

Chapter III

Description

The novel that is taken to be studied in this research is *My Sunshine*, a novel by Catherine Anderson. She is an American best-selling writer of historical and contemporary romance novel since 1988. Catherine Anderson's first published books were romance category, under the Harlequin Intrigue romantic suspense line. Her subsequent single-title work has alternate between contemporary and historical romances.

3.1 Characterization

Based on the categories of the characters presented in the previous chapter before, the writer specifies the discussion of the characters on the main characters of the novel chosen. There are two main characters in the novel chosen by the writer; they are Isaiah Courter and Laura Townsend. However, to make the discussion meet to the objective of the study, the writer will not discuss both of the main characters. The writer prefers to discuss about Laura's character, the second main character of the story. Both Isaiah and Laura are the main characters; they are the major character in the novel because both of them are vital to the development and resolution of the conflict.

In terms of physical appearance, Laura is described as a pretty girl with a good looking face, slim body, and long hair. In terms of personality, Laura is described as an enthusiastic girl, hard worker, kind, and charitable. Therefore, the writer concludes that Laura is characterized as an attractive girl in *My Sunshine* novel by Catherine Anderson.

3.1.1 Physical Traits of Laura

Laura is a beautiful girl. It is clearly described by the author. The following evidence also shows Laura's beauty, which is the author narration toward Laura's physical appearance.

A bewildered look came over her face. And a very pretty face it was, an almost perfect oval with large hazel eyes lined with thick, sooty lashes, delicate features, and a full, lush mouth. Her hair was the color of expensive cognac, streaked with wisps of lighter blond, and was cut in a collar-length, every-which-way style (My Sunshine: Chapter 1:11).

His stomach growled. He could only hope Laura didn't hear the rumble, for in that moment he wasn't sure what appealed to his senses more, the smells or the woman. She wore a red gingham bib apron over a red knit top and snug blue jeans. As he trailed his gaze downward, he noticed that her feet were bare. Normally he wasn't into feet, but hers were small, delicately made, and oddly cute, the tips of her toes as pink as rose petals (My Sunshine: Chapter 2:27).

Here are some evidences that support the writer argument related to the Laura's characterization in *My Sunshine* novel by Catherine Anderson. The first evidence is about the physical traits of Laura, which is described as a pretty and

good-looking girl. The evidences below are the characterization of Laura, which is explain by other character.

Mary smiled. "Laura is her granddaughter. She is a lovely, sweet girl. Almost every day she comes by to see Etta while she's out walking the dogs" (My Sunshine: page 6).

The corners of Mary's mouth tightened. "Laura is such a pretty girl and sweet as can be. Her life would be so much fuller if she had a regular job and could meet people her own age" (My Sunshine: page 6).

"League," Etta supplied. "And that is pure nonsense. You are an intelligent, beautiful young woman. You have a lot to offer any man, Isaiah Coulter included" (My Sunshine Chapter 2:22).

In terms of physical appearance, the author makes Laura to be the most beautiful creature in the novel. Although there are some women as the characters in the novel, Laura is the most beautiful, pretty, and sweet girl. In fact, the reader will forget that Laura has a brain damage because she is depicted as almost has no weaknesses. Even, the author also tries to make Laura becomes a very attractive girl by featuring her with some good personality such as; enthusiastic, hard worker, kind, and charitable.

Besides Laura has a beautiful face, Laura also depicted as a girl with perfectly good looking lips, hair, and eyes.

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Laura also described as a charitable girl. She cares to the other people and do love to the animals as if she dedicated her life to do good things for both people and animal. Here are some evidences that prove the writer arguments. The evidence when Laura to help a puppy in the middle of the highway:

“Laura!” he yelled again when his boots finally connected with the slush covered pavement. Through the downfall of snowflakes, he glimpsed the shimmer of her golden hair. Damn. She was jogging right up the center of the street, heedless of the automobiles that braked and fishtailed to avoid hitting her. “Have you lost your mind? Get back here!” (My Sunshine Chapter 10:132).

..... By the time he arrived at his destination, the cars going in both directions had come to a dead halt, and Laura was scooping an oversize puppy into her arms (My Sunshine Chapter 10:132).

“What the hell are you trying to do, kill yourself?” he cried.

“Oh, Isaiah, isn’t he sweet?”

Laura was nose-to-nose with the puppy. Before Isaiah could reply that the dog was the homeliest critter he’d ever clapped eyes on, she was making kiss-kiss noises (My Sunshine Chapter 10:132).

“Are you out of your mind?” he cried again.

She gave him a wide-eyed, incredulous look. “He was about to get run over. I had to save him” (My Sunshine Chapter 10:132).

The drivers of the cars backed up in both directions, bumper to bumper, were starting to blow their horns. Isaiah grasped Laura’s arm. “We’ve got to get back in the Hummer. We’re blocking traffic” (My Sunshine Chapter 10:132).

Another good personality given by the author to Laura is hard worker and enthusiastic. Although Laura suffered from a terrible brain damage called *aphasia*, the reader will forget about it because Laura does everything almost perfectly. She is a good kennel keeper, she is good in cooking, she is good in room decorating, and she always goes to work earlier and went home late. The following evidences will prove the writer’s argument above:

This is the quotation when Isaiah praised about the Laura's performance on first day she works.

“Nah, nothing so formal as that.” He flashed her a slow, crooked grin that made her feel as if she'd just swallowed a dozen live goldfish. “Everyone tells me you're doing great, the best kennel keeper we've ever had. You're well liked. Tucker's people think you're fabulous, and so do mine. You're always eager to work, no matter how nasty the chore. I'm even told that you hang around after your shift is over to spend extra time with the animals” (My Sunshine Chapter 3:41).

Both in terms of physical appearance and personality, Laura is depicted perfectly well. The perfection of the features given by the author toward the main character; Laura, becomes the main imperfection of *My Sunshine* novel according to the writer. However, as stated by Clara (1785) that the novel is a picture of real life and manners and of the time in which it was written. Real life here includes the content of the story, the conflict emerged in the story, and the characters presented in the story. When those aspects in certain novel closely represent the real life, this novel will be alive.

In fact, by presenting Laura as an attractive and good-looking girl with no weaknesses, the author makes her novel far away from the real life. Somehow, human beings in the worldwide have the same similarities that are they have good side (angel side) and bad side (devil side). However, the author does not give any bad components in Laura's character. It is true that Laura is playing a character with a brain damage, but instead of having trouble with her disease, the writer describes that the disease suffered by Laura is not apparent. It is stated in the novel that other

characters in the novel do not realize that Laura is suffered from *aphasia*. Here are the evidences,

This is the example of evidence when Isaiah's mother says if she is not sick until she realized after Etta say.

“But, dear heart, Laura’s brain damage isn’t that bad. I never even knew something was wrong until Etta mentioned it” (My Sunshine Chapter 1:7).

That is why, the perfection of Laura’s characterization in the novel *My Sunshine*, makes this character does not portray the real human being should be. Actually, it is the author’s right to determine the moral quality of his/her character in their literary works. However, when the author presents a character, which is not representing the real human beings, the sense of the story becomes tasteless.

3.1.2 Laura’s Speech

Since Laura is suffered from *aphasia*, she experienced difficulty in speaking, understanding people’s speech and she always speaks very slow because she needs to choose some simple words to say to avoid herself become a stammer.

*“Dear Lord,” she said softly, “thanks you for this nice day, and thank you for blessing us with plenty. Amen” (My Sunshine Chapter 2:30). Taters. There it was again, her avoidance of words with more than two syllables. Little wonder she talked slowly. It would be difficult enough to learn to speak all over again without constantly having to choose words that were easy to say (Chapter 2:32).
..... “So far I like her fine. She talks kind of slow, and every once in a while she looks at me like I’m speaking Greek. But otherwise I can barely tell there is anything wrong with her” (My Sunshine Chapter 3:37).*

..... *“She speaks slowly, like Susan says, and she gets confused if you throw long words at her. But otherwise she does fine. As a favor to me, I had appreciate it if all of you would make a special effort to help her settle in” (My Sunshine Chapter 3:37).*
“Even if I’m thinking the right word,” she went on, “I can say the wrong one—and sometimes when I get nervous, even words that should be easy, like my name, just won’t come to me” (My Sunshine Chapter 1:15).

In the quotation above it can be said that Laura have category slowly to talk because she difficult to understand if people talk too fast, so Laura speak with slowly to understand the word from people and make the people understand with what they say.

Although she has a brain damage but she is a kind and lovable person so that she has many friends in her office and she is good in making social intercourse.

Laura enjoyed having so many new friends. It felt good to walk through the clinic and have people calling out hello. During coffee breaks she listened to gossip, laughed at jokes she did not get, and enjoyed a sense of belonging that had been lacking in her life for far too long (My Sunshine Chapter 3:40).
.... It was fun, and Laura always felt a little sad when break times ended (My Sunshine Chapter3:41).

Through the Laura’s speech and behavior, it can be implied that no matter she has a barrier in speaking; she is good in making social intercourse that finally makes her become a lovable person.

3.1.3 Laura’s Characterization Based on Her Behavior

Behavior that is done repeatedly will construct a character. Behavior itself is what is done by the people in terms of action. The action that is done by people will show the person is character and moral. In the novel, it can be said that Laura

characterization based on her behavior is a super kind heroic person where she always consider more on other business and willing to sacrifice to help people and animals.

Laura is a girl who has a good behavior he likes to help his friend, Laura helped her to decorate the room in a clinic without in salary.

“Oh, yes. You’re bound to be better at it than me.” Val propped her bony elbows on the desk blotter and leaned forward, her expression suddenly pleading. “Please, Laura, please, please, please? Just bring me the receipts, and I’ll reimburse you for anything you buy. I hate to decorate.”

Laura loved to decorate, and she liked Val so much that she really hated to say no. “I can’t promise it’ll look good,” she tried.

“If I do it, I guarantee it won’t.”

“It’s almost Hallo-ween,” she reminded the office manager. “There’s not much time.”

“Tell me about it. Men. They have no clue what it takes to decorate a lobby. Save me, Laura. Please?” (My Sunshine chapter 3:44).

..... “Okay,” she agreed. “I’ll try my hand at it. Why not? If you don’t like what I do, I’ll pay you back for the stuff and use it at home.”

“Deal!” Val beamed a grateful smile. “Just be sure to log in the additional hours so I can add them to your paycheck.”

“I don’t have to get paid,” Laura protested. “I’ll have fun doing it”(My Sunshine chapter 3:44).

This is evidence that even though Laura have brain damage she still smart to decorate apartment and animal clinic.

“So . . . what do you think?” she asked.

He snapped back to awareness. What did he think? That he was losing his mind was a strong possibility. “I, um . . . it’s all great,” he said.

“I tried to choose tasteful stuff.”

Isaiah had no vision when it came to decorating, but he’d seen Laura’s apartment. She had a knack for taking odds and ends, assembling them into groups, and making them look good.

“I’m sure it will all look great when you’ve finished” (My Sunshine Chapter 5:57).

Isaiah cautiously circled that. He’d been in her apartment, and it was not only spotlessly clean, but charming. She was also a wonderful cook. “I think you’d be a fabulous mom” (My Sunshine Chapter 6:79).

Laura has good behavior he likes to help his friend to decorate the room. She also helped a puppy that was on the highway, this is proof that Laura help puppies in the middle of the road.

Isaiah’s shouts never even slowed her down. Leaving the driver door open, he took off after her, shouting her name every few steps. Ahead of him she’d finally stopped, her slender, denim-sheathed legs spread wide, her arms held out at her sides to stop traffic. Isaiah wore slick-soled Western boots and almost fell several times as he raced up the street. By the time he arrived at his destination, the cars going in both directions had come to a dead halt, and Laura was scooping an oversize puppy into her arms (My Sunshine Chapter 10:132).

“What the hell are you trying to do, kill yourself?” he cried.

“Oh, Isaiah, isn’t he sweet?”

Laura was nose-to-nose with the puppy. Before Isaiah could reply that the dog was the homeliest critter he’d ever clapped eyes on, she was making kiss-kiss noises.

“Are you out of your mind?” he cried again.

She gave him a wide-eyed, incredulous look. “He was about to get run over. I had to save him.”

The drivers of the cars backed up in both directions, bumper to bumper, were starting to blow their horns. Isaiah grasped Laura’s arm. “We’ve got to get back in the Hummer. We’re blocking traffic” (My Sunshine Chapter 10:132).

Laura feel sorry for an elderly woman who lost her cat, Laura took time during the day to look for a kitten that is similar with Seymour, the evidence that Laura finding a similar kittens.

She cupped a gentle hand over the sleeping kitten. “The shelter was a dead end, so I looked in last night’s paper. He was at the last house I checked. And he’s a male. Lucky, huh?”

*Isaiah felt as if a golf ball had gotten stuck behind his larynx. He stared stupidly at Laura’s sweet face. In that moment she seemed to glow, looking more angel than human. He couldn’t quite believe she’d spent her whole afternoon combing Crystal Falls for a gray tabby kitten that looked exactly like Seymour. It was such a kind thing for her to have done—and way beyond the call of duty. She had never even met Mrs. Palmer (**My Sunshine Chapter 5:64**).*

Based on the quotation above, it can be concluded that Laura has a super kind and heroic person. It is really rare happened in the reality that there are such as kind person as Laura. In simple, Laura is too much kind to be a human being. She should be an angel.

3.1.4 Laura’s Characterization Based on her Thought and Feeling

The last method to characterize the characters in a literary work is by showing the character’s thought and feeling. It is done to depict the real thought of a certain character that other characters may not know about it. In the novel, Laura thought and feeling are mostly show that she is a pessimistic girl but become optimist in the end.

*She was falling in love with him. Correction: She’d been in love with him for weeks. Laura lectured herself constantly never to let him know. He was a wonderful boss and an even better friend. If not for him, the puppies, each of which she had come to love, would have been put to sleep. She absolutely couldn’t abuse his kindness by making him feel guilty for not returning her affection (**My Sunshine Chapter 12:162**).*

..... She’d carefully kept her feelings for him hidden, undoubtedly convinced that he would never return them. She considered herself damaged merchandise. Her ability to be a wife and mother was impaired. What man in his right mind would want a woman who

couldn't write checks, misspelled simple words, and had difficulty talking? (My Sunshine Chapter 12:165).

After analyzing the Laura's characterization through the methods stated by Pooley (1967:538), the writer determines that Laura's characterization in the novel *My Sunshine* by Catherine Anderson is attractive; Laura is described as a very attractive girl. In terms physical appearance, Laura is described as a pretty girl with a good looking face, slim body, and long hair. In terms of personality, Laura is described as an enthusiastic girl, hard worker, kind, and charitable. She also speech with slowly, she have a good behavior and Laura thought and feeling are mostly show that she is a pessimistic girl but become optimist in the end. Therefore, the writer concludes that Laura is characterized as an attractive girl in *My Sunshine* novel by Catherine Anderson.

Although she had a brain damage but she always try to get a normally live. Laura always struggle to get a real job, to get her love, and etc.

3.2 Factors Laura Struggle

In this sub chapter the writer will discuss about the possibility factors affected Laura's struggle toward her *Aphasia*. Related to this topic, the writer correlate the Laura's struggle with the Hierarchy of Human Needs. Maslow (2006) classified the human being needs into a pyramid scheme that broadly known as Maslow's Hierarchy of Human Needs. Here is the Maslow Pyramid that depicts the level of the human needs.

According to the pyramid, there are five hierarchies of needs. The first level of needs is physiological need includes need of food, air, and water. The second level encompasses safety needs. The third level of need is love and belonging. The fourth level is self-esteem. The fifth level is the need for self-actualization, entails maximizing one's unique potential in life, Maslow (2006).

Related to the theory above, here the writer correlates Laura's struggle with the pyramid of human need stated by Maslow (2006). Therefore, in this sub chapter the writer presents some more sub chapter as follow:

1. First factor affecting Laura's struggle: Physiological needs.
2. Second factor affecting Laura's struggle: Safety needs.
3. Third factor affecting Laura's struggle: Love & Belonging needs.
4. Fourth factor affecting Laura's struggle: Self Esteem needs.
5. Fifth factor affecting Laura's struggle: Self Actualization needs.

3.2.1 Physiological Need in Laura's Life

Physiological needs are the fundamental needs of human beings that willy-nilly must be fulfilled. Psychological needs include the needs of food, sleep, homeostatic, sex, and breathing, water, and excretion. It means, human beings, no matter their condition, they have to fulfill their physiological need because they will die or their life will be incomplete. In *My Sunshine* novel, it is clear enough that Laura as one of the main characters is suffered from a brain damage called *aphasia*. Instead of blaming the bad fate she got, Laura gets up and starts up her life.

“I had to learn to talk all over again,” Laura went on. “You will notice that I speak slowly. I also have trouble keeping up if people talk too fast or use long words.” She gestured at the cages around them. “As for this job, I’m very lucky to get it.” She met Susan’s gaze. “If I can do the work, I won’t be quitting” (My Sunshine Chapter 3:35).

Naturally, human being is an unsatisfied creature where they always try to get more and more, to have more and more, and to reach more and more. In the novel, although in some aspect Laura is depicted as a pessimistic girl, she is sometimes becomes an ambitious girl where she tries to reach more and more. When the *aphasia* affected her ability in math (counting), she will not give up. She tries a method to make her, at least, capable to do a simple counting that is by bringing beans everywhere.

“Do you have difficulty counting?” “I lose track without my beans” “Beans” She fished in a pocket of her coat and held out her hand. Several dried kidney beans rested on her outstretched palm. “It’s—a trick—from rehab. I carry twenty with me. That way, when I have to count, I don’t lose track.” “What if you have to count to over twenty” She put the beans back in her pocket. “I’m in deep doo-doo” (My Sunshine Chapter 1:16).

In the novel, it is stated that Laura works part time to keep the people dogs to earn money. Here is the evidence:

“Oh, they’re (the dogs) not actually hers.” Mary’s blue eyes went misty. “That’s one of the ways Laura supplements her disability income, by walking people’s dogs or caring for them while the owners are on vacation. I think she does other things as well, housework, ironing and such. But it’s her knack with animals that made me think of you.” (My Sunshine page: 6).
“That about covers it,” he said, rocking back in the chair. “How soon can you start training?”
“I can come in mornings now. Later in the day will be harder. I do odd jobs. I don’t want to quit any of them until I know this job will

Last. I need the money” (My Sunshine Chapter1:18).

An effort to earn money proved that neutrally, Laura consciously or unconsciously would like to fulfill her physiological needs because money is the key to get the foods, home stay, beverages, and etc.

Physiological needs also covered the sexuality need, in the novel, it is told Laura loves Isaiah Coulter but she tries to stop her love feeling due to she has a brain damage. However, when the need of having sex emerged in Laura’s mind, this need defeat her fear about her *aphasia* and she believes that she can live normally with *aphasia* in hers. This is the evidence when Laura and Isaiah want do the sex for the first time.

“Or possibly someone who’s great with animals?” He leaned closer—so close that she could feel the steamy warmth of his breath on her lips. “Do you love me, Laura?”

Her heart squeezed with yearning so intense it made her bones ache.

“I don’t want to be a chain around your neck.”

He cupped her chin in his hand. “Do you love me? It’s a very simple question.”

“Yes,” she finally whispered (My Sunshine Chapter 12:169).

Before the word had completely passed her lips, he angled his dark head and settled his mouth over hers. Wet silk. The kiss was as soft as a whisper at first, and then he deepened it, making questioning forays with the tip of his tongue. Laura’s head spun. She could not breathe. Making fists on his shirt, she clung to him as she surrendered her mouth to him, parting her lips in invitation (My Sunshine Chapter 12:169).

Slowly back to the fire. Laura stared dazedly up at him, aware of his raw masculinity as she’d never been—the decisive tap of his boots with each lazy step he took, the way his broad shoulders worked in harmony with each shift of his lean hips, and the play of muscle in his thighs under the faded denim of his Wranglers. His eyes burned with desire, turning them the dark blue of cobalt. A tendon along his jaw Bunched with each clench of his teeth (My Sunshine Chapter 12:170).

In conclusion, the fundamental needs of a human being has already fulfilled by Laura. Therefore, she needs to fulfill the second level of the human being's need that is the safety needs.

3.2.2 Safety Need in Laura's Life

Everyone expect a safety living. That is why a normal person with a great wealth and life without any threats will use some life insurances from one or more insurance company to fulfill their need: safety needs. By joining certain insurance, people without any threats even, will feel safe.

In *My Sunshine* novel, it is mentioned that *aphasia* suffered by Laura does not disturb her motoric aspect, but somehow, she join a tai chi class as a self-defense. This is the evidence when Laura attends tai chi class during in rehabilitation.

During rehab, Laura had studied tai chi to help her stay calm, improve her equilibrium, and strengthen the right side of her body, which had been weakened. One particular technique called Push Hands had taught her how to defend herself nonaggressive, using her weight and balance to upset an opponent (My Sunshine Chapter 15:209).

Because Laura cannot recognize numbers and sometimes got difficulty in reading, some important phone numbers in her mobile phone is set to have a symbol. Such as her parents numbers is symbolized with circle, Isaiah Coulter is symbolized with a dog and etc. Pictures make her understand faster than letters or numbers.

This is the evidence when Etta taught Laura to give symbol on the phone numbers that important as a parent, Isaiah, police station etc.

“What picture should I use?” Etta Parks asked. Peering over her grandmother’s shoulder, Laura squinted to see the small cell phone screen. She would come knocking on Etta’s door at ten that morning to get the number to the clinic programmed into her phone. “A dog or a cat would be nice” (My Sunshine Chapter 7:91)

Etta took a drag from her Winston and exhaled smoke, which drifted up into Laura’s face. “You used the dog for Mrs. Kessler and the cat for the Segals. You’ve got a party balloon, a wineglass”—Etta scrolled down through more choices—“a book, a cake, a printer, a car, and a coffee cup. There are no animals left” (My Sunshine Chapter 7:92).

Because Laura had such difficulty in reading numbers and letters, she had purchased a cell phone with symbols that could be assigned to people she called often. That way she could scroll quickly through the electronic phone book, recognize people’s names by the pictures that accompanied them, and make calls without always having to dial numbers. “Use the cake. That’ll work” (My Sunshine Chapter 7:92).

Still related to Laura’s struggle toward numbers, in her office, to avoid Laura got difficulty to open the safety system, Laura was given a special code with quarter eight. This is evidence when Isaiah gives eight as a security code to Laura.

She lifted her hands in defeat. “I went over the code again and again. It’s not a matter of needing more time. I see the numbers wrong at times, and no amount of practice will fix that.”

“How are you with eights?”

“Eights?” she echoed bewilderedly.

“Yeah, eights.” He traced one in the air. “Upside down, inside out, or sideways, they always look the same” (My Sunshine Chapter 6:84).

During in rehabilitation, Laura learned a Tai Chi as a self-defense. Besides, she also has a special security digit in her office a special facility to a disable person as Laura. That special digit is a combination of quarter eight, the number that may not make Laura confused.

As a human being, people need to have something as a self-defense or to make them feel safe. It is the nature of the human being because instinctively human beings desiring a safe life. When the safety needs is fulfilled, usually, people begin to try to fulfill the upper needs that is love and belonging needs.

3.2.3 Love and Belonging Need in Laura's Life

Love and belonging become one of the human beings important needs. In some cases, the need of love changes people. In *My Sunshine* novel, love and belonging needs becomes one of the factors that makes Laura have a spirit to fight against her *aphasia*. Love and belonging need is not merely need of love between man and woman as a couple but it can be love and belonging among the friends, family or society.

In the novel, it is showed that Laura really hopes to have a normal job as what a normal person do. She desires to have an office, a work to finish, and friends to share. In the novel, it is mentioned that Laura struggling her job because she feels so happy to have new friends and family.

“I’ll do my best to do a good job,” she had said (My Sunshine Chapter 3:38).

Laura enjoyed having so many new friends. It felt good to walk through the clinic and have people calling out hello. During coffee breaks she listened to gossip, laughed at jokes she did not get, and enjoyed a sense of belonging that had been lacking in her life for far too long (My Sunshine Chapter 3:40).

“I don’t care about excitement. I’d just like a normal job again. I miss working with people and having friends” (My Sunshine Chapter 1:17).

But she wanted this job. It would be so wonderful to work with other people again—to possibly even make friends close to her own age. She craved more human contact—a chance to talk and laugh with others, maybe even enjoy an occasional night out with the girls. She would never have those pleasures in her life if she always played it safe. Change involved a certain amount of risk, and taking chances took courage. It all boiled down to one question: Was she a coward? (My Sunshine Page: 8).

Before Laura got her *aphasia*, she works as an environmental scientist, a brilliant job position. However, after she got *aphasia*, Laura could not get any brilliant job such as her previous job. Then, when she is offered to be a kennel keeper, she is really happy although it may not as exciting as doing an environmental-impact-study, but still, she desires to get this job because kennel keeper is a job that is usually done by a normal person so that when she got the job she may feel like a normal person.

She had once done environmental-impact studies, and now she had to carry beans in her pocket in order to count? He had taken tons of biology courses while studying to become a vet and had a fair idea of what it took to become an environmental scientist. What courage it must have taken for her to pick up the shattered pieces of her life and build a new one. In a very real way, she was a phoenix that had risen from the ashes. Gazing across the desk at her, Isaiah reached a decision guaranteed to please his mother (My Sunshine Chapter 1:17).

Gazing across the desk at her, Isaiah reached a decision guaranteed to please his mother. “Being a kennel keeper won’t be nearly as exciting as doing environmental-impact studies” “I don’t care about excitement. I’d just like a normal job again. I miss working with people and having friends” (My Sunshine Chapter 1:17).

The quotation above proved that the needs of love and belonging there in everyone’s mind because it is the nature of the human being as a social creature. She

is happy to get a new job, and she is happy to get some new friends in the animal clinic Laura's office. This is the example of the evidence that Laura happy friends with the dogs.

Laura had no idea what a loop was. She glanced into the sad eyes of an Irish setter. She had never been wary of strange dogs, least of all pathetic creatures like these. As she walked up the aisle, she yearned to stop at each gate. Tomorrow, she vowed, she would come thirty minutes early so she could give each animal a little one-on-one (My Sunshine Chapter 3:34).

In a hurry to finish and go home, Isaiah almost snapped at Laura when he noticed that she was lingering in each cage to pet the dogs and talk softly to them. In a hurry to finish and go home, Isaiah almost snapped at Laura when he noticed that she was lingering in each cage to pet the dogs and talk softly to them (My Sunshine Chapter 4:52). She truly loved the animals, and they truly loved her. She spent only a minute with each dog before moving on to the next. All totaled she would waste no more than ten minutes, and it would be time well spent. Each and every dog in her care got its share of affection (My Sunshine Chapter 4:52).

From the beginning, she met Isaiah. Laura loves him and feels comfortable whenever she closes to him. Then, Laura's happiness is greater when Isaiah told her that he would to invite Laura to a family dinner in his house, This is the evidence that Laura happy when Isaiah invited to dinner with his family.

Pleasure radiated through Laura, suffusing her whole body with warmth. He wanted to know if she'd be having Thanksgiving dinner at his parents' house. She couldn't help but wonder if that meant he was hoping she might. The thought no sooner came than Laura pushed it from her mind. Dangerous ground. Where this man was concerned, she needed to keep her feet firmly rooted in reality. He thought of her as a friend, nothing more (My Sunshine Chapter 5:60).

"Gram hasn't said any-thing. But that'd be fun," she heard herself say.

"If you guys decide to be there, you'd better brush up on your checkers game then," he said with a grin. "I'm the all-time champion.

Laura had always enjoyed checkers and it was one of the few games that she could still play. "I'm not so bad myself" (My Sunshine Chapter 5:60).

The needs of love and belonging are not always love and belonging among the friends and family. It is also the love and belonging between man and woman in a love relationship. Laura has a spirit to fight against her *aphasia* because she loves and want to get love from Isaiah Coulter.

She avoided his gaze by fussing with her coat. "Someday maybe I'll meet a man who won't care about my aphasia. But chances are good that I won't meet him soon. I can't have a baby all by myself" (My Sunshine Chapter 6:79).

Isaiah's heart caught, and he wanted to give himself a swift kick for being such an idiot. A beautiful woman like Laura normally had men standing in line to take her out on dates, and he had just assumed . . . God, he was such an airhead sometimes. The general rules of thumb could not be applied to her. As lovely as she was, her speech alone would put a lot of guys off. She also had a host of other problems (My Sunshine Chapter 6:79).

The brain damage that is suffered by Laura does not make her loss of hope to be a real woman: have a husband and get many children someday. The quotations below show how Laura desires to have husband and children.

"You don't necessarily need a man to have a child nowadays," he reminded her.

Isaiah's heart caught, and he wanted to give himself a swift kick for being such an idiot. A beautiful woman like Laura normally had men standing in line to take her out on dates, and he had just assumed . . . God, he was such an airhead sometimes. The general rules of thumb couldn't be applied to her. As lovely as she was, her speech alone would put a lot of guys off. She also had a host of other problems. "You don't necessarily need a man to have a child nowadays," he reminded her (My Sunshine Chapter 6:79).

"Getting pregnant isn't the worry. It is afterward. I couldn't raise a child by myself."

Isaiah cautiously circled that. He had been in her apartment, and it was not only spotlessly clean, but charming. She was also a wonderful cook. "I think you'd be a fabulous mom." "Thank you. I only wish you were right. But there are too many things I can't do"

*Never more than in that moment had Isaiah realized just how drastically that swimming accident had altered Laura's life. All the things most women took for granted might never happen for her—no challenging career, no husband, no kids, no grandchildren. She loved animals and couldn't even have a pet because she lived in a little apartment over someone's garage (**My Sunshine Chapter 6:80**).*

Because of her *aphasia*, Laura, sometimes feels that she may not appropriate to have a normal man as her husband. However, because she cannot stop to love Isaiah, she began to do some efforts to make her life as normal as possible, to prove that she is appropriate to be Isaiah's wife.

3.2.4 Self Esteem Need in Laura's Life

Self-esteem needs include the need to be appreciated by other people. In this novel, it is stated that Laura makes an effort to get a normal life; she also tries to get a common job like what normal people's job.

The corners of Mary's mouth tightened. "Laura is such a pretty girl, and sweet as can be. Her life would be so much fuller if she had a regular job and could meet people her own age."

*"Oh, they're not actually hers." Mary's blue eyes went misty. "That's one of the ways Laura supplements her disability income, by walking people's dogs or caring for them while the owners are on vacation. I think she does other things as well, housework and ironing and such. But it's her knack with animals that made me think of you." (**My Sunshine page: 6**).*

Previously, before Laura got her accident, she has a good job in a The Crystal Falls Animal Clinic. Then, after she got a brain damage, she only has a subordinate job as a dog keeper; this job can be done by everyone with low level of education. However, Laura sometimes becomes pessimistic due to her weaknesses so that she earns money through a low level of job. Then, her meeting with Mary rises up her esteem need that she happy she had a real job and she promises if she will work with good job as kennel keeper in The Crystal Falls Animal Clinic not only that but also she want no special favors from Isaiah, this is the evidence.

“I’ll do my best to do a good job,” she’d said (My Sunshine Chapter 3:38).

“I hope so.” Laura tucked the phone under her chin so she could take another sip of coffee. The sun had risen higher in the sky, and the light coming at an angle through the trees dappled the blue-gray highway with splashes of gold and shadow. “It’ll be fun to have a real job again”

“I’m so happy for you, honey.”

“I’m happy for me, too. I just hope it all works out.” (My Sunshine Chapter 2:21).

“I do understand,” Isaiah replied. “No special favors, Laura. If I did not sincerely believe you could do the work, I would not be here. We desperately need good kennel people. They quit almost as fast as we can train them. I think you’ll do a great job, and I believe you’ll stay, not because you’ll have no other opportunities along the way, but because you’ll really like the animals” (My Sunshine Chapter 2:31).

To get appreciation from other people in The Crystal Falls Animal Clinic, Laura would to get job training, trained by Susan, one of the senior employees of The Crystal Falls Animal Clinic.

She sounded so incredulous that Isaiah chuckled. “No, there isn’t. You may need a little extra training before we let you take a shift by

yourself, but that's a simple enough thing to arrange" (My Sunshine Chapter 1:17).

"You'll be monitored closely during the training period. If you make a mistake, and I stress the 'if,' the person training you will catch it. At the end of two weeks, we will do a performance review. If you're going to have problems doing the work, it should be apparent by then."

Isaiah lowered his foot to the floor and swiveled on his chair to face the desk. "It's only ten dollars an hour to start and we can't offer you full-time. Veterinary clinics require an inordinate number of employees in order to cover all the shifts and give everyone enough time off" (My Sunshine Chapter 1:17).

Based on the explanation described above, it can be seen that Laura has already fulfilled four of five human being needs: Physiological, Safety, self-esteem, and love and belonging needs. Then, Laura, as an ambitious girl, she also has a desire to reach the highest level of human beings needs that is self-actualization.

3.2.5 Self Actualization need in Laura's life

Self-actualization refers to the desire for self-fulfillment, namely, to the tendency for him to become actualized in what he is potentially. This tendency might be phrased as the desire to become more and more what one is, to become everything that one is capable of becoming.

http://psychology.about.com/od/theoriesofpersonality/a/hierarchyneeds_2.htm (7, 2,2015).

In *My Sunshine* novel, Laura also has the Self-Actualization need where she has a tendency to struggle to become who she should be: woman with her wholeness, has a normal job, becomes a wife, becomes a mother, and has a family.

"Gag. Now that Mom's gone, I throw it out. I have a real job now. Did you hear about that?"

“Gram mentioned it. Mom’s so busy going to water aerobics and community potlucks that she hardly ever calls me. How do you like it? The job, I mean.”

“I love it.” Laura listed her job duties and then went on to describe Isaiah and how handsome he was. “I’ve got a huge crush on him. I know it’s dumb, but I can’t seem to help myself.” (My Sunshine Chapter 6:71).

But she wanted this job. It would be so wonderful to work with other people again—to possibly even make friends close to her own age. She craved more human contact—a chance to talk and laugh with others, maybe even enjoy an occasional night out with the girls. She would never have those pleasures in her life if she always played it safe. Change involved a certain amount of risk, and taking chances took courage (My Sunshine Chapter1:8).

Laura desires to actualize her life in terms of some cases: having a normal job that is usually done by a normal person, having many friends as how human beings should be, and the last is, having husband and children. This is the example of evidence that prove Laura succeeded to married to Isaiah, which is proved that Laura is able to actualize herself as how woman should be and should have.

Laura and Isaiah intertwined their arms, gazed deeply into each other’s eyes, and took their first sip of champagne together as husband and wife. Laura was almost giddy with happiness. Everything in her world was exactly right after her accident, she’d believed that her life had been destroyed. Now, lost in her husband’s shimmering blue eyes, she realized that she’d had to lose her life in order to find it. And perhaps, in a much different way, he had as well. (My Sunshine page 213).

Previously, the writer hypothesized that the factors triggering Laura’s struggle is related to the theory of human needs stated by Maslow. Finally, through the analysis done by the writer toward the novel, it is concluded that the writer hypothesis is right about the factors trigger Laura’s struggle. The hierarchy of human being’s need as stated by Maslow affects Laura’s struggle.