

## Ambition of the Main Character in *Quintessence* Novel by Jess Redman

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### Abstract

The purpose of this research are to find features of ambitious people, discover kinds of Murray's human needs, and analyze factors that determine ambition-level of the main character. Therefore, to seek the result, *Quintessence* novel by Jess Redman is chosen in this research. This study uses the descriptive qualitative method to investigate the data. The data were gathered by reading the novel, examining passages, collecting important parts and explaining the result. The result of this research reveals; (1) 13 features of ambitious people in the main character there are personal interest, willing to connect, strong desire, problem solving, confidence, motive others, hardworking, risk taker, maximize capability, emotion stability, self-development, critical thinking, and kind-hearted person, (2) in total, 17 kinds of human needs are catered when the main character pursuing her ambition goal there are conversance, order, construction, achievement, infavoidance, defendance, coneraction, dominance, deference, similance, autonomy, blameavoidance, affiliation, succorance, nurturance, cognizance, exposition and (3) some factors determine ambition-level of main character are located such as prior experience, purpose of ambition, group influence and realism.

**Keywords:** Ambition, Main Character, *Quintessence* Novel

### 1. Introduction

Everyone has different life backgrounds and unique journeys. The way people perceive and interact in social life can encourage and grow ambition in people as they are dreaming to be in a particular position or get something they never dared dream of before. When ambition slowly appears, consciously people will shape personal goals and motivation to guide their actions. Nevertheless, the process of ambition accomplishment is not as easy as growing ambition because undeniably there are always obstacles and struggles wait for them to be faced.

Nevertheless, despite of obstacle difficulties, ambitious people will not be assuming them as a big enemy, instead the problem barriers become their time to level- up confidence and beliefs in reaching their ambition's goal. During the time they are struggling at trying to find the right solution, it turns out to be the

opportunity medium to develop behaviors, beliefs, skills, and knowledge which also shape their features as ambitious people.

The difference of ambition goals can be sourced from several factors. Nonetheless, it appears some factors are the most influential. Thus, this phenomenon is quite interesting to be analyzed since people's ambitions have a relationship with the environment to enhance and grow.

Meanwhile, the desire to fulfill ambition is a part of human needs. When people intend to prioritize their need of reaching ambition, they will cater to other needs too, considering one's need has close connection to all needs. Distress or any certain circumstances push people's efforts to cater several other needs before successfully obtaining something they really need. As a result, working on ambition gives effect in human needs. Therefore, to find out human needs, it is appropriate to use Henry Murray's theory that writes particular needs and they interlink each other.

Ambition does not only happen in real life. The ambitions are also being drawn on papers, one example is a novel as a popular written work. Basically, everything in human domain influences literary works. Boyd (2004) assumes that human life and knowledge influenced have the closest similarity to literature. Additionally, there are two kinds of novels, fiction and non-fiction.

Both fiction and non-fiction novels will illustrate the author's thinking and when it comes to imagination, a novel will capture the author's behavior and represent a natural result. Yet, natural results will not be expressed by only putting a long story line, writers also have to invest characters that are fitted to run their novel's stories, especially important characters without any specific goals to be achieved will turn them into nothingness and seem flat. In this case, ambition is needed to push characters' development and keep the story interesting.

Conspicuously, the ambition will always keep growing, and the function of novel as one of written material that successfully could portrait it. Furthermore, by investing in dialogue and supporting the story with paragraphs full of words, it is easy for readers to examine and understand characters and environments around them. Hence, it is reasonable for the writer to do research related to ambition.

Seeing that there are so many characters living in a novel, the writer proposes to focus on the central character with aiming to analyze a character that has a higher level of ambition. Meanwhile, the writer chooses *Quintessence* as the object to be explored. In addition, choosing *Quintessence* is a right option for the writer because Alma as the main character has ambition to achieve something. Furthermore, in the process of pursuing Alma's ambition, several human needs are being catered in the book along with features of ambitious people and influencing factors of ambition level.

Brief information about the novel, *Quintessence* is a novel written by American author Jess Redman. The novel has 282 pages in total, cover included. This novel genre is adventure-fantasy covered with a warm friendship story and this novel is appropriate for children and middle grade students. The novel is about Alma who just moved to new town, Four Points. She does not like to be in Four Points and

everything is hard to be enjoyed, especially her school where Alma hardly to acclimate with friends. Alma slowly changes after joining the astronomy club in her school and finds out that she is destined to return and save the starling.

In summary, the research will focus to examine the phenomenon of the main character's ambition in *Quintessence* novel about ambition-level factors, features of ambitious people, and discover catered human needs in the process of getting the main character's ambition goal. Therefore, this study will be wrapped into the title: **Ambition of the Main Character in *Quintessence* Novel by Jess Redman**. From the background and reason of the study, writer formulates the problems as follows:

1. What are features of ambitious people portrayed in the main character in *Quintessence* novel?
2. What are kinds of human needs are being catered by the main character in *Quintessence* novel?
3. How ambition factors determine the ambition-level of the main character in *Quintessence* novel?

## 2. THEORETICAL REVIEW

### 2.1 Literature and Psychology

Literature and psychology have a tight relationship in explaining human character and behavior. Nevertheless, there is a difference between literature and psychology. Psychology studies human in real life, while literature becomes written media to explain phenomena that are related to human. Emir (2016) said, "The psychology-based study of literature aims more at studying the influence of social conditions on the emotions, thoughts and behaviors of the characters in the story or novel, the analysis of the characters' personalities, the process of a literary work formation and the psychology of creativity."

Psychology itself is defined as the study of understanding human. The concern of psychology includes people's mental, behavior, personality, emotion, and etcetera. Meanwhile in literature there are poems, dramas, novels which undoubtedly linked with their authors' minds. Endraswara (2003) in Aras (2015) considered literary work is a psychological activity by pouring thinking, feeling while working on papers. In this case, it is possible authors would affect their literary works, but with modifying authors' life experience, and it tends to camouflage some parts to realistically adhere to characters because literature is written art to "...express, and finally share experiences." (Yastanti and Widhiyanto, 2018).

Since there are so many traits and personalities created for making characters alive, the advantage of psychology in novel or any literary form is essential. One of the psychology functions for creating active characters is using Myer-Briggs temperament Indicators. Girke (2016) suggested using MBTI for digging up core personalities of characters. Additionally, temperament from Myer-Briggs will shape character's core personalities or help writers to select basic personalities.

Undoubtedly, psychology and literature stick to each other. Lodge claimed that literary work can be analyzed with psychology, according to Lodge (2002). “We will always learn more about human life and personality from novels than from scientific psychology”. Meanwhile, Emir (2016) stated almost similarly as Lodge, “It is well known that literature is an important source of inspiration for the science of psychology which tries to explain human emotions, behaviors and mental processes from a scientific perspective.” It means that it is possible to study human psychology through novels because authors also play to put psychological aspect inside their works.

Seemingly, there is an intimate relationship between psychology and literature. The aim of psychology in literature itself is to enrich the process of creating the literary work.

“For some conscious artists, psychology may have tightened their sense of reality, sharpened their powers of observation or allowed them to fall into hitherto undiscovered patterns. But, in itself, psychology is only preparatory to the act of creation; and in the work itself, psychological truth is an artistic value only if it enhances coherence and complexity- if in short, it is art” (Wellek and Warren, 1963: Aras 2015).

In conclusion, literature and psychology are linked to each other although the object of the study is different. In order to analyze this phenomenon, several experts agree that psychology in real life impacts the novel. Moreover, psychology in literature has an important source to authors in creating their literary works. Thus, psychology smartens the result of literary works.

## 2.2 Definition of Novel

Novel is created by human imagination and experience. The novel is the most successful effort to describe the experience of individual human (Lodge, 2002; Aras, 2015). Novel also has various genres, from action, drama, fantasy, supernatural, and etcetera. Sari (2019) “A novel is a kind of imaginative literature which belongs to narrative fiction”.

Basically, the purpose of novel is to entertain people. Sari (2019) “Novels are interesting objects for reading”. When readers feel entertained, novels will deliver people new knowledge, moral value, and authors’ point of views. Syahbana (2018) novel contains moral messages for readers. Thus, authors should pull strategies to lead readers to get the points without remembering every sentence by creating it chronologically.

In the writing process, mapping out the outline is vital for writers to construct scenes from starting point to closing stages. According to Munier (2016) there are three basic structures in classic fairy tales. It involves the beginning part, where the story and journey start. Secondly, the middle part is working to carry the first movement of characters into obstacles and any crisis times. The last is an end part or final scene where everything returns to normal. Thus, the structure in a novel is

important and becomes a key fundamental for establishing ideas to the story and into characters then stirs up entire things that are living in the novel. According to Bell (2014) structure is translation software of imagination. In sum, writing novel is not only about words, sentences or unique ideas, with leaving the structure, writers will be confused their own thoughts.

Aside from structure, the novel always encompasses dialogue reflecting conversation scenes to support the story and characters. Dialogue should emerge through characters' thoughts, actions and interaction. In this case, using real-life conversation might decrease the emotional atmosphere because real-life speech is often found boring and ambiguous (Pereira, 2016).

From all above, a novel becomes one unity if several needed aspects are being attached. The generalization of making a novel only lean on from imagination appears to be wrong. Making a novel needs time to set up scenes, characters' personalities, moral value, dialogue, etc. Thus, writers' knowledge must improve and keep doing their best on crafting a novel.

### 2.3 Definition of Main Character

In writing a novel, for sure there are characters involved to keep the story moving sluggishly. Commonly, authors created several types of characters to act their own roles, such as major characters and minor characters. Main character tends to show a clearer development and appears in every scene. Syahbana (2018) "The main character can be found in each page of the novel". Meanwhile, minor characters usually are created to influence major characters' action, yet traits of some minor characters are more inclined flat than main characters.

Main characters have unique characteristics, emotions, and behaviors. Yastanti and Widhiyanto (2018) different behavior makes a character different too. It is a common way to introduce central characters by showing special behaviors. Then, it is very important to put main characters realistically different than other characters, because characteristics in literary work will affect the reader. (Werren & Wallek, 1983; Emir, 2016), so the main character would not be stiff and easily to be detected, especially using a psychological approach and blend in fictional characters.

The existence of main characters who dominate every event is possible to change the story and make it interesting. "The main character is the spearhead or lead in a movie that make a film interesting" (Yastanti & Widhiyanto, 2018). Since movies and novels should have main characters, the importance of their appearances and function is the same, and they are created to not make the story flat. Syahbana (2018) the main characters are special and important characters that dominate the events and story.

Meanwhile, major characters usually have complex traits that can be his/her true self. In this case, the writers are trying to pull their understanding in order to make them 'breathable' like a human being. Motivation directs major characters slowly to acquire an innate self and emerges from the development of main characters. The motivation does not have to be complex motivation to create complex

character because “complex character can emerge from the simplest motivations” (Bates, 2016).

Generally, writers placed protagonist or antagonist as main characters and mostly have internal motivation. Bates (2016) stated internal motivation can describe main characters through he/she wants and values. Internal motivation will be formed by main characters capability through occasions that sometimes push main character compulsorily to handle the obstacles and external conflicts. Bates (2016) mentioned “as he faces conflicts and other characters, you’ll start to see him as a human being.” Main character who under pressure is trying get involved in life process, and they will show the real characteristic how vulnerably and dependently in reacting over their efforts, or doing mistakes, but surely it is deepening them and driving the action to reveal lifelike characteristic.

## 2.4 Definition of Ambition

The ambition pops out and works on a certain target of people’s goals. Many goals have been created to fulfill expectations and dreams they want to reach. Ambition according to Cambridge Dictionary (2021) is a strong wish to achieve something, especially to attain wealth and position. Psychology defined ambition is not limited by obsession to reach prosperity. Locke (1996) defined ambition as personal’s goals, which are more varied and each goal has different reasons and it drives “individuals potentials to achieve” (Almomani & Theeb, 2016). Ambition is also described as someone’s readiness to achieve a target and accepting responsibility to tackle its struggle (Abd-Alfattah, 2007; Almomani and Theeb 2016). Meanwhile in the process of getting the ambition’s journey, people have a dissimilar way and aim of getting the ending. Diverse purposes of reaching ambition grow numerous motivations behind it. Motivation works to keep people focused and stand on the target. Tatenhove (1984) stated ambition purposes and goal activated energy and behavior.

In summary, to reach target of ambition people have to belief of their selves in facing obstacles and keep strong commitment. Since experience becomes one of influential to create specific goal differences, it means someone’s age is determining the goal, action, motivated them that they are ready to solve any problem while ambition keep growing as they attain the result of their actions bit by bit.

### 2.4.1 Factors of Ambition-Level

Ambition will not grow and work if there are no specific goals. As Al-Banna (1998); Almomani and Theeb (2016) mentioned, ambition has specific goal references. The goal can be attained by sharpening abilities, skills, and performances, but sharpening them is not easy since the goals have struggles and people have to face it.

Levin Kurt’s theory explains the influence that impacts performance result and measures aspiration level on different individuals or groups. On Almomani and Theeb (2016) paper wraps the theory as factors of ambition level, there are; ambition

level depends on prior experience, the purpose of ambition, the group level refers to individual ambition corresponds to group, and the last is realism.

Apparently, ambition hangs on prior experience. The effect of former involvement affecting performance, and self-trust tends to leveled-off because people's expectation to do the same task will not happen. Thus, past experience related to realism. It is being explained in Kurt Lewin (1948) researches on the achievement of factory workers, which concludes the high level of aspiration depends on former success moment than failure that can grow insecurity, yet it can encourage new capability and push self-efficacy to reach the goal they want in future if people do not see the whole unsuccessful times as the end of everything or simply these people move on fast from fall and have desire to improve. "Failure sometimes can be valuable, as long as they treat the error as sources of learning." (Bartunek, 2020). In summary, just like the success part, failure moments also will have a positive result in determining ambition-level and ambition high level depending on people's will.

On the other hand, being integrated in group's ambition is the same, but the place is more complicated since there are individuals with different levels of confidence and objectives which possibly overlap. Merhab (1989) in Almomani and Theeb (2016) stated group ambition level depends on members' self-confidences and performance each member expects to do familiar duty. Therefore, it shows members' former performances influence the readiness in achieving the goal or even build higher goal standard and from this group influence, it is possible to influence members' ambition levels. Almomani and Theeb (2016) "Meeting ambitions activate individuals and drive them to work and invest their potentials as far as possible" and the example can be seen in a student who joins a group with great experiences tends to achieve better results (Gilar-Corbi et al., 2020). However, the group is created and the members are united by a purpose they bring as individuals which often share the belongingness. Thus, although a groups' members are having less experience, but they are still able to raise "the morale and the productivity of an individual" (Lewin, 1948) without being insecure of the other group's achievement.

Purpose of ambition surely connected to goal. In some cases, the goals turn out to have a close relation with chasers which lead to motivation and purpose. The goals that have tendency ownership stimulate purpose, meaning and motivation in learning (Bandura, 2001; Sides and Cuevas, 2020). Meanwhile, the willingness to learn is based on motivation. It gives positive performance and develops skill as an outcome to support them achieving their goal. As we adopt goal motives, it brings the reason for pursuing the goal and can be classified by "personal interest, enjoyment, perceived importance, social approval and expectation." (Shi et al., 2018). Personal interest is from the task people find it interesting (Deci and Ryan, 2000), enjoyment relates to the activity people like or the goal itself provides personal importance (Shi et al., 2018) perceived important connects to task engagement and cope with it by making the strategy (Murphy and Taylor, 2020) social approval relates to existence or popularity, and expectation related to controlled motives in task people have to achieve because of someone or self-encouragement (Shi et al., 2018).

Realism is related to productivity and morale to set a goal and reach it. It keeps the ambition level in a realistic point which means the ambition level is depending on people's ability or past success. Lewin (1948) "A successful individual sets his next goal not too much above his last achievement." It shows the decision to set a high goal leads to the performance expectation. Realism might drive the ambition to not going so high, but the level of it is not static. Realism also attaches to the personal perspective of something, it is called the frame of reference. The frame of reference involves environment, social life, information and certain events and it will shape the way people perceive it, even push decision making. "Individual makes the most perfect decision based on existing information" (Hu and Li, 2019) As the result, the frame of reference determines the success and failure because the decision has been made.

Meanwhile, personality traits influence people's ambition, the twins known as extrovert and introvert have inhabited human personality. Even though these personalities depends on environment and sources from internal traits, the one who has extrovert as a dominant trait likely to have bigger opportunity in pursuing ambition goal consider behavior of extraversion people likely to blend on social environment, and it leads to have positive actions. Schmidt (2016), "Extroverts are often seen as possessing the desirable set of personality traits for success in today's fast-paced world." Extroverts also have high-confidence to be barely hesitant of their decisions and likely to perform action more actively in pursuing careers. Hartman & Betz, (2007); Jin, Watkins, & Yuen, (2009); Romero et al., (2009); (Judge & Kammeyer-Mueller, 2012). Confidence of extraversion work for carrier attainment in diverse fields of industrial space. Therefore, influencing factors of ambition-level are from external and internal sources. The environment impacts people and ambition attaches to personality which determines action to a variety level of ambition.

#### **2.4.2 Features of Ambitious People**

Ambition is indeed known as people desire something which in its process of facing obstacles have emerged features of ambitious people. The result can be negative or positive depending on ambitious people's reaction towards others. They tend to have contrasting characteristics than people who have a mediocre ambition level. As the previous topic of factor influence, it presents confidence. Confidence is owned by ambitious people who actively search and look for any possibility in fulfilling goals. Merhab (1989) in Almomani and Theeb (2016) ambition level depends on members' self-confidence. Therefore, ambitious people are mostly socially active, they are willing to be connected to others, approach strangers easily having free will and independent in choice making, having personal area such as they interest of something, well-adjusted relates to understanding others, having strong motives and having emotional stability (Hansson et al., 1983).

Meanwhile, Barsukova, Mozgovaya, and Krishchenko (2015) mentioned several features of ambitious people; ambitious people are active, consistent towards their goal, strong desire, getting self-development, search and unlock one's potential



by motivating others, open to past experiences of others, kind-heartedness, top-down to other success, risk taker, flexible, hard working person, well-time planning, move on fast from failure, critical thinking, open-minded, and problem solving. These characteristics are from individuals and groups of ambitious people. Positive behaviors can impact to the possibility of attaining a goal and the involvement of ambitious people can motivate others in a positive way to become the same as them.

Ambitious people have specific targets, and as people focus to attain the goal they improve skills. Ambition activates people's potential and maximizes capability as they work on it (Salamah, 2007; Almomani and Theeb, 2016). Thus, Ambitious people have a bigger opportunity to develop highest abilities.

Aside from positive characteristics, ambition also forms negative attitudes after excessively attaining goals. Alder (1982) in Nurdiansyah (2017) Negative behavior's begin to fuel ambitious people by trying to be superior, dominating others, selfish, being indifferent to others, only care about themselves, underestimating others, blaming own failure to others, defending self to see others suffer. They behave to get rid of people and being suggested that people are threats for them in the same way of pursuing a goal. Moreover, McClelland (1975) stated ambitious people control others to fulfill human need of power. They see others powerless and tend to take over, and make efforts to down-level others' ambitions. In conclusion, ambitious characteristics depend on an individual's adjustment. McCrae & Costa (1999); Timothy A. Judge & John D. Kammeyer-Mueller (2012) mentioned that ambition is about characteristic adaptation too. The positive and negative behaviors indeed affect ambitious people's actions and impact others' ambition. Therefore, ambition has the important role in carrier pursuing or goal target since the characteristics grow catering the needs of human beings.

## 2.5 Henry Murray's Theory of Human Needs

Henry Murray of needs attaches to ambition where one of 20-needs shows achievement on its list. The relation between ambition and need of achievement certainly tight consider the growing of ambition oriented to goal accomplishment. Nevertheless, in its process of obtaining goal, people might also fulfill the other needs since one need that has been fulfilled related to other needs that can be attained soon. The theory of human by Murray is personology which is proposing to define human characteristic. Meanwhile the Murray analyzes 20-human needs which take unconscious role of personality known as psychology of personality. Although, it plays unconscious side, it gets the main position in human personality. Murray (1963) defined need as an imbalance to reach balance. Therefore, people intend to cater their needs are sourced from lack of something or something they want to obtain.

In Murray's theory there are several principles. First, the personality originated from the brain. Nina Murray (2008) "the need process must be placed in the brain, for this is the only area to and from which all nerves lead. It is even conceivable that someday there may be instruments for measuring need tension directly". The role of the brain plays an important role in controlling the personality.

When it comes to facing environment, the coercion brain will guide, and someone's personality will take turns to in order to fulfill needs. Second, there is reduced tension. Reduction tension is still related to the needs. In this position, the needs make people take action and it pulls their tension, however when the needs are successfully gained, the tension will abate. Nina Murray (2008) Tension has a relationship with a need to push to reach a certain goal. Third, as a human being, it is possible to alter personality no matter what kind of situation and age. The personality will keep developing through time and life experiences. Fourth, it explains that the personality of someone will always keep progressing and never be static. Fifth, a person has numerous personalities and the other people possibly adopt several similar characteristics as he/she, yet he or she has different personality too. For example, Myers-Briggs Type Indicator (1962) provides a test to reveal someone's personality has similar characteristics, but the result of each person would be dissimilar.

In order to approach personality theory, Henry (2008) proposes the proportion of theory of personality. Basically, focus on several terms such as, motives, pressure and needs. People have different kinds of needs which have to be obtained and to attain these needs, people have to face particular events. Henry (2008) stated a need as "potentially or readiness to respond in a certain way under certain given circumstances." In this case, someone's behavior is performing action in order to cater certain needs, there is environmental factor (presses). Environment will guide someone to decide their behaviors to fulfill their needs (Murray, 2020). Current needs and temporal environmental press, determine sustained behavior.

In addition, Murray classified needs into primary (biological) and secondary (psychology). The primary or viscerogenic needs are essential which relate to psychics. On goal pursuit, primary needs certainly push people's action, but primary needs are basic everyone should obtain (Deci and Ryan, 2000). The list of primary need includes oxygen, water, food, sex, harmavoidance, and lactation as positive needs while urination, defecation, noxavoidance, heatavoidance, coldavoidance and sentience are negative needs (Nina Murray, 2008) and adds rest and sleep as needs of Passivity. On the other hand, the secondary needs or psychological needs refer to meaningful satisfaction.

Meanwhile, the relatedness of human-needs and goals can be seen in goal-setting. Goal-setting drives motivation to pursue which stimulates purposed behavior. According to Deci and Ryan (2000) "the purpose of behavior is a need of satisfaction." This shows if one need is not fulfilled, people will have some problem to cover it. Therefore, they will search for ways to cater particular psychological needs by raising "...the efforts to satisfy it" (Deci and Ryan, 2000). Meanwhile, the difference of individuals' needs is sourced from motivated behaviors. It is because the existence of human needs itself creates the motivational process that emerges action to achieve the goal. Brandstätter, Hennecke & Marry (2018) "They might look forward to the activity that leads to goal realization (activity incentive) or anticipate certain outcomes that take the forms of achieving something pleasant or avoiding something unpleasant." From this point, the relationship between goals and needs

exist and thus, since ambitious people have goals to be realized, it drags them to omit the obstacles they face by doing certain activities.

Furthermore, there are 20 lists of psychogenic needs. These are psychogenic needs according to Henry. A Murray (1938) & Nina Murray (2008):

Needs have related with inmate objects as well as being loyal, organizing group, acquiring friends, there are:

- Acquisition: the need of gaining wealth, working for money, gambling.
- Conversance: the need of collecting, repairing, keeping an object from damage, cleaning.
- Order: the need of putting everything orderly, making arrangement & organization, protecting balance, neatness and precision.
- Retention: the need of refusing to lend others something, being frugal.
- Construction: the need of building something.

Needs related to accomplishments and ambition and being prompt by any other needs:

- Superiority: the need of using power over people, making efforts to gain certain status or being approved by others.
- Achievement: the need of accepting such hard situations/obstacles, striving to acquire quickly.
- Recognition: the need of praising others, seeking for social prestige, demanding respect.

Need that distinguished from recognition:

- Exhibition: the need of amusing others, drawing attention.

Needs related to desire of action involve resistance of status and humiliation avoidance:

- Inviolacy: the need of maintaining self-respect/good name.
- Infavoidance: the need of evading humiliation, avoiding conditions that may lead to the scorn, shame, or indifference and flee from the anxiety of failure.
- Defendance: the need of defending someone, offering excuses and explanation, resisting to investigate, justifying someone's action.
- Conteraction: the need of selecting the hardest task, overcoming weaknesses and to express fear also maintains pride on a high level.

Needs related to human power, or resisted, yield:

- Dominance: the need of controlling, directing, persuading others, attempting to organize groups. To be the leader of a group.
- Deference: the need of admiring, serving others, making cooperation.
- Similance: the need of mimicking someone, understanding others,

agreeing and believing something.

- Autonomy: the need of being relieved, freed and independent, avoiding oppression.
- Countrarience: the need of being unique, playing differently

Needs related to will of power and avoid pain, being passive, socially absent:

- Blameavoidance: the need of avoiding punishment, obeying law/someone.

Needs related to affection:

- Affiliation: the need for social interaction, joining groups, living with others, being loyal to a friend or a group, forming friendship.
- Rejection: the need of being abandoned, acting indifferent to maintain mental healthiness.
- Succorance: the need of seeking help, asking for protection, being dependent.
- Nurturance: the need of giving sympathy to the weak one (tired, unwell, lonely and mentally unhealthy), nurturing others, protecting others.

Need related to hesitance and avoid tension:

- Play: the need of doing something fun without further purpose, avoiding serious situations, having fun.

Needs related to social life, need to ask and tell others:

- Cognizance: the need of exploring, seeking information, fulfilling curiosity.
- Exposition: the need of demonstrating, explaining, giving an interpretation.

In conclusion, 20-human needs by Murray are linked to goal orientation, and in a complex process of attaining one need is pushing particular needs. Surely, obstacles and problem barriers cannot be omitted, as the result people will cater other needs before reaching their priority. The role of the brain has been mentioned in Murray's theory that the brain is the main source of human action and thinking. Therefore, the hardest mission is going to be attained soon and several needs that are already being obtained will give people the opportunity to adapt easily to a new environment or shape personality.

### 3. METHODS

The writers use a descriptive qualitative method to analyze the data information in the discussion. According to Williams (2007), "Qualitative research involves purposeful use for describing, explaining, and interpreting collected data". Moreover, the qualitative technique is used to explore phenomena and focus to explore one situation.

In addition, the writers also use library method by searching, reading several necessary books, journals, and needed sources as supported references that are linked to the statement of problems. In the process of finding the data, the writers take notes and highlight some statements, then pull and compose it with the writers' understandings.

#### **4. RESULT AND DISCUSSION**

##### **a. Features of Ambitious People Portrayed in Alma**

The writers founds thirteen features of ambitious people portrayed in Alma based on Merhab (1989) in Almomani and Theeb (2016), Hansson et al (1983), Salamah (2007) and Barsukova, Mozgovaya, Krishchenko (2015).

##### **1) Personal interest**

“You’ve always liked astrology, am I right?” her mother said.

“Astronomy,” Alma corrected her. “Astrology is horoscopes and things like that.”

“Oh that’s right,” her mother said with a laugh. “Leo, Aquarius, moons in the second house. That could be fun, of course. But astronomy—stargazing and supernovas and galaxies—well, you’ve always loved nature and exploring. It’s perfect for you.” (Ch.11.P.34)

In mother’s dialogue, Alma’s mother admits Alma wonders to explore something she likes in back days. She has already loved nature, especially astronomy, even though she does not really realize it yet. This points out the feature of ambitious people, having the interest in something they are passionate about.

“I will be discussing stellar nucleosynthesis,” Hugo replied. “The material will be purely introductory.”

“That sounds very ... nice,” Alma said, even though she had no idea what stellar nucleosynthesis was and highly doubted there was anything introductory about it. “It’s about—it’s about stars then? I mean, astronomy.” (Ch.25.P.73)

The dialogue points out that Alma always loves to explore although she has little knowledge about the astronomy’s topic and her curiosity to know about stars pushes her to ask and learn more. The feature of ambitious people glued here, having desire to search her personal interest.

##### **2) Willing to connect**

“Yes,” Alma said. “Yes, I want to be in the club.” Inside her, the spark grew. (Ch.49.P.59)

Alma’s answer portrays the feature of ambitious people, willing to be connected to others and the community that pays her attention and interest. Alma’s desire to know more about astronomy grows increasingly and the knowledge about it would be followed.

### 3) Strong desire

Whether she failed or not, whether her episodes stopped or continued, this was where she was supposed to be. She was going to keep trying. (Ch.57.P.161)

Based on the narration, Alma is not a giving-up person, she will have to try other ways in order to reach her ambition, the risk and oppression will not makes her steps back easily because she has a strong desire to complete the quest. Moreover, she does not perceive failure as the end of everything.

“I think now that we’ve seen the error of our ways,” Hugo replied, “we should abort this mission and return during the day.” “

We won’t be able to see the true earth during the day!” Alma protested. “The sunlight is too strong.” (Ch.68.P.189)

The last sentence shows that Alma does not want to hear Hugo because of her desire. It points out that Alma has free will in making choices or selects certain options and does not let anyone obstruct her purpose.

I think Dustin’s right,” Alma told Shirin and Hugo. “The Starling’s been here for too long. Somehow we need to get fire. Tonight.” (Ch.79.P.220)

The sentence shows Alma has a strong decision to get the fire. When members of the group are hesitating to continue the plan, Alma encourages them to keep it up. On the other hand, Alma has strong commitment although her parents already put the quintescope away, and still leaves home for the element.

A clap of thunder startled her from her thoughts. The sound was nearby, not too far from the fields she was watching. And suddenly, Alma knew what she had to do. She got out of bed. She loaded the fire jar and the jar of water and the jar of earth and the jar of wind into her backpack. She put on her coat. She took her flashlight and the quintescope. She was going to gather the last element, her element. And she was going to save the Starling. (Ch.86.P.241)

According to the paragraph, Alma has free will in choice making, if she stops, she will lose all the efforts. Compared to her friends, Alma is more consistent to reach her goal and she refuses to quit even though the accident has burned her hand before.

She wanted to stop. She wanted to cry. Instead, she climbed onward, upward, until she reached the top. (Ch.90.P.251)

The narration exposes Alma’s desire to reach the old shop’s roof. Although her hands are sore, she keeps trying knowing the starling seems weak that makes her cannot give up easily. She has a strong desire to reach the top and is ready to complete the quest even without her friends around.

Water, wind, earth, fire, Starling, Alma thought. She kept her gaze on her half-eaten taco. She recognized the tone of voice. (Ch.62.P.173)

Alma's thought shows that Alma becomes too focused on her ambition. Even outside the quest journey she keeps thinking about her purpose and goal and has a connected feeling towards her mission which establishes strong desire for the quest.

#### 4) Problem solving

"Okay, so no windmills," Alma said. "What about a funnel? Like a huge cone that would catch the wind and then direct it into a—a bottle or something?" (Ch.32.P.93)

The dialogue when Alma says, "What about a funnel?" shows the feature of ambitious, problem solving. Alma does not keep remaining silent and lets Hugo do it alone in planning to arrange things. Therefore, she confesses the idea to solve the problem.

"Perfect," Hugo said, "except that water at the source could be very hot, even boiling. This presents a very serious obstacle to our quest."

Alma studied the water for a moment, then pulled off one shoe. "I think I have an idea," she said. (Ch.36.P.108)

Alma's answer shows problem solving as feature of ambitious people, and it can be seen that Alma has a genius idea to find out whether Hugo is right or not. Since Alma succeeds to prove it, she eliminates the trouble they have to get the water element.

#### 5) Confidence

They were going to find the elements. They were going to create quintessence, that Great Light. And they were going to save the Starling. "You won't regret it, Hugo," Alma said. "Neither of us will. I can feel it." (Ch.30.P.88)

The bold dialogue represents the feature of ambitious, confidence. Alma completely feels confident about what will happen next. She is being assured that the quest carries positive results for her and her friends.

#### 6) Motive others

"Come on, Hugo," she said, hopping off her bike and taking the quintescope, set up without its tripod, out of her basket. "We have to find the elements, remember? And we can look for the Starling as we go. She could be in these woods."

Hugo sighed deeply, but he climbed off his bike. (Ch.35.P.103)

The dialogue exposes the feature of ambitious as a person who can motivate others to become the same as them. Here, Alma has success to have connection with Hugo by motivating him to join the adventure in fulfilling the mission. Then, it is possible for Alma to be able to motivate and persuade Hugo to become brave to get

into the forest with her and Shirin.

### 7) Hardworking

As soon as she sat down, she realized how tired she was. She wasn't sure how much sleep she'd gotten last night, but it wasn't enough. (Ch.41.P.121)

The narration informs that Alma knows she has been spending a lot of time pursue the quest. As a consequence of her hardworking night, her body becomes drained, but still she keeps working on it. Thus, the ambitious feature portrayed here, Alma is a hardworking person.

### 8) Risk taker

Who would be afraid to go to a library? Only Alma. But if she was going to bottle the wind, it was a fear she would have to face. (Ch.46.P.134)

The narration shows Alma as a risk taker since Alma suffers panic attacks in particular events or places, and library is one of it, but she rather to hide the illness, and face something she is scared of. In fact, she can stop, but she really wants to deepen research with her friends, so entering library is needed.

The air grew heavier, thicker, wetter, and Alma's breath came faster as she tried to get as much oxygen in as she could. She was far, far below the surface now. All that earth, piled on top of her, crushing her down, weighing her down. (Ch.70.P.193)

The sentence shows a risk taker person in Alma's action. The quest of finding earth element drives Alma to enter the cave since her friends do not want to follow her. She is courageous and takes risks even though the air inside a cave presses her.

The rain falling and the stars shining. "I am Alma of the Growing Light!" she called to the wind and the earth and the water and the stars, to everything, everything around her. "And I am here for fire!" She lifted the jar into the air. (Ch.88.P.245)

This part reveals Alma as a risk taker. Failure experience does not stop her, instead she continues the quest with a burned hand. She has climbed up the ladder, and put the jar up to seal fire from lighting strokes. It shows that Alma braves to challenge dangerous risk.

### 9) Maximize capability as ambitious people work on it

As she climbed, now less afraid of being knocked off the mountain, Alma took deep gulps of the bracing wind. She watched the backs of her friends, rising higher and higher. She listened to Celcy's cackled words playing in her mind—keep searching, keep searching. (Ch.55.P.157)



This part shows one feature of ambition people in Alma. At first Alma is afraid to go outside and meet new people in town the she lives in, the quest really brings her to be more active and develop her potential and personality. This development urges her to maximize capability as she focuses on it.

#### **10) Emotion stability**

“Only because it was my fault,” Dustin muttered. “And then you saved me.”  
“You were brave,” Alma said. “You are brave. And—and determined. You wanted to help us.” (Ch.84.P.234)

The dialogue shows Alma is willing to talk with someone she hates, Dustin. She understands Dustin’s condition. She has stabilized neutral emotions to keep her from hating Dustin’s fault and controlling her temper. Alma even treats Dustin just like her friends.

#### **11) Self-development**

Alma had taken risks. She had left her safe places and gone out into the world. And her light had grown and grown and grown. (Ch.86.P.240)

The bold sentence shows self-development that Alma is now brave to take risks. The more she has explored, the more she feels happy. She does not think the obstacles will change her desired decision. In the process of it, surely she acquires self-development for coming out from comfort zone, and pushes her to be more active.

#### **12) Critical thinking**

Transforming the energy of lightning into true fire was an idea that Hugo had mentioned many times—in the General Store while they were gathering supplies, during his lecture with the image of the flaming forest under a forked-lightning sky, and as a possible solution suggested by Mrs. Brisa. It had seemed impossible because lightning was so powerful, but Alma understood now how it would work with the fire jar. She removed the lid and pulled the spike out to its full length. (Ch.88.P.245)

From the sentence, Alma gets and improves her critical thinking in assembling things. She knows Hugo is better at arranging things, but here Alma tries to assemble in her own way by mixing it with Hugo’s knowledge. Thus, Alma portrays ambitious features of critical thinking.

Alma explained her idea of creating a funnel that would direct the wind into the windmill bottle while Shirin listened intently. (Ch.46.P.133)

The dialogue exposes Alma's critical thinking. Since the group are being active in offering different opinions that attach to the quest. Alma also has been active giving her ideas and attempting to use her thinking to build the materials.

### 13) Kind-hearted person

There was light inside the Starling, at least. Alma could see it. But it was so dim, it was so weak. The Starling's eyes closed again. "Hold on," Alma said. "I'm going to get you home." (Ch.89.P.247)

Based on the last dialogue, it shows that Alma is a kind-hearted person and she has a generous heart glued as features of ambitious people. Finding a weak starling pushes Alma to help her and she cannot leave a Starling although her body hurts.

### b. Kinds of Human Needs are Catered by Alma

In this research, the writer found seventeen human needs by Henry Murray and Nina Murray (2008) that are being catered by Alma when she pursues her ambition goal after analyzing narration and dialogue.

#### 1) Conversance:

Alma held the wind jar in her hands the whole way home, watching the blades spin round and round. (Ch.59.P.164)

The narration shows Alma is being careful of the jar she brings. She tries to avoid the jar from any harmed things by holding it so close to her. She also does not want to let her and her friends' effort turn to be wasted because if the jar is damaged, the element will return back to its place.

She was carrying a pack full of elements on her back, and she was carrying a Starling in her aching, burned hands, and she had been struck by lightning and thrown off a silo and she had not slept enough in almost three weeks. (Ch.90.P.250)

The first sentence shows that Alma protects things, although she has a sore hand and brings a lot of possessions and a weak Starling. Without her friends around, it makes her do things alone, and she does not want to destroy all things because she almost completes the quest.

#### 2) Order

"I could hold the material in place," she offered. (Ch.51.P.148)

From Alma's dialogue, Alma and friends build and arrange something to help them capture and bring the elements home. Here, Alma wants to assist Hugo by offering help to organize material in an appropriate way.

First, she opened the fire jar. The flames inside flickered steady and strong. To this jar, Alma added the earth. When they joined together, the two elements burned all the brighter, all the more brilliantly, sending out sparks

and flares. (Ch.90.P.251)

From the narration, Alma tries to organize all elements in a proper mix to create the great light as the last step of the quest. When she attempts to join two elements together, and the air, but it fails since the wind element runs away.

### 3) Construction

“Does that mean you’re finished?” Hugo asked. “If so, I propose we purchase some supplies.” This had not been part of the plan.

“Supplies?” Alma said. “Like what?”

“I haven’t had much time to research,” Hugo admitted. “But I thought I might find some promising materials at the General Store. Let us proceed.” (Ch.32.P.91)

The quest pushes them to build something to gather all elements seeing Hugo wants to buy some necessary materials, and tells Alma so. It points out that they will construct it as soon as possible before planning to catch all the elements.

### 4) Achievement

Even though she’d said she was only going to go a few feet in, that wasn’t her plan. Her plan was to go until she found true earth. (Ch.70.P. 193)

The narration exposes Alma’s desire to find the earth element by her own self. Although Hugo and Shirin tell her not to enter the cave far, she does not want to follow their suggestion, instead she will go even further until she gets to the earth without thinking too much about the risk.

And suddenly, Alma knew what she had to do. She got out of bed. She loaded the fire jar and the jar of water and the jar of earth and the jar of wind into her backpack. She put on her coat. She took her flashlight and the quintescope. She was going to gather the last element, her element. And she was going to save the Starling. (Ch.86.P.241)

The need of Achievement is achieved seeing Alma accepting the obstacle and striving for her element without waiting until her burned hand healed. She does not want to be patient any longer to get true fire which she was sure that it was a perfect time to capture it and finish the quest, then she cannot miss it. Since Alma’s friend is not around, she makes this last decision.

### 5) Infavoidance:

“Do I seriously have to listen to this weirdo?” Alma felt her whole self go tense. It was that voice again. She looked over her shoulder and sure enough, there he was. Dustin. (Ch.43.P.126)

The narration tells Alma tries to force herself to encounter Dustin, therefore, she caters Infavoidance need here which contains Alma’s desire to leave the situation that may lead to shame. Alma has goosebump in front of Dustin and she is aware of

Dustin's appearance tightening the tension and wants to leave the place, but she refuses to quit.

#### 6) Defendance

"I think Dustin's right," Alma told Shirin and Hugo. "The Starling's been here for too long. Somehow we need to get fire. Tonight." (Ch.79.P.220)

From the dialogue, precisely in word, "tonight" presents Alma's strong desire to achieve the goal, therefore she chooses Dustin's plan which lacks of strategy. It is because she is only focusing on her ambition without further thinking about the effect of his plan.

#### 7) Contraction

"I think now that we've seen the error of our ways," Hugo replied, "we should abort this mission and return during the day."

"We won't be able to see the true earth during the day!" Alma protested. "The sunlight is too strong." (Ch.68.P.189)

The dialogue also presents Contraction by selecting the hardest mission by entering the cave alone in the middle of the night. Alma does not care what risk she will find inside the cave, besides Hugo warns for her to cancel the plan to protect Alma from any harmed possibility. The important thing to her is finding the earth element to complete the quest right away.

#### 8) Dominance

"Oh, is that right?" Shirin said. "I didn't realize you'd had professional training. I thought you were in sixth grade like me." Hugo ignored her.

"What are you using?" Alma asked, hoping to defuse the tension. (Ch.51.P.148)

The paragraph shows the debate that involves Shirin and Hugo. Alma's dialogue attempts to control group member's mood and return healthy harmonization between members by defusing tension and cancelling further fights. Hence, it will strengthen the group's cooperation to find the elements..

#### 9) Deference

"I could hold the material in place," she offered. (Ch.51.P.148)

Since the group has a plan to assemble materials, Alma offers her help to serve others and gets involved in the group's purpose. Moreover, she succeeds in building the group's cooperation in arranging things. This will lead to the group's cooperation later until the quest completes.

#### 10) Similance

Hugo finally asked. "You really think that a star, defying the laws of physics, fell out of the sky? And turned into a child? And now requires pseudoscientific assistance to return to outer space?"

"Yes," Alma said. "That's what I think. Absolutely. (Ch.30.P.88)

From Alma's answer, "absolutely" points out that she believes the human star exists, and it needs to be returned. Although stars relate to astronomy which can be understood by scientific knowledge, Alma also believes pseudoscientific ways will help the Starling home than Hugo who seems doubtful.

### 11) Autonomy

It felt like they had done this for years, leaving their homes in the middle of the night, finding one another on darkened streets and riding off to magic and adventures. This was part of her life now. (Ch.68.P.188)

The last sentence reveals Autonomy, Alma's freedom for being free from oppression. She enjoys everything about their mission and journey, although she and her friends often find struggles on the way, and her personal problems haunt her. She is not even afraid anymore to go in the middle of the night.

She thought, as she flew down the streets, that she would almost certainly be caught—her parents were watching her too closely. This was her last chance. (Ch.80.P.221)

Even though she is almost being caught, Alma's desire to complete the quest is bigger than being afraid of her parents. She chooses her own freedom for choosing absolute will and it relieves her from personal oppression. Here, Alma also does not want to miss the chance to know her element and fulfill the quest.

And suddenly, Alma knew what she had to do. She got out of bed. She loaded the fire jar and the jar of water and the jar of earth and the jar of wind into her backpack. She put on her coat. She took her flashlight and the quintescope. She was going to gather the last element, her element. And she was going to save the Starling. (Ch.86.P.241)

From the last sentence of going to gather her element drives Alma's will which caters Autonomy. She is independently choosing the decision, without her friends' plans just like former quests that require so many plans. She also wants to avoid her parents' oppression by going out although her hand has burned.

### 12) Blameavoidance

"I'm not going to go," Alma said.

"I'm afraid," her father said, still gentle, "that you absolutely must. You have an appointment on Monday, in fact."

"It isn't a punishment," her mother repeated, still serious. Alma wanted to tell them that they were wrong about her. She wanted to tell them that she was already doing something, something important. But she didn't. (Ch.62.P.174)

Based on the last narration, Alma has to agree to visit the doctor even though she does not want to go. It also shows that Alma still hides the truth from her parents. Alma does not want to yield on her quest merely her personal issues with her parents. Then, if she refuses or tells the truth she will not get any chances to finish the quests,

so she obeys her parents' advice.

She had spent the night there, because her parents had refused to let her be alone in her room. (Ch.82.P.226)

The bold sentence exposes Blameavoidance need when Alma is being passive for fire accident last night. She thinks will get additional punishment if Alma does not want to follow them and it makes her cannot catch the element with her friends again, so Alma obeys her parents.

### 13) Affiliation

"Well, neither of you have to change for me," she told Hugo and Shirin, the closest friends she'd ever had. "I like both of you just the way you are."

Hugo didn't look at her, but he smiled a tiny smile. Shirin rolled her eyes and said, "Oh my goodness." (Ch.65.P.181)

The need of Affiliation is filled and shown in Alma's dialogue for forming a tight relationship with the astronomy club and being grateful to have Hugo and Shirin as the closest friends. In the process of the adventure, Alma feels her friends are important and finally she loves to live in Four Points.

### 14) Succorance

But Hugo did, and Alma suddenly realized that if anyone besides the ShopKeeper could help her, it was him. True, he had already said there couldn't be a fallen star, but she had evidence now. She had the crater and the charred trees. She had seen the Starling up close.

What if she could get him to help her? She had to try.

"Can I—can I ask you something?" she asked.

"There is nothing preventing you," Hugo said. He pulled a piece of tape from the dispenser and rolled it into a circle.

"I—I need your help," Alma said. (Ch.25.P.73)

The first and last sentence shows Succorance is being filled because Alma needs Hugo's help who understands and smarts about astronomy things, thus she asks for it. Alma also is being dependent because she does not have any knowledge about stars or astronomy.

### 15) Nurturance

She was carrying a pack full of elements on her back, and she was carrying a Starling in her aching, burned hands. (Ch.90.P.250)

The first sentence shows Nurturance when Alma attempts to bring a dim Starling up the stairs. Although Alma is unable to bring all of belongings, she will not let the objects get damaged, especially because she wants to protect a Starling from falling down by being indifferent to her sore hands.

## 16) Cognizance

So surely she could go to the library. She had to. It was up to her to save the Starling. (Ch.37.P. 175)

The narration completes Cognizance, and it shows Alma's curiosity to seek necessary information to build and strengthen the plans in the library even though Alma is scared entering library, but it does not stop her. Since Alma has a desire to help a Starling, she keeps focusing on searching for the material.

## 17) Exposition

"But the star wasn't just a star—not just a ball of gas—it was a person. A girl, I think. A—a Starling maybe. And this was where she landed two night ago, and then last night—last night I saw her and she started to run. I chased her through the woods, but then she disappeared. I was hoping she'd be here again tonight. I think—I think she needs me. And I thought if anyone would know what to do, it would be you because you know all about stars and nuclear stuff and elements. And I know you probably think I'm crazy, but it really happened, and I really, really, really need to figure out what to do next." (Ch.28.P.81)

The need of Exposition is catered viewing the long explanation Alma gives about a fallen star that formed like a girl and the truth of chasing a Starling to find out her existence before asking for help. She wants to make Hugo believe at first and be on her side to return a Starling, thus she is being honest.

Alma explained her idea of creating a funnel that would direct the wind into the windmill bottle while Shirin listened intently.

"You're so creative, Alma!" she said when Alma was done. "You always have the best ideas, like the spring and, well, this whole quest really." (Ch.46.P.133)

The first sentence shows Exposition when Alma explains and interprets her idea. The quest pushes them to build things that can capture the element properly. In this case, Alma's idea of creating a funnel is being shared.

### c. Ambition Factors Determine Alma's Ambition-Level

There are four Factors that determine ambition-level of Alma according to Almomani and Theeb (2016) such as prior experience, group influence, purpose of ambition and realism.

#### 1) Prior experience

"I'm not," Alma said, wiping her cheeks with the heels of her palms.

"I have these new friends, and they're filled with all sorts of great things. They're fun and smart and brave." She paused to breathe in a deep, shuddery breath. "But me—sometimes it feels like I have nothing inside. Nothing good." (Ch.78.P.212)

The ambition tends to leveled-off because as she remembers about former experience and performance. Alma confesses about her failure in finding the element. She compares her role and effort in the group toward her friends which also decrease self-trust.

“I thought it was,” she said. She stared down at her bandaged hands, the white wrappings crisscrossing like an endless maze, like a bleached-out bird’s nest. “But I was wrong. I don’t have an element. And I ruined everything.” (Ch.83.P.232)

The dialogue shows the ambition slides off because of personal prior experience of remembering her failure moment. She confesses that she regrets what she did and starts to forget her starter purpose. She starts to decrease self-trust to her ability to find fire and grows insecurity.

## 2) Group influence

“She was here in the woods the other night too,” Alma said. “She was in the crater, but I—I scared her. By accident. Now I don’t know where she is.”

Shirin shut the case decisively and jumped to her feet. “Then we’ll go find her and the elements,” she said. “After reading this, I know exactly where to start!”(Ch.34.P.101)

Shirin’s action makes Alma’s ambition rise up because the group’s member share the confidence. Shirin corresponds to the group in a positive way. Moreover, members of the astronomy club now have linked each other and finally, they set the same goal as her and agree to find the elements.

Even brighter because now Shirin was sitting with them, and they were making plans. Plans that would lead to the next element—her element, she was sure. (Ch.61.P.170)

The sentence shows Alma’s ambition enlarges because of group influence and Shirin’s ambition. Now the group of ambition is created and each member trusts to switch and drive the work to share the ideas. As a result, Alma as a member feels positive that the plans will be far from failure and establish the growth of ambition level.

Hugo looked like he wanted to say no. Shirin actually did.

“Nope,” she said. “We’re not ready. We’ve been doing this for a while, and the other elements were in really specific places. We didn’t just happen to find them.”

Dustin rolled his eyes and turned to Alma. “Come on, Alma,” he said. “Remember what it says about the Starling being in mortal peril? Don’t you want to get the last element? We need to finish this!” (Ch.79.P.219)



The conversation between Shirin and Dustin determines Alma's ambition and it decreases her ambition because the group overlaps which makes members not correspond equally and the confidence of members have different levels. Shirin's words make Alma unsure of the plan.

"You should stop telling yourself things like that," Hugo said. "Because they aren't true."

"No, they're not!" Shirin cried. "I know fire is your element. You believed in the Starling, and you made us believe in her too. You're the one who's kept us going!" Alma held up her hands.

"Then why wasn't I able to get the fire?" she said. "That was our last chance, and now there's nothing we can do!"

"Maybe," Shirin said. "But maybe not. I'm not ready to give up."

"Me neither," Hugo said. "I don't think you are either, Alma. You wouldn't give up on the Starling now. Not you." (Ch.83.P.232)

The conversation between Alma, Shirin and Hugo determines Alma's ambition. The ambition increases because a group's ambition influence, belongingness. From the story, Alma starts to give up after the fire accident has burned her hand. After talking with members of the group, the ambition increases which strengthen her decision to continue the quest.

### 3) Purpose of ambition

I think—I think she needs me. And I thought if anyone would know what to do, it would be you because you know all about stars and nuclear stuff and elements. And I know you probably think I'm crazy, but it really happened, and I really, really, really need to figure out what to do next." (Ch.28.P.81)

Alma's dialogue exposes her ambition and starts to leveled-up because of perceived importance. She does not know about astronomy, therefore she asks Hugo for help. It shows Alma's limited ability drives to make a strategy and look for the right person to be her partner, so her goal will be reached easily.

"This is what the ShopKeeper said!" she cried, lifting the page close to Hugo's visored gaze. "'Find the Elements. Grow the Light. Save the Stars'—well, he said 'Starling.' I guess that's a young star. He told me what to do, and here it is again. We have to find the elements!" (Ch.30.P.87)

The sentence exposes the ambition leveled-up because of the purpose of ambition, personal interest. The idea of meeting Hugo in the middle of the night brings Alma to read an ancient book about quintessence and stars and it creates first personal interest in the book and the quest. The ambition enlarges and influences self-confidence and desire to cater her ambition.

She had gone to new places now, and she hadn't had episodes. She was with her friends. She was on a quest. So surely she could go to the library. She had to. It was up to her to save the Starling. (Ch.37.P. 175)

From the sentence, the ambition leveled-up because of perceived importance. Alma is scared and has panic attacks in the library. She never wants to go there, but the quest's necessity to search for information encourages her to enter. Therefore, she has to make a strategy to control her panic attacks in the library.

She was the one who had seen her fall. She was the one who knew about being lost, about being lonely. Who knew what it was like to fear that her light would go out completely, forever. She was the one who had to go, even if the others were afraid. (Ch.70.P.193)

The narration shows the ambition leveled-up because of her expectation to achieve the task goal. She has been encouraged by personal thoughts about the Starling. Alma feels she is responsible for the Starling and perceives the quest as the important mission for her.

“We can do it, Alma. You don't want the Starling to die, do you?”

She didn't. With her whole heart, desperately, desperately, Alma wanted the Starling to get home. This didn't feel exactly like the right way to do it—it wasn't the way she would have chosen. But maybe Dustin was right. (Ch.80.P. 223)

Dustin's dialogue reminds Alma of her purpose to save the Starling. After remembering her purpose by hearing Dustin's entice, Alma's ambition climbs up because of her expectation to get a fire element. At first Alma feels doubtful, but suddenly her perception changes, “maybe Dustin was right” shows the future expectation that she will succeed in capturing the element if she follows Dustin.

Alma knew what she had to do. She got out of bed. She loaded the fire jar and the jar of water and the jar of earth and the jar of wind into her backpack. She put on her coat. She took her flashlight and the quintescope. She was going to gather the last element, her element. And she was going to save the Starling. (Ch.86.P.241)

The sentence clearly shows the purpose of ambition, expectation. She knows fire element is hers and she expects to capture it someday. Now the time has come, she encourages getting it and completing the quest, especially saving the Starling.

#### 4) Realism

Shirin had gotten water; she had even seemed to shine when she bottled it. Hugo— well, there was no denying that Hugo's element was the wind. He had said that Dustin sounded like earth, but Dustin wasn't part of this, even if he had been Hugo's friend. Earth, Alma knew, was her element. It had to be. It was her turn. (Ch.70.P.193)

The last sentence exposes Alma's leveled-up ambition because of the frame of reference after seeing members' vicarious experiences of members' group. Alma feels confident, she will get earth the element just like them and it drives her to make

the decision to enter the cave alone until she gets the true earth.

## 5. CONCLUSION

The main character Alma has grown ambition in order to complete the quest and return startling home together with her friends. The novel certainly writes about friendship and adventure. After analyzing the novel, the writer finds the features of ambitious people in Alma, there are 13 features such as personal interest, willing to connect, strong desire, problem solving, confidence, motive others, hardworking, risk taker, maximize capability as ambitious people work on it, emotional stability, self-development, critical thinking, and kind-hearted person.

Along the story, one by one human needs are being fulfilled by the main character. Alma indeed has the desire ambition to finish the quest because of her goal motives, moreover needs cannot be forgotten considering all needs are linked to each other, especially the need related to accomplishment and ambition that are being prompted by any other needs. Thus, to cater Alma's priority need, she pushes herself to fill other needs before accomplishing her goal. Meanwhile, the needs are successfully obtained in total are 17; conversance, order, construction, achievement, infavoidance, defendance, conteraction, dominance, deference, similance, autonomy, blameavoidance, affiliation, succorance, nurturance, cognizance, exposition. The role of these catered needs assist Alma to grow her ambition even stronger and help to build self-development. In addition, the needs are linked to features of ambitious people and strengthen a group as a factor in determining the level of Alma's ambition.

Based on the result that there are 4 factors that determine Alma's ambition-level; prior experience, purpose of ambition, group influence, and realism. In brief, prior experience contains failure moments which make her ambition leveled-off. Some ambition purposes determine Alma's ambition-level are personal interest, perceived importance and expectation that drive the action. Meanwhile, Group influence does not always give positive impact, but also negative outcomes when groups' members overlap and do not have equal confidence level. As a result, Alma's ambition has different levels too. The last factor, realism determines ambition-level through frame of reference. Alma tends to have a high level of ambition and confidence after seeing her friends succeed in capturing the element.

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