

**MARIE-LAURE'S STRUGGLE AS BLIND TEENAGER IN
ANTHONY DOERR'S *ALL THE LIGHT WE CANNOT SEE***

THESIS



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fulfill her basic human needs. Marie Laure's struggles to meet her needs with her limited condition attract the attention of the researcher. When the German invasion occurred in Marie-Laure's hometown, the precarious situation leads her to stay alive and save herself assisted by her father (Daniel Leblanc). In her blind condition and after the German invasion, Marie should keep struggle to fulfill her basic needs to achieve her life and dreams.

Many pieces of research have been examined the struggling issue in the novel. Some discussions that contain struggling issues had found by the researcher. First, Chumairoh (2015) conduct a research struggle of Hazel Grace in the novel *The Fault in Our Stars* by Jhon Green. Second, Amilia (2016) made research entitle *The Struggle of Elijah as The Prophet Shown in Paulo Coelho's The Fifth Mountain*. Third, Istiqomah (2017) analyzes struggle in Alex Parker to achieve her self-actualization needs in the novel *Lightning* by Danielle Steel.

The researcher has also noticed that all the previous studies analyzed struggle using several approaches, but none of them examined the characters' struggle in the novel *All The Light We Cannot See*. The researcher has also found a study that uses *All The Light We Cannot See* as an object of study. But they only focus on Werner Pfenning as one of the significant roles in the novel. So, this present study will become the current research. This study's focus is analyzing Marie-Laure's struggle as a blind teenager to fulfill her needs and achieved her actualization in life. This present study also strengthened by analysis of people who support the struggle of the main character.

2.1.4 The Self-Esteem Needs

In the next level hierarchy of human needs, Maslow connects the importance of human needs for superiority and respect. When people have fulfilled their basic physiological needs, a desire to be respected, achieving the strength or satisfaction of the work will emerge. People will strive to gain confidence and recognition or even appreciation from others (Ewen, 2003, p. 221-222). Maslow cautions that this esteem needs to be based on the real capacities, achievements, and respect of others, then external fame and unwarranted praise (p.222).

The esteem needs classify into two parts. First is feeling for power in achievement, satisfactoriness, the trust of the environment, and freedom and liberty (Fromm. 1941, p.52). Second, the desire to have a reputation, get recognition, respect, or appreciate others (Goldstein. 1939, p.382).

The satisfaction achieved from this need will lead to a feeling of confidence, worth, having the power and ability to be beneficial and essential in life. However, when these needs are not fulfilled, it will cause feelings of poorness, helplessness, and weakness. The effects will bring out major discouragement or compensation tendencies (Kardiner, 1941, p.78-79).

2.1.5 The Self Actualization Needs

Maslow put the top form of human needs is self-actualization. This need to realize the ability of oneself to be who and what. The fulfillment of this need represents the desire to achieve anything that can be achieved entirely using potential and individual talent. This tendency to need can be expressed as a desire

what they want to convey in the story by establishing the characters. The authors will describe the characters through the dialogue (what the person says and their distinctive ways of speaking) and the action (what they do) (Abrams & Harpham, 1971, P.41).

Tomlison, in his book, entitled *Essentials of Children Literature*, states that usually in work of fiction, there are at least one or two main characters and several minor characters (1999, p.29). In general, the main character, occasionally known as the protagonist. The protagonist's character will be fully described in the story. The character protagonist will depict a complex individual with good and bad qualities, like a real-world person (Tomlison. 1999, p.29). In a story, often the protagonist as the main character is presented with many strengths and weaknesses.

Conversely, minor or secondary characters may be depicted less complicated or only partially in a story. The minor characters used as the background of the major character. Some minor characters' traits are explained in full, while the other side of the character personality may not be explained. This is because the story's purpose is to make it easily understood by describing a separate knowledge-split from a minor character (Tomlison, 1999, p.29).

According to Forster (1927, p.43), he introduced two kinds of characters in the novel: flat and round character. Flat characters are described with “a single idea or quality” in a story. Flat characters are more often depicted unilaterally or backward. In other words, that such a character does not exist in real life. They are used in stories to push the plot. For example, Folklore presents a flat character as a

Characterization needs to be done to describe the characters understandable and come alive for the reader. There are three basic methods of characterization (Holman, 1985, p.75). First, the explicit description by the author. The author will describe the character through direct exposition. These depictions can be found either in the introduction scene or more often seen appearing slowly along the way of the story. Usually, the explicit method is told by a first-person narrator. Second, the presentation of action by the character itself. Unlike the first method, in this method, only a few or even there is no explicit comment from the author. Character depictions will be based on the action or appearance of the character itself. This method is intended to allow readers to conclude and imagine the characterization through action. Third, the description from within a character. The reader will use the impact of actions and emotions upon the character's inner self to describe the character. Here, the author does not include his comments at all. Hopefully, the reader will come to a clear understanding of the character (1985, p.75).

2.2 Previous Study

The first previous study comes from Chumairoh (2015) she conduct a research of Hazel Grace in the novel *The Fault in Our Stars* by Jhon Green. In her study, Chumairoh analyze Hazel Grace's struggle to face her life with stage IV of cancer tiroid. In this research, Chumairoh applying new criticism and hierarchy of needs by Abraham Maslow in analyzing. In conclusion, found that Hazel can fulfill her needs with her struggle and she can achieve her self-actualization as the higher needs.

Amilia (2016) analyze Elijah as one of the characters in the novel *The Fifth Mountain* by Paulo Coelho. Amilia examines the struggle of Elijah to achieve her self-actualization then describe the impact of the struggle. Hierarchy of needs by Abraham Maslow was applied in this research. In results, Amilia showed that Elijah has a strong character and obedient to god. In his struggle, he can achieve his self-actualization in do a successful building in Akbar. In last discussion showed the impact of Elijah's self-actualization impact for people to forgot the war tragedy in Akbar.

Istiqomah (2017) analyzes the struggle in Alex Parker to achieve her self-actualization needs in the novel *Lightning* by Danielle Steel. Alex describes as a woman who was suffering from breast cancer and her husband's betrayal. Istiqomah analyzes how Alex parker's struggles to meet her needs based on Maslow's theory. In results, Istiqomah found that Alex Parker has struggled to pass several stages of confronting her life problem. She can pass her husband's betrayal then get a better lover, and Alex can heal from her breast cancer then continue her life. The final results show that Alex succeeded in fulfilling the five stages of basic human needs.

From many kinds of research above, many researchers are reviewing the issue of struggle in literary works. The researcher has also noticed that all the previous studies analyzed struggle of character using hierarchy of needs by Abraham Maslow, but none of them explained the character's struggle in the novel *All The Light We Cannot See*. Characters in the novel show their struggle in fulfill the human needs besides the blind condition . Therefore, the

3.2 Marie-Laure's struggle as blind teenager to fulfill her hierarchy of needs

In this part, the researcher discusses the possibility of influencing Marie-Laure's struggle as a blind girl in fulfill her needs. Marie's characteristics portrayed in previous discussions, establish Marie as a girl who must struggle to stay alive. Marie's characteristics as intelligent, brave, and inquisitive girl, plays an important role in her struggle to fulfill her needs. Related to the discussion, the researcher connects the form of Marie-Laure struggle with the hierarchy of needs by Abraham Maslow. Based on the idea of Maslow, human needs theory is distinguished into several levels with pyramid form. This theory is known as Maslow's hierarchy of human needs.

According to Maslow (1963, p.107), five levels of human needs are arranged in a pyramid. The first level or the most basic needs are occupied by physiological needs, such as the need for food, water, oxygen, and sleep. The second level is safety needs. The third level is belongingness and love needs. The fourth is self-esteem needs. The fifth or the highest level is self-actualization needs.

Based on the hierarchy of needs theory, the researcher will correlate Marie-Laure struggle with the five levels of human needs above that Abraham Maslow initiated.

3.2.1 Marie-Laure's struggle to fulfill her physiological needs

to fulfill her physiological need for sleep. Although there is no place to stay, Marie must struggle to keep safe from harm.

Through the quotations above, Marie's desire to save herself during a German invasion made her fight as hard as possible to get a sense of security. Marie had to struggle walking from Paris to Saint-Malo which is about three hundreds and fifty kilometers. Certainly, it is not an easy thing to do by an eight-year-old girl with a blind condition. Along with her father, Marie was able to go through many obstacles that threatened her life until she arrived in Saint-Malo safely despite the injuries she had.

3.2.3 Marie-Laure's struggle to fulfill her belongingness and love needs

Belongingness and love needs are crucial for human beings in order they can live well. The expression of belongingness and love needs is variety, such as: have a good friendship, romance, or association. Marie-Laure's life wanted a new life in a new dwelling, namely in Saint-Malo. Saint-Malo is home to her great-uncle named Etienne. After Marie's flight with her father from Paris, they lived in Saint-Malo for refuge. Marie's intelligent role as crucial when she learned to recognise her new neighborhood in Saint-Malo. Marie had to learn from scratch recognizing her new environment using miniature of Saint-Malo made by her father. Beside that, she attempted to build a family relationship with Etienne. The lousy past about war made Etienne transformed into a quiet and closed person in his room. Marie gets a story that Etienne is traumatized by crowds. But Marie believes her great-uncle is a warm person and knows a lot of things.

Thus, some of Marie-Laure's characteristics that have been discovered by the researcher will assist in subsequent analyses of Marie's struggle in fulfilling her need which will be explained the results below.

The second result of Marie's struggle is analyzed based on the hierarchy of needs by Maslow. Marie's struggle presented in the novel in five basic needs, those are physiological needs, safety needs, belongingness and love needs, self-esteem needs, and self-actualization needs. First, Marie's physiological needs is her vision ability. The vision ability that Marie did not have, leads a difficulty in facing the invasion situation by the German in her hometown. In addition, Marie's character portrayed as a smart and brave girl, helped her pass through the problems that happened in her life. Second, the safety needs are proven when Marie travels from Paris to Saint-Malo in the escape from the German army. She struggled assisted by her father to find a safe place. Marie's spirit remained to burn to struggle with her blind condition. Third, the belongingness and love needs depict when Marie had to learn her new environment and get to know her new neighborhood. She also attempted to build a family relationship with Etienne (her-great uncle). Marie also had to fight back the spirit of her life when her father's affection disappeared because he was arrested by German. Fourth, self-esteem needs evidencing when Marie is sufficiency for a pass and continues her life without her father's love. The support of people around Marie and her interest in the world of science managed to make her life back. The last, the self-actualization need was accomplished by Marie when she managed to fight past the German invasion in her city and she

could continue her life. Marie, with the limitation of visions, became a mollusk expert in a museum and had a happy family.

The third results of this study shows some people around Marie that always support her in struggling to fulfill her needs. The first support came from her father, Daniel Le-Blanc. Marie's father create a miniature of Marie's neighborhood in Paris and also in Saint-Malo. Support of Marie's father, especially after Marie had blindness, making Marie always felt safe. The second support come from Marie's great-uncle named Etienne. Etienne seemed to replace the position of Marie's father, who gone without news. Etienne loves Marie very much and takes care of her both at home and when Marie struggles to carry the broadcast code from the bakery. The third support arise from Madam Manec (helper at Etienne's house). Madam Manec is deeply aware of Marie's wishes, so she tries to make Marie's desire happen by inviting Marie to go to the beach.

In conclusion, Marie's character is depicted as a hard-fought girl in fulfilling her needs. Her blind condition does not make her stop to struggle. On the other hand, her failure to achieve the love needs that she wanted from her father did not make her stop to achieve her next level of needs. That is self-esteem and self-actualization needs. At the end of the discussion, the researcher added an analysis of people who always supported Marie and always side her. The researcher found that they are who still support Marie is; her father (Daniel LeBlance), her-great uncle (Etienne), and Madam Manec (Etienne's housekeeper).

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