



## Mattie's ambition in Jennifer Donnelly's *a Northern Light*

Muhammad Safrin

Universitas 17 Agustus 1945 Surabaya

Email: [Muhammadsafrin064@gmail.com](mailto:Muhammadsafrin064@gmail.com)

Tri Pramesti

Universitas 17 Agustus 1945 Surabaya

Email: [triprarnesti@untag-sby.ac.id](mailto:triprarnesti@untag-sby.ac.id)

**Abstract.** The aim of this study is to describe Mattie's ambition, the causes, and the consequences of Mattie's ambition in Jennifer Donnelly's novel *A Northern Light*. In analyzing extrinsic elements, researchers used a psychological approach which included Individual Psychology by Judge and Kammeyer-Mueller and the theory of Career ambition. To accomplish this study, the writer uses psychological approach and The data analysis technique of this study is uses qualitative research. The results of this study indicate that ambitions consists of two, namely studying at Barnard and becoming a writer. Like Mattie who wants to studying at Barnard University. She did it because she really like literature. The causes of Mattie's ambition also consist of two, namely internal and external. The cause internal of ambition is that the social environment makes Mattie more active and involved in social activities. The causes external of ambition consist of two, namely, getting more life and not being separated from his mother's encouragement. The effects of Mattie's ambitions also consist of positives and negatives. The positive effect of ambition here is basically related to achievements such as in education, achievement in work, and also one's income. The negative effect of Mattie ambition causes she to lose feelings of empathy and allow herself to do whatever she want to achieve she goals, even if it means them have to hurt someone else.

**Keywords:** ambition, causes, effects, psychology of literature.

### INTRODUCTION

Ambition is a desire or passion that is passionate to get what some want, like someone who is great at achieving something in his life or doing something to achieve good goals. Ambition also refers to a strong drive or desire to achieve certain success, achievement, or goals. Ambition also involves a significant drive to overcome challenges that may appear on the road to achievement. These needs belong to psychogenic needs. Sometimes ambition needs are even related to the need to show off or the desire to shock and excite other people. They are not thought to have underlying biological causes, although some may be congenital (Moputi & Husain, 2018).

Gender differences in career development are often related to the unequal distribution of family responsibilities, women's aspirations at work, and leadership in the life choices they make. Women often face difficulties obtaining the same career opportunities as men. Currently, the most popular literary works are novels. Novels are also synonymous with life or problems experienced by people. Events or incidents in a literary work enliven the characters who play an important role in the story. Therefore, the nature of the novel can also be analyzed from various angles and perspectives. One of them analyze the character ambition of one of the characters in the novel.

The main character in Jennifer Donnelly's novel *A Northern Light* is a woman. The life of woman with all their dynamics and problems is a topic that will never run out to be discussed. In relation to efforts to determine the form of representation of women in literary works, this research focuses

on the study of Jennifer Donnelly's novel *A Northern Light* which is noted to be productive, has high credibility in its field, and is consistent with women's issues.

The main character in this novel is named Mattie, she is described as a hardworking woman. Moreover, After the death of her mother and her brother running away after an argument with their father, Mattie has to work even harder to keep her family fed and complete the housework. Without her older brother to work around the farm, Mattie's father demands that she stay home and give up the pointless pursuit of school and writing. The writer is interested in studying Mattie's ambition in the novel *A Northern Light* for at least two reasons. First, it reflects a person's attitude in real life, because ambition cannot be separated from people's lives. secondly, this story also contains a value that can be taken as a life lesson. One of the values that emerge from this story is that hard work is never wasted. when someone has a dream, he has to work hard to make his dream come true. Therefore this study aims to describe Mattie's ambitions, the causes, and the effects of Mattie's ambition in the novel *A Northern Light* by Jennifer Donnelly.

## LITERATURE REVIEW

Psychology and literature have a deep connection because the basic building block of the correlation between literature and psychology is literary work. Psychology studies human behavior and its causes, while literature describes human behavior through fiction. These two are disciplines that study the human soul. Psychology and its place in a literary work mainly study the writer's imagination. All literary works are based on similar experiences and inevitably relate to a wide spectrum of emotional problems.

According to (Wellek, 1977, p.81), psychology of literature has four meanings, first, the study of the psychology of the author as a type or personality, second, the study of the creative process, third, the influence of literature on readers, and the last, study of types and laws, namely psychological laws (Santos et al., 2018) and (Pratiwi, 2022). There are many connections between psychology and literature in people. Both of them have to do with how people behave, interpret events, and function as catalysts. "Psychology, mostly defined scientifically, is the objective study of conduct, both externally perceptible movement and subjective thinking. By treating the psychological supposition in literary works, according to (Wortman, 1999:4), psychology is able to analyse and elaborate facts and experiences related to human activity.

Ambition is a persistent and general striving for success, achievement, and achievement. Ambition involves persistence and generality in that we do not wish that ambition ceases to exist once a certain level of attainment is attained, nor do we believe that ambition is compartmentalized (Rudyanto & Prasaja, 2014). to success in only one area. Ambition has also generally been taken to reflect a striving for position and wealth and not to denote a struggle for general well-being and socio-emotional acceptance. In short, ambition is about achieving rather than achieving (although of course there is a certain relationship between the two) (Judge & Kammeyer-Mueller, 2012) .

To better understand the impact of career goals on career success, let's start here to define what ambition means. One of several proposed definitions comes from Elchard and Smits, who believed that people are ambitious "when they carry out plans and goals for their professional future with the aim of promoting and achieving a "comfortable career". agree to describe themselves as ambitious" Following this thinking and in an attempt to combine different definitions, Judge and Kammeyer-Mueller defined ambition "as a constant and general pursuit of success, achievement and achievement". In particular, ambition is positively related to some external indicators of success, such as the prestige

of the profession (Judge & Kammeyer-Mueller, 2012) and income (Ashby and Schoon, 2010 Judge and Kammeyer-Mueller, 2012) (Otto et al., 2017).

## METHOD

In this study, the authors used an extrinsic approach. The writer will pay attention to the ambition of Mattie's character in the novel *A Northern Light*. According to (Eaglestone, 2009:43) The extrinsic method might examine themes like "the background of a book, psychology, gender issues, the author's intentions, social issues, and much more.

In the analysis of this thesis, the research is done with qualitative research According (Vanderstoep, and Jhonston 2009:7-8) qualitative research is a research that creates narrative or textual descriptions of the phenomenon under study, so the researcher provides a richer and deeper understanding of the population. for qualitative research is textual description, this research uses qualitative textual analysis because the data which are obtained are texts or words.

The data source for this research is a novel entitled *Northern Lights* by Jennifer Donnelly. the information is quoted from the novel related to the topic of the thesis. The data were collected through several steps. The first step is read the novel called *A Northern Light* written by Jennifer Donnelly, the second step is understand the novel, the next step is identify the sentences in the novel related to the thesis topic, and the last step is analyze the sentences. After reading the novel *A northern light* by Jennifer Donnelly, the writer takes the quotations and lists them all, then the second one analyzes each quote and the last one completes the analysis.

## RESULT AND DISCUSSION

### 3.1 Mattie's Ambition

Mattie is the main character in (Donnelly, 2003) novel *A Northern Lights*. She is the oldest child. Mattie lives on the farm with Abby, Lou, Beth, and their father. Her mother is gone when they are still children, and his brother leaves them. Mattie is also very fancy with books. She spends her free time reading a lot and frequently expands his vocabulary by referring to her dictionary. Mattie is also a woman who is very ambitious in achieving her goals. Therefore, in this studying, the researchers want to describe the ambitions of Mattie. The findings of this study have two ambitions, namely, Studying at Barnard's and Becoming a Writer.

#### 3.1.1 Studying at Barnard's

Mattie's ambition to continue her education at the Barnard is very high. That can be seen when she receives a letter from Barnard. Although costs constrain Mattie, and she has not found a way to get there, that doesn't discourage her. Mattie does several small jobs to raise money. The job is like picking up more fiddleheads and a cart of spruce gum. From the jobs, she hope to make enough money for train fare, books, and new belts and skirts. Mattie also sometimes wants to sell fried chicken to tourists like Weaver's mother did. This can be seen in the below quotation.

A week had passed since my letter had arrived from Barnard College, but I was no closer to figuring out a way to get myself there. I would have to pick an awful lot of fiddleheads and a wagon load of spruce gum to make enough money for train fare, books, and maybe a new waist and skirt. If only I could raise my own chickens and fry them up for the tourists like weaver's mamma, I thought (Donnelly, 2003:84).

Mattie's desire to go to Barnard is also seen when she tells her aunt. She tells her aunt if she accepts at Barnard University, which she applies for in the winter. She wants Barnard to study literature because she likes literature. Going to college at Barnard needs money. For that, she wants to borrow money from her aunt. Mattie hopes that her aunt can lend her some money so she can go to college at Barnard. Mattie could earn some money working at Glenmore. However, Her father is not allowed to go to work there. The above explanation can be proved in below quotation.

“Aunt Josie, can you... would you... I want to go to college, Aunt Josie. If you were going to give it to me for books and train fare instead? I've been accepted. To Barnard College. In New York City. I applied over the winter and got in. I want to study literature, but I haven't the money to go and Pa won't let me work at the Glenmore like I want to. And I thought that maybe if you... if Uncle Vernon...” (Donnelly, 2003:11).

Mattie's ambitions related to pursuing education at Barnard University are part of her educational ambitions. Educational Ambition is a strong desire to achieve the desired educational goals (Judge & Kammeyer-Mueller, 2012). Many people want to earn a bachelor's degree or an advanced-level degree, such as a master's or doctorate degree. Continuing formal education at a university or higher education institution can offer better career opportunities and provide in-depth knowledge in certain fields. Because this strong desire has an impact on the future work of a teenager (Haller & Portes, 2019). As did Mattie who wanted to go to study at Barnard University. She did this because she really liked literature. Therefore, with her studying at Barnard, she will easily achieve her goals. In this case, Mattie's goal is to become a writer.

### **3.1.2 *Becoming a Writer***

Mattie's ambition to become a writer is also seen when she tries to get a book. She would later use the book to write stories and poetry. The book cost a whopping forty-five cents, and it would take her a week or so to collect that much. Because she likes to write, Mattie doesn't care about the book's price. She thinks the book will be more useful because she has to write more. The above explanation can be proved in below quotation.

Forty-five cents was a good deal of money, but I didn't want the ones for fifteen cents, not after I'd seen the others. I had more ideas. Tons of them. For stories and poems. I chewed the inside of my cheek, deliberating. I knew I would have to write a lot when I went to Barnard-if I went to Barnard-and it might be a good idea to a head start. Weaver had said I should be using my word, not just collecting them, and I knew they would just glide across this beautiful paper, and when I was done writing them, I could close them safely inside the covers (Donnelly, 2003:71).

Mattie's ambition to become a writer is also seen when she is angry with her father. It causes by those who always kept her at home. With a job taking care of the farm, making it unable to read and write. Mattie could only read and write during the cold and snowy days and nights. In this case, there will be no plowing or sowing in that season. This can be seen in the below quotation.

I looked at the table. I was angry with my father for keeping me home, even for a day, but he was right: he couldn't run a sixty-acre farm alone. I washed then that it was still winter and snowing night and day and there was no plowing or planting, just long evenings of reading and writing in my composition book, and pa with nothing to say about it (Donnelly, 2003:22-23).

Related to Mattie's ambition above, wanting to become a writer is part of status ambition. Status ambition is the product of the group's judgment that the individual deserves a higher status and the individual's motivation and ability to seek that status. In other words, individuals fight for position by striving to increase their value to the group in the eyes of others (Joey T. Cheng, 2014). As did Mattie, who wants to be a writer. She did this ambition based on seeking status where she could be appreciated and get wealth.

### **3.2 The Cause of Mattie's Ambition**

In this section, the author will discuss the causes of Mattie's ambition. The causes of ambition are things that drive one's ambition, which in this case is the main character (Mattie). There are two causes of ambition, internal and external. Internal causes are innate drives within a person that push him to achieve greater accomplishments than those that have been achieved before. Someone wants to move on and achieve better performance. This drive led him to set difficult goals and work hard to achieve them. (Judge & Kammeyer-Mueller, 2012) also point to other internal reasons for ambition, such as extraversion and conscientiousness.

While external causes are Families may put pressure on people to achieve their academic goals. (Judge & Kammeyer-Mueller, 2012) also mentioned family or social circumstances as the cause of the emergence of ambition. Parents or families may have high expectations of academic achievement and expect their children to earn a top degree or get into a top university. This hope may come from the family's drive to ensure that the child will be successful and have a bright future. In this study, external causes of Mattie's ambition, such as encouragement from friends, family, or close mentors, can also trigger someone's ambition and help someone achieve their goals. Here is a more detailed explanation of the causes of Mattie's ambition.

#### **3.2.1 Internal Cause**

In this research, the cause of Mattie's internal ambition is because she has an extroverted personality. The extroverted personality is that they get energy from interactions with other people and their social environment. Their social environment makes them more active and involved in social activities, which broadens their view of the world and allows them to develop. According to a study conducted by (Shehni & Khezrab, 2020), extroverts are enjoying their opinions and feelings about the events going on around them. According to research (Jones et al., 2017) a combination of characteristics, particularly Social Boldness and Liveliness (extraversion), Diligence and Prudence (conscientiousness), might partially capture ambition. In general, extroverts clearly look outside themselves for inspiration, and their energy alignment relates to the external environment. Extroverts are more influenced by their environment than by themselves. Extroversion is a direction of personal interest in the environment, not personal experience.

Based on the explanation above, Mattie's extroverted nature is related to her ambition. Mattie tends to get support from within herself. In this case, he is an extrovert

character. As well as she is sociable, friendly, and has a passionate nature. In the following, the author will show some of the extroverted traits of Mattie's character. The first is that Mattie has an extrovert personality, one of which is that she quickly gets along with anyone. Besides that, Mattie also has friends in her social environment. They always held hands together when walking together. Although they have different skin colors, they also have much in common. The equation is like liking words and reading a book. The below quotation shows the above explanation.

I reached for him and he pulled himself up, nearly pulling me over as he did. I have known weaver smith for over ten years now. He is my best friend. Him and Minnie both. But I still have to smile every time we take hands. My skin is so pale you can nearly see through it, and his is as dark as tobacco. There's more alike than different about Weaver and me, though. His palms are pink like mine. And his eyes are brown like mine. And inside, he's exactly like me. He loves words, too, and there is nothing he would rather do than read a book (Donnelly, 2003:30-31).

Mattie is also very friendly towards the people around her. Mattie's friendly demeanor can be seen when she entertains her neighbor Royal. At that time, Royal helps them to take care of Mattie's family farm. When they finish, they take a break, and Mattie serves a slice of cake and pours a switchel from a stone jug. Mattie also gives pieces to Tommy and Lou, and Beth. This can be seen in the below quotation.

"where's Lawton" ain't he coming back".

"You writing a column for the paper, Royal?" Lou asked

Royal didn't laugh. I did, though. he was quiet after that. Two hours later, he'd finished the field entirely, we sat down for a rest, and I gave him a piece of the johnny cake I'd brought and poured him switchel from a stone jug. I gave pieces to Tommy and Lou and Beth as well (Donnelly, 2003:54).

### 3.2.2 External Cause

In research of external causes related to Mattie's ambitions. There are two causes of Mattie's ambition, the first is a Better Life in New York and her Mother. Here is an explanation of Mattie's ambitions.

#### a). *Better Life in New York*

Besides, Mattie bores with what she does at home. She bores all summer with so many things she has to do. Mattie starts by doing housework and taking care of a large plantation. She also feels that this job is inappropriate because she is a woman. Plus, she can't make money for her needs because her time has been spent caring for everything. The below quotation shows the above explanation.

I started at my hands-red, cracked, old woman's hands and saw what was in store for me: a whole summer of drudgery and no money for it. Cooking, cleaning, washing, sewing, feeding, chickens, slopping pigs, milking cows, churning cream, salting butter, making soap, plowing, planting, hoeing, weeding, harvesting, haying, threshing, canning-doing everything that fell on the eldest (Donnelly, 2003:23).

Another reason Mattie wants to get away from her house is because she is boring. We can see it from her feelings. Mattie is always busy with housework like cooking. Sometimes before cooking, she has to fill the wood into the stove. Besides that, sometimes, the ashes that have to serve the furnace must throw. That's why Mattie felt like she is in prison. She also seemed to be going crazy if she did the job due to the narrow kitchen walls. This can be seen in the below quotation.

There were more chores to do. The wood box next to the stove was nearly empty. There were ashes to dump down the outhouse and Abby could have used my help with the darning, but I felt as if the very walls themselves were pressing in upon me. As if I would go crazy if I stayed in this prison of a kitchen for one second longer. I learned against the sink and closed my eyes. I must have sighed or groaned or something, because Abby suddenly said, "What's wrong, Mattie?" (Donnelly, 2003:206).

One's desire to improve financial well-being is one of the main reasons one has ambitions for a better life. Someone wants to have financial stability and the opportunity to achieve their dreams and goals in life. Ryan and Deci (Otto et al., 2017) say that most people are motivated to satisfy psychological needs for independence and ability. The ambition to achieve financial stability can also encourage someone to learn more and take measured risks in a career, just like Mattie, who wants financial well-being as her ambition. One of the things she had to do was leave her house. She thinks by leaving her house. She will get what she wants. One of them is to go and live in New York.

Mattie wants to go to New York because there are many famous colleges. Columbia University is one of them, just like society's thinking at that time. One of them is Miss Weaver. She is willing to work hard and do anything, like selling at the Eagle Bay train station. She did it for sends his son to a Colombian university college. The above explanation can be proved in below quotation.

During the warmer months, she fried up four or five every evening, and bakes biscuits and pies, too, and took it all down to the eagle bay railroad station the next day in her cart to meet the trains. Between the engineer and the conductors and all the hungry tourists, she sold everything she made. She put every penny she earned in an old cigar box that she kept under her bed. Weaver's mamma worked as hard as she did so she could send Weaver away to college. To the Columbia University in New York City (Donnelly, 2003:32).

Mattie's strong desire to go to New York forces her to work hard. She also has many ways to make money to achieve her dream. Working at Glenmore is one of them. Mattie hopes to raise some money soon. But besides is constrains by costs, her father does not allow it. Because of that, Mattie sometimes thinks that working at Glenmore is quite close, and Mattie does not allow by her father. Let alone go to New York, which is far away. This can be seen in the below quotation.

I wanted to earn money. Desperately. I had a plan. Well, more a dream than a plan, and the Glenmore was only part of it. But I wasn't feeling very hopeful about it just then. If Pa said no to the Glenmore, which was only a few miles up the road, what on earth would he say to New York City? (Donnelly, 2003:25).

*b). Mother*

Mattie's mother is very supportive of her getting a diploma. Mattie's teacher, Miss Wilcox, comes to her house when her mother is still alive. Here, her mother is very enthusiastic about it, welcomes Miss Wilcox, and tells them to take a bath and make gingerbread for her. After the teacher leaves, Mattie's mother tells Mattie for gets her diploma even though her father disapproves. The below quotation shows the above explanation.

"She had come to my house last November to talk with my parents about my getting a diploma. Mamma made us all wash before she came-even Pa-and had Abby make a gingerbread and me do the girls' hair. Mamma couldn't get downstairs that day, and Miss Wilcox said to her, but after she left, mamma told me I was to get my diploma even though Pa wanted me to leave school" (Donnelly, 2003:59).

Even though her Mother has died, Mattie always remembers the message from her Mother. Mattie has to get her diploma because it means a lot to her Mom. It sometimes makes her want to leave the house to get what her Mother wants. That sentence is thrown by her father when she starts argues with her. This can be seen in the below quotation.

I started to argue, but Pa looked up from his bowl and I knew to stop. He wiped his mouth on his sleeve. "You're lucky you're going at all this year," he said. "And it's only because the nation of you getting your diploma"-it come out French-sounding, dee-plo-ma, as his word do when he's angry-"meant something to your mother (Donnelly, 2003:22).

Mattie's desire to get a diploma shows when she is about to take her final exams. Mattie excites to take her exam. She also wants to be late for this exam. Mattie doesn't want to miss this final exam because she has months of studies to prepare for everything. The exam is critical to get her high school diploma. The below quotation shows the above explanation.

"Uncle fifty, you come on," I said. "I haven't got time for this. I've got important test to take today."

"Test? What kine of test?"

"For my high school diploma. The last exams are today. I've been studying for months" (Donnelly, 2003:143).

From the quote above, Mattie's ambition is also based on her parents' encouragement. (Judge & Kammeyer-Mueller, 2012) It also mentions social or family circumstances as motivation. They argue that the family is responsible for building children's values so that they are successful in work and education. Parents who learn to value and achieve success in their own lives tend to pass the same principles on to their children. The same is also found in Mattie's character. Which ambition is also influenced by encouragement from her mother. Mattie's mother wanted Mattie to go to school so she would get her diploma.

### 3.3 The Effect of Mattie's Ambition

There are two effects of Mattie's ambition, positive and negative. The positive effect of ambition is Achieving the desired success is one of the most obvious positive results of the ambition effect. Strong ambition drives a person to set big goals and work hard to achieve them. Hard work, persistence, and commitment are the keys to achieving



that goal. Success inspires others and opens up new opportunities. The negative effect of ambition is that it affects personal and social relationships that can be damaged by being too excited. Because of their strong focus on personal achievement, highly ambitious people often spend less time with family, friends, or loved ones. This can cause emotional distance and tension in the relationship, as well as a loss of balance between their professional and personal lives. Here's a more detailed explanation of the effects of Mattie's ambitions.

### ***3.3.1 Positive Effect***

In this section, the author will show findings about the positive effects of Mattie's ambition. There are several positive effects of Mattie's ambition, which are as follows. One of the positive effects of Mattie's ambition is to get what she wants. She gets a letter from Barnard College. Mattie is speechless after seeing and reading the contents of the letter. The contents of the letter contain how they want it. Mattie's stories were liked by the dean, who didn't find them horrible and hopeless. Barnard College's professors would also be more than happy to teach her. The below quotation shows the above explanation.

I looked at my teacher, barely able to breathe, much less speak. It says they want me, I thought. Barnard College wants me-Mattie Gokey from the Uncas Road in eagle bay. It says that the dean herself likes my stories and doesn't think they are morbid and dispiriting, and that professor, real professor with long black gowns and all sorts of fancy degrees, will teach me (Donnelly, 2003:65).

Mattie's positive ambition is also seen when her wishes achieve. Mattie finally left her village and went to college in New York. She wants this for a long time. Mattie felt a deep sense of sadness, fear, and joy when Mattie left her village. She will never forget all the memories of the village wherever she went. Mattie will have a long way to go before the train arrives at its destination. He dreams of New York City daily and makes her work hard to get there. New York is also a city that gives her a better life. The above explanation can be proved in below quotation.

The conductor sees me. "Come on, missy!" he yells. "Her bark's worse than her bite!" he reaches down for me. I look around myself wildly, my heart bursting with grief and fear, and joy. I am leaving, but I will take this place and its stories with me wherever I go.

I reach for his hand and claps it. He hoists me onto the 10:15 southbound. To Utica and Herkimer. And all points south. To Amsterdam and Albany and beyond. To New York City. To my future. My life (Donnelly, 2003:380).

This study shows that career ambition mediates the relationship between psychological rights and work involvement, where psychological rights are positively related to career ambitions. And career ambition is positively related to work involvement (Szu-Yin Lin, 2022). According to (Judge & Kammeyer-Mueller, 2012) ambition, basically, is positively related to achievement such as in education, achievement in work, and also one's income. This is in accordance with the positive effect of Mattie's ambition which will make it easier to achieve her career.

### ***3.3.2 Negative Effect***

The negative effect of Mattie's ambition is that she is too busy with her personal affairs. She needs to remember what she should do at home. She does not like to cook, So that day, her uncle replaces Mettie in cooking. This can be seen in the below quotation. By the time I got home, it was nearly six o'clock. I had been so wrapped up in my exams, and in rehashing them with Weaver, that I'd forgotten all about my uncle. Until I smelled cooking. And heard music from a harmonica and laughter. And saw lights blazing in the kitchen. It didn't smell, nor sound, or even look like my house. Not at all (Donnelly, 2003:145).

Besides that, Mattie's ambition also makes her father angry. Mattie's father seems disillusioned with Mattie, who still wants to leave her family for her ambition. Her father is also at a loss for words to stop Mattie. Therefore she no longer cares for her to leave. She tells her that if she left, then never to come back again. The above explanation can be proved in below quotation.

He blinked at me and his eyes looked hurt, and I thought, just for a second, that he was going to say something tender to me, but no, "Go, then, Mattie. I won't stop you. But don't come back if you do," he said. Then he walked out of the kitchen, slamming the door behind him (Donnelly, 2003:168).

Her aunt also expresses selfish words. A selfish word gives Mattie because she chooses to leave her family for her ambition. Her aunt also rates Mattie as severely as her brother. His brother also left his family in his time of need. Her aunt said that because she thought Mattie would instead go to New York than takes care of her family. Her aunt also thinks that New York is a terrible place. This can be seen in the below quotation.

"You are just as bad as your no-account brother," she finally said. "Selfish and thoughtless. It must come from the Gokey side, because it doesn't come from the Robertsons. What on earth can you be thinking? leaving your sisters when they need you? and for a terrible place like New York!" (Donnelly, 2003:113).

## CONCLUSION

This research aims to reveal three problems regarding Mattie's ambition. The first What are Mattie's ambitions in *A Northern Light* by Jennifer Donnelly. The second is the causes of Mattie's ambitions, and finally, what are the effects of Mattie's ambitions, research using qualitative methods. The findings from research on Mattie's ambitions consist of two. The first is that Mattie's ambitions related to pursuing education at Barnard University are part of her educational ambitions. Hence, she would quickly achieve her goal with her studying at Barnard. In this case, Mattie's goal is to become a writer. The second is to becoming a writer. Regarding Mattie's ambition, wanting to be a writer is part of her status ambition. She carried out this ambition by seeking status where she could be appreciated and get wealth.

Mattie's ambition also has two causes. Namely internal and external causes. The first is internal causes. In this study, the cause of Mattie's internal outbursts was due to her extroverted personality. Thus Mattie gets energy from interacting with other people and their social environment. The social environment makes Mattie more active and involved in social activities, which broadens Mattie's view of the world and allows her to grow. The second is external. External causes of Mattie's ambition split in two, the first

Better Life in New York. The ambition to achieve financial stability can also encourage someone to learn more and take measured risks in their career. Dissatisfaction with current affairs can inspire one to achieve more significant goals, just like Mattie wanted financial well-being as her ambition. One of the things he had to do was leave her house. She thought that by leaving her home, he would get what he wanted. One is to go and live in New York, and the second mother. Cheer's parents' encouragement also supported the cause of Mattie's ambitions. Those who learn to value and achieve success in their own lives tend to pass the same principles on to their children. The same is also found in Mattie's character. Emotion is meant also influenced by encouragement from his mother. Mattie's mother wanted Mattie to go to school so she could get her diploma.

Besides that, Mattie's ambition also has positive and negative effects. The effect of positive ambition here is related to achievements such as in education, achievement in work, and one's income. That corresponds to the positive effect of Mattie's ambition to facilitate bargaining. And the adverse effects of Mattie's ambition related to excessive ambition can also cause a person to handle negative criticism and neglect themselves. When people get too excited, they tend to lose their empathy and allow themselves to do whatever they want to achieve their goals, even if it means hurting others. Based on this explanation can be found in the character Mattie where Mattie puts her ambitions above her family.

## REFERENCES

- Donnelly, J. (2003). *A Northern Light*. Harcourt, Inc.
- Eaglestone, Robert. (2009). *Doing English: A Guide for Literature Students*. Routledge.
- Judge, T. A., & Kammeyer-Mueller, J. D. (2012). On the Value of Aiming High: The Causes and Consequences of Ambition. *Journal of Applied Psychology*, 97(4), 758–775.  
<https://doi.org/10.1037/a0028084>
- Moputi, R., & Husain, D. (2018). An Ambition Analysis Represented By The Main Character in Perfume: The Story Of A Murderer. In *Jurnal Bahasa dan Sastra Inggris* (Vol. 7, Issue 1).
- Otto, K., Roe, R., Sobiraj, S., Baluku, M. M., & Garrido Vásquez, M. E. (2017). The impact of career ambition on psychologists' extrinsic and intrinsic career success: The less they want, the more they get. *Career Development International*, 22(1), 23–36.  
<https://doi.org/10.1108/CDI-06-2016-0093>
- Pratiwi, A. and P. T. (2022). Alicia Berenson's Complex Post-Traumatic Stress Disorder in Alex Michaelides' *The Silent Patient*. *Austronesian: Journal of Language Science & Literature*, 131–140.
- Rudyanto, F., & Prasaja, Y. (2015). A STUDY OF AMBITION THROUGH ELEMENTS OF SETTING AND CHARACTER IN THOMAS HARDY'S *THE RETURN OF THE NATIVE*. *PARAFRASE : Jurnal Kajian Kebahasaan & Kesastraan*, 14(02).  
<https://doi.org/10.30996/parafrase.v14i02.427>

- Santos, R. C. Dos, Santos, J. C. Dos, & Silva, J. A. Da. (2018). Psychology of literature and literature in psychology. *Trends in Psychology*, 26(2), 781–794.  
<https://doi.org/10.9788/TP2018.2-09En>
- Vanderstoep, S. W. A. J. D. D. (2009). *Research Methods For Everything Life: Blending Qualitative And Quantitative Approaches*. USA: Jossey-Bass.
- Wellek, R. and W. A. (1977). *Theory of Literature*. London: Jonathan Cape.
- Wortman, C. . L. E. A. W. C. (1999). *Psychology* (Five Edition). USA: Mc Graw-Hill, Inc.