

**SELF-ACTUALIZATION OF ELLE WOODS IN AMANDA BROWN'S
LEGALLY BLONDE MOVIE DIRECTED BY ROBERT LUKETIC:
A HUMANISTIC APPROACH**



RESEARCH PAPER

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by

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CHAPTER I

INTRODUCTION

A. Background of the Study

Human life in the world has various kinds of needs from the lowest needs to the highest ones. Therefore, to survive, they would try to fulfill their lower need as a motivator to be satisfied. And the human being has a hidden talent, potentials, qualities, capacities, and the full development of their abilities as the highest needs of self-actualization.

Maslow's self-actualization is the desire for self-fulfillment, to realize all one's potentials, to become everything that one can, and to become creative in fulfill sense of the world. (Maslow in Feist, 1985:381) These needs are part of hierarchy of five levels of basic needs in Humanistic psychological theory. The Humanistic psychology regards humans as free will. They are able to make choice and free of what they want, as and addition, Humanistic also regards that human strive for growth. They have desire to develop their potential reaching the goal in life (Zimbardo and Ruch, 1980; 25-27)

Need for Self-actualization is the highest human needs in Maslow's theory. Every body has to develop their potential with their capability. To reach self-actualization needs a person will have desire to be a suitable person with his or her own potential. They will try to execute their own potential to be an ideal person for themselves or to another. They would try to actualize themselves in

their lives to get a better in the future and prestige in social life as the best human. Just like slogan “Nobody’s Perfect”

In a daily life, people can see many varieties of self-actualization needs. For example someone who has musical talent will create the music or song, someone who likes drawing will be a painter, someone who has science will try to be an expert and etc. everyone has their own potential and with their potential they will have their own way to be an ideal person.

Self-actualization is a part of Psychological study, especially a part of Humanistic psychological study. Maslow, in his book *Toward a Psychology of Being* describes self-actualization as the on going fulfillment of potentials, capabilities, and talent as a fuller knowledge of a persons’ own intrinsic nature and as an unceasing trend toward unity, integration or synergy within a person. Self-actualization is the peak of human basic needs. Therefore, universal characteristic of actualized person is an ability to see reality clearly, undisturbed by individual wishes.

Robert Luketic is the director of movie that concern with psychological problem especially of self-actualization in his movie. Self-actualization becomes a good resource and one of the inspirations for an author to write a literary work to be read by the reader. The reader will get experience in reality when they read this literary work.

Human being becomes object of literature and psychologies when it’s unfold the human mental life. A lot of authors create their literary works based on psychological condition. Psychology can explore the creative process because

they can explore this subconscious mind, imagination, needs aspiration, feeling emotion and etc.

Robert Luketic is directed of *Legally Blonde* movie and written by Amanda Brown and Karen McCullah Lutz. This movie is released by MGM PICTURES in November, 22nd 2001 and it has running time 96 minutes. *Legally Blonde* movie used English language. The locations of the movie are in All Saint's Episcopal Church - 132 N. Euclid Avenue, Pasadena, California, USA. This movie starring by Reese Witherspoon as Elle Woods, Luke Wilson as Emmett Richmond, Selma Blair as Vivian Kensington, Matthew Davis as Warner Huntington III, Victor Garber as Prof. Callahan, Jennifer Coolidge as Paulette Bonifante, Holland Taylor as Prof. Stromwell, Ali Larter as Brooke Taylor Windham etc. The film has a very nice co-star cast: Victor Garber ("Titanic," "Sleepless in Seattle"), Luke Wilson ("Blue Streak," "Charlie's Angels"), and Selma Blair ("The Sweetest Thing," "A Guy Thing")

Legally Blonde is a popular movie. This movie is nominated for 2 Golden Globes, USA and another 4 wins & 8 nominations. As a comedy genre, *Legally Blonde* comes not only talk about humor but it is also very witty and has educational experiences and the big point for this movie exudes such an air of intelligence, confidence and compassionate goodwill that Elle as the major character invests even her dumb blonde character with those seemingly paradoxical traits. In the end, not only does "*Legally Blonde*" come off very funny, but also very witty, good-natured and sweet: One of the most pleasant surprises of 2001, indeed.

The story of *Legally Blonde* movie is very interesting because this movie narrated about the struggle of Elle Woods to get her self-actualization. Elle Woods (Reese Witherspoon) has it all. She's the president of her sorority, a Hawaiian Tropic girl, Miss June in her campus calendar, and, above all, a natural blonde. She dates the cutest fraternity boy on campus and wants nothing more than to be Mrs. Warner Huntington III. But, there's just one thing stopping Warner (Matthew Davis) from popping the question: Elle is too blonde. Growing up across the street from Aaron Spelling might mean something in LA, but nothing to Warner's East-Coast blue blood family. So, when Warner packs up for Harvard Law and reunites with an old sweetheart from prep school, Elle rallies all her resources and gets into Harvard, determined to win him back. But law school is a far cry from the comforts of her poolside and the mall. Elle must wage the battle of her life, for her guy, for herself and for all the blondes who suffer endless indignities everyday. Elle must struggle and study hard to studies in Harvard. In Harvard school Elle study hard to be a smart person, Elle must active to discuss in the class. Elle can prove to other people that she can to be an ideal person. Elle was chosen to be Mr. Callahan assistant. Then Elle even replace Mr. Callahan to winning a Brooke Taylor Windham case by being Mrs. Windham's lawyer. Elle also can finish her study in Harvard school and she becomes a good lawyer.

From the explanation above, the writer analyzed the Robert Luketic's *Legally Blonde* movie and the title is: **SELF-ACTUALIZATION OF ELLE WOODS IN AMANDA BROWN'S LEGALLY BLONDE MOVIE DIRECTED BY ROBERT LUKETIC: A HUMANISTIC APPROACH**

B. Literary Review

Legally Blonde movie in Robert Luketic's is popular movie and it is interesting to analyze. As long as the researcher knows, there is no research that has been conducted to study the movie *Legally Blonde* before whether in Muhammadiyah University of Surakarta or Surakarta Region. So, this research is the first study.

In this occasion, the researcher takes the Humanistic Psychology approach to reveal needs for self-actualization of Elle Woods as one of the main character in this movie.

C. Limitation of the Study

The writer focuses on analyzing self-actualization needs of Elle Woods as main characters in the movie *Legally Blonde* of Robert Luketic.

D. Problem Statement

Based on the title and background of the study, the writer formulates the problem as follows; "*How is need for self-actualization reflected in Legally Blonde?*"

E. Objectives of the Study

The objectives of the study are as follows:

1. To analyze the movie based on its structural elements into narrative elements and technical elements. Narrative by finding character and characterization,

setting, plot, point of view, theme, and cast. Technical elements involve mise-en-scene, cinematography, editing and sound

2. To analyze the movie based on the needs for self-actualization in Elle Woods' on Humanistic Psychological approach.

F. Benefits of the Study

There are two benefits expected from this study they are as follows:

1. To give some contribution on understanding of the movie *legally blonde* especially by a Humanistic approach.
2. To improve the researcher's understanding and competence in applying a psychological approach into literature.

G. Research Method

The writer uses descriptive qualitative method besides books and other related references to support the subject matter

1. Object of the Study

The object of the study is Robert Luketic *Legally Blonde*

2. Type of the Data and the Data Source

The type of data in this study is a text that consists of words, phrase and sentences.

There are two data sources in this study. They are primary data source and secondary data sources.

a. Primary Data Source

The primary data source of the study is the movie *Legally Blonde* by Robert Luketic.

b. Secondary Data Source

The secondary data sources consist of the other data, which have relationship with the study, such as some biography of the author, and other relevant information.

3. Technique of the Data Collection

The technique used in this study is library research by collecting and recording both of the primary and the secondary data. The steps of collecting data are applied in this study are as follows:

- a. Watching the movie repeatedly
- b. Identifying the topic of the movie
- c. Determining the major character that will be analyzed.
- d. Reading some related books to find out the theory, data, and information required.
- e. Taking notes of important information in booth primary and secondary data sources.
- f. Arranging and developing the selected data into a good unity toward the topic of the study.

4. Technique of the Data Analysis

The technique of data analysis used in this study is descriptive analysis. The structural elements of the movie and the collected data will be described and analyzed in detail through Humanistic Psychological approach.

H. Research Paper Organization

The writer constructs the paper organization in order to give understanding to the readers into five chapters, they are; Chapter I is introduction consisting of background of the study, previous study, limitation of the study, problem statements, objective of the study, benefit of the study, research method, and paper organization. Chapter II is the underlying theory that content the notion of Humanistic theory and structural elements of the movie, which is closely related to the topic discussed. Chapter III covers the structural elements of the movie that includes narrative and technical elements. Chapter IV is Humanistic Psychological toward the movie. Chapter V consists of conclusion and suggestion of the study.