



**THE AMERICAN DREAM ON AN AMERICAN TAIL  
(1986)**

**A THESIS**

**In Partial Fulfillment of the Requirements for the Sarjana Degree  
Majoring American Cultural Studies in English Department Faculty of  
Humanities Diponegoro University**

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## **PRONOUNCEMENT**

The writer honestly confirms that she compiles this thesis by herself and without taking any results from other researchers in S-1, S-2, S-3, and in diploma degree of any university. The writer ascertains also that she does not quote any material from other publications or someone's paper except from the references mentioned.

Semarang, December 2020

Yunita Taqwa Sari Sitorus Pane

## MOTTO AND DEDICATION

“Never be limited by other peoples limited imagination”

- Dr. Mae Jemison

“Learn to value yourself, which means: to fight for your happiness”

- Ayn Rand

“Anyone who stops learning is old, whether at twenty or eighty. Anyone who keeps learning stays young. The greatest thing in life is to keep your mind young.”

- – Henry Ford

*After the struggle that i passed through,From the deepest of my heart, I proudly dedicate this thesis for my beloved family, friends and everyone who always accompanies my life and sends their best wish and prayer for me until today.*

**APPROVAL**

**THE AMERICAN DREAM ON AN AMERICAN TAIL ( *1986* )**

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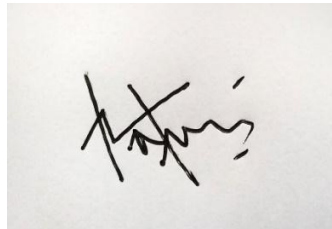
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Semarang, December 2020

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## ABSTRAK

*Di masa lampau, metafora dianggap hanya terdapat pada karya sastra tulis seperti retorika dan puisi. Akan tetapi, setelah ditelusuri leboh dalam oleh para peneliti metafora, metafora juga dapat ditemui dalam kehidupan sehari – hari misalnya iklan, komik, bahasa sehari-hari termasuk film. An American Tail merupakan salah satu film animasi yang menggunakan metafora untuk menyampaikan makna yang tersirat. Maksud dan tujuan tulisan ini adalah guna mendeskripsikan unsur intrinsik dalam film, menjelaskan bagaimana mimpi Amerika digambarkan melalui metafora dan bagaimana mimpi Amerika dipandang melalui film tersebut. Untuk menganalisa mimpi Amerika yang tersirat, penulis menggunakan teori Metafora Multimodal oleh Charles Forceville. Hasil penelitian menunjukkan bahwa mimpi Amerika digambarkan melalui personifikasi, percakapan tokoh dalam film dan analogi sedangkan mimpi Amerika dalam film digambarkan positif namun untuk meraihnya diperlukan kepribadian yang baik.*

*Kata Kunci : Mumpi Amerika, Metafora Multimodal, Film, Animasi*

## ABSTRACT

In the past, metaphor was considered exclusive for written work such as rhetoric and poetry. However, as many metaphor scholars explored metaphor deeper, it can be found in daily life as well such as advertisement, comics, spoken language including film. *An American Tail* is one of animated film which uses metaphor to convey meaning. The aims of this thesis are to describe the intrinsic aspects and to describe how the American dream is depicted through metaphors and how american dream is presented in the film. To analyse the implied American dream, multimodal metaphor theory by Charles Forceville is applied. The results of the studies are american dream is depicted through personification, dialogue of characters and analogy whereas the attitude of the film towards american dream is positive however good personality is needed in order to reach the dream.

Keyword : American Dream, Multimodal Metaphor, Film, Animated



# CHAPTER I

## INTRODUCTION

### 1.1 Background of the Study

Besides being entertainment media, film can be considered as cultural artifact since it has important role in human culture that directs human thought, feeling and belief which is similar to song, poetry and so on. Therefore, film cannot be separated from its importance to present ideas and moral value. As Ryan in *An Introduction to Criticism* states that

“Cultural artifacts promote ideas that motivate action and they provide moral instruction. They are teachers, ministers, advertisers, politicians, and parents all in one. They help us manage our lives by providing us with useful examples of how to live ( 2012 : 11)”

Based on the statement above, film can be used as medium to deliver messages or ideas which may influence the audience. In many American films, they often reflect belief, culture and social life in American society. From many American values which may be reflected in a film, one of them is American dream which will be discussed further.

American dream has become a part of American way of life which has relation to personal fulfillment. The term of American dream first emerged in *The Epic of America* by James Trustow Adams in 1931. Adams stated in Cullen that American dream offers better life for all American citizen whatever their ranks or background as a contribution to the world, the dream has been existed since America became an independent nation (2003 : 4). Besides that, American dream

also has relation to a dream of land which life should be better and richer and fuller for every man (Cullen, 2003 : 7) Based on the statements above, it can be concluded that American dream is an opportunity that is provided to achieve dream and to improve life, specifically, it is seen as the right place to realize dream for every man from throughout the world. Nowadays, the value still exists in American society and changes through decades.

American dream has been presented in many works including film with various point of view and narrative style. One of these works is *An American Tail* film which is directed by Don Bluth in 1986. Besides American dream, the writer found that narrative aspects on *An American Tail* such as the characters are not only to enhance story but also intended to be metaphorical. The film, set in 1885, tells about a Russian mouse family who immigrate to America after their house is destroyed by the cats. The mice see America as a place where the cat does not exist which can personify the mice and cat with immigrant who want freedom in America. In short, metaphor is apparent can be existed in various form

To support the finding, Lakoff & Johnson in their work entitled *Metaphor We Live By* emphasized that metaphor is not only existed in written expression but also in daily life so that metaphor can be in visual, audio and many forms ( Chiu & Chu, 2019 ). Later, Charles Forceville used Lakoff & Johnson's view that consider metaphor as the matter human thought ( 1980 ) as basic principle to analyse metaphor in other medias such as animated film and caricature in his theory called Multimodal Metaphor.



Based on the previous statement, It is possible that metaphor can be found in images and dialogue. Therefore the writer will try to prove that the animation elements such as characterization are used in the film to convey metaphor of American dream by using Multimodal Metaphor's perspective which is based on Lakoff & Johnson's concept.

## **1.2 Scope of the Study**

*An American Tail* film has many aspects that can be examined. However, the writer will focus the discussion to explain implied American dream on the film. In analysis process, the writer will analyze intrinsic and extrinsic aspects on *An American Tail* film. Intrinsic aspects include character, setting and conflict whereas for extrinsic aspects will analyse the American dream by interpreting the metaphor on the film

## **1.3 Aims of the Study**

In the thesis entitled “ The American Dream on *An American Tail* ( 1986 ), the aims of the study are provided below :

1. To describe and analyze intrinsic aspects of *An American Tail* film
2. To analyze American dream reflected in *An American Tail* film.
3. To discuss how american dream is depicted through metaphor on the naration of *An American Tail* film

## **1.4 Methods of the study**

This thesis uses two aspects of method . They are Method of Research and Method of Approach.

#### **1.4.1 Method of Research**

In this thesis, the writer uses library research. Library research is a research method where the writer acquires required informations or data by reading articles, books, journal and the other sources. In addition, George states that “ library research entails identification the obtained sources that have factual information or opinions from personal/expert which meet the research question ” (2008:6). Through Library research, the writer searches information on journals and books besides the movie she watches as research object.

#### **1.4.2 Method of Approach**

In writing the thesis, Exponential approach is used to analyze the narrative elements. According to Guerin “ we designate this method as the exponential approach because the inclusiveness of the term suggest at once the several meanings of motif, image, symbol and archetype ( 1992 ; 197). From the previous quote, it shows that exponential approach is symbolic or not involving all of literary work element. This thesis will analyse narrative aspects that consists of Character, Setting and Conflict.

As the extrinsic aspects, the writer focusses the analyses mainly on metaphor that depicts American dream by using Charles Forceville’s Multimodal approach. Since the film also depicts American society implicitly besides American dream, The writer will use sociological approach to understand how the society is represented in the film. According to Kennedy and Gioia “ sociological approach

examines literature in the cultural, economic and political context in which it is written or received” ( 1995 : 1801 ).

## **1.5 Organization of the Writing**

### **CHAPTER I**

Introduction : The chapter contains the background of the study, purpose of the study, scope of the study, methods of the study, and the organization of the writing.

### **CHAPTER II**

Biography and Summary : The chapter contains the biography of the director and the summary of the *An American Tail* film. The chapter aims to familiarize the readers to the research object.

### **CHAPTER III**

Theoretical Framework : The chapter contains theories which are used for the research. The intrinsic aspects contain narrative elements which involves Characters, Setting and Conflicts For the extrinsic aspects will provide metaphor analysis that is used to depict american dream value.

### **CHAPTER IV**

Discussion : The chapter contains the discussion or the analysis which is conducted based on collected data and the theory that is used to analyse the research object.

This chapter contains intrinsics and extrinsics aspects

### **CHAPTER V**

Conclusions : The chapter contains the conclusion of the analysis

## CHAPTER II

### BIOGRAPHY AND SYPNOSIS

#### 2.1 The Biography of Director and His Works

Don Bluth was born in El Paso, Texas as Donald Virgil Bluth to a family of seven children. Since young, he had passion in drawing and dreaming to work in Disney Studio. After graduated from high school, Don Bluth worked in Disney from 1955 to 1956, he worked on *Sleeping Beauty* (1959). Later he decided to continue his education by studying english literature at Brigham Young University. During this time, he worked in summer for Disney.

After finishing his degree, he opened live theater in Santa Monica but he decided to enter animation world by working as layout artist for Filmation Studios where he was promoted as the head of the department. In 1971, he worked as Animator in Disney. He directed several animated film such as *Winnie The Pooh and Tigger Too* (1974) and *The Rescuers* (1977). Besides that he also the director of *Pete's Dragon* (1977) and *The Small One* (1978).

In early 1979, Don Bluth together with Gary Goldman and John Pommeroy started independent animation production company after resigned from Walt Disney Production. Their first featured film was *The secret of NIMH* (1982) which was adapted from Mrs Frisby and the Rats of N.I.M.H novel by Rober C. O'Brien. Besides animation film, they also produced game as new laser disc technology was

introduced, they are *Dragon's Lair* (1983), *Space Ace* (1983) and *Dragon's Lair II : Timewarp* (1991).

In 1986, he released a film entitled *An American Tail* (1986) as a result of collaboration with Steven Spielberg. In the same year, they moved to Dublin and produced *The Land Before Time* (1988), *All Dogs Go to Heaven* (1989), *Rock-A-Doodle* (1991), *Thumbelina* (1994) and *A Troll in Central Park* (1994).

Later he joined 20th Century Fox. He and his fellow later produced and directed animated film entitled *Anastasia* (1997) and *Titan A.E* (2000)

## **2.2 The Synopsis of *An American Tail***

This film is set in 1886. It is started from the Mouskewitz family who lives in Russia before they immigrate to America. At the time, they celebrate hannukah, a Jewish traditional sacred day. For Hannukah, The mouskewitz children, Tanya and Fievel receive presents then they ask their father to tell a story besides the Great Mouse of Minks. The father, papa mouskewitz believes that America is a place of dream so he tells the children about the story of America when there is no cat in America.

The children are fascinated with the story but mama Mouskewitz does not believe the story. Suddenly, an attack by the cossacks occurs outside of their house and destroys their houses, Fievel tries to lure the cats because his baby sister is scared however, he is overpowered and escape.

After the attack, they decide to immigrate to America through Hamburg, Germany. In the ship, they meet the other mice who are also immigrating to America, apparently, they share the same vision about America that there is no cat in America and they will reach their dream. One night, the storm causes the wave to strike the ship and the deck is flooded by water. Fievel tries to reach the deck but he is separated from his family as he is floated in the water. Fievel's family assumes that he is already dead so they mourn about him.

However, Fievel is floated on the sea inside a bottle so that he survives the flood. Fortunately, the bottle floats near New York and Fievel is saved by a French pigeon named Henri le Pigeon whereas in other places, his parents are pessimists about his fate so he informs the migration officer that they are a family of four instead of five but his sister, Tanya whose name becomes Tilly still believes that he is alive.

Meanwhile, Fievel feels pessimistic about the possibility to find his family, but Henri encourages him to be optimistic because according to Henri, he is in America where everything can happen. After a bit of struggle to convince Fievel, Fievel finally becomes more optimistic and finds a spirit to find his family. Later he is brought by one of Henri's friends to New York downtown and then they say goodbye to each other.

Fievel starts to search for his family. Then in his effort to find his family, he meets a mouse that introduces himself as Warren T. Cat, he convinces Fievel that he knows his family and promises to bring him there. Apparently, Fievel is deceived, instead he is brought to a place where many mice are forced to work

without salary because Warren takes all of their salaries for himself. Fievel is forced to work but later he manages to escape. Before his escape, there is a young mouse boy who is interested in Fievel but his name is unknown since Fievel escapes quickly through the window.

Unknown to him, he is followed by the young mouse who also escapes through the window with Fievel's blanket rope, finally they meet each other and he introduces himself as Tony Toponi then he calls him Fillie as he believes that the name should be changed, Since the interview, they become friends.

When strolling down the New York street, there is a courageous young girl named who is seen protesting about the cat's unfairness as she believes that In America is allowed to say everything but the other mice do not really listen her instead they expect her not to say "cat". Toni stared at the young girl passionately and started to fall in love with her, apparently The young girl is also attracted to him. Accidentally, When Fievel pulls Tony because he tries to gets Toni's attention, he made both Toni and the young girl kiss each other. Later, Fievel assures the others that there are no cats in America as his father said and shouts "cat" valiantly.

However, suddenly a cat appears and attack the mice and it reveals the truth that there are cats in America unlike the believed myth. Fievel wants to warn his father but if he met his family. Meanwhile, Toni calls Fievel's name worriedly. After finding him, he tells Bridget about his problem then she brings them to Honest John, a well-known mouse in New York in hoping to know Mouskewitz family whereabouts.

They are brought to a place where A Grand wake for a died mouse named Mickey O'Hare is held. At the same time the richest mouse in New York, Gussie Mausehaimmer also presents, she is concerned about the cat's attack then she proposes a rally, a great meeting for all mice in New York. After she left, Bridget asks Honest John if he knew Mouskewitz family but it results nothing since the family is newly arrived. Fievel spends his nighttime at Bridget house.

Next morning, The rally is held at Mousehaimer park, Gussie made her speech and states that they deserve freedom in America and the liberty statue, in her believes also stands for freedom, she purposes to fight the cat back and all the mice are agree however, they have no plan to fight the cat. With an idea on his head, Fievel comes forward and whispers something to Gussie. After hearing the idea, she tells Honest John. Openly agree with the idea, she announces the idea called " The Great Mouse of Minks plan" which is welcomed by the others mice.

Led by Guisse and Honest Jon , the plan is started, all the mice work hard and help each other to realize the plan. They plan to chase away the cat by sending them to China by using the ship. In the next day. Toni and Fievel are late, when running behind Toni, he is accidentally trapped in the sewer hole and hearing the sound of violin which reminds him of his papa. Then, he follows the sound and enters the sewer as he is convinced that it is his father's violin sound. However he finds that Warren T. Rat is actually a cat so that Warren catches Fievel. In his captive, he meets a good cat named Tiger that becomes his friend later. Because of Tiger's help, he can escape and tells the other about the truth.



Fievel arrives on time when the mice are negotiating with the cats and Warren T.Rat. He tells everyone that Warren is a cat but Warren tries to assure them that it is only a lie. However, Toni aims Warren's nose and ear with a catapult. After seeing the real Warren, Gussie refuses to negotiate with him and the cats started to attack them fiercely. Then, Gussie gives order to release the secret weapon which is faster than the planned time to release.

Finally, they manage to release the weapon that is locked inside a box. Thanks to Fievel's help by cutting the rope with fire, the weapon that resembles Giant Mouse is released. The cats are scared and running to avoid the attack. As the last attempt, the cats jump into the sea and save themselves by holding the anchor. Warren feels humiliated and shouts at the mice including Fievel and Gussie.

Knowing that the cats are away, the mice celebrate the victory by doing salutation for Fievel's and singing there are no cats in America. Meanwhile, once again Fievel is separated from the others and trying hard to find his family but he feels depressed and convinced that his family does not love him whereas in the other place, his father thinks Fievel is dead but after Tanya found his hat, they start to look for him with Tiger's help. After the long search and everyone call his name loudly, Fievel hears his father's voice calling his name and he calls his father while following the sound. Finally the family is reunited and the others are happy. Later they visit Henri, a pigeon who helped Fievel before, and seeing the finished liberty statue from above with the help of pigeons

## **CHAPTER III**

### **THEORETICAL FRAMEWROK**

#### **3.1 Narrative Elements**

Narrative is important to build story in literature. To define narrative, some references will be used to give explanation. According to Abrams, narrative is “ a story, whether told in prose or verse, involving events, characters, and what the characters say and do” (2009:208) and Abbot defines narrative as,“.. the representation of an cvent or a series of events”.(2002:12) Based on the defintion above, narrative is a medium to present story in a literary work.

Furthermore, Abbot explains that there are some scholars who define that narrator is required to tell the story. However, for many other scholars, the instruments such as actors and camera are similiar to narrator which can be used to represent event in narrative process. He also states that narrative can be conveyed throught not only in literary work but also silent object like painting ( 2002 :12). The statement above is also supported by Prastista in Memahami Film ( Edisi 2 ) that “ *unsur naratif berhubungan dengan aspek cerita film*” (2017: 24) [narrative elements correlate with the storyline of the film]. Thus, narrative elements are important to built storyline in any work including film. There are two aspects on narrative elements, they are instrinsics and extrinsics aspects

##### **3.1.1 Intrinsic Aspects**

In this thesis will only discuss three kinds of Intrinsic aspects. They are characters, conflict and setting.

### 3.1.1.2 Character

Character is one of important elements narrative as character and the plot of story is inseparable. Similiar to Meyers's statement in his book *The Bedford's Introduction to Literature* that character is important to help plot development in the story (1990:61). Besides helping the plot development, character is considered more than an object. M.H Abrams states that :

Characters are the persons represented in a dramatic or narrative work, who are interpreted by the reader as possessing particular moral, intellectual, and emotional qualities by inferences from what the persons say and their distinctive ways of saying it—the dialogue—and from what they do—the action. ( 2009 :42)

From the explanation, character can represent person to deliver the idea of the story. Bennet and Royle in *An Introduction of Literature Criticism and Theory*, also explain character is a part of literature life that becomes center of attention in the story since the readers often connect theirselves emotionally on them as stated on the quote “..the objects of our curiosity and fascination, affection and dislike, admiration and condemnation. Indeed, so intense is our relationship with literary characters that they often cease to be simply ‘objects’” (2005:60).

According to the statements, the attitude of readers towards them made characters are beyond a tool for plot development instead it also may represent person in daily life. Based on previous statements character has both function in plot development and representation of person in a story.

### **3.1.1.3 Setting**

Setting can be also considered as essential part in literary work. Through setting, the audiences may understand characters in a story deeper. Holman in his book, *An Handbook of Literature* explains that “The physical, and sometimes spiritual, background against which the action of a narrative ( novel, drama, short story,poem) takes place.” (1980 : 413). Three kinds of setting are also classified by Holman in his book. They are setting of place, setting of time and setting of social background.

#### **3.1.1.3.1. Setting of Place**

Through setting of place, the audiences can perceive where the story is taken. Holman states in his book *An Handbook of Literature* that “the actual geographical location, its topography, scenery, and such physical arrangements as the location of the windows and doors in a room” ( 1980 : 413). The statement above is refered by him as one of elements that create setting. Location, scenery, geography are elements that related to setting of place.

#### **3.1.1.3.2. Setting of Time**

Setting of Time can be used to understand when the story is occured in certain time. In *An Handbook of Literature*, Holman’s another statement that related to elements of setting is “the time or period in which the action takes place, e.g., epoch in history or season of the year” ( 1980 : 413). The statement above refers to setting of time.

### **3.1.1.3.3. Setting of Social Background**

This setting will convey the social environment that defines the characters. According to Holman's statement in *An Handbook of Literature* which refers to setting of social background that "the general environment of the characters, e.g., religious, mental, moral, social, and emotional conditions through which the people in the narrative one." (1980 : 413). The statement above implies the connection between character and the environment condition that may impact the story.

### **3.1.1.4. Conflict**

In *An Handbook of Literature*, Holman defines conflict as :

The struggle which grows out of the interplay of the two opposing forces in a plot. It is conflict which provides the elements of interest and suspense in any form of fiction, whether it be at drama, novels, short story or film least one of the opposing forces is usually a person, or, if an animal or an inanimate object, is treated as though it were a person.(1980 : 98)

The statement implies conflict can make stories more interesting that encourages audiences to be eager in following them. Then, it is explained that conflict happens when the clash of forces happens in a story plot and to define the clash of opposite forces, it usually involves something that is treated like living being or person. Furthermore, the cause and forms of the clash on characters in narrative can be varied as stated by Perrine in *The Story Structure, Story and Sense*,

Conflict is a clash of action, desire, ideas, or goods in the plot of a story or drama. Conflict may exist between the main character and some other person or persons (man against man); between the main character and some external force, physical nature, society, or fate (man against environment); or between the main character and some destructive elements in his own nature (man against himself) (1956: 1408).

The quote above implies that conflict is not always person against person but it can be also against inanimate object such as desire, ideas and so on. However

as stated by Holman to discover conflict, the role of living object or characters in narrative is necessary. Meyer classifies conflict into internal and external conflict. However this thesis only uses external conflict.

#### **3.1.4.1 External Conflict**

External conflict is the struggle between the characters to the external forces beyond their control such as the clash against the other characters and so on. Meyer in *The Bedford Introduction Literature* states that “external conflict places the major character in contradictory situation between him and other characters, society, nature, or all of those” (1990: 46).

#### **3.1.2 Extrinsic Aspects**

Besides Intrinsic aspects, this thesis will also analyze extrinsic aspects. Extrinsic aspects are elements outside literature that considered has important influence to build story. It can involve backgrounds of literary work such social, politics and history. Through this analysis, it will be revealed how american dream is actually conveyed in the film by using multimodal metaphor theory. Besides that, it can show that metaphor can be also used in animated film as well.

#### **3.1.2.1 American Dream**

##### **3.1.2.1.1 The Beginning of American Dream**

American dream has became the part of American society since early United States was founded. It has been discussed by many authors that offers different perspective for decades so it broadens its definition. Therefore, the writer uses limited scope on the definition of American dream in this thesis.

Firstly, As mentioned by Cullen in *The American Dream : A Short History of An Idea that Shaped the Nation*, the term of American dream was popularized by John Trustow Adams in 1931 on his book entitled *The Epic of America*. Cullen stated that Adams mentioned american dream is a vision which promises opportunity to improve life for all American citizens whatever their background as a contribution of the nation to the world, as shown in the quote below :

*“...American dream of a better, richer, and happier life for all our citizens of every rank, which is the greatest contribution we have made to the thought and welfare of the world. That dream or hope has been present from the start. Ever since we became an independent nation, ( 2003 : 4) “*

Ever since America was discovered, United States became destination for immigrants from many nations and referred as “ new world. In relation to american dream, the term is more than a new discovered land but also means something that offer dream to start new life no matter their past as stated by Murat in *Napoleon and the American Dream* “ the ‘american dream’ had, nonetheless, a great place in Western imagination, It represented a dream of Europe fleeing from the weight and wounds of history, and the hope of living out, in a new world...” ( 1999 : 2 ). Based on the quote, the dream seems influenced the immigrant to move from their homeland with their reason to find their fortune in America. Moreover, every immigrants has idea in their mind that could similiar to current American dream whatever their backgorund as stated by Cullen below

*“ In this view, the Pilgrims may not have actually talked about the American Dream, but they would have understood the idea: [...] So did the Founding Fathers. So did illiterate immigrants who could not speak English but intuitively expressed rhythms of the Dream with their hands and their hearts. ( 2003 : 5)”*

From the statement above, It can be assumed that the concept of American dream was already existed even before the term was coined hundred years later. Therefore, the previous passages strenghten the notion that American dream idea itself cannot be separated from the earliest immigration in America. The early motivation of people who emigrate to america was to get freedom and better opportunity in many aspects because most of them were discontent with their homeland or oppresed. There are a lot causes which made the immigration to America increased such as wars, persecutions, religious intolerance and natural disaster as Stevenson in *American Life and Institution* stated “..in short, by any number of disasters which led people to believe that America was a better place to be ( 1996 : 23 ).

Later, the purposes subsequently developed into national vision that influenced how American people view their country then the visions were realized through revolution until the creation of constitution as stated by Cullen “...the United States was essentially a creation of the collective imagination inspired by the existence of a purportedly New World, realized in a Revolution that began with an explicitly articulated Declaration..” ( 2003 : 6 ), So the vision is ingrained in the famous the Declaration of Independence that is considered as the Thomas Jefferson’s idea.

In the declaration, according to Cal Jillson in *The American Dream : In History, Politics and Fiction* “ Jefferson put human rights, the rights of individuals to security, respect, and self-development, at the core of the American promise “ ( Jillson : 2016). Besides that regarding the content of the declaration, Jillson also



states “ The opening sentence of that paragraph made several points that became foundational to the American Dream and our national sense of self” ( 2016 : 55). In other words, the Declaration of Independence and American dream are connected to each other by its origin and impact in the future.

From the previous paragraph, it is impossible to be ignored as the visions has been elevated into what remain the spirit of American people through generations. Consequently, The dream that promises best possibility for everyone is often discussed and brought by many people from various background including prominent figures in America until today.

#### **3.1.2.1.2 The Definition of American Dream**

In general, the American dream is seen as the idea that promiaea the possibility of better opportunities for everyone who is eager to seek change in America. Many prominent figures in US through generation describe America as a promising place to realize the dream on their narrative both in implicit and explicit way.

The idea of every person in America can be successful is often emphasized so is the egalitarian side of the dream as said by Hochschild & Scovronick on american dream in *The American Dream and The Public School* “It encourages each person who lives in the United States to pursue success, and it creates the framework within which everyone can do it.” ( 2003 : 1 ).

In compelling the idea of american dream they also imply that the dream of opportunity and freedom is possible to reach for the americans by doing

hardwork and having talent as seen in the quote "... the ideology is as compelling as it is simple 'I am an American, so I have the freedom and opportunity to make whatever I want of my life. I can succeed by working hard and using my talents [..]'" ( 2003 : 1).

The relation of hardwork and american dream has been discussed by many authors such as Hochschild & Scovronick as some of values in order to be succeeded in America since american dream is considered impossible without effort. Talent and hardwork are one of many values which are believed essential to realize american dream and also often emphasised in many written works about american dream.

In the past, famous figures such as Crevecoeur and many others believed being hardworker and having good moral value will increase the chance to reach American dream. Jilson quoted that Crevecoeur emphasized the importance of being persevere and having one of necessary good personalities in order to be successful in America if not the dream is implausible "It is not every emigrant who succeeds; no, it is only the sober, the honest, and industrious..." ( Jilson, 2016 : 59 ). Moreover, many prominent historical figures in United States are considered as the epitome to american dream spirit in written works. They raised into prominence thorough their perserverance in many aspects besides that they are also considered talented.

In short, american dream is the idea that views America as a promising place to realize whatever the dream is however, the dream is not easy to reach without effort. It is believed that having good character and being hardworker enable people

to reach it, besides that talent cannot be denied as well. Many historical figures in America became role models for American dream ideology who had the hard work and talent quality. Moreover, they set certain personalities that may be suitable to reach the dream so that many authors consider their thoughts on American dream for their work.

### 3.1.2.2 Metaphor

As one of figurative languages, metaphor is more than words in order to make expression more colorful because it can convey ideas in storytelling as well. In common, as explained by Abrams, metaphor is perceived as “a word or expression that in literal usage denotes one kind of thing is applied to a distinctly different kind of thing, without asserting a comparison” (2009 : 119).

In making reference, authors often use their own version of metaphor to convey ideas though the referred object has no similarity with the context at all as said by Tyson “A *red rose*, for example, can be a metaphor for *my love* if I want to suggest that, despite their obvious dissimilarities,..” (2006 : 29). Metaphor used to be exclusive in poetry or rhetoric, however it is apparent that metaphor can be used to explain the way humans’ thoughts understand things in daily life as said by Abrams “metaphor persistently and profoundly structures the ways human beings perceive, what they know, and how they think” (2009 : 191).

The aforementioned statement of Abrams was originated from Lakoff and Johnson’s work in 1980 entitled *Metaphor We Live By*. They become one of the known authors who broaden the scope of metaphor. Through their work, they explain

metaphor as “primarily a matter of thought and action and only derivatively a matter of language” ( 1980 : 5 ). According to their statement, it is emphasized that to consider basic thought of metaphor besides the meaning of the expression in order to understand metaphor, as a metaphor expression is often interpreted differently by the audience then such concept is known as conceptual metaphor theory.

### **3.1.2.2.1 Conceptual Metaphor Theory**

Conceptual metaphor theory emphasizes human mind has role to conceptualize metaphor that are connected each other between context so that the intended expression becomes more relevant. The theory term called source and target domain concept. As part of metaphor expression, their function is to explain the connection between words in an expression so that it can be more understandable. Sun in journal entitled “ Animal Images and Metaphors in Animal Farm” gives brief explanation on source and target understanding “ In the example ‘Love is a journey’ the source domain is ‘journey’, from which we draw metaphorical expressions, and the target domain is ‘love ‘, the one we try to understand “ ( 2015 : 3 ).

Furthermore, a process called mapping is necessary to analyse similarity between domain. Based on Lakoff & Johnson perspective, Sun explains that “ metaphor is regarded as a ‘ cross domain mapping’ ( Lakoff & Johnson, 1980/2003), with some aspects of the similarities between the ‘ source domain ‘ and the ‘ target domain ‘ highlighted. “ ( 2015 : 3 ). For further explanation, through considering “ journey “ as source domain , love is seen like travelling to many places because “ journey” in general is often associated with travelling or exploring. As for the

similarity between domain, while travelling people may face obstacle so does having relationship when people may face hardship and joy in relationship.

Although this concept is often found in language but metaphor actually can be in another concept as they explain that “metaphor is pervasive in everyday life, not just in language but in thought and action” ( 2003 : 18 ). Later, the concept is developed by some metaphor scholar into suitable approach to interpret metaphor in non verbal element such as visual form. Because the concept is not strict to written expression. One of them is Charles Forceville who considers Lakoff & Johnson’s metaphor concept as potential approach to understand metaphor in the other forms, as he stated in *The Cambridge Handbook of Metaphor and Thought* below :

if metaphors are essential to thinking (Lakoff & Johnson, 1980, 1999, 2003), it makes sense that they should occur not only in language but also in static and moving pictures, sounds, music, gestures, even in touch and smell – and in their various permutations. ( 2008 : 463 ).

The statement above leads discussion on metaphor in other media such as animated film as it uses the combination of elements such as sound, images, cinematography to form unity that delivers the story as substitution to narrate story in the film. By using the conceptual metaphor principle, he developed a concept called Multimodal metaphor.

### **3.1.2.2.3 Multimodal Metaphor**

In his multimodal metaphor concept, he acknowledge that metaphor can be cued not only through language but also the other aspects such as sound and images. In his book entitled *Multimodal Metaphor*, he explained multimodal

metaphor as “metaphors in which target, source, and/or mappable features are represented or suggested by at least two different sign systems (one of which may be language) or modes of perception.” ( 2008 : 46 ). Modes are elements that are used to convey metaphor in the film. They are divided into five types as he mentioned that “In film, the list of modes includes at least: visuals, written language, spoken language, sound, and music” ( 2009 : 430 ).

From the previous quote, it can be seen that to consider film elements is also important to understand its metaphor because they are inseparable unity of the film as compared to metaphor in verbal text, metaphor in films including animated is presented through elements such as images and dialogue. In addition, According Forceville in Hannibal “He further points out that, metaphor in film sometimes develops gradually over time as the film progresses” ( 2017).

So that to understand metaphor in the film, the relation between scene is needed to be considered for example on *Modern Times* film directed by Chaplin in 1936. The film shows two scenes which is considered metaphorical. The scene showed the herd of the sheep with the crowded workers as shown on the following picture which can be drawn a conclusion based on similarity of their nature to follow order, the sheep follow the sepherd and the worker follow their boss so that it can be read as Workers are sheep.



Picture 3.1 The analogy between sheep and workers

## CHAPTER IV

### DISCUSSION

#### 4.1 Intrinsic Aspects

In this aspect, the writer will analyse character, setting and conflict which each of them has a role to build the story in the film.

##### 4.1.1 Characters Analysis

###### Fievel Mousekewitz



Picture 4.1



Picture 4.2



Picture 4.3

Fievel Mousekewitz	Fievel listens to his father's story	Fievel tries to scare the cat
00 : 04 : 37	00 : 05 : 19	00 : 06 : 25

Fievel Mousekewitz is the main character of *An American Tail* film as the film focuses on his journey in America. He is the only son of the Mousekewitz family who immigrated to America or the United States after their house was attacked by the cat. As a mouse character, he is portrayed as a young boy wearing a red and blue tunic with an inherited blue hat from his father and grandfather as shown in picture 4.1 to depict his common appearance. His childlike feature is represented through an infantile voice.

At the beginning of the film, he is shown as a boy who likes to listen to the wonder of his father's story, especially the story about The Great Mouse of Minkas as shown in picture 4.2. Besides, he is portrayed as a typical young boy that is often seen as

having innocent or naive personality , he is also shown has courageous side of personality, it is seen on the picture 4.3 when he tries to protect his baby sister, Yasha by attempting to scare the cats who attack his village by hitting the pan though he is chased as result.



Picture 4.5

Fievel makes the blanket rope

00 : 29 : 07



Picture 4.6

Fievel is whispering his idea

00 : 45 : 19

In this film, one of apparent quality of Fievel’s personality besides his young age is intelligence. He is shown as resourceful individual. Furthermore, the said traits are often seen as the sign of intelligence. The trait is shown several times in *An American Tail* film. Furthermore, his resourceful trait also determines his fate that affects the story plot. At the beginning of the film when he searches for his family in America, he is deceived by Warren.T. Rat to work without salary with the other mice. In this scene, he finds a way to escape in a short time by using blanket as a rope so that he can get out through the bedroom’s window safely as seen in the picture 4.6 From the aforementioned scene, Fievel demonstrates creativity and ability to be spontaneous in making plan to escape. Moreover, his talent is acknowledged by Toni at the scene when he makes blanket rope as seen on dialogue “ This kid may have something ! “ ( 00 : 29 : 07 – 00 : 29 : 07 ).

After his escape, he passes through many obstacles to find his family and besides that he also meets the other mice such as Bridget and Gussie. The meeting



with Gussie leads him to demonstrate his resourcefulness once again. It is shown when he whispers his idea to Gussie that can be used to defeat the cats as pictured in picture 4.7. Later, his idea that called The Great Mouse of Minks plan is successful so that it leads the mice's victory over the cats so that it strenghten the previous analysis that Fievel has talent to create sucessful creative plan.

In short, Fievel in *An American Tail* film is potrayed as courageous and intelligent by having resourcefulness and creativity besides being potrayed as a child in common. His intelligence plays important role that determines his fate. Because of his talent of being creative and resourceful, he can survive in his struggle to find his family and even defeat the cats who cause trouble for the mice in America.

### **Papa Mousekewitz**



Picture 4.7

Papa Mousekewitz and his family

00 : 04 : 02



Picture 4.8

The family is finally reunited in America

01 : 13 : 30

Papa Mousekewitz is the father of Fievel and his sisters. In the film, he is potrayed as cheerful and optimistic. It can be seen from the scenes where he often smiling and laughing as represented in picture 4.7 while his wife, Mama Mousekewitz is more serious and strict. Besides that, he also loves to tell story to his children which his stories seem well-liked among his children as they are shown to listen to his story enthusiastically. His optimistic nature is shown when he tell

his children about the story about America as from the way he tell his children about America in enthusiast and optimist tone, he seems to believe that America is the exact similiar with what he heard about as shown in the dialogue ;

PAPA MOUSEKEWITZ : “ America, What a place !, In America There are mouse holes every wall”

MAMA MOUSEKEWITZ : “ Who says ?”

PAPA MOUSEKEWITZ AND CHILDREN : “ Everyone ! “

PAPA MOUSEKEWITZ : “ In America, there are crumble in every floor, In America, you can say anything you want, and most important, I know this is a fact, in america, there are no cats ! “ ( *An American Tail*, 00 : 05 :09 – 00 : 05 : 31 )

Furthermore, the scene when their village is destroyed confirms his believe about America as shown through his saying in minute 00 : 07 : 50 – 00 : 07 : 52 : “ In America,..There are no cats “ . From the said dialogue, he is assured that America is safer place compared to Russia so that he decides to move his family to America as the sign of his optimism on America.

Besides being potrayed as optimistic however, Papa Mousekewitz is also shown being realistic and pessimistic. It is seen from when papa Mousekewitz keeps his believe that Fievel is no longer alive though Tanya, the sister of Fievel argues that Fievel’s name is probably changed as shown in the dialogue 01 : 06 : 50 – 01 : 06 : 54 : “ They changed my name to Tilly, maybe they changed Fievel’s to Fillie “. In later scene, he and Tanya finally ask Tony about Fillie Mousekewitz although he is remain sceptical about Fievel’s fate as shown in the dialogue :

TONY : “ His name is Fillie and Fievel “

PAPA : “ And Fievel ? No no no There are many Fievel Mousekewitz in New York, maybe thousands “ ( *An American Tail*, 01 : 01 : 07 : 29

In the search of Fievel until he finds him, his relationship with Fievel and his family is shown through the scene. He is portrayed as loving father and husband in the scene when the family finally reunited as shown in the picture 4.8 that depicts the happy ending of the family.

### **Henri Le Pigeon**

Henri is character in the *An American Tail* film who is not portrayed as a mouse. He is portrayed as a big male adult grey furred pigeon wearing black pants with red tie and black hat. From his depiction in the film through the naming of character and his characterization through accent and language, He is possibly an immigrant from France as “Henri” is the french form of “Henry” and he speaks to Fievel with french accent and some french expression such as ‘*Au Revoir, Bonne Chance*’ ( 00 : 24 : 04 – 00 : 24 : 06 ) or “ See you again, Good luck“ in english.

Henri is firstly seen in the scene when he finds Fievel in the bottle as pictured in picture 4.11. In the scene, Henri is shown to be friendly, caring and helpful as not only he talks to Fievel warmly but also takes Fievel to his place so that he can bathe him as seen in the picture 4.12 that shows he takes Fievel to dry his body. Besides that, he is also depicted with jovial and warm voice as he speaks in the film. His caring personality is depicted further through the scene when he comforts the sad Fievel so he will not lost hope to find his family. As the scene continued, Henri is also portrayed as optimist. It can be seen at the scene when he convinces Fievel to not lost hope so that he can find his family as shown in the dialogue :

HENRI : I know you want to find your family, and you will !

FIEVEL : But how ? It's so far away and so big, I'll never find them anyway

HENRI : Did you say never ? so young and you've lost hope, this is America, a place to find hope ( *An American Tail*, 00 : 21 : 27 – 00 : 21 : 51 )

Besides being described as an optimist, Henri is also shown as a character who values work hard and perseverance as seen in his sung dialogue “ keep up your courage and dont ever despair,..Hope for the best, work for the rest and never say never again !” ( *An American Tail*, 00 : 22 : 24 - 00 : 22 : 39)

From the aforementioned analysis, Henri has believes that America is a place where anything can be happended including to find Fievel's family. He believes that by being perserverance and hardowrking enable anyone to optimist increase the chance to reach goals in America similar to the believe of american prominent figures in order to realize american dream.



Picture 4.9

Henri finds Fievel on the bottle

00 : 20 : 44



Picture 4.10

Henri bathes Fievel

00 : 21 : 26



Picture 4.11

Bridget is protesting about the cats

00 : 34 : 20

## **Bridget**

Bridget is young adult mouse who is firstly seen at the secene when she is protesting about the cat as shown in the picture 4.11 that shows her full apperance. Bridget is potrayed as a blonde haired beautiful mouse with ponytail hairstyle. As for her attire in the film, she wears typical 19th century long dress wuth combination of light blue and tosca in color. Besides that, she is presented as soft spoken lady.

Through her portrayal in the film, Bridget is an optimist and courageous mouse. It is seen when she persuades the mice in assurance and courageous tone so that they have courage to defend their rights against the cats as she believes that America will provide protection against the cats as shown in the dialogue .

BRIDGET : This is America, don't be afraid !, are you gonna to let the cats to push you around ? I ask you this ? are we gonna stand back and let the cat wrecks our home, our bussiness and our life ? If we all got together, we can do something about the cats ! This is America, we have free speech, you can say cat here, cat ,cat and cat again ! ( An American Tail, 00 : 34 : 19 – 00 : 34 : 50 )

The dialogue above implies that Bridget believes that in America, they can say anything similar to papa Mousekewitz's story about America. Besides that it also shows Bridget's courageous side further since she shouts " Cat " for many times fearlessly though the other mice are shocked and scared, ignoring her speech. Nevertheless, Bridget has persistence to believe that the cat can be defeated as seen in dialogue " At last, we all get together about the cat " (An American Tail, 00 : 40 : 19 – 00 : 40 : 21 ) which asserts her optimist trait.

### **Gussie Mausehaimer**



Picture 4.12

Gussie's speech

00 : 44 : 09



Picture 4.13

The mice at the rally agree to Gussie

00 : 44 : 52

Gussie is firstly introduced when she attends the Grand Wake for Mickey O'Hare, an Irish mouse who is killed by the cat. She is portrayed as an adult female mouse wearing a high-collared gown and broad hat which was typical upper class outfit in the 19th century. Later her status is revealed as the richest mouse of New York as said by Tony "Ooh-wee, the richest and most powerful mouse in New York!, what's she doing in this kind of slum town?" (00:38:50 - 00:38:57).

Furthermore, the rally scene has a crucial role to explain more about Gussie as a character in the film. Through her speech, Gussie is shown as confident, courageous and optimistic. Besides that, the rally scene explains how influential Gussie is as a character. In her speech, she is brave enough to say "Cat" confidently in the front of the crowd by using a megaphone though the other mice warn her not to say "cat" loudly but she only replies "So? let them hear it" (00:43:46). Through what her dialogues show, she has also apparently been indifferent about what the others may view her that can explain the other side of her as being a confident person.

Similar to some characters such as Bridget and Henri, her optimism is emphasized on how she perceives America as a place to achieve freedom. From her speech she interprets the Liberty Statue as a symbol that means America holds freedom in high esteem for its citizens so that Gussie believes that the chance to fight against the cats is possible as they are in America. As shown in picture 4.12 and her dialogue "Why are they building that statue? (Pointing at the Liberty Statue) What it stands for? Freedom!". (00:44:09 - 00:44:14). Besides believing that they deserve freedom in America, she also emphasizes that working together is

necessary to fight the cats as shows in dialogue “ No if we work together, what are you afraid of ? “ ( 00 : 44 : 42 – 00 : 44 : 44 ).

Besides analysing her personality in the rally scene, how influential Gussie as character can be seen as well. In contrast to the scene when Bridget tries to convince the mice in order they fight against the cat but she fails instead, the mice tend to listen Gussie’s speech and finally agree to fight against the cat as shown in the clapping hands after the speech on picture 4.13 Therefore, the rally proves the social status of Gussie as a powerful figure among the mice in New York.

## The Cats

### Warren T. Rat



Picture 4.14

Warren is counting his money

00 : 25 : 36



Picture 4.15

Warren is revealed to be a cat

01 : 00 : 45

Warren T. Rat is firstly seen when he counts money that he receives from the mice as pictured on picture 4.14 shows his portrayal as a mouse with frightening smile and has rather deceitful aura. Comparable to his physical depiction in the film, he is shown as deceitful and crafty cat . At the beginning of the scene, as shown in the dialogue below :

WARREN : Wah wah wah Rat the name, Warren T Rat !, What I can do for you kid ?

FIEVEL : I look for my family

WARREN : You come to the right place kid ( Patting Fievel’s head ),  
i know where exactly they are !,come with me ( An American Tail, 00  
: 26 : 34 – 00 : 26 : 43 )

He pretends to be friendly towards Fievel and makes him believe on Warren. However he is apparently intended to be forced to work at the Sweatshop so that enable Warren to earn more money as he said in minute 00 : 28 : 15 - 00 : 28 : 20 ; “ you no need a family kid, you got a job here, just send me a some okay ?”. Therefore the aforementioned analysis proves his craftiness as he takes advantages on Fievel for his own benefit.

Later as the film continued, His deceitful nature is shown gradually. In the picture 4.15, his real figure is revealed as cat. According to Fievel, he also the leader of the cat’s gang. It is shown by his dialogue at minute 01 : 00 : 12 – 01 : 00 : 14 ; “ He’s not a rat, he’s a cat, he’s their boss “ . When he disguises as a mouse, he also recieves money from the mice in New York as said by Honest John at Tammany Hall “ Besides paying Warren T.Rat though no protection ” 00 : 38 : 13 – 00 : 38 : 22. However the protection is never provided as the cats still attack the mice in the previous scenes.

#### 4.1.2.2 Setting of Place



Picture 4.16

The Mousekewitz family house at Shostka

00:03:22



Picture 4.17

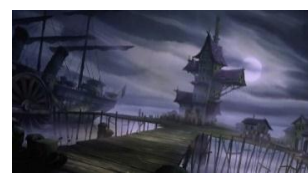
Statue Liberty at New York

01:15:43



The film shows that animal characters and human are living in the same universe however they are not understand each other. Setting of place in this film is set in two countries as the beginning of the story tells about the reason of Mousekewitz family to emigrate from their native country, Russia. In the early scene, as seen in the picture 4.16 shows the Mousekewitz house with their family name above the door when they still live in Russia.

Whereas the picture 4.17 shows the landscape of New York city that signifies where the story actually takes place after the Mousekewitz family arrives in America on the film. However, the film focusses the story after the arrival of Mousekewitz family in America. Meanwhile Russia as the setting of place plays role to explain briefly the origin of the family.



Picture 4.17  
The Market  
00 : 34 : 30

Picture 4.18  
Mausehaimer Garden  
00 : 43 : 36

Picture 4.19  
The Harbour  
00 : 52 : 59

Most the scenes in the film are set in America. There are some ways to tell where the scene takes place. In the beginning of the scene before the storyline of Fievel to find his family, a short conversation between random human immigrant indirectly tells where they arrive at minute 00 : 18 : 54 – 00 : 18 : 55 : Woman : “ America ! “ , Men : “ No, New York “ ( An American Tail, 1986 )

The important scene is occurred in the Market where the mice sell their good as pictured in 4.17 where Bridget chooses the place to protest against the cats and attracts the crowd before the cats attack the market. The next setting is the Mausehaimer garden as pictured on picture 4.18 where the rally is held. The last, the harbour as pictured in picture 4.19 depicts its atmosphere is used to signify where the fight against the cat will be likely occurred

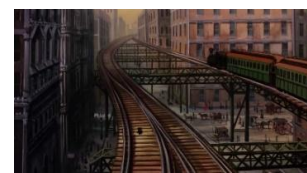
#### 4.1.2.2 Setting of Time



Picture 4.20  
Shostka, 1885  
00 : 03 : 22



Picture 4.21  
Typical 19th century ship  
00 : 09 : 26



Picture 4.22  
Public Transportation in 1885  
00 : 30 : 38

The *An American Tail* film is set in 1885 as seen in the picture 4.20 where the year of the event is stated as the film begins. This scene besides shows where the setting will take place also tells when the event of film is set. As the film is set in 1885, therefore this film uses typical depiction of 19th century in the scenes. The picture 4.21 shows the departure of immigrants by ship. This scene depicts the era by using typical ship which is used in 19th century that is different type of ship compared to a ship in 21st century. After the arrival in New York, some scenes depict the street of the city in 19th century. From many scenes in the film, the picture 4.22 is chosen to show the elevated railway line which was built in 19th century New York called IRT ( Interborough Rapid Transit ). Besides the IRT railway, horse-drawn vehicles also can be seen in the picture from distance.

### 4.1.2.3 Setting of Social Background



Picture 4.23

The destroyed village because of the attack

00 : 07 : 55



Picture 4.24

The Immigrant arrives in New York

00 : 18 : 50



Picture 4.25

The Registration :

00 : 19 : 10



Picture 4.26

Students recite the pledge of Allegiance

00 : 30 : 07

The settings of social background or environment in *An American Tail* film is set on the immigration wave in 19th century. The film portrays that immigration to America on that time was actually common as represented by the conversation between two birds.

BIRD 1 : I got cousin in America

BIRD 2 : ( Spitting ) You and everybody else ?, ( laughing )

( *An American Tail*, 00 : 09 : 30 – 00 : 09 : 33 )

Historically, America or known nowadays as United States became the destination of immigrants since 17th century. Later in 19th century, many immigrants came to America were significantly increased for various reasons as mentioned by Stevenson that “ Major changes in the pattern of immigration have been caused by wars, revolutions, periods of starvation, persecution, religious

intolerance...” ( 1996 : 23 ). The mentioned patterns above also relevant to the reason of Mousekewitz family to leave Russia in the beginning of the film. One of the reasons of immigration is oppression. In this case, Mousekewitz family’s house and village are destroyed by the Cossack as seen in picture 4.23. Later, papa Mousekewitz decides to move his family to America for better chance as he hears that “ There are no cats in America “ or means security for the mice.

Meanwhile in New York, there are many people arrive by ship as pictured in picture 4.24 Besides human immigrants, in the picture 4.25 shows the mice who just step their feet on American soil have their name registered in Immigration office. Furthermore, it is seen also when the mice students recite the pledge of allegiance in front of the United States flag at picture 4.26 which shows the students use typical gesture of the pledge. In the late 19th century, public schools had more responsibility as Vogel states in Cultural Connections regarding the additional role of public school “ It socialized the children of immigrants and longer settled Americans alike. It promoted patriotism and taught citizenship” ( 1991 : 30 ).

The other wave of immigration’s effect is also depicted in the film implicitly. The characters in the film are depicted diverse in nationality and cultural root. For example, The Mousekewitz family who are russian jewish family as they celebrate Hannukah in the beginning of the film that is proven in dialogue ( 00 : 03 ; 52 – 00 ; 03 ; 55 ) “ For Tanya, new babuskha, Happy Hannukah”. Besides that, Fievel also meets characters with different origin such as Henri Le Pigeon who is depicted as french origin or Tony Toponi, an italian mouse. As for cultural diversity can be seen through A grand wake for Mickey O’Hare, an irish mouse who was killed by the

cats at Tammany Hall scene. The grand wake scene is not only used to introduce the other characters but also to depict America as a multicultural nation since grand wake actually an irish custom. In short, the setting of social enviroment in the film depicts immigration wave to America and its effect.

### 4.1.3 Conflict



Picture 4.27

A mouse accidentally bump a cat

00 : 06 : 21



Picture 4.28

A cat's attack in America

00 : 36 : 28



Picture 4.29

The Great Mouse of Minks

01 : 04 : 09

The major conflict in the film is the struggle of the mice against the cats. In the film, the cats are the enemy of the mice similar to the relationship between cat and mouse in the reality. For the mice, as long as the cats are still around, they will not have better life which they deserve anywhere with no exception in America. So that the mice in New York start to execute a plan against the cats.

Furthermore, the relationship between cats and mice is depicted well in the film. Cats are depicted as something who makes the mice terrified even they do not dare to say “ Cat “ in the scenes in the film. There are several picture represent the external conflict between mouse and cat. In the picture 4.27 shows a mouse attempts to escape the attack of cats in Russia where the Mousekewitz family lives. However, he accidentally hit a cat with its sinister then he manages to escape from the cat.

The cat's attack causes the mice to move from their homeland to America. Apparently, there is no difference in America, as seen in the picture 4.28, Fievel

and the other mice are still chased by a cat who is the part of the cat mob that destroys the market. As result, a mouse named Mickey O' Hare is killed as said by Honest John about Mickey on minute 00 : 39 : 03 – 00 : 39 : 07 ; “ It's an irish custom Gussie, the cats got him today “.

The incident leads Gussie to held rally which results the Great Mouse of Minks plan. The plan is used as weapon against the cat as they are tired of the cat's attack. The Great Mouse of Minks itself is a weapon to attack the cats as seen in picture 4.29 to show the terrified cats attempt to avoid the weapon. The weapon itself reverses the situation of the mice on the victorious side after in previous scene, they are usually disadvantaged. In short, that the relationship between cats and mice in *An American Tail* film is destructive so that it always triggers external conflict in the both sides.

## 4.2 Extrinsic Aspects

### 4.2.1 American dream that is depicted in *An American Tail* film through metaphor



Picture 4.30  
Human immigrants register their name  
00 : 19 : 00



Picture 4.31  
Papa Mousekewitz registers his family  
00 : 19 : 06



Picture 4.32

The Immigration office of New York

00 : 24 : 27



Picture 4.33

The Commission of Immigration for the mice

00 : 24 : 48

The story plot of the film portrays animal characters through the adventure of Fievel in America and its surrounding. Nonetheless, Mousekewitz family and the other animals actually live in the same universe with human as depicted in its several scenes without interact to each other but the animal characters in fact share similarities to human or known as anthropomorphic. Wells in his book entitled *Understanding Animation*, defines anthropomorphic as “the endowment of creatures with human attributes, abilities and qualities” (1998 : 15).

As stated by the aforementioned definition, animal characters in *An American Tail* are depicted to have human characteristic such as walking with two feet, wearing clothes and having ability to think and to adapt like human. In addition, the animal characters are also shown to experience similar social situation to their human counterpart such as mass immigration to America through picture 4.30 and picture 4.31 that show the immigrant register their name after the arrival in America. Both picture prove how human and mice are actually depicted in the same social situation.

Besides that, the mice are portrayed imitate human in their daily life routine and environment. For example, in the scene where the immigration office of human and the mice are shown at picture 4.32 and 4.33. The reason similarities between mouse and human is important to be mentioned because they are actually have

function as analogy. According to Meriam-Webster Dictionary, analogy is “ a comparison of two things based on their being alike in some way “ In addition, analogy can be conveyed through picture that forms visual metaphor as said by Mittelberg & Vaugh “Besides figurative language, pictorial metaphor has been studied as a way of expressing an analogy between two entities” ( 2009 : 330 ). As example comparing the herd of pig with the crowd of worker through separate scene in *Modern Times* film as they are similar in term of obedience towards authority so that it can be read as WORKER are SHEEP.

Similar to the previous example, mice and human in some scenes is shown in sequence as if it were actually intended to convey something. The interpretation is supported by the saying of mice characters who immigrate to America in previous scenes before the arrival believe that “ There are no cats in America “ as represented by Papa Mousekewitz at minute 00 : 14 : 41 – 00 : 11 : 46 : “ Would it be nice ? to get to America, where we don’t have to worry about the cats anymore “. The dialogue is continued to the scenes when the mice and human shown to experience somewhat similar situation. Like the mice who immigrate to America to escape from the cat, human also has their own fear and reasons to move to America. Thus, the connection leads to interpretation that HUMAN IMMIGRANT are THE MICE WHO ESCAPE FROM THE CATS. The analysis above is based on multimodal metaphor understanding which view metaphor can be cued through more than one mode.

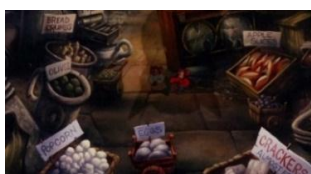
In short, it is concluded that the scene between human and the mice are intended to be metaphorical as the mice are depicted to immitate human so that the



mice can be seen as personification as well. In other words, it has function to supports the thought that *An American Tail* uses metaphor in their narrative to convey certain value.

#### 4.2.2 The Connection between Cat and American Dream

The relationship between mice and cats is shown being unfriendly since the beginning. Cats are depicted as merciless and powerful being that are feared much by the mice even its name is forbidden to say. As represented by Mama Mousekewitz “ Ssh, don’t say that word, talk about something else ! “ ( 00 : 05 : 01 – 00 : 05 : 03, *An American Tail* ). Besides that cat is depicted quite different. Unlike the other animal characters in the film such as bird, cats are depicted frightening and somehow can appear suddenly whenever a mouse talk about it as pictured on picture 4.34 and 4.35



Picture 4.34  
Cat’s shadow appear  
00 : 35 : 57



Picture 4.35  
Fievel is unaware of the cat  
00 : 36 : 07

From the previous paragraph, cat in *An American Tail* is not only living being but also intended as personification of idea so that it can be used as a clue to interpret “ There are no cats in America “. In short, the explanation above strenghten the statements that cats has importance to cue metaphor, not a mere antagonist character in the film.

From previous passage, it is concluded that Cat is personification of American dream antithesis whereas the mice personify human immigrant. The metaphor reference is based on food chain of animal in our world where the mouse is the food for the cat. In the film, America is seen as a nation that causes wonder for many people. Papa Mousekewitz and his children are not the exception. It is seen through the scene when he describes America to his children :

PAPA MOUSEKEWITZ : “ America, What a place !, In America There are mouse holes every wall”

PAPA MOUSEKEWITZ : “ In America, there are crumble in every floor, In America, you can say anything you want, and most important, I know this is a fact, in america, there are no cats ! “ ( *An American Tail*, 00 : 05 :09 – 00 : 05 : 31 )

The dialogue above shows how the mouse view America in their perception. By using the metaphor HUMAN IMMIGRANT is THE MICE WHO ESCAPE FROM THE CATS, the Mousekewitz family is part of the metaphor as personification of human immigrant who have their wonder about America. Papa Mousekewitz views America as a place where they will find more prosper life as he said that mouse hole and bread crumbs are easier to find in America. Besides that he believe that America offers freedom that cannot be found in Russia where they unable to say “ Cat “. Those mentioned aspects imply certain meaning through the eyes of the mice. Mouse hole is where they live, bread crumb is what they eat and the freedom from the cats is their ideal living situation.

Furthermore, The mouse hole and bread crumb signify security to have decent life for the mice whereas the freedom from the cat and the free speech represent human rights since “ cat “ represents oppression. In other words, these

aspects can be used as symbol that represents the dream of immigrant when they arrive at America. So the possible metaphor formula is IMMIGRANTS WHO CAME TO AMERICA ARE THE MICE WHO WANT MOUSE HOLE IN EVERY WALL, BREAD CRUMB IN EVERY FLOOR AND THE FREEDOM FROM THE CAT.

.Besides that, “ there are no cats in America “ can be seen also as something that offers dream to immigrant who wanted to be freed from the wound of the past since some of mice characters have horrible experience in their homeland such as oppression and natural disaster which is similar to their human immigrant counterpart. So, the story of Papa Mousekewitz can be interpreted as : In America, security and human rights are possible and even promised for its citizen who seek better opportunity.

“ Cat “ in the film also personifies wider kinds of oppression through Bridget. Bridget is a female mouse who protests about injusties in America. Through her speech, Bridget believe that freedom of speech is protected in America so that she is not afraid of saying “ cat “ loudly. In her dialogue, she convinces the mice in the Marketplace to fight against the cat as quoted below

BRIDGET : This is America, don't be afraid !, are you gonna to let the cats to push you around ? I ask you this ? are we gonna stand back and let the cat wrecks our home, our bussiness and our life ? If we all got together, we can do something about the cats ! This is America, we have free speech, you can say cat here, cat ,cat and cat again ! ( An America Tail, 00 : 34 : 19 – 00 : 34 : 50 )

.Similar to Papa Mousekewitz, Bridget is a personification of oppressed immigrant who believe that America has freedom of speech and she can be used to

convey metaphor OPPRESSED IMMIGRANT is AN ANGRY MOUSE because of CAT. According to Bridget, Cat has bad impact on the life of mice in America which is ironic to “ There are no cats in America “ believe.

Cat which is mentioned by Bridget in her speech represents problem and struggle of immigrants in America. The protest of Bridget signifies CAT is AMERICAN DREAM ANTITHESIS. Moreover, Bridget’s protest on the unfairness of cats implied if american dream is actually not easy to realize since the Immigrants faced several new struggles after their arrival in America such as prejudice between group and civil war that was the opposite of what promised by prominent figures of America.

Besides that, America also entered the rise of industrial phase. Infrastructures such as railroads were built on that time and technological revolution affected many life aspects in America such as the transition that changed the nature of work. Consequently, many skilled craftsmen were replaced by machine. Moreover, industrialization on that time also caused the other problems such as unsafe work environment and low wage that could affect the well-being of American citizen including freedom and prosperity. For this reason, the statement above supports the interpretation of Bridget’s speech when she said that the cat can threaten their well being if they never do something to fight the cat. As “ cat “ can mean hardship that may affect the well-being of immigrant in America.

Furthermore, the struggle of mice in America is shown also when they are exploited by a cat named Warren T. Rat who disguises himself as a rat. He deceives

the mice to pay a sum of money for the never provided protection against the cat and to work without salary. Crevecoeur stated that to reach American dream needs good moral whereas Warren himself is lack of good moral such as honesty which can personify corrupt powerful people. Through Warren, the film implied that people with bad moral can hamper the realization of American dream so that Warren as cat conveys CAT is HUMAN WITH BAD MORAL metaphor.

#### **4.2.3 The Depiction of American Dream**

In the film, America is seen as ideal country for both human and animals as represented by the quote “ Yes sir, step from the boat and get into prosperity “ ( 00 : 24 : 33 – 00 : 24 : 36 ) which refers to american promise on better life for its citizen which is considered American dream. In the earlier scene, the famous line of Emily Lazarus “Give me your tired, your poor, your huddled masses yearning to breathe free, send these, the homeless, tempest-tost, to me” is included in minute 00 : 19 : 40 – 00 : 20 : 00 expresses how America is depicted as a right place for the oppressed immigrants to find shelter as American promise mentions security.

However the film depicts that to reach the American dream requires talent, personality and effort through its characters. As example Fievel, he is shown as a talented mouse with perseverance and courage, important personalities which are emphasized by many figures to reach the dream. His talent plays important role in the end of the film through his the Great Mouse of Minks plan idea which is successful to defeat the cats as cat is the antithesis of American dream.

Besides Fievel, the personality is also seen in the other characters such as Henri, a pigeon who motivates Fievel to not give up. His saying represents the importance of perseverance as everything is possible in America so that for him to surrender will lead to nowhere as shown in dialogue : “ Did you say never ? so young and you’ve lost hope, this is America, a place to find hope” ( *An American Tail*, 00 : 21 : 51 ).

Similar believe is also shared by Bridget and Gussie. They believe that to unite and work together in order to reach the freedom as one of American promises. As represented by Gussie in her speech : MICE : What we do ? They are bigger than we are !, GUSSIE : “ No, if we work together, what are you afraid of ? “( *An American Tail*, 00 : 44 : 34 – 00 : 44 : 41 ). Through the dialogue, Gussie actually encourage the other mice to work hard so that they can defeat the cat in order to realized their American dream

Hardwork is one of what many figures in America thought to be important element to achieve the dream as one of the synonym of industrious. The hardwork of the mice is shown in the Great Mouse of Minks plan when all of them work together with perseverance to reach their goal, to defeat the cat which symbolizes any form of american dream antithesis. Because American dream in the film is actually conveyed through metaphor so that the last scene when the mice win against the cat implies by being industrious and perserverance enable its citizen to lead the success to realize their dream.

## **CHAPTER V**

### **CONCLUSION**

*An American Tail* proves that animated film can be considered one of proper medium to convey metaphor because it enable the creator to make visual manifestation easier compared to live action film. Based on the analysis, metaphor in the film is conveyed through the unity of the scenes by using picture and dialogue. So that images on *An American Tail* is not only for aesthetic purpose but also to depict certain value and meaning.

From the previous analysis, the film uses its characters to convey american dream in implicit way as the characters theirselves are the part of metaphor manifestation. The depiction of american dream in the film uses analogy of similarity , personification and the dialogue of the characters. Each aforementioned element has function to enable deeper metaphor analysis in the film It can be seen by the portrayal of cat and mouse from the beginning. In the story plot, similar to the reality, cat is depicted as the enemy of the mice that causes trouble and misery for mice characters. Then, the mice immigrate to America and believe that cats are not existed in America though the reality is far different in America. However, the relationship between cat and mouse is not for a narrative purpose solely but also serves as personification.

The analysis find that mice personify oppressed immigrant whereas cat personifies hardship and struggle that were faced by immigrant both in their native land and America. The finding is based on the combination of implicit analogy of

the scenes and the dialogue of the characters which serves as salient clue so that it lead the conclusion that cat and mouse characters in the film is intended to convey metaphor.

Besides using metaphor, american dream value in the film is also shown through the dialogue and characterization of characters in *An American Tail*. Some characters in the film are shown being optimistic about America and believe that good things can happen such as freedom and realization of their dream as shown by characters such as Henry, Gussie and Bridget. However the film also implies that to reach american dream is not easy. It is seen from how the struggle of the mice is potrayed in the film after their arrival in America.

Furthermore it also emphasizes that american dream is possible to reach if the characters posses certain good personality such as being perserve and talented as shown in the scene where the cats are finally defeated because of the willingness of the mice to work together which symbolizes the realization of the american dream for the mice. Besides convey american dream value, it also shows sociological perspective on the life of immigrant and their challenge as the film depicts America as ideal a place to be for many immigrants in 19th century.

It also had problems which were not so different compared to their homeland such as racism, prejudice, bad work enviroment and many more through its metaphor. Hence, it can be concluded that *An American Tail* narrative is not intended for entertainment solely but also to potray America in 19th century when the mass immigration happenned in its narrative.



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