

# CHAPTER I

## INTRODUCTION

### 1.1. Background of the Study

Humans are destined to be social creatures who have to fulfill their needs in order to live a happy life. Besides fulfilling their basic needs like food, water, and shelter, humans will also need other individuals to fulfill the other needs. For instance, humans will require other individuals to fulfill their love needs from family and friends. Referring to the kinds of needs, Abraham Maslow has set up a theory of hierarchy of needs, where there are five levels of needs that must be fulfilled by human beings. The hierarchy of human needs that must be met by human does not only occur in real life, but also appear in the characters of movie.

Movie is a photographic process that involves the use of chemicals and lighting on sensitive paper (Lonergan, 1984:7). Most directors produce a movie based on reality, where it can represent ideas about all aspects of life that occur in human's life. Therefore, a movie can be considered as a depiction of life as a story in a moving picture, where the characters in the movie also represent the real human beings in real life. As a result, characters in the movie also have their own needs that must be met.

One of the movies that describes the struggle of fulfilling the hierarchy of needs is entitled *Tall Girl* movie directed by Nzingha Stewart. The movie tells the story of Jodi Kreyman, a girl who has insecure feeling with her height as she has always been the tallest among her peers. She is often bullied because of her

uniqueness. However, she tries very hard to overcome all of her insecurities. Besides, she also faces other problems such as friendship and love.

The writer thinks that the movie is quite interesting, because there are various kinds of human needs represented by the main character, as well as the struggle she faces in order to fulfill every needs. The writer will explore the needs of Jodi Kreyman as the main character of the movie by using Abraham Maslow's theory of hierarchy of human needs which covers physiology, safety, love and belongingness, esteem, and self-actualization needs.

## **1.2. Research Problems**

Based on the story of the movie, the formulations of research problems are:

1. How does the main character Jodi Kreyman fulfill her physiology needs in Nzingha Stewart's *Tall Girl* movie?
2. How does the main character Jodi Kreyman fulfill her safety needs in Nzingha Stewart's *Tall Girl* movie?
3. How does the main character Jodi Kreyman fulfill her love and belongingness needs in Nzingha Stewart's *Tall Girl* movie?
4. How does the main character Jodi Kreyman fulfill her esteem needs in Nzingha Stewart's *Tall Girl* movie?
5. How does the main character Jodi Kreyman fulfill her self-actualization needs in Nzingha Stewart's *Tall Girl* movie?

### 1.3. Objectives of the Study

The objectives of the study are:

1. To analyze how the main character Jodi Kreyman fulfill her physiology needs in Nzingha Stewart's *Tall Girl* movie.
2. To analyze how the main character Jodi Kreyman fulfill her safety needs in Nzingha Stewart's *Tall Girl* movie.
3. To analyze how the main character Jodi Kreyman fulfill her love and belongingness needs in Nzingha Stewart's *Tall Girl* movie.
4. To analyze how the main character Jodi Kreyman fulfill her esteem needs in Nzingha Stewart's *Tall Girl* movie.
5. To analyze how the main character Jodi Kreyman fulfill her self-actualization needs in Nzingha Stewart's *Tall Girl* movie.

### 1.4. Previous Studies

There are some previous studies that apply the same object but different topic with this research thesis. The first journal is "*Speech Act Classification and Request Strategy in Tall Girl Movie Directed by Nzingha Stewart*" written by Arsy Iswanto and Gilang Cempaka. The study discusses the classification of speech act and request strategy's types from dialogue in *Tall Girl* movie.

The second study is research thesis entitled "*An Analysis of Jodi Kreyman's Personality in Tall Girl Movie*" written by Jasmine Khanza Aulia. The study discusses the character of Jodi Kreyman as the main character in *Tall Girl* movie by using the personality traits theory by Costa and McCrae.

The next journal is '*An Analysis of Flouting Maxim in the Tall Girl Movie*' written by Ni Kadek M., I Gusti Ayu Vina W.P., and Ida Ayu Putri G. A. This study discusses the types of flouting maxim and the reason why the characters flouted the maxims in *Tall Girl* movie.

The related previous studies above are some examples of the studies on the same object. However, this research thesis is different from the previous studies in terms of the research topic, where the first previous study focuses on analyzing speech act classification and request strategy, the second previous study focus on analyzing the personality of the main character, and the third previous study focus on the flouting maxim among the characters. In this research thesis, the writer will use the same object, which is *Tall Girl* movie. It focuses on different topic, that is, analyzing the needs of the main character.

In addition, this research thesis is also different from the previous studies in terms of the theory, where this research thesis uses the theory of hierarchy of needs by Abraham Maslow. Meanwhile, the first study uses the theory of illocutionary acts by Searle and the theory of request strategy by Blum-Kulka and House, the second study uses personality traits theory by Costa and McCrae, and the third study uses Grice and Leech's theory of cooperative principle.

### **1.5. Scope of the Study**

In this research thesis, the writer will make the limitation of the research, which only focuses on the main character of the movie and discusses the intrinsic elements and extrinsic element reflected in *Tall Girl* movie by Nzingha Stewart released on 2019. The intrinsic elements discussion includes character,

characterization and conflict, while the extrinsic element discussion is the hierarchy of needs of the main character, Jodi Kreyman, which include physiology, safety, love and belongingness, esteem, and self-actualization needs.

## **1.6. Organizations of the Study**

### **CHAPTER I INTRODUCTION**

This chapter consists of six sub-chapters including background of the study, research problems, objective of the study, previous study, scope of the study, and the organization of the study.

### **CHAPTER II THEORY AND METHOD**

This chapter contains theoretical framework, which consists of intrinsic elements such as character, characterization, and conflict. It also consists extrinsic elements which covers Abraham Maslow's theory of needs. Besides, it also consists of research method of the study.

### **CHAPTER III DISCUSSION**

This chapter contains the discussion of the intrinsic elements and extrinsic element of *Tall Girl* movie.

### **CHAPTER IV CONCLUSION**

This chapter contains the conclusion of the discussion.