

THE FULFILLMENT OF NEED MAIN CHARACTER LINA IN THE NOVEL BETWEEN SHADES OF GRAY BY RUTA SEPETYS

Saniyyah Maulidya Sobari

English Literature Departement, Faculty of Administration and Humanities
Muhammadiyah University of Sukabumi
saniyyahmaulidya4@gmail.com

Fenty Sukmawaty

English Literature Departement, Faculty of Administration and Humanities
Muhammadiyah University of Sukabumi

Saprudin

English Literature Departement, Faculty of Administration and Humanities
Muhammadiyah University of Sukabumi

ABSTRACT

The title of this research is the fulfillment of Need Main Character Lina in the Novel Between Shades of gray by Ruta Sepetys. Lina is the main character in the novel who tries to fulfilled her needs when she and her family were deported by the Soviet red army. This research aims to find out how Lina fulfilled her needs through the theory of the hierarchy of needs fulfillment by Maslow. The method used in this research is descriptive qualitative method, in which the researcher presented the data in a descriptive form or the data itself is not presented in the form of numbers. The approach used is a literary psychology approach while researchers use reading and note-taking techniques as data collection techniques. The final results of this study show that Lina has succeeded to fulfilling her needs according to hierarchy of needs fulfillment theory.

Keywords: Hierarchy of Needs Fulfillment, Main Character, Abraham Maslow

INTRODUCTION

The life lived by every human being always experiences its ups and downs. In addition, humans are sometimes not always in the position that what they want, so that it could bring up the chains of problem that exist their lives, both problems that exist from other people, such as a conflict that could hurt each other or problems caused by natural disasters because they lost relatives and property so that they should do everything they could do to solved their own problem. In addition, they should survive when they faced with any kind problem. It is intended that everyone can survive to meet their needs such as the need for clothing, food, a sense of security, up to the peak is the need for self-actualization.

The phenomenon of this explanation can be seen from the cases of Rohingya refugees who reportedly fled in stages as reported on bbc.com. They were stranded in Aceh since December 2022, to be precise in Aceh Besar and Pidie districts with two ships carrying 231 refugees. However, their

presence was rejected by a number of people in Aceh because they were considered a nuisance, so they were moved to another shelter. The refugees have received assistance such as the establishment of a soup kitchen at the evacuation site and medical check-ups by the Public Health Center because some of the refugees were found not feeling well.

The explanation of the phenomenon clearly illustrates how the refugees of Rohingya struggled and survived themselves to filled each of individual needs. This situation occurred in the novel *Between Shades of Gray* by Ruta Sepetys which tell the point of view of the main character named Lina and other refugees from Lithuania who were deported by the red army during the Stalin regime dominated Uni Soviet. They were taken to a number of places to be forced to work, and they were often subjected to verbal and non-verbal violence, thus creating motivation within them to do everything they could to fulfilled their basic needs, such as the need for clothing, food, a sense of security, to the need for affection that can be categorized as a level or hierarchy of basic human needs proposed by Maslow.

As the theory that argued by Maslow, humans organize themselves in a hierarchy of pre-potentialities. That is, the emergence of one need usually rests on the prior satisfaction of another, more powerful need. Humans are animals that always want. Nor are there needs or drives that can be treated as if they were isolated or separate; each drive corresponds to a state of satisfaction or dissatisfaction with the other drives. Maslow (2019) classifies five levels of basic human needs, namely; (1) Physiological needs, (2) Safety needs, (3) Love needs, (4) Esteem needs, (5) Need of self-actualization.

DATA SOURCE

The source of the data that used in this research is the novel *Between Shades of Gray* by Ruta Sepetys which focusing to analyzed the fulfillment of the main character's needs based on the hierarchy of needs theory by Maslow.

METHODS

The method used in this study is a descriptive qualitative method by Semi (2021). Descriptive qualitative method is a method that data in the form of words, images, also the data that has been collected is presented not in the form of numbers which not related to exact sciences.

In accordance with this method, the researcher analyzed data regarding the fulfillment of the needs of the character Lina in the novel *Between Shades of Gray* by Ruta Sepetys by describing the data that had been obtained and then interpreted it narratively with the data obtained in this study in the form of sentences, words, and dialogues through the perspective of the main character.

Meanwhile, the approach that used in this research is literary psychology approach based on the study of humanistic psychology by Maslow (1970) which states that human needs function as a source of livelihood, a source of prestige or respect, a means of self-expression, or as satisfaction for anyone so that this research focused to describe of the main character in fulfilling his personal needs which have previously been classified into fulfilment hierarchy of basic human needs.

THEORETICAL REVIEW

Character

Characters are the persons represented in a dramatic or narrative work, who are interpreted by the reader as possessing particular moral, intellectual, and emotional qualities by inferences from what the persons say and their distinctive ways of saying it—the dialogue—and from what they do—the action (Abrams & Geoffrey, 2015, p. 48).

Meanwhile, according to Corey in Agustin (2023) the main character is the determinant of the course of a story. Therefore, experts define the main character in various opinions, one of which is from a man or woman is a person in literary paintings who has a few varieties of identification and identification is manufactured from appearance, conversation, and action.

A Theory of Human Motivation

- 1) Physiological needs, the first basic of needs to maintain their life in physically, such as the need to fulfil their appetite. Additionally, physiological needs connected with someone's need for food, water, shelter, oxygen, rest, sex, and clothing are all linked to their physiological needs.
- 2) The safety needs, namely the needs that are seen as active drivers who are dominant in the resources of living things when they are in dangerous situations such as war, disease, natural disasters, crime, social disorganization, neurosis, brain injury, chronic bad situation. The need for security also includes the need for physical security, freedom from threatening forces such as fear, anxiety, danger and riots. The need for physical security is a need that is needed by someone who is caused by disturbances the environment (Rostanawa, 2018, p. 64).
- 3) The love needs, that is, when people already could fill their physiological needs and security needs the next step of this level they will crave a loving relationship from someone whom they loved so that they would feel loved or someone can respect their existed in their life can eliminate feelings of sadness and can cheer them up.
- 4) The esteem needs, namely the desire for reputation or prestige (defining it as respect or appreciation from others), recognition, attention, importance or appreciation. This need for respect or self-esteem can be hindered by feelings of inferiority, weakness, and helplessness that exist in a person.
- 5) The need for self-actualization, this is part of the highest levels needs of fulfilment where the need for self-actualization is the attitude that a person can use the abilities and potential within themselves to fulfil their needs. Self-actualization needs arise when all the needs at the previous level have been adequately met.

RESULTS AND DISCUSSION

The Physiological Needs

Data 1

*Tired but relieved, we dragged ourselves to our shack. Ulyushka was already gone. The hut smelled of rotten eggs. **We drank some of the rainwater and ate a stub of bread Mother had saved.*** (Sepetys, 2011, p. 106).

In the narration above showed that Lina and other refugees used rainwater sources and the bread rations they stored to fulfill their most basic physiological needs, namely the need to eat and drink. Remembering that every human being needs food and drink to survive, then the situation that Lina faced in the data above showed that she still wants to survive even with the situation getting harder, especially every day she gets inhumane treatment by the NKDV soldiers.

Data 2

*“Lina, are you listening? We must move quickly and pack all that is useful but not necessarily dear to us. Do you understand? Lina! **Clothes and shoes must be our priority. Try to fit all that you can into one suitcase.**”* (Sepetys, 2011, p. 19)

The data above showed the dialogue of Lina's mother who ordered Lina to pack her equipment, especially clothes and shoes. This indirectly shows that Lina's clothing needs were fulfilled because her mother told her to immediately pack up Lina's clothes and shoes because the dialogue showed a dangerous situation where the Soviet NKDV troops ordered Lina and her family to be forcibly removed to be deported.

Data 3

*We were asleep when it happened. I had rinsed off my blisters and started a letter to Joana. **But, I was too tired. I fell asleep.*** (Sepetys, 2011, p. 102)

The data above explained that Lina needs more time to rest. This can be seen from Lina who fell asleep and felt tired after she was previously ordered to dig a hole by the NKDV soldiers to get food rations so that through this data Lina could fulfilling her physiological needs through her act to rest. Rest is one of basic hierarchy of needs fulfilment because someone need to get rest to increase their system immune.

The Safety Needs

Data 4

*Mother stood in front of me now and lifted my chin. “I know. This is horrible,” she whispered. **“We must stay together. It’s very important.”** She kissed my forehead and turned me toward the train car.* (Sepetys, 2011, p. 29)

The data showed conversation between Elena (which is mother of Lina and Jonas) and Lina. She was trying to comfort Lina who was afraid in the midst of the difficult situation they were in. The mother figure has the instinct to protect her child and can provide a sense of security and calming

their children, especially in facing difficulties so that indirectly Lina feels safe while they are still together.

The Love Need

Data 5

I looked at Andrius. "Thank you," I said. I put my mittens on his cheeks. I pulled his face to mine and kissed him. His nose was cold. His lips were warm and his skin smelled clean. My stomach fluttered. (Sepetys, 2011, p. 179)

The data above indicated the feelings of affection and love that Lina showed for Andrius, the person whom she met during her journey with the other deportees. The figure of Andrius has helped and protected Lina a lot, thus this can create feelings of love and belonging to each other. On the other hand, that everyone needs love so that someone can be more appreciated or get moral support, especially if that person will be more special when they get love from the people they care about.

The Esteem Needs

Data 6

"Disappointed I'm not dead?" I said, handing him the beets.

"That's a sour mood," he said.

"Are you the only one who's allowed to be angry? I'm sick of this. I'm tired of the NKVD hounding us." (Sepetys, 2011, p. 112).

The data above showed the conversation between Lina and Mr. Stalas is an old man who hurts his leg and always acts casually and complains a lot. Coupled with Lina's mood, which at that time was not well, so she was angry at remembering Mr. Stalas was always blabbering on Lina. Lina's cynical reply to Mr. Stalas was seen showing that Lina was trying to maintain her pride so that the man would not treat her arbitrarily. When someone is treated arbitrarily they will show their resistance, one of which is the action taken by Lina by responding to Mr. Stalas was accompanied by a sardonic tone.

The Need for Self-actualization

Data 7

"Dear Miss Vilkas, "Thank you for your recent application for the summer arts program. Your samples are most impressive. It is with great pleasure that we offer you a place in our—" "Yes! They said yes!" I screamed (Sepetys, 2011, p. 88).

The data above indicated to self-actualization where Lina showed her potential by successfully proving her talent in the arts so that she can be accepted at the art school that Lina has long dreamed of. In addition, self-actualization can refer to individual satisfaction with the achievements that exist in him. Another value of the need for self-actualization is shown by Lina trying to draw a map every time she and her entourage stop at a new place, it aims to give a sign of

where she and her family are. Lina managed to fulfill her self-actualization needs through her talent in the arts so that she could make her parents proud and appreciate her.

CONCLUSIONS

According to the result of data analysis that had explained in previous chapter, the researcher concluded that Lina could fill her individual needs based on hierarchy of needs fulfillment theory by Maslow that consists; (1) 1. Physiological Needs, (2) Safety Needs, (3) Affection Needs, (4) Self-Esteem Needs, and (5) Self-Actualization Needs.

Physiological needs relate to a person's need to get clothing, food and rest. To survive while she was deported, Lina tried to fill her physiological needs by eating and drinking from the wages they had earned, even though food supplies were limited. In addition, Lina took her clothes with her when she and her family were forcibly picked up. This shows that Lina has succeeded in fulfilling her needs in terms of clothing.

Meanwhile, to fulfill her need for security, Lina got this from her mother, who was trying to look after them. Third, the fulfillment of Lina's affection besides that she got from her parents, she got this affection from her lover, Andrius.

Fourth, the need for self-esteem, namely that he can maintain his self-esteem by replying to arbitrary people's words. Finally, Lina's need for self-actualization derives from her superior talent in the arts so that she is successfully accepted into the art school she dreams of.

REFERENCES

- Abrams, M. H., & Geoffrey, H. (2015). *A Glossary of Literary Terms* (14th ed.). Cengage Learning.
- Agustin, R. K. (2023). *An Analysis of The Main Character Through Feminism Approach In The Da Vinci Code Novel*. 12(1).
- Maslow, A. H. (1970). *Motivation and Personality*. Harper & Row, Publishers.
- Maslow, A. H. (2019). *A Theory of Human Motivation*. General Press.
- Rostanawa, G. (2018). Hirarki Kebutuhan Tokoh Utama dalam Novel Pulang dan Laut Bercerita Karya Leila S. Chudori (Kajian Psikologi Humanistik Abraham Maslow). *International Journal of Education, Language, and Literature*, 1.
- Semi, M. A. (2021). *Metode Penelitian Sastra*. Penerbit Angkasa Bandung.
- Sepetys, R. (2011). *Between Shades of Gray*.