

**SELF-ACTUALIZATION IN ROBERT LUKETIC'S
LEGALLY BLONDE : A HUMANISTIC
PSYCHOLOGICAL APPROACH**



Research Paper

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by

TIA ANGGRAINI
A 320 050 019

**SCHOOL OF TEACHING TRAINING AND EDUCATION
MUHAMMADIYAH UNIVERSITY OF SURAKARTA
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CHAPTER I

INTRODUCTION

A. Background of the Study

Legally Blonde is movie directed by Robert Luketic, produced by Marc E Platt, published by Metro-Goldwyn-Mayer studios and starring by Reese Witherspoon. The year of producing the movie is in 2001. It is based on the 2001 novel of the same name by Amanda Brown and the writers of screen play are Karen Mc Cullah Lutz and Kirsten Smith (<http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/legally-blonde>). The duration of the movie is one hour 36 minutes. The country of the movie is USA and use English as language. This movie is a comedy romantic movie because the story of the movie uses comedy genre. Some actors and actresses that support this movie are Reese Witherspoon, Luke Wilson, Selma Blair, Matthews Davis, Victor Garber, Jennifer Coolidge, Holland Taylor and many more. The production targets teenagers (girls more than boys) who are content to watch a motion picture with a few laughs and happy ending. Like many comedies, *Legally Blonde* wants the plot to be more than a frame work upon which to hang the jokes, but it fails to provide enough substance for that to be case (<http://www.reelviews.net/movies/1/legally-blonde.html>).

The director of *Legally Blonde* movie, Rober Luketic, was born in Sidney, New South Wales, Australia in 1973. He was graduated from Victorian College of the Arts (VCA) in Melbourne, Australia. Luketic jumps to filmography as director and writer. Films are directed by Robert Luketic such as *Titsiana Booberni* (1997), *Legally Blonde* (2001), *Win a Date With Tad Hamilton* (2004), *Mosnter -In Law* (2005), *Women In Law* (2006), *Pilot* (2006), and the newest is *21* (2008). (<http://www.imdb.com/title/tt0250494>).

The story of *Legally Blonde* movie tells about Elle Woods (Reese Witherspoon) that has it all. She's the president of her sorority, a Hawaiian Tropic Girl, Miss June in her campus calendar and she is natural blonde. She has a boyfriend, the cutest boy on campus named Warner (Mathew Davis) and he wants nothing more the to be Mrs. Warner Huntington III (<http://www.imdb.com/title/tt0250494>). But there is paradigm that the Blonder girl is not serious girl so the boy friend broke their loves. Elle proves she can be serious girl and proves her talent and capacities as a lawyer in Harvard Law School. But Law School is far from comfort. Elle must wage the battle of her life, for her love, for herself and for all the blonder who suffer endless indignities everyday. In the end of story, Elle can actualize her ability as a lawyer by win the murderer case and she also get her new soul mate in the law school.

This movie got various responses from the public. There are two responses from audience, that is pro and contra. Some peoples are pro with

this movie, while some other else are contra. The people who pro with this movie or like this movie is, for Steve Loucks he realizes that *Legally Blonde* has, totally capture the heart of many an audience member especially the tween-to-teen set (<http://steveonbroadway.blogspot.com/2007/05/legally-blonde-sob-review.html>). In other side, the people who doesn't like this movie is JE De Matteo. Personally he didn't like this movie. He enjoyed the scenery, but he felt he wasted his time. Here are some adjectives used by De Matteo to draw this movie : dumb, painful, superficial (<http://hugereviews.com/movies/legally-blonde.html>). Although there are pro contra to this movie, the response of the market is very good. This movie get a lot of income from it first release at 13 July 2001. This movie can pierce the box office with the total income in the amount of US \$ 95.001.351 (<http://www.rottentomatoes.com.m/legally-blode/>). The income is very big because this movie gets big attention from market especially teen audience that become target of this movie. From the movie industry word, this movie also get good response. This movie was a Golden Globe Award nominee for Best Picture-Musical or Comedy and Witherspoon's performance also received a nomination for best actress-musical or comedy (<http://movies.yahoo.com/movie/1804857429/awards>).

The *Legally Blonde* movie is interesting to be researched because it has same point interest. According to the researcher, the point interests of this movie are in plot, cinematography and the acting of the actress. The plot of the

movie flows from exposition until ending regularly so the audience can understand the way of story well and the way of story does not broken off. According to review by James Berardinelli, this movie combines three plot staples: the triumph over adversity, the romantic comedy and the courtroom comedy (<http://www.reelviews.net/movies/1/legally-blonde.htm>). The other point interest is cinematography. The setting of the places is very good, however, it is indoor or outdoor. The sound mix use DTS-stereo, so the sound is very good (<http://www.imdb.com/title/tt0250494/>). The last point interest is the acting of actress especially Reese Witherspoon. She has basically grown up in front of camera, has previously shown a strong grasp of both comedy and drama, and this is the most effective satirical performance (<http://steveonbroadway.blogspot.com/2007/05/legally-bloden-sob-review.html>). Besides, Reese Witherspoon's funny, nuanced performance makes this movie better than it would have been otherwise (<http://www.rottentomatoes.com/m/legally-blode/>).

The story of *Legally Blonde* movie is suitable with Maslow's self-actualization. Self-actualization is one of the Hierarchy of Needs in Humanistic psychology. Humans are created in the world with many kinds of need those are need to survive. These needs are various kinds and arranged from lower needs to highest needs. The lower needs should be fulfilled before the highest needs if someone wants satisfy his life. The kinds of need according to Maslow are physiological needs, needs for safety, needs for love

and belongingness, self-esteem needs and self-actualization needs. Human should show their abilities, capabilities and talents to get self-actualization as the highest needs.

Maslow's self-actualization is born to create one's talent and capacities. It involves of human's potential, accept one and other in their society as unique individual and using a problem centered approach to situation (Maslow in Huffman and Vernoy, 1987:493). Someone is called he has talent and capacities in his life by using his capability. Maslow says that the specific form that the self-actualizing takes varies greatly from person to person. It is at this level, that individual differences are greatest (Maslow in Hall, 1985:206). Self-actualization is one of fundamental needs in humanistic psychological theory. Humanistic psychology views human as active creature with freedom. They are able to choose and develop life style (Hjelle and Zielger, 1992:440).

Considering the explanation and the fact above, the researcher is interested in analyzing the needs for self-actualization of Elle as the main character with the title "**Self-actualization in Robert Luketic's *Legally Blonde* : A Humanistic Psychological Approach**".

B. Literature Review

There is a researcher who has studied on Robert Luketic's *Legally Blonde* "Gender Equality in Robert Luketic's *Legally Blonde* : Feminist Approach". She was Zanita, the student of Muhammadiyah University of

Surakarta. Her research focused on gender equality by using feminist approach.

From the previous researcher above, the writer intends to complete the previous Research and to enrich the similar research. In this research, the researcher is going to apply this research in different approach. The researcher takes the humanistic psychological approach to reveal needs for self-actualization of Elle Woods as one of main character in this movie.

C. Problem Statement

Based on the background of the research, the researcher proposes a problem statement. The problem of this research is “How is self-actualization of Elle Woods reflected in Robert Luketic’s *Legally Blonde*?”

D. Limitation of the Study

The researcher limits her analysis for understanding people’s struggle to actualize her ability reflected in *Legally Blonde* movie directed by Robert Luketic. The researcher investigated Elle Woods as the major character by using an approach of Humanistic Psychology.

E. Objective of the Study

According to problem statement above, the objectives of the research are as follows:

1. to analyze the movie in terms of its structural elements, and

2. to analyze the movie based on humanistic psychological approach

F. Benefit of the Study

The result of this research is expected to give some benefits as follows:

1. Theoretical Benefit

This research will give some contributions to the body knowledge, particularly the application of feminism approach in literary study

2. Practical Benefit

- a. For the researcher her self

The result of this study will improve the researcher's knowledge of people's struggle to actualize her ability as reflected in the *Legally Blonde* movie.

- b. For the other researcher

This study can be used as reference for the other researcher who interested research *Legally Blonde* movie using other approach

G. Research Method

1. Type of the Research

This research uses descriptive qualitative method. Descriptive qualitative method is a research which employs the method of collecting, describing, classifying and analyzing the data and then drawing conclusion.

2. Object of the Study

The object of the study is *Legally Blonde* movie. This movie is directed by Robert Luketic and written by Karen Mc Cullah Lutz and Kirsten Smith. Published by Metro Goldwyn Mayer Studios.

3. Type of the Data and Source of the Data

The type of the data is the text, image and scene of movie entitled *Legally Blonde* directed by Robert Luketic. The writer divides the data source into two categories, they are primary data source and secondary data source.

a. Primary data source

The primary data source of the study is *Legally Blonde* movie that is directed by Robert Luketic and written by Karen Mc Cullah Lutz and Kirsten Smith. Published by Metro-Goldwyn-Mayer Studios.

b. Secondary data source

The writer takes the secondary data source, including reference and materials related to the study whether taken from internet. The script of the movie is downloaded from internet and it is added by the researcher to reach the completeness.

4. Method of the Data Collection

The method of data collection in this study is the library research. It involves both primary and secondary data. The ways of collecting data are as follows:

- a. Watching the movie several times and determining the character that will be analyzed
 - b. Reading some related books to find out the theory, data and information.
 - c. Making notes of important parts in both primary and secondary data.
 - d. Classifying the data into categories
 - e. Drawing conclusion to get last result.
5. Method of the Data Analysis

The method in analyzing the data is descriptive analysis, in which the data collected, described and then analyzed. It concerns with the relationship between the movie and the humanistic psychological approach theory to show how self-actualization is reflected in the story.

H. Research Paper Organization

The researcher organizes the research paper into five chapter. Chapter I is the introduction which consists of background of the study, previous study, problem statement, limitation of study, objective of the study, benefit of the study, theoretical approach, research method, technique of data analysis and research paper organization. Chapter II is underlying theories that explains humanistic psychological perspective and structural elements of the movie. Chapter III is analysis of the movie, it includes the structural elements of movie. Chapter IV is humanistic psychological analysis that deals with the discussion. Chapter V draws conclusion and suggestion.