

CHAPTER I

INTRODUCTION

1.1. Background of the Study

Human beings are always motivated to fulfill their needs. Basic necessities such as food and clothing, intangible aspirations like prestige and praise, and other indulgences such as car and vacation appear to be fulfilled. These things are fulfilled to help human beings achieve satisfaction, happiness, and fulfillment. Moreover, meeting these needs helps human beings reach a good life condition and optimal functioning so they can thrive in their life. The healthy human beings are the people who can grow by fulfilling these necessities. Any possibility of thwarting them leads to psychological threats that can disrupt one's life (Maslow, 1943:393).

Abraham Maslow is one of the psychologists who develops a theory about human needs. He proposes a group of five needs for humans and sorts them from the lowest to the highest. The sequence starts with physiological needs, followed by safety needs, love and belongingness needs, and esteem needs, and ends with the highest, self-actualization needs. This list of needs must be satisfied from the basic to the highest to make a person become the best version of himself (Maslow, 1943:394).

The phenomenon of human need is also reflected in literary works. One of the literary works that reveals human need is a novel entitled *I'll Give You the Sun* written by Jandy Nelson (2015). This novel tells the story of Jude Sweetwine who encounters a crisis in her life. Jude experiences many shocking events and makes many mistakes that put her into a complex conflict that stops her from achieving

her best potential. It starts from her insecurity and jealousy over her skilled brother, Jude puts a strain on her relationship with him. Jude who desperate for her mother's attention, does many reckless things that exacerbate the rift. After her mother died in a car accident, Jude is overwhelmed with guilt and grief. Unable to fix her past mistakes, Jude isolates herself from the things she used to love, including sculpting and falling in love. Jude finds herself to be worried about her guilt, deprived of love, and feeling insecure. Jude realizes she needs to fix her mistakes, confront her fear, and rebuild her life. She starts on a journey of healing and self-discovery. Jude eventually fixes her mistakes, and ultimately finds herself facing fears, embracing love, finding confidence, and leading to personal growth and reconciliation.

The writer of this research thesis discusses the hierarchy of needs in the character Jude from the novel *I'll Give You the Sun* written by Jandy Nelson. The novel explores many complex issues such as identity, family, love, and the need for acceptance. It shows the journey of the characters in overcoming their insecurities, and mistakes, and fulfilling their need. The significance of this research thesis is that firstly, by using the theory of needs, the writer can uncover the layered motivation of the character and understand the actions that appear from the unmet needs. Secondly, the theory will help highlight Jude's personal growth, from confronting her insecurities, and mistakes, healing the broken relationship, and progressing toward self-actualization. Lastly, this approach will help enrich the understanding of the character Jude and how she changes over the story. In sum, this research provides valuable insight into understanding the character Jude and

her motivation in fulfilling her needs and showing her development to be a better person.

1.2. Research Problems

The research problems of this thesis are as follows,

1. How are Jude Sweetwine's physiological needs in Jandy Nelson's *I'll Give You the Sun*?
2. How are Jude Sweetwine's safety needs in Jandy Nelson's *I'll Give You the Sun*?
3. How are Jude Sweetwine's love and belonging needs in Jandy Nelson's *I'll Give You the Sun*?
4. How are Jude Sweetwine's esteem needs in Jandy Nelson's *I'll Give You the Sun*?
5. How are Jude Sweetwine's self-actualization needs in Jandy Nelson's *I'll Give You the Sun*?

1.3. Objectives of the Study

The objectives of the study are as follows,

1. To explain Jude Sweetwine's physiological needs portrayal in Jandy Nelson's *I'll Give You the Sun*.
2. To explain Jude Sweetwine's safety needs portrayal in Jandy Nelson's *I'll Give You the Sun*.
3. To explain Jude Sweetwine's love and belongingness need portrayal in Jandy Nelson's *I'll Give You the Sun*,

4. To explain Jude Sweetwine's esteem needs portrayal in Jandy Nelson's *I'll Give You the Sun*.
5. To explain Jude Sweetwine's self-actualization needs portrayal in Jandy Nelson's *I'll Give You the Sun*.

1.4. Previous Studies

Several studies have been conducted regarding the same object *I'll Give You the Sun* novel by Jandy Nelson. The writer finds seven previous studies. There are two scientific researches, five online reviews, and one interview.

The first previous study is a national journal article entitled *Sibling Rivalry in Jandy Nelson I'll Give You the Sun Novel: A Psychological Criticism* by Putri Indah Sari, Singih Daru Kuncara, and Seta Ariani (2022). This article analyzes the sibling rivalry phenomena between Jude and Noah using sibling rivalry theories by Papalia and Olds and Schaefer and Milman. The results show that rivalry happens because of gifted siblings, parental favoritism, competition for affection, and sibling rejection.

The second previous study is an undergraduate thesis from the Faculty of Humanities of Airlangga University entitled *Mother Loss and Its Impact Towards Jude's Behaviour in Jandy Nelson's Novel I'll Give You the Sun: A Psychoanalytic Study* written by Marisa Gita Savira (2018). This thesis analyzes the impact of the mother's death on Jude's behavior. Character Jude has anxiety about three traumatic events and uses sublimation as a defense mechanism.

The third previous study is an online review article from *the Standard* entitled *I'll Give You the Sun by Jandy Nelson Reminds Reader about The Importance of*

Love written by Emily Forgash (2018). Emily comments on how Nelson brings up the issue of love and its complexities in a passionate and relatable way. The author successfully captures the beautiful and catastrophic relationship between siblings and family and a way to improve their relationship.

The fourth previous study is an online interview between School Library Journal and Jandy Nelson called *Portrait of an Author: SLJ Chats with Jandy Nelson about 'I'll Give You the Sun'* posted on SLJ's website (2014). Shelley Diaz mentions the theme that appears in this book, such as identity, sexuality, and coming-of-age issue, are related to what is happening in the present time. Finding a true personality may take time and it captures well in this book.

The fifth previous study is an online review article from Bustle.com entitled *Her 'I'll Give You the Sun' Burns Red Hot* written by Caitlin White (2014). White critiques the story line in this novel is ordinary. However, with the uniqueness of the character's background, this novel can connect with the readers through universal themes such as art, family, life, and youth which makes it an immersive novel.

The sixth is an online review article from *The New York Times* written by Lauren Oliver (2014). Oliver said that the novel *I'll Give You the Sun* by Jandy Nelson covers a variety of themes such as love, sexuality, and the coming-of-age process. Oliver approves Nelson's vivid and bold narrative in writing Noah and Jude's relationship with the other significant figures in the story.

The last previous study is an online review article from *School Library Journal* written by Joe Piedmont (2014). The novel *I'll Give You the Sun* provides an exciting story with clever story-building. Piedmont comments on Nelson's ability in creating an effective story of Jude and Noah without exaggerating certain aspects. Nelson is successful in exploring each main character's characteristics and development, as well as the dynamic between them and their parents, and the people around them.

This research thesis has some similarities with the previous studies. This thesis also focuses on studying Jude's Sweetwine and her behavior. Additionally, this research thesis uses a psychological approach. However, this thesis differs from the previous studies by concentrating specifically on the issue of need fulfillment in the character Jude Sweetwine. Using Abraham Maslow's hierarchy of needs theory as the primary analytical framework, this thesis examines Jude Sweetwine's hierarchy of needs in the novel *I'll Give You the Sun*.

1.5. Scope of the Study

The thesis will analyse from intrinsic and extrinsic elements portrayed in *I'll Give You the Sun* by Jandy Nelson. The intrinsic elements discussion covers character and characterization, conflict and setting of the novel. The extrinsic aspects cover the character Jude's needs fulfillment analysis through the theory hierarchy of needs by Abraham Maslow.

1.6. Writing Organization

CHAPTER I INTRODUCTION

This chapter explains the background, research question, objective of the study, previous studies, scope of the study, and the organization of the thesis.

CHAPTER II THEORETICAL FRAMEWORK

This chapter consists of theory and method used in the research thesis. The theory will cover the intrinsic and extrinsic elements such as character, characterization, conflict, setting, and hierarchy of needs theory. The research method consists of research approach and method of data collection and analysis. This research thesis uses psychological approach and library research method. There are two types of data used in this research; the primary data is novel *I'll Give You the Sun* written by Jandy Nelson, and the secondary data is books, journals, and article.

CHAPTER III DISCUSSION

This chapter consists of the analysis of the intrinsic and extrinsic elements of the character Jude Sweetwine from the novel *I'll Give You the Sun* by Jandy Nelson.

CHAPTER IV CONCLUSION

This chapter consists of the summary of the research discussion.

REFERENCES This chapter consists of list of all sources used in the thesis.