



**THE RELATIONSHIP BETWEEN THE MAIN CHARACTER'S HIERARCHY  
OF NEEDS AND PERSONALITY TRAITS IN *MOON KNIGHT* TV SERIES**

**THESIS**

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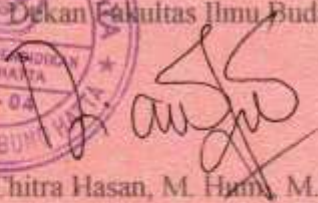
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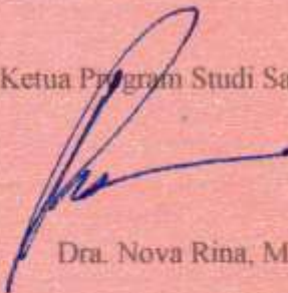


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## STATEMENT OF ORIGINALITY

This is to certify the originality of this thesis I submitted to fulfill a requirement for an S1 degree in the English Department Faculty of Humanities Universitas Bung Hatta. This thesis is entirely mine and there are no works or opinions written or published by other people except as references or quotations by following the usual scientific writing procedures.

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# THE RELATIONSHIP BETWEEN THE MAIN CHARACTERS HIERARCHY OF NEEDS AND PERSONALITY TRAITS IN *MOON KNIGHT TV SERIES*

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## ABSTRACT

This study examines the hierarchy of needs and personality traits of the main character depicted in the *Moon Knight* TV series. The main character, Marc Spector, is a man with dissociative identity disorder (DID). The aim of this study is to reveal how Spector and his alter egos fulfil their needs and how the fulfilment of the needs is associated with their personality traits. This study utilizes Maslow's hierarchy of needs and McCrae and Costa personality traits theory. A qualitative descriptive method is employed and involves non-participatory and observational data collection. The results are a total of 54 data points were found, with 22 data points related to the hierarchy of needs, categorized into: 4 physiological needs data fulfilled by Steven Grant, 5 safety needs data fulfilled by Marc and Jack, 6 love and belongingness needs data fulfilled by Steven and Marc, 4 esteem needs, and 3 self-actualization needs are fulfilled by Marc and Steven. On other hand, the writer found 32 data related to the main character and his alter egos personality traits. The study identifies 12 data points for Marc Spector's personality traits, divided as follows: 3 Neuroticism, 2 Extraversion, 2 Openness to Experience, 3 Agreeableness, and 2 Conscientiousness. For Steven Grant, 18 personality traits data points were found, categorized as: 4 Neuroticism, 4 Extraversion, 5 Openness to Experience, 4 Agreeableness, and 1 Conscientiousness. In this study, Jake Lockley only have 2 personality traits data points: 1 Neuroticism and 1 Extraversion because of this alter ego limited screen time. In conclusion, this study reveals that personality traits of Marc and the alter egos is associated with their fulfillment hierarchy of needs. Steven's high levels of conscientiousness help to fulfill the physiological or basic needs. Marc and Jack's low levels of neuroticism help to fulfill the safety needs. Steven and Marc's high level of extroversion help to fulfill the love and belongingness needs. Steven and Marc's high level of openness help to fulfill the esteem needs. Marc and Steven's high levels of agreeableness and conscientiousness traits help to reach self-actualization.

**Keywords:** *Moon Knight TV series, Psychology, Personality Traits, Hierarchy of Needs*

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## CHAPTER I

### INTRODUCTION

#### 1.1 Background of the Study

For many years, literature serves as a source of artistic inspiration for human-being. The existence of literature in human civilization is undeniable. According to Warren and Wellek the function of literature are different to its appropriate users, it gives them satisfaction because of the skill with which it expresses ideas that resemble their own reflection or reverie, as well as the release that comes from this articulation (31).

Literature is characterized by imaginative and creative expression, using language in an inventive way. It possesses aesthetic value, where form and structure contribute to its artistic impact, and explores complex themes, providing deep insights into human experience (Warren and Wellek 21). Warren and Wellek adds literature often involves fictionality, with inventive narratives that convey deeper truths. It is open to different readings and analysis from different points of view. The cultural and historical context in which literature is written also influences and is reflected in it, providing insights into the struggles and values of the day. Plays, poems, and novels serve as a few examples of the literary works which is most represent these criteria (22). Moreover, Wellek and Warren explain literature provides readers with satisfaction in addition to standard-written characterization. This is the reason why, if a reader makes an effort to critically examine literary works, they will be able to benefit from them in addition to understanding the text of the literary work (15).

According to Joseph and Dennis, theatre, literature, music, painting, and sculpture are all recognized as powerful and unique art forms, just like film . Thus, film is one literary work that functions in expressing arts. There are many films that can be studied in literary studies,

particularly those that deal with psychological themes. For certain literary critics, studying and critiquing literary works especially film is an extremely fascinating experience. As a relatively recent literary object, film shares some basic characteristics with other literary works including prose, drama, and poetry (41). Furthermore, Joseph and Dennis adds “Like poetry in particular, film communicates through imagery, metaphor, and symbol” (41) . Similar to drama, film uses both visual and verbal means of communication: verbal through speech and visual through action and gesture. Ultimately, a film, like a novel, compresses and extends time and space, allowing the viewer to freely move between their vast boundaries (Joseph and Dennis 3).

Many films depicts psychological problems of the characters, this may be one of the causes of the abundance of research on the subject. Miller and Stam wrote that "Film theorists, critics, and commentators have been drawn to psychoanalytic ideas to explain film because film seems to exhibit a fundamental kinship with the irrational that psychoanalysis seeks to explain" (123). Film and psychology are two things that cannot be separated. According to Shankar Pandey, literature has a well-established ability to take readers to imaginative places, arouse strong emotions, and encourage reflection (96). As a field, psychology has explored the intricacies of human behavior, emotions, and mental processes, providing a wealth of knowledge on the workings of the human mind (Shankar Pandey 92). Human behavior, emotions, and mental processes also can be seen through literary products as TV series.

In the context of psychology, the writer in this study analyzed the hierarchy of needs and the personality traits of the main character. Maslow specifies a theory about humanistic psychology. Humanistic psychology is an approach that focuses studying the full person and places a particular focus on ideas like self-actualization, self-efficacy, and free will. Humanistic psychology focuses on helping persons to reach their full potential and optimize their well-being rather than on dysfunction (Cherry). Every human being must fulfill their needs to survive in this world. Therefore, Maslow specifies a theory about the levels of the hierarchy of

human needs. Regarding Maslow's theory of hierarchy of needs, McLeod proposes a well-organized model consisting of five levels that describe the development of human motivation (2). This hierarchical framework begins with basic physiological needs and advances through safety, social connection, self-esteem, and ultimately reaches self-actualization, which is the fulfillment of one's potential (4).

Personality traits are enduring patterns of thoughts, feelings, and behaviors that distinguish individuals from one another. They remain relatively stable over time and consistent across various situations, forming the core of an individual's personality. These traits influence how people perceive the world, respond to stress, interact with others, and make decisions (Matthews et al. 10). Many researchers have been studying personality for more than fifty years in an effort to model the characteristics that individuals have and how these relate to variation in behavior, culture, and overall well-being. Initially, Gordon Allport said that there were 4000 personality traits, and Raymon Cattell said 16 personality traits, and Hans Eysenck offered a three-factor theory. The majority of the discussion over the main personality factors has been driven by two distinct theories of trait personality by Goldberg then Costa and McCrae model (Carducci and Nave 225).

According to Goldberg, five essential personality traits or also known as Five -Factor Models (FFM) traits are identified with the OCEAN model. Meanwhile, Costa and McCrae identified the model with NEOAC. These traits include Openness to experience, Conscientiousness, Extraversion, Agreeableness, and Neuroticism. Openness involves imagination and curiosity. Conscientiousness reflects self-discipline and reliability. Extraversion includes sociability and assertiveness. Agreeableness highlights kindness and cooperation. Neuroticism pertains to emotional instability and anxiety. These characteristics offer a thorough foundation for comprehending human personality (Carducci and Nave 226), supporting psychology of literature research and another useful applications in related domains.

The writer is interested in studying the main characters hierarchy of needs and how it is related to the personality traits in *Moon Knight* TV Series. This series portrays the main character named Marc Spector. Marc was a CIA-employed mercenary. Marc was left for dead by his employer during a trip in Egypt after a confrontation at an ancient dig site. Marc, on the other hand, was resurrected by the Egyptian moon deity Khonshu in exchange for becoming his Earth incarnation.

Following this incident, Marc adopted the alias Moon Knight and returned to the United States. He suffers from dissociative identity disorder and has adopted two alter egos, namely Steven Grant and Jake Lockley. According to McAllister, Dissociative identity disorders (DID) are characterized by sudden changes in identity, behavior, or consciousness that frequently resemble trauma (25). Furthermore, Moon Knight battles crime with the specialized equipment, fighting skills, and boosted strength bestowed upon him by Khonshu, who directs Marc's activities and provides him with prophetic visions.

More information about Marc's past emerges throughout the *Moon Knight* series. His mother was abusive when he was a young boy. Marc has also struggled with mental illness prior to meeting Khonshu. His experience in the CIA provided him with great mercenary training, but it also left him with horrible memories. As Moon Knight, Marc assists Khonshu in confronting underworld crooks who remind him of old foes, while also contending with Khonshu hold over Marc.

In conclusion, Marc Spector is a complex figure who received his Moon Knight skills from the Egyptian god Khonshu after a near-death experience. While dealing with dissociative identity disorder and painful memories from his violent past, he uses the powers to fight crime as Moon Knight. For this reason, the writer conducts this research to find out how Marc Spector and the two alter egos personality traits affect in fulfilling his needs.

## **1.2 Research Questions**

Based on the background of the research, the writer poses the following research questions:

1. How are the hierarchy of needs of Marc Spector and the two alter egos portrayed in *Moon Knight* TV series?
2. How are the personality traits of Marc Spector and the two alter egos portrayed in *Moon Knight* TV series?

### **1.3 Objective of the Study**

Based on the research questions above, the purposes of this research are:

1. To describe the hierarchy of needs of Marc Spector and the two alter egos portrayed in *Moon Knight* TV series.
2. To describe the personality traits of Marc Spector and the two alter egos portrayed in *Moon Knight* TV series.

### **1.4 Scope of the Study**

This study object can be studied on various topic, such as sociology and psychology. The writer chooses to study *Moon Knight* TV series through the perspective of psychology. Hierarchy of human needs theory and personality traits theory applied to study the main character.

### **1.5 Significance of the Study**

The significance of this study is divided into two main benefits: theoretical and practical. Theoretically, this research aims to provide insight to readers, especially those interested in the psychoanalytical approach, with a particular focus on humanistic psychology. The purposes of this study is to understand how the personality traits of the characters who have Dissociative Identity Disorder (DID), specifically the characters with the alter egos in movie or TV series fulfill their hierarchy of needs by employing Abraham Maslow's hierarchy

of needs theory. Practically, this research offers valuable information on the representation of characters with psychological issues in popular media. This understanding can be applied in fields such as scriptwriting, art therapy, and psychology education, aiding professionals in these areas to create more realistic and nuanced characters. Furthermore, the study provides guidance for writers and filmmakers in accurately and empathetically depicting characters with psychological disorders, thereby enhancing the quality and credibility of their work.