

# **CHAPTER I**

## **INTRODUCTION**

### **1.1 Background of Research**

According to Maslow (1954) in Feist (2009: 290) states that self-actualization is the ability of a person to grow and develop himself, a person's ability to regulate themselves so that they are free from pressure, both from within and outside. Besides that, self-actualization is also an attempt to express one's potential and talent. Potentially, humans are provided with desires called human needs. Most human needs are developed through individual activities to realize self-actualization as one of fulfilling human needs. From the statement, self-actualization is human's life aspects is related to human experience which it can be reflected through film.

Film is a medium to depict a psyche of the author by reflecting on real life that is displayed through expression, appearance, role, and problems of each character which creates a life of phenomena. Film also has a character which describes the psychological aspects of the character. Description of the psychological aspects is including characterization of character is depicted through appearance, dialogue, and action. Characterization is the way an author or an actor describes or shows what a character say and do (Bogs & Petrie, 2008: 24).

Based on paragraph above, self-actualization includes the psychological study attributable to characterization in discovering characters development in a film. Through the characterization, character in film can be identified based on elements that involve emotions, personality, settings, plots, dialogues, character relationship with other characters, and the types of features displayed by the characters in the film.

Through the characterization also that self-actualization can be identified based on phenomena in film.

As statement above which it can be known through phenomena in "Into The Wild (2007)" film. This film becomes an interesting film that displays the phenomena of journey through the scene played by Christopher Johnson McCandless. "Into The Wild" film is a American biographical survival film written, co-produced, and directed by Sean Penn. Before "Into The Wild" film was created, the scenes of Chris walking out of his privileged life and promising future become a back-to-nature wanderer in the 1990s has been popular since the book published by Jon Krakauer became a best-seller in 1996. So from that book, "Into The Wild" film was born in 2007 with many awards such as Golden Globes, USA (2008) as best original song-motion picture , the second victory was won as a movie of the year in AFI Award, USA (2008), and was nominated for a Grammy Award (2008) as a best song written for motion picture, television or other visual media.

This film shows figures of the main character through their strength and enthusiasm to achieve their desire on long journey to Alaska. After a long trip to Alaska, Chris met people (leather tramp) who took him to Alaska. At Alaskan Forest, Chris as the main character found the place to do activities. From that place, Chris named it mention "The Magic Bus". Chris runs his life as a first step to discover the meaning of life and increase his potential as human. From the statement, this research will find out characteristics of the main characters when taking a long journey to get to Alaska. Beside that, this research will find out what the main character does when he reaches self-actualization. This research will find out what things must be fulfilled

through needs of the main character to achieve self-actualization when he made it to Alaska.

For the reason, Christopher Johnson McCandless as the main character is revealed through the description of subtitle, body-language, and the description of the other characters. This film shows the characterization of the main character illustrated by using, plot, dialogue, emotional setting, effect or mood. This characterization may produce the self-actualization of the main character of the film. This film also happens through phenomena in “Into The Wild (2007)” film. Therefore, this research finds out the characterization through characteristics of the main character and also finds out the self-actualization and the fulfillment of his needs of the main character of this film. Thus, to fulfill the needs there is a theory which is suitable to observe this film well known of the hierarchy of needs by Abraham H. Maslow.

As a basis for supporting the argument that this research is valid, it is adjusted to previous research. Therefore, there are five similarities of researches related to the analysis of self – actualization of the main character. *First*, it takes from Sulthan, 2016, *Self-Esteem and Self-Actualization Needs Analysis of The Main Character in The Hundred-Foot Journey Film*, English Letters Departement, State Islamic University of Syarif Hidayatullah Jakarta, unpublished undergraduated paper. The purpose of this research is to know what the main character needs for his life and how he fulfills his needs based on the hierarchy of needs theory by Abraham Maslow. This research is also conducted to know characteristics of the main character, which is conveyed in the film. The result of this research shows the main character that the main character can fulfill his needs. The main character Hasan is an Indian immigrant person who wants to become a great chef in Paris. In short that, he fulfills his self-

esteem needs by convincing Madame Mallory to recognize his skill in cooking. Then he fulfills the self-actualization needs by returning to his village where he uses his potential as an actualized person.

*Second*, the research from Iwa Wiwaha, 2016, *An Analysis of Robert McCall's Self-Actualization in The The Equalizer Movie*, English Letters Departement, State Islamic University of Syarif Hidayatullah Jakarta, unpublished undergraduated paper. In Iwa's research is aimed at finding out the way of Robert McCall reaches his self-actualization in his new life based on Hierarchy of Human Needs of Abraham Maslow's concept. This research identifies the problem of McCall needs which are revealed in his way to get self-actualization and how he fulfilling his needs. In the data analysis, this research finds out Robert McCall in *The Equalizer* movie could fulfill his four basic needs in his new life and reach self-actualization that he could not get in his old life when he working with CIA because he has promise to his wife.

*Third*, Sya'roni Abdul Jalil, 2015, *Self-Actualization of Bradley Cohen Character In Front of The Film*, English Departement, State Islamic University of Sunan Kalijaga Yogyakarta, unpublished undergraduated paper. In particular, Sya'roni focused on the achievements of Brad Cohen as a teacher in Mountain View primary school and motivational supporting factors in the process of self-actualization and his fulfillment of basic needs (Sya'roni Abdul Jalil, 2015: 5).

*Fourth*, Noveryan Dwi Kurniawan S, Dr. Suharmono Kasiyun, M.Pd, *Kepribadian Tokoh Utama Dalam Skenario Film Door to Door (Kajian Humanistik Abaram Maslow)*, Sastra Indonesia, Universitas Negeri Surabaya, unpublished undergraduated paper. This research discuss how the needs of multilevel main characters in the movie *Door To Door* that requires (1) physiological needs (2) the

need for security (3) the need for love and wake (4) the need for awards (5) self-actualization needs as per Maslow. The results of this research that Bill as the main character has been achieved of needs and Bill as main character is a man who is equalizing life. (Noveryan Dwi Kurniawan S, Dr. Suharmono Kasiyun, M.Pd, 2).

And *fifth*, Yohanes Truman's research, Singgih Daru Kuncana, Ririn Setyowati, 2017, *Analysis of The Main Character Needs in Life of Pi Movie Using Maslow's Theory*, English Literature Departement, Mulawaman University, unpublished undergraduated paper. This research focuses on analyzing the hierarchy of needs in the main character. Two question were designed to discuss this topic. The first question is about the needs manifested by the main character in the movie. The second question is about the desire of the main character is fulfilling his needs. This data in this research were in written form taken from the dialogue and narration of the movie. This research examines the elements of the hierarchy of needs through the main character (Yohanes Trauman, Singgih, Ririn S, 2017: 43).

## **1.2 Statement of Problem**

Phenomena in *Into The Wild* film shows the main character through their strength and enthusiasm to achieve his desire on long journey into the wild in Alaska. It reveals self-actualization of the main character to only focuses on description of the main character. Therefore, self-actualization of the main character is formulated into 2 questions, as follow:

1. What are the characteristics of Christoper Johnson McCandless as the main character in "Into The Wild (2007)" film?

2. What are the fulfillment of needs of Christopher Johnson McCandless as the main character in achieving his self-actualization need in “Into The Wild (2007)” film?

### **1.3 Research Objective**

The objectives of this study are:

1. To find out the characteristics of Christopher Johnson McCandless as the main character in “Into The Wild (2007)” film.
2. To find out the fulfillment of needs of Christopher McCandless as the main character in achieving his self-actualization needs in “Into The Wild (2007)” film.

### **1.4 Research Significance**

There are two significances from this research, theoretically and practically. Theoretically, this research is a reference for those who are interested in enriching the knowledge. This research especially directed to the students for further analysis. Practically, this research directed to those who are interested in this research.

### **1.5 Definition of Key Terms**

- 1.5.1 Self-Actualization: the need to meet the essential human impulse to be human in accordance with the wishes and her potential (Maslow, 1954: 46).
- 1.5.2 Fulfillment of needs: the humans have a tendency to achieve their needs, so every level of needs can be fulfilled only if the previous levels have been or are relatively satisfied, the humans needs are physiological need, a sense of security, a feeling of acceptance and affection, esteem, and self – actualization (Maslow, 1954: 35).

- 1.5.3 Characterization: characterization is a writer's told, or "literary device" that occurs any time the author uses details to teach us about a person. This is used over the course of a story. In order to tell the tale (DiYanni, 61: 2001)
- 1.5.4 Film: a film consists of moving pictures that have been recorded so that they can be shown at the cinema or on television. A film tells a story or shows a real situation (Balazs, 1952: 23)

