

CHAPTER V

CONCLUSION

In conclusion, *10 Things I Hate About You* (1999) offers a powerful illustration of how Bourdieu's ideas of capitals and habitus function in the social environment of American teenagers through the character of Bianca Stratford. Bianca's internalized habitus, which is consistent with the prevailing values of her high school environment, serves as a major guiding principle for her actions and decisions at the start of the movie. She values social and symbolic capital highly, using her appearance and social circle selection to gain status, popularity, and outside approval. The cultural expectations placed on young women in a consumer-driven, image-conscious adolescent society are reflected in these values.

However, as the narrative progresses, Bianca's interactions with key characters, especially her sister Kat, Cameron, and Joey Donner challenge her initial worldview. Her conflict with Joey exposes the dangers of superficial relationships based solely on symbolic capital, while her evolving relationship with Kat encourages her to embrace more authentic values. Through these experiences, Bianca begins to accumulate cultural capital in the form of critical awareness, emotional intelligence, and personal agency. This shift marks a transformation in her habitus, as she moves away from blind conformity to peer expectations toward a more reflective and independent sense of self.

Ultimately, Bianca Stratford's character arc demonstrates that habitus is

not fixed but dynamic, capable of change when exposed to new forms of capital and alternative ways of being. The film thus illustrates the relevance of Bourdieu's theory in understanding how individuals negotiate and sometimes transcend the social structures that shape their everyday lives. By analyzing Bianca through this lens, this study contributes to a deeper understanding of the complex relationship between personal identity, social capital, and cultural conditioning in popular media representations of adolescence.