THE FAILURES OF THE AMERICAN DREAMS IN THE DRAMA *AUGUST: OSAGE COUNTY* BY TRACY LETTS

Trinia Suciyati
Islamic State University Sulthan Thaha Saifuddin Jambi
triniasuci@gmail.com

Yenti
Islamic State University Sulthan Thaha Saifuddin Jambi
yenti@uinjambi.ac.id

Putri Ayu Lestari
Islamic State University Sulthan Thaha Saifuddin Jambi
putriayulestari@uinjambi.ac.id

Abstract:
The American Dream is the American concept of opportunity, freedom, and prosperity, often associated with the possibility of limitless achievement and a better life. For many people around the world, America is the epitome of big dreams and opportunities to achieve personal goals and better lives. In the context of the American dream, "failure" refers to failure to achieve goals such as a better life, prosperity, and success. In this research, the method used is a qualitative method, the researcher uses 2 theories, namely the American dream theory put forward by Adams (2017) and also the American dream failures theory put forward by Putnam (2015) in this research. The research objectives are to: 1) explain how the American dream is depicted in the drama August : Osage County, 2) to describe the causes of the failures of the American dream in the drama August : Osage County. August Drama: Osage County is deeply concerned with the American dream and its failures. In this drama, each individual has their own dreams and challenges. The results of this research are that researchers found 5 types of American Dreams, namely, Opportunity for success, A free and happy life, Balance between individual rights and social obligations, Moral and ethical values, and Collective dreams. There were also 4 types of failures found in this drama, namely, Educational disparities, Health and family stability, Social change and loss of social solidarity, Decreased social mobility.
***Keywords**: The Failures, American Dreams, August: Osage County*

A. INTRODUCTION

Literature is the expression of artistic and imaginative facts as the embodiment or manifestation of human life and society. "*In literature, the delivery usually uses language and has a positive effect on human life*" (Esten, 1978). As time progressed, literary works which

were previously only in written form developed into literary works which included a wider range of literary works themselves which were supported by special illustrations.

Examples of literary works in ancient times such as poetry, short stories, novels, etc. Meanwhile, literary works that have developed include dramas, novels, biographies, fables, animations, and many more. Changes in literature over time are also influenced by different generations.

Drama is a literary work that is very easy to find. People can access it very easily, especially in today's electronic era. Drama itself has various types of genres on offer, ranging from romance, comedy, tragedy, horror, and many more. "*Drama is a communication tool that is closely related to real life and can influence the emotions and thoughts of the audience through dramatic storylines and dialogue*" (Mamet, 1997, drama is a literary work that depicts reflection. from the elements of life that occur in humans through roles and dialogue witnessed by the audience.

Drama texts have linguistic rules, namely consisting of dialogue, using quotation marks in dialogue, using lots of third person pronouns, using temporal conjunctions or adverbs of time, using verbs that describe events and adjectives. Drama is included in literary works and has intrinsic and extrinsic elements in it. Drama is included in literary works and has intrinsic and extrinsic elements in it. The intrinsic elements in drama are characters and characterization, setting, plot, theme and message. Meanwhile, extrinsic elements in drama include the biography of the author of the drama text, the author's philosophy of life, and also socio-culture of the community which was the inspiration for making the script or drama text.

The American Dream is a concept that reflects the aspirations and goals associated with the United States. In general, the American Dream is defined as the belief that America is a land of opportunity, where everyone has the opportunity to achieve a better life, economic success, and social mobility through hard work, personal initiative, and equality of opportunity. "The American Dream is the ability of every citizen, regardless of background, to achieve a better and richer life through hard work, personal initiative and fair opportunity." (Adams: 2017).

One drama that addresses the theme of the American dream is August: Osage County by Tracy Letts. The drama August: Osage County by Tracy Letts clearly depicts a family who dreams of having a happy family but fails in achieving that dream. This drama depicts the internal and external conflicts they face. August: Osage County depicts a family caught in the chaos and hardships of achieving the American Dream. This drama highlights the reality that the American dream does not always live up to expectations and that family life is often complicated and full of obstacles. August: Osage County is a moving and often disturbing story that explores human nature and the complexities of family relationships in a deep and authentic way.

There are many story aspects that make this drama interesting, Osage County not only

tells how the American dream is desired by each character, this drama also shows how complicated family dynamics are, the struggle and competition for power and control within the family, as well as the secrets that each character has. in the story. Based on the background above, in this research the researcher wants to discuss how the journey to achieving the American dream is reflected in this drama, and what the characters in this drama experience. This drama holds many interesting things, in the story it is told that to achieve the American dream you will face many difficulties. Therefore, the author chose the title of this drama with an interesting story in it.

Based on the problems that wil be researched, the purpose is as follows: 1) to describe the American dreams are portrayed in the drama *August: Osage County*, 2) to explain the causes of failure to achieve the American dreams in *August: Osage County.*

B. LITERATURE REVIEW

The philosophical approach to literature is an analytical method that uses philosophical principles to understand, evaluate and interpret literary works. "Literature is often seen as a form of philosophy or as thought encased in a special shape." (Wellek and Warren, 1977). According to Kant (2008), works of art, including literature, can influence a person's thoughts and perceptions. Overall, the philosophy approach provides a framework and analytical tools for uncovering and understanding the meaning contained in literary works.

American Dreams

"American Dreams" is a term that refers to the aspirations and hopes of individuals in American society. This concept reflects the belief that everyone has the opportunity to achieve success, happiness, and freedom in the United States. The "American Dreams" involve ideas about equality of opportunity, social mobility, independence, and the achievement of personal goals. In Adams' book entitled "The Epic of America", Adams describes the concept of "American Dreams" as a collective aspiration inherent in United States society. Here are some of the key points Adams wrote about "American Dreams":

1. Opportunities for Success: Adams described the "American Dreams" as the belief that every individual has the opportunity to achieve success and prosperity in the United States. He emphasized the importance of equal and open opportunities for everyone to achieve their potential.
2. A Free and Happy Life: Adams stated that the "American Dream" includes the aspiration to live in freedom and achieve personal happiness. He described the United States as a place where individuals can pursue their own dreams and determine their own life paths.
3. Balance between Individual Rights and Social Obligations: Adams emphasized the importance of maintaining a balance between individual rights and social responsibilities in realizing the "American Dream". He stated that individual freedom must be balanced with proportional attention to social and community interests.

4. Moral and Ethical Values: Adams emphasized the importance of moral and ethical values in achieving the "American Dream". He considers that success and true happiness depend not only on material factors, but also on the personal integrity, honesty, and kindness a person displays in his relationships with others.
5. Collective Dreams: Adams recognized that the "American Dreams" also involved a broader collective dream of a just and democratic society. He emphasized the importance of cooperation and solidarity in achieving the common dream of creating a better America.Here are some of the key points Adams wrote about "American Dreams" : Opportunities for Success; A Free and Happy Life; Balance between Individual Rights and Social Obligations; Moral and Ethical Values; and Collective Dreams.

"The Failures American dream" refers to a situation in which a person does not succeed in achieving his or her ideals or goals in the United States. This term is often used to describe the experience of someone who came to America with high hopes of achieving success, but ultimately faced challenges and failures that prevented them from achieving their dreams.In his book "Our Kids: The American Dream in Crisis," Robert D. Putnam discusses the failure of the American dream through an approach that involves research and analysis of data as well as true stories. In the book, Putnam highlights several aspects related to the failure of the American dream, including:

1. Educational disparities: Putnam describes significant differences in access and quality of education between children from different socioeconomic backgrounds. He highlighted inequalities in the availability of educational resources, such as qualified teachers, adequate facilities, and access to pre- school education programs. These disparities hinder the opportunity for children from poor families to achieve the American dream through education.
2. Health and family stability: Putnam shows how inequality in access to health care and family stability can affect children's opportunities for success. It describes the negative impact of family instability, lack of access to affordable health care, and stress related to economic uncertainty on children's development and achievement.
3. Social change and loss of social solidarity: Putnam highlights the social changes occurring in American society that have reduced the sense of solidarity and interdependence between individuals and groups. He discusses how the loss of participation in collective social activities, such as religious organizations, sports clubs, and community activities, has reduced the social support and collaborative opportunities that are important in achieving the American dream.
4. Decreased social mobility: Putnam argued that social inequality and gaps in opportunity have hampered social mobility in the United States. He highlighted that children from poor families and minority groups have lower chances of rising to higher social strata, while children from wealthier families have an advantage in achieving economic and social success.

In this case, this theory provides an understanding of the problem of the failures of the

American dream and its impacts. so that by being aware of these limitations' individuals can act appropriately and face the possibility of failures.

Drama

Drama is a genre in literature that focuses on the writing and performance of theatrical works. Drama involves performances on stage by actors who play the characters in the story. Drama can be a symbol of the social situation being faced. *"Humans play a role in social situations, using structured symbols and actions to influence the perceptions of others."* (Goffman, 2002). This has an understanding that elements in drama such as roles, action, dialogue, and narrative structure, can be used as tools to understand social interactions in everyday life.

Previous Research

First, Kinanti Laras Putri Siswandi, Asaas Putra, Agus Pramono Jati, Rizca Haqqu (2022) Representasi Pesan Mimpi Amerika (American Dream) Dalam Film Fatherhood. Medium. The stereotype of black people being associated with poverty is explored in the film "Fatherhood" directed by Paul Weitz and starring Kevin Hart. Despite the continuing theme of equality in the American Dream, racism and discrimination against black people persist. The study aims to analyze how the American Dream message is portrayed in the film using a qualitative approach with a critical paradigm. Through John Fisk's semiotic analysis, the film's portrayal of reality, display codes, and ideological levels are examined, particularly focusing on breaking down racist stereotypes against black father figures. The film highlights the struggle to overcome societal prejudices and achieve true equality.

Second, Narendra Sanggit Adidarma, Oki Achmad Ismail (2022) Representasi American Dream Keluarga Asia dalam Film Minari (Analisis Semiotika Roland Barthes). Ilmu Komunikasi, Fakultas Komunikasi dan Bisnis, Universitas Telkom. This study analyzed the representation of the American Dream of Asian families in the film Minari, using a qualitative method with a semiotic approach. The research aimed to uncover denotative, connotative, and mythical aspects related to the American Dream in Asian families, highlighting how they live their version of the Dream based on Asian values. The film was analyzed through the constructivist paradigm, focusing on the ideology of the American Dream in Asian families. Through observation and semiotic analysis, the study found numerous signs representing the American Dream of Asian families in Minari.

Third, Pramita Ariningrum, Yanti Haryanti (2021) Representasi Nilai Perjuangan Keluarga Dalam Mencapai American Dream Pada Film Drama Minari. Universitas Muhammadiyah Surakarta, Jawa Tengah. The basic principle of the American Dream as an opportunity for every individual to generate wealth and start a new beginning is widely discussed in a film. American Dream in Minari departs from the struggles of Asian immigrant families in achieving the standard of success in America. The purpose of this study is to describe the meaning and value of family struggles concerning the process of achieving the American Dream in the scene contained in one of the drama films from the Unites States entitled Minari as a representation of human life. This study uses a qualitative descriptive approach that is interpretive. The results of this study will show how immigrants from the

point of view of Asian families struggle for their lives in the United States.

Fourth, Yunita Taqwa Sari Sitorus Pane (2021) The American Dream On An American Tail (1986). A Thesis Faculty of Humanities Diponegoro University Semarang. In the past, metaphor was considered exclusive for written work such as rhetoric and poetry. However, as many metaphor scholars explored metaphor deeper, it can be found in daily life as well such as advertisement, comics, spoken language including film. An American Tail is one of animated film which uses metaphor to convey meaning. The aims of this thesis are to describe the intrinsic aspects and to describe how the American dream is depicted through metaphors and how american dream is presented in the film. To analyse the implied American dream, multimodal metaphor theory by Charles Forceville is applied. The results of the studies are american dream is depicted through personification, dialogue of characters and analogy whereas the attitude of the film towards american dream is positive however good personality is needed in order to reach the dream.

Fifth, Desi Lestariningsih (2017) The Failure of American Dream and Its Effect On Some of The Characters On Steinbeck's of Mice and Men. Skripsi thesis, UIN Sunan Kalijaga Yogyakarta. The paper focuses on the theme of the American Dream and its failure on the characters in John Steinbeck's novel of Mice and Men, set during the Great Depression era in California. The research aims to analyze how the failure of the American Dream impacts the characters in the novel through a qualitative descriptive method. By applying the American dream theory by Jim Cullen, the study identifies three types of American dreams portrayed in the novel: the dream of equality, home ownership, and personal fulfillment. The characters in the novel, such as Crooks, George, Candy, Curley's wife, and Lennie, each have their own motives in pursuing their dream, but when faced with obstacles and failures, they lose the will to continue striving for their dream. Based on the explanation above, there are certain differences and similarities between previous research and this research. Even though previous research and this research have the same goal, namely analyzing the value of the American Dream for educational purposes, there are several differences in the subject and object and research theory. Therefore, researcher based this investigation on previous findings.

C. RESEARCH METHODOLOGY

The research used qualitative techniques by describing in the form of words and language. The data is used to answer research questions, test hypotheses, and support findings or arguments. Data processing includes steps such as collecting, cleaning, transforming, analyzing, and interpreting data to produce meaningful information.

The data source for this research used the manuscript *August: Osage County* by Tracy Letts which the researcher downloaded from SCRIBD https://id.scribd.com/document/325398421/Prompt-Book-Acting-Edition. The researcher chose a drama script as a data source because the drama script by Tracy Letts had data that the researcher wanted to examine, so the researcher wanted to examine this script in accordance with the theory used in this research. Data from drama scripts can be collected by reading and studying the script thoroughly. Researcher can record dialogue, scenes, descriptions and stage instructions contained in the script.The used of drama texts as a data source in literary research

provides an opportunity to examine and analyze drama texts in depth.

Data collection techniques refer to the methods or approaches used to collect relevant information or data for research, analysis, or problem solving purposes. "*Data collection techniques generally include observation, questionnaire interviews, archival observations and the use of measurement instruments such as tests or scales"* (Trochim, 2001). There are collecting data from drama scripts can be done in several ways, downloading the script, reading the drama scripts; analyzing character; extracting dialogue; and identifying things the characters face.

Data analysis techniques refer to the methods or approaches used to process, understand and interpret data. This technique helps identify patterns, relationships, or meaning contained in the data collected. The researcher chose to used descriptive analysis techniques. The researcher has some steps in analyzing the data in order to make this research more specific such are Identification; Classification; Explanation; and Conclusion.

D. RESULTS AND DISCUSSION

Result

During the data collection and analysis process, there were 48 data about the American dream and the failures of the American dream realized by the main character in August: Osage County by Tracy Letts. Specifically, the dominant of the American dream is a free and happy life because includes the aspiration to live in freedom and achieve personal happiness. They also described the United States as a place where individuals can pursue their own dreams and determine their own life paths. Meanwhile the dominant of the failures in American Dream is healthy and family stability because there is a lot of inequality in access to health care and family stability can affect children's opportunities for success. It describes the negative impact of family instability, lack of access to affordable health care, and stress related to economic uncertainty on children's development and achievement. Table 1. presents the data related to types of the American dream that are contained in *August: Osage County*. The data reveal 15 data in total. And the dominant of the data came from a free and happy life.

Table 1. American Dream in *August: Osage County*

No.	Types of American Dream	Total
1.	Opportunity for success	5
2.	A free and happy life	6
3.	Balance between individual rights and social obligations	1
4.	Moral and ethical values	1
5.	Collective dreams	2

	Total	15

Table 2. presents the data related to types of the Failures in American dream that are contained in August: Osage County. The data reveal 33 data in total. And the dominant of the data came from the health and family stability.

Table 2. The Failure of the American Dream in *August: Osage County*

No.	Types of Failure in the American Dream	Total
1.	Educational disparities	2
2.	Health and family stability	24
3.	Social change and loss of social solidarity	6
4.	Decreased social mobility	1
	Total	33

Discussion

1. American Dreams are Portrayed in The Drama *August: Osage County by Tracy Letts*

In this research, the researcher used the theory put forward by Adams as a reference in finding the depiction of the American dream contained in the drama script August: Osage County. According to Adams (1931), "Every individual has the opportunity to achieve success, happiness, and freedom in the United States". However, it is important to note that the concept of the "American Dream" has also been the object of criticism and debate. Some argue that the "American Dream" can only be achieved by those with social, economic, or other privileges. Based on the analysis, the researcher found 5 types of American dreams depicted in the play August: Osage County.

a. Opportunities for Success

Adams described the "American Dreams" as the belief that every individual has the opportunity to achieve success and prosperity in the United States. He emphasized the importance of equal and open opportunities for everyone to achieve their potential.

JOHNNA : I have a year toward my nursing certificate at Tulsa Community College, but I had to drop out when Daddy died. And I saw my mom and grandma through bad times.

BEVERLY: Dr. Burke says you've been struggling for work.

JOHNNA : I've been cleaning houses and babysitting.
BEVERLY: He did tell you we wanted a live-in.
JOHNNA : Yes, sir.
BEVERLY: We keep unusual hours here. Try not to differentiate between night and day. I doubt you'll be able to maintain any sort of a healthy routine.
JOHNNA : I need the work. (Prologue, page 5)

The dialogue above shows that if Johnna needed the job to achieve the success because before she got her nursing certificate at Tulsa Community College, she had to drop out when her father passed away and she also saw her mom and her grandmother through bad times. She also doesn't mind if should be cleaning the houses or babysitting because she really needs the job. It can be seen from the dialogue "I need the work" and "I've been cleaning houses and babysitting". Johnna also mentions that understanding the meaning of "unusual hours" is critical for understanding job demands and how they relate to personal routines and responsibilities. She could want to clarify by asking more detailed questions about the work schedule, availability expectations, and how it may affect work-life balance.

b. Free and Happy Life

Adams stated that the "American Dream" includes the aspiration to live in freedom and achieve personal happiness. He described the United States as a place where individuals can pursue their own dreams and determine their own life paths.

CHARLIE : Beverly was a teacher; teachers read books. I'm in the upholstery business; people in the upholstery business.
MATTIE FAE: You can't tell me the last book you read
CHARLIE : This girl is concerned about her daddy's whereabouts. She doesn't need to sit here and listen to us
MATTIE FAE: I think we're all concerned about Beverly.
CHARLIE : Then what the hell are you needling me for? (Prologue, page 7) The dialogue above shows that if Beverly was a teacher and loved to read books meanwhile Charlie is upholstery business which this is a part of opportunities for success in America. Charlie's response suggests that he feels his occupation somehow exempts him from reading or discussing books. He seems to imply that because he's in the upholstery business, it's not expected of him to engage in activities like reading. Mattie Fae's follow-up question challenges this assumption, indicating that she's not convinced by Charlie's reasoning and is pressing him to admit whether he's read a book recently or not. This is being a part of opportunities for success because has potential. It can be seen from the dialogue "Beverly was a teacher; teachers read books. I'm in the upholstery business; people in the upholstery business."

c. The balance between Individual Rights and Social Obligations

Adams emphasized the importance of maintaining a balance between individual rights and social responsibilities in realizing the "American Dream". He stated that individual freedom must be balanced with proportional attention to social and community

interests.

BILL : Jean doesn't understand all this. You think she has any concept-?

BARBARA : Phantom of the Opera

BILL : Do you remember what it was like to be fourteen?

BARBARA : She's old enough to exhibit a little character. But then I guess that's something you normally learn from your parents.

BILL :That's a shot across my bow, right? I missed something.

BARBARA : Really? Instilling character: our burden, as parents.

BILL : I got that part (Act two, page 39)

The dialogue above shows the importance of maintaining a balance between individual rights and social responsibilities in realizing the "American Dream". Adams stated that individual freedom must be balanced with proportional attention to social and community interests. It happens because Bill expresses concern about whether their daughter Jean understands the complexities of their family situation. He questions whether she has any concept of what they're going through, using the musical "Phantom of the Opera" as an example to illustrate her potential lack of understanding. While Barbara responds by affirming that Jean is old enough to demonstrate some character, implying that she should be more aware of their family dynamics and the challenges they face. She suggests that instilling character in their children is typically the responsibility of parents. It can be seen in the dialogue "She's old enough to exhibit a little character. But then I guess that's something you normally learn from your parents"

d. Moral and Ethical Value

Adams emphasized the importance of moral and ethical values in achieving the "American Dream". He considers that success and true happiness depend not only on material factors, but also on the personal integrity, honesty, and kindness a person displays in his relationships with others.

BARBARA : Like your father drowning himself.

KAREN : Exactly! Exactly, that's exactly what I mean! That's not something you plan for! There's no contingency; you take it as it comes, here and now! Steve had a very important presentation today, for some bigwig government guys who could be very important for his business, something he's been putting together for months, and as soon as we heard about Daddy, he called and canceled his meeting. He has his priorities straight. And you know what the kicker is? (BARBARA waits.) Do you know what the kicker is? (Act two, page 74)

The dialogue above shows that success and true happiness depend not only on material factors, but also on the personal integrity, honesty, and kindness a person displays in his relationships with others. It can be seen in the dialogue "Steve had a very important presentation today, for some bigwig government guys who could be very important for his

business, something he's been putting together for months, and as soon as we heard about Daddy, he called and canceled his meeting. He has his priorities straight" Karen appreciates how her partner's presence has shifted her focus to the present moment, allowing her to live in the here and now without dwelling on past mistakes or worrying about the future.

e. Collective Dreams

Adams recognized that the "American Dreams" also involved a broader collective dream of a just and democratic society. He emphasized the importance of cooperation and solidarity in achieving the common dream of creating a better America. CHARLIE : It's fear. How do you do that? You can't eat fear.

JEAN : Sure, you can. I mean even if you don't sort of think of it spiritually, what happens to you when you feel afraid? Doesn't your body produce all sorts of chemical reactions?

CHARLIE : Does it? LIT CHARLES: It does.

IVY : Yes. (Act two, page 45)

The dialogue above shows a broader collective dream of a just and democratic society because Jean explains to Charlie about eating the fear. She explains that even if fear isn't considered in a spiritual context, it still has physiological effects on the body. When someone feels afraid, their body produces various chemical reactions in response to the fear stimulus. Jean's response suggests a more metaphorical interpretation of "eating fear," emphasizing that fear has a tangible impact on the body and can be experienced in a physical sense through the body's response to it. This dialogue explores the relationship between emotions, physiology, and perception, highlighting the complex nature of human experience in collective dreams to solidarity in achieving the common dream of creating a better America.

2. Failures of American Dreams are Portrayed in The Drama *August: Osage County by Tracy Letts*

In this research, the researcher used the theory put forward by Putnam as a reference in finding the depiction of the American dream contained in the drama script August: Osage County. According to Putnam (2016) "The Failure American dream" refers to a situation in which a person does not succeed in achieving his or her ideals or goals in the United States. This term is often used to describe the experience of someone who came to America with high hopes of achieving success, but ultimately faced challenges and failures that prevented them from achieving their dreams. The term reflects the reality that not everyone in the United States achieves the desired success. Although the United States is known as the "Land of Dreams" offering opportunity and social mobility, the reality is that achieving success in achieving personal and professional goals can be difficult and requires hard work, luck, and other complex factors.Based on the analysis, researcher only found 4 types of failures of the American dream depicted in the play August: Osage County.

a. Educational disparities

Putnam (2016) stated that educational disparities has a significant differences in

access and quality of education between children from different socioeconomic backgrounds. He highlighted inequalities in the availability of educational resources, such as qualified teachers, adequate facilities, and access to preschool education programs. These disparities hinder the opportunity for children from poor families to achieve the American dream through education.

CHARLIE : That Little Charles and Beverly share some kind of … complication.

MATTIE FAE: Honey, you have to be smart to be complicated.

CHARLIE : That's our boy. Are you saying our boy isn't smart?

MATTIE FAE: Yes, that's what I'm saying.

CHARLIE : What's the matter with you? (To IVY) Your cousin is very smart (Prologue, page 7)

The dialogue above shows the complicated problem between Charlie and Mattie Fae about their child. Her wife suggests that Little Charles lacks the intelligence to be truly complicated. Charlie's immediate defense of Little Charles shows his loyalty and protective instincts toward his family, as he questions Mattie Fae's assertion that their son isn't smart. This reveals underlying tension between Charlie and Mattie Fae regarding their son's intelligence and possibly other issues. This dialogue highlights the complexities and conflicts within the family dynamic. Because according to Putnam (2016), educational disparities have a significant differences in access and quality of education between children from different socioeconomic backgrounds. He highlighted inequalities in the availability of educational resources, such as qualified teachers, adequate facilities, and access to preschool education programs.

b. Health and family stability

Putnam (2016) stated how inequality in access to health care and family stability can affect children's opportunities for success. It describes the negative impact of family instability, lack of access to affordable health care, and stress related to economic uncertainty on children's development and achievement.

BEVERLY : The work itself ... pretty mundane. I myself require very little personal attention. Thrive without it, in fact, sort of a human cactus. My wife has been diagnosed with a touch of cancer, so she'll need to be driven to Tulsa for her final chemotherapy treatments. You're welcome to use that American-made behemoth parked in the carport. You're welcome to make use of anything, everything, all this garbage we've acquired, our life's work. If you're going to live here, I want you to live here. You understand? (Prologue, page 5)

The dialogue above shows how inequality in access to health care and family stability can affect other people's opportunities for success. It can be seen in the dialogue "She'll need to be driven to Tulsa for her final chemotherapy treatments". Also, in the dialogue says that the nature of his own work as mundane and indicating that he requires little personal attention, likening himself to a "human cactus," implying he's self sufficient and

independent. This information is delivered matter- of-factly but carries significant weight, highlighting the seriousness of the situation. His concern for his wife's well-being and his willingness to extend hospitality to the person he's addressing. It also hints at underlying themes of mortality and the fragility of life.

c. Social change and loss of social solidarity

Putnam (2016) stated that the social changes occurring in American society that have reduced the sense of solidarity and interdependence between individuals and groups. He discusses how the loss of participation in collective social activities, such as religious organizations, sports clubs, and community activities, has reduced the social support and collaborative opportunities that are important in achieving the American dream.

BARBARA : Hey. Please. This is not the Midwest. All right? Michigan is the Midwest, God knows why. This is the Plains: a state of mind, right, some spiritual affliction, likes why

BARBARA : Don't. (She pulls away. They look away from one another, an uncomfortable moment. Regarding JEAN) What, is she smoking a fucking cigar?

BILL : She's coming. (Jean arrives on the front porch carrying a suitcase.) You ready, kiddo?

JEAN : Yeah, sure (Prologue, page 13)

The dialogue above shows up about Michigan is the plains of mind, right, and some spiritual affliction. Barbara talked about collaborative opportunities that are important in achieving the American dream and they didn't get it in Michigan because this is not Midwest. This could imply a deeper, more introspective, or philosophical perspective on the characteristics and identity associated with these regions.

d. Decreased social mobility

Putnam (2016) stated that social inequality and gaps in opportunity have hampered social mobility in the United States. He highlighted that children from poor families and minority groups have lower chances of rising to higher social strata, while children from wealthier families have an advantage in achieving economic and social success.

JEAN : He's fucking one of his students which is pretty uncool, if you ask me. Some people would think that's cool, like those dicks who teach with him in the Humanities Department because they're all fucking their students or wish they were fucking their students. "L.o-liii-ta." I mean, I don't care and all, he can fuck whoever he wants and he's a teacher and that's who teachers meet, students. He was just a turd the way he went about it and didn't give Mom a. chance to respond or anything. What sucks now is that Mom's watching me like a hawk, like, she's afraid I'll have some post divorce freak-out and become some heroin addict or shoot everybody at school. Or God forbid, lose my virginity. I don't know what it is about Dad splitting that put Mom on hymen patrol. Do you have a boyfriend? (Scene 2, page 20)

The dialogue above shows if social inequality and gaps in opportunity have hampered social mobility in the United States. It can be seen in the dialogue "He's fucking one of his students which is pretty uncool, if you ask me. Some people would think that's cool, like those dicks who teach with him in the Humanities Department because they're all fucking their students or wish they were fucking their students" Jean felt so mad because of the things that can happen. She also feels weird when her mom watches her like a hawk just because afraid Jean will get some post-divorce freak-out and become a heroin addict.

E. CONCLUSION

Firstly, in this study, researcher used the American dream theory proposed by Adam (2017). In his book Adams revealed that there are 5 types of American Dreams, and researcher found 5 types that are in accordance with this theory contained in the drama August: Osage County. Each type of American dream has a different amount of data, Opportunity for success 5 data, A happy and free life 6 data, Balance between individual rights and social obligations 1 data, Moral and ethical values 1 data, Collective dreams 2 data. The total data for the American dream is 15 data, A happy and free life is the most dominant data which has the most data compared to other types, namely 6 data.

Secondly, this research also uses the American Dream Failures Theory proposed by Putnam (2015). In his book, Putnam explains that there are 4 types of failed American dreams, and in this research, 4 types of failed American dreams were found with a total of 33 pieces of data. of the 4 types, Health and family stability is the type that has the most data, namely 24 data, the rest are Educational disparities 2 data, Social change and loss of social solidarity 6 data, and Decreased social mobility 1 data.

This is well depicted in the play August: Osage County, this play highlights these 2 topics in its story. Each character has different dreams and different obstacles to their goals. This drama indirectly tells us that when making dreams come true you don't always find good things, there are many things that become obstacles to achieving those dreams. Every individual has dreams, but not everyone succeeds in making their dreams come true.

Based on the conclusions above, the researcher suggests:

1. Every individual has their own dreams and will try to make them come true. in the process there will be difficulties that will be faced, the researcher advises to keep trying no matter how difficult the obstacles that will be faced in the future.

2. Every failures experienced is not the end of everything. From this failures, individuals can know themselves better and use this failures as a lesson to become even better. 3. Dreams and failures are interesting things to study, not every effort made gets the desired results. It is hoped that this research can help future researcher who discuss the same topic or object.

REFERENCES

Adams, J. T. (2017). *The epic of America*. Routledge.

Adams, James Truslow (1931). The Epic of America. Boston: Little Brown and Company. 1932

Adidarma, Narendra Sanggit & Ismail, Oki Achmad (2022) *Representasi American Dream Keluarga Asia dalam Film Minari (Analisis Semiotika Roland Barthes).*Universitas Telkom.

Ariningrum, Pramita & Haryanti, Yanti (2021) *Representasi Nilai Perjuangan Keluarga Dalam Mencapai American Dream Pada Film Drama Minari.* Universitas Muhammadiyah Surakarta, Jawa Tengah.

Darmadi, Hamid. (2013). *Metode Penelitian Pendidikan dan Sosial*. Bandung: Alfabeta.

Esten, Mursal. (1978). *Kesusastraan Pengantar Teori & Sejarah. Bandung*. Angkasa.

Goffman, E. (2002). *The presentation of self in everyday life*. Garden City, NY, 259.

Kant, I. (2008). *Critique of judgment*. Newcomb Livraria Press.

Laudon, K. C., & Laudon, J. P. (2004). *Management information systems: Managing the digital firm*. Pearson Educación

Lestariningsih, Desi (2017*) The Failure of American Dream and Its Effect On Some of The Characters On Steinbeck's of Mice and Men*. Skripsi thesis, UIN Sunan Kalijaga Yogyakarta.

Mamet, David. (1997). True and False: Heresy and Common Sense for the Actor. Universitas Michigan : Pantheon Books

Pane, Yunita Taqwa Sari Sitorus (2021*) The American Dream On An American Tail (1986).* A Thesis. University Semarang.

Putnam, R. D. (2016). *Our kids: The American dream in crisis*. Simon and Schuster.

Siswandi, Kinanti Laras Putri., Putra, Asaas., Jati, Agus Pramono., Haqqu, Rizca (2022*) Representasi Pesan Mimpi Amerika (American Dream) Dalam Film Fatherhood*. Medium

Sugiyono. (2012). *Metode Penelitian Kuantitatif, Kualitatif, dan R&D*. Bandung: Alfabeta.

Trochim, W. M., & Donnelly, J. P. (2001*). Research methods knowledge base (Vol. 2)*. Macmillan Publishing Company, New York: Atomic Dog Pub.

Wellek, R., & Warren, A. (1977). *Theory of literature (3rd ed.)*. Harcourt Brace Jovanovich