



HIERARCHY OF NEEDS OF MEILIN LEE

IN *TURNING RED* BY DOMEESHI

THESIS

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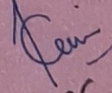
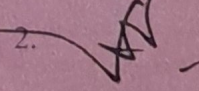
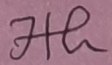
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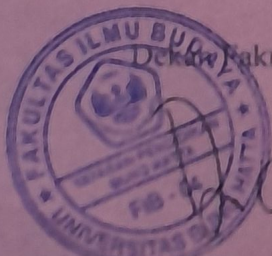
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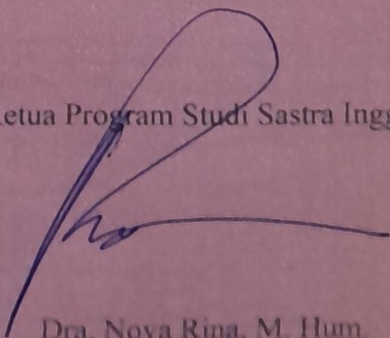
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STATEMENT OF ORIGINALITY

This is to certify the originality of this thesis which I now submit to fulfill a requirement for an S1 Degree in The English Department Faculty of Humanities Universitas Bung Hatta. The content of this thesis is entirely my work. All assistance received in writing this thesis and the sources cited have been acknowledged within the text of my work.

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IN *TURNING RED* BY DOMEI SHI

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ABSTRACT

This study aims to analyze the needs of Meilin Lee's character as well as explain the characteristics of a self-actualization person portrayed by Meilin Lee as the main character in the movie *Turning Red*. The writer applied the theory of the hierarchy of needs by Abraham Maslow. A descriptive qualitative method and psychological approach were used to analyze this study. The writer found 31 data in this study. Meilin Lee as the main character successfully fulfills five needs based on the hierarchy of needs. There are 7 data on physiological needs, 4 data on safety needs, 3 data on belongingness and love needs, 6 data on esteem needs, and 2 data on self-actualization needs. The needs that are difficult to be fulfilled are self-actualization needs. Self-actualization is the highest need based on the hierarchy of needs. Mei has to go through various things to get to this highest level. She had to try to get the money to buy concert tickets and cancel the ritual that initially made her family angry to go to the 4-Town concert she had been dreaming of. Then, Mei also goes through several challenges so that she can control her emotional feelings to control her red panda. After successfully fulfill the self-actualization needs, Mei is also known as actualized people and have specific characteristics that are different from others. Mei has seven characteristics of self-actualization. There are 2 data on acceptance of self, others, and nature; 2 data on spontaneity, simplicity, and naturalness; 1 data on problem centering; 1 data of continued freshness of appreciation; 1 data of democratic character structure; 1 data on creativeness; and 1 data on resistance to enculturation. The most prominent characteristics that Mei portrays are acceptance of self and spontaneity. Mei can accept her red panda because it represents her emotional feelings. In addition, Mei can also spontaneously express things that she has been keeping and not hide her feelings anymore. In conclusion, though Mei is still a teenager she successfully fulfills all needs based on Maslow's hierarchy of needs. This is because of the characteristics of self-actualization she has.

Keywords: *Hierarchy of Needs, Characteristics of Self-Actualization, Turning Red, Meilin Lee*

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CHAPTER 1

INTRODUCTION

1.1 Background of the Study

Human life is an ongoing process of seeing to fulfill all forms of needs, each need contributing to their journey of living. According to Maslow, humans are individuals who never achieve a feeling of satisfaction except for a short moment in time. When one desire has been satisfied, the other comes out to take its place. In life, humans have an impulse to always want something. Maslow also stated individuals might not want to create music, makeover the places they live, or wear properly if their tummies are unfilled most of every day, they are always dehydrated, they constantly struggle with upcoming crises, or they are rejected (24).

Human beings will be motivated to put satisfying their most basic needs before anything else. Motivation represents the desire and spirit of humans to gain life itself satisfaction (Maslow 24). Water, meals, a place to live, asleep, outfits, and being able to breathe are all crucial human basic needs. Supported by Anyanwu et al in Aruma and Hanachor, if humans cannot satisfy those important desires, it will harm human life (19). Thus, basic needs are important for the continued development and existence of human beings in human progress.

Literature and psychology are two subjects studies that analyze the human psychological condition. As stated by Yimer, psychology discusses how people act and explanations, in contrast to literature represent human behavior by fictional. Both of the subjects that explore human behavior are eternally connected and

mutually efficient. The correlation between literature and psychology depends on the literature. Literary works examine humans and explain how they live in every aspect (159). Thus, psychological concepts can be employed to represent the phenomena of the existence of humans in literary works. Poems, short narratives, fiction, and movies all have psychological material.

Movies as literary works, usually explore daily life issues. The presence of movies has a direct connection to achieving the fulfillment of human needs. Needs must be satisfied not only by genuine individuals but also by fictional characters. Characters in movies have individual needs that must be satisfied, and they represent people who actually exist.

Abraham Harold Maslow, a well-known American humanistic psychologist, developed the concept of human needs. Maslow pointed out five categories of human needs that must have been satisfied. These include physiological needs, security needs, belongingness and love needs, esteem needs, and self-actualization needs. According to Yahaya, the hierarchy of needs begins with physiological needs and increases to self-actualization needs (3). Individuals need to satisfy the lower basic needs before improving to satisfy higher growth needs.

Basic needs are a crucial need for a human being to survive. These basic needs consist of a place to live, clothes, a break, water, oxygen, asleep, and a sense of sexuality (Trivedi and Mehta 39). Once individuals have satisfied their basic needs, they are going to be motivated by security needs. They are going to become

more concerned with building an atmosphere that is secure and protected. If individuals lack these needs, they are going to feel worry and fear (Boeree 3).

If basic needs and security needs are satisfied, the need for affection grows. Belonging and love present a desire to be a member of a group, including a family, friends, coworkers, social organizations, or other forms of society. Belonging and love motivate individuals to have confidence in themselves and their opportunities, so they can contribute efficiently to processes of decision-making that encourage growth and improvement in different communities through society (Anyanwu et al in Aruma and Hanachor 22).

The last need or the highest need is self-actualization needs. This need motivates individuals to explore and learn about all their potential hidden abilities (Aruma and Hanachor 22). As an example, a musician needs to create music and an artist needs to create art. These needs allow individuals to become dissatisfied. It is effortless to figure out which factors make someone frightened, hunger, insecurity, unaccepted, and lacking personal confidence. Even when someone needs self-actualization, it is not constantly transparent what the individual needs. To put it in simple terms, the need for self-actualization is the motivation to develop, improve, and optimize a person's abilities to be the greatest version of themselves (Yahaya 7).

Turning Red explains about Meilin Lee, a teenager living with her parents in Toronto's Chinatown, Canada. Meilin is a passionate, ambitious, overachieving teenager who achieves in school and possesses a strong feeling of self-confidence. Mei's parents embrace and take care of her, which means they are always there to

provide for her needs, so she does not feel lacking. Mei is also supported by three loyal closest friends who have an obsession with the boy band 4-Town. Mei can turn to become a red panda. *Turning Red* means when the main character Meilin transforms into a giant red panda whenever she feels strong emotions. These emotions are not only when she is angry, but also include when she is excited, sad, and other emotions. This transformation represents her emotional state and her struggle to control her emotions. The phrase "turning red" is used to describe her physical reaction to her emotions, which is a significant part of her character development throughout the story to satisfy the needs and development of her character by self-actualization. This ability is passed onto generations by women of Lee descent. Nevertheless, her mother and aunts refused to keep their red panda because they knew that it was frightening and uncontrollable, so they locked it through a ritual. Opposite her family's choices, Mei prefers to keep her red panda because she has control over it and it represents her most sentimental, messy, and true self.

Based on the explanation above, *Turning Red* depicts an issue concerning the main character's motivation to satisfy her needs. Therefore, this study aims to analyze the hierarchy of needs portrayed by Meilin Lee in the movie *Turning Red* applying Abraham Maslow's hierarchy of needs theory. In addition, Meilin Lee represents the characteristics of someone who has achieved self-actualization in the movie *Turning Red*.

The reason for choosing the movie *Turning Red* with the hierarchy of needs theory is because this movie has the issue of a teenager fulfilling the hierarchy

of needs and needs to achieve self-actualization. Therefore, the writer wants to show readers that it is also considered important to know and observe human needs.

1.2 Research Questions

In this study, there are two research questions as follows:

- 1) How are Mei's hierarchy of needs portrayed in *Turning Red*?
- 2) How are Mei's characteristics of self-actualization portrayed in *Turning Red*?

1.3 Objective of the Study

Based on the research questions, the objectives of the study are as follows:

- 1) To describe Mei's hierarchy of needs portrayed in *Turning Red*
- 2) To describe Mei's characteristics of self-actualization portrayed in *Turning Red*

1.4 Scope of the Study

Turning Red can be studied from many perspectives, but the writer only focuses on psychology. Although there are many characters in this movie, the writer only analyzes Mei who is the main character. The writer tries to describe the character's needs from the movie based on the hierarchy of needs. This study also focuses on Mei's character who has some characteristics of a self-actualization person. The writer analyzed the data using Abraham Maslow's theory the hierarchy of needs and characteristics of a self-actualization person.

1.5 Significance of the Study

This study has both theoretical and practical goals. Theoretically, this study is to provide an overview of the hierarchy of needs and self-actualization of

the main character. In addition, the benefit of this study is to provide further information and explanation about the hierarchy of needs. Practically, the results of this study are expected to be used as a reference for English Literature students at the Faculty of Humanities, Universitas Bung Hatta who are interested in analyzing movies using Abraham Maslow's hierarchy of needs theory. The writer also hopes that this study can enrich the knowledge of the readers.