

CHAPTER I

INTRODUCTION

This chapter provides five prominent sub-chapters such as the background of the study, research problem, objectives of the research, scope and limitation of the study and significant of the research.

1.1. Background of the study

Generally, a human cannot be separated from the basic needs. The basic human needs consist of spiritual needs and material needs. Both these are a stimulus of various human behaviours that decide human from one another. Human similarly have the desire to fulfil all their needs in order to feel satisfied. To fulfil these basic needs, human will use all their abilities to achieve whatever they want and can do. This behaviour generally named as “self-actualization”.

“Self-actualization is a person's desire to become everything he or she is capable of becoming to realize and use his or her full potential, capacities, and talents.”

(Feist & Feist, 2002).

Self-actualization for some people is considered important. A person who able to achieve high levels of self-actualization become fully human being. It will be different from a person who cannot reach the level of self-actualization because it makes, he feels disappointed and feel not grateful for his life.

“The form of self-actualization can be described as a musician make music, an artist must paint, a poet must write, if he is to be ultimately happy.”

(Feist & Feist, 2002)

An American psychologist called Abraham Maslow is the originator of Humanistic Psychological theory. In humanistic psychology, Abraham Maslow's

theory of Hierarchy of Needs is well established. This humanistic psychological theory comprises of physiological needs, safety needs, love and belongingness needs, esteem needs and the last is self-actualization needs.

“Maslow's notion of need hierarchy assumes that lower-level needs pretend to higher-level requirements”

(Feist & Feist, 2002).

When one of the needs has been fulfilled, then people will meet other needs. This indicates that self-actualization can be achieved when the four prior needs have been met.

Studying self-actualization also implies studying components of psychology. Psychology learns about life and the human condition. At present, psychology can be implemented in the literature because of interdisciplinary studies. If literature is a psychological phenomenon, then psychology is a psychological study. Based on that claim, it can be concluded that literary work can be analysed from psychological perspective. This type of research is generally referred to psychology of literature, a branch of literary studies that has a theoretical structure and fundamental psychology ideas. In this study, the researcher chooses a novel entitled *Before I Fall* to analyse the characteristic of the primary character named Samantha Kingston.

Before I Fall by Lauren Oliver was published in 2010. This novel tells about the magical death experienced by Samantha Kingston as the main character. Samantha is popular girl. Samantha and her friends go to the Cupid Day party on February 12th. They mock and hurt Juliet Sky until Juliet eventually committed suicide. When Samantha and her friends came home, they had an accident. After

the accident, Samantha woke up in the Cupid Day on February 12th. Then Samantha started to experiencing other weird occurrences, that is repeated death.

Based on the above story, the researcher finds that Samantha unconsciously actualizes herself to find out the causes of death that she experienced repeatedly. Beside that Samantha also experienced a spiritual event because she could live again after experiencing death even though she remained on the same day. Finally, the researcher will also analyse the importance of Samantha's self-actualization with her time loop's death, which often uses the concept of Abraham Maslow, Self-Actualization.

In addition, the researcher chooses to use this novel itself and has ever received an award such as the 2012 Popular Paperbacks for Young Adults, an American Library Association. In 2017, nominate in Goodreads Choice Award for Best Young Adult Fiction. It was also selected in 2017 for film adaptation "Before I Fall," directed by Ry Russo-Young with a screenplay by Maria Maggenti and Gina Prince-Bythewood.

1.2. Research Problem

Referring to the background of the research, the issues will transform into the following question.

1. How does Samantha Kingston's process in achieving her self-actualization in her life through Hierarchy of Human Needs concept belong to Abraham Maslow?
2. How does characteristic of self-actualization person appear in Samantha through Hierarchy of Human Needs concept belong to Abraham Maslow?

1.3. Objectivities of the Study

Regarding the explanation of these problems, this research is designed to introduce the definition of:

1. To know how Samantha Kingston's process achieves self-actualization in her life through the concept of the Hierarchy of Human Needs belong to Abraham Maslow.
2. To know the characteristic of the person of self-actualization, the notion of Abraham Maslow appears in Samantha through the Hierarchy of Human Needs.

1.4. Scope and Limitation.

In this part, the researcher emphasizes its scope and limitation to determine the self-actualization on the primary character in Laurent Oliver's novel *Before I Fall*. This study based on the self-actualization of the main character observed in the novel having a more effective perception of the challenge of life, living a life

with a fully hard work duty, having brevity in showing his desire for thought and will, low on the point of self-conflict and having equanimity to live a life. The researcher wants to analyse using Abraham Maslow humanistic psychology perspective such as: psychological need, safety needs, the love and belonging needs, esteem needs and focused on self-actualization needs.

1.5. Significance of the Study

There have been two practical considerations for conducting the research study. Because of its theoretical and practical function, this study is essential to shows:

Theoretically, this study aims to enrich the theoretical basis of literary studies, in particular those linked to the psychological assessment of the self-actualization requirements of a primary character considered Abraham Maslow's theory in the novel *Before I Fall*.

Theoretically, this research attempts toward enforce one of literary theories, so the researcher can properly research the formulated goals, offer an idea of how self-actualization can change the behaviour of the person in the process of reaching his or her objective, and also offer the reader information of the basic of human needs related on the perspective of psychological views.

Practically, the outcome of this study is anticipated to be a reference and alternative data. This study is intended to be helpful for other research doing comparable studies, such as psychological analysis of self-actualization in *Before I Fall*.