

ABSTRACT

Individualism is one of the important values in American society, emphasizing freedom of thought, independent judgment, and personal responsibility. *The Shape of Water* (2017) is a movie that portrays individualism through the character of Elisa Esposito. This study aims to examine how Elisa's self-trust reflects individualism and the challenges she faces in maintaining her individualism. The findings show that Elisa is portrayed as a compassionate, courageous, determined, and self-reliant character. Her self-trust is reflected through her ability to trust her own judgment and develop her own understanding of the Amphibian Man rather than following the judgments of others. Her individualism is also shown through her resistance to institutional authority and her determination to protect the creature. However, Elisa faces challenges such as institutional pressure, threats from the antagonist, and the personal risks of her choices. Despite these challenges, she remains faithful to her convictions and accepts the consequences of her actions. This study concludes that individualism in *The Shape of Water* (2017) is portrayed through self-trust, resistance, and the courage to remain faithful to personal convictions despite external pressure.

Keywords: *individualism, self-reliance, self-trust, resistance*