

# Self-Actualization of Aggie, Calvin and Roger In Blood Drive Story, Grisham's Ford County

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**ABSTRACT**---This study aims to obtain a description of the self-actualization of Aggie, Calvin and Rogers in Ford County by Grisham. This research is a psychoanalytic study, which observes objectively by using humanistic psychology theory. This study refers to a combination of Maslow's theory of motivation especially in the human needs hierarchy and the concept of self-actualization by Carl Rogers. In data analysis techniques, qualitative data in the form of expression, utterance and occasion are needed through the content analysis method and this study is analyzed through a structural literature approach based on the concept of literary theory. The focus of this study was the self-actualization of Aggie, Calvin, and Roger figures on the Blood Drive story in Ford County. The focus of the study will then be divided into sub-foci on the human needs hierarchy, namely: physiological needs, safety needs, love needs, self-esteem needs and self-actualization needs. Another sub-focus is the concept of self-actualization achievement in the form of openness to experience, personal existence, strong trust, dependency, and creativity. Research results show that the main characters of stories such as Calvin and Rogers, in Blood Drive, mostly have D-Motivation in their actualization.

**Index Terms**— Self-Actualization, Humanistic Theory, Maslow, Rogers.

## I. INTRODUCTION

Humans are individual creatures as well as social beings who have great potential in actualizing themselves. In fact, not all human beings are able to reach the highest level of their need of self-actualization. The thing that often impedes the growth of a person towards self-actualization is the Jonah Complex or fears to reach the summit (Maslow, 1979: 127). This phenomenon occurs in everyday real life. One of the most interesting aspects to analyze in relation to human potential is the realization of self-actualization in each person's personality, since every human being is unique and has a significant difference between one another. (Feist Jess dan Gregory, 2009:148)

Departing from the assumption that literary works are closely related to the events of human life with all the phenomena and uniqueness in it, the writer uses the basis of psychoanalysis approaches of literature emphasized on self-actualization expressed through the popular fiction literature media. The popular culture that now dominates almost the whole world, happy or unhappy, is bad or good, and undeniably reflects the needs and desires of everyday society. As long as popular culture is consumed by the

community, as long as it is also popular fiction, it is more feasible to examine in the academic world (Adi, 2011: 3).

John Grisham's Popular Fiction Ford County is very interesting when studied with a psychological approach, especially in the analysis of self-actualization, considering that the form of self-actualization is a phenomenal activity of each individual in order to create a quality society that is the basic capital of a nation to be better in all field

The scope of this study is more detailed in its focus on the self-actualization of the main characters. Therefore, the subfocus of this study is (1) Structure of the Blood Drive story, which describes (a) the structure of the story (b) the structure of character (c) the background structure (2) aspects of self-actualization in terms of short stories namely (a) motivation (b ) barriers and (c) attitudes, (3) self-actualization poses based on Maslow's Hierarchy of Needs include: (a) physiological needs, (b) need for security, (c) need for love and belonging, (d ) the need for self-esteem and (e) self-actualization needs, (4) a form of self-actualization based on the theory of fully-functioned person Carl Rogers includes: (a) Openness to experience, (b) existential life (c) resilient beliefs (d) feelings free and (e) creativity, (5) this research is also focused on the psychological aspect reflected in the story

## II. LITERATURE REVIEW

Self-actualization is the desire to gain satisfaction with himself (self-fulfillment), to realize all of his potential, to become whatever he can do it. (Maslow, 1943:56-57) The highest stage in the staircase of Abraham Maslow's hierarchy is the need for self-actualization. Maslow said that humans will strive to get their self-actualization, or the realization of full human potential, when they have achieved satisfaction from their more basic needs. Personality theory developed by Abraham H. Maslow essentially revolves around the opinion that humans have five levels or hierarchy of needs, namely: (1) physiological needs, such as hunger, thirst, rest and sex; (2) security needs, not only in the physical sense, but also mentally, psychologically and intellectually; (3) the need for love (love needs); (4) the need for self-esteem (esteem needs), which is generally reflected in various status symbols; and (5) self-actualization. (Hall, 1983:434)

Slightly different from Maslow who tends to combine self-actualization with motivation theory so that it refers to

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the process of achieving one's self-actualization, while Rogers is more concerned with emphasizing the individual's self-concept in realizing self-activism so that it refers more to the characteristics of individuals who have actualized themselves. In this case, Roger argues that actualization is a very important aspect of human life. Rogers came to believe that there was only one single, basic human motives and this gave the name "the actualizing tendency" (Roger began to believe that there was only one basic human motive and this motif is called "actualizing tendency."(Thorne, 2003:26-27)Rogers describes a fully functioning person as a person who experiences positive rewards unconditionally with characteristics: (a) Openness to experience (b) existential life (c) Strong belief (d) Free feeling (e) Creativity. Maslow and Rogers's personality theory is also known as humanistic theory in Psychology.(Alwisol, 2004:199)

Psychology and literature have a conventional relationship, which is both studying the mental state of others. The difference is that psychology understands humans in a real context.(Wellek, 1998:77-153)Literature is the expression of an author who displays the human world through imagination. Compliance with reality or reality cannot be measured by a number of certain factual accuracy or judged by moral standards(Teeuw, 2015:36). Starting from the assumption that literary works always discuss the events of human life, the literary psychology approach turns out to have several benefits and advantages, as expressed by Semi as follows: (1) it is very suitable to examine in depth aspects of the official, (2) with this approach members can feedback to the author about the problem of the officers he developed, and (3) very helpful in analyzing surrealist, abstract, or absurd literary works and finally can help the reader understand such works(Semi, 1990:80)In research that uses the theory of psychology of literature, research can be done by analyzing the structure of the flow, background and observation of the behavior of the characters. In connection with this matter the element in the short story is related to the systematic important things of the story and the factors that influence it. Regarding the focus of the study, the self-actualization of Aggie, Calvin and Roger in this study will be examined using literary psychology.

### III. METHODOLOGY

The purpose of this study was to describe the self-actualization of Aggie, Calvin and Roger in John Grisham's Blood Drive story. Every literary work requires an analytical method that is in accordance with the nature and structure. Furthermore, the above objectives which are very general in nature, can be specified as follows: (1) expressing the intrinsic structure in the short story in terms of plot, character, background and theme, (2) describing barriers, motivations and attitudes in the process of self-actualization based on psychological aspects (3) Disclose efforts to fulfill self-actualization through five Maslow's hierarchical needs, namely physiological needs, security needs, the need for love, the need for appreciation, self-actualization needs, (4) Expressing efforts to fulfill self-actualization through five fully functional personal characteristics (Carl Rogers's fully functioning person), which is openness to existential life experiences, strong beliefs, free feelings and creativity.

This research is a qualitative research with content analysis method, which is research that prioritizes latent content with the aim of understanding the meaning contained in the object of research and using a structural approach and literary psychoanalysis approach. Regarding the method used in this study, data collection techniques were carried out through literature study by collecting studies of relevant theories related to short stories, concepts of self-actualization, and literary psychoanalysis..

### IV. RESULTS AND DISCUSSION

In this study, researchers found findings relating to the four sub focuses of the study, namely: 1) Short story structure through paths, characters, backgrounds and themes according to psychoanalysis literature, 2) Motivation, obstacles and attitudes of self-actualization in the main character according to personality theory, 3) Self-actualization of the main character according to hierarchy A. Maslow (Combs, 1999:162) 4) Self-actualization through fully functioning personal description according to Carl Rogers(Rogers. 1962:129)

#### *Structure of Blood Drive Story, Grisham's Ford County*

Based on the story motion of Blood Drive in Ford County generally moving fast, solid, and the focus is maintained. Blood Drive Story is told by using third person perspective techniques so that the narrator is free to tell what he sees and knows.

Short Story Blood Drive consists of forty-four pages, starting from page one to page forty-four. The story in this short story is divided into two parts which are marked with double spaced beats. The number of citations in the whole story related to self-actualization both directly and indirectly is as much as 60 quotes. The portrayal of characters in the seven Ford County short stories is generally dramatic and analytical. In a number of stories in this short story collection, there is a description of the character that is carried out in more detail, even though it is not like the depiction of a character in a novel.

When examined from the discussion of the theme it will be found in the Blood Drive short story, there is a theme of excessive curiosity that violates norms with a third person perspective. In addition to the plot and theme, there were also conflicts between characters, namely the conflict between the three main figures of the short story, as well as conflicts with law enforcers at its climax. These conflicts are revealed in the following text

"No!" Roger squawked. "Are you crazy? He can't catch us. Faster, faster!" The pickup flew is small and almost left the pavement, then it screams around a tight curve and fishtailed slightly, enough for Calvin to say, "We're gonna kill ourselves."(Grisham, 2009:13).

The background of the story is a long journey from Clanton to Memphis. This can be identified through words, such as street names (Poplar Avenue) store names (Blue Dot), truck stops, billboards, and so on. By reading the description of the background in this short story text, it can



be seen that the background of this story is on the streets precisely all the way from Clanton to Memphis with a transitional cultural background from the countryside (rural culture) to the big city area. While the background of this story takes place at night. This was seen at the moment when the three young men stopped in New Grove at night to buy snacks and beer, as shown in the following text:

They were on the edge of the small town of New Grove, and Aggie was beginning to wonder how long the trip might take. Roger disappeared behind the store and relieved himself, then ducked inside and bought two more six-packs. When New Grove was behind them, they popped the tops and sped along a dark, narrow highway (Grisham, 2009:11).

#### *Obstacles, Motivation and Attitude of Actualization*

Human motivation is strongly influenced by basic needs that need to be fulfilled. (Maslow A., 1954:186) From the results of discussion of the motivational aspects of the Blood Drive short story, the main character Rogers has a low motivation to actualize himself. More details can be seen from each figure who has more specific motivation and is slightly different in achieving his actualization. For example, Aggie is more focused on the main purpose of humanitarian mission to help others. He does not want to be involved in many problems concerning regulatory and legal issues in the community, so that it is clearly reflected in his attitude to safeguard the security of himself and his surroundings. Aggie chose to get out of the erotic room at the nightclub, remembering that she was well aware that her friends really enjoyed the atmosphere there and would linger to be there. In this case, Aggie's concern is the existence of problems with their various desires and their finances and fears that the ultimate goal of donating blood to Beiley is not achieved.

In contrast to Calvin who initially had the same motivation as Aggie to donate his blood, midway through the road began to win his personal motivation to fulfill a curious desire that was very attached to a more isolated and less socially background life. Calvin was really very excited to gain a new experience which he thought was very challenging. He seemed to have achieved his actualization as a grown man after he could undergo a new event at the adult nightclub.

Obstacles in applying self-actualization in general are negative influences generated by strong needs for security. In connection with research on Ford County short stories collection, as it is known that developmental processes towards the maturity of self-actualization require the availability of individuals in this case, the main characters are able to take risks, make mistakes and give up old habits that are not constructive, all of which require courage. By some of the main figures whose need for security is too strong, risk taking, making mistakes and releasing old habits that are not constructive will actually be things that threaten or scare and in turn this fear will encourage these individuals to move backwards towards satisfying the need for security.

If further examined the motivation of self-actualization in the main character, then the character or character of the protagonists in the Ford County Blood Drive story is not always depicted from the good side but also from the bad

side, because even though they are turned into humans, they also have human nature of reality, which is full of flaws and limitations. In this case the protagonists in the seven short stories can be said to be a reflection of people who have advantages and disadvantages. Figures with such characters are clearly seen in the three figures of Aggie, Rogers and Calvin. One of the important events in Rogers' Blood Drive short story that always poses obstacles to realizing the positive motivations of other main characters, namely in this case Aggie and Calvin. The most obvious event experienced by the main character was when they had to stop at one of the shops to buy snacks. The shocking fact is that Rogers did not only buy snacks, but also beer, which is a negative action that can affect the positive motivation of Aggie and Calvin. Besides that, Rogers also openly offered the two young men to take a beer with him. Thus it was clearly seen that the event was a big obstacle for Aggie and Rogers to achieve self-actualization.

Rogers's strong character greatly influences the motivation of the two main characters to realize self-actualization. This event is one part of the obstacles in actualizing the main characters themselves. Furthermore the quote below illustrates the situation when Rogers managed to influence his two friends that the blood transfusion process was quite tense and in this case it would be better for them to take a beer like him. In connection with that according to them, namely, Calvin and Aggie what Rogers said was true. They think that drinking beer is enough to help them reduce the tension and more than that can thin the blood liquid so that the blood transfusion process can run smoothly and quickly.

It was apparent that he planned to demolish the entire six-pack as quickly as possible. Aggie was thinking that it might be wise to be dilute some of the alcohol. He'd heard stories of Roger's horrific binges. "I'll take one of those," he said, and Roger quickly handed him a beer. "Me too, I guess," Calvin said. "Now we're talkin'," Roger said. "I never like to drink alone. (Grisham, 2009:10).

Thus it can be concluded that in overcoming obstacles to the achievement of self-activism, besides requiring favorable environmental conditions, it also requires the willingness of individuals to open up new ideas and experiences.

In connection with attitudes in realizing self-actualization, related to the ability of self-development that will continue to grow and increase along with training and willingness. An active person should develop themselves more. This kind of thing is useful in competing and getting proper recognition and a stable position.

The attitude which is a tendency of a person to behave in a special way in certain situations, in this description is limited to attitudes that only reflect the tendency to self-actualization. The attitude of the three main characters in the Blood Drive short story that reflects their self-actualization is basically based on positive views and motivations from within themselves. One form of actualization based on the positive motivation of the main character is the situation

when Rogers offered beer to his two friends. At that time, there was more or less a positive potential based on a great motivation in himself: Aggie and Calvin reflected in their attitude to reject the offer. The more detailed self-actualization attitudes in the Blood Drive look as follows: Characters in Aggie, Rogers and Calvin are struggling to save the lives of their friends

From the description above it can be concluded that without a solid foundation and intention, self-actualization will be created with imperfect and lame conditions. On the other hand each main character will feel an achievement and a sense of satisfaction with something that has been done and fought for it. Appreciation for creativity will continue to run when trying to do the best and always develop.

#### *The Actualization Process of the Aggie, Calvin and Roger in Blood Drive*

Self-actualization is basically a process, not a goal or endpoint. Thus, this requires hard work, patience, and commitment. The process of self-actualization in the main characters of the short story ford count cannot be separated from Maslow's basic needs - arranged according to the most important needs that are not too crucial. Starting from fulfilling physiological needs, there is an event of choosing liquor to satisfy thirsty desires. In fulfilling the need for security, it can be seen that there was an incident to avoid police pursuit and fight the nightclub guards. In fulfilling the needs of love, there was an event of satisfying biological desires with the nightclub woman of his choice. The fulfillment of self-esteem needs to be seen as events that get people's attention to volunteering to help friends (Blood Drive). In fulfilling self-actualization needs, there is an event to find solutions to all problems encountered while on the way

#### *Form of Actualization of the Aggie, Calvin and Roger Ford in Blood Drive*

The form of self-actualization described by Rogers is basically a fully functioning person, namely a person who experiences positive rewards without conditions. Thus, this requires hard work, patience, and commitment in the application. This also means he is valued, loved because of the value of being himself as a person so that he is not defensive but tends to accept himself with trust. The process of self-actualization in the main characters of the short story ford cannot be separated from the five distinctive qualities that reflect the fully functioning person introduced by Rogers

In the form of actualization, openness to experience shows that there are events that receive ideas from friends and the environment

In the form of actualization of existential life, it is seen that events have received people's attention for volunteering to help friends

In the form of actualization, strong convictions are seen in the event of avoiding police pursuit and fighting nightclub guards

In the form of self-actualization, the feeling of being free shows that there are events that satisfy biological desires and thirst for women, clubs and beer

In the form of self-actualization, creativity can be seen as an event to find solutions to all problems encountered while on the way

## V. CONCLUSIONS

After researching the data related to the process of self-actualization based on quotations in the form of sentences in the Blood Drive short story, it can be concluded that the main character who is three young volunteers who donate blood has great potential to do self-actualization.

Based on the results of the TAT test on the three main figures, two of the main characters were produced, namely Aggie and Calvin, who got a description of B-Motivation which meant having high motivation as a measure of the potential for self-actualization (Cloninger, 1993:282-284). While Rogers produces D-Motivation or low levels of motivation so it is estimated that it is quite difficult to reach the stage of self-actualization.

It seems clear to Aggie and Calvin that they have the potential for self-actualization since the beginning of the story when they decided to volunteer for blood donors for their friend Beiley who had lived in the same neighborhood in Clanton. Basically they have the same good motivation, namely helping others.

To Aggie, her actualization is clearly reflected in her strong motivation to help others. According to Carl Rogers' personality theory, Aggie has characterization as a person who has self-existence and has strong beliefs.

In Calvin, there was a difference in motivation with Aggie. If Aggie can be categorized as having external motivation, on the other hand Calvin has internal motivation. Internal motivation in this case is self-oriented motivation rather than others. This is clearly seen from some reflections of Calvin's attitude that satisfies his personal curiosity so that he overrides the main goal of helping others.

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