

CHAPTER I

INTRODUCTION

1.1 Background of the Study

Literature is the kind of writing which most persistently and provocatively engages with the uncanny aspects of experience, thought and feeling (Bennet and Royle 35). It means, literary works can influence and bring the new experience for the readers. By reading the literary works, it makes the readers feel something new that never comes in their life before. Indirectly, the kind of writing can influence the thought of the readers.

Then, literature has been used to designate any 'imaginative', 'creative' or 'fictional' writing, whether in poetry, drama or prose (Wolfreys, Robbins & Womack 62). In literature, literary works are created based on the creativity and developed by imagination. Imagination and creativity are the materials to make literary works such as poetry, drama, and prose.

Novel is kind of prose. The term "novel" is now applied to a great variety of writings that has in common only the attribute of being extended works of fiction written in prose (Abrams 190). From the definition above, novel is the idea of the author that contains variety imagination of him. Although novel is a fiction that comes from author's imagination, novel often tells about the human life such as the human psychology, the struggle to reach the dream, the process of self-actualization, humanity and other.

Robert said that literature is related to the truth of human life which is based on situations that have never occurred, and which may never occur (qtd. in Farida 1). That means literature talks about something that exists in people life and makes us understand about humanity values. It makes literature and humanity cannot be separated.

Rianti states that all people in the world are made to fight, fight for their hard life to be someone better in their future (qtd. in Novianti 3). Human has a feeling to survive in a bad condition in their life and get up to reach a better life until reaching the peak position in their life. In this case, it is known as self-actualization. Based on Maslow self-actualization process is development of potential power hidden in human. Generally, human has a hidden potential which needs to be enriched and makes them to have a good personality (Goble 51).

Some novels that show the process of self-actualization to be the core idea come from Abby Green, entitled *The Legend of de Marco*, has published in 2012. She is an Irish writer who lives in Dublin and writes for Harlequin Mills and Boon Modern Romance, or Harlequin Presents as it is known in North America. The main character in the novel itself is Rocco de Marco. He is a young man around 30. An Italian who has bad experience in the past and when he was teenagers, he moves from Italia to London and became a boss. For Rocco, to be a boss is the top of his needs, because he wants to show that he is exist.

The fulfilment of needs cannot be separated from human. Noviana in her thesis says that we as human beings cannot be separated from a wide range of needs, whether material or spiritual needs (3). The human fulfil their needs of material can make them respected by another. In addition, needs of spiritual are the balancing material needs.

The need of material appears in the main character of the novel, Rocco. His mother is a high class whore that sleeps with his father and his mother passed away when he was young. His father was one of the city's wealthiest men. Unfortunately, Rocco's father does not accept him as a son.

Rocco wants to be accepted by people. He wants people around him avowed his existence. So, he moves from Italy to London. Rocco starts new life and his career. By his intelligence, he can be the owner of International De Marco, one of famous factories in London.

Here, Rocco's struggle to reach his dream is the main point of this study. Rocco can show his self-actualization which according to Abraham Maslow's in his book *Toward a Psychology of Being* that every human being needs to actualize himself or herself since self-actualization is one of human's needs (3).

By those struggle points of Rocco de Marco's self-actualization depicted on above, this study starts. This study starts to describe Rocco's self-actualization to be a boss, especially in his way to reach his dream to be a respected person.

1.2 Statement of Problem

By the background of the study above, the statement of problems are formulated as follows:

1. How is Rocco described in *The Legend of de Marco* novel?
2. How does Rocco show his self-actualization in *The Legend of de Marco* novel?

1.3 Objectives of the Study

Based on the statement of problems that are stated previously, the objectives studies are:

1. To describe the character of Rocco de Marco
2. To describe Rocco in showing his self-actualization

1.4 Scope and Limitation

The study focuses on how the main character, Rocco de Marco in *The Legend of de Marco* show his self-actualization based on physiological needs, safety needs, love/belonging needs, esteem needs, and self-actualization in Maslow's Needs Hierarchy's pyramid.

1.5 Significant of the Study

The research gives benefit to the readers in understanding the pyramid of Maslow's Needs Hierarchy. In addition, this study is meant to give contribution toward the study of literature, especially for student in State Islamic University of

Sunan Ampel Surabaya who applies Maslow's Needs Hierarchy to analyse literary characters.

1.6 Method of the Study

This study used the library and online researches in the process of collecting data for this study. The main source which used is the novel itself, *The Legend of de Marco*. In gaining more knowledge this study collected the data from books, article, journal, and other printed materials from library or internet.

To support the analysis, this study used descriptive qualitative method in order to analyse deeper. The method is used because the study consists of the description of self-actualization which relates with the person's personality. By using the method, the writer described the details of Maslow's Needs Hierarchy's theory that showed in Rocco's character.

There are several steps to analyse the data. They are:

1. Reading the novel carefully for several times. This is to learn the content of novel intensively so it can prevent misunderstanding in analysing.
2. Underlining, understanding, and identifying *The Legend of de Marco* carefully.
3. Analysing the related data according to Abraham Maslow's theory

1.7 Definition of Key Terms

In the analysis, the important terms needed to be noted, are listed as follows:

1. Self-actualization : Human need for self-fulfilment (Encyclopedia of

Psychology)

2. Motivation : An active state occurs only in a given moment or situation when the organism is actually aroused (Encyclopedia of Psychology)
3. Human need's hierarchy : Maslow's hierarchy of needs is an ascending order, or Hierarchy, in which biological needs are placed at the bottom and social needs at the top (Plotnik and Kouyoumdjian).