



THE STEREOTYPE OF AFRO-AMERICAN FATHER IN *THE PURSUIT OF HAPPYNESS* (2006) MOVIE: COUNTER DISCOURSE

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Abstract

Stereotyping and stereotypes have always been an element of human society. In society and the media, there has existed a stereotype of Afro-American fathers. Studies revealed that Afro-American fathers are often absent from their children's lives. The issue tends towards Afro-American father stereotypes and has a long and complicated history in the U.S. Through this autobiography movie: *The Pursuit of Happiness*, Chris Gardner, as the main character and an Afro-American father, breaks the negative stereotype in the U.S. society viewing Afro-fathers. The author uses a descriptive qualitative method and stereotype theory, helped by narratology film in analyzing the data. The primary data were pictures, narration, and dialogue in *The Pursuit of Happiness* movie. The study found six issues considered as counter-discourse on Afro-American father stereotypes. They are educated, attentive, supporting, financially responsible, and diligent figures on Afro-American father figures. The paternal bound also exists in the figure.

Keywords: *Afro-American father, counter discourse, film analysis, stereotypes*

INTRODUCTION

Stereotype itself is a matter where a person or group decides to judge another group only based on remembering the type of group that is the individual representation or distinctive (Bordalo, Coffman, Gennaioli, & Shleifer, 2015). In this particular case, stereotypes indeed highlight differences between groups and are highly inaccurate. They sometimes consist of doubt and imply an overreaction to information that generates or confirms the stereotype and an underreaction to information that contradicts it. Stereotypes can change if new information appears to change the group's most distinctive character, which can be through media, movies, or literature. In society and the media, there has existed a stereotype of Afro-American fathers. Studies (Lopez, 2015) revealed that Afro-American fathers are often absent from their children's lives. The issue tends towards Afro-American father stereotypes and has a long and complicated history in the U.S. Those stereotypes started with the history of Afro-American slavery, which significantly impacted Afro-American men (Mertania and Amalia, 2020; Samanik, 2018). At first, it was only a stereotype based on biological differences in accent and skin color. Thus, these stereotypes increasingly persist and are even built-in new forms, turning into social constructions to legitimize the superiority of certain races. Through that incident, systematic racism has been seen in the presence of an Afro-American male throughout history.

The stereotype was naturally formed in the U.S. society, creating some complicated circumstances for an Afro-American group in the U.S. The issue has also built negative stereotypes in viewing Afro-American role models, especially a father, which has become "a mind virus" in Western countries. Something that has ever happened will form a stereotyped group's perception and generally homogenize the group. Oliver (2003) stated "*Many Afro-Americans, especially men, are stereotyped as stupid, cruel, lazy, and dangerous criminals*" (p. 5). In addition, stereotype, criminal justice, and prejudice measures have far-reaching implications for these men relative to the economic support they can provide their families, their involvement, and the emotional impact on their families. That certainly affects the formation of the stereotype of the Afro-American father in the U.S., who is constantly compared to Western fathers.

For years, much of the movie has been criticized for its representation of African Americans. African Americans have often been portrayed in stereotypical job roles, with negative personality characteristics, underachievers, and negative stereotypes. The individual correlation of racial and ethnic prejudice, which gave rise to prejudice theory (Stangor, 2009). Of course, this indirectly has a destructive impact on Afro-Americans

from the perspective of people viewing Black people after watching a movie that negates the presence of an Afro person. Therefore, at this time, along with the changing times, the appearance of Afro-American movies is very varied, which used to be a Black movie that presented history or events that relate to the life or presence of an Afro-American itself, currently contains stories with different nuances. Moreover, the Black Lives Matter movement was used as a protest because there are still strong racist cases that have occurred until now and have become a sensitive matter in the U.S. (Ghandnoos, 2014). Behind it all, the existence of black movies today is to prove history and emerge the lives value of minority groups; as the studies noted, T.V. and Black movies are used to describe the importance of Afro-Americans (Redfern, 2005). One of them is *The Pursuit of Happyness* movie, as an outspoken representation of people who seem to oppose the negative stereotype of the Afro-American in the U.S.

The Pursuit of Happyness (2006) movie is an autobiographical movie with a background in the early 1980s in San Francisco, the United States, adopted from the novel within the same title released in 2006s. Marcus (2013) reviewed that the movie presents the colors of the single Afro-American father, Christ Gardner, as the head of the family and as the father with custody of Christopher, his son. Then, the movie supported a true story that reflects the lifetime of the characters on how reality takes place, family problems, economy, children, divorce, and the journey of life as Afro-American people where Gardner was the struggle the better life and reached equality in his environment (Marcus, 2013). Furthermore, *The Pursuit of Happyness* movie can be a study both in psychology and sociology (Afriangga and Nurmaily, 2017; Kasih and Fithratullah, 2018), connecting the character's personality as an Afro-American and American Dream in the U.S. (Tarigan, 2009). However, *The Pursuit of Happyness* has received awards in various nominations for its attention has not been studied from the perspective of father figures, especially Afro-American fathers. That is what makes this movie exciting and unique to be discussed in scientific analysis (Fithratullah, 2021; Kasih, 2020). More clearly, the study to discover how social issues arise and formed into a social doctrine regarding the stereotype of the Afro-American father in the U.S. in *The Pursuit of Happyness* movie is needed. To be more specific, through the sociological approach and stereotypes theory, researcher tries to form counter discourse on the figure of an Afro-American father against the stereotype Afro-American father in the U.S. through the characters in *The Pursuit of Happyness* movie.

METHOD

This study applied the descriptive qualitative method as it is more suitable for analyzing the data in this research. Qualitative research is a research method that is most suitable to be implemented in research with a group of words as data such as quotes in books, novels, poems, and others (Rido and Sari, 2018; Kasih, Amelia, Fithratullah, 2022; Suprayogi, 2021). In this methodology, the researcher has to build abstracts, concepts, and theories as a research framework. Moreover, the qualitative research method is the research that focuses on understanding a phenomenon and studying it more effectively to find the meaning of the phenomenon discussed and describe a phenomenon in word form and a particular context by utilizing several natural methods to support the primary methodology (Kasih and Strid, 2020). The qualitative research method is carried out by describing the data used to reveal different facts, and then the data will be re-analyzed according to the objectivity of the research (Amelia and Daud, 2022). Qualitative descriptive method is a research method that describes and qualifies scientific data that are related to each other so that they can be compiled into a scientific and objective conclusion (Nassoba & Samanik, 2022). This method also aims to accurately describe or explain the facts being investigated (Oktavia & Suprayogi, 2021; Pranoto and Sartika, 2021).

The qualitative approach is essential because the data taken comes from specific issues and the object of research (Maulana, Kasih and Suprayogi, 2022) which becomes the important focus of analysis. In the qualitative method, data analysis is the stage of searching and compiling the data obtained using different data collection techniques that researchers need, such as observations, interviews, literary work analysis, and others. This method is used to explore research based on the material objects used. Therefore, researchers need to organize data, choose which ones are important to study, and make conclusions that are easy to understand (Gulo and Rahmaely, 2020; Kuswoyo, 2016). Thus the primary data were taken from dialogue, images, and the narrations in *The Pursuit of Happyness* movies. Some studies were also needed to support and strengthen the analysis. They were journals and recent studies regarding the Afro-American father and the film. The study applied sociological approach defining stereotypes theories from Stangor (2009) and stereotypes denial theory from Cohen and Garcia (2005).

FINDINGS AND DISCUSSION

In this part, the researcher classified the data regarding stereotypes of Afro--American fathers from the previous study. Furthermore, the researcher presents the data taken from scenes in *The Pursuit of Happyness* movie, such as quotations and narration of the film. The researcher analyzes every detail of the story to deny the stereotype of Afro-American father with the theory used. The dialogues and pictures of the movie reveal the characters by what they say and act; they either use direct and indirect ways (Famela, 2011). Thus, the action of the main character, who is an Afro-American father, will break the stereotype. The data are presented as follow:

Gardner's Attention on His Kid's Education

Scene 1

The discussion is taken from a scene where Gardner is taking his son to daycare. Like other mornings, Gardner and his son would rush to daycare before his father left for work. Gardner noticed a typo in the mural, which Gardner explained to his son at their hasty pace. Despite the fountain, the conversation between them always went well. The word is 'Happyness,' which should be written with 'I' instead of the letter 'Y,' to be 'Happiness.' He tried to explain to his son the mistake and did not forget to explain how it should be written correctly and also about which word class the "happyness" is.



Gardner : "It's written as P-P-Y, but it's supposed to be an I in "happyness"
His son : "Is it an adjective?"
Gardner : "Uh, no. Actually, it's a noun. But it's not

By explaining the word in the mural, Gardner tries to pay attention to his son. The term 'Happyness,' which Gardner explains, means that Gardner has background knowledge. Here, Gardner, as Afro-American, adjusts the simple educated in his conversation with his son with his passion while he is in a rush. Unlike what is written in American history, many Afro-Americans, especially men, are stereotyped as stupid (Oliver, 2003). Through the record creates in U.S. society, back then, putting Afro-American men in slavery in a lower position, the doctrine Afro men as uneducated people who do not have knowledge or ability to say or do something. However, Gardner broke the stereotype. It attests from Gardner's characteristic of treating his child's thinking well about the word's meaning. Of course, the existence of Gardner's figure can be one way to show the truths that the doctrine of Afro-American fathers is not valid. Still, the truth is that African-American fathers can stand to educated people and educate their children. Gardner puts his position to deny the stereotypes to his community. When community or individuals are faced with a stereotype threat to their integrity embodied in a stereotype they believe being applied to them, one of the most straightforward coping strategies is stereotype denial (Cohen and Garcia, 2005).

Scene 2



His son : "Is "fuck" spelled right?"
Gardner : "Yeah, that's spelled right. But that's not part of the motto, so you're not supposed to learn that. That's an adult word to show anger and, um... other things. But just don't...Don't use that one, okay?"
His son : "Okay." (00:16:45 – 00:17:01)

The second conversation between them is where his son asks about the word 'Fuck', which is also painted on the wall near the child's daycare. Hearing this question, of course, Gardner was a little confused about how to explain it, but thoroughly and kept an understanding, Gardner tried to explain that the word was not written wrong and asked the child not to use it. Gardner also said why the child should not use the word, which is because the word is to show anger. The seriousness and concern that are imprinted on Gardner as a father can be seen through the picture.

In the picture, Gardner's face (A), who looks at Christopher with the mimic worried regarding what his son asks and thinks. The camera centers much on the mimic of Gardner's face to delineate his much attention on his son. Then the gesture of his hand (B) interprets the movement that affirms what he said, or the order was something to believe in his statements. What Gardner explains in the second scene is about moral education. Gardner tries to provide an understanding of words that should not be used for children his age. Education itself is an effort that is deliberately chosen to influence and help children ourselves to improve science, physical, and morals. So they can deliver the children to reach their dreams to get happiness in life and make a good impact in society, state, and religion. Those shreds of evidence show if Afro-Americans can stand as educated fathers for the children in the context of children thinking development in formal and informal things. Gardner shows another side of an African-American father who was previously seen as an uneducated father in formal or informal terms. Of course, Gardner's way of educating his kid is a kind of denial for the common perception that Afro-American fathers cannot fulfill the role of fathers in educating their children.

Gardner's Attention as a Father to His Child

Scene 3

The third piece of evidence happened at the door of the daycare. Where Gardner complained to Mrs. Chu, the daycare owner where his child was entrusting, about the daily activities carried out by his son in that place.

Gardner: "He says he's been watching TV."

Ms. Chu: "Oh, little TV for history."

Gardner: "Love Boat?"

Ms. Chu: "For history. Navy"

Gardner: "That's... That's not the Navy. I mean, he... He could watch television at home. We're paying you \$150 a month. I-if he's gonna be sitting around watching TV all day, we're taking him out of here." (00:18:07 – 00:18:27)

Through the dialogue, it can be seen that Gardner is worried about his son's development. In contrast, his son stayed at the daycare that Gardner paid for it. Even Gardner is willing to pay a price that is high enough to compare with his economic situation. "**I-if he is gonna be sitting around watching TV all day, we are taking him out of here**", implies that Gardner expects something his son may not get when he is only at home while his mom and dad are working. However, TV shows only to serve his son, not something Gardner expected before, like playing with his friends to build confidence or socializing, reading or hearing the story related to child development and education. Chu reasoned that his TV viewing was done to learn about the history of the navy, but Gardner knew it was not a good learning tool for children.

The study refutes a stereotype using literature data that reflects the public's view of African-American fathers as one the fathers involved with their children (Khan, Benda, & Stagnaro, 2012). This research proves that there is a doctrine or negative belief of an Afro-American father in U.S. society. Furthermore, the film scene above also refutes the negative view of the uninvolved Afro-American father figure on his child's development. He is judged by how Gardner is very critical of what happened to his son in his development. By protesting to daycare owners, it also proves that Gardner's decision to leave his child in daycare is not solely because he and his wife are busy working. Because if that is the case, Gardner would not have thought about what his son is doing there; merely someone taking care of his son when he and his wife are busy would be enough. However, Gardner is very concerned about the conditions in which his child is placed. That concern can also be seen in Gardner's expression when he speaks to Mrs. Chu; his worries are apparent. Garden's attitude is inversely proportional to the public's view of African-American fathers as one the fathers involved with their children.

Scene 4

The next scene happens when Gardner goes to buy a lamp for his broken destiny scanner in the store. Gardner stands in front of the cashier with his son beside him and the child is still carrying the bag in his backpack, watching the snacks in front of him.



Gardner: "Hey, you want one of those?"

His son: "No, it's okay."

Gardner: "Come on, you can have one. Which one?"

His son: Take a snack

Gardner: "You like that one? How much?"

Seller: "Twenty-five cents." (00:57:05 – 00:57:16)

After touching it, Gardner asked his son if he would like the snack in front of him in the dialogue above. With a made-up look, the boy said that he did not want that. However, behind the words "No, it is okay" that came out of his son, of course, Gardner felt that it meant the child because Gardner had noticed how the boy acted when they were in the store. Therefore, Gardner again offered, which sounded more like an option to take the snack he wanted.

As seen in picture B, Gardner gets his son's attention fixed on the red-wrapped snack in front of him. As if knowing his son's wish, Gardner offers to take a snack his son wants. His son initially rejected it if he did not like it. But Gardner forced his son to keep taking the snacks he wanted and ended up having one snack in his hand the second time Gardner offered it. What is striking here is apart from Gardner's concern for his son's wishes. Gardner still puts his child first. However, he inevitably has to be more economical at that time due to his unstable economy. However, Gardner still prioritizes his attention on his son by trying to fulfill his son's wishes. Also, Gardner becomes a father who pays attention to their children's matters. As it is known, American society and media consistently picture Afro-American fathers as absent fathers (Ransaw, 2014). The statement can indirectly say that the Afro-American father is a father who is not involved with his child. Nevertheless, the scene and the quotation are said differently; it denies the stereotype of Afro-American fathers as uninvolved fathers through Gardner's involvement and interest in his childhood development and the environment around his son.

Gardner's Involvement as a Supportive Afro-American Father

Scene 5

The evidence of this scene was setting in Gardner's rented house. The conversation in the scene is where Gardner reminds them of their Saturday morning routine to play basketball excitingly. Because Gardner knows that basketball is his son's favorite sport.



Gardner: "Hey. You know what today is?"

His son: "Yeah."

Gardner: "What?"

His son: "Saturday."

Gardner: "You know what Saturday is, right?"

His son: "Yeah."

Gardner: "What?"

His son: "Basketball."

Gardner: "You wanna go play some basketball?"

Through Gardner's actions, it proved that if he is a supporting Afro-American parent for his child. In his busy, fulfilled economy, Gardner still supports his child's hobby. He even offered to remind him that Saturday was his son's schedule for playing basketball. Not only that, but Gardner was also playing with his son in his suit, after which he would return to the hospital one by one to offer destiny scanner products. The scene can deny the Afro father stereotype as unsupportive fathers in children's development. Because literature data itself reflected the public's view of Afro fathers as unsupportive parents (Smith, Krohn, Chu, & Best, 2005). However, the Afro-

American father in the movie supports what his son needs. Gardner tried his best to make his son can do something he wanted to do as his hobby. In an economic situation that must be more struggling in seeking money, Even Gardner is still thinking about his son's daily activity on Saturday. As it said, Gardner can ignore his child's hobby and go somewhere to sell his product. Nevertheless, he is not. He still balancing his roles as the head of the family who has to earn money and as a father who has to take a father role for his son.

Scene 6

The scene appeared on the basketball court, where the child continued to control the ball, throwing it here and there and the father following the flow of the game. Dressed neatly, the two of them played basketball with enthusiasm before leaving for daycare. On the sidelines of the game, they continued to chat as usual.



His son: *"Hey, Dad, I'm going pro."*

Gardner: *"Oh-ho! Okay. Yeah. I don't know, you know. Uh... you'll probably be about as good as I was. That's kind of the way it works, you know. And I... I was below average. You know, so... Whoa. So you'll probably ultimately rank... somewhere around there, you know, so... I really... You'll excel at a lot of things, just not this. So I don't want you out here shooting this ball around all day and night, all right?"*

The dialogues looked like his son want to get a confession from his dad. That is why he told him if he is going pro in playing basketball; like the one with lots of experiences, Gardner tried to explain when replying to his son's statement related to the ability. Gardner said that if he is a father who can be below average in playing basketball, his son will ultimately be ranked. That is a supporting sentence for the people who heard about it.

The stereotype of an Afro-American father known as a father who did not support his child's development is no longer valid because of Gardner's action in responding to his son's statement. It proved that Gardner as an Afro-American father has a dedication to supporting his son's characteristics and needs. As is well known that stereotypes have always been an element of society (Schmader & Inzlicht, 2011) which means it is only the perspective of an individual or group in viewing something based on what was heard and seen from family TV or social media. Likewise, what happens to African-American fathers' negative view lies in the wrong view that does not include alternative models (Ransaw, 2014). Whereas Theodore Raw (2014) researched the quality of fathers, one of which is establishing good communication (2014). That is what Gardner has as a father figure, who is an Afro-American. Through the part of the dialogue from Gardner, he put lots of support through his words to push his son's spirit. Even in the following sentence, it makes his son misunderstanding him. In his last sentence, Gardner said that he wants to make his son search for other abilities that he has, not only good at playing basket but Gardner embed his son will be good at anything, it sounds like such a motivation in accordance supporting his son. Therefore Gardner did not want his son only playing around with basketball. Because Gardner believes his son can reach anything as he does.

Scene 7

The following scene on the basketball court is a continuation of the previous evidence. After responding to Gardner's son's statement, ending in a lousy mood, he pulled over to the side of the field, followed by his father, who felt that his son was a little offended by his father's words.



Gardner: *"Hey. Don't ever let somebody tell you...you can't do something. Not even me. All right? All right. You got a dream...you gotta protect it. People can't do something themselves; they want to tell you you can't do it. If you want something, go get it. Period."* (00:53:39 – 00:55:39)

The quote from Chris Gardner describes what Gardner taught to his children. It is not just about lessons. Gardner even applies the hardships of life, about how people will always mock and break our dreams, which happened to Gardner. He is trying to instill confidence and a sense of resilience to live better in a better

environment. It is also clearly seen through the look on Gardner's face; it can be seen how he is trying to convince his son to believe that what he said is true and hope his son remembers what he said in the scene. In this case, it also proves that support can be instilled by a father who has the stereotype of someone always busy with his work, to the point that he is considered incapable of taking care of children's problems. Through the main character, the stereotype of an Afro-American father in the U.S community who thinks that an Afro father cannot support and raise his child (LaRossa, 1997) is refuted through the main character in the film *The Pursuit of Happyness* movie. Here, Garden gave his son support to always stand in his way to the things he wanted to pursue even though the world tried to break him down.

Gardner's Willingness to Take the Responsibility over his Family's Finances

Scene 8

The scene happened at a blood donation place when Gardner was struggling in the economic crisis. At that time, Gardner decided to apply for a job as a stoker holder, which made him inevitably follow an intensive program for six months as an employee selection process.

(01:42:05)



Gardner's action as a proof if an Afro-American father that can stand as a financially responsible father for his family. Stereotype as an absent father, certainly it effects on their responsibility in children's needs or financial. Furthermore, an Irresponsible father was awarded for being an Afro-American father figure in the U.S (Stublety, Rojas, & McCroy, 2015). But, the scenes from the movie speak it differently. It also tries to deny its stereotype on how still there is the Afro-American father that exists and becomes a responsible father financially (Taylor, Guy-Walls, Wilkerson, & Addae, 2019). Even at first, he argued with his wife when they were having problems in an economic crisis. However so far, Gardner still seems to be a good father figure in financial matters. He is still trying to find and get good results for the good of his family. Behind his sincerity in work, Gardner's act of donating blood certainly proves that an Afro-American father still thinks and does various ways to fulfill and, of course, be responsible for his family's needs.

Gardner's Effort to be a Diligent Figure

Scene 9

(01:14:54)



(01:34:36)



In picture A, with the scene in the bedroom of Gardner's rented house and it was time to sleep, he struggled with the book he was holding, a textbook during his internship, which he was required to read during his internship program. Then in picture B, with the lack of light in a shelter for the homeless, it looks like Gardner continues to study with the help of light coming in through the window where he is staying

Both scenes pictured how Gardner is very diligent and dedicated; it showed how dedicated he is to what he will achieve for his family. It denied the stereotype in the U.S society if Afro-American fathers are stupid because they are lazy (Smith, Krohn, Chu, & Best, 2005). Because back then, Afro-American men, Afro-American fathers, indotrinated as lazy people, it seems like the main problem for the economic crisis of their family (Smithsonia, 2017). Nevertheless, that doctrine is still believed and becomes a stereotype for Afro-American fathers in U.S society. Two of the other scenes are used as evidence that not all Afro-American fathers are lazy and stupid in terms of being responsible for their families. However, Gardner, as the main character in the biographical film, breaks the stereotype statement.

That says if an Afro-American father is a lazy person because Gardner in the movie shows his diligent side in pursuing a better life for himself and his son through the scene, Gardner's action in every detail. It can be seen how he keeps trying to achieve his goals even though the circumstances make it difficult for him; of course, he does it to make his life and the life of his family better than before. It proves that the stereotype of stupid and lazy fathers is not justified.

The Paternal Bond between Gardner and His Son

Scene 9



His son: "Dad, you don't have a shoe."

Gardner: "Yep. I know. Wanna know what happened? I got hit by a car."

His son: "You got hit by a car? Where?"

Gardner: "Uh, just right by the office."

His son: "No, wherein your body?"

Gardner: "Like, the back of my legs."

His son: "Where are you on the street?"

Gardner: "Y-yeah. I was running in the street."

His son: "Don't do that. You can get hurt."

Gardner: "Yeah, thanks. I'll remember that next time." (1:01:46 – 1:02:16)

This scene begins when Gardner is going to pick up his son on the break from his internship. On the way, he saw a beggar carrying his lost density scanner and chased him. But unlucky, Gardner was hit by a car while crossing the road then lost a shoe. That scene was picturing when Gardner arrived at the daycare. His son was noticing his father, who lost his shoes when squatting in front of him. In the dialogue, trying to look okay, Gardner tried to tell what happened until he lost one shoe. The exciting thing is when his son asks "**where?**" and Gardner answers about the accident's place, whereas he asked about being injured because of the incident. His son conveyed another concern by saying, "**Do not do that. You can get hurt.**" when his son found out that the cause of his father's accident was because he was running on the road.

Through the evidence mentioned, the paternal bond shows that the bond between father and son can bring positive emotions and expressions between them. It could believe that Afro-American fathers can take part in the development of their children and how a father takes the figure of a caregiver. Gardner's relationship with his son proved pretty good by seeing the excellent response in his son's attention to his father. It is refuting the stereotype in the US that says the presence of an African-American father has a destructive impact on his child's emotional development (Ransaw, 2014).

Scene 10

The scene occurred when he was at an inn for beggars—seen the child supine on the bed, with Gardner sitting with his face facing his son. It can be seen from the child's face full of anxiety. What then looks like the son is also touching his father's chin with total sincerity for what he is about to say.



His son:

“

That statement was producing when his son asked about his mother's departure if it had anything to do with him. In response, Gardner tried to explain that his mother's departure was not because he wanted to go. Gardner tried to calm his son's worries. Therefore, his son said he was a good father, with what they had been through so far.

The evidence scene above has explained, where the child says that Gardner is a good father, with a facial expression showing emotion that says he means what he says. It proves that from the side of the Afro-American child, he admits that the African-American father is a good figure for them. It can be said that the African American

father-daughter relationship can be well-formed without causing the negative things that western people expect, because naturally, each individual or group will give their assessment of other individuals or groups (Khan, Benda, & Stagnaro, 2012). However, over time, our judgments of others cannot be used as a basis for social comparison or social understanding (Schmader & Inzlicht, 2011). It causes stereotypes to be considered an assumption or perspective from a general pattern of behavior or judgment that often extends to people, society, and culture. Just as with the role of African-American fathers, which refers to U.S. history, Afro-American fathers were placed as fathers who would not take on the role of fathers. Because during that historical period, many African-American fathers were entangled in economic problems, so they were less qualified to support their families, so there was no reasonable relationship between them. It gave rise to the stereotype because social interactions between individuals or groups provide conclusions and understandings that are not entirely correct based on history. Through Gardner's action, As an Afro-American father, he stayed and did what was best for his family. If concluded, Gardner can be a father figure who can build a good father and son relationship.

CONCLUSION

This study focuses on the stereotype denial of Afro-American fathers seen in *The Pursuit of Happyness* movie (2006). There are six issues considered as counter-discourse for Afro-American father stereotypes. They are Afro-American fathers as educated, attentive, supportive, financially responsible, and diligent in Chris Gardner character. There is also a paternal bond through the characteristics and actions of Chris Gardner as an Afro-American father in the movie. The movie depicted a denial of the stereotype of the Afro-American father in the U.S. However, according to Hollywood's needs, American movies are made for America's needs. Whose concept of Americanism has become known worldwide since becoming a world superpower and trying to make films as a new political tactic used in world politics. That Americans should look fine, although Afro-American people remain in their original identity. Even though Hollywood produces films about black, there is still discrimination regarding skin color in U.S. society, whether it is in the context of children, parents, students, or others. Likewise, this movie, based on the story of a black person, was produced by a black person and played by a black person. It is certainly not a coincidence, but something conveyed about the voiceless, discrimination, or the truths through literary works. Likewise, in this movie, it can be seen how good an Afro-American father is. However, in U.S. society, the African-American father figure is exposed to negative perspectives about his existence in the family. Most people only focus on racist skin color, even though discrimination has gone far beyond skin color and gender, but the role of fathers towards their families and children. Therefore, the autobiography of this film should be used to change the perspective on the image of African American fathers in the U.S., that they are equal to other fathers from various places, ethnicities, and races.

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