

# CHAPTER I

## INTRODUCTION

### A. Background of The Study

Novel as one of the objects in analysis literary works, a novel takes a role in society by looking the reality happened in societies between one individual to another and poured it into the form of writing. There are many kinds of genres in the novel, one of the genres is about teenage life that raised about friendship, love and dreams it's one of popular genre people are looking for. One of the novels that picked up this genre is the Dead Poets Society novel that success in attracting the readers and the novel was reprinted several times. This novel also adopted into films and has a lot of spectators.

The novels explain about friendship from a group of students who support each other's dreams, reinforce the other friends when faces some problems, and encourage their friends when they start giving up. This case will bring people into the psychological humanistic aspects that humans need each other person in their life.

According to Maslow human behavior is determines by the tendency of individuals to achieve goals to have a happier life and with the achieving goals means satisfying humans desire (Minderope, 2011:280). Based on these statements, Maslow builds a motivation theory to analyze human with a healthy mental and were known as hierarchy of human needs theory. Hierarchy of human needs in Maslow's theory they are physiological needs, safety needs, love and belongingness needs, self-esteem needs, and self-actualization needs.

Maslow explained in the journal of personality theories, “Maslow (1970) listed the following needs in order of their prepotency: physiological, safety, love and belongingness, esteem, and self-actualization” (280). Each individual has similarities in fulfilling basic needs, but different self-fulfilment for self-actualization needs to be achieved. Self-actualization is the highest peak of human desire according to Maslow's motivation theory.

Hierarchy of human needs by Abraham H. Maslow divided into different section in each level they are physiological needs is about biological need such as need for food, money, breathing, and so forth. Safety needs is about free from feeling afraid and anxious arround; love and belonging needs is about affection means warmth from the closest relative like family, parent, couple, and close friend; self-esteem needs is about confident divided into self-respect and gets respect from others; and the higher level in human need is self-actualization. These already explained in theories personality by Jess Feist and Gregory Feist:

Physiological needs, including food, water, oxygen, maintenance of body temperature, and so on...safety needs, including physical security, stability, dependency, protection, and freedom from threatening forces such as war, terrorism, illness, fear, anxiety, danger, chaos, and natural disasters....love and belongingness needs, such as the desire for friendship; the wish for a mate and children; the need to belong to a family, a club, a neighborhood, or a nation....esteem needs, which include self-respect, confidence, competence, and the knowledge that others hold them in high esteem....self-actualization needs include self-fulfillment, the realization of all one's potential, and a desire to become creative in the full sense of the word” (Feist, 2008: 281-284).

To get on self-actualization needs, firstly, human being should be able to met the forth basic needs of Maslow's motivation theory because these basic needs are the needs that cannot be postpone for all humans in fulfilling. After fulfilling or satisfied these basic needs human will be motivated to satisfy the highest level of needs its self-actualization “Maslow's hierarchy of needs concept assumes that the lower level needs must be satisfied or at least highly satisfied before higher level needs become motivators” (Feist, 2008: 280).

According to Carol D. Ryff self-actualization it is “when people feel happy about every aspect of their lives where they are satisfied with how their lives have become. This satisfaction is obtained from their meaningful work and personal goals fulfillment” (Ryff, 1989: 1069). From the description above, mentioned that human being will try to do anything in order to satisfy their goals. The natural thing done by humans in order to get self-satisfaction is by doing everything, although they have to against the rules to reach the goals.

Self-actualization is about dream or desire wants to embody for all humans in life. Generally, humans will develop the whole ability, potential, and power so that his self-actualization achieved because humans realized by achieving of self-actualization make his life better, complete and meaningful. Therefore, this needs demanding individuals to be able to develop his potential with the own ability to obtain satisfaction, pleasure, and welfare by using of the potentialities that exist in each individual.

Therefore, seen from hierarchy of human needs theory which advanced by Abraham H. Maslow clarified that each human being does not be separated from varieties of needs want to achieve and that happen to the character Knox

Overstreet, they are needs must be fulfilled in *Dead Poets Society's* novel. Which after the whole basic needs have been fulfilled by him, he motivated to meet his peak need its self-actualization which is in the novel tells the self-fulfilment for him is getting love from his loved girl, the girl he met in the dinner. The efforts of Knox Overstreet in fulfilling his self-fulfilment is an encouragement that motivated after fulfilling all basic needs, with the basic needs for all humans are the same. That was the reason in this study focus in the research on the psychology analysis toward the character of Knox Overstreet in the novel *Dead Poets Society* work of N. H. Kleinbaum.

This theory chosen due the main character personality in the novel depicts human behaviour which attempts to meet and express their potential in themselves that often covered or not realized by the individual itself to be able to achieve self-actualization. By satisfying wishes than human has fulfilled the self-actualization. In the novel tells a variety of ways and incidents experienced by Overstreet to fulfil his self-actualization but does not make him give up reaching his peak needs. In this case, prove that the distress being experienced to reach self-actualization is not blocking him in reaching his self-fulfilment. Shortly by getting Chris's love means Overstreet has fulfilled his self-actualization needs.

Human beings who reached this stage of need mean he has found his goals and people in this step become a fully human and become a happy person. "People who have reached the level of self-actualization become fully human" (Feist, 2008: 284). These five following needs explain above have relationships to each other need so that every need is must be met from the lower

level its physiological need to achieve the high level its self-actualization. And in achieving the high level the human being has to meet every need gradually and sequentially.

Therefore, this study would like to use the concept hierarchy of human needs theory by Abraham H. Maslow to see the steps Knox Overstreet in fulfilling his self-actualization needs in the novel.

### **B. Limitation of the study**

In *Dead Poets Society* novel, there are hierarchy of needs must be fulfilled by the character of Knox Overstreet. Therefore, based on the background above, this study would focus on the analysis the step hierarchy of human needs pass by Knox Overstreet until he can fulfill his self-actualization. Moreover, in this study would use humanistic theory by Abraham H. Maslow to find the hierarchy of human needs that appears in the character.

### **C. Problem formulation**

Based on background and focus of the study above, this study would analyze the problem formulation as follows:

1. what is the character of Knox Overstreet cover his self-actualization needs based on Abraham H. Maslow's hierarchy of human needs theory?
2. How does the portrayed of the positive impacts of self-actualization to Knox Overstreet personality reflected on *dead poets society* novel?

#### **D. Objectives of The Study**

Based on problem formulation above, the purpose of this study follows:

1. To analyze Knox Overstreet fulfillment of his self-actualization based on Abraham H. Maslow's hierarchy of human needs theory.
2. To analyze the portrayed of the positive impacts of self-actualization to Knox Overstreet personality reflected on *dead poets society* novel.

#### **E. Significance of The Study**

This study highlights the perspective and interpretation from *Dead Poets Society's* novel especially on the hierarchy of human need using Abraham H. Maslow theory that appears in the character, Knox Overstreet. Hopefully, this research can give some benefits:

1. To the readers and the learners, mainly for literature student to use the result of this study as they references in analyzing data.
2. To help the learners who are interesting in the psychological analysis especially on hierarchy of human needs.
3. To the learners to get references especially about hierarchy of human needs by Abraham H. Maslow theory related to the analysis of main character in *Dead Poets Society's* novel itself.
4. To colasula's library for increasing collection references.

#### **F. Organization of The Study**

This final project consists of five chapters. Chapter I is introduction consists background of the study, limitation of the study, problem formulation, objectives of the study, significance of the study, and organization of the study.

Chapter II contains the reviews of the related literature. It consists of synopsis of novel, humanistic theory, and hierarchy of human need by Abraham H. Maslow theory.

Chapter III contains research method. It consists of object of the study, types of research, data organizing, types of the data, and analysis the data.

Chapter IV is discussion of the topic. It consists of Knox fulfillment of the Self-actualization based on Abraham Maslow Hierarchy of Human Needs Theory and the positive impacts of Self-actualization toward Knox's personality as reflected on *Dead Poets Society's* novel by N. H. Kleinbaum.

Chapter V consists of conclusion and suggestion on the topic.

