

**An Analysis of Plots in James W. Ellison
“Akeelah and The Bee”**

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ABSTRACT

An Analysis of Plot in James W. Ellison “Akeelah and the Bee”. Thesis English Program of STKIP Muhammadiyah Sorong. The object of the analysis is Plot in the novel Akeelah and the Bee, the plot is taken as data, classified into the kind of plot and analyzed using descriptive analysis method. The purpose of this research is to know the kind of plot in Akeelah and the Bee novel. The result of this research show that in Akeelah and the Bee novel using (Flashback Plot because containing the elements are; Conflict, Exposition I, Exposition II, Exposition III, Exposition IV, Climax I, Climax II and End). And the writer analyze based on the theory of Russel and Freytag. The result of this research can give useful addition information for lecturers, especially in teaching literature about intrinsic element of story. For the students, the result of this research can be used as additional knowledge to improve their knowledge and ability of the literature, especially in plots of story.

Key Words: Plot, Akeelah and the Bee.

INTRODUCTION

Plot is a literary term used to describe the events that make up a story or the main part of a story. These events relate to each other in a pattern or a sequence. The structure of a novel depends on the organization of events in the plot of the story. Plot is known as the foundation of a novel or story which the characters and settings are built around. It is meant to organize information and events in a logical manner. When writing the plot of a piece of literature, the author has to be careful that it does not dominate the other parts of the story.

The plot is what forms a memory in the readers’ mind, allowing them to think about the book and even making them want to read it again. By identifying and understanding the plot, the reader is able to understand the message being conveyed by the author and the explicit or implicit moral of the story.

A plot is one of the most important parts of a story and has many different purposes. Firstly, the plot focuses attention on the important characters and their roles in the story. It motivates the characters to affect the story and connects the events in an orderly manner. It creates a desire for the reader to go on by absorbing them in the middle of the story, wanting to know what happens next. The plot leads to the climax, but by gradually releases the story in order to maintain the reader's interest. During the plot of a book, a reader gets emotional and connects with the book, not allowing himself to put the book down. Eventually, the plot reveals the entire story and gives the reader a sense of completion that he has finished the story and reached a conclusion.

Literature is a medium through which a person can convey his or her ideas or protest against different norms of society. Those works that deal with a normal issue are particularly purpose in mind. An author can communicate with the readers of a literary work if they can understand what the author wants to send. The author expresses his or her feeling, thought, ideas, or arguments about the social issues by writing those issues in a form of literary work.

Literary work has two main elements, which can be analyzed. They are intrinsic elements or objective approach and extrinsic elements. Intrinsic element (objective element) is elements of literary work that build up the structure of literary work itself. Plot, character, setting, theme, point of view, style and atmosphere are the examples of the intrinsic elements.

Language is very artistic medium or material of all literary. It is used to express subject matter. Literary works are differently from the language that is used every day. Literary is one of the elements of culture that is used to express human thought and idea.

The objects of this research that will be analyzed are plots. Plot is important in novel because plot explains what happens in a story, and just random series of events. Plot is to make the story interesting. Not every plot has a great story, but every great story has a plot. And a plot is a plan, it is the plan the character follows toward an anticipated resolution, and it is the plan a writer follows to retell the character's journey to the readers.

The story is nothing without plot, because plot is one of important element of story. And another elements there are; point of view, character, tone, theme, setting such as. Therefore, the writer interested to analyze. Plot also is the sequence of events that make up a story. Basically the main idea of story based on conflict. This is important for understand, because the perfect story is depend on the plot.

Sometime everybody think that novel just to read without need to learn what the element, education value, implicit meaning, explicit meaning such as. But, we must know that novel will be interesting when the plots of novel are exist. The example of plot is progresive plot; this plot telling story from beginning till the end and also there

is regressive plot (flashback); that is plot telling to the reader, that start from the conflict of story or the middle of story.

LITERATURE REVIEW

Previous Study

The previous of study by Bahun (2010). Analyzed about intrinsic novel, he said that Plot is series of the events created by the author, to tell the story, in must stories, there are events arise of conflict experienced by the main character, the conflict may come from something external, in some stories, the author structures the entire plot chronologically, with the first event followed by the second, third and so on. He analyzed intrinsic of novel "*In My Heart*" by Kharisma Aprilia, and analyzed about situation of exposition, rising action, conflict, crisis, falling action, denouemen.

And also from another research by Thio (2012), said that from category of time, plot divided into two; chronological (progresive plot) and unchronological (flash back or regressive plot). Chronological plot is the events explained from the first till the end, while unchronolglcal plot is not telling the story from the first. He analyze based on

Tasrif (Lubis, 1978:10). Plot is divided into five elements, they are; situation, genering circumstances, rising action, climax, denoument. He said that novel *Sekali Peristiwa di Banten Selatan* is Progresive Plot. (Manoppo : 2011) she analyzed novel "*Negeri 5 Menara*" created by A. Fuadi. She said that in novel *Negeri 5 Menara* containing double plot Progresive and Regressive plot.

(Darmawan : 2013) he analyzed novel "*Pengembaraan Hang Jebat Pencarian Merentas Zaman*" created by Ashadi Zain and Moh Dat Molot. He analyzed plot, about progresive plot, regressive plot and both progresive and regressive is called parallel plot. From analyzed above, the writer get conclusion that plot divided into many types, include progresive plot and regressive plot and such as. The research will be studied by the writer is about the kinds of plot contained in novel *Akeelah and the bee*.

Synopsis of Novel *Akeelah and the Bee*

Akeelah Anderson attends Crenshaw Middle School, a predominantly black school in South Los Angeles. Akeelah is a bright 11-year-old who never makes errors on her spelling tests and doesn't really seem to fit in. She lives with her widowed mother, Tanya, her three siblings Kiana, Devon, and Terrence, and her infant niece. Her principal, Mr. Welch and her teacher, Mrs. Cross, recommend her to sign up for the Crenshaw Schoolwide Spelling Bee, which she wins easily. After that, Dr. Joshua Larabee, a visiting English professor and Mr. Welch's college friend, tests her with

some difficult words and finds that she has the potential to reach the National Spelling Bee, even though she misspells "pulchritude".

When Akeelah asks Dr. Larabee to coach her, he rejects her for being rude. Instead, she studies on her own for the district spelling bee. During the bee, during the final round, she misspells "synecdoche". Her sister Kiana catches the final contestant cheating, when trying to spell "carmagnole" because his mom helps him spell with a "g". He admits it and the judge disqualifies him. This allows Akeelah to get a second chance to take the tenth and final qualifying spot for the regional/state bee by spelling "pastiche". She also meets and befriends Javier Mendez, a 12-year-old Mexican-American boy and fellow speller. Javier invites her to join the spelling club at his Woodland Hills middle school.

In Woodland Hills, Akeelah meets Dylan Chu, a Chinese American boy who had won second place at the past two national spelling bees. He is contemptuous of her — as well as the other members of the spelling club — and asks her to spell "xanthosis". When she starts with a "z", he tells her she needs a coach. At the conclusion of the spelling club meeting, Javier invites Akeelah to his birthday party. Dylan plays Scrabble with Akeelah and several other guests. Akeelah almost beats Dylan, but loses by just two points. She later overhears Dylan's father reprimanding him for nearly losing to "a little black girl" and insisting he must win first place.

Meanwhile, Tanya, still depressed at her husband's death and concerned for her daughter's grades and frequent truancy, forbids Akeelah from participating in the state bee. Akeelah responds by forging her father's signature on the consent form. She memorizes all the winning words from past spelling bees and works with Dr. Larabee, learning not only words but life lessons as well. During the state bee, Tanya interrupts her daughter before she can spell. After an intense discussion with Dr. Larabee and Mr. Welch at the regional bee, Tanya relents.

In the meantime, Javier has fought an inspired delaying action to prevent Akeelah's disqualification; he walks very slowly to the microphone, and asks for his word, "ratatouille", to be repeated five times, defined and used in a sentence several times and used in a song. Dylan finishes first, Javier second, and Akeelah third; they all advance to the Scripps National Spelling Bee.

As Christmas approaches, Akeelah goes out to buy Dr. Larabee a present, not knowing that he plans to give up coaching her because she reminds him too much of his deceased daughter Denise. Instead, he gives Akeelah 5,000 flashcards to study. Without her coach, Akeelah loses her motivation. She is rejected by her best friend, Georgia, and feels the pressure from her neighborhood to do them proud. But after her mom tells her that if she looked around her, she had "50,000 coaches", Akeelah recruits her family

members, classmates, teacher, friends, and her neighbor Derrick T, and prepares in earnest.

After reuniting with Dr. Larabee, Akeelah goes to Washington, D.C. with her mother, oldest brother, best friend, principal, and Dr. Larabee, unaware that her coach has paid for four of their tickets. Akeelah and Georgia rekindle their friendship after she invites Georgia to accompany her to Washington D.C. At the competition, her performance is solid and steady, much of it thanks to her "jump rope" strategy from Dr. Larabee. With only a few stumbles, she is smiled on as a crowd favorite. Javier and Dylan also compete; Javier is eliminated on "Merovingian" and begins rooting for Akeelah. The other finalists, Mary Calveretti and Rajeeve Subramonian misspell "mithridatism" and "vitrophyre," respectively. Finally, it is down to Dylan and Akeelah, and the two finalists are allowed a brief break before continuing with the 25 championship words.

During the break, Akeelah overhears Dylan's father warning him that if he gets second place this year, his last chance at becoming middle-school champion, he will be second place for life. Akeelah attempts to throw the competition by deliberately misspelling "xanthosis" by spelling it with a "z" instead of an "x." Dylan, knowing that Akeelah deliberately misspelled the word, intentionally misspells it as well. While the judging board discusses this unlikely occurrence, Dylan tells Akeelah that he only wants to win fair and square, scoffing his father's do-or-die attitude. They both go word for word up to number 24. Dylan correctly spells "logorrhea", earning him at least a share of first place, much to his father's delight, and Akeelah spells "pulchritude" correctly to become co-champion. As she does so, a brief montage shows of all the novel's main characters, each contributing a letter to the word. Akeelah and Dylan both win while Tanya and Dr. Larabee come up to congratulate Akeelah. Akeelah and Dylan both hold up the trophy.

About the Author of *Akeelah and the Bee*

In 2000, Doug Atchison won the Nicholl Fellowship in Screenwriting for his screenplay of *Akeelah and the Bee*, which he later directed as a feature film for Lionsgate Films. He also co-wrote the screen version of Rebecca Gilman's award-winning play *Spinning into Butter*. He graduated from the University of Southern California's School of Cinema/Television and has taught directing and screenwriting at various universities. James W. Ellison is the author of seven novels published by Doubleday, Little, Brown, and Dodd Mead, including the award-winning *I'm Owen Harrison Harding* and novelizations including *Finding Forrester*, *Two Brothers*, and *Rudy*. He lives in New York City with his wife Debra, son Owen, and daughter Brett.

Plot

In accordance with the study, the writer will focus in discussing the plot of story especially the kind of plot in *Akeelah and the Bee* novel. Plot is a literary term defined

as the events that make up a story, particularly as they relate to one another in a pattern, in a sequence, through cause and effect, how the reader view the story, or simply by coincidence.

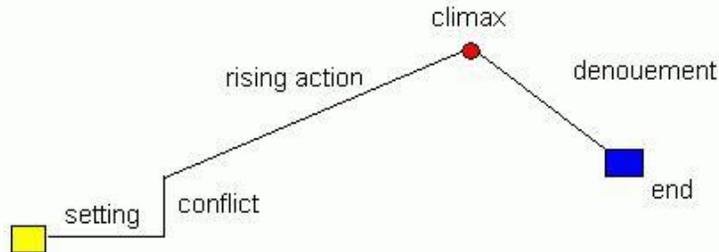
Plot is a series of events that is tied based on the relation of its creation in chronological events and they are related to another based on the cause – effect from the beginning of the story until the end. The events in the story are not independent, but they are related to one another. So, one event will influence the others. The plot of a story is a series of interconnected events in which every occurrence has a specific purpose. A plot is all about establishing connections, suggesting causes, and showing relationships.

Kinds of Plot

Russel formulates four kinds of plots as explained below.

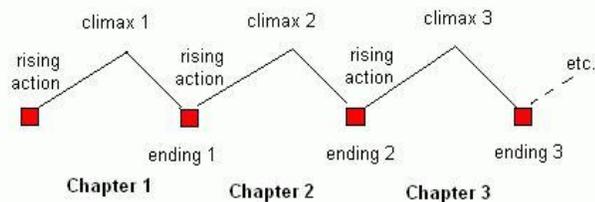
a. A Dramatic or Progressive Plot

This is a chronological structure which first establishes the setting and conflict, then follows the rising action through to a climax (the peak of the action and turning point), and concludes with a denouement (a wrapping up of loose ends).



b. An Episodic Plot:

This is also a chronological structure, but it consists of a series of loosely related incidents, usually of chapter length, tied together by a common theme and/or characters. Episodic plots work best when the writer wishes to explore the personalities of the characters, the nature of their existence, and the flavor of an era.

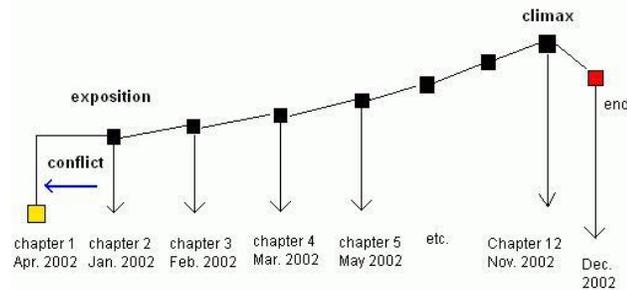


A Parallel Plot

The writer weaves two or more dramatic plots that are usually linked by a common character and a similar theme. This structure is unique plot because using double plot.

A Flashback plot

This structure conveys information about events that occurred earlier. It permits authors to begin the story in the midst of the action but later fill in the background for full understanding of the present events. Flashbacks can occur more than once and in different parts of a story.



According to Forster, plot is events in the story that has pressure to causal relationship. According to Stanton (1965:14) the story contains the sequence of the events but every event are connected by causal relationship, one event cause or caused to the other events.

METHOD

Design and Sample

Type of study or research design is a plan used how the data can be collected and analyzed in novel *Akeelah and the Bee*; this research shaped the research literature (library research). In this study, researchers used a descriptive analysis method. Descriptive analysis is a method by way of collecting the data, sort or classify, analyze, and interpret.

In this part the writer only analyzed *Akeelah and the Bee* to find the kind of plot by using library research, the writer comes to the library to collect the relevant book and analyze. Data sources refer to certain books. Novel and many others form in which the data are taken. The main data in this study is the novel “*Akeelah and the bee*” by James W. Ellison.

The description of the novel is a below:

- a. Title : Akeelah and the bee
- b. Author : James Whitfield Ellison
- c. Publisher : Newmarket Press. New york
- d. Date of publishing : July 1, 2007
- e. Paperback : 192 pages
- f. Language : English
- g. ISBN-10 : 1557047782
- h. ISBN-13 : 978-1557047786
- i. Product Dimensions : 7.9 x 5.1 x 0.6 inches
- j. Shipping Weight : 4.8 ounces

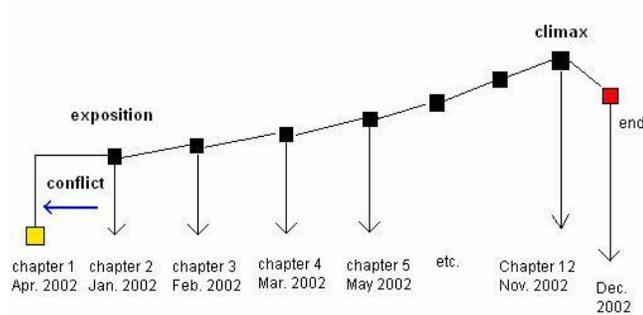
The technique which used by the writer of this research is studying literature. By using this kind of technique, the writer takes information in the form of books, articles, or literary reviews which have any relation to the study.

Data Analysis

As soon as the significant data are collected the writer comes to analyze about the plots of “*Akeelah and the Bee*” by James W. Ellison. Secondly, the writer read the novel to find some quotation to the object of the study, Plots, and the writer classify the plots based on their structure. To classify these plot the writer used theories exposed in chapter two according to Russel and Freytag. After that the writer interpreted and explain it in the result of the research. The data were then presented in a descriptive method by describing the fact about the novel focusing on those questioned plots. The description was then followed by interpretation and analysis making use the concepts related to literature and plots.

RESULT AND DISCUSSION

From the theories and results above, the writer finds same criteria between flashback plot with the result, the result contained conflict, exposition one, exposition two etc, climax one, climax two, and ending. As in the following graph; FLASHBACK PLOT GRAPH



Novel *Akeelah and the Bee*, by James W. Ellison is written in two kinds of plot; Flashback Plot and dramatic plot. The writer, anyway, found that the dominant plot was in flashback. Flashback plot is plot of story that begins its events from the middle or the past of story. According to Fauzi (2009), said that Flashback plot is series of events that have structure not match with time chronologically or the story moving back.

The elements of Flashback plot is Conflict, Exposition 1, Exposition 2, etc, Climax, and End. According to graph from Russel (2009) who divided plot into four, they are; dramatic or progressive plot, episodic plot, parallel plot and flashback plot. Because the story begin when Akeelah Anderson twelve years old, while in the middle story tell us when Akeelah Anderson eleven years old, its mean the plot of story tell

us from the past, and its called **Flashback Plot**. Flashback is reflected in the events of the story. The event is started by the events of past.

Conflict

Conflict of Flashback is the essence of story. It is the main problem which is introduced or set up in the beginning, developed in the central part of novel and ultimately resolved in the ending of the story.

Conflict of novel *Akeelah and the Bee*, is show in **the present**; when Akeelah talking to herself alone in front of the mirror. She is confuse because lost of the words. This conflict is personality At the first paragraph it is as follows page 1, line 15:

“Akeelah Anderson, small and skinny for a just-turned-twelve-year-old and smart beyond her years, sits in her bedroom staring at her image in the mirror and engaging in one of her favorite pastimes: day dreaming. She removes her glasses, cleans them on the sleeve of her blouse, then replaces them in a single, flowing, absent-minded movement. Slowly her image breaks into a smile. “Akeelah,” she says in a surprisingly low voice, given her age and slight physical stature, “what a journey for a girl from South Los Angeles. Girls from this neighborhood just aren’t supposed to have journeys like this. Everything seems like a dream. I know this happened and that happened and a whole bunch of other things, too, but it should seem more real than it does. What’s the word for what I’m feeling? Come on, girl, words are what you’re good at. What is it you’re reaching for? ‘Verisimilitude’? ‘Somnambulism’ ? ‘Déjà vu’ ? Nope—they’re all wrong. But there’s gotta be a word for it because it’s how I’ve been feeling all year and it just doesn’t go away....” She sticks out her tongue and crosses her eyes. “You’re crazy, girl, plain loco, talking to yourself this way. If you start answering yourself, you’ll know you’re in big, big trouble. “Maybe the word I’m searchin’ for is... what? Maybe it’s ‘magic.’ Human magic....”

Exposition

The exposition introduces all of the main characters in the story. It shows how they relate to one another, what their goals and motivations are, and the kind of person they are.

Exposition of Flashback in novel *Akeelah and the bee*, about introduction place, main character, and other is started at the first paragraph it is as follows page 2, line 1:

“The Anderson family—mother, two sons, and two daughters—lived in a mostly black neighborhood in South Los Angeles, a dangerous, forlorn area that often erupted in violence, especially on Saturday nights and most especially on the hot nights of summer. It was light-years removed from the glitter and glamour of Hollywood and the

majestic coastline to the west. Akeelah attended Crenshaw Middle School, an unkempt institution with gang graffiti scrawled on the walls. There were dangling pipe fixtures in the bathrooms where, in better times, the sinks used to be. African-American and Hispanic kids crammed into the overflowing classrooms, shouting, cursing, pushing one another, and ignoring the teachers who implored them to quiet down and take their seats. The teachers, for the most part, were tolerated but not obeyed. Already at ten, eleven, and twelve, many of the students at Crenshaw resented any official forms of discipline and fought against them with street anger and street smarts.”

Exposition two, of novel *Akeelah and the Bee*, introduce the teacher in Crenshaw Middle School who introducing spelling bee, it is as follows page 3, line 71:

“The teacher cleared her throat, swiveled a pen around between her thumb and first finger. Finally she said, “Akeelah—do you know about next week’s spelling bee?”

“No.”

“It’s been posted on the bulletin board for weeks.”

“I don’t pay no attention to the bulletin board.”

“Well, I think you should sign up for it.” She handed her a flyer for Crenshaw’s Inaugural Spelling Bee. Akeelah’s eyes swept over the flyer, then she let out an annoyed breath.

“I’m not interested.”

“But why? You have a real talent for spelling. Some of the words on the test I gave you were very, very difficult—‘picnicking,’ for instance.” She smiled. “I misspelled that in college.”

“Picnicking’ wasn’t hard, Ms. Cross,” she said. “None of the words were really hard.”

“Which is why you should be in the spelling bee.” Akeelah gave a barely perceptible shake of her head. “Can I go now?” she said. A very disappointed Ms. Cross stared after her as she slung her book bag over her slender shoulder and left the classroom.”

Exposition three, introduce about Devon, Akeelah’s brother, it is as follows page 6, line 26:

“Devon sat at the head of the table. Tall and handsome, he wore his hair in a military brush cut. From the way his mother looked at him, her eyes aglow, a tender smile on her lips, it was clear that her oldest child was the apple of her eye”

Exposition four, introduce Dr. Joshua Larabee as Akeelah’s coaching, it is as follows page 10, line 24:

“Dr. Joshua Larabee nodded, his lips pressed together. “Well, I appreciate your dilemma, but I don’t think there’s much I can offer.”

Climax

The point of climax is the turning point of the story, where the main character makes the single big decision that defines the outcome of the story and who he or she is as a person.

Climax, of Flashback in novel *Akeelah and the Bee*, when Akeelah lost her confidence to follow competition spelling bee, and she must making big decision. It is as follows page 15, line 23:

““See? She ain’t so damn smart,” Myrna said. That caused some of the students to laugh, partly as a relief from tension, partly to cover their embarrassment for Akeelah, who stood at the microphone looking mortified. She then bolted from the stage and out the side door of the auditorium, close to tears. Mr. Welch took the same exit and caught up with her halfway down the block.

“Akeelah,” he shouted. “Wait! Where are you going? You did absolutely great. You were spelling words I can’t even spell.”

She pushed forward, half running. “Mr. Welch, I told you I didn’t want to do this. They’re all laughing at me now.”

“They laugh because you intimidate them....They don’t know what else to do.”

“They laugh because they take me for a freak.”

“I don’t think so.”

“I don’t wanna do it.”

“Why not?”

“I dunno. It’s just dumb, you know? Everybody’s gonna be lookin’ at me, the weirdo who spells words. This black girl from Crenshaw thinkin’ she can spell with those rich white brainiacs. And the worst thing is, there’s gonna be tons of words I don’t know.””

And also follows page 17, line 36:

Akeelah struggled with the words for what she wanted to say next. She said finally, “The thing is, I’m just generally scared.” Her voice was barely above a whisper. “The one thing I hate more than anything is standing out. Kids hate you for that. And—and the other thing is, am I good enough for this? Is this just a foolish, stupid pipe dream?”

“I don’t think so.”

“I wish I was as sure as you, Mr. Welch.”

“It’s normal to be scared, Akeelah. Just do your best. That’s all anybody can ask of you—including you.”

And also follows page 68, line 12:

“I don’t wanna do the bee no more, Mama. I’m sick of the whole thing.”

“Not do the bee? But I just don’t understand. You have your heart set on it.”

“Did have. Not anymore.” Tanya increased the pressure on Akeelah’s back and waited for her to continue.

“’Cause it’s making my brain hurt. It’s drivin’ me crazy. Dr. Larabee won’t coach me no more and Georgia don’t wanna hang with me. My world’s fallin’ apart, Mama. And all those people, people in the streets, they’re expectin’ me to win—and if I don’t win, what then? It’s just too hard. I want it all to stop.””

Climax two of novel *Akeelah and the bee*. The big problem happens when Tanya (Akeelah’s mother) banned akeelah to follow competition of spelling bee, it is as follows page 32, line 32:

““Good for them,” Tanya said. “Hur ray for them. But until you finish summer school at Crenshaw, where last I knew you’re still a student, there’s gonna be no more talk of spelling bees.”

“But, Ma, the State Regionals happen during the summer.”

“Then you’re just gonna have to wait to do it next year.

Getting a passing grade is more important than a buncha words.” “But that’s not fair!”

“Not only is it fair,” Tanya said, “it’s final.””

And also follows page 55, line 11:

““You know...? The Regional Spelling Bee’s coming up very soon,” Akeelah ventured.

“Is that one gonna be in Beverly Hills, too?” Her mother sighed and kneaded her forehead with her thumb and first finger. “I told you, once you pass summer school you can start worrying about spelling bees again.””

And also follows page 60, line 11:

““Mrs. Anderson, I swear we thought you were onboard with this,” Mr. Welch said.

Tanya turned on Akeelah, speaking through clenched lips. “You wanna tell me what’s going on? I never signed any consent form. You’ve got some explaining to do, young lady.””

The End / Denouement

The resolution (Ending) shows where the story’s mystery is solved. In this stage all patterns of events accomplish some artistic or emotional effect.

Ending, of novel *Akeelah and the bee*. The end of story is Akeelah to be the winner with Dylan, the problem is solved, and happy ending. it is as follows page 94, line 1:

Maybe the word I'm searchin' for is...what? Maybe it's 'magic. ' Human magic....

My dreams did come true, and how many people's dreams ever come true? It was days before I came down from whatever cloud or star I was riding on high above the earth. Two days after Dylan and I won the National Bee, I turned twelve, we had a big birthday blowout—paid for by Mr. Watanabe!—and then we were back in South Los Angeles—Washington, D. C., a beautiful memory that I know will grow even more beautiful with time. And most of all, I will have it forever and ever.

The day after we returned, I was sitting at my computer puzzling over a starter chess program Dr. Larabee had bought me for my birthday when Mama knocked on my door. I told her to come in and she peeked around the opening holding a letter in her hand. It was wrinkled and coffee stained. "I want you to read this," she said.

"What is it?"

"A letter your daddy wrote me a few months before he was killed."

"I don't remember him ever going away long enough to write a letter"

Tanya smiled. "He didn't. We never went anywhere without each other. But once in a while he'd have an urge to write me a letter. He said it was another way of communicating. Like the difference between TV and radio—that's how he put it. Writing the letter was the radio. More intimate. Over the years he must've written me a dozen or so. This was the last one he ever wrote.

I've never shown it to anybody—or any of the letters—but I want you to read this one. After you read it, it belongs to you. I don't need it. I know it by heart."

She blew me a kiss good night and closed the door softly, leaving me alone with the letter. I sat at the computer and removed a lined sheet of paper from the envelope. He had filled both sides of the sheet.

From the novel "*Akeelah and the Bee*" by James W. Ellison, the writer found one plot of novel, that is Flashback Plot which is based on the elements of novel (Conflict, Exposition 1,2,3,4, Climax and End) in which those elements are in line with the theory of Russel, who divides the plot of novel into four kinds.

Flashback plot have a function to deepen a character's inner conflict or increase narrative tension.

CONCLUSION

Akeelah and the Bee novel containing interesting plot that very good to read, and in the story of *Akeelah and the Bee* containing the elements of Flashback Plot they are; **Conflict** is when Akeelah talking to herself alone in front of the mirror. She is confuse because lost of the words. **Exposition I** is introducing the place in South Los Angeles, main characters; is about mother, two sons and two daughters, etc. **Exposition II** is introducing the teacher in Crenshaw Middle School, Ms Cross who introducing the competition Spelling Bee to Akeelah. **Exposition III** is introduce about Devon, Akeelah's brother who tall and handsome. **Exposition IV** is introducing about Dr. Joshua Larabee, the man who choaching Akeelah in following competition Spelling Bee. **Climax I** is when Akeelah lost her confidence to follow competition Spelling Bee, she have to make big decision for it. **Climax II** is when Akeelah banned to following competition Spelling Bee by her mother. **End**, Ending of story is when Akelaah and Dylan be the winners, the problem solved and happy ending.

Based on the result of the study the writer gives some suggestion to English teacher especially teacher of literature and the future researcher and also to the reader. To the teacher English literature, the teacher should be creative in presenting the material of the lesson, especially study literature. The teacher can use *Akeelah and the Bee* novel as the material of the lesson and to the future researchers: for the other researcher can be more creative in researches and the writer hope this research become reference for the next researchers.

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