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DELPIN BANTUU
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ENGLISH LITERATURE DEPARTMENT
FACULTY OF CULTURAL SCIENCE
MUHAMMADIYAH UNIVERSITY OF GORONTALO
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A PSYCHOLOGICAL ANALYSIS ON THE FULFILLMENT OF NEEDS OF NEIL PERRY'S CHARACTER IN DEAD POETS

Delpin Bantuu,

Yulan Puluhulawa, M. Hum[1],

Dahlia Husain, M. Hum[2]

English Literature Departement, Faculty of Cultural Science,

Muhammadiyah University of Gorontalo

delpinbantuu@gmail.com

ABSTRACT

This research discussed the main character's need, Neil Perry. Namely, psychological need, safety need, love and belonging need, esteem need, and actualization need. The objective of this research is to analyze Abraham Maslow's hierarchy of needs described in the Dead Poets Society film by Peter Weir. This research used the descriptive qualitative method and Abraham Maslow's theory. The result of this research was found from five types of Abraham Maslow, there were three types that were not fulfilled by Neil Perry, namely safety need, love and belonging need, and esteem need so, although Neil Perry meets the needs of self-actualization, Neil had a negative impact on himself because he does not meet the needs below.

Keywords: *Neil Perry, Abraham Maslow's Hierarchy of Needs*

INTRODUCTION

Literature is the work imaginative Literature is a means to convey a message about the life of someone to others. Literary as an idea result of writer art that describes the even in human life. Events of life that describe in literature in invention life has made by writer of letters, appear like a reality life. Wallek and Warren (in Kholifah, 2012:1) state that literature represents life in large measure, a social reality, event thought the natural world, and the inner of the subjective world of the individual has also been objected of literary imitation. In reality, the literary work is a medium of communication that involves three components, namely the author as the senders of the message, literature as the message, and the readers as the recipient of the message. Through the process, readers of literary work will be able to catch the message

conveyed normally describe the feeling and the main of the researcher base on experience or social circumstances prevailing in the society. The one of kind literary work is a drama, the most popular drama called film.

The film is a work of art that describes moving images with sound. The aim is to present the story with the meaning in a story. In the film, communication used convey message to people. The message of recorded in pictures tell a story made by producers.

The film is also considered as a powerful communication medium for the masses that are targeted, because of its audio-visual nature, which is a vivid picture and sound. With pictures and sound, films can tell a lot in a short time. Film and literature have a relationship that both of convey a message or give instruction to people to work together. This medium is created by the film director. According to Hornby film is a series moving pictures recorded with sound that tells a story (Kholifah, 2012:1). In the film, the director tries to make more unique with add emotional touch in every characterization of character and emotion through in every dialog. However, the audience perceives a work was not released from their psychological personality.

Abraham Maslow formulated a theory of human motivation in which basic needs must be met by individuals. If an individual cannot meet his basic need, the individual cannot fulfill his need. The order of needs according to Abraham Maslow is as follows: physiological need, security need, love and belongingness need, esteem need, and self actualization need. Humanistic theory is very concerned about the human dimension in dealing with its environment humanely by focusing on individual freedom to express opinions and determine their choices, values, responsibilities, goals and meanings, (Zukrin in Baharuddin, 2007).

Based on the explanation above, the researchers in interested in analyzing Maslow's hierarchy of needs described in the film Dead Poets Society,

especially the main character, Neil Perry. The film itself tells about inspiration and motivation.

The Dead Poets Society is a film by Peter Weir which tells about Neil Perry who tried to get all his needs, especially his desire to be an actor. The film has been worked on by director Peter Weir for a long time and released in 1989 in the United States. Peter Weir has released many films throughout his life, one of the main films being the Dead Poets Society. Therefore, researchers are interested in analyzing the film by giving the title "A Psychological Analysis on the Fulfillment of Needs of Neil Perry's Character in Dead Poets"

RESEARCH METHOD

In the research, the research applies qualitative descriptive method. Qualitative research means exploring and understanding the meaning of individuals or group ascribe to a social or human problem. The process of research involves emerging question and procedures. Data typically of collected in the participant's setting, data analysis inductively building from particulars to general themes, and the researcher making interpretations of the data. The final written report has a flexible structure. Those who engage in this from of inquiry support a way looking at research the honor an inductive style, a focus on individual meaning, and the importance of rendering the complexity of situation (Creswell, 2009)

In this research, the researcher used Abraham Maslow's Theory Hierarchy of Needs to Analyze Maslow's needs depicted in Dead Poets Society (1989) film.

SEARCH FINDING AND DISCUSSION

This chapter discussed about research findings. The findings displayed all results of data analysis. In this chapter, the researcher found the researcher question. To make it clear for the readers, the researcher conveys the discussion of the findings.

1. The Physiological Need

Physiological need is a basic need must be fulfilled by every human being. This need refers to our body's needs such as food, water, and sleep. The data below are the needs that have been fulfilled by Neil Perry, even though he is not from a rich family, Neil gets enough food, drink and he sleeps properly, because he stays in school dormitory

Data 1

Mr. Keating	*: What's up?*
Neil	*: "…. I can see his point. We're not a rich family like Charlie's, and we- - but he's planning the rest of my life for me, and I- - H-He's never asked me what I want."* (01:25:28-01:25:34)

The above conversation happened when Neil visited Mr. Keating as an English teacher in his class. In the room Neil sat on a chair with a gloomy face and told Mr. Keating that's he was not a rich family like his friends. It shows that Neil comes from an ordinary and simple family unlike his other friends. He comes from a small businessman family. Due to such condition, he must work hard to be a successful man and it becomes a burden for him because his family, especially his father, hoped for him to be a successful person, therefore since childhood he was sent to the dormitory school and settled there.

Data 2

Neil	*: Hey, I hear we're gonna be roommates.*
Neil	*: I'm Neil Perry.*
Todd	*: Todd Anderson.*
	(00:05:31 – 00:05:35)

The conversation above taken when Neil exits a building after attending a meeting in the Hall and sees Todd-Anderson walking, who will become his dorm roommate and his new friend at the Academy. The data shows that Neil has his own bedroom and shares a room with his new friend because in the dorm room there are two beds.

2. Safety Needs

In this research, the second needs are the needs for feeling safe, such as physical security, stability, dependency, and protection (Feist, 2010:279).

Neil Perry meets his safety needs in the school environment, but Neil does not meet the safety needs of his family environment, namely the relationship with his father.

Data 3

Knox	*: Hey, how's it going Neil?*
Neil	*:Hey, Knox*
Cameron	*: Neil, study group tonight?*
Neil	*: Yeah, sure.*
	(00:05:57 – 00:06:07)

Neil is known as a person who is friendly and respect with other friends. They always do everything together, namely at night Neil and his friends create a study club to discuss all subject at school. It show that's Neil, does not experience distraction in the school environment or bullying from his friend. Safety needs can also develop according to social problem or the conditions of the country where they live (Maslow in Yusuf et.al 2008).

Data 4

Mr. Keating	*: What's up?*
Neil	*: I just talked to my father. He's making me quit the play at Hanley Hall. Acting's everything to me. I- -but he doesn't know. He- - I can see his point. We're not a rich family like Charlie's, and we- - but he's planning the rest of my life for me, and I- - H-He's never asked me what I want.* (01:25:28-01:25:34)

The dialogue above describes how fear is Neil to his father. Neil cannot escape his fear of his father's, although his father is not around him, but the image of his father's wrath and oppression keep annoying his mind. The data shows that Neil cannot escape from the shadow of his father who is always angry and rude to him. In other words we can say he is afraid of his father's anger and if he continues to do what he likes, he only imagined his father's anger.

3. Love and Belongingness Need

Need love of love and belonging is a need that encourages a person to make an effective and emotional relationship with another person, family, or group in the community. The goal is because they are lonely, isolated, and helpless if their spouse, friends, or family they leave behind. In Dead Poets Society film, the researcher finds some Love Belongingness Needs.

Neil Perry is a caring and affectionate student. In this need, Neil gets the love and affection of his friends and Mr. Keating. However, Neil does not get affection and love from his family relationship, especially his relationship with his father. This can be seen from the data below:

Data 5

Neil	*: Todd? Hey*
Todd	*: Hey.*
Neil	*: What's going on?*
Todd	*: Nothing. Today my birthday.*
Neil	*: Is today your birthday? Happy birthday*
Todd	*: Thanks.*
Neil	*: What's you get?*
Todd	*: My Parents gave me this*
Neil	*: Isn't this same desk set.*
Todd	*: Yeah, they gave me the same thing as last year……*
Neil	*: Todd? The world's first unmanned flying desk set.*
Todd	*: Oh My…*
Neil	*: Don't wouldn't worry. You'll get another one next year.* (01:05:56-01:07:43)

The above conversation happened when Neil was walking with his play notes and he saw Todd sitting alone on one of the school sidewalks. Neil helps Todd who falls apart in sadness by giving him support and courage to face any kind of problem ahead. Their relation in new, but the researcher finds that Neil helps Todd a lot, for instance, he gives him spirit if there is any problem and guides him in school, because he is a new student at the Academy. The data shows that Neil tried to helps Todd by providing support an accompanying him until he feels better.

Data 6

Mr. Perry *: Don't you ever dispute me in public. Do you Understands?*
Neil *: Father, I Wasn't disputing.*
Mr. Perry *: After you've finished medical school and you're on your own, then you can do as you dam well please. But until then, you do as I tell you. Is that clear?*
Neil *: Yes sir. I'm sorry*
(00:07:51 - 00:08:47)

A father who is supposed to be a guardian and the role model for a family, in this case the child, in fact what happened was opposite. For Neil, his father was not his guardian, but a figure so fierce and frightening, he thought that his father was a threat to him. The manner of speaking was more than intimidating and he was forbidden to argue with anything that was said, Neil was only allowed to say yes and nod.

The dialogue above shows how cruel it is. Many times his father took actions and decisions without considering Neil's wishes and feelings, much less asking and discussing them. Neil was considered only a tool to do what his father wanted and he was not considered a human being who also had the desire and will to do what he liked. Everything Neil wanted and had done was a mistake and a flaw, whereas Neil had tried to fulfill what his father asked for and managed to do it and prove it with all his achievements.

4. Esteem Need

The next need is self-esteem need, respect and appreciation in very important in this need. All human beings have needs to be a respected and respect for others. People need to involve themselves in gaining recognition and having activities that make the person feel a contribution.

Neil is a very diligent student, has good academic achievements, he is also an active student in the academy, and has great curiosity. However, Neil's achievement at school not considered by his father, for his father Neil was just a child who couldn't do anything, so Neil lost the Need for Self-esteem.

Data 7

Mr. Perry *: Don't you dare talk back to me! It's bad enough that you've wasted your time with this, this absurd acting business.----*

Neil *: No. Nobody-- I thought I'd surprise you. I've gotten all "A" s in every class.*

(01:22:14 - 01:22:48)

Neil is very diligent and has good academic achievements and he is also an active student in the academy. Can be seen from the dialogue above between Neil and Mr. Perry that she told her father she got an A in all subjects.

The data above shows that Neil is a smart and accomplished student. Neil uses his time very well, because the competition between students is very tight, both at school and outside of school so he doesn't want to be left behind, among others.

Data 8

Neil *: I just talked to my father. He's making me quit the play at Hanley Hall. Acting's everything to me. I- -but he doesn't know. He- - I can see his point. We're not a rich family like Charlie's, and we- - but he's planning the rest of my life for me, and I- - H-He's never asked me what I want.*

(01:25:28-01:25:34)

Neil Perry visits Mr. Keating room's at night, talked about his father and told Mr. Keating how he felt. Neil Perry said "*but he's planning the rest of my life for me, and I- - H-He's never asked me what I want".* Shows that his father never respected him and did not give him the opportunity to rule his own life

The next need is self-esteem need, respect and appreciation in very important in this need. Neil Perry was treated well by his friends and respected by all his teachers, especially Mr. Keating, but unfortunately he did not get it from his father. Even though my father was very proud and respected him, why would his father respect him when he was considered a child and thought he could do nothing. According Maslow (1943)

regarded the esteem needs as having two components: esteem for oneself and the respect one received from other people.

5. Self-actualization Need

The last need is self-actualization needs, Self-actualization has been one of the most difficult needs to define because it is at the highest level of the theoretical hierarchy and thus is more abstract concept. A person will be able to achieve self-actualization if they can get their own time and obstacles. Internal barriers such as being alert, afraid, ashamed, and so on, and External barriers such as los opportunity, discrimination, and repressive attitudes in the environment.

Neil Perry is a student who has talent in acting. Therefore Neil wants to become an actor. In his need for self-actualization, he could achieve that need by putting on stage plays, but that backfired on him. He experienced a psychological disorder because he did not meet the needs below, this can be seen from the data below:

Data 9

Neil	*: I found it.*
Todd	*: You found what?*
Neil	*: What I Wanna do right now. What's really, really, really inside me.*
Todd	*: "A Midsummer Night's Dream"?*
Neil	*: This is It*
Todd	*: What is this?*
Neil	*:It's a play.*
Todd	*:I know that. I—What does it have to do with you?*
Neil	*: Right. They're putting it on at Hanley Hall. Open tryouts. Open tryouts.*
Todd	*: Yes, so.*
Neil	*: So, I'm gonna act. Yes, yes! I'm gonna be an actor! Ever since I can remember, I've wanted to try this. I even tried to go to summer stock audition last year but, of course, my father wouldn't let me. For first time in my whole life I know what I wanna do. And for first time I'm gonna do it whether my father wants me to or not! Carpe Diem!* (00:45:41 – 00:46:24)

Neil had a great desire to get involved and get the role to play a drama called "Midsummer Night's Dream", it was his biggest wish but it was

prevented by his father who always forbade him to do useless things besides studying.

The data above shows that Neil still insisted on performing the play, even though he knew that his father would not allow him to do so. According Maslow (1987:22) described it as "People's desire for self-fulfillment, namely, the tendency for them to become actualized in what they are potentially. This tendency might be phrased as the desire to become more and more what one idiosyncratically.

This can be a boomerang for him, the needs below which he have not fulfilled yet become an obstacle and will treat him in the future, because the theory that someone who has reached the highest level without fulfilling the needs below will experience psychological disorders. This is evidenced by the data below, after fulfilling the self-actualization need he is attacked by many problem, first he become depressed and at the ends his life by suicide.

Data 10

Mr. Perry	*: we're trying very hard to understand why it is that you insist on defying us…..Tomorrow I'm with drawing you in Braden Military School You're going to Harvard and you're gonna be a doctor.*
Neil	*: But that's ten more years. Father, that's a lifetime!* (01:40:14 - 01:41:27)

The peak moment was when Neil was caught playing a play on stage by the show. He dragged Neil like a prisoner and pulled him out of Welton Academy and sent him to Branden Military School.

The data show that Neil cannot accept that decision. He wasn't ready to leave his friends and moreover, he wasn't ready to enter Branden Military school because he implemented what he wanted, plays dramas, but on the other hand he has managed to get an "A" in all subjects and that was not counted by his father. Actually Neil wanted to fight and reject the decision, but he realized that it made no difference and only made things worse, so he could only cry in front of his parents.

Data 11

Neil	*: But that's ten more years. Father, that's a lifetime!*
Mr. Perry	*: Oh, stop it. Don't dramatic. You make a sound like a prison term. You don't understand, Neil. You have opportunities that never even dreamt of and I am not going to let you waste them.*
Neil	*: I've got to tell you what I feel.*
Mr. Perry	*: What? What? Tell me what you feel. What is it? Is it more of this, this acting business? Because you can forget that. What?*
Neil	*: Nothing.* (01:40:14 - 01:41:27)

Neil keeps silent and tries to accept what his father had just said, but it is not working his thoughts about leaving Welton Academy, his friend and entering Branden Military School keep haunting him and forces him to make a rebellion. Neil know that he cannot change his father's decision.

From the data above Neil feels that there is no other way to solve his problem and considers that all his problems as heavy burden, which he cannot take anymore, he made tragic decision to end his misery, which is suicide.

CONCLUSION AND SUGGESTION

Based on the description of the research findings and discussion, the researcher draws some conclusions about this research. There five levels of Maslow's classification of human needs contained in Peter Weir's film "Dead Poets Society", they are: Physiological Needs, Safety Needs, Love Belongingness Needs, Self-Esteem Needs, and Self-actualization Needs. Neil Perry decided to commit suicide because he could not handle all the stress and depression that happen with him. Those pressure and depression prompted him to do such action. According to Abraham H. Maslow's Hierarchy of Needs theory, those pressure and depression happen because Neil cannot fulfill the lower needs and skip to commit the highest need, which is self-actualization needs.

This research is expected to give reference to those especially who are interested in conducting they research about the hierarchy of needs contained in the film, to give contribution to generate the ideas and

knowledge especially in the field of literature, and provide the benefits to the readers who study literature, thus, they can express the human needs in Peter Weir‘s “Dead Poets Society (1989)” film.

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