

CHAPTER I

INTRODUCTION

This chapter consists of five parts of the introduction. They are the background of the study, statement of the research problem, the objectives of the study, significances of the study, and the scope and limitation of the study.

1.1 Background of The Study

Literary works usually include additional adjective as “aesthetic” or “artistic” to distinguish it from texts of everyday used such as telephone books, newspapers, scholarly writings, and legal documents. It means that not every written document can be categorized as literature in the more exact sense of the word (Klarer, 2004).

The literary works can be aesthetic or artistic based on the author who creates the literary work. The aesthetic term, or artistic, can be seen through the story, the use of the word, the narrative styles, or the odd of the work. Emma Donoghue is one of authors who create an aesthetic and artistic literary work. In 2010, she published her international bestseller novel entitled *Room* which is sold over two million copies around the world.

Emma Donoghue also writes many literary works in drama and fiction. Her works in the drama are *I Know My Own Heart*, *Ladies and Gentlemen*, *Kissing the Witch*, *Don't Die Wondering*, *The Talk of the Town*, *Trespasses*, *Exes*, *Humans and Other Animals*, and *Mix*. In fiction, Emma wrote short story and novel such as *Astray*, *Three and a Half Deaths*, *The Sealed Letter*, *Life Mask*, *The Woman Who Gave Birth to Rabbits*, *Slammerkin*, *Kissing the Witch*, *Touchy Subjects*, *Landing*, *Hood*, *Stir-fry*, *Frog Music*, *The Wonder*, *The Lottery's Plus One*, and her sensational novel *Room*.

Room won more than twenties prizes after the publication. In example the Hughes & Hughes Irish Novel of the Year, the Rogers Writers' Trust Fiction Prize (for the best Canadian novel), the Canadian Booksellers' Association Libris

Awards (Fiction Book and Author of the Year), the Forest of Reading Evergreen Award, the Commonwealth Prize (Canada & Caribbean Region), two Libris Awards from the Canadian Booksellers' Association (Fiction Book and Author of the Year) and many more. *Room* was also shortlisted for the Man Booker Prize, the Orange Prize, the Trillium English Book Award, International Author of the Year (Galaxy National Book Awards), the Governor General's Award and the Kerry Group Irish Fiction Award. (emmadonoghue.com/books/novels/room-the-novel.html)

The interesting element of the novel is the way the story narrated. The five-years-old Jack who captive in a room and never saw the real world outside Room told the whole of the story by his own point of view and his perspective. It makes the reader see the world from Jack's innocent, honesty, sheltered, and unique fresh perspective.

The story is about Ma (Jack's mother) who was kidnapped by Old Nick since she nineteen years old. Ma isolated in 11x11 feet square room in a backyard and became the object of Old Nick sex desire. By the time, Jack was born and lived with Ma inside the room. Ma and Jack lived together and did everything inside Room. Jack didn't know how the real world was, because he never went outside the room. Time goes on and Jack became five. Jack had a lot of question about anything and Ma could not conquer it. Ma thought it was the time to told the real world toward Jack and planned for the great escape. They started to execute the plan and had a successful escape from the room and Old Nick. The next story is about the socialization to the real world.

From the short synopsis above, it can be seen that the novel is full of aesthetic and artistic aspects. That is the reason many readers or researchers are attracted to analyze the novel. *Room* contains many aspects which can be analyzed. From the first publication (2010) until 2018 there are more than twenties researches about this novel.

Starting from the narration style, the novel was analyzed such as in *“Narrative Strategies and Mind Style in Emma Donoghue’s Room”* and *“Narratological Complexities in Emma Donoghue’s Room”*. It was also analyzed in semiotics way entitled *“The symbolic meaning of “room” in the novel “ROOM” written by Emma Donoghue”*. Other researchers were analyzed the perspective as like *“Child Perspective of the World Reflected in Emma Donoghue’s Room (2010) Novel: A Sociological Approach”* and *“The Representation of a Child Worldview in Emma Donoghue’s Room”*. Many more researches about the character such like, *“A Study of Jack and Ma’s Life in Emma Donoghue’s Room”*, *“Jack’s Effort to Overcome His Social Phobia after His Great”* and *“Psychological Resilience in Emma Donoghue’s Room”*.

More other researchers also analyzed the character but specific to Ma, *“Ma’s Struggles Reflected In Emma Donoghue’s Room (2010): A Feminist Approach”*, *“Assertiveness of Ma Reflected In Emma Donoghue’s Room Novel (2010): A Feminist Approach”*, and in psychological element *“A Psychoanalysis Study Of Ma’s Personality In Emma Donoghue’s Room Novel”*, *“Ma’s Trauma: A Psychoanalytic Study On Emma Donoghue’s Novel Room An Analysis Of Motherhood In Emma Donoghue’s Room”* and *“Ma’s Anxiety In Emma Donoghue’s Room”*, but none of the research’s analyzed the positive aspects of Ma.

Maslow (1954) argued when psychologist study only uncommon, emotional disorder, they forget about the positive things such as happiness, satisfaction, and peace of mind. It means that the researcher also has to analyze the genuine perspective of human. Because of that, this research is focused on humanistic aspect using humanistic psychological approach by Abraham Maslow. Maslow was an academic psychologist who later becomes a president of the American Psychological Association. He believed that human has basic, biological and psychological needs that have to be completed in order to be free enough to feel the desire for the higher levels of realization. Maslow also believed

that the organism has the natural, unconscious and innate capacity to pursue its needs.

In Maslow's theory, he outlined that people are motivated to achieve certain needs. The needs put in order hierarchical, made up of *physiological needs, safety needs, love and belonging needs, esteem needs, and as the top is self-actualization needs*. All of the needs have to be fulfilled from the base and agree with the order. It means that people cannot reach the higher of the needs before they reach the needs before.

This research is centralized at Ma and her motivation which she used to live in the room, live with Jack, escape from the room, live with Jack outside the room, and back to society. Sometimes, people who don't have a hope will easily give up. They stop to try and hand over. It is different with Ma, although she looks like doesn't have prospects, she still wants to have a life, especially after Jack was born. She has the motivation to fulfill her needs by attempts many things.

It is possible for people who have no future, without hope, without possibility, without egress, going to commit suicide. Especially if it relates with the novel where Ma lives in a room and no one knows. Ma can kill herself and everything will finish, but she doesn't do that. She tried to realize her life, especially after Jack's born.

Ma has motivation to survive with Jack. It is special because not everyone has something to fight after no prospects. Ma has her own need that has to be reached, so she attempts anything to fulfill her needs and her aim. Because of that, writer interests to analyze Ma about her motivation to reach her needs.

Related to the theory, someone who has his or her own reason which has to reach means that they try to get the top of the needs, the self-actualization needs. According to Maslow, there are fifteen characteristics of a self-actualizer (people who try to reach self-actualization needs). This research is also made to prove that Ma is a self-actualizer who tries to get her self-actualization needs.

From the explanation above, writer use “Ma’s self-actualization in Emma Donoghue’s *Room*: Maslow humanistic psychological approach” as the title of this research.

1.2 Statement of Research Problem

In line with the background of the study, the statement of research problem can be formulated as follow:

1. What are the Ma’s needs to achieve self-actualization in Emma Donoghue’s *Room* according to hierarchical needs by Maslow?
2. What are the characteristic of self-actualization people in Ma’s life?

1.3 Objectives of The Study

Concerning to the question of research problem, this study intended to:

1. To elucidate Ma’s fulfillment of her needs from physiological needs until self-actualization need in Emma Donoghue’s *Room*.
2. To identify the characteristic of self-actualization in Ma’s life.

1.4 Significances of The Study

The result of the study is expected to give contribution theoretically and practically to the related study.

1. Theoretically, the result of this study supposed to give the contribution and consideration for the next study that analyzes a similar source of data or theory. Writer also hopes this study can give a better understanding of the application of Maslow’s hierarchy of needs in analyzing a literary works.
2. Practically, this study hopes to give advice for the reader to fulfill the needs and become a self-actualizer who creates a positive personality. It also expected to increase the knowledge about humanistic psychology.

1.5 Scope and Limitation

This study focuses on the application of Maslow's theory about human needs towards Ma in Emma Donoghue's *Room*. This study limits in Ma's character utterances, characters conversation, and Jack's narration about Ma.