

HIERARCHY OF HUMAN NEEDS IN *WILL TRAYNOR CHARACTER ME BEFORE YOU* BY THEA SHARROCK

¹*Desty Anggraini*

Universitas Bangka Belitung
Email: destanggra@gmail.com

²*Diana Anggraeni*

Universitas Bangka Belitung
Email: dianaanggraeniubb@gmail.com@gmail.com

³*Asrul Munazar*

Universitas Bangka Belitung
Email: asrulmunazar01@gmail.com

Abstrak

Karakter merupakan satu elemen yang penting yang terdapat didalam suatu cerita dan didalam setiap karakter memiliki psikologi yang berbeda beda, riset ini memiliki keterkaitan untuk mengaitkan antara karakter dari Will dengan teori psikologi yang bernama tingkatan kebutuhan kehidupan manusia dari Abraham Maslow. Studi yang bertujuan untuk menganalisis tingkat kebutuhan hidup manusia dan karakter yang terdapat dalam karakter utama bernama Will Traynor pada film *Me Before You* yang disutradarai oleh Thea Sharrock. Studi ini memakai kualitatif deskriptif metodologi untuk memberikan penjelasan analisis yang ditemui didalam satu karakter. Penelitian ini menemukan sebelas karakter, yaitu: *cold-hearted, temperamental, sensitive, individual, open-minded, patience, friendly, kindness, confident, humble, and stubborn*. Studi ini menemukan tiga tingkatan kebutuhan hidup manusia yang terdapat didalam karakter Will. Pertama adalah *safety needs*, kebutuhan ini muncul karena kondisi cacat Will, yang membuatnya sangat tidak nyaman dan takut akan gangguan yang akan dihadapi jika dia tidak melindungi dirinya dengan baik dan benar. Kebutuhan kedua adalah *love and belongingness needs*, kebutuhan ini banyak terjadi karena Will sudah jatuh cinta pada Louisa dan juga karena genre film ini romantis, oleh karena itu kebutuhan ini sangat banyak muncul. Kebutuhan dominan terakhir adalah *esteem needs*, kebutuhan ini muncul karena kasta atau status yang sangat terlihat dalam film ini dan juga karena karakter utama Will Traynor sebagai majikan dan Louisa yang hanya seorang pembantu dan tidak memiliki hak atau keunggulan dalam dirinya terhadap Will Traynor.

Kata Kunci : Will Traynor, Karakter, Hierarchy of Human Needs, Film

Abstract

Character is one important element in the story and in every character it has different psychological. This research interest to conducting the theory from Abraham Maslow to the character of *Will* with the psychological theory named the hierarchy of human needs from Abraham Maslow. This study aims to analyze the hierarchy of human needs and character that contained in the main character named Will Traynor in *Me Before You* movie directed by Thea Sharrock. About the methodology, this research use a qualitative descriptive to give an explanation of the analysis encountered in one character. This study found eleventh character, they are: cold-hearted, temperamental, sensitive, individual, open-minded, patience, friendly, kindness, confident, humble, and stubborn. This research found the hierarchy that contained in Will characteristics, it is only has three hierarchy. First is safety needs, this need arises because of will's flawed condition, which makes him very uncomfortable and afraid of the disturbance he will face if he does not protect himself properly and correctly. Second needs is love and belongingness needs, this needs occurs a lot because Will already closest to Louisa and also because of the genre is romantic, therefore this needs is emerged very much. The last dominant needs is esteem, this needs appeared because of the caste or status that is very visible in this film and also because of the main character Will as a lord and Louisa who is only a maid and has no right or superiority in her life to Will.

Keywords: *Will Traynor, Character, Hierarchy of Human Needs, Movie*

INTRODUCTION

According to Bennett and Royle (2004: 60) character is the life of literature which is the object of desire, attraction, affection, dislike, admiration and even threat. The conversation between one character and another character is a medium between the thoughts and actions of that character. According to Abraham Harold Maslow, he proposed a theory that outlined five hierarchical needs named; physiological needs, safety needs, love and belongingness needs, esteem needs, and self-actualization needs that could also be applied to the organization and the performance of its employees (Saul McLeod, 2018). For explaining the philosophical elements which help this research argument by using the Robert Stanton theory about the way to representing a character. Nowadays, the nature of literary analysis has changed. Literary works are not just in reading text or in a piece of writing such as fiction, poetry, drama, novel, and so on. Each picture and culture that can be explained and read is also text. Movie is also a book, and it is one of literary works. In the literature there is a movie and an adaptation of the novel to achieve new goals with a new target audience as well. This adaptation is called by Belen Vidal Villasur (2011:146) as a memory object from the literature itself. Adaptations can make it easier to understand a novel that has already been read. The characters and the whole context are alive

and meaningful. Joseph and Dennis (2008:3) said that film is a unique and powerful art form on a par with painting, sculpture, music, literature, and drama. Movie has similarities to poetry, drama, and prose. Also has imagery, a metaphor, a symbol like poetry which has dialogs and actions. Like a novel, film has a plot that can freely explore time back and forth. This research use *Me Before You* movie and focusing on the character named *Will Traynor*. This research found two the identification of the problem, there are many stages of the hierarchy of human life requires within the main character and various kind of character that contained in the main figures. The purpose of this research to identify what level of the hierarchy of human needs by Abraham Maslow and to discover what are the character of Will Traynor that contained of the hierarchy of human needs which is represented in *Me Before You* movie by Thea Sharrock.

RESEARCH METODOLOGY

This study classified as literary criticism because in this research conduct the analysis of literature including description, analysis, and interpretation of literary works (Peck and Coyle 1948 in Nailul 2008).

Type of the Research

This research uses the qualitative method, especially in descriptive types. In descriptive type's method has descriptive research that aims to describe a phenomenon and its characteristics. This research is more concerned with what happened than how or why something happened. Observation and survey tools are therefore often used to gather data (Gall, Gall, & Borg, 2007). The purpose of qualitative descriptive research is a detailed description, daily, of specific events encountered by individuals or groups. Descriptive qualitative research is purely in conducting data processing during the researchers conducting research, which is characterized by simultaneous data collection and analysis. The presentation of data from a qualitative descriptive analysis requires a straight forward concise description of the analytical quality of the data, which is structured logically.

By using qualitative descriptive methodology, it will support the data and give more proved more in this research analysis and describe through one analysis by

scooping two of the problem formulation. This study is directly analyzing the data through two main theories. First, identify the level of the hierarchy of human needs by Abraham Maslow in the character of Will Traynor. For explaining this analysis, the first step is mention the dialogue or script from Will with other figure, second, analyzing the words or the conversation that already mention above, and last is describing the data which is got from the data collection pass through the theory of Robert Stanton and focusing to recognize more deeply what are the character.

Subject of the Research

This study uses the movie *Me Before You* directed by Thea Sharrock in the year of 2016. This research looking at to the main character named *Will Traynor* as the center in this analysis and also to hook up with the stages of human needs from Abraham Maslow that contained in Will characteristics.

Data Collection

This research has some steps to gather the data by using the table of collecting the data by; first taking notes while watching the movie, the researcher will take a look to Will character and see the theory from Abraham Maslow about the hierarchy of human needs and Robert Stanton theory about how to evaluate one character during the movie played. Second, identifying and checklist the data, this step will help this study for classifying the data by each stage in Abraham Maslow's theory. For identifying the data, this study uses a table and abbreviations to categories the stages that already fulfill by Will's character. The data will get a checklist while watching this movie based on what is the author got by looking at the table of identifying the data. Third, find Will's character that have been identified and describe the features of Will Traynor. Last is classifying the data, This step will help this study to agglomerate the data based on the characteristics

and the hierarchy of human needs. Firstly, classify the characteristics that found through the duration of the film and then put the hierarchy that appeared in every characteristic.

Data Analysis

There are some steps uses in this analysis: first, classifying the data that dealing with the two main theories used in this analysis. Second, analyzing the hierarchy of human needs in the character of Will and analyzing the character through the data by looking at the conversation or action by the main figures. and which has related to the statement in problem formulation. Drawing a conclusion after the data has been analyzed.

FINDING AND DISCUSSION

This study found three dominant hierarchies that appeared in this movie, they are; safety needs, love and belongingness needs, and esteem needs. Also found eleventh characteristics of Will that contained in each character. It has two types; negative and positive. In the beginning of the movie, Will figures shown the negative of his characteristics, they are; cold-hearted, temperamental, sensitive, and individual. After he knows Louisa Clark Will's characteristic changed to be positive, they are; open-minded, patience, friendly, kindness, confident, and humble. However, in the end of the film, Will's figures come back again to the negative personality, such as; stubborn.

First hierarchy that contained in Will character is safety needs. This second level is the need for security, when all physiological needs are met and are no longer controlling thoughts and behaviors. The needs for security can become active and will appear by it. After their physiological needs are met the safety needs obtained by the compilers they know no danger will befall them, physically, mentally, or emotionally. In safety needs hierarchy it is appeared of Will characters there are; cold-hearted, sensitive, individual, patience. Below is an analysis of the hierarchy and characters contained in the main character, Will Traynor ; cold-hearted, sensitive, individual, and patience.

The first character in safety needs hierarchy is cold-hearted. A cold-hearted person is someone who is emotionally inaccessible, and loses sympathy, Advani (2018). He can not see for himself, and break off somebody's sadness or desire. He cannot accept the presence of Louisa in his life. Louisa Clark is Will's assistant and Will is acting so cold-hearted, because he does not want Louisa to disturbed his life in his comfort zone, and tried to make Will go outside from his house. In this movie, Will only spoke to what is he needed, not blabbered as Louisa does, and Will does not want someone to interfere in his personal life. Below of their conversation that proved Will is cold-hearted:

Lou : Hello.
 Will : Hello.
 Lou : So I thought we could go out this afternoon.
Will : Where do you have in mind?
 Lou : Well, I was told you have a car that was adapted, for wheelchairs.
Will : and you thought a drive would be good for me? A breath of fresh air?
 Lou : What do you usually do?

In the conversation above especially in Will's words, he said that **“where do you have in mind”** it implies that Will asks Lou what action she should take to make him feel no longer bored. Another word is **“and you thought a drive would be good for me?”** In that sentence, Will wants to ask Louisa for her responsibilities, whether Louisa will keep him safe and comfortable whereas driving his car. Will does not want to say something more to Louisa in this discussion. He still makes Louisa in his homes as a stranger, but Louisa as his assistant tried so hard to get closer to him, but this does not work in Will. Incident above include the hierarchy of safety needs for emotional and mental security needs. For the safety needs, Will characteristics arises because he wants his life to be calm and does not want to be disturbed by things that will make him feel insecure, safety needs itself is a need for security that is not only related to the protection of chaotic situations or other physical hazards, but also a sense or interference with a peace conditions and does not want to be haunted by the past event which only makes he feel sacred (Maslow in Dwi, 2013:3). Will only wanted peace in his life and he did not want to see the slightest bad thing related to his past, he was very angry when he found out Louisa was

trying to fix a broken picture frame that contained a photo of Alicia, even though Louisa also did not want to fix Alicia's photo frame.

Second level of human needs is social and involves feelings of belongingness. The need for interpersonal relationships is motivating behavior. The love or belongingness needs come into play after the physiological and security drives are satisfied. In love and belongingness needs hierarchy it is appeared of Will character there are; temperamental, patience, kindness, confidence, and humble.

First character in love and belongingness hierarchy is temperamental. In temperament, the structure of the central nervous system and the physiology that distinguishes our most fundamental mental and behavioral reactions to life situations are often associated with personality (Karr-Morse & Wiley, 1997). On another day Louisa tried to fix the frame that has been smashed by Will, but Will unaccepted of Louisa treatment. Below the conversation of them:

Lou :I just thought if I could fix some of these. Or um, y'know if you wanted to get new ones, I could go intotown at lunch time. Or we could both go.

Will : You know what, Louisa. Me, smashing those was not an accident.

Lou : Sorry, aright, I didn't think

Will : you thought you knew best. Well, I don't want those pictures staring at me, every time I'm in bed, waiting for someone to bloody get me out again, okay?

Lou :I wasn't going to fix the one of Alicia. I'm not that stupid.

Mr. Traynor said **“You know what, Louisa. Me, smashing those was not an accident”** it means, Will is deliberate for smashed that picture. It happened because one of the other pictures in the frame is a photo of Alicia's ex-lover of Will. Other words proved by Will when he saw Louisa repairing the picture frames, Will said **“you thought you knew best. Well, I don't want those pictures staring at me, every time I'm in bed, waiting for someone to bloody get**

me out again, okay?” It means, he thought that Louisa knew everything about him and Alicia, he was upset at Louisa, who thought she was right about what she was doing.

The hierarchy of human needs in temperamental character is love and belongingness needs, this needs appeared because the accepting and receiving sense of affection through Will. He receives the reality that his girlfriend will get married with his best friend. And also there is a sense for receiving the invitation from Alicia and Rupert wedding party.

The fourth level in this hierarchy is the need for self-esteem. When individuals fulfill these needs, as well as their need for affection and belonging, they may begin to develop positive feelings of self-esteem and act to promote pride in their work and themselves as human beings. Nevertheless, before they can work towards self-esteem, they must feel safe, confident, and part of a group like a school class. At this level of need for self-esteem, Maslow classifies in two categories such as;

1. The first is self-esteem needs such as independence, achievement, dignity, and power.
2. The second is the need for a desire to gain a reputation or respect from others, for examples such as status and prestige.

In esteem needs hierarchy it is appeared of Will character there are; sensitive, open-minded, friendly, kindness, confidence, humble and stubborn. First character in esteem needs hierarchy is sensitive. According to Granneman (2020), the definition of a highly sensitive person is someone experiencing acute physical, mental, or emotional stimulus reactions. This includes external stimuli, such as your environment and the people with whom you are, or internal stimuli, such as your thoughts, emotions, and realizations.

Will : Hello Louisa Clark. I am Will Traynor. You appear to have a problem with your skirt.

Nathan : You're a bad man, Mr. T! G'day.Nathan.

Will's Mother: Right, well I'll leave you to get on. **Miss Clark, Nathan will talk you through Will's routines and equipment.**

Will : You don't have to talk across me, mother. My brain isn't paralyzed yet.

Will's mother considers that he unable to do something like normal people do, like explaining kind of his routine activities, Will's mother said **“Miss Clark, Nathan will talk you through Will's routines and equipment.”** Will feels sensitive and he deemed unable to do it and then he says **“You don't have to talk across me, mother. My brain isn't paralyzed yet.”** Part of the body of Will is no longer functioning because of motorcycle crashed, this made his mother think Will was unable to explain the routine that he has been doing every day, but this strongly confirms that Will does not want to be considered abnormal and unable to do anything else like the people who have disabilities. Will also says that his brain is still able to think and have a conversation with someone because his brain is not paralyzed at all and can still work like a normal person.

According to Poston (2009, p. 351) Maslow's Hierarchy addresses two levels of self-esteem. One is lower level and higher level. The lower level of self-esteem is directly linked to the ego of the person, which implies there is a deep desire to value by others. In this situation, Will self-esteem activated and he does not want to be demeaned because he only someone who is disabled and could not do anything. Therefore Will himself denied his mother by saying that he did not need to be represented to speak. It proves that Will wants to be valued and or has a desire to gain respect from others.

CONCLUSION AND SUGGESTION

Conclusion

This study analyzed the main character *Will Traynor* in the movie *Me Before You* as a unit of analysis. This research uses Abraham Maslow's main theory of human needs hierarchy and other supportive theories, such as Robert Stanton's, about how to evaluate one main character. This study showed the evidence of the conversation from one person to another and the dialogue between the main character and other figures. This research often utilizes movie scripts, books, journals, dictionaries and other materials to support

this research. This research found *Will Traynor* the hierarchy of human needs and character that contained in his personality. Will has three dominants of the hierarchy, such as; safety needs, love and belongingness needs, and esteem needs. About the character it has eleventh named; cold-hearted, temperamental, sensitive, individual, open-minded, patience, kindness, confidence, humble, and stubborn.

Suggestion

This research only analyzes the main figures that contained the hierarchy of human needs. This study does not describe the first need, which is psychological needs, because this needs is the basic level, which Will himself has done such as breathing a fresh air, eating, drinking, sleeping and other things that Will do. For the last level of human life needs, namely self-actualization, Will himself cannot achieve this self-realization because he has committed suicide after he gets everything he wants in his life. This study suggest to the next researcher to use this finding as an empirical guideline in the field of human needs, especially for the hierarchy of physiological and self-actualization needs. It will be more interesting for the next researcher to examine by using another theory of psychological or other concept that related to literary criticism such as make a comparison to any literary works in the same field or genre by seeing at the dominant of the hierarchy of human needs that contained in one character or more.

BIOGRAPHY

My name is Desty Anggraini, I was born in Jakarta December, 29th 1997. Below the social media account; email : destanggra@gmail.com, Intagram : @destyanggr .

REFERENCES

Book and Journal

Dwi, F.S. 2013. *Maslow's Hierarchy of Needs Manifested By The Main Character In The Forrest Gump The Movie*. Study Program of English Department of Languages And Literature Faculty of Cultural Studies Universitas Brawijaya.

- Putri, Cindy. 2017. *The Characterization Of The Main Character In Gone Girl Film*. State University of Medan.
- Peck, J and Martin.C. (1984).*Literary Criticism*. London: Machmillan Education Ltd.
[Review from Fauziah, N. (2008). *Psychological Analysis of the MainCharacter's Personality in Go Ask Alice*. Universitas Islam Negeri Maulana Malik Ibrahim.
- Gall, M.D., Gall, J.P., & Borg, W.R. 2007. *Educational research: An introduction* (8thed.). Boston: Pearson [Review from Nassaji Hossein. (2015). *Qualitative and descriptive research: Data type versus data analysis*] *Languange Teaching Research, Vol. 19* (2) 129-132. University of Victoria, Canada.

Internet

- Advani, S. (2018). *Six Cold Hearted Zodiac Signs*. Minds Journal. Retrieved from ;<https://themindsjournal.com/6-cold-hearted-zodiac-signs/#>
- Boggs, J.M. and Dennis W.P. (2008).*The Art of Watching Film*. 7th ed. New York: McGraw Hill Higher Education.
- Karr, M. R., Wiley, M.S. (1997). *Ghosts from the Nursery: Tracing the Roots of Violence*. New York: The Atlantic Monthly Press. Retrieved from; <https://www.greatkidsinc.org/understanding-temperamentwhat-are-the-characteristics/>
- McLeod, S.A. 2018. *Maslow's hierarchy of needs*. Retrieved from : <https://www.simplypsychology.org/maslow.html>
- Poston, B. (2009). *An Exercise in Personal Exploration : Maslow's Hierarchy of Needs*. Association of Surgical Technologists. Retrieved from; <https://www.ast.org/pdf/308.pdf>
- Villasur.B.V. (2011). *Literature and Cinema* [Review of the book “*Textures of the Image : Rewriting the American Novel in the Contemporary Film*”. Universitat de Valencia]. *International Journal of Language and Literature*, June 2015, Vol. 3, No.1, pp. 42-48. Retrieved from :http://ijll-net.com/journals/ijll/Vol_3_No_1_June_2015/6.pdf