

## CHAPTER 4

### CONCLUSION

*The Big Sick* movie represents a noteworthy cinematic exploration of the cultural differences between Pakistani immigrants and Americans. Through its narrative, the movie offers a nuanced portrayal of the ways in which Pakistani characters adhere to their religion, uphold their cultural traditions, and make decisions influenced by their heritage. This depiction is contrasted with the American characters, highlighting their own cultural norms and values.

This study offers an in-depth analysis of the intrinsic elements of the movie *The Big Sick* (2017), concentrating on its themes, character development, and plot. The central theme of the film centers on cross-cultural relationships and the conflicts that emerge from differing cultural backgrounds, highlighting the challenges and misunderstandings faced by individuals from distinct cultural traditions trying to build a life together. The characters, particularly Kumail and Emily, are designed to showcase the complexities of cross-cultural interactions, with Kumail representing the tension between traditional values and personal desires, and Emily symbolizing individualism and straightforward communication. The plot revolves around their evolving relationship, complicated by cultural differences and family expectations, and intensifies with Emily's illness, compelling all characters to confront their biases and assumptions.

This study identifies several cross-cultural conflicts between Kumail and Emily, as well as with her parents. These conflicts pertain to differing views on freedom of choice, the appropriate use of humor, and decision-making processes.

Initially, the conflict over freedom of choice is pivotal. Kumail is subjected to pressure from his Pakistani family to adhere to the tradition of arranged marriages, whereas Emily espouses individualism and personal freedom, resulting in discord when their cultural expectations diverge. Subsequently, humor serves to accentuate cultural disparities. Kumail's use of humor, particularly a joke about 9/11, has the unintended consequence of alienating Emily's parents, Beth and Terry, which demonstrates how humor can misfire and exacerbate cultural divides. Finally, the decision-making processes of the two parties illustrate further conflict. Emily's parents adopt a research-driven approach to her medical care, while Kumail places greater trust in the immediate advice of healthcare professionals.

In order to thoroughly analyze the cross-cultural conflict in *The Big Sick*, the writer employed Representation theory to examine how both Pakistani and American characters are portrayed throughout the movie. Through the application of this theory, the writer identified several key characteristics attributed to the Pakistani and American characters in the movie. The Pakistani characters are depicted as individuals who deeply adhere to their religious beliefs and cultural traditions. Additionally, the movie portrays Pakistani characters as sometimes resorting to deception, particularly in navigating cultural expectations and personal desires. Conversely, the American characters are depicted as embodying values associated with high literacy and direct communication. They are portrayed as individuals who prioritize personal freedom, education, and straightforwardness.

In addition to analyzing the cross-cultural conflicts depicted in *The Big Sick*, the writer also examined how these conflicts are resolved throughout the movie.

The focus of this analysis was on understanding how third-party processes, particularly mediation, contribute to resolving these cultural tensions. Through this exploration, the writer uncovered key instances of mediation conducted by Terry, Emily's father, aimed at alleviating the tension between Kumail and Beth.