

CHAPTER I

INTRODUCTION

1.1 Background of the Study

Maslow (1970:2) states that humankind is motivated to achieve something, something to fulfill his/her needs. The needs mean to survive in life, to do other necessary things. For instance, find for food when they are hungry, drink when they are thirsty, sleep when they are sleepy, and fulfill other needs such as sexual behavior and social relationship. Maslow (1970:2) also argues that those needs are very important to be known by every individual to avoid psychopathological conditions such as frustration, fear, anxiety, etc.

Those conditions appear because of dissatisfaction toward their primary needs, because as Maslow (1970:3) states that human nature always have primary needs such as food, love, safety and prestige. Then, Maslow (1970:23) mentions that one individual may have multiple motivations in fulfilling his/her basic needs. For instance, a novelist who loves writing fiction stories, he/she is not only motivated by his affection toward writing but also motivated by his desire in curiosity (knowledge) and motivation for understanding, or any other motivation such as needs for prestige and achievement to survive in life through his works.

Based on that example, Maslow (1970:7) mentions about human and nonhuman in which laid to the consideration of life purpose or goal. Moreover, Maslow calls human who has no purpose of life, being independent from a desire to have wishes or any goals and does not gather all their potentials to become a human being as nonhuman.

Furthermore, the consideration of life purpose and a desire toward self-fulfillment are main keywords to achieve self-actualization (Maslow, 1970:46). Self-actualization is the highest needs, because Maslow classifies human needs in hierarchy that shows the level of human needs from the lowest to the highest needs. It means that people must satisfied all their basic needs from the lowest to the highest; physiological needs, safety needs, belonging needs, and esteem needs to achieve self-actualization. Therefore, this study aims to describe the fulfillment of main character's basic needs and main character's journeys to achieve her self-actualization (according to Maslow's eight ways to reach self-actualization) in Lily King's *Father of the Rain*.

Lily King's *Father of the Rain* explores Daley's motivation to achieve her self-actualization through the fulfillment of her basic needs. It is portrayed in Daley's personality to reach her goal in life, she considers others before herself, and for her fulfillment and actualization through her own potential as good as she can. In response to the explanation, Maslow (1970:198) mentions that self-actualization is the highest human need, because one individual knows how to fulfill his/her highest potential. For instance, in Lily King's novel *Father of the Rain*, Daley still loves her father although he is an alcoholic; she gathers her efforts such as brings her father to AA meeting for her father's sobriety.

Daley's father is an awful alcoholic; his wife has left him without word and brought Daley with her, his second wife also left him and his alcoholic behavior becomes worse than before. Daley also has an opportunity to leave her father because his alcohol abuse, but Daley's love to her father is real. After Daley's

dilemma between keeping her job or losing her father, Daley cannot leave her father and come back to take care of her father. That phenomenon indicates the process of choices and being selfless. Those experiences are any of the ways to achieve self-actualization.

Moreover, Maslow's theory about human motivation had given a positive impact on health psychology where Maslow mentions about the individualist. Individualist based on Maslow's theory is different from Freud's statement that mentions, "Individual's instinct was antisocial and must be controlled by the society" (Patterson, 1985). On the other hand, Maslow argues that individualist is a positive one. It means the inner life of person, Maslow more concern on the development of every individual to be a fully human (Maslow, 1971: xvii).

This study chooses Lily King's *Father of the Rain* as the source of data because first, Lily King is a great author; she won several awards for her works. For *Father of the Rain*, she won *New England Book Award for fiction*, *The New York Times Editors' Choice*, *Amazon's Best Books of the Month (On July 2010)*, *O Magazine 2010 Summer Reading List*, And *2011 Maine Literary Awards for Fiction* (retrieved from lilykingbooks.com) in her thirteen ages. *Father of the Rain* is one of her best novel. King's creates *Father of the Rain* with the vivid character, a complex life of upper-middle-class family drama and those conflicts cause the novel can be analyzed in many aspects of literary theories.

Second, the novel contains psychological aspects. For instance, the main character who attempts to fulfill her basic needs until she finds her self-actualization that is the highest need in hierarchy based on Maslow's hierarchy.

Thus, the writer uses Maslow's psychology about human motivation theory to analyze the novel.

Loving someone and detaching conflict can motivate someone to reach her self-actualization. Self-actualization can be achieved if she has fulfilled one or more from the basic needs. Self-actualization portrayed in Daley's life is to found the meaning of family. Family is something to be take care each other, family is more as a forgiving way even though it comes from a daughter who has suffered for several years of an alcoholic father, and in the end of the story Daley can build her own happy family.

1.2 Research Questions

In response to the background of the study, here the writer list two research questions as follow:

1. What are Daley's needs to achieve self-actualization in Lily King's *Father of the Rain*?
2. How Daley's journeyto achieve her self-actualization in Lily King's *Father of the Rain*?

1.3 Objectives of the Study

Based on the research questions of the study, it is intended:

1. To expound Daley's fulfillment of her needs from physiological needs until self-actualization need in Lily King's *Father of the Rain*.
2. To elaborate Daley's journey to achieve her self-actualization in Lily King's *Father of the Rain*.

1.4 Significances of the Study

The significances of this study are as follow: theoretically, this study gives a further explanation about hierarchy of needs based on *Abraham H. Maslow's* theory and elaborate a new perspective about positive human motivation to develop and mobilize all effort to be a fully human. The second theoretical significance is the result of study can give the reader understanding about the application Maslow's hierarchy of need in analyzing the literary work. Meanwhile, in a practical field, this study can give knowledge to the reader that the fulfillment of needs until the achieving of self-actualization will lead people to a positive way. For instance, create a healthy social life and good self-esteem.

1.5 Scope and Limitation of the Study

The scope of this study is the application of *Abraham H. Maslow's* theory relating to human motivation until achieving the main character's self-actualization. Furthermore, this study is limited on Daley's fulfillment of her basic needs and how the portrayal of Daley's self-actualization aspects in Lily King's *Father of the Rain*. The data collections are from the characters' utterances and Daley's narrations.