A Psychological Study of Literature
VALIDATION

This Thesis is received and Approved by
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Universitas Muhammadiyah Semarang
Semarang, 5th October 2018

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APSychological Study of Literature

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Abstract

Neither literature nor real life one’s motivation dealing with his/her satisfaction and need fulfillment in life change as time goes by when experiencing some significant life transformation. Based on the above statement, this study was conducted. The material object chosen were Cast Away (2000) and The Martian (2015), for there was something similar in the two films, including the protagonists’ phases of life, characteristics of setting and conflicts experienced by the protagonists related to the studied topic. By applying Maslow’s theory of hierarchy of needs, the study was aimed at finding out the life needs of Chuck Noland and the protagonist in Cast Away, Mark Watney, the protagonist in The Martian including their changes and fulfillments within their different phases of life. The result showed that in both movies, the protagonist experienced three different phases of life, which dealt significantly with what their ultimate needs were in each phase and how they were motivated to fulfill these needs. In the first phase, the protagonist tried to fulfill the need of belonging and loved one (3rd level hierarchy of needs). In the second phase, the protagonist pursued the fulfillment of belonging and loved one (3rd level hierarchy of needs). And in the third phase, both protagonists elevated the life standards due to fulfillment of some of their needs in previous phase. Chuck Noland in Cast Away had pursued the need to be loved and to find a fulfilled belonging need (3rd level hierarchy of needs). Meanwhile, Mark Watney in The Martian was already in the process of self-actualization (5th top level hierarchy of needs). It is concluded that when people experience some life transformations, regardless of better or worse situations, they will try to adjust themselves to the new situations by trying to fulfill their needs, neglecting the need that they were pursuing in the previous situation.

Keywords: lifeneeds, need fulfillments, hierarchy of needs, comparative study, film

Introduction

Every human being has different needs and ways to fulfill them. One’s lifeneeds and fulfillments are influenced by the surrounding environment. For example, loneliness is a problem during their isolation, loses their jobs, and they are all alone. Besides, they are lack of food supplies to eat. Both the protagonists have no option but to survive and make attempts to return to their normal environments. At the same time, they must keep their mind stable. As a consequence, they exploit anything to eat and protect themselves. Finally, they find a way to return to their environments and continue their lives.

In this research, both movies are compared dealing with such similarities in the formulaic plots. Both the movies are basically focused on the central characters’ problems (what Chuck Noland and Mark Watney are experiencing). The researchers use psychological approach to

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compare the central characters' hierarchy of needs before, during, and after their isolations.

The researchers use Abraham Maslow's psychological theory namely Hierarchy of Needs.

Methodology
1. Research Approach
In this research, the researchers use psychological approach with Abraham Maslow's theory of Hierarchy of Needs. It helps to analyze and compare the hierarchy needs of the central character or protagonist in Cast Away (2000) and in The Martian (2015).

2. Types of Data
In this research, the researchers determine two categories of data resources, they are primary and secondary data. The primary data in this research is Robert Zemeckis's Cast Away (2000) and Ridley Scott's The Martian (2015). Where the secondary data include libraries and online resources that contain various references such as books, journals, learning materials, and other resources. It is able to help the researchers get information to analyze the primary data.

3. Technique of Data Collection, Analysis, and Presentation
a. Technique of Data Collection
In collecting and analyzing the data of this research, the researchers watched and takenoteykindofrelevantinformationor data from the movies. The data that are used in this research are dialogues, actions, and pictures of both the central characters.

b. Technique of Data Analysis
The researchers use qualitative descriptive technique to analyze the data until the researchers find out the results and make a conclusion of the data.

c. Technique of Data Presentation
Data is presented in the form of combination between screenshots (images) and quotations (texts).

Findings and Discussion
The researchers find some similarities and differences of protagonists' hierarchy of needs in Cast Away (2000) and The Martian (2015). The data analysis is in the following:

The hierarchy of needs of Chuck Noland in Cast Away (2000) and Mark Watney in The Martian (2015) are divided into three phases of life: they are Before, during, and after they are isolated on a strange place.

a. Before Chuck Noland is isolated on a strange place, he has a similar level of hierarchy of needs. They have already reached into esteem need level. It is can be seen in the diagram below.

Diagram 1. Hierarchy of Needs of Chuck Noland (left) and Mark Watney (right) and before isolated.
b. Hierarchy of needs of Chuck Noland in *Cast Away* (2000) and Mark Watney in *The Martian* (2015) when they were isolated in a strange place. Mars, they have a similar level of hierarchy of needs. They have already reached into love and belonging needs. It can be seen in the diagram below.

Diagram 2. Hierarchy of Needs Diagram of Chuck Noland (left) and Mark Watney (right) during isolation.

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c. Hierarchy of needs of Chuck Noland in *Cast Away* (2000) and Mark Watney in *The Martian* (2015) after they are saved and belong in need because after they are back from isolated place. Chuck Noland and Mark Watney can fulfill the highest level of Watney saved from isolated place they back to normal life. In this place they level of hierarchy of needs between Chuck Noland can be seen in the diagram below.

Diagram 3. Hierarchy of Needs Diagram of Chuck Noland (left) and Mark Watney (right) after being saved from isolation.

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**Conclusion**

In the analysis of the hierarchy of needs of Chuck Noland in *Cast Away* (2000) and Mark Watney in *The Martian* (2015), the researchers divide the hierarchy of needs into three phases of life, i.e. before, during, and after Chuck Noland and Mark Watney are isolated on a strange place. According to that, there are some changes or shifts of needs of both characters during their three phases of life. Hence, it is concluded that when people experience some life
transformations, regardless in better or worse situations, the result is a change of lifeneeds, they will try to adjust themselves to the new situations by trying to fulfill the new needs, neglecting the needs that they were pursuing in the previous situation.

References