

**AMERICAN DREAM  
IN CHRIS GARDNER'S  
"THE PURSUIT OF HAPPYNESS"**



**SKRIPSI**

**Presented to the Faculty of Letters University "45" Makassar  
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*For My*

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*Beloved Parent*



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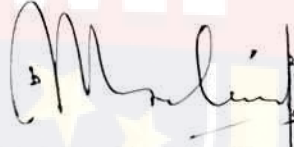
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## ABSTRAK

FITRIA LAITUPA. *American Dream in Chris Gardner's "The Pursuit of Happiness"* (dibimbing oleh Hanyah Haneng dan Dahlia D. Moelier).

Skripsi ini bertujuan untuk memaparkan secara jelas apa yang dimaksud dengan "American Dream" melalui perjuangan Chris Gardner dalam menggapai kebahagiaannya, yang ditulis secara lengkap dalam novel "The Pursuit of Happiness".

Analisis dipusatkan pada unsur ekstrensik yang membangun cerita dalam novel tersebut. Data diperoleh dari novel tersebut dan didukung dengan referensi-referensi lainnya seperti, karir orang-orang Afrika-Amerika yang sukses di Amerika serta biografi penulis. Data tersebut dianalisis dengan menggunakan pendekatan sosiologis.

Dari hasil analisis disimpulkan bahwa Chris Gardner adalah seorang pekerja keras, cerdas, inisiator, motivator, percaya diri, tekun, peduli dan penyayang yang datang dari latar belakang pendidikan yang minim, keluarga brokenhome dan seorang kulit hitam (negro). Motivasi Chris Gardner dijelaskan melalui motivasinya untuk memenuhi lima kebutuhan dasar, yaitu kebutuhan psikologis dan biologis, kebutuhan keamanan, kebutuhan cinta dan kepunyaan, kebutuhan harga diri, dan kebutuhan aktualisasi diri. Chris Gardner telah menyingkirkan beberapa penghalang untuk meraih kesuksesannya yaitu kurang pengertian dari istrinya, masalah keuangan dan latar belakang pendidikannya. Perjuangan Chris Gardner menggambarkan seorang yang mewujudkan mimpi-mimpi meraih sukses di tanah Amerika, dimana Chris Gardner dapat merealisasikan sebuah etos nasional Amerika yaitu "American Dream".

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Finally, the writer knows that this thesis was still far from perfection. Therefore, the writer does hope for constructive criticism and suggestions. Hopefully this thesis can be useful for all people who require it.

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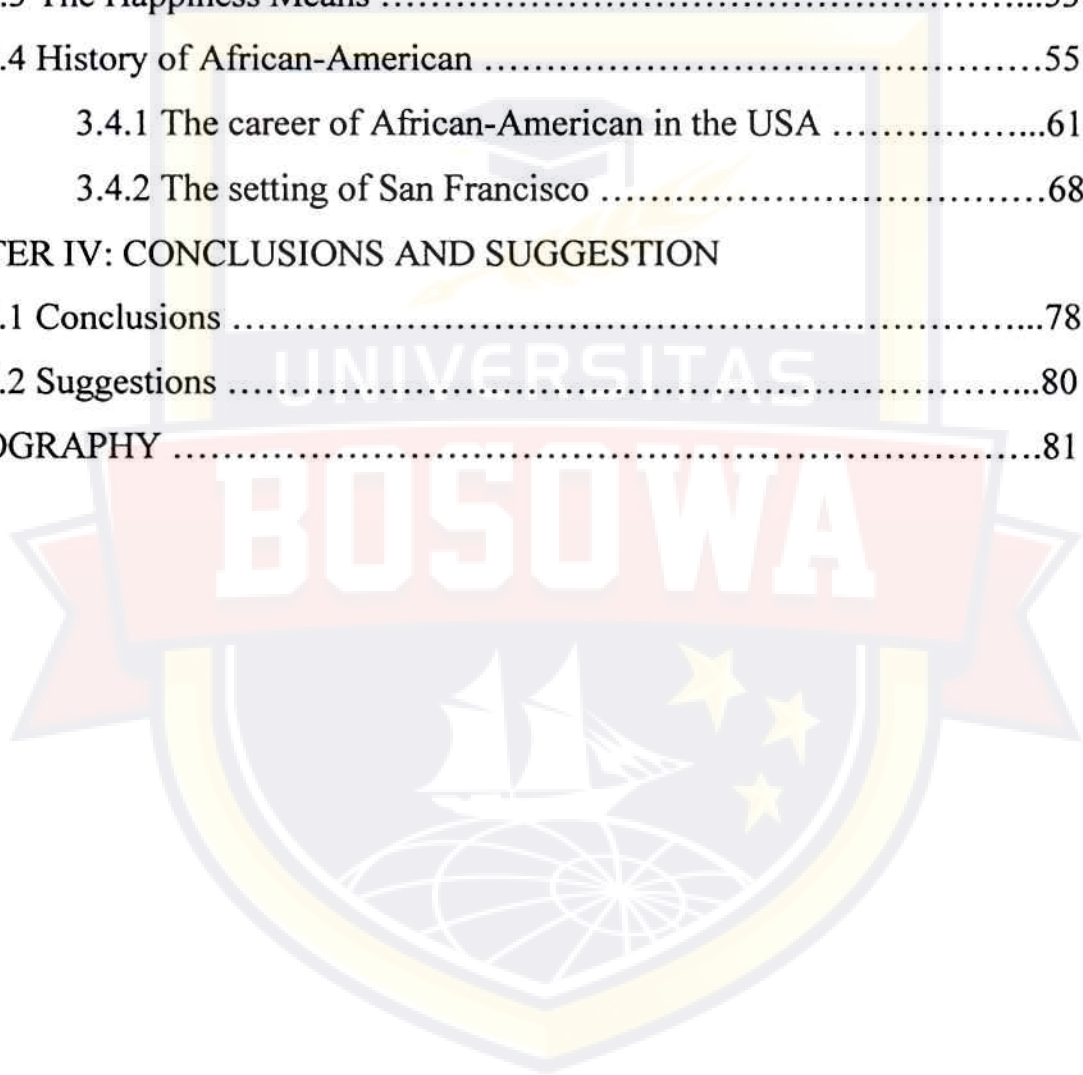
The Writer

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## CHAPTER I

### INTRODUCTION

#### 1.1 Background

The **American Dream** is a national ethos of the United States of America in which democratic ideals are perceived as a promise of prosperity for its people. In the American Dream, first expressed by James Truslow Adams in 1931, citizens of every rank feel that they can achieve a "better, richer, and happier life."The idea of the American Dream is rooted in the second sentence of the Declaration of Independence which states that "all men are created equal" and that they are "endowed by their Creator with certain inalienable Rights" including "Life, Liberty and the pursuit of Happiness."

The "American Dream" has been credited with helping to build a cohesive American experience but has also been blamed for overinflated expectations. The presence of the American Dream has not historically helped the majority of minority race and lower class American citizens to gain a greater degree of social equality and influence. Instead, the American wealth structure has often been observed to sustain class differences in which well-positioned groups continue to be advantaged.

In common parlance, the term *American Dream* is often used as a synonym for home ownership since homes have historically been seen as status symbols separating the middle classes and the poor. This usage, though, while common, is generally considered a very specific use of a more general term.

Since the early 19th century, the United States has regarded and promoted itself as a beacon of liberty and prosperity achieved through a combination of the philosophical and ethical principles propounded by its founders and implemented in their most perfect form. In tandem with this is its natural wealth and bounty within the New World.

The meaning of the American Dream has evolved over the course of American history. While historically traced to the New World mystique — the availability of land and the continuing American expansion—the ethos today simply indicates the ability, through participation in the resonant society and culture of the United States, to bring prosperity to oneself.

According to the dream, this includes the opportunity for one's children to grow up and receive an American education and its consequent career opportunities. It is the opportunity to make individual choices without the restrictions of class, caste, religion, race, or ethnic group.

Everyone has their own opinions on how they view the American dream. It can be different for almost everyone when you take into consideration their gender, age, nationality, and the transition of this idea between each generation.

Most people would consider this fantasy as the "perfect life" which, most comprehend as going to college, getting a good job, making a family, and having more money than needed. This idea of the so called perfect life is thought of as the universal dream for Americans. This dream is thought of as the pursuit of happiness, but this idea is no longer a selfless goal. Instead, the pursuit of happiness has transitioned into a self-serving fantasy for most Americans. This transition of the American dream has caused most people in this nation to lose focus on what is really important in our lives and brainwashed us to believe the allusion that possessing material items will bring us happiness. Many immigrants who reside in America have the idea that the American dream is escaping poverty and simply living a better life, while other immigrants and main stream American society view America as a place of opportunity to become more successful financially.

The idea of the American dream and the pursuit of happiness may be universal for mature Americans, but completely different for other types of people according to their age, gender, nationality, and historic generation.

In literary works, the concept of the American dream has been studied, discussed and analyzed. So many paper or writing about American dream. Historian and writer James Truslow Adams coined the phrase "American Dream" in his 1931 book *Epic of America*:

“The American Dream is that dream of a land in which life should be better and richer and fuller for everyone, with opportunity for each according to ability or achievement. It is a difficult dream for the European upper classes to interpret adequately, and too many of us ourselves have grown weary and mistrustful of it. It is not a dream of motor cars and high wages merely, but a dream of social order in which each man and each woman shall be able to attain to the fullest stature of which they are innately capable, and be recognized by others for what they are, regardless of the fortuitous circumstances of birth or position”. (Adams, 1931: 27)

The novel basically tell about American dream is not only a history or a national epic of America but it as a motivation to all people who want to get success. Instead, American dream is a social order. Not many people know about the motivations of the Americans in pursuit their success. But in Chris Gardner’s “The Pursuit of Happiness”, the author explains about how the African-American can pursuit his happiness in America. Therefore, the writer

finds it important to gain more knowledge about American dream by analyzing it in Chris Gardner's "The Pursuit of Happiness".

## 1.2 Identification of Problem

There are many problems that can be found in Chris Gardner's "The Pursuit of Happiness". They are:

1. The American dream in the novel
2. The fighting of main character to reach his dream in the novel
3. The happiness means for the main character
4. Moral lesson in the novel

## 1.3 Scope of Problem

The title of this thesis is *American Dream in Chris Gardner's "The Pursuit of Happiness"*. The writer has concentrated her research on the American dream in the novel. Based on the identification of problem, here are the scopes of problem:

1. The American dream in the novel
2. The fighting of main character to reach his dream in the novel
3. The happiness means for the main character

## **1.4 Formulation of Problem**

To broaden the inner thoughts of this writing, the writer proposes some questions:

1. What is American Dream?
2. What is the fighting of main character to reach his dream?
3. What is the happiness means for the main character?

## **1.5 Objective of Study**

It is necessary for the writer to gain more description and information from the formulation of the problem. Here are the answer to the questions above, the objectives of problems are:

1. To explain the American dream in the novel
2. To elaborate the fighting of main character to reach his dream in the novel
3. To explain the happiness means for the main character

## **1.6 Method of Research**

The method which the writer has used in this research is library research. Due to the fact, it is important for the writer to get as many as information from the novel, articles which connected to her research.

### **1.6.1 Method of Collecting Data**

The writer has used library research in collecting data. The writer has also read several books and some important information based on the objective study. The data has collected from the novel “The Pursuit of Happiness”.

### **1.6.2 Method of Analyzing Data**

Since the writer has uses sociological approach in analyzing the social elements within a literary work, by reading the novel, analyzing the American dream in the novel.

## **1.7 Sequence of Chapter**

Chapter I consists of background of the writing. Chapter II consists of the review of literature. Chapter III consists of the data analysis. And chapter IV consists of the conclusions and suggestions of the writing.

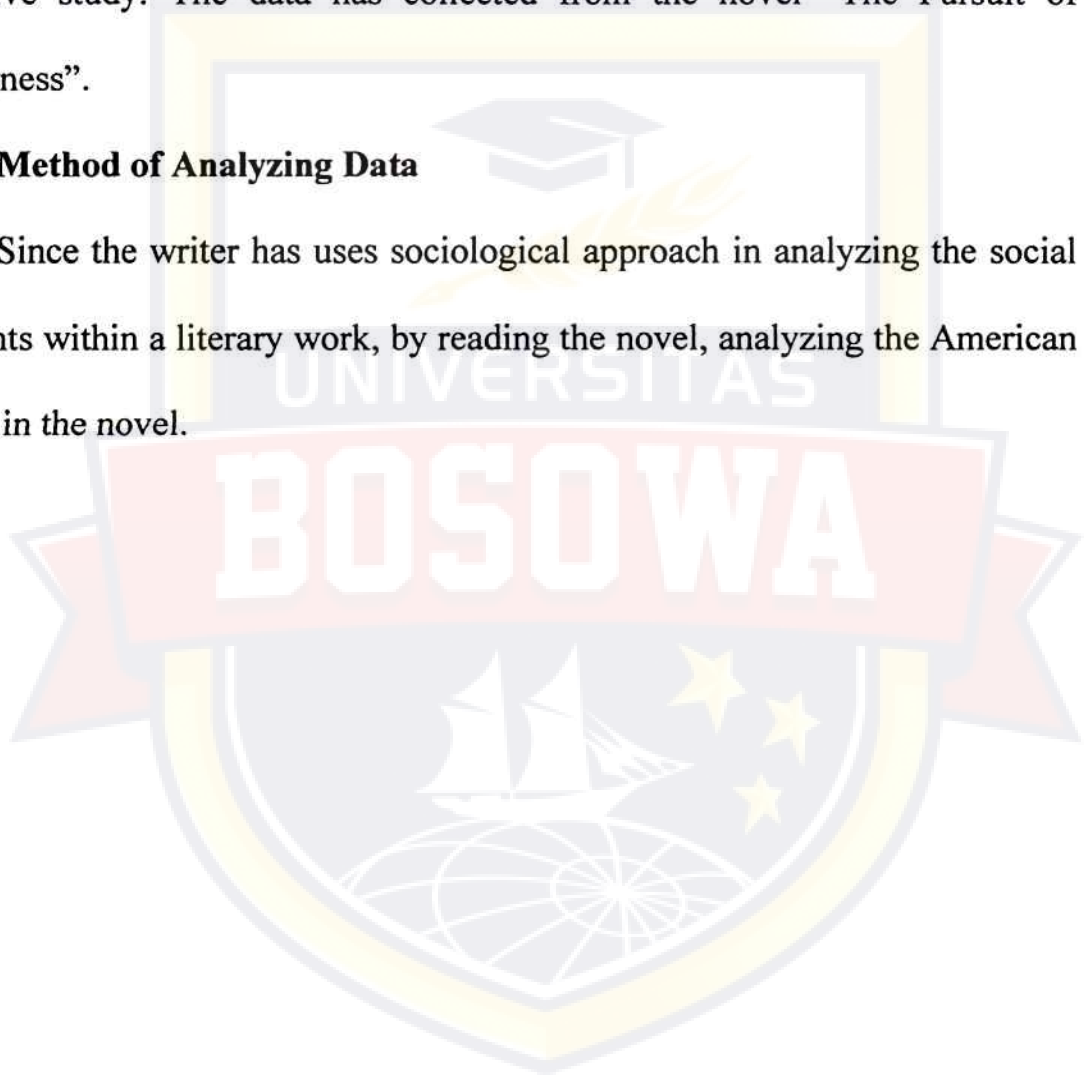


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## CHAPTER II

### REVIEW OF LITERATURE

Literature is a conversation across the ages about our experience and our nature. There is a surprising breadth of agreement. The amounts of Literature were accumulated wisdom of the race. The sum of reflections on our own existence is begun with observation, reporting, rendering the facts of inner and outer reality with acuity sharpened by imagination.

At its greatest, it goes on to show how these facts have coherence and, finally, meaning. As it dramatizes what actually happens to concrete individuals who trying to shape their lives at the confluence of so many imperatives, it presents us with concrete and particular manifestations of universal truths. As the greatest authors know, the universal has to be embodied in the particular where, as it is enmeshed in the complexity and contradictoriness of real experience, it loses the clarity and lucidity that only abstractions can possess.

Literary is offered to public as description of social fact. It can be created by author's point of view, experiences, way of life, research and even the emotion in his mind.

“Literature is relation of life, seeing it’s a way of reproducing or recreating the experience of life in the word, just or painting reproduces of recreates certain figures or scenes in out of line or color. Knowledge face value; it suggests that it is life which literature imitates or mirror, in the other word the subject matter of literature is the manifold experiences of loving people”. (Zeeger, 1966: 6)

Literature is a media that gives many benefits for human because literature covers the whole aspects of life so we can see and know anything from the world and every part of the world can be revealed in literature. Literature can be used as a gear for stepping up the intensity and increasing the range of our experience and as a glass for clarifying it.

Warren (1968: 569) stated that there are two conception of literature still exist. One of which regards anything well said as literature and regard literary style as working the distinction between literature and non-literature. This distinction lets in formal and the familiar essay, if written in style. The other conception of literature, which should be regarded as central and basic is that literature is an imaginative form of expression, that all literature is fictive or as it is popularity called “creative”. Literature remains not only one of the arts, which music and painting but through its greatest practitioners gives us a view of life as well; we live in an age of specialist, sociologists, psychologist and philosophers. The greatest of these have recognized the universal debt to literature.

From the definitions above, we understood that literature should always be thought of as an art. Like the other art, it draws its materials from the life.

## 2.1 Sociological Approach

The writer believes that the main function of literature is to figure out and reflect that human life is changing and developing, more and more. Because of that reason, the extrinsic elements should be counted in order to equate the literary theory with the complexity of human life which influences the literary works, so that sociological approach is being the solution.

In literature, sociological approach started from an assumption that literature is the reflection of human life. Through literature authors express their problems or human problems in which they are involved because they are part of society. Literature approves influence from the society and gives it to them. In other words, it has mutual relation. Even society often very established the value of literature in an era. While literary man who the member of society can not prevent the influences of the environments where grow from and reflecting what he or she has gotten in his or her literary work.

Harrington (1999:39) outlines in his book *Art and Social Theory* six ways in which art can be approached from a sociological standpoint: 1)

humanistic historic approach, 2) Marxist social theory, 3) cultural studies, 4) theory of art in analytical philosophy, 5) anthropological studies of art, and 6) empirical studies of contemporary art institutions. The variety of sociological approaches introduced by Harrington confronts traditional, metaphysical approaches to art.

According to Harrington, “sociological approaches generally possess a stronger sense of the material preconditions, historical flux and cultural diversity of art”, (Harrington, 1999:31). Harrington argues that pieces of art can serve as “normative sources of social understanding in their own right”, (Harrington, 1999:207). As Harrington observes, there are several methods of regarding art from a sociological perspective, and considering the sociological element is essential because art is inevitably full of reverences and commentaries on the present day society. Sociological critics are then to look at exactly how much references and commentaries function within the work of art, so that codification of their method is possible. Some sociologists have defined American dream as history of a society.

Sociological approach is aimed at individuals interested in the study of social life and social relations and provides an opportunity to combine the

study of research design and methods alongside analysis of contemporary debates in sociology, social policy and social anthropology.

Based on the historical view, sociological approach came from historical approach. It developed and has become sociological approach. Same as historical approach, it also quest everything that out of the body of literature, such as background of the author, social environment, reader problems, etc.

In employing sociological approach in literature research, there are some views of the approach should be understood. Following are the concept and criteria, the method, and the strength and the weakness of sociological approach.

a) The concept and criteria of sociological approach are:

- Sociological approach in early appear considered literature as a transformation of history. All kinds of human activities, such as culture, economic, industry, are give spirit and big influence the writers.
- Intrinsic analysis focus on the major characters. The character who had high value that formed and was born from society phenomenon.

- Literature is effective medium to moving the human to fight their importance from bourgeois, mighty government, etc.
- Literature analysis must be general in analyzing about the author because life event or human accident that the author chose is the human majority's life accident.
- Sociological approach is use to analyze the life background of the author such as about their ideology, philosophy, education, though, vision, and also about the society who had literature.

b) Based on the concept and criteria of sociological approach above, therefore we can use this method:

- In early we have to talk about the author, social aspect in their creation, and literature reader.
- The importance things to analyze authors are their philosophy, ideology, social status, religion and educational background. It is ascertain the author visions and their fighting style that poured down in their creations.
- We also analyze about the impression and acceptance of society to the literature creation because literature creation can have high value if the society use it as their specialty directly or indirectly.

c) Strength and weakness of sociological approach:

Literature research with use sociological approach had strength which literature viewed as culture result that society very need. Literature created to educate human or society. Because literature is communication medium which be able to recap the human life flaming and literature make subservient to society.

Sociological approach had weakness because literature more exceedingly use as opinion funnel. This approach in socialist and communist countries often use as media to yell out social protests. Besides it, sociological approach often ignore the own of literature because more inclined talk about the out problems of literature.

## **2.2 American Dream**

A unitary definition does not exist about the American dream, probably has a different meaning to every US citizen. For some it is the dream of freedom and equality, for others it is the dream of a fulfilled life or even the dream of fame and wealth.



In general, the American dream can be defined as being the opportunity and freedom for all citizens to achieve their goals and become rich and famous if only they work hard enough.

The first settlers hoped for freedom of religion; in their home countries they had been persecuted because of their religious and political views. Bad living conditions in Europe and the hope for better living standards in America attracted more and more settlers to migrate to the new world. The booming US industry during the first half of the 20th century caused the myth “from rags to riches”.

Today’s role of the American dream is a matter of discussion. Some think that the American dream is still a viable element today, for others it is only an illusion.

In recent years, the concept of the American Dream as a national ideal has been studied by various organizations. The conclusions of these studies indicate that during the 1990s to the 2000s, a period of remarkable wealth for the U.S., an increasing number of people confess to having lost faith in the American Dream.

The American dream focuses on the success of the individual (not the well-being of the whole population). On the one hand, this has advantages,

e.g. lower taxes, little interference of the state. On the other hand, the same advantages are disadvantageous for society: there is no social fund for the poor and there is no serious interest in important issues like environmental protection etc.

Historian and writer James Truslow Adams coined the phrase “American Dream” in his 1931 book *Epic of America*:

“The American Dream is that dream of a land in which life should be better and richer and fuller for everyone, with opportunity for each according to ability or achievement. It is a difficult dream for the European upper classes to interpret adequately, and too many of us ourselves have grown weary and mistrustful of it. It is not a dream of motor cars and high wages merely, but a dream of social order in which each man and each woman shall be able to attain to the fullest stature of which they are innately capable, and be recognized by others for what they are, regardless of the fortuitous circumstances of birth or position”. (Adams, 1931: 27)

He also wrote that the American Dream that has lured tens of millions of all nations to our shores in the past century has not been a dream of material plenty, though that has doubtlessly counted heavily. It has been a dream of being able to grow to fullest development as a man and woman, unhampered by the barriers which had slowly been erected in the older civilizations, unrepressed by social orders which had developed for the benefit of classes rather than for the simple human being of any and every class.

American Dream first expressed by him that citizens of every rank feel that they can achieve a "better, richer, and happier life."The idea of the American Dream is rooted in the second sentence of the Declaration of Independence which states that "all men are created equal" and that they are "endowed by their Creator with certain inalienable Rights" including "Life, Liberty and the pursuit of Happiness."

## **2.3 Definitions**

There are four definitions which also carry as this writing, as follow are definition of character, setting, ambition, motivation, and the definition of happiness.

### **2.3.1 Character**

Characters are usually presented through their action, dialect and thoughts, as well as by description. Characterization can regard a variety of aspects of a character, such as appearance, age, gender, educational level, vocation of occupation, financial status, marital status, social status, cultural background, hobbies, sexual orientation, religious beliefs, ambitions, motivations, personality, etc.

Reaske (1998:56) gave comments about the definition of character as follows:

“Some characters in a novel don’t change the beginning as the same kind of character as they are in the end. These passive characters are acted upon the events of the novel, they are usually statics, or unchanging conversely, some characters are active. They perform act, they have a large part in the novel, and they usually undergo certain changes as the result of the action of the story. Instead of being static, they are considered dynamic.”

Type of characters, as quoted above, are called static and dynamic characters. The static character is the character that does not undergo the change from the beginning to the end of the story. On the contrary, the dynamic character provides emotional changes at the end of the story.

Both static and dynamic characters give the interlink role in constructing the unity of a story. This possibly related to the fictional story as the integral unity in literary works. Fiction serves you a story about a person or people had called “character”.

In literature: *An Introduction to Reading and Writing*, Robert and Jacob states;

“Character in literature and generally and in fiction specially, is an extended verbal representation of human being, the inner self that determines though, speech and behavior through dialogues, action and commentary, authors capture some of character and circumstances”. (Robert and Jacob, 1989:143)

It can be summarized that character in literature is an author's representation of human being, specially of those inner qualities that determines how an individuals reacts to various condition or attempts to shape any one's character.

According to Kennedy in "*An Introduction of Fiction*" says:

"There are two kinds of character, namely, round and flat characters. Round character, however, present with many faces, portray he character in greater depth and in more generous detail. A flat character usually has one outstanding or feature and if tend to stay the same throughout the story". (Kennedy, 1976: 46)

The writer can conclude that the round character is the character that always changes. He or she can be a good person but sometimes can change into bad person. A flat character is a character that is not change from the beginning until the end of the story. If the character is a good person, he or she will be good person from the beginning until the end of the story and he or she can not change into a bad person.

According to Dietrich (1974: 75) "*The Roles of Character in Fictions*" has divided character into four kinds:

1) A major character is a character whose role in the story important.

So it must play the role that defines the whole of the story. So that

the readers know what the writer usually calls it in details, because it will make the readers easy to consider his or her actions.

- 2) A minor character is a character whose role in the story is not important; It has fewer roles in the story and its role just for supporting the major character. Although a minor character has fewer roles, it is also important to define the pot, because without a minor character, the story will not complete and of course, the major character will not function.
- 3) A protagonist is a character whose being is controlled to the action. It is a good or positive character that is described by the author in the story. The author makes the protagonist character as a certain human ideal for the readers.
- 4) An antagonist as a character who provide some sort of contrast for the protagonist. It is the opposite of protagonist. This character usually arise the reader's hate and it is also considered as a trouble maker.

As one of the intrinsic elements of novel, the writer finds it is important to put the definition of character because in the story, character help to bring American dream to life.

### 2.3.2 Setting

Generally, setting is a place and time where the story happens. Setting can be described as the space which can be observed as the day, date, year, season, period and so on.

Landy (1972: 160) explained that the setting is location and period in which a story occurs. A story must take place and time. Therefore, it is necessary to have the same setting. But the important of setting varies greatly from story to story.

Further, setting has important role in a story because the people who read the story can know where the character exists. This make the people are include in the setting.

Refers to the previous definition, Sumarjo (1987: 76) has stated that setting does not only show specific place and time but also absolute things from an area, the communities thought, the madness, the style, curiosity and so on.

Base on the explanation above, setting has to integrate with other component such as theme, plot and temperament that together play important role constructing the story. Besides it, while setting includes simple attributes

such a climate or wall decor, it can also complex dimensions such as the historical moment the story occupies or its social context. Because particular places and times have their own personality, setting is also one of the primary ways that a fiction writer establishes mood.

### **2.3.3 Definition of Ambition**

Ambition comes from Greek word “ambitio” means “to pretend”. Wish for an attention, the mad respect, impassionate desire to rise the rank, well-known and power. In other words, ambition is a big impassionate wish or desires to reach something like a rank or position.

According to Sujanto (1993:177), ambition is a stimulus or motivation of reach a good result which can be showed and esteemed by the others. So, according to psychology, its result means to enhance the self-regard and strengthen awareness for own self.

Ambition is the desire for personal achievement. Ambitious persons seek to be the best at what they choose to do for attainment, power, or superiority. Ambition is also the object of desire.

Acquired power can be wielded in the name of a vague or clear ideal or multiple ideals. When ambition is used to seek a clear ideal, it develops a



close relationship to extremism. Throughout human history, many examples can be found of people who were extremely ambitious, for better and for worse. The notorious Greek Herostratus had the ambition to become famous by destroying the Temple of Artemis.

Basically, everyone has an ambitious attitude and potency. Its attitude and potency are motivation which can bring a function or advantage if they are used to get a good purpose. But many people still unrealized that excessive ambition can destroy the efficacy which wishes reached for.

The overweening or excessive ambition has negative effective effect, even for his self or others in scope of social association. Someone who have an overweening ambition disposed to behave egoist in reaching its ambition. He or she just concentrates his or her attention in his own aim without pay attention to the other condition because his point of view is unopened again for another people.

Actually, ambition can not always be identified with something ugly or bad. It could only becomes a negative meaning if it is owned and directed an overflowing of somebody desire to reach his or her own target without carrying and thinking the situation or the condition of his or her environment. On the contrary, ambition could become positive value if this matter is used as

capital to get a good aim or idea without damage another people. According to Sujanto (1993:178) that ambition attitude can means as quality which is needed by human being as a power to directing and moving them to reach what they want.

### **2.3.4 Definition of Motivation**

Motive drives from Latin's word 'movere' means to move. When we attempt to learn why people move to do the thing they do, we are interested in motivation and in motivated behavior. (Branca, 1965:383)

Motivation used in this research has universally been used in wide area of subject matters. But in literary works, it has it own aspect mainly from the character's point of view. In daily life motivation has two meanings sometimes. Some people say that motivation is a movement. But the others say that motivation is a reason for action. In other word, to know further about motivation, we have to pay attention to some definitions about motivation. According to Guerin (1979: 324), motivation is the reason for the character's action (that is psychological motivation).

Furthermore, Reaske (1998:41-42) mentioned that motivation is the fact remains that the larger actions which characters complete in the course of a

play have identifiable motive behind them and thus we as critics have every right and duty to analyze character's motivations. Many plays have central motive and in general these are the giant human emotions which motivate most people in real life. Reaske (1998:52) explained few of the most common motivations as follow:

*“First, hope for reward is character's desires to bring happiness and prosperity to him self or to those whom he loves, all of his actions are planned to hasten he advent prosperity. He or she does virtually nothing expect work toward this end; second, love is the motivation of character to certain action because of the love which he or she has the love which he wants or the love which someone has for him; third, fear or failure is a motivation of character work in a certain fashion because he fears hat he will be chorused if he does not. Everything he does designed to stall or prevent the advent of misery, failure or literal or spiritual property; forth, revenge is a motivation or desire of character to avenge the death of a loved friend or relative. The character usually is willing to lose his own life if necessary, a long a he is able to murder someone who has wronged him; fifth, religious feeling hat can be discovered trough a character who is motivated by religious faith. The character acts out of deep feelings and conventions that he is acting as god so directs; sixth, greed is a particular kind of motivation in the category of hope for reward, which becomes an outstanding motive; and the seventh, jealous is a final corollary kind of motivation, in this case connecting to both love and the fear of failure. Jealous, sometime simply defined as human envy, other times as overwhelmingly bitter hatred is operative in most human relationship”.* (Reaske, 1998:52)

This explained can be assumed that motivation is something that drives people to act, move and do something what they want which influenced by some factors such as desire or expectation, love, fear, revenge, religious

feelings and greed even life stratification can also be motivation for someone to move or act.

In this thesis, the motivation offered by Reaske will be used as one of guideline of the analysis.

### **2.3.5 Definition of Happiness**

Happiness is a state of mind or feeling characterized by contentment, love, satisfaction, pleasure, or joy. A variety of philosophical, religious, psychological and biological approaches have striven to define happiness and identify its sources.

Philosophers and religious thinkers often define happiness in terms of living a good life, or flourishing, rather than simply as an emotion. Happiness in this older sense was used to translate the Greek Eudaimonia, and is still used in virtue ethics.

Direct measurement of happiness presents challenges, tools such as The Oxford Happiness Questionnaire have been developed by researchers. Positive psychology researchers use theoretical models that include describing happiness is consisting of positive emotions and positive activities, or that describe three kinds of happiness: pleasure, engagement, and meaning.

Research has identified a number of attributes that correlate with happiness: relationships and social interaction, extraversion, marital status, employment, health, democratic freedom, optimism, religious involvement, income and proximity to other happy people.

In his book *Authentic Happiness*, Martin Seligman said that one of the founders of positive psychology, describes happiness as consisting of "positive emotions" and "positive activities". He further categorizes emotions related to the past, present and future. Positive emotions relating to the past include satisfaction, contentment, pride and serenity. Positive emotions relating to the future include optimism, hope and trust. Positive emotions about the present are divided into two categories: pleasure and gratifications. The bodily and higher pleasures are "pleasures of the moment" and usually involve some external stimulus. (<http://www.postnuke.com/>)

#### **2.4 Biography of the Author**

Christopher Paul Gardner was born February 9, 1954 in Milwaukee, Wisconsin is a self-made millionaire, entrepreneur, motivational speaker, and philanthropist who, during the early 1980s, struggled with homelessness while

raising his toddler son, Christopher, Jr. Gardner's book of memoirs, *The Pursuit of Happyness*, was published in May 2006.

As of 2006, he is Chief Executive Officer (CEO) of his own stockbrokerage firm, Gardner Rich & Co, based in Chicago, Illinois, where he resides when he is not living in New York City. Gardner credits his tenacity and success to the "spiritual genetics" handed down to him by his mother, Bettye Jean Triplett, née Gardner, and to the high expectations placed on him by his children, son Chris Jr. was born 1981 and his daughter Jacintha was born 1985. Gardner's personal struggle of establishing himself as a stockbroker while managing fatherhood and homelessness is portrayed in the 2006 motion picture *The Pursuit of Happyness*, starring Will Smith.

Gardner was the second of Bettye Jean's four children. His three siblings are Ophelia, an older half-sister from a previous union; and Sharon and Kim, his younger half-sisters from Bettye Jean's marriage to his stepfather, Freddie Triplett.

Gardner did not have many positive male role models as a child, as his father, Thomas Turner, was living in Louisiana, and his stepfather was a violent man who was physically abusive. Triplett's rages made Gardner and his sisters constantly afraid. At one point Bettye Jean was imprisoned when

Triplett reported her to the authorities for working while collecting welfare; the children were put into foster care. At eight years of age Gardner and his sisters went into the system a second time when their mother, unbeknownst to them, was convicted of trying to kill Triplett by burning down the house when he was inside it.

During Bettye Jean's incarceration, Gardner became acquainted with his mother's three brothers – Archibald, Willie and Henry. Of the three, Henry had the most profound influence on him, entering Gardner's world at a time when he most needed a father figure. Tragically, Henry drowned in the Mississippi River about a year after Gardner's mother was sent to prison. The children learned she had been imprisoned when Bettye Jean arrived at Henry's funeral escorted by a prison guard.

Despite her unhappy marriage and her periods of absence, Bettye Jean was a source of inspiration and strength to her son Chris. She encouraged Gardner to believe in himself and sowed the seeds of self-reliance in him. Gardner quotes her as saying, "You can only depend on yourself. The cavalry ain't coming". Gardner also determined from his early experiences that alcoholism, domestic abuse, child abuse, illiteracy, fear, and powerlessness were all things he wanted to avoid in the future.

The late 1960s and early 1970s was a time of political and musical awakening for Gardner. He developed a deep sense of black pride as he became familiar with the works of Martin Luther King, Jr., Malcolm X, and Eldridge Cleaver. During that time Gardner's world view expanded beyond the African American experience; he learned of historical events such as the Sharpeville Massacre, and as a result became increasingly aware of apartheid in South Africa and international racial issues. Gardner learned to play the trumpet and he enjoyed listening to music by Sly Stone, Buddy Miles, James Brown, and his all-time favorite, Miles Davis.

Inspired by his Uncle Henry's worldwide adventures in the United States Navy, Gardner decided to enlist shortly after graduating high school. He was stationed at Camp Lejeune in North Carolina for four years, where he was assigned as a corpsman. He became acquainted with a top San Francisco cardiac surgeon, Dr. Robert Ellis, who offered Gardner a position assisting him with innovative clinical research at the University of California Medical Center and Veterans Administration Hospital in San Francisco, California. Gardner accepted the job and moved to San Francisco upon his discharge from the Navy in 1974. Over the next two years, he learned how to manage a laboratory and to perform various surgical techniques. By 1976, he had full



responsibilities in a laboratory and had co-authored with Dr. Ellis various articles published in medical journals.

On June 18, 1977, Chris Gardner married Sherry Dyson, an educational expert in mathematics, from Virginia. With his knowledge, experience and contacts within the medical field, it appeared Gardner had his medical career plans laid out before him. However, with ten years of medical training ahead of him and with the changes in health care (such as HMOs) just on the horizon, he realized that the medical profession would be vastly different by the time he could practice medicine. Gardner was advised to consider other more lucrative career options; just before Gardner's 26th birthday, he informed his wife, Sherry, of his plans to abandon his dreams of becoming a doctor.

His relationship with Sherry was strained, in part because of his decision to forget a medical career and also due to differences in their attitudes. While still living with Sherry, he began an affair with a dental student named Jackie Medina, and she soon became pregnant with his child. After three years of marriage to Sherry, he left her to move in with Jackie and to prepare for fatherhood. Nine years elapsed before he and Sherry were legally divorced in 1986.

Gardner's son, Christopher Medina Gardner was born on January 28, 1981. Gardner worked as a research lab assistant at UCSF and at the Veterans hospital after leaving the service. His assistant job only paid about \$8,000 a year which was not enough for him to support a live-in girlfriend and a child. After four years, he quit these jobs and doubled his salary by taking a job as a medical equipment salesman.

Prompted by his child's inquiries about his own father, Gardner had previously been able to track down his biological father, Thomas Turner, over the telephone. With the higher income that he was earning at his new job, Gardner was able to save enough money to travel to Monroe, Louisiana. There, he and his son met Turner for the first time.

Gardner returned to San Francisco determined to succeed at business. A pivotal moment in his life occurred, after a sales call to a San Francisco General Hospital, when he encountered an impeccably-dressed man in a red Ferrari. Curious, Gardner asked the man what he did for a living. The man told him he was a stock broker and, from that moment on, Gardner's career path was decided. Eventually, Gardner bought a Ferrari of his own from the famous basketball player, Michael Jordan. The Illinois license plate of Gardner's black Ferrari reads "NOT MJ."

The stockbroker in the red Ferrari was a man by the name of Bob Bridges. He met with Gardner and gave him an introduction to the world of finance. Bridges set up meetings between Gardner and branch managers at the major stock brokerage firms that offered training programs such as Merrill Lynch, Paine Webber, E.F. Hutton, Dean Witter Reynolds, and Smith Barney. For the next two months, Gardner canceled or postponed his sales appointments and his car amassed parking tickets while he met with managers.

It appeared that Gardner got his "break" when he was accepted into a training program at E.F. Hutton. He subsequently quit his sales job so that he could dedicate his time exclusively to training as a stock broker. Then he appeared at the office ready to work, only to discover that his hiring manager had been fired the week before. To make matters worse, Gardner's relationship with Jackie was falling apart. She accused him of beating her—an accusation that Gardner denies to this day—and left him, taking their son with her to the East Coast. He was taken to jail and a judge ordered that he stay there, for ten days, as punishment for being unable to pay \$1,200 in parking tickets.

Gardner returned home from jail and found his apartment empty. His girlfriend and his son, along with all of his possessions (including his suits, shoes and business apparel), had disappeared. With no experience, no college education, virtually no connections, and with the same casual outfit he had been wearing on the day he was taken into custody, Gardner gained a position in Dean Witter Reynolds' stock brokerage training program. However, with a monthly stipend of \$1,000 (which is equal to \$2139 in present day value), and no savings, he was unable to meet his living expenses.

Gardner worked to become a top trainee at Dean Witter Reynolds. He arrived at the office early and stayed late each day, persistently making calls to prospective clients with his goal being 200calls/day. His perseverance paid off when, in 1982, Gardner passed his licensing exam on the first try and became a full employee of the firm. Eventually, Gardner was recruited by Bear Stearns & Company in San Francisco.

About four months after Jackie disappeared with their son, she returned and left him with Gardner. By then, Gardner was able to afford a small rent and was rooming in a flophouse. He willingly accepted sole custody of his child; however, the rooming house where he lived did not allow children. Although he was gainfully employed, Gardner and his son secretly

struggled with homelessness while he saved money for a rental house in Berkeley, California.

Meanwhile, none of Gardner's coworkers knew that he and his son were homeless in the Tenderloin District of San Francisco for nearly a year. Gardner often scrambled to place his child in daycare, stood in soup lines and slept wherever he and his son could find safety—in his office after hours, at flophouses, at parks, and even in a locked bathroom at the Bay Area Rapid Transit station.

Concerned for Chris Jr.'s well-being, Gardner asked Reverend Cecil Williams to allow them to stay at the Glide Memorial United Methodist Church's shelter for homeless women, now known as The Cecil Williams Glide Community House. The Reverend agreed without hesitation. Today, when asked what he remembers about being homeless, Christopher Gardner, Jr. recalls "I couldn't tell you that we were homeless, I just knew that we were always having to go. So, if anything, I remember us just moving, always moving.

In 1987, Chris Gardner established the brokerage firm, Gardner Rich & Co, in Chicago, Illinois, an "institutional brokerage firm specializing in the execution of debt, equity and derivative products transactions for some of the

nation's largest institutions, public pension plans and unions." His new company was started in his small Presidential Towers apartment, with start-up capital of \$10,000 and a single piece of furniture: a wooden desk that doubled as the family dinner table. Gardner reportedly owns 75 percent of his stock brokerage firm with the rest owned by a hedge fund. He chose the name "Gardner Rich" for the company because he considers Marc Rich, the commodities trader pardoned by former president Bill Clinton in 2001, "one of the most successful futures traders in the world."

After Gardner sold his small stake in Gardner Rich in a multi-million dollar deal in 2006, he became CEO and founder of *Christopher Gardner International Holdings*, with offices in New York, Chicago, and San Francisco. During a visit to South Africa to observe elections around the time of 10th anniversary of the end of apartheid, Gardner met with Nelson Mandela to discuss possible investment in South African emerging markets as indicated in his 2006 autobiography. Gardner is reportedly developing an investment venture with South Africa that will create hundreds of jobs and introduce millions in foreign currency into the nation. Gardner has declined to disclose details of the project citing securities laws.

Chris Gardner is a philanthropist who sponsors many charitable organizations, primarily the *Cara Program* and the Glide Memorial United Methodist Church in San Francisco, where he and his son received desperately-needed shelter. He has helped fund a US\$50 million project in San Francisco that creates low-income housing and opportunities for employment in the area of the city where he was once homeless. As well as offering monetary support, Gardner donates clothing and shoes. He makes himself available for permanent job placement assistance, career counseling and comprehensive job training for the homeless population and at-risk communities in Chicago.

Dedicated to the well-being of children through positive paternal involvement, Gardner serves on the board of the National Fatherhood Initiative (NFI). He is also a board member of the *National Education Foundation* and sponsors two annual education awards: the *National Education Association's National Educational Support Personnel Award* and the *American Federation of Teachers' Paraprofessionals and School-Related Personnel Award*.

In 2002, Gardner received the *Father of the Year Award* from the NFI. Since then, Gardner also had the honor of receiving the *25th Annual*

*Humanitarian Award* and the *2006 Friends of Africa Award*, presented by the *Los Angeles Commission on Assaults Against Women (LACAAW)* and by the *Continental Africa Chamber of Commerce*, respectively and in 2008, he spoke at his daughter's graduation from Hampton University.

Gardner realized his story had Hollywood potential after an overwhelming national response to an interview he did with *20/20* in January 2002. He published his autobiography on May 23, 2006, before becoming an associate producer of the major motion picture *The Pursuit of Happyness*, directed by Gabriele Muccino and released by Columbia Pictures on December 15, 2006. The unusual spelling of the film's title comes from a sign Gardner saw when he was homeless. In the film, "happiness" is misspelled outside the daycare facility Gardner's son attends.

In the hope Gardner's story would inspire the down-trodden citizens of Chattanooga, Tennessee to achieve financial independence and to take greater responsibility for the welfare of their families, the mayor of Chattanooga organized a viewing of the film for the city's homeless. Gardner himself felt that it was imperative to share his story for the sake of its widespread social issues. "When I talk about alcoholism in the household, domestic violence,



child abuse, illiteracy, and all of those issues—those are universal issues; those are not just confined to ZIP codes," he said.

Gardner was noticeably absent from the movie's (The Pursuit of Happyness) premiere on December 15, 2006. He chose, instead, to be the guest inspirational speaker at a Christmas party for JHT Holdings, Inc., in Kenosha, Wisconsin.

Gardner was featured in the Canadian documentary *Come on Down: Searching for the American Dream* (2004), where he spoke about the American Dream at his office in downtown Chicago. The documentary also featured Bob Barker and Hunter S. Thompson. Gardner also made a cameo appearance in the 2008 comedy film *The Promotion*, where he played a community leader.

## CHAPTER III

### DATA ANALYSIS

#### 3.1 Sociological Approach in the Novel

Sociological approach in its early appearance had been seen literature as a mirror of history, especially history about economic and technology's development, and class contrast history. All kind of human activities, like culture, economic, and industry gave spirit and big influence to the authors. Literature analysis must be directed to the authors. They have high value if they be able to recapitulate the breath of era into their creations.

Based on the historical approach which developed to sociological approach, American dream is a history of trust and desire about the wealth of United States. Everybody who arrived there can make true his or her dream, both in pursue happiness, wealth and success because American dream is the National ethos of United States of America in which democratic ideals are perceived as a promise of prosperity for its people. American dream has also influenced Chris Gardner in pursuit his success.

In literature, sociological approach started from an assumption that literature is the reflection of human life. Through literature authors express their problems or human problems in which they are involved because they are part of society. Literature approves influence from the society and gives it to them. Sociological approach is used to analyze the life background of the authors, their ideology, education, vision, and also their environment.

In "The Pursuit of Happiness" the story described about Chris Gardner's life journey as a native Milwaukee, just out of the navy, arrived in San Francisco to pursue his success. The story is the essence of American dream which described about Chris Gardner's struggling in pursuit his success. A story about hardship, hard work, homeless or vagrant, and also universal topics like, domestic violence, alcoholic in household, child abuse, illiteracy and poverty. Besides it, the story gives the readers a lesson how to take care child for a man who a single parent and a comprehension about discrepancy between poor and wealth people or bourgeois. All of it has done in San Francisco.

San Francisco is the place which Chris Gardner began to pursue his dream. It is a city which popular as international tourist destination, renowned for its chilly summer fog, steep rolling hills, electric mix of Victorian and

modern architecture and its famous landmarks, including the Golden Gate Bridge, the cable cars, and Chinatown. The city is also a principal banking and finance centre, and the home of over 30 international financial institutions, helping to make San Francisco fifteenth in the list of cities by GDP and eight in the United States. San Francisco has also ever become the explosion of jobs many people, especially African American from the south to the area.

San Francisco has two names those are “The Land of Milk and Honey” and Emerald City of Oz. it is a glitter city, and according to Chris Gardner in the novel said that “the beauty of San Francisco was sweep up my sadness remind. It is also deceive, moreover cruel sometimes. Not always easy to fight and survive there”. (Gardner, 2007:5)

Chris Gardner was born 1954 in Milwaukee which at the moment, the Government of United States outgone the fourteenth announcement which has content about prohibition to schools in order to not do the discrimination between white and colored skin included black in entire of part nations in United States.

There were so many conflicts in San Francisco as a result of the increasing out of homeless or vagrant population in its period. The government stated that in last of decade, homeless epidemic has extended and

developed as a result of some factors, such as the decision of drastic deduction of government's budget to all mental health facilities, and also the limited treatment decision for some Vietnam war's veterans who experienced post-traumatic depression, with alcoholic addicted and drugs.

The bad habit or disease epidemic of society has also in many other areas in United States. As long as the winter which has long and cold in 1982, when the government decided to subtract poor citizen's helping program, economic condition in Bay Area and the other part of United States in lowering or discharger. On the time, working and housing that proper was hardest to found. The condition became one cause of easy access to found cheap drugs in roads, like angel-dust and PCP (Psychotropic group II, kind of narcotics).

In the other place, some businessman has complained that many tourists scared to visit as a result of vagrant. Besides it, if people ever went to San Francisco in early 1980, people might not felt that it is in crisis which made the city in lowing. But, people might ever warn to watch over their self from the gamblers, immoral woman, drugs opium addict and snatchers. This condition in Milwaukee has called as "just went crazy" area. In San Francisco, people can see long line-up in buying primary foods, the increase number of beggar until repeatedly again and many times over. Women and children who

stay in accommodating place which dense exceed capacity. The adolescent who leaved out from home, or vagrants who slept in the site street, parking areas, bus and train stations and under bridge. Besides it, the work presentation also which poor has raised, until they can categorized as vagrant too, because actually they have income, but it is not suffice for their family's needs.

These are the life condition in San Francisco, in the years which Chris Gardner who has in same experienced destiny like as vagrant, which began to pursued his dream. In the period also, disorder happened in United States, such as outbreak of America-Vietnam's war, demonstrations in pursue civil right, disturbances and killing, hippies and much politic activities. All troubles which has happened in United States, especially in San Francisco at the moment, has influenced to made Chris Gardner's opinions about his self, nations, worlds and also about life.

The life journey of Chris Gardner from Milwaukee to the city of success (San Francisco), was writing in a novel after wards. It has read of so many people in the world. The story has inspired them. So that, there are some comments of the readers about the story.

Reverend Cecil Williams, Glide United Methodist Church (2007) said that, this is a real story, fantastic, amazing, enthusiastic, and also it is about universal life story. This story can give us new knowledge about discrepancy between poor people and rich people or bourgeoisies which more and more wide. The Pursuit of Happiness will make the reader of this story can not sleep a night, if they like new knowledge.

Besides it, according to Donald Trump (2007) that it is a story which inspiring reader about how surprised an enthusiasm of a man who pursuit his happiness in a sparkling or glorious place like San Francisco, and Chris Gardner still exist there. This story gave precious lessons about the important meaning of strong desire and a violent story.

Their comments are indicates that this story has inspired many people and it can be a motivation for them and the others in getting their dream.

### **3.2 American Dream in the Novel**

Everybody has a dream and it is different for each other. The dream has so many orientations, such as money orientation, happiness, even their orientation to the heaven. There are also want to success in their career, make happy their beloved people, and so on. Chris Gardner has also a man who

pursued his dream or desire for the sake of making his children and his beloved people.

The dream can not realize without effort, hard working, optimism, motivation, enthusiasm, ambition, sacrifice and strong seriousness about the desire which he or she pursue. Likewise, Chris Gardner has struggled to get his dream.

This novel described, about Chris Gardner's extraordinary journey from homelessness to success as a stockbroker, all while supporting his young son as a single parent. He is an African American who lives in San Francisco. He is the owner and CEO of Christopher Gardner International Holdings with offices in New York, Chicago and San Francisco. Surmounting acute obstacles on his road to success, Gardner is an avid motivational speaker, addressing the keys to self-empowerment, beating odds and breaking cycles. Gardner is also a passionate philanthropist committed to many charitable organizations. He is currently working at an investment project in South Africa that seeks to improve the lives of thousands of previously disadvantaged South African entrepreneurs.

The amazing story of Gardner's life was published as a novel, *The Pursuit of Happiness*, story of his struggling to pursuit his success. Always



hard working and tenacious, a series of circumstances in the early 1980's left Gardner homeless in San Francisco and the sole guardian of his toddler son. Unwilling to give up Chris Jr. or his dream of financial independence, Gardner started at the bottom. Without connections or college degree, he earned a spot in the Dean Witter Reynolds training program. Often spending his night in a church shelter or the bathroom at Bay Area Rapid Transit station in Oakland, Gardner was the sole trainee offered a job at Dean Witter Reynolds in 1981. He spent 1983-1987 at Bear Stearns & Co, where he became a top earner, and then in 1987, he founded the brokerage firm Gardner Rich & Co in Chicago.

Chris Gardner was born on February 9, 1954 in Milwaukee, Wisconsin. Gardner never knew his father. He lived with his stepsisters, stepfather and his mother, Bettye Jean Gardner, whom he adored and, when necessary, in foster homes. Despite a life of hardship and emotional scarring, his mother provided him with strong "spiritual genetics" and taught him some of the greatest lessons of his life, which he follows to this day. Bettye Jean convinced him that in spite of where he came from, he could attain whatever goals he set for himself by saying "if you want to, one day you could make a million dollars". Gardner believed this to be fact, and knew he would have to find a career he

could be passionate about and one that would allow him to “be word-class at something”.

Gardner life was full with bitterness and difficulty. He was growing up in the family which his cruel stepfather was an alcoholic who has very violence sometimes. But his mother became his inspiration to be strong and independence since he was child until adolescent which has formed him till adult. Moreover, he has a family and a child, Christopher Jr, the bitterness always escort in his life. His new family life was disarray or disorder and ever became vagrant. Even, in several times he and his son spending their night in a church shelter or at the bathroom of a Bay Area Rapid Transit station.

Although in hardness life, he did not want to neglect his son. Because he did not want his son feel same as him, suffered because he has no lived with his father. So, wherever he went he always brought his son, even at his work place.

The hardness experience in life has become one of his motivations in struggled and fight to exist he and his son’s life in pursuit his success. He always remembered his mother who said that the words very important in English language are “please and thank you”. He always practiced these words and it always motivated him. Besides it, if he met every success people

he would be asking two questions were “what do you do? And how do you do that?”. It is point out that Gardner is a man who very enthusiastic. As we know that in American dream, there are enthusiasm, optimism, motivation, ambition, hard work, sacrifice, etc. Chris Gardner has done everything in American Dream. Such as enthusiasm with guess two questions for every success people he met.

“The Pursuit of Happiness” is about American dream and commitment to family in the face of great odd. The novel is fictionalized but stays true to Gardner’s struggle for success and dedication to his son. A story of hardship and hard work, paternal love and frustration, could easily be too saccharine for words. It’s saved from this fate by Chris Gardner desperation. Behind his indomitable pluck, Gardner is truly desperate. He has no money, no home, uncertain prospects, and the responsibility of providing for a young child. He hides his circumstances from his colleagues. He’s spends an inordinate amount of energy chasing errant bone scanners around town. He compromises his ethics. His single-mindedness eventually brought him in Wall Street. He has get his success and made real his American dream in his life.

American dream, as we know that there are motivations in builds success people. Chris Gardner has also many motivations in his life journey to

be success. Such as, his mother's words, hardness, homeless, poverty, racism, etc, it has motivated him to move or act. As the theory of Branca (1965: 383) that motivation drives from Latin's word "movere" means to move. When we attempt to learn why people move to do the thing they do, we are interested in motivation and in motivated behavior. Besides it according to Guerin (1979: 324) that motivation is the reason for the character's action. So, we can identify that there are many motivations of Chris Gardner in moving or struggling to success and made real his dream.

Basically, everyone has an ambitious attitude and potency. Its attitude and potency are motivations which can bring a function or advantage if they are used to get a good purpose. As according to Sujanto (1993: 178) that

"Ambition can not always be identified with something ugly or bad. It could only become a negative meaning if it's owned and directed an overflowing of somebody's desire to reach his or her own target without carrying and thinking the situation of his or her environment. Ambition could become positive value if this matter is used as capital to get a good aim or idea without damage another people".

In this story "The Pursuit of Happiness", Chris Gardner counted the person who has positive ambition. We can find it in his struggling to pursue his dream through good way.

Besides it, we can see that he has positive ambition because according to him in the novel;

“Money is not something significant for wealth. My income is not reach four hundred order of succession people by Forbes. And I have not ambition that my name is include in the list. But, I am healthy as a single parent with a lot of help. I’ve raised two children that have become special young people although without their mother until they grow become young people who has conspicuous achievement. And the last, I work in position which reflects the value that I am confess. That’s wealth definition to me”. (Gardner, 2007:393)

With following this statement, we can find that Chris Gardner is include in the people who have positive ambition and it is one of the elements of American dream.

American dream according to historian and writer James Truslow Adams in his 1931 book *Epic of America*:

“The American Dream is that dream of a land in which life should be better and richer and fuller for everyone, with opportunity for each according to ability or achievement. It is a difficult dream for the European upper classes to interpret adequately, and too many of us ourselves have grown weary and mistrustful of it. It is not a dream of motor cars and high wages merely, but a dream of social order in which each man and each woman shall be able to attain to the fullest stature of which they are innately capable, and be recognized by others for what they are, regardless of the fortuitous circumstances of birth or position”. (Adams, 1931: 27)

This is one of statements about American Dream, one dream of the people who comes to America includes African American are to get their

dream to success although they were become slave on the name of racism. Chris Gardner has also moved from Milwaukee to San Francisco for one reason. It is American dream.

In the novel, Chris Gardner is one of African American who success in make real his dream without carrying racism in his business world in Dean Witter although he was only one black skin there, which lowed from his partners in Dean Witter office sometimes. Dean Witter was the place which the first time he worked as a broker.

Gardner successes to prove that American dream is the dream of everybody without exception, because according to him American dream is the freedom in pursue something wishes without carrying with racism, caste, country, and so on. It is the opportunity of everybody.

In this novel, we find that Chris Gardner is not a man who got his success suddenly. He has ever fall down, both in financial and his self life. But, his optimism, enthusiasm, motivation, hard work, and sacrifice has brought him in getting his dream became real. Eventually, he can get Wall Street, a famous brokerage company in the world. He has struggled with totality.

More than a memoir of Gardner's financial success, this is the story of a man who breaks his own family's cycle of men abandoning their children. Chris Gardner has strong optimism which escorted him in the hill of happiness. Gardner's life journey is the essence of real American dream.

### **3.2 The Happiness Means for the Main Character**

Everybody has a dream to be happy. Happiness is a feeling that God gives to everyone, but it depends on the effort of them to get it. However, the real happiness always surrounding with hardness, unpleasant, sacrifices and challenges. It often becomes motivations to many people in getting their dream.

According to Guerin (1979: 324) that motivation is the reason for the character's action. So, in this novel "The Pursuit of Happiness", Gardner as the main character, used his hardship, homeless, or his life experience as motivations to pursuit his happiness.

Besides it, social order or racism can also be general thing which can be a motivation in reach happiness or success. It has motivated many success figures in the world especially in America. Such as, Martin Luther, Oprah Winfrey, Chris Gardner, etc.

From zero to hero, they were struggling and fighting to defend their life or their community's life. For example, Martin Luther has struggled for the human right of black people in the land of slavery, racism and "American Dream". Oprah Winfrey, according to the 2009 Forbes International Billionaire List, Oprah Winfrey with a net worth of \$2.7 billion is the richest black person in the world, and was once the world's only black billionaire. Besides it, Chris Gardner also an African American has pursuit his happiness there.

In the title of novel "Happyyness" spelled with a "Y", it has reason why the novel title was like that. According to Gardner when the CNBC has interviewed him in 2007:

"There was a place called "Happyyness" that became very, very important to my son and I. they spelled happiness with a "Y". It was Happyyness Daycare Center. In the cover of the novel, Y is in a different color. I wanted that for a very particular reason because I want people to start thinking about, well, you and your happiness and what make you happy. And everyone you talk to today is probably going to have a different definition of happiness". (www. CNBC.com, 2007)

The author wrote that everyone has their own meaning in define happiness. "Happiness" according to Chris Gardner is as a workaholic like him, happiness is if he can get his leisure time from his busiest activities and uses for enjoyed some goodtime. (Gardner, 2007: 393)



Besides it, Gardner said that happiness for him is if he is healthy. As a single parent with a lot of help, he has raised two children that have become fabulous, young people. And he is now in a position to do work that reflects his values that makes him happy.

In this novel, which talked about Chris Gardner's extraordinary journey from homelessness to success as a stockbroker, while all supporting his young son as a single parent. He can get his happiness is one of the implementation of "American Dream".

### **3.4 History of African-American**

The Black people in America are primarily descended from slaves sold to British North America (which later became Canada and the United States) during the Atlantic slave trade.

By 1860, there were 3.5 million enslaved Africans in the Southern United States, and another 500,000 Africans live free across the country. In 1863, during the American Civil War, President Abraham Lincoln signed the Emancipation Proclamation. The proclamation declared all slaves in states that have seceded from the union were free. Advancing Union troops enforced the proclamation with Texas being the last state to be emancipated in 1865.

While the post-war reconstruction era was initially a time of progress for African-Americans, in the late 1890s, Southern states enacted Jim Crow laws to enforce racial segregation and disenfranchisement. Most African-Americans followed the Jim Crow laws and assumed a posture of humility and servility to prevent becoming victims of racially motivated violence. To maintain self-esteem and dignity, middle-class African Americans created their own school, churches, banks, social clubs, and other businesses.

In the last decade of the nineteenth century in the United States, racially discriminatory laws and racial violence aimed at African Americans began to mushroom. These discriminatory acts included racial segregation – upheld by the United States Supreme Court decision in *Plessy V. Ferguson* in 1896 – which has legally mandated by southern states and nationwide at the local level of government, voter suppression or disenfranchisement in the southern states, denial of economic opportunity or resources nationwide, and private acts of violence and mass racial violence aimed at African Americans unhindered or encouraged by government authorities. The desperate condition of African Americans in the South that sparked the Great Migration of the early 20<sup>th</sup> century, combined with a growing African Americans intellectual and cultural elite in the Northern United States, led to a movement to fight

violence and discrimination against African Americans that, like abolitionism before it, crossed racial lines. The Civil Rights Movement aimed at abolishing public and private acts of racial discrimination against African Americans between 1954 to 1968, particularly in the southern United States.

In 1966, the emergence of the Black Power Movement, which lasted from 1966 to 1975, expanded upon the aims of the Civil Rights Movement to include racial dignity, economic and political self sufficiency, and freedom from white authority. The March on Washington for Jobs and Freedom and the condition which brought it into being are credited with putting pressure on President John F. Kennedy and then Lyndon B. Johnson that culminated in the passage the Civil Rights Act of 1964 that banned discrimination in public accommodations, employment, and labor unions.

Yet, there are some believe that is another part of the history on how the African-American came along to gain better life.

The Portuguese brought the first slaves grew, eight distinct slave-trading regions developed in Africa: West Central Africa, Bight of Benin, Bight of Biafra, Gold Coast, Senegambia, South East Africa, Upper Guinea, and Windward Coast. West Central Africa being the largest source. The American slave population was made up of the various ethnic groups from

these regions including the Bokongo, Mbulu, Yourba, Fon, Nupe, Ibo, Wolof, Fulbe, and Serer amongst others. Once mixed together in the Americas, these different people began to forge a new history and culture based on their similarities.

African-Americans have improved their social economic standing significantly since the Civil Rights Movement and recent decades have witnessed the expansion of a robust, African American middle class across the United States. Unprecedented access to higher education and employment has been gained by African-Americans in the post-civil rights era. Nevertheless, due in part to the legacy of slavery, racism and discrimination, African-Americans as a group remains at a pronounced economic, educational and social disadvantage in many areas relative to whites. Persistent social, economic and political issues for many African-Americans include inadequate health care access and delivery; institutional racism and discrimination in housing, education, policing, criminal justice and employment; crime, poverty and substance abuse. One of the most serious and long standing issues within African-American communities is poverty.

Poverty itself is a hardship as it is related to marital stress and dissolution, health problems, low educational attainment, deficits in

psychological functioning, and crime. But there still some African-American who are still living under the pressure of their society.

The terms Negro or Colored, which were widely used until mid 1960s, have become inappropriate or derogatory. Once widely considered acceptable, Negro and Colored fell into disfavor for reasons already herein stated. The self-referential term of preference for Negro became black. The term survives in certain historical organizations such as the United Negro College Fund and defunct organizations like the Negro Leagues as well as the National Association for the advancement of Colored people.

The term African-American carries important political overtones. Earlier, terms used to identify Americans of African ancestry and were included in the wording of various laws and legal decisions which became tools of white supremacy and oppression.

With the political consciousness that emerged from the political and social ferment of the late 1960s and early 1970s, the term Negro fell into disfavor among many blacks in the U.S., particularly African-American youth, celebrated their blackness and their historical and cultural ties with the African continent. The Black Power movement defiantly embraced Black as a group identifier – a term they themselves had repudiated only two decades

earlier – a term often associated in English with things negative and undesirable, proclaiming, “Black is beautiful”.

In this same period, a smaller number favored Afro-American in the 1980s the term African-American was coined on the model of, for example, German American. It was largely popularized by Jesse Jackson, and quickly adopted by major media outlets. Many blacks in America expressed a preference for the term as it was formed in the same way as the names for other ethnic groups.

Some argue further that, because of the historical circumstances surrounding the capture, enslavement and systematic attempts to de-Africanize black in the U.S. under chattel slavery, most African Americans are unable to trace their ancestry to a specific African nation; hence, the entire continent serves as a geographic marker.

African-American history is the portion of American history that specifically discusses the African American or Black American ethnic group in the United States. Most African Americans are the descendants of captive Africans held in the United States from 1619 to 1865. Blacks from the Caribbean whose ancestors immigrated, or who themselves immigrated to the U.S., also traditionally have been considered African American, as they share

a common history of predominantly West African or Central African roots, the Middle Passage and slavery. These people, who in the past were referred to and self-identified collectively as the American Negro who now generally consider themselves African-Americans. It is these peoples whose history is celebrated and highlighted annually in the United States during February, designated as Black History Month.

**Afro-American** is an alternative to the term African American, referring to an American of African ancestry. It also can be used as an umbrella term to refer to all descendants of Africans slaves to the Americas during the Atlantic slave trade. The term had gained currency by 1890 but was surpassed by other terms, such as "colored". It returned to general usage in the 1960s and 1970s. Its former prominence can still be seen in several pop culture terms.

### **3.4.1 The Career of African-American in USA**

Two black people have held the title of richest self-made woman in America, and those same two women simultaneously held the title of richest African American. The first was Madam C.J. Walker (1867-1919), an African-American woman who became America's first self-made woman

millionaire and the richest African-American of her day. The second was Oprah Winfrey who in 2007 overtook Ebay CEO Margaret Whitman as the richest self-made woman in America and was described by Forbes as the richest African American of the 20th century. Like Walker, Winfrey is one of the greatest philanthropists of her time. Although Winfrey's show is known for raising money through her public charity and the cars and gifts she gives away on TV are often donated by corporations in exchange for publicity, behind the scenes Winfrey personally donates more of her own money to charity than any other show business celebrity in America. In 2005 she became the first black listed by Business Week as one of America's top 50 most generous philanthropists, having given an estimated \$250 million. Despite being the 235th richest American in 2005, Winfrey was the 32nd most philanthropic. Much of Winfrey's charity goes towards educating girls in South Africa while Walker's philanthropy supported the NAACP, the Tuskegee Institute and Bethune-Cookman College.

Since 1870, 123 African Americans have served in the United States Congress. This figure includes five non-voting members of the House of Representatives who represented the District of Columbia and the U.S. Virgin



Islands. In addition, in 1868, one candidate was elected to the House but was not seated due to an election dispute.

The Great Migration of blacks from the rural south to northern cities such as New York, Philadelphia, Chicago, Detroit, and Cleveland from 1910 to 1940 began to produce black-majority Congressional districts in the North, where blacks could exercise their right to vote. In the two waves of the Great Migration, millions of blacks moved north and west and became urban.

In 1928, Oscar De Priest won the 1st Congressional District of Illinois (the South Side of Chicago) as a Republican, becoming the first black Congressman of the modern era. De Priest was also the last black Republican in the House for 56 years.

The election of President Franklin D. Roosevelt in 1932 led to a shift of black voting loyalties from Republican to Democrat, as Roosevelt's New Deal programs offered economic relief to blacks. From 1940 to 1970, nearly five million blacks moved north and also west, especially to California in the second wave of the Great Migration. By the 1960s, virtually all black voters were Democrats and most were voting in states outside the former Confederacy.

It was not until passage of the Voting Rights Act of 1965, a culmination of years of effort by African Americans and allies, that blacks within the Southern states recovered their ability to exercise their rights to vote and to live with full civil rights. Legal segregation ended. Accomplishing voter registration and redistricting to implement the sense of the law took more time.

The only Southern cities to have black majority districts were Atlanta, Houston, Memphis and New Orleans. The only Southern rural area to have a black majority district was the Mississippi Delta area in Mississippi.

Until 1992, most black House members were elected from inner-city districts in the North and West: Baltimore, Chicago, Cleveland, Detroit, Los Angeles, New York City, Newark, New Jersey, Philadelphia and St. Louis all elected at least one black member. Following the 1990 census, the districts needed to be redrawn due to the population shifts of the country. However, there were various court decisions to have districts created with the intent of creating some where the majority of the population were African Americans. In order to comply with the courts, the districts were redrawn by a process called gerrymandering.

Gerrymandering is when the districts are drawn, the end results an oddly shaped map to encompass a particular group. In this case, grotesquely shaped districts were created to link widely separated black communities. Due to this method, several black members of the House were elected from Alabama, Florida, rural Georgia, rural Louisiana, North Carolina, South Carolina and Virginia for the first time since Reconstruction. Additional black majority districts were also created in this way in California, Maryland and Texas, thus increasing the number of black-majority districts. The process was supported by both parties. The Democrats saw it as a way to connect to their black voters easily, which historically voted for the Democrats. The Republicans saw it as a way to win seats more easily, since many of the Democratic voters were moved out of their districts. By the year 2000, this resulted in the Republicans' holding a majority of white-majority House districts. However, the Democratic Party had become identified as "black" in Southern states, thus alienating white voters from the Democratic Party.

Since the 1940s, when decades of the Great Migration resulted in millions of African Americans having migrated from the South, no state has had a majority of African-American residents. Because of this, an African-American candidate cannot rely on the black vote alone to be elected to the

Senate. This means the candidate must reach out to other races and groups to become elected to the United States Senate and to many congressional seats. Despite this issue, four African Americans have been elected to the Senate since the 1940s: Edward W. Brooke, a liberal Republican from Massachusetts; and Carol Moseley Braun, Barack Obama, and Roland Burris (appointed to a vacancy) - all Democrats from Illinois. Many more African Americans have created supporting coalitions to be elected as mayors of cities (including those without a black majority).

According to the 2009 Forbes International Billionaire List, Oprah Winfrey with a net worth of \$2.7 billion is the richest black person in the world, and was once the world's only black billionaire. Close behind is Nigeria's Aliko Dangote with \$2.5 billion, Nigerian petroleum executive Femi Otedola with \$1.6 billion. and South African gold magnate, Patrice Motsepe with \$1.3 billion. Dangote and Motsepe are the first black Africans to ever appear on the Forbes international rich list, however, Mobutu, the Congolese president, and Sani Abacha, the Nigerian military leader, were probably billionaires when they were alive but Forbes could never confirm this (according to Forbes magazine's Kerry Dolan).

From 2001-2003, Forbes listed Black Entertainment Television founder Bob Johnson as a billionaire, but dropped him after his fortune was split in his divorce from his wife Sheila. He returned to Forbes international rich list in 2007 with a net worth of \$1.1 billion USD. In 2008 Johnson's wealth dropped further to approximately \$1.0 billion USD even and in 2009 he dropped off the list again.

Afro-multiracial billionaires have also been identified. Forbes international richest list includes Michael Lee-Chin of Canada, who is of Chinese and Jamaican ancestry (with two black grandmothers and two Chinese grandfathers, both his parents are half black and half Chinese). Saudi-Arabian billionaire Mohammed Al Amoudi has black ancestry because his mother is from Ethiopia, but rich lists classify him as Arab because his father is from Yemen. Also included is Mo Ibrahim, a British billionaire of Sudanese Nubian ancestry.

Of all the black or Afro-multiracial billionaires identified by Forbes, only Oprah Winfrey qualified for Forbes 2009 list of the world's 20 most powerful billionaires, a list which considered not only wealth, but also market sway and political clout. Winfrey was considered especially powerful because

of her influence on American consumer choices and because of the pivotal role she played in electing Barack Obama president.

### **3.4.2 The Setting of San Francisco**

San Francisco is the fourth most populous city in California and the 12th most populous city in the United States, with a 2008 estimated population of 808,976. The only consolidated city-county in California, it encompasses a land area of 46.7 square miles (121 km<sup>2</sup>) on the northern end of the San Francisco Peninsula, making it the second-most densely populated large city (greater than 200,000 population) in the United States. San Francisco is also the financial, cultural, and transportation center of the larger San Francisco Bay Area, a region of 7.4 million people.

In 1776, the Spanish established a fort at the Golden Gate and a mission named for Francis of Assisi on the site. After three-quarters of the city was destroyed by the 1906 earthquake and fire, San Francisco was quickly rebuilt, hosting the Panama-Pacific International Exposition nine years later. During World War II, San Francisco was the port of embarkation for service members shipping out to the Pacific Theater. After the war, the confluence of returning servicemen, massive immigration, liberalizing attitudes, and other factors led

to the Summer of Love and the gay rights movement, cementing San Francisco as a center of liberal activism in the United States.

Today, San Francisco is a popular international tourist destination, renowned for its chilly summer fog, steep rolling hills, eclectic mix of Victorian and modern architecture and its famous landmarks, including the Golden Gate Bridge, the cable cars, and Chinatown. The city is also a principal banking and finance center, and the home of over 30 international financial institutions, helping to make San Francisco fifteenth in the world's list of cities by GDP and eighth in the United States.

About the history, the earliest archaeological evidence of inhabitation of the territory of the city of San Francisco dates to 3000 BC. People of the Ohlone language group occupied Northern California from at least the 6th century. Though their territory had been claimed by Spain since the early 16th century, they would have relatively little contact with Europeans until 1769, when, as part of an effort to colonize Alta California, an exploration party led by Don Gaspar de Portola learned of the existence of San Francisco Bay.

Seven years later, in 1776, an expedition led by Juan Bautista de Anza selected the site for the Presidio of San Francisco, which Jose Joaquin Moraga would soon establish. Later the same year, the Franciscan missionary

Francisco Palóu founded the Mission San Francisco de Asís (Mission Dolores). The Yelamu tribal group of the Ohlone, who had had several villages in the area, were among those brought to live and work at the mission and be converted into the Catholic faith.

Upon independence from Spain in 1821, the area became part of Mexico. Under Mexican rule, the mission system gradually ended and its lands began to be privatized. In 1835, Englishman William Richardson erected the first independent homestead, near a boat anchorage around what is today Portsmouth Square. Together with Alcalde Francisco de Haro, he laid out a street plan for the expanded settlement, and the town, named Yerba Buena, began to attract American settlers. Commodore John D. Sloat claimed California for the United States on July 7, 1846, during the Mexican-American War, and Captain John B. Montgomery arrived to claim Yerba Buena two days later. Yerba Buena was renamed San Francisco the next year, and Mexico officially ceded the territory to the United States at the end of the war. Despite its attractive location as a port and naval base, San Francisco was still a small settlement with inhospitable geography.

The California Gold Rush brought a flood of treasure seekers. With their sourdough bread in tow, prospectors accumulated in San Francisco over



rival Benicia, raising the population from 1,000 in 1848 to 25,000 by December 1849. The promise of fabulous riches was so strong that crews on arriving vessels deserted and rushed off to the gold fields, leaving behind a forest of masts in San Francisco harbor. California was quickly granted statehood, and the U.S. military built Fort Point at the Golden Gate and a fort on Alcatraz Island to secure the San Francisco Bay. Silver discoveries, including the Comstock Lode in 1859, further drove rapid population growth. With hordes of fortune seekers streaming through the city, lawlessness was common, and the Barbary Coast section of town gained notoriety as a haven for criminals, prostitution, and gambling.

During World War II, the Hunters Point Naval Shipyard became a hub of activity, and Fort Mason became the primary port of embarkation for service members shipping out to the Pacific Theater of Operations. The explosion of jobs drew many people, especially African Americans from the South, to the area. After the end of the war, many military personnel returning from service abroad and civilians who had originally come to work decided to stay. The UN Charter creating the United Nations was drafted and signed in San Francisco in 1945 and, in 1951, the Treaty of San Francisco officially ended the war with Japan.

Urban planning projects in the 1950s and 1960s saw widespread destruction and redevelopment of west side neighborhoods and the construction of new freeways, of which only a series of short segments were built before being halted by citizen-led opposition. The Transamerica Pyramid was completed in 1972, and in the 1980s the Manhattanization of San Francisco saw extensive high-rise development downtown. Port activity moved to Oakland, the city began to lose industrial jobs, and San Francisco began to turn to tourism as the most important segment of its economy. The suburbs experienced rapid growth, and San Francisco underwent significant demographic change, as large segments of the white population left the city, supplanted by an increasing wave of immigration from Asia and Latin America. Over this period, San Francisco became a magnet for America's counterculture. Beat Generation writers fueled the San Francisco Renaissance and centered on the North Beach neighborhood in the 1950s. Hippies flocked to Haight-Ashbury in the 1960s, reaching a peak with the 1967 Summer of Love. In the 1970s, the city became a center of the gay rights movement, with the emergence of The Castro as an urban gay village, the election of Harvey Milk to the Board of Supervisors, and his assassination, along with that of Mayor George Moscone, in 1978.

San Francisco is located on the West Coast of the United States at the tip of the San Francisco Peninsula and includes significant stretches of the Pacific Ocean and San Francisco Bay within its boundaries. Several islands—Alcatraz, Treasure Island, and the adjacent Yerba Buena Island, and a small portion of Alameda Island, Red Rock Island, and Angel Island are part of the city.

San Francisco is famous for its hills. There are more than 50 hills within city limits. Some neighborhoods are named after the hill on which they are situated, including Nob Hill, Pacific Heights, and Russian Hill.

The historic center of San Francisco is the northeast quadrant of the city bordered by Market Street to the south. It is here that the Financial District is centered, with Union Square, the principal shopping and hotel district, nearby. Cable cars carry riders up steep inclines to the summit of Nob Hill, once the home of the city's business tycoons, and down to Fisherman's Wharf, a tourist area featuring Dungeness crab from a still-active fishing industry. Also in this quadrant are Russian Hill, a residential neighborhood with the famously crooked Lombard Street, North Beach, the city's Little Italy, and Telegraph Hill, which features Coit Tower. Nearby is San Francisco's Chinatown, established in the 1860s. The Tenderloin is frequently described as the worst

neighborhood in the city by tourist guides. The Mission District was populated in the 19th century by Californios and working-class immigrants from Germany, Ireland, Italy and Scandinavia. In the 1910s, a wave of Central American immigrants settled in the Mission and, in the 1950s, immigrants from Mexico began to predominate. Recent years have seen rapid gentrification primarily along the Valencia Street corridor which is strongly associated with modern hipster sub-culture. Haight-Ashbury, famously associated with 1960s hippie culture, later became home to expensive boutiques and a few controversial chain stores, although it still retains some bohemian character. Historically known as Eureka Valley, the area now popularly called the Castro is the center of gay life in the city.

The city's Japantown district suffered when its Japanese American residents were forcibly removed and interned during World War II. The nearby Western Addition became established with a large *African American* population at the same time. The "Painted Ladies," a row of well-restored Victorian homes, stand alongside Alamo Square, and the mansions built by the San Francisco business elite in the wake of the 1906 earthquake can be found in Pacific Heights. The Marina to the north is a lively area with many young urban professionals.

There are more than 200 parks maintained by the San Francisco Recreation and Parks Department. The largest and best-known city park is Golden Gate Park, which stretches from the center of the city west to the Pacific Ocean. Once covered in native grasses and sand dunes, the park was conceived in the 1860s and was created by the extensive planting of thousands of non-native trees and plants. The large park is rich with cultural and natural attractions such as the Conservatory of Flowers, Japanese Tea Garden and San Francisco Botanical Garden.

San Francisco is characterized by a high standard of living. The great wealth and opportunity generated by the Internet revolution continues to draw many highly educated and high-income workers and residents to San Francisco. Lower-income neighborhoods consequently have become increasingly gentrified, and many of the city's traditional business and industrial districts have experienced a renaissance driven by the redevelopment of the Embarcadero, including the neighborhoods South Beach and Mission Bay.

Following the arrival of writers and artists of the 1950s—who established the modern coffeehouse culture—and the social upheavals of the 1960s, San Francisco became an epicenter of liberal activism, with Democrats

and Greens dominating city politics. Indeed, San Franciscans have not provided a Republican presidential candidate more than 20% of the vote since the 1988 election. The city's large gay population has created and sustained a politically and culturally active community over many decades, developing a powerful presence in San Francisco's civic life. A popular destination for gay tourists, the city hosts San Francisco Pride, an annual parade and festival.

San Francisco's War Memorial and Performing Arts Center hosts some of the most enduring performing-arts companies in the U.S. The War Memorial Opera House houses the San Francisco Opera, the second-largest opera company in North America as well as the San Francisco Ballet, while the San Francisco Symphony plays in Davies Symphony Hall. The Herbst Theatre stages an eclectic mix of music performances, as well as public radio's *City Arts & Lectures*.

The Fillmore is a music venue located in the Western Addition. It is the second incarnation of the historic venue that gained fame in the 1960s under concert promoter Bill Graham, housing the stage where now-famous musicians such as the Grateful Dead, Janis Joplin and Jefferson Airplane first performed, fostering the San Francisco Sound. *Beach Blanket Babylon* is a zany musical revue and a civic institution that has performed to sold-out

crowds in North Beach since 1974. Besides it, there are so many theater places.

Like many larger U.S. cities, San Francisco is a minority-majority city, as non-Hispanic whites comprise less than half of the population. The 2006–2008 American Community Survey estimated that 45.1% of the population was made up of non-Hispanic whites. Asians of any nationality make up 31.3% of the population with those of Chinese birth or descent constituting the largest single ethnic group in San Francisco at about one-fifth of the population. Hispanics of any race make up 14.0% of the population. San Francisco's African American population has declined in recent decades, from 13.4% in 1970 to 7.3%. The current percentage of African Americans in San Francisco is similar to that of the state of California; conversely, the city's percentage of Hispanic residents is less than half of that of the state. Native San Franciscans form a relatively small percentage of the city's population.

## CHAPTER IV

### CONCLUSION AND SUGGESTIONS

#### 4.1 Conclusion

American dream as a defined by a historian and writer, James Truslow Adams is a dream about a land (America) which everyone who come there, they can get success, wealth or happiness. Besides it, American dream in the novel means that success is the opportunity of everybody, such as Chris Gardner who success to prove American dream as the dream of everybody without exception. According to him, it is the freedom in pursuit something wishes without carrying with racism, caste, country, skin, and so on, because it is the opportunity of all people.

In getting his success Chris Gardner has fought. We can see his fighting when he started at the bottom, from homeless, bitterness, hardship, no money, broken home, and has to grew-up his five years old son alone. He and his son has often spent their night in a church shelter or in the bathroom at Bay Area Rapid Transit station in Oakland. He came to San Francisco to get his dream, without connections or college degree, he earned a spot in the Dean Witter Reynolds training program. That is his fight, only strong soul, enthusiasm,



hard work, sacrifices and optimism which he own can conduct him to his happiness. In his mind happiness means is if he healthy, as a single parent with a lot of help, he has rose his two children those have became fabulous young people. Besides it, as a workaholic like him, happiness is if he can get his leisure time from his busiest activities and uses for enjoyed some good time.

The writer concludes that success is the dreaming of everybody, but not all people know how to make it true. It is depend on how they can aim or point their dream to the reality which they hope. People who have strong determined, hard working, enthusiasm, and sacrifice can get it. Without carrying wherever he or she come from, colored, white or black, native people or outsider, like Chris Gardner a black man who pursued his success or happiness in America which it is the land of racism and land of American dream.

As the writer chose to elaborate the American dream in the story, he may describe the life journey of Chris Gardner, an African American from Milwaukee who arrived to San Francisco in pursuit his success which he called "Happyness".

Sociological approach in the novel is done in order to gain full information on how the life condition of Chris Gardner can motivate him to make his dream comes true.

#### **4.2 Suggestion**

The writer realizes that everybody can not succeed suddenly, especially in America. That's why, it would be appropriate for her colleagues to search more knowledge and information about American dream that still believe and happen in some parts of the world.

The writer would like to suggest that the study of American dream in the novel "The Pursuit of Happiness" should be intensified among the English Department. And the interest in reading the novel is very essential and should be increased for better understanding of literature.

The point of this writing is, success in life is beginning from a dream which realized materialized through actions.

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