why working is such a fun way to release my stress.

11. All my friends from English Department batch 2016 who have struggled together during college time, especially from class A, Grace, Ardia, Nurika, Gabri, etc. Thank you for giving me your support.

I realize that this thesis is still far from perfect. Therefore, I will be glad to receive any constructive criticism and recommendation to make this thesis better.

Finally, I expect that this thesis will be useful to the reader who wishes to acquire new knowledge about African American children's struggle.

Semarang, 5th March 2020

Desy Auralita

TABLE OF CONTENTS

Akeelah Anderson’s Struggle in Pursuing American Dream Based on Maslow’s Hierarchy of Needs Theory in <i>Akeelah and the Bee</i> Movie	i
Pronouncement.....	ii
Motto and Dedication.....	ii
Approval.....	iv
Validation.....	v
Acknowledgement	vi
Table of Contents	ix
List of Picture.....	xi
Abstract	xiv
Chapter 1	1
1.1. Background of the Study.....	1
1.2. Scope of the Study	2
1.3. Research Problem.....	3
1.4. Purpose of the Study	3
1.5. Methods of the Study	3
1.5.1. Method of Research	4
1.5.2. Method of Approach	4
1.6. Previous Study	4
1.7. Organization of the Writing	5
Chapter 2	7
2.1. Biography of the Director	7
2.2. Synopsis of the Movie.....	7
Chapter 3	10
3.1. Intrinsic Aspect	10
3.1.1. Settings.....	10
3.1.2. Characters.....	10

3.1.3. Conflict.....	11
3.2. Cinematography	11
3.2.1. Camera Shot	11
3.2.2. Mise en Scene	14
3.2.3. Sound	15
3.2.3.1.Dialogue	15
3.3. Maslow’s Hierarchy of Needs Theory	15
3.3.1. Physiological Needs	15
3.3.2. Safety Needs.....	16
3.3.3. The Love Needs	16
3.3.4. Esteem Needs	16
3.3.5. Self-actualization.....	17
3.4. Social Support	17
Chapter 4	19
4.1. Intrinsic Aspect	19
4.1.1. Settings.....	19
4.1.2. Characters.....	25
4.1.3. Conflict.....	32
4.2. Maslow’s Hierarchy of Needs Theory	37
4.2.1. Physiological Needs	37
4.2.2. Safety Needs.....	39
4.2.3. The Love Needs	42
4.2.4. Esteem Needs	44
4.2.5. Self-actualization.....	46
4.3. Social Support	46
Chapter 5	49
References	50

LIST OF PICTURES

Picture 3-1. Extreme Long Shot	11
Picture 3-2. Long Shot.....	12
Picture 3-3. Medium Long Shot	12
Picture 3-4. Medium Shot.....	13
Picture 3-5. Medium Close-up	13
Picture 3-6. Close Up	14
Picture 3-7. Extreme Close Up.....	14
Picture 4-8. Students' Activity at Crenshaw Middle School.....	19
Picture 4-9. Akeelah and friends in class	19
Picture 4-10. Akeelah and Ms. Cross in class room	20
Picture 4-11. Akeelah plays computer in her house	20
Picture 4-12. Akeelah's family dinner	20
Picture 4-13. Akeelah watches National Spelling Bee contest in her house	20
Picture 4-14. Dr. Larabee's house	21
Picture 4-15. Akeelah in front of Dr' Larabee's door house	21
Picture 4-16. Akeelah and Dr. Larabee in Dr.Larabee's backyard	21
Picture 4-17. Los Angeles District Spelling Bee	22
Picture 4-18. Southern California Spelling Bee	22
Picture 4-19. Scripps National Spelling Bee	22
Picture 4-20. Akeelah and Georgia	23
Picture 4-21. Akeelah and Georgia's pants	23
Picture 4-22. . Honda Ridgeline year 2006	24
Picture 4.23. Honda Odyssey year 2005	24

Picture 4.24. Akeelah and Mr. Welch in principle room	25
Picture 4-25. Akeelah feels upset about the school’s condition	25
Picture 4-26. Akeelah’s shock facial expression	25
Picture 4-27. Akeelah, Georgia, and a beggar	25
Picture 4-28. Akeelah’s score in spelling test	27
Picture 4-29. Ms. Cross asks Akeelah	27
Picture 4-30. Akeelah answers Ms.Cross’s question	27
Picture 4-31. Akeelah studies for district spelling bee	28
Picture 4-32. Akeelah studies for district spelling bee	28
Picture 4-33. Akeelah states that she must learn more words to Tanya	29
Picture 4-34. Akeelah and Javier have conversation	29
Picture 4-35. Akeelah joins scrabble game in Javier’s birthday party	29
Picture 4-36. Akeelah loses the game	29
Picture 4-37. Akeelah talks impolitly to Dr. Larabee	31
Picture 5-38. Dr. warns Akeelah not to use ghetto language	31
Picture 4-39. Dr. Larabee asks Akeelah to leave his house	31
Picture 4-40. Dr. Larabee watches news about Akeelah	32
Picture 4-41. Portrait of Dr. Larabee and Denis	32
Picture 4-42. Dr. Larabee called Akeelah by Denis	32
Picture 4-43. Devon talks to Akeelah	33
Picture 4-44. Akeelah’s fear facial expression	33
Picture 4-45. Akeelah hugs Devon	33
Picture 4-46. Akeelah’s friends approach her	34
Picture 4-47. Akeelah feels threatened by her friends	34
Picture 4-48. Akeelah tries to escape	34
Picture 4-49. Dr. Larabee says that Akeelah’s answer is not correct	35
Picture 4-50. One of Akeelah’s friend bullies her	35
Picture 4-51. The whole class laugh at Akeelah	35

Picture 4-52. Akeelah’s mother brings food for dinner	38
Picture 4-53. Akeelah has dinner	38
Picture 4-54. Akeelah sits on her bed	38
Picture 4-55. Akeelah feels threatened by her surrounding	39
Picture 4-56. Akeelah runs away from Crenshaw spelling bee	39
Picture 4-57. Akeelah asks her mother to take her to spelling bee contest	43
Picture 4-58. Tanya rejects Akeelah	43
Picture 4-59. Upset facial expression of Akeelah	43
Picture 4-60. Akeelah’s sister asks Akeelah to watch news about herself	45
Picture 4-61. Akeelah watches the news	45
Picture 4-62. Akeelah feels anxious	45
Picture 4-63. Terrence meets Akeelah	47
Picture 4-64. Terrence helps Akeelah to spell word	47
Picture 4-65. Akeelah and Terrence walk home	47
Picture 4-66. Akeelah and a postman	48
Picture 4-67. Akeelah and a storekeeper	48
Picture 4-68. Akeelah and Derrick T	48

ABSTRACT

This thesis focuses on the *Akeelah and the Bee* movie. It is a movie which tells a story about an African American child, Akeelah Anderson, who tries to pursue her American dream in spelling bee competition. The writer uses library research to collect the data of this study which come from books, journals, articles, online documents and websites. The aims of this study are to observe the intrinsic and extrinsic aspect of the movie. The intrinsic aspects cover the narrative and cinematography aspects. Furthermore, extrinsic aspects cover the struggle of children in pursuing American dream and how they overcome the struggle. The Maslow's Hierarchy of Needs theory is used to analyze the struggle of African children struggle in pursuing American dream and social support theory is applied to analyze how children overcome their struggle in pursuing American dream. Based on the analysis, the struggle in pursuing dream appears due to the unsatisfied of 4 out of 5 levels of needs. They are safety needs, love needs, esteem needs, and self-actualization. The writer also found that social support is one of tools for African American children to overcome the struggle of pursuing American dream.

Keywords: *Akeelah and the Bee*, Maslow's Hierarchy of Needs, American dream, social support

CHAPTER 1

INTRODUCTION

1.1. Background of the Study

People have several dreams or goals of life. American dream is one of dreams that people want to pursue. According to Adams (1931:373-375), American dream is a dream where life should be better and prosperous for every mankind with opportunity based on his or her achievement or competence. During the process of achieving dreams, people will face various obstacles in purpose to get success. People in every stage of age have their own goals or dreams, for example, children have the dream to have achievement in school.

In American history, African American children have obstacles in pursuing their American dream, especially in the educational sector. African American children tend to have less quality of education than white people have. According to Bertocchi & Dimico (2012), slavery becomes an instrument of an initial gap for the United States society from the year 1940 – 2000, especially in the educational gap between black and white. Further study of Bertocchi & Dimico (2014) had stated that the legacy of slavery determines the racial inequality in the United States in the period of 1940s until 2000s. Therefore, African American children experience more difficulties in achieving their dream in education sector.

Moreover, most of African American children live under poverty. According to the American Community Survey (ACS) in 2002 until 2019, African American children have 32% of the category of children under 18 who live in a poor family with incomes under the federal poverty level. This percentage is the

highest percentage among the other racial groups in the United States. The achievement gap in education between African American children and other children such as Asian, White, and Latino is influenced by their present economic and social condition. African American children have lower scores on tests and grades than those children from other racial groups (Bowman et al, 2018). From the data above, African American children will struggle a lot to fulfill their education needs to achieve their goals or dreams.

The issues above are shown in various media and movie is one of the best tools to deliver the issues clearly to the society that many African American children struggle in pursuing their American dream, especially in the 2000s. This thesis analyzes *Akeelah and the Bee* (2006) movie which tells about the character of African American child, Akeelah Anderson in pursuing her American dream in spelling bee competition. This movie won the African-American Film Critics Association in the 4th place and it also takes setting in Los Angeles in the 2000s. Therefore, the movie serves a good representation of the African American children struggle in pursuing their American dream. The Maslow's Hierarchy of Needs is applied in this thesis as a tool to observe the struggle in pursuing the American dream. This thesis is also supported by Mermelstein's social support theory in order to observe the role of community in pursuing the American dream.

1.2. Scope of the Study

In writing this thesis, the writer will make the limitation of the study. Therefore, the research will not go beyond its area of study. The writer will analyze the intrinsic aspects of the movie and extrinsic aspects that are the struggle of

African American child, Akeelah Anderson, in the era of 2000s in pursuing American dream and how she overcomes the obstacle.

1.3. Research Problem

There are several research problems in writing this thesis, namely:

1. What are the intrinsic aspects of the movie such as characters, setting, conflict, and cinematographic elements?
2. How is the struggle of African American children in pursuing their American dream?
3. How is the social support in the education sector for African American children depicted in *Akeelah and the Bee* (2006) movie?

1.4. Purpose of the Study

In writing this thesis, the writer has several purposes, namely:

1. To analyze the intrinsic aspects of the movie such as characters, setting, conflict, and cinematographic elements.
2. To explore the struggle of African American children in pursuing their American dream.
3. To discover the social support in the education sector for African American children depicted in *Akeelah and the Bee* (2006) movie.

1.5. Methods of the Study

In collecting the data and information for this thesis, the writer uses two methods. The first method is method of research and the second is method of approach

1.5.1. Method of Research

The writer uses library research in order to collect the data. According to Dorsen (2005), library research is methods to collect data without any contact between the researcher and the subject that is analyzed. Therefore, the data of this thesis can be obtained from books, journals, e-books, internet sources, articles, or DVD is used for the references the writer needs.

1.5.2. Method of Approach

The writer uses the exponential approach. According to Guerin et al, (2005:143), exponential approach focuses on the signs or symbols of patterns of literary works meaning such as intrinsic aspect. To analyze the extrinsic aspect, the writer uses a psychological approach. According to Kennedy and Gioia (1995:1804-1805), psychological approach reflects the impact of modern psychology towards both literature and literary criticism in human behavior by exploring the areas of wish-fulfillment, sexuality, the unconscious, and repression and by understanding how language and symbols express the unconscious fears or desires. This study will analyze the fictional character and supported by Maslow's Hierarchy of Needs theory and Mermelstein's social support theory.

1.6. Previous Study

The previous study used for comparing the similarities and differences of the study is conducted before with this thesis. Besides, previous study is used to avoid plagiarism in making a new thesis or study. There are several previous study about African American children education and their struggle.

The first study is about the impact of family support as the essential tool for black children to success in the educational sector that was written by Miftahul Jannah in 2018. Therefore, black children can carry educational value such as value of being and value of giving. The second study was written by Amanda L. Hodges in 2010. From her article, she states that black children from a poor neighborhood can achieve success in education sector with the support of their surroundings.

The writer finds a gap between those previous studies and this thesis that the studies from Jannah and Hodges focus on the success of Akeelah in pathetic neighborhood with the support of family and friends. As for this thesis concentrates on pointing out the struggle of Akeelah or black children in achieving the success or goal in the education sector.

1.7. The Organization of The Writing

In writing this thesis, the study will be arranged in chapter and sub-chapter as follows:

CHAPTER I INTRODUCTION

This chapter contains background of the study, scope of the study, *purpose* of the study, method of the study, previous study, and the organization of the writing.

CHAPTER II BIOGRAPHY OF THE DIRECTOR AND SYNOPSIS OF THE MOVIE

This chapter contains the summary of *Akeelah and the Bee movie*, and the biography of its director, Doug Atchison.

CHAPTER III LITERARY REVIEW

This chapter contains theoretical framework, which consists of intrinsic aspects such as narrative elements (character, setting, conflict) and cinematographic elements (camera distance and *mise-en-scene*). It also consists extrinsic aspects that cover the struggle of African American child, Akeelah Anderson, in the era of 2000s in pursuing American dream and how she overcomes the obstacle.

CHAPTER IV DISCUSSION

This chapter contains the analysis of the intrinsic aspect and extrinsic aspect of *Akeelah and the Bee* movie.

CHAPTER V CONCLUSION

This chapter contains the summary of the whole discussion and analysis that are written by the writer.

CHAPTER 2

BIOGRAPHY OF THE DIRECTOR AND SYNOPSIS OF THE MOVIE

2.1. Biography of the Director

Akeelah and the Bee was directed by an American movie director and scriptwriter, Doug Atchison, in 2006. Atchison was born on October 20, 1974, in California. He was graduated from University Southern of California's School of Cinema-Television in 1990 and now he seizes his career in the film industry.

Besides *Akeelah and the Bee* (2006), Atchison is also known for directing *The Pornographer* (1999) and *Brian Banks* (2018). From directing and writing the screenplay of *Akeelah and the Bee*, Atchison received Academy of Motions Picture Arts and Sciences Nicholl Fellowship in 2006 and won Image Award in 2007. Later on, he is involved in a partnership with Lions Gate Entertainment, Starbucks Productions, and 2929 Entertainment.

Akeelah and the Bee becomes a stepping-stone for Atchison to develop and to launch his career in the film industry. Due to his success and achievement in directing and writing movie script, he entered The Weinstein Company in 2006.

2.2. Synopsis of the Movie

Akeelah and the Bee is a story of a young African American child named Akeelah Anderson who lives in a poor neighborhood in South Los Angeles. She also goes to a poor middle school there. Akeelah is a smart child who has enthusiasm for spelling game. The death of her father motivates Akeelah to study

more words and use it as her tool to release her sadness. Although Akeelah is smart, she gets some trouble in her school. She has some issues in class attendance. The reason behind his absence is she can no longer bear the bullies from her two classmates about how smart Akeelah is. In Akeelah's school, the smart child is often called *briniac* and *briniac* child has to do homework for other children. Therefore, Akeelah skips the class to avoid bullying.

Akeelah's teacher realizes that Akeelah has the higher ability in spelling and knowing words than the other children in her grade, then the teacher asks Akeelah to join a spelling bee competition in her school. First, Akeelah refuses to participate in the spelling bee competition due to her insecurity of bullying and of course, she is nervous to stand in the stage. After the Principal of the school, Mr. Welch, convinces Akeelah that taking participation in spelling bee competition will help her to deal with the absence issue, Akeelah finally wants to spell the word in the competition. As the expectation, Akeelah wins the competition, which in the competition there is Dr. Joshua Larabee, a professor who will be Akeelah's coach in the spelling bee competition. Due to her victory, Akeelah has the chance to join the district spelling bee competition. Mr. Welch hopes that with Akeelah's gift for spelling, she can make it to the final spelling bee competition in DC and from that achievement, the school will get exposure and money.

With the struggles Akeelah has been through, she finally can make it to the final with the help of her coach, Dr. Larabee. Dr. Larabee becomes a person who gives big contributions to Akeelah's success even Akeelah's mother against the spelling bee competition because she thinks it will ruin Akeelah's study in school.

In other words, Akeelah's mother does not support her in chasing her dream and living her passion for spelling. During the competition, Akeelah makes friends with Javier and Dylan who are her competitors.

When the time for Akeelah to study for final competition has come, Dr. Larabee no longer can coach Akeelah. He says that Akeelah has everything she needs. Therefore, she does not need a coach. Dr. Larabee feels that he is not good enough for Akeelah and feels upset that Akeelah reminds him of his child who has passed away due to serious illness. In the end, Akeelah has to study by herself, although she is upset and unconfident with herself. Then, with the help of her surrounding and even her mother now supports her for what she likes, Akeelah finally gains her confidence and continues to take part in the final spelling bee competition.

CHAPTER 3

THEORETICAL FRAMEWORK

This chapter is divided into two main discussions; those are intrinsic aspects such as characters, setting, conflict, and cinematographic elements. Meanwhile, extrinsic aspects cover the struggle of African American children in pursuing their American dream in the education sector, also how the social support influences them.

3.1. Intrinsic Aspects

The intrinsic aspects discuss characters, settings, conflict, and cinematography elements

3.1.1. Settings

Setting is an important aspect in literature work. It shows the condition of the story that readers can interpret it by themselves. Meyer (2011:115) stated that setting is when the action within the literature work's story occurs. Setting can be divided into three major elements. They are time, place, and the social environment. Setting builds the characters' world inside the story.

3.1.2. Characters

According to Abrams and Harpham (2008:42) characters are people from narrative or dramatic work who carry moral, emotional, and intellectual values through the dialog, action, and their motivation. Therefore, characters are important to build story and characterization among characters in a film.

3.1.3. Conflicts

Holman (1980:98) states that conflict is the struggle between two different characters, usually a protagonist and an antagonist, in a plot. The occurring of conflict makes the story more interesting and complex. According to Meyer (2011:51-52) conflict can be divided into internal conflict and external conflict. Internal conflict comes from moral or psychological issue that possessed by the character. Meanwhile, the external conflict can be defined as the physical struggles or danger from protagonist's opposition such as individual, nature, or society.

3.2. Cinematography

According to Bordwell and Thompson, (2006:162) cinematography is the technique of capturing photographic image, which focuses in photographic aspects of the shots, the framing of the shot, and the duration of the shot.

3.2.1. Camera Shot

Bordwell and Thompson (2008:191) also state that there are various kinds of camera distance such as extreme long shot, long shot, medium long shot, medium shot, medium close-up, close-up, extreme close-up, and extreme close-up. This writing will focus on the camera distance of the movie.

A. Extreme Long Shot



Pictures 3-1. Extreme Long Shot

https://www.lesliewand.com.au/video_course/video_course_notes_2.htm

Extreme long shot makes the human figure not perceptible from the scene. For example, the cities view from the bird's perspective (Bordwell and Thompson 2008:191)

B. Long Shot



Pictures 3-2. Long Shot

https://www.lesliewand.com.au/video_course/video_course_notes_2.htm

Long shot is when the figure is visible but the background is still dominant (Bordwell and Thompson 2008:191). Usually, the whole part of the figure appears in the scene

C. Medium Long Shot



Pictures 3-3. Medium Long Shot

https://www.lesliewand.com.au/video_course/video_course_notes_2.htm

Medium long shot works with the figure that is framed from about the knees above. Therefore, the figure appears bigger and both figure and background look balance (Bordwell and Thompson 2008:191).

D. Medium Shot



Pictures 3-4. Medium Shot

https://www.lesliewand.com.au/video_course/video_course_notes_2.htm

Framing the figure from the waist up is how medium shot work. Therefore, the expression and gesture of the figure look clearer in the scene (Bordwell and Thompson 2008:191).

E. Medium Close-up



Pictures 3-5. Medium Close-up

https://www.lesliewand.com.au/video_course/video_course_notes_2.htm

Medium close-up frames the figure from the chest above (Bordwell and Thompson 2008:191). This shot makes figure's facial expression more visible.

F. Close Up



Pictures 3-6. Close Up

https://www.lesliewand.com.au/video_course/video_course_notes_2.htm

Close up frames certain objects such as hands, head, feet, or other specific objects. It makes the gesture or facial expression look detail (Bordwell and Thompson 2008:191).

G. Extreme Close Up



Pictures 3-7. Extreme Close Up

https://www.lesliewand.com.au/video_course/video_course_notes_2.htm

Extreme close up frames a very detail object such as the part of the head like eyes and mouth. It often isolates and enlarges the object. (Bordwell and Thompson 2008:191).

3.2.2. Mise en Scene

According to Bordwell and Thompson (2008:112), the definition of mise en scene is what appears in the film under the director's control. Bordwell and

Thompson also states that the elements of mise en scene include setting, lighting, costume, and figures' behavior.

3.2.3. Sound

Sound is a tool to guide the viewer's attention and interest in film. Sound also can be divided into 3 elements such as music, speech and noise (Bordwell and Thompson 2008:268). In this thesis, the writer only use speech/dialogue elements to analyze the movie.

3.2.3.1. Dialogue

According to Bordwell and Thompson (2008:269), dialogue is a tool to deliver the story information to the viewer that reproduced and recorded clearly. Therefore dialogue is essential to build connection between the film and the viewers.

3.3. Maslow's Hierarchy of Needs Theory

People have motives to encourage them to stay alive and to fulfill their needs. According to Maslow (1943), human's needs are classified into five basic stages. The five stages of human needs encourage and establish people's desire to achieve various goals in their life. The five stages of human needs according to Maslow are:

3.3.1. Physiological Needs

In this stage, Maslow mentions the vital things human need to survive. According to Maslow (1943:373-375), physiological needs cover the basic needs of human to live like food, water, rest, and warmth. This stage is the basic stage of human needs. If a man lacks of food and feels hungry, he will focus on thinking of

food. Safety, love, and other needs will be neglected and temporarily will not be important.

3.3.2. Safety Needs

After the physiological needs of human are fulfilled, then it will emerge a new desire of human needs called safety needs. According to Maslow (1948:377-379), every organism is safety-seeking mechanism. Safety needs can be divided into 2 major needs according to whom the needs used. The first is for children. Maslow states that children bodily illnesses and losing parental love will make them feel unsafe. The injustice, unfairness, and inconsistent condition of life will threaten children and make them feel anxious also unsafe. Meanwhile, for adults, health, normal and stable condition of life especially in working place, and fortunate are considered to make them feel safe.

3.3.3. The Love Needs

The love, affection, and belongingness needs will emerge after the physiological and safety needs are obtained. Maslow (1948:381) states that person in a stable condition of life need companion of friends, wife/husband, couple, or children. Therefore, he or she will not feel lonely and will obtain stable condition in fulfilling the next stage of needs. Holman also states that love is not always about sexual desire. The need of love is when both person giving and receiving love.

3.3.4. Esteem Needs

In this stage of needs, people have the desire for seeking a stable and high evaluation of themselves for their self-respect, self-esteem, and other esteem of others (Maslow 1943:382). Maslow also states esteem needs can be divided into

two major categories. First, the desire to get achievement, strength, confidence in life, and freedom. Second, the desire to get reputation or prestige. Therefore, if people obtain all those aspects, it will lead to ability of being useful and necessary in the world. Otherwise, people will be hopeless and unconfident if they do not obtain those aspects

3.3.5. Self-actualization

As Maslow said (1943:382), people will reach the desire of self-actualization need when they receive discontent and restlessness point of life. In this stage, people have the desire to develop their potential or to actualize their talent. A singer must sing to develop his or her talent and an artist must paint to sharpen the talent she or he has. It means that people must be what they want to be based on their ability. This need depends on every character and condition of people. Somehow, it is not always about creative activity like singing and painting. Self-actualization may appear in someone's desire to be a perfect parent or a perfect child. According to Maslow (1943:383), researchers are challenged by the fact that only satisfied people who obtain previous stages of needs can fulfill self-actualization.

3.4. Social Support

According to Mermelstein et al (1985:73), social support is a mean for human that is provided by other individuals to support and protect person from the effects of stress and pathetic condition. Social support provides the feel of safety of someone. Therefore social support relate with behavioral mechanism. Mermelstein et al (1985), also state that social support from friends, relatives, and acquaintances

can improve psychology well-being and health of someone. The higher social support someone gets, the lower stress level someone has. The support can be categorized as four major support. The first is tangible support that refers to instrumental aid. Second, appraisal support that refers the availability of someone to listen or talk about a problem. Third, self-esteem support provides a positive comparison and action. Therefore, it builds someone confidence. The last one is belonging support that provides the availability of people to do things with then it will emerges the sense of belonging.

CHAPTER 4

DISCUSSION

This chapter discusses two main aspects that are the intrinsic aspects which cover narrative elements and the struggle of African American children in pursuing the American dream in the education sector as extrinsic aspect

4.1. Narrative Elements

4.1.1. Settings

4.1.1.1. Setting of Place

Akeelah and the Bee takes place in 4 different major places. The first location is in Crenshaw Middle School located in South Los Angeles where Akeelah studies. It can be seen in the picture 4-8 which is taken in long shot technique that help to show the surroundings of the school and student's activity. Picture 4-9 and picture 4-10 in medium long shot technique give proof that the setting of place is in Crenshaw Middle School. Furthermore, there is a caption written "... and this all starts at Crenshaw Middle School in South Los Angeles."



Picture 4-8. Students' activity at Crenshaw Middle School (00:01:24)



Picture 4-9. Akeelah and friends in class (00:01:53)



Picture 4-10. Akeelah and Ms. Cross in class room (00:02:11)

The second place is Akeelah's house where she spends time with her family. It can be seen from picture 4-11 in medium long shot technique where Akeelah plays computer in her house. Moreover, In picture 4-12 which captures family dinner situation in medium long shot technique which also shows the property used like plates full of food and bright lamp to indicate that they are having dinner and picture 4-13 in medium close up technique in order to show Akeelah watches TV in her house.



Picture 4-11. Akeelah plays computer in her house (00:03:46)



Picture 4-12. Akeelah's family dinner (00:04:02)



Picture 4-13. Akeelah watches National Spelling Bee contest in her house (00:04:54)

The third place is located in Dr. Larabee's house where Akeelah prepares herself to join the spelling bee competition. It can be seen in the picture 4-14 where Akeelah stands in front of Dr. Larabee's house. This scene is taken in extreme long shot in order to describe Dr. Larabee's house and its surrounding. Picture 4-15 in medium shot and picture 4-16 in medium long shot describes the activity in Dr. Larabee's house. Moreover, the sentence "So, why are you home during the day? Ain't you got a job?" that is spoken by Akeelah strengthen the argument due to the word home said by Akeelah.



Picture 4-14. Dr. Larabee's house
(00:16:56)



Picture 4-15. Akeelah in front of Dr' Larabee's door house (00:17:01)



Picture 4-16. Akeelah and Dr. Larabee in Dr.Larabee's backyard.
(00:17:47)

The last location is the stage of spelling bee competition. There are 3 main stages. The first is located in Los Angeles where District Spelling Bee is held. It can be seen in the picture 4-17, which is framed in medium shot technique in order to show the expression of Akeelah. This statement of this location is strengthen by

the text in the scene written “Los Angeles District Spelling Bee”. Second stage is located in Southern California where Regional Spelling Bee is held. It can be proven in the picture 4-18 which is taken in extreme long shot technique. This shot distance frames the audience and the contestant of regional spelling bee clearer. It is also written “Southern California Regional Spelling Bee” in the scene. The third location is in Washington D.C. where National Scripps Spelling Bee is held. It can be seen in picture 4-19. This scene is framed in medium long shot in order to show Akeelah’s turn to spell word. This location is proven by the sentence “This is a very exciting day for us here because our top three spellers will be representing Southern California at the National Spelling Bee in Washington D.C.”



Picture 4-17. Los Angeles District Spelling Bee (00:24:08)



Picture 4-18. Southern California Spelling Bee (00:55:42)



Picture 4-19. Scripps National Spelling Bee (01:27:55)

4.1.1.2. Setting of Time

There is no specific time that is mentioned or written in the *Akeelah and the Bee* movie. However, it can be concluded that the setting of time in this movie is in the year 2000s by analyzing the movie carefully. The costumes that are worn by the players represent the 2000s fashion. According to an article in an online newspaper, *Portland Mercury*, titled “The Most Okay Fashion of 2003”, the most popular fashions of this era are indicated with some styles such as cargo pants, trucker hats, brightly colored tights, hoop earrings, and white belts. From the movie, it can be seen several 2000s fashion styles.

The first one is seen in the picture 4-20 in in long shot technique where Akeelah and her friend, Georgia, walk themselves home after school and in the picture 4-21 in medium shot technique in order to show Akeelah and Georgia’s pants clearer. In this scene, Akeelah wears cargo pant, meanwhile Georgia wears bright purple legging under her skirt. This fashion is popular in the 2000s era.



Picture 4-20. Akeelah and Georgia (00:03:06)



Picture 4-21. Akeelah and Georgia’s pants (00:03:25)

The setting of time of this movie is also proven from the vehicle, especially cars. Two types of cars that are identified in this movie are Honda Ridgeline year 2006 that belongs to Derick T, Akeelah’s neighbor and Mr. Welch’s car, Honda Odyssey year 2005. It can be seen in picture 4-22 and 4-23 that are taken with long

shot technique in order to show the physical appearance of the cars. According to *Honda*, Honda Ridgeline debuted in the North American International Auto Show in 2005. It was also announced as the 2006 model in Honda dealerships nationwide. According to *Autolist*, Honda Odyssey first launched in 1995. In this movie, the Honda Odyssey that is used belongs in the third generation, which was launched in 2005. It can be seen from the physical appearance of the car. Therefore, it can be concluded that 2000s is the setting of time of this movie.



Picture 4-22. Honda Ridgeline year 2006 (00:03:01)



Picture 4-23. Honda Odyssey year 2005 (00:30:54)

4.1.1.3. Setting of Social Environment

The last setting is social environment. According to Meyer (2011:116), social environment setting is a situation that changes or develops the conflict among characters. The struggle of people in poor black neighborhood is a social environment setting that appears in *Akeelah and the Bee* movie. It can be seen in the picture 4-24, picture 4-25, and picture 4-26 in medium close up where Akeelah talks to her principle, Mr. Welch about the school's condition with an upset and shock expression. The proof is strengthen with the dialogue of Akeelah and Mr. Welch that happen in sequence 00:08:04 – 00:08:14.

AKEELAH. Why would anybody want to represent a school that can't even put doors on the toilet stalls?

MR. WELCH. Akeelah, if we can't show our students can perform, we're not gonna have money for books, let alone the bathroom doors.

(*Akeelah and the Bee*, 00:08:04 – 00:08:14)

Based on the dialogue above, it can be concluded that school in the Akeelah's neighborhood is hard enough to fund the school's facilities. Another proof can be seen in the picture 4-27 where Akeelah and Georgia meet a beggar. The beggar asks for money to the girls but Georgia says "I ain't got no change myself." This sentence refers to the condition where those girls do not have money for themselves even in a little amount of money.



Picture 4-24. Akeelah and Mr. Welch in principle room (00:07:55)



Picture 4-25 Akeelah feels upset about the school's condition (00:08:10)



Picture 4-26. Akeelah's shock facial expression (00:08:38)



Picture 4-27. Akeelah, Georgia, and a beggar (00:02:56)

4.1.2. Characters

The characters of this movie are divided into major and minor characters, they are:

4.1.2.1. Major Character

4.1.2.1.1. Akeelah Anderson

Akeelah Anderson is considered to be a major character because of her big role in *Akeelah and the Bee* movie. This movie tells about Akeelah's life in the Crenshaw middle school, therefore, Akeelah plays important role. Akeelah is an 11 years old girl who belongs to the black race. Akeelah is a simple girl. It can be seen from the way she dressed. She dresses casually in her daily activities. She is not wearing too much accessories and she always ties her hair up or sometimes she braids her hair to look neat. Akeelah lives only with her siblings and mother since her father passed away.

Akeelah is a smart student in her school, especially in spelling words. It can be seen in the picture 4-28 in close up technique in order to show Akeelah's score in spelling test in her class. Moreover, in the picture 4-29 and picture 4-30 in medium close technique in order to show the conversation between Akeelah and Ms. Cross. In this scene Ms. Cross, her teacher, asks how long Akeelah studied for this exam and she replies she did not study at all. It can be concluded that Akeelah has the ability in knowing and understanding words. Another proof is seen in the dialogue between Akeelah and her classmate friends. The dialogue can be seen down below that happens in sequence 00:06:31 – 00:06:42

FRIEND 1. Hey freak! We want you to take of care our English homework. Everybody say you a brainiac.

AKEELAH. I ain't no brainiac.

FRIEND 2. Like hell you ain't! Always got them A's down, right?

(Akeelah and the Bee, 00:06:31 – 00:06:42)

From the dialogue above, especially in last dialogue said by Akeelah's friend, it can be concluded that among other students Akeelah is considered as the smartest one in terms of A score she gets in every courses.



Picture 4-28. Akeelah's score in spelling test (00:02:04)



Picture 4-29. Ms. Cross asks Akeelah (00:01:50)



Picture 4-30. Akeelah answers Ms. Cross's question (00:01:54)

Another characterization of Akeelah is she is unconfident with her potential in spelling words. It can be seen in the dialogues between Akeelah and Georgia below. It supports the statement above. The dialogues is in sequent 00:03:12 – 00:03:25.

GEORGIA. So what did Ms. Cross want?

AKEELAH. Nothing, just talking about some stupid ass spelling bee.

GEORGIA. You gonna do it? You probably be good.

AKEELAH. And get up in front of everybody? I'd probably pee in my pants.

(*Akeelah and the Bee*, 00:03:12 – 00:03:25)

From the dialogue of Georgia above, it indicates that actually Akeelah has the potential in spelling words. Therefore, she probably wins the contest. However, Akeelah feels afraid to show her ability. She is also nervous to stand up in front of people. The unconfident of Akeelah is also seen when she says “I don’t want to do it” and “everybody’s gonna be looking at me and there’s gonna be tons of words I don’t know” to her brother, Devon. From those sentences, it shows that Akeelah does not want to involve herself in spelling bee competition due to her fear in showing up in front of many people. She is also afraid that she makes mistake by misspelling the word given by the jury. The word “it” refers to the spelling bee competition.



Picture 4-31. Akeelah studies for district spelling bee (00:19:51)



Picture 4-32. Akeelah studies for district spelling bee (00:19:51)



Picture 4-33. Akeelah states that she must learn more words to Tanya (00:19:59)

Another characterization of Akeelah is she is an ambitious person. It can be seen when she is rejected by Dr. Larabee when she asks him to be her coach for the preparation for district spelling bee contest. Feeling underestimated by Dr. Larabee, Akeelah then study hard by herself. She starts to analyze and memorize new words. It can be seen in the picture 4-31 in medium shot, picture 4-32 in close up, and picture 4-33 in medium shot in order to show the seriousness of Akeelah in studying words from her dictionary which is full of notes and bookmarks.

In her social life, Akeelah is considered as an adaptive person. Although at first she is shy, but she can adjust herself into a new environment. It can be seen in the picture 4-34 and picture 4-35 in medium long shot. More so, in the picture 4-36 when Akeelah attends Javier's birthday party. She can get along with new people by having conversation with Javier and joining the scrabble games that is held in the party. She takes a good role there although she loses the game.



Picture 4-34. Akeelah and Javier have conversation (00:43:18)



Picture 4-35. Akeelah joins scrabble game in Javier's birthday party (00:46:00)



Picture 4-36. Akeelah loses the game (00:46:31)

4.1.2.2. Minor Character

4.1.2.2.1. Dr. Joshua Larabee

Dr. Larabee is an intelligent person. It can be seen from Mr. Welch sentence. He said, "When he was a kid, he went all the way to the National Spelling Bee..." According to this movie, children who make into the national spelling bee are considered as intelligent children because they must study and understand the origin

words of Greek and Latin to understand the form of words. They also have to read many books to improve their knowledge and vocabulary. Besides, Dr. Larabee was a chair in the English Department in UCLA.

Dr. Larabee is also considered as a strict and discipline person. This characterization can be seen in the picture 4-37 in medium close up technique, picture 4-38 in medium long shot technique, and picture 4-39 in medium shot technique in order to show the scene where Dr. Larabee asks Akeelah to leave his house because she is being impolite to him. The statement above is also supported by the dialogue below in sequence 00:18:23 – 00:18:42

AKEELAH. So why are you home during the day? Ain't you got a job?
DR. LARABEE. Do me a favor. Leave the ghetto talk outside, all right?
AKEELAH. Ghetto talk? I don't talk ghetto.
DR. LARABEE. "Ain't you got no job?" You use that language to fit in with your friends. Here, you will speak properly or you won't speak at all. Understood?
AKEELAH. Yeah. Whatever.
DR. LARABEE. You can leave now.
(*Akeelah and the Bee*, 00:18:23 – 00:18:42)

From the dialogue above, it can be seen that Dr. Larabee requires Akeelah to behave when she wants to be coached by him. This behavior is one of his ways to discipline Akeelah who is considered as an insolent girl by talking ghetto to older person. Therefore, manner is important for Dr. Larabee.



Picture 4-37. Akeelah talks impolitly to Dr. Larabee (00:18:21)



Picture 4-38. Dr. warns Akeelah not to use ghetto language (00:18:25)



Picture 4-39. Dr. Larabee asks Akeelah to leave his house (00:18:45)

Dr. Larabee is also characterized as a person who is haunted by the past. It can be proven in the picture 4-40 in close up technique, picture 4-41 in medium shot where he grabs his daughter picture, who has passed away, and picture 4-42 in medium long shot. This scene show that Dr. Larabee remembers his daughter after watches news about Akeelah, then, it makes Dr. Larabee jumbled by his dark memories. He also misses spell Akeelah's name into his daughter's name, Denis. It affects Akeelah's life in spelling bee competition.



Picture 4-40. Dr. Larabee watches news about Akeelah (01:03:43)



Picture 4-41. Portrait of Dr. Larabee and Denis (01:03:56)



Picture 4-42. Dr. Larabee called Akeelah by Denis (01:05:50)

4.1.3. Conflict

4.1.3.1. Internal Conflict

In this movie, the internal conflict occurs inside the character of Akeelah Anderson. The conflict that occurs is when Akeelah is not confident about her potential in spelling words. She is afraid to show her potential to public and she is unsure about her potential in spelling words although she knows that she is good at spelling. It can be seen in the picture 4-43 in medium shot, picture 4-44 which is taken with close up technique, and picture 4-45 in medium shot technique. This scene describes the expression of Akeelah when she utters her fear and her distrust into herself to his brother, Devon, about joining district spelling bee. The dialogue below also supports this statement, which occurs in sequence, 00:13:49 – 00:13:58.

DEVON. He also said you got an opportunity to go to an even bigger contest next week.

AKEELAH. I don't want to do it.

DEVON. Why not?

AKEELAH. Everybody's gonna be looking at me, and there's gonna be tons of words I don't know.

(Akeelah and the Bee, 00:13:49 – 00:13:58)

The dialogue above shows that Akeelah is scared that she cannot spell perfectly in front of everybody. Although she is a smart kid, she is not confident enough to show her ability to people. Therefore, she lacks of confidence. Another proof of Akeelah's distrust of herself can be seen through the dialogue of her and Georgia in the page 27 of this thesis. From the dialogue between Akeelah and Georgia, it can be interpreted that Akeelah is too nervous to show up in front of people. Especially people will have their eyes on Akeelah when she gets in the podium. She will feel terrified and nervous.



Picture 4-43. Devon talks to Akeelah (00:13:52)



Picture 4-44. Akeelah's fear facial expression (00:13:54)



Picture 4-45. Akeelah hugs Devon (00:14:42)

4.1.3.2. External Conflict.

a. Akeelah and her Crenshaw friends

The first external conflict occurs between Akeelah and her school friends. It starts when Akeelah gets bully by her classmates. The bullying happens due to the cleverness of Akeelah among others. She is considered as a nerd in her school and also a “brianiac” or people who is smart. Because of the bullying she gets, Akeelah feels uncomfortable in her school. The bullying can be seen in the picture 4-46, picture 4-47, and picture 4-48 in medium long shot techniques in order to show two of Akeelah’s friends threat her. Here, Akeelah looks terrified and she tries to escape, but her friends hold her.



Picture 4-46. Akeelah's friends approach her (00:06:31)



Picture 4-47. Akeelah feels threatened by her friends (00:06:35)



Picture 4-48. Akeelah tries to escape (00:06:45)

The conflict is also seen in the scene Akeelah misses spell one word given by Dr. Larabee in Crenshaw spelling bee contest and gets bully. It can be seen in the picture 4-49 in medium long shot technique, picture 4-50 in long shot technique, and picture 4-51 in medium long shot technique. This scene shows the situation of the room when people laugh at Akeelah after Dr. Larabee states that Akeelah's answer is wrong and one of her friend utters, "See? She ain't so smart!" to Akeelah. She feels terrified and also ashamed because of what happen to her in spelling bee contest. This issue makes her struggle whether she wants to do the spelling bee or not.



Picture 4-49. Dr. Larabee says that Akeelah's answer is not correct (00:12:11)



Picture 4-50. One of Akeelah's friend bullies her (00:12:09)



Picture 4-51. The whole class laugh at Akeelah (00:12:10)

b. Akeelah and Tanya

The second conflict occurs between Akeelah and her mother, Tanya. Tanya is the one of Akeelah's family who against the involving of Akeelah in spelling bee contest. She has an opinion that joining spelling bee will only disturb Akeelah's academy matters in school, although she knows that Akeelah has the potential in spelling bee. This conflict can be seen in the dialogue below between Akeelah and Tanya in sequence 00:20:01 – 00:20:15.

AKEELAH. You gonna come see me in the district bee in this Sunday?
 TANYA. What, is that at your school?
 AKEELAH. Nah. Beverly Hills.
 TANYA. Beverly Hills?
 AKEELAH. Look, you got other homework. You need to focus on that. I don't want you spending all your time on this game.
 (*Akeelah and the Bee*, 00:20:21 - 00:20:15)

The dialogue above implicitly shows that Tanya does not want Akeelah to spend her time on spelling bee. She thinks that it is much better to study school's subject rather than preparing for spelling bee. Because of this situation, Akeelah decides to study for spelling bee behind Tanya's back. The conflict between Akeelah and Tanya occurs when she forbids Akeelah to join regional spelling bee until she finishes summer class, which is held at the same time with the preparing course for the spelling bee contest.

c. Akeelah and Dr. Larabee

The last external conflict occurs between Akeelah and Dr. Larabee when Dr. Larabee says that he cannot coach Akeelah anymore, especially for the national spelling bee. This situation destroys Akeelah's confidence and affects Akeelah's emotion. The proof of this conflict is seen from the dialogue below between Akeelah and Dr. Larabee in sequence 01:06:31 – 01:07:01.

AKEELAH. 5.000? But we've only got a few months left. What, you gonna coach me 24/7?
DR. LARABEE. Uh, no. You're going to... um, learn these on your own. There's nothing left for me to teach you.
AKEELAH. What?
DR. LARABEE. You've got it all, Akeelah. You've got work construction down, etymology, memorization techniques. What you need to do now is just focus on the words.
AKEELAH. (Voice breaking) I can't learn 5.000 new words all by myself. (*Akeelah and the Bee*, 01:06:31 – 01:07:01)

From the dialogue above, it can be seen that Akeelah cannot accept the fact that Dr. Larabee cannot coach her anymore. From the change of her voice intonation in the last dialogue, it shows that there are sadness and fear inside Akeelah in facing the national spelling bee preparation by herself.

4.2. Maslow's Hierarchy of Needs Theory

In writing this thesis, Maslow's hierarchy of needs theory will be used as the tool to analyze the extrinsic aspect of the movie. This theory consists of 5 level of human needs. They are physiological needs, safety needs, love needs, esteem needs, and self-actualization. The writer analyzes whether there are any levels of this theory that are not fulfilled by the main character, Akeelah, that cause struggle in her life.

4.2.1. Physiological Needs

The first level of Maslow's theory is physiological needs. According to Maslow (1943), physiological needs is vital or basic needs that human must fulfil. Based on this movie, the character of Akeelah Anderson has fulfilled the physiological needs such as food and warmth. It can be seen in the picture 4-52 in medium long shot technique and picture 4-53 in medium shot technique This scene shows the gesture and activity of Akeelah and her family in dining table. From this picture, it can be concluded that Akeelah is not in a hunger situation. Therefore, she can live as a normal human being. This scene also describes the warmth Akeelah gets from the place she lives in and the warmth from her family.



Picture 4-52. Akeelah's mother brings food for dinner (00:03:52)



Picture 4-53. Akeelah has dinner (00:04:30)

Akeelah also has enough rest and proper place to sleep. Rest is one of physiological needs Akeelah can fulfill. It can be seen in the picture 4-54 in medium long shot in order to picture Akeelah sits on her bed obviously. This scene shows that she can have a proper rest due to the facility she has in her house. From the statements above, it can be concluded that Akeelah does not have to struggle to fulfil the physiological needs. Therefore, it does not obstruct her to pursue her dream in spelling bee



Picture 4-54. Akeelah sits on her bed
(01:08:08)

4.2.2. Safety Needs

After Akeelah fulfills the physiological needs, it emerges a new need called safety needs. According to *Akeelah and the Bee* movie, the character of Akeelah is threatened by her surroundings. The feeling of unsafety is shown when Akeelah's friends bully her in the school. It can be seen in the picture 4-47 when Akeelah feels threatened by the bully of her friends in school. It is also seen in the picture 4-55 in medium close up technique and in the picture 4-56 in long shot technique when Akeelah runs away from Crenshaw spelling bee contest after the whole students

laugh at her. She runs away because of her friends mock her and it is considered as unsafety situation for her.



Picture 4-55. Akeelah feels threatened by her surrounding (00:12:00)



Picture 4-56. Akeelah runs away from Crenshaw spelling bee (00:12:15)

Another unsafety situation that occurs in Akeelah's life is when she loses parental love. The first one is Akeelah loses her father love since her father has passed away. It can be proven with the dialogue of Tanya to Dr. Larabee in sequence 01:9:59 – 01:10:13.

TANYA. You know, Dr. Larabee, my child is only 11 years old and she has been through so much already. Her father was killed when she was 6. Somebody shot him on his way home from work. Do you have any idea what it's like for a girl to lose her father that way?

(Akeelah and the Bee, 01:9:59 – 01:10:13)

From the dialogue above, Tanya explains that Akeelah has lost his father since she was a little kid. It is obvious to see that she loses the figure of her father she needs. She receives parental love only from her mother, Tanya. However, in the beginning of the movie, Tanya does not give enough parental love to Akeelah. She seems neglect her, especially in the spelling bee matters which is considered as Akeelah's dream. It can be seen in the dialogue below when Akeelah and Tanya

argue each other about the preparation of spelling bee Akeelah has joined in Woodland Hills. This dialogue happens in sequence 00:36:27 – 00:36:34.

TANYA. Akeelah Anderson! You done lost your mind? You 11 years old! You don't be taking a bus to Woodland Hills by yourself!

AKEELAH. There's nobody around to take me.

TANYA. That's cause I work!

AKEELAH. That's what you said on the weekend. All the other kids have their parents at the district bee.

(Akeelah and the Bee, 00:36:27 – 00:36:34)

From the dialogue above, it can be seen that Tanya selects work over Akeelah. Since she is a single parent of four children, she has to work hard to fulfill the household needs. It causes Akeelah to go anywhere alone even when she prepares for the spelling bee contest. It emerges the feeling of unsafety for children. From the last dialogue Akeelah has said, it shows that she loses the figure of a mother in her process of pursuing her dream in spelling bee.

According to this movie, Akeelah also states the inequality in education between her school, which is dominated by black students, and her friend's school, Javier, which is dominated with white students. It can be seen in the dialogue below in sequence 00:37:04 – 00:37:27.

AKEELAH. Mom, I hate Crenshaw! It is so boring there! And nobody cares!

TANYA. What, you think they care about you in Woodland Hills?

AKEELAH. At least they got Latin classes and the kids don't have to study in their stairwell.

TANYA. Well, good for them. But, until you finish summer school at Crenshaw, ain't gonna be no more spelling bees!

AKEELAH. But, mama, I gotta get ready for the state bee during the summer.

TANYA. Well, you just gonna have to do that next year, aren't ya?

AKEELAH. But that's not fair!

TANYA. Not only is it fair, it's final!

(Akeelah and the Bee, 00:37:04 – 00:37:27)

It can be seen from the dialogue above that Crenshaw does not provide Latin class for their students. It obstructs Akeelah to prepare for spelling bee contest. Therefore, she needs to go to Woodland Hills to study Latin. From the last dialogue, it can also be seen that Akeelah is in an unfair situation where she wants to join spelling be contest but her mother does not support her. It emerges the situation that threats children. It can be concluded that the character of Akeelah cannot satisfy the safety needs. Therefore, it becomes the first obstacle for Akeelah in pursuing her American dream.

4.2.3. The Love Needs

According to Maslow (1943), love, affection and belongingness belong to the love needs. In the beginning of the movie, Akeelah express her feeling that she does not suit in anywhere. It can be seen in the monologue below in sequence 00:00:57 – 00:01:20.

AKEELAH. You know that feeling, when no matter what you do and where you go, you just don't fit in? Don't know the word for that. Alienation? Estrangement? Incompatibility? Nah, those ain't right. But there's gotta be a word for it. 'Cause it's how I feel all the time. My name's Akeelah Anderson and I'm 11 years old. And this all starts at Crenshaw Middle School in South Los Angeles.

(Akeelah and the Bee, 00:00:57 – 00:01:20)

From the monologue of Akeelah above, it shows that Akeelah feels that she does not belong anywhere. She states that everything she does will not be the same as her surroundings do and everywhere she goes, she does not find the acceptance of people. In the end of the monologue, Akeelah says “And it starts at Crenshaw Middle School in South Los Angeles” It indicates that she does not suit with the environment of Crenshaw. Moreover, she gets bully from her friends due to her intelligence. It becomes one of struggles for Akeelah to pursue her dream and develop her interest in spelling.

Akeelah also loses her father affection since he has passed away. Not only her father’s affection, but also her mother’s affection. It can be seen in the dialogue between Akeelah and Tanya in the page 40. Here, as a daughter of a single mother, she has to face the reality that her mother has to spend her time more in the workplace. It can be seen in the picture 4-57, picture 4-58, picture 4-59 in medium close up technique in order to show the conversation between Akeelah and Tanya. It also shows the upset expression of Akeelah when her mother cannot take her to the district spelling bee. The dialogue of Tanya also supports this statement. She says, “You know I work at the hospital on Saturday”. It means that her mother does not have enough time for Akeelah even in the weekend. Therefore, it makes Akeelah losing her mother’s affection



Picture 4-57. Akeelah asks her mother to take her to spelling bee contest (00:20:01)



Picture 4-58. Tanya rejects Akeelah (00:20:20)



Picture 4-59. Upset facial expression of Akeelah (00:20:23)

Besides her parents, Akeelah also loses the affection from Dr. Larabee and her best friend, Georgia, due to the fame Akeelah gets after she wins the regional spelling bee. The dialogue in sequence 01:09:06 - 01:09:16 below support the statement of this paragraph.

AKEELAH. I don't want to do the bee no more.

TANYA. You don't wanna do the bee? Why not?

AKEELAH. Dr. Larabee don't want to coach me no more. Georgia don't want to hang out with me.

(Akeelah and the Bee, 01:09:06 - 01:09:16)

From the dialogue above, it can be concluded that Akeelah loses her desire to do spelling bee. She gets distraction from the sadness she has. It shows how important affection is to Akeelah. Therefore, Akeelah struggles in pursuing her dream in spelling bee.

4.2.4. Esteem Needs

According to the movie, the character of Akeelah cannot fulfill the desire for confidence and feeling of strength. The inability to fulfill this need, makes Akeelah struggling to pursue her American dream in spelling bee. It can be seen in the beginning until middle plot of the movie. The first proof can be seen from the lack of confidence Akeelah has. It can be seen from the characterization of Akeelah in the page 27 and 28 of this thesis. From the dialogues that are mentioned, it can be seen that Akeelah is not confidence to express her skill. Therefore, she has lost the desire for being confident and feeling good enough to face the world. There is fear inside Akeelah that obstructs herself from dream she tries to pursue.

Here, Akeelah also experiences losing her strength during the process of preparing for national spelling bee. It can be seen in the scene where Akeelah feels oppressed and anxious after her sister calls her to watch the news of her community talking about her success in the previous spelling bee contest and put on a big hope that she wins the contest and it will give positive reputation for the community. This scene can be seen in the picture 4-60 in medium long shot technique, picture 4-61 and picture 4-62 in medium close up technique.



Picture 4-60. Akeelah's sister asks Akeelah to watch news about herself (01:08:40)



Picture 4-61. Akeelah watches the news (01:08:43)



Picture 4-62. Akeelah feels anxious (01:08:59)

From the news she had watched, she feels oppressed by the excitement and hope from her community that demands her to win. She also says "...all these people are expecting me to win and it's just too hard, mama. I want it all to stop". From this sentence, it can be concluded that Akeelah lacks of strength due to the expectation of her community. Moreover, she has lost her coach and friend at the same time. This situation makes her feels that she is not strong enough to face the world. Then, it leads to the feeling of inability to be useful and necessary for her surroundings.

4.2.5. The Need for Self-Actualization

In the beginning to middle of this movie, Akeelah cannot satisfy her need in self-actualization due to the unsatisfied of the four previous needs. According to Maslow (1943), people who fulfil the four previous needs can reach self-

actualization. In this movie, Akeelah not only once states that she does not want to join the spelling bee contest due to the conflicts she has with herself and others. It can be seen in the dialogue of Akeelah in the page 32 - 33 and 43 - 44 of this thesis. The sentences “I don’t want to do it” and “I don’t want to do the bee no more” indicate that Akeelah facing a phase when she does not want to attain achievement in what she is potentially at. This unsatisfied need leads to the obstruction for Akeelah in pursuing her dream in spelling bee.

4.3. Social Support

In analyzing this movie, the writer also uses social support theory by Mermelstein et al (1985). This theory is applied to observe how Akeelah successfully achieve her American dream in spelling bee after she experience a stressful situation. It leads to a finding that social support takes role in the successes of Akeelah in pursuing her dream in spelling bee. There are two kinds of social support Akeelah gets according this movie. They are:

a. Self-esteem Support

It can be proven from picture 4-63 and 4-64 in medium shot technique and picture 4-65 in medium shot technique in order to show Akeelah’s brother, Terrence, willingly helps Akeelah preparing for the national spelling bee contest. Although at first Terrence discriminates his sister by saying “You’re going up against a bunch of rich white kids. They’re gonna tear your ass up” to her.



Picture 4-63. Terrence meets Akeelah (01:14:43)



Picture 4-64. Terrence helps Akeelah to spell word (01:14:49)



Picture 4-65. Akeelah and Terrence walk home (01:15:08)

Another proof of self-esteem support that appears in this movie can be seen in the picture 4-66 in medium long shot technique in order to show a postman helps Akeelah in studying words and picture 4-67 in medium long shot technique in order to show Akeelah studies words with the help of a storekeeper while they tidy the fruit stall. Moreover in the picture 4-68 which is taken in medium shot technique, Derick T and other people help Akeelah to prepare for the spelling bee contest. This scene indicates that Akeelah's community gives her support in building and increasing the confidence she needs to prepare for the national spelling bee. With the availability of Akeelah's community in provides positive action for her, Akeelah can pass through her hard time losing her coach, Dr. Larabee. Moreover, the support from her neighborhood overcome the stress that Akeelah has.



Picture 4-66. Akeelah and a postman (01:15:18)



Picture 4-67. Akeelah and a storekeeper (01:15:23)



Picture 4-68. Akeelah and Derrick T (01:15:25)

b. Belonging Support

Belonging support that appears in this movie can be seen from the monologue said by Akeelah below in sequence 01:44:37 – 01:45:10.

AKEELAH. You know that feeling when everything feels right, where you don't have to worry about tomorrow or yesterday, but you feel safe and know you're doing the best you can? There's a word for that feeling. It's called love. L-O-V-E. And that's what I feel for all my family and all my coaches in my neighborhood where I come from, where I learned how to spell.

(Akeelah and the Bee, 01:44:37 – 01:45:10)

From the monologue above, Akeelah feels that she belongs in where she should belong, her own community. She feels safe and starts to get a settle life due to the belonging support given by her neighborhood or community.

CHAPTER 5

CONCLUSION

According to the result of the analysis above, *Akeelah and the Bee* movie shows that the character of Akeelah Anderson faces some obstacles in pursuing her American dream in spelling bee competition. The findings of this analysis are in accordance with Maslow's Hierarchy Needs theory. There are 5 level of human needs in Maslow's theory namely physiological needs, safety needs, love needs, esteem needs, and self-actualization needs. Moreover, through the analysis that uses Maslow's Hierarchy Needs, the writer concludes that there are 4 out of 5 level of basic needs of human that cannot be satisfied by Akeelah Anderson. There are the safety needs, love needs, esteem needs, and self-actualization needs. Therefore, Akeelah is considered to struggle more in pursuing her dream due to the unsatisfied needs.

The writer also found that social support appears in *Akeelah and the Bee* movie. It can be concluded that social support is one of tools for Akeelah to overcome the struggles she has in pursuing her dream. According to social support theory by Mermelstein et al that is used to analyze this study, community in Akeelah's neighborhood give self-esteem support and belonging support to Akeelah.

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