



Self-Actualization of the Main Character in Novel Daun Yang Jatuh Tidak Pernah Membenci Angin Tere Liye Works

Tri Isti Palupi¹; Sumarlam²; Raheni Suhita²

¹ Postgraduate Program of Indonesian Language Education, Sebelas Maret University, Indonesia

² Postgraduate Program, Sebelas Maret University, Indonesia

<http://dx.doi.org/10.18415/ijmmu.v7i11.2184>

Abstract

This study aims to describe the process of achieving self-actualization of the main character (Tania) in the novel of daun yang jatuh tidak pernah membenci angin Tere Liye works. The method used in this research is descriptive qualitative with a literary psychology approach. The research data is in the form of the self-actualization process of the main character (Tania) based on Abraham Maslow's humanistic psychological theory and the data source is a novel daun yang jatuh tidak pernah membenci angin by Tere Liye. The data collection technique used in this research is content analysis (document). The validity of the data used theoretical triangulation. The results showed that the main character (Tania) succeeded in achieving self-actualization. The process of achieving self-actualization is carried out by meeting other needs, such as physiology, safety and security, love and belonging, self-esteem, and self-actualization.

Keywords: *Self-Actualization; Main Character; Novels*

Introduction

Self-actualization is a process that occurs continuously in the use of potentials and talents to achieve something expected. Self-actualization is considered important for research because every human being needs self-actualization in his life. Based on that, this research was conducted to give the reader a description of how the self-actualization process occurs. The self-actualization process examined in this study is the self-actualization process that occurs in literary works.

Research on self-actualization has been carried out by other researchers before. These studies were conducted by Cartwright, and Tabatabai (2000), Souza, Adams and Fuss (2015), Sanjoori (2016), and Compton (2018) with the subject of direct study of the human population. Melinda, Emzir and Sabati (2019), Lestari, Herman, and Nugraheni (2019), and setiawan (2018) studied self-actualization with objects of literary works.

This study is different from previous studies because this study examines characters in literary works, namely the novels by Tere Liye. Tere Liye's novel which was chosen as the research subject is the novel *daun yang jatuh tidak pernah membenci angin*. The novel was chosen because no researcher has yet studied the novel from a psychological perspective, especially in the character's self-actualization process.

According to Bernard (2013: 4), self-actualization is a person's potential, capacity, and ability that is fully used to actualize oneself. Meanwhile, Novosad (2013: 16) states that self-actualization is the full, fun, and creative use of one's talents, capacities and potentials. Maslow (1971: 45) himself explains that self-actualization is a continuous process of honing one's potential and occurs naturally to be expected. So it can be synthesized that self-actualization is the full use of human potentials, capacities and abilities in certain fields and carried out in a sustainable manner to become something desired.

Self-actualization is one of the human needs which in humanistic psychology theory occupies the highest level. The humanistic psychological theory introduced by Abraham Maslow explained that humans have basic needs which Maslow grouped into a hierarchy of needs. Maslow's hierarchy of needs describes 5 levels of human needs. The first or the most basic needs are physiological needs, such as feelings of hunger and thirst. Second, the need for security, such as security and stability. The three needs for love and belonging, such as compassion and identification. The fourth is the need for appreciation, such as achievement. The sixth or highest need is the need for self-actualization, such as the achievement of potential (Krech, 1974: 462).

The process of self-actualization in literature can be studied using a literary psychology approach because the hierarchy of needs as mentioned above is part of psychology. Literary psychology is an analysis of literary works by focusing on psychological processes and activities (Minderop, 2016: 55). Endraswara (2003: 97) explains that in understanding literature psychology can be done in 3 ways. First, through understanding psychological theories and then analyzing literary works based on this knowledge. Second, by first determining the literary work to be analyzed, then determining the psychological theory that is considered relevant to the object to be studied. Third, conduct analysis simultaneously to find the theory and research object.

This research examines the self-actualization process carried out by the main character in Tere Liye's novel *Daun Yang Jatuh Tidak Pernah Membenci Angin*. This research is expected to increase knowledge and provide an overview to readers and other researchers about how the process of self-actualization of characters in literary works.

Method

This research is a qualitative descriptive study with a psychology literature approach. This study describes the self-actualization process of the main character in Tere Liye's novels by referring to the concept of humanistic psychology theory introduced by Abraham Maslow. Sources of data in this study are the novel *rain and fallen leaves, never hate the wind* by Tere Liye. The data in this study is the self-actualization process of the main character in the research subject in terms of Abraham Maslow's humanistic psychological theory. The data collection technique used in this research is content analysis (document). The validity of the data in this study is to use theoretical triangulation.

Results and Discussion

The findings in this study are the process of self-actualization of the main character in Tere Liye's novel *Daun Yang Jatuh Never Hate Angin*. The self-actualization process includes five stages which are

also known as the hierarchy of needs. The five stages are physiology, safety and security, love and belonging, self-esteem, and self-actualization.

1. Physiological

Physiological needs related to physical needs or physical needs that are the survival of the individual. Physiological needs include the need for food, drink, rest, shelter, and clothing. This is in line with Baroroh (2018: 2) who states that physiological needs are the fulfillment of basic needs for humans to survive.

The main character in the fallen leaf novel never hates the wind and fulfills his physiological needs by busking on the streets. This is because the main character is still 12 years old and has become a Yatin child and his mother is constantly sick. The main character (Tania) has to support the economic needs of her own family because her mother cannot work. Based on these needs, Tania decided to quit school and sing on the streets with her 8-year-old sister to meet her daily physiological needs. This is evidenced in the following quote:

“Hujan turun begitu deras disepanjang jalan. Membungkus kota kami. Memaksaku mengeluarkan suara lebih kencang. Adikku memukul kencrengnya dengan lemah. Sejak pagi dia tidak berhenti bernyanyi. Aku membujuknya tadi sebelum naik ke bus itu untuk lebih bersemangat” (Liye, 2010: 21).

“It was raining so hard along the road. Wrap around our city. Forcing me to make a louder voice. My sister hit her *kencreng* weakly. Since morning she hasn't stopped singing. I persuaded him earlier before getting on the bus to be more enthusiastic” (English translation)

The quote describes Tania and her sister busking on a city bus. The quote also describes Tania and her younger siblings who sing from morning to evening to earn money so that they can fulfill their physiological needs, namely eating and drinking. Another physiological fulfillment is also indicated in the following quote:

Jangankan sekolah, untuk makan saja susah... Ibu sering sakit sakitan, semakin lama semakin parah. Kata orang yang membuat parah sakit ibu bukan semata-mara karena fisiknya, lebih karena beban pikirannya. Aku tidak tahu pasti apakah itu benar. Yang pasti benar akhirnya aku dan dede terpaksa bekerja: menjadi pengamen” (Liye, 2010: 30).

Never mind school, it's hard to eat ...

Mother often gets sick, it gets worse over time. People say that what makes the mother seriously ill is not only because of her physicality but because of the burden on her mind. I don't know for sure if it's true. What is certain is that in the end Dede and I were forced to work: becoming street singers” (English Translation).

The quote clearly describes how the life of Tania since her father passed away. Tania and her sister had to drop out of school and were forced to work to earn money to make ends meet for themselves and their mother. To eat and drink every day they only rely on the income of the farmer and Dedek who sings all day long.

The two quotes above are the fulfillment of the physiological needs of eating and drinking that Tania did. Meanwhile, for the living needs of Tania and her mother and sister live in a cardboard house. This is evidenced by the following quote:

“Tiga tahun lalu ayah meninggal karena TBC. Kami waktu itu hidup lebih beruntung, meski ayah hanya kuli bangunan. Aku, ibu, dan dede tinggal di kontrakan kecil, bukan di rumah kardus yang selalu tampus saat hujan deras turun. Setidaknya aku dan dedek saat itu tidak perlu bekerja” (Liye, 2010: 29).

“Three years ago my father died of tuberculosis. At that time, we were more fortunate, even though my father was only a construction worker. I, mother, and Dede live in a small rented house, not in a cardboard house that always shows up when it rains heavily. At least Dede and I didn't need to work at that time” (English Translation).

The quote describes the life that Tania and her family lived after her father's departure. Their housing needs are fulfilled by making cardboard houses because they can no longer afford to rent a rented house.

2. Safety and security

Safety and security is a need for a sense of security and comfort. Bahuwa (2018: 114) states that the need for security includes the need for personal safety, stability, freedom from threats, dependence, fear, and fear. This need is obtained by the main character in the fallen leaf novel who never hates the wind (Tania) from someone who has become an angel for him and his family. This is illustrated in the following quote:

“Sepuluh tahun silam ditoko inilah untuk pertama kalinya aku bisa janji masa depan yang baik. Merasakan kesenangan kanak-kanak yang sempurna. Merasakan betapa nyaman memiliki seseorang yang memperhatikan dan melindungimu” (Liye, 2010: 16).

“Ten years ago this shop was the first time I could promise a good future. Experience the perfect childish pleasure. Feeling how comfortable it is to have someone who cares for and protects you” (English translation).

“Tentu saja karna tempat itu special bagi ku. Disanalah aku mendapatkan janji kehidupan yang lebih baik darinya. Disanalah aku menatap masa depan yang lebih indah bersamanya. Dan disana jugalah harapan-harapan itu muncul tanpa bisa ku mengerti” (Liye, 2010: 97)

"Of course because that place is special to me. That's where I got the promise of a better life from him. That's where I looked at a more beautiful future with him. And there too the hopes arise without my being able to understand "(English translation).

The two quotes explain how Tania feels comfortable and grateful for someone's presence in her life. This person not only helps his family and provides comfort for Tania, but he also promises a bright future for Tania.

3. Love and belonging

Love and belonging is a process of achieving self-actualization at the third level. This level of need is related to the acceptance of love and ownership. Yunandi (2020: 140) states that the need at this level makes humans feel the need for a still affectionate relationship with people in general, be it family, lover, or friends. This is in line with Sabiela (2017: 256) who states that when humans have reached their physiological and safety needs, they will tend to look for the absence of friends, family relationships, and marriages, which are needs at the third level, namely love and belonging. This need is met by the main

character (Tania) by loving someone who he has considered an angel because of his kindness to his family. Tania's love struggle for her angels can be seen in the following quote:

*"Tania?" Anne memegang lenganku.
"Tetapi aku ingin tahu perasaannya. Boleh, kan?" aku menjawab lemah putus asa.
"Bua tapa? Sudah jelas kan, dia akan menikah dengan cewek artis itu? Apa lagi yang hendak kau tanyakan ke dia?..
"Setidaknya dia harus tahu perasaanku, kan?" (Liye, 2010: 133).*

*"Tania?" Anne took my arm.
But I want to know how he feels. You can, right? "I answered weakly in despair.
"What for? It's clear, right, he will marry that celebrity girl? What else do you want to ask him?
...
"At least he should know how I feel, right?" (English translation).*

The quote above describes Tania's efforts to fulfill her love needs in a way that wants recognition of her angel. Tania feels that her love needs are not being fulfilled because the love that Tania feels is one-sided love. Tania felt that her angel could not possibly love her because of their age and first her angel had decided to get married. This made Tania even more depressed and wanted to dare to express her love even though her angel had made her choice.

The depressed feelings that Tania felt are also seen in the following quote:

"Maafkan aku ibu. Ini kali kedua aku menangis... Umurku Sembilan belas tahun. Seharusnya tumbuh seperti gadis-gadis lainnya. Bukan terjebak dalam semua perasaan yang mengekang. Bukan justru sebaliknya, menanggapi perasaan yang sedikitpun tidak pernah kuminta" (Liye, 2010: 154).

"I'm sorry mother. This is the second time I have cried... I am nineteen years old. Should have grown up like the other girls. Not getting caught up in all the confining feelings. Not just the opposite, crying over feelings that I never asked for at all" (English translation).

The quote describes how Tania suffered when she didn't get her love. Tania cannot fulfill the need for acceptance of her love. This made Tania no longer feel happy. Tania continued to feel the suffering, even after Tania got an answer to her feelings. The following quote will explain the answer to the feelings that always torment Tania all the time;

*"Kau tidak pernah mau mengakuinya," aku mendesah lemah. Berusaha beranjak berdiri
Kau membunuh perasaan itu seketika tanpa ampun saat pertama kali bersemi. Bukankah
perasaan itu muncul pertama kali disini? Dibawah pohon linden ini." (Liye, 2010: 249)*

*"You never want to admit it," I let out a weak sigh. Trying to get up
You killed that feeling instantly without mercy when it first blossomed. Didn't that feeling appear
for the first time here? Under this linden tree." (English translation)*

*"Apa kau terlanjur menganggapku sebagai adik? Kau merasa berdosa mencintai adikmu
sendiri? atau kau membenci dirimu sendiri karena mencintaiku?" Aku tergugu.
"Dan, dan kau bahkan memutuskan untuk menyiram mati hingga ke akar-akarnya perasaan itu.
Membakarnya. Kau membakarnya habis saat kau memutuskan untuk menikah dengan kak Ratna!
Tetapi mengapa?" (Liye, 2010: 251).*

"Do you already think of me as a little brother? Do you feel guilty loving your own brother? or do you hate yourself for loving me? " I'm annoyed.

"And, and you even decided to water die down to the roots of that feeling. Burn it. You burned it down when you decided to marry Ratna! But why? " (English translation).

The quote above explains how Tania's love story ends. The love that Tania thinks is one-sided love is wrong. The angel that Tania loved also loved her, long before Tania even understood what love was. But even so, Tania still can't have her love. The angel, someone he loved so much, and someone who also loved him was married. And the angel himself decided to get married and erased his love for Tania. The answer Tania got from her love didn't change anything, because the answer would always be the same. Tania and her angels will not be able to join their love. Even so, Tania is quite happy because she never loves people wrong, and her love is also reciprocated even though with a different story.

4. Self-Esteem

Self-esteem is the fourth hierarchy of human needs. Self-esteem concerns self-esteem and recognition of intelligence. Ghozali (2020: 6) states that the need for self-esteem includes two categories; (1) self-esteem which includes self-confidence, such as competence, adequacy, and achievement, (2) appreciation from others such as attention, recognition, respect, and social status. The self-esteem of the main character Tania from the fallen leaf novel never hates the wind is filled with the utilization of all the potential that exists in the character. This can be seen in the following quote:

"Saat kenaikan kelas, guru-guru disekolah memutuskan untuk langsung menaikkan ku ke kelas enam. Loncat setahun. Kata mereka aku terlalu pintar." (Liye, 2010: 43)

"When the class was raised, the teachers at school decided to immediately raise me to the sixth grade. Skip a year. They said I was too smart. " (English translation).

This proves that Tania is quite successful in exploiting her potential to improve her self-esteem. Previously, Tania was always underestimated because she was a beggar with her sister and only lived in a cardboard house. With the opportunity for Tania to attend school, she wants to make good use of that opportunity and change her fate. So that people's views will change towards him and his family. Tania's efforts to raise her self-esteem can also be seen in the following quote:

"Aku sempat ikut berbagai tahap tes biasiswa itu, hingga final assessment, dia selalu mengantar dan menemani selama ujian. Membantu banyak melewati berbagai tes yang melelahkan" (Liye, 2010: 66).

"I had participated in various stages of the scholarship test, up to the final assessment, he always accompanied and accompanied him during the exam. Helping a lot of passing tiring tests" (Liye, 2010: 66).

This proves that Tania wants to organize her life better. Tania follows the student scholarship abroad thanks to her intelligence, and Tania managed to get it. It was not easy to pass the student scholarship selection, because there were only a few people who were accepted by the registered members. With Tania's acceptance of the student, no one dared to look down on Tania anymore. Who would have thought that an eight-year-old child who took his younger brother to sing along the road could attend school abroad thanks to his intelligence. Other quotes that also prove Tania's efforts to lift her self-esteem are as follows:

“Aku lulus urutan kedua dari seluruh siswa di sekolah. nomor satu untuk dua puluh dua penerima ASEAN schoolership seluruh negara. Hasil yang hampir sempurna. Janji yang selalu ku pegang. Aku akan belajar sebaik mungkin” (Liye, 2010: 77).

"I passed second place from all students in the school. number one for twenty-two ASEAN scholarship recipients across the country. An almost perfect result. The promise that I always keep. I will learn as best I can "(English translation).

“Setelah berjuang habis-habisan di ujian terakhir, akhirnya aku berhasil melampaui 0,1 digit si nomor satu selalu. Tipis sekali. Aku mendapatkan predikat terbaik. Kepala sekolah SMA-ku menyerahkan penghargaan Kristal pohon lime kepadaku” (Liye, 2010: 127).

“After struggling so hard in the last exam, I finally managed to surpass 0.1 digits of the number one always. So thin. I got the best title. The principal of my high school presented the lime tree crystal award to me” (English translation).

The two quotes above are proof of Tania's efforts to increase her self-esteem. Tania wants to always be the best, as her angel and her mother expect. And Tania's efforts have paid off, Tania is no longer the girl who takes her sister to sing and lives in a cardboard house. Tania has now become the number one girl in Asia thanks to her intelligence.

5. Self-Actualization

Self-actualization is the self-achievement that is expected by each individual. Self-actualization is the highest part of the hierarchy of human needs. Self-actualization relates to potential, innovation, and individual creativity. The use of all these advantages to achieve something that is expected is part of fulfilling the needs of self-actualization. A person who has been able to reach this highest level of need can be said that someone has succeeded in realizing their potential and doing the best they can. Praditya (2019: 761) also states the same thing, according to him, someone who reaches this level of need has fully explored more of the potential that exists within him.

The need for this level has been fulfilled by the two main characters in the novel, namely, Tania and Lail in the novels of Tere Liye. Tania characters fulfill their self-actualization needs by making full use of all their potential. This can be seen in the following quote:

“Kehidupanku berjalan normal (setidak-tidaknya menurutku berlangsung normal). Aku memutuskan untuk mengajar dikelas matrikulasi. Mendaftarkan diri dalam progam teaching assistant. Membuka kelas mendongeng di flat. Menulis apa saja. Ikut berbagai ekstrakurikuler. Tenggelam dalam berbagai organisasi. Bahkan aku juga ikut kelas capoeira dan biola... Aku juga membuat kue-kue kering di flat. Aku berbakat soal ini”. (Liye, 2010: 166).

"My life is running normally (at least I think it is normal). I decided to teach a matriculation class. Register in the teaching assistant program. Opened a storytelling class in the flat. Write anything. Take part in various extracurricular activities. Immersed in various organizations. I even took part in capoeira and violin classes ...
I also make cookies in the flat. I'm talented about this ". (Emglish translation).

The quote describes Tania as really making use of all her potential. Apart from being able to get a full scholarship for education, he also took advantage of all his potential to fill his spare time. This makes Tania not only smart but also has experience in various fields and is independent.

Thanks to all these abilities and experiences, Tania managed to get the best job so that she was able to lift her self-esteem and family life. This is evidenced by the following quote:

“Sehari setelah graduation day, Statusku berubah menjadi full-time senior associate di perusahaan pialang tempatku selama enam bulan terakhir magang. Mereka menawarkan paket kompensasi yang baik. Fasilitas cukup dan berbagai remunerasi lainnya, termasuk kesempatan berlibur gratis selama dua puluh empat hari setiap tahun, kemanapun tujuannya” (Liye, 2010: 202).

“The day after my graduation day, my status changed to a full-time senior associate at the brokerage firm where I was during the last six months of my internship. They offer a good compensation package. Sufficient facilities and various other remunerations, including the opportunity to have a free vacation for twenty-four days every year, wherever the destination is ”(English translation).

“Sekarang aku sudah bekerja full-time disalah satu perusahaan pialang Singapura. Perusahaan psekulan terbesar di Asian Pasifik. Kami menggerakkan jumlah uang yang bahkan bisa membuat demam perekonomian regional” (Liye, 2010: 160)

“Now I am working full-time at a Singapore brokerage firm. The largest bulk supplier in the Asian Pacific. We move the amount of money that can even make the regional economy fever ”(English translation).

This quote proves that Tania has succeeded in achieving her goals, fulfilling the expectations of her parents and angels. Tania always tries to be the best so she can work in the best place. Tania has truly succeeded in changing not only her future but also her family's future. There is no longer Tania the little beggar who comes from a family with a cardboard house. The current Tania is a highly respected Tania and the future is bright.

Conclusion

Based on the results of the analysis described in the discussion, it can be concluded that the need for self-actualization is not only shown by humans. Figures in literary works also fulfill their self-actualization needs, including the character Tania in the novel of fallen leaves who never hates the wind by Tere Liye. The process of fulfilling the self-actualization needs undergoes a stratified or hierarchical phase. This process starts from the physiological level, safety, and security, love and belonging, self-esteem, to self-actualization. This is in accordance with the theory put forward by Abraham Maslow regarding the hierarchy of needs.

Acknowledgement

Thanks to Prof. Dr. Sumarlam, M.S, and Dr. Raheni Suhita, M.Hum, who guided the research from beginning to end. Thank you to the editors and journal managers who have considered and provided the opportunity for us to publish this research.

References

Bahuwa, R. (2018). An Analysis of Maslow's Hierarchy of Needs in the Great Gatsby Novel By Franciss Scoot Fitzgerald's. *British*, 7(2), 110–119.

- Baroroh, A. Al. (2018). An Analysis Of Needs Hierarchy In The Chronicles Of Narnia: Prince Caspian Novel (A Psychoanalysis By Abraham Maslow). *EUFONI*, 2(1), 1–13.
- Bernard, M. E. (2013). *The Strength of Self-Acceptance; Theory, Practice, and Research*. Springer.
- Cartwright, G. F., Tabatabai, D., Beaudoin, M., & Naidoo, L. (2000). *Self-actualization of youth*. 5, 729–730.
- Compton, W. . (2018). Self-Actualization Myths: What Did Maslow Really Say? *SAGE*, 00(0), 1–18.
- Endraswara, S. (2003). *Metodologi Penelitian Sastra*. Pustaka Widyatama.
- Ghozali, I. (2020). The Fulfillment of Hierarchy of Needs of Elinor in The “Sense And Sensibility” Novel by Jane Austen: A Study of Humanism Psychology of Abraham Maslow. *Pancaran Pendidikan*, 9(1), 1–9.
- Krech, David, & Dkk. (1974). *Element of Psychology*. Alfred A. Knopf.
- Lestari, S., Herman, J. W., & Nugraheni, E. w. (2019). Humanistic Psychology Study of Abraham Maslow on the Main Character In Tiba Sebelum Berangkat Novel By Faisal Oddong. *BIRCI*, 2(1), 110–118.
- Liye, T. (2010). *Daun yang Jatuh Tidak Pernah Membenci Angin*. Gramedia Pustaka Utama.
- Maslow, A. . (1971). *The Farther Reaches Of Human Nature*. The Viking Press.
- Melinda, D., Emzir, & A. Sabari. (2019). Self-Actualization on the Main Character in Ford Country By Grisham. *JETL*, 4(1), 157–162.
- Minderop, A. (2016). *Psikologi Sastra*. Yayasan Pustaka Obor Indonesia.
- Novosad I., & Maehlum. (2013). *Composing: Self-Expression and Self-Actualization Through Communication*. Oxford University Press.
- Praditya, P. G., & Wulandari, D. F. (2019). The Main Character’s Hierarchy Of Needs As Reflected In Four: A Divergent Collection Novel By Veronica Roth. *Konferensi Ilmiah Mahasiswa Unissula (KIMU) 2*, 755–763.
- Sabiela, N. L., Kuncara, S. D., & Ariani, S. (2017). Love And Belongings Needs Represented By Twin Character In The Thirteenth Tale Novel. *Ilmu Budaya*, 1(3), 253–264.
- Sanjori, H., & A., P. (2016). A Comparative Analysis of Self-Actualization, Risk Taking, Accountability and Happiness Among Students with A/B Peronality types in islamic Azad University of Ahvaz. *International Journal of Humanities and Cultural Studies*, 757–768.
- Setiawan, A. (2018). Need Hierarchy In T.B. Silalahi’s Novel Toba Dreams. *1st Annual Internaional Conference on Languge and Literature: KnE Social Sciences*.
- Souza, J. F. ., K., A. C., & B., F. (2015). A Pilot Study of Self-Actualization Acivity Measurement. *Journal of the Indian Academy of Applied Psychology*, 41(3), 28–33.
- Yunadi, A., Kuncara, S. D., & Valiantien, N. M. (2020). Sophie’s Needs In Rooftoppers Novel By Using Maslow’s Theory Of Hierarchy Of Human Needs. *Ilmu Budaya*, 4(1), 130–144.

Copyrights

Copyright for this article is retained by the author(s), with first publication rights granted to the journal.

This is an open-access article distributed under the terms and conditions of the Creative Commons Attribution license (<http://creativecommons.org/licenses/by/4.0/>).