

## Kong's Heroic Journey Finding Home Described in Greg Keyes' *Godzilla Vs. Kong's* Novel

<sup>1</sup>Muadin Bondan Dhiafajri, <sup>2</sup>Gerson Donny Wicaksono, <sup>3</sup>Rangga Arya Wicaksana, and  
<sup>4</sup>Haryati Sulistyorini

<sup>1</sup>Universitas Dian Nuswantoro, Semarang, Indonesia

<sup>2</sup>Universitas Dian Nuswantoro, Semarang, Indonesia

<sup>3</sup>Universitas Dian Nuswantoro, Semarang, Indonesia

<sup>4</sup>Universitas Dian Nuswantoro, Semarang, Indonesia

[311202102325@mhs.dinus.ac.id](mailto:311202102325@mhs.dinus.ac.id)

**Abstract.** The aim of this study was to analyze a non-human main character of *Godzilla Vs. Kong The Official Movie Novelization*, Kong, in his heroic journey across the world to find a new home through his ancient rivalry with Godzilla. The research method employed in this article was descriptive qualitative method to obtain the research data. The approach employed to analyze the research data was psychological approach to gain a better understanding of the psychological aspects of Kong's character. The researchers utilized the theoretical framework by Maslow (1968) in order to classify Kong's hierarchy of needs. This research paper concluded that Kong managed to achieve the first two of Maslow's theory, which were Physiological Needs and Safety & Security Needs in the novel. It was evident that this research paper found that even though Kong was a non-human character, he possessed fairly similar attributes akin to a human and was also capable expressing his emotions like humans do via sign language. This research paper also explained Kong's struggles to fulfill his needs against every external factors that acted as an obstacle to achieve his newfound home.

**Keywords:** hierarchy; kong; needs; novelization; psychology.

### RESEARCH BACKGROUND

*Godzilla Vs. Kong The Official Movie Novelization* is a novel adaptation or novelization of the movie entitled *Godzilla Vs. Kong*, which had its theatrical release on March 24, 2021 and directed by Adam Wingard. The novel itself is based on the screen play by Eric Pearson & Max Borenstein and story by Terry Rosio, Michael Dougherty, and Zach Shields. The novel is first published by Titan Books on April 6, 2021. The novelization follows the story on how two of the iconic monsters in the history, Godzilla and Kong, clash in an epic duel of the century to determine which one will emerge victorious. The novel adaptation also serves as an extended story of the film, giving a better understanding about the unanswered questions from the film and how the story reveals Dr. Nathan Lind's traumatic past and Madison Russell's troubles prior to the movie, as both of these characters follow the path forged by Kong and Godzilla respectively. The novelization is comprised of twenty-one chapters and an additional epilogue. The novel features action, science fiction, and thriller genre within the content.

The novelization is written by John Gregory Keyes or better known as Greg Keyes, born in Meridian, Mississippi on April 11, 1963. He is highly regarded as a science fiction and fantasy author and writer in both original and adapted media novels such as *Star Wars*, *Avengers*, and *Monsterverse*. He is also the author of several famous novels that includes *The Age of Unreason*, *The Kingdoms of Thorn and Bone*, *The Basilisk Throne*, *Chosen of the Changeling*, *Footsteps in the Sky*, and many more.

As seen from the title of this study, the research subject that we will analyze is Kong. From our observation on the novel, Kong is described to be more of a hero within the narrative, seeking a new place to call home, which was destroyed by the perpetual storm. Another addition to support the title is the fact that Kong's physical and cognitive characteristics are fairly similar to humans, as readers can relate more to Kong rather than Godzilla. Therefore, the researchers wish to analyze a non-human main character who goes by as Kong through his heroic journey in finding a new home within the novel. Even though he is a non-human character, Kong is able to convey or express his emotions like humans do and can perform basic sign language as a way of communication with one of the human characters in the novel, Jia. His character also fulfills a few of Maslow's hierarchy of needs, which makes Kong the perfect analysis material of our research paper.

## REVIEW OF RELATED LITERATURE

The theoretical review of our research paper is provided by several relevant research and studies that have been conducted by various researchers related to our research topic. There are three previous studies related to this research paper.

Firstly, the research paper entitled “*Kearifan Lokal dan Potensi Romantisasi dalam Film Godzilla vs Kong*” (2021) conducted by Leona Dwi Untari and Nurni Wahyu Wuryandari. Their research paper discusses environmental problems with its preventions and discourse of romanticization through local wisdom to prevent environmental problems based on *Godzilla vs. Kong*. We find several differences between their research paper and our research paper, namely from research method, approach, and theory. Their research paper use analytical descriptive method, while ours use descriptive qualitative method to obtain research data. Their research paper also uses eco-critical approach through Wildcat's theory of local wisdom to their research content, while our research papers uses psychological approach through Abraham Harold Maslow's hierarchy of needs to analyze Kong's needs. Their research paper has something in common with our research paper, that is the same research object based on *Godzilla vs. Kong*, albeit one is focused on the film, while the other is focused on the novelization. The conclusion of their research paper states that humans will always invent new ideas and at the same time causes environmental damage.

Secondly, another research paper written by Akbar Yunadi, Singgih Daru Kuncana, and Nita Maya Valiantien is titled “*Sophie's Needs in Rooftoppers Novel by Using Maslow's Theory of Hierarchy of Human Needs*” (2020). Their research paper mainly discusses the main character of *Rooftoppers* novel, Sophie, through descriptive qualitative method, psychological approach, and Abraham Harold Maslow's hierarchy of needs, which is the exact method, approach, and theory used in our research paper. The only thing that sets it apart from our research paper is their research object, which analyzes *Rooftoppers* novel while the other focuses on *Godzilla vs. Kong The Official Movie Novelization*. The conclusion of said research paper is Sophie's needs and how Sophie manages to fulfill her needs according to Maslow's theory.

Lastly, “*An Analysis of Maslow's Hierarchy of Need in The Great Gatsby Novel by Franciss Scott Fitzgerald's*” (2018) is a research paper written by Ritna Bahuwa. This research paper discusses Jay Gatsby's character using psychological approach realized through Abraham Harold Maslow's hierarchy of needs. There are noticeable differences between said research paper and ours. The method used in Ritna Bahuwa's research paper is qualitative method, while our research paper uses descriptive qualitative to gain optimal research data. The source data used in Ritna Bahuwa's research paper is *The Great Gatsby* novel, while ours is *Godzilla vs. Kong The Official Movie Novelization*.

The conclusion of the aforementioned research paper is the description of Jay Gatsby's needs according to Maslow's theory.

### **Character**

According to Baldick (2001), character is a figure in a narrative or dramatic works. According to Shaffer (2008), character is a person or an entity (being given the characteristics and quality of a person) who appears, acts, and speaks in a work of literature. According to Kennedy and Gioia (2016), character is a fictional person featured in a narrative.

From all of the aforementioned statements about the definitions of character, it can be concluded that character is a fictional entity in a narrative who possessed the attributes akin to a real-life person created by the author.

### **Conflict**

According to Holman (1977), conflict is the clash which comes from the interaction between two major opposing forces in a narrative. According to Pratami (2016), conflict is a circumstance or condition when an individual or group who have a clash in differences about ideals, beliefs, customs, and habits within themselves or in interaction with others. Nurgiyantoro (2013) added that there are two classifications of conflict, those are external conflict and internal conflict. External conflict is a conflict that occurred between a character and the external force of the character, while internal conflict is a conflict that occurred between a character and the character's internal problem in the mind, heart, and soul of that character.

From the latter statements about conflict, it can be deduced that conflict is a problem or an obstacle instigated by two opposing ideals and visions or inner problems faced by the character that is functioned to slow down or to halt the progress of the narrative. Conflict can also be divided into two types, namely external conflict and internal conflict.

### **Setting**

According to Stanton (2007), setting is the environment that includes several occurrences within a narrative that interacts with ongoing events. According to Ahyar (2019), setting is the description of place, time, and environment that is contained within the narrative events.

From the compilation of definitions about setting, we concluded that setting is the depiction of place, time, and social that is contained within narrative occurrences or events of a literary work.

### **Psychological Approach**

According to Klarer (2004), psychological approach or psychoanalytic literary criticism is an approach that deals with the author, but primarily attempts to discover general psychological aspects in a text that do not necessarily relate to the author. Another statement from Endraswara (2013), psychological approach is a study of literature that recognizes literary works as a reflection of the author's intention, which will encapsule the inspiration of the author that is processed into the text alongside its spiritual and psychological aspects.

From the previous statements about psychological approach, it can be assumed that psychological approach is a literary approach or study which aims to analyze the psychological aspects within a literary work.

## **Hierarchy of Needs**

The theory used in our research paper is Abraham Harold Maslow's hierarchy of needs. In accordance to Maslow in Hejjle (1992), he firmly believed that people are motivated to seek their own personal goals that make their lives meaningful. He also accepted that every living being has the common, oblivious, and biological ability to search and fulfill its needs (1968). Maslow added that there are five needs people use as their motive to reach their goal starting from physiological, safety and security, love and belonging, self-esteem, and self actualization.

### **1. Physiological Need**

Physiological need are considered to be the most fundamental and powerful need. This specific need helps a person to survive as this need is more concerned with biological support. A person who fails to fulfill this primary level of need won't be able to continue to the next level. Food, drink, sleep, and oxygen are some examples of the physiological need.

### **2. Safety and Security Need**

After the most basic need is completed, a person will go to the higher level. Safety and security need is the next level after a person completes their physiological need. In this level, a person desires to get stability and freedom from threatening forces such as illness, fear, and dangers that can cost their lives. In other words, safety and security need deals with the survivability of an individual's life and wellbeing from both external and internal threats.

### **3. Belongingness and Love Need**

Belongingness and love needs are the continuation of the previous need an individual wants when both physiological and safety and security needs has been acquired. In this level, a person will seek and share for attention, affectionate relationship, adoration, and love with others. This specific need can be obtained through the affection of family, friends, and even boyfriend or girlfriend.

### **4. Self-Esteem Need**

Maslow categorizes Self Esteem Need into two types. The first level is self-respect. A person needs to know whether they are capable in handling a task and challenge or not. Self-respect includes the desire to gain competence, confidence, and achievement. The second level is respect from others. In this level, an individual wants to be recognized and valued by other people. Prestige, recognition, reputation, acceptance and status belong to the second type of this need.

### **5. Self Actualization Need**

Self Actualization need is the highest level when the four previous needs have already been achieved. In this level, a person desires to achieve more than they could have done in the past. An individual will use their talents, capabilities and potentialities to be everything they want to become and to do what must be done through their actions in order to achieve a specific goal.

## RESEARCH METHOD

The method used in our research paper is descriptive qualitative method. According to Hikmawati (2020), descriptive research is a research meant to gather every information about every circumstances within the research subject. According to Lexy J. Moleong (2013), qualitative research is a research procedure meant to produce descriptive data in the form of both written and spoken words from an observation of a specific person and attitude. In accordance to Nassaji (2015), qualitative research is a research that involves data collecting from multiple sources to obtain a better understanding by identifying, describing, and interpreting the patterns of the research data. Handayani (2020) also added that qualitative research data isn't presented in statistics. Thus descriptive qualitative research method is a research meant to gather, describe, and explain the research data and presented the data in a non-numerical form such as words, sentences, and explanations, not statistics. The purpose of descriptive qualitative research method is to obtain relevant data about the structural elements and the main character's needs according to Abraham Harold Maslow's hierarchy of needs.

The library research conducted in our research paper is a method of collecting relevant data through reading the novel and related research papers. Once we obtain the data, we will conduct our analysis using Maslow's theory and provide our results and conclusion by the end of our research paper.

The approach used to analyze the novel is psychological approach. The writers mainly used psychological approach through Abraham Harold Maslow's hierarchy of needs to analyze Kong's character. Maslow's theory about hierarchy of needs stated that humans will always try to fulfill their needs through the hierarchy, ranging from physiological needs, safety and security, love and belonging, self-esteem, and self-actualization.

## RESULTS AND DISCUSSION

### Structural Elements

In this section, the writers will discuss several structural elements starting from main character traits, conflicts, and settings (place, time, and social) from the novel to gain a better understanding of the research material.

#### 1. Main Character Traits

##### a. Brave

According to Cambridge Dictionary, brave is an attribute of showing no signs of fear in a dangerous or difficult situation. Throughout the course of the novel, Kong showed a numerous amount of bravery in tackling every obstacle and opponent he faced. Kong can be considered as brave since he bravely challenged Godzilla, King of the Monsters and Mechagodzilla on a fight, even though the odds were against him.

"That's promising," the director said, as Godzilla and Kong continued to stare at each other. Then Godzilla slashed his tail back and forth, and assumed a threatening posture. In response, Kong put his axe down and pounded his fists into the concrete.

"Threat displays," Guillerman said.

"Yeah," Mark said. "If they were both lizards or both apes. But they're Titans, so—"

Before he could finish the thought, Kong broke toward Godzilla in a dead-on charge, crushing everything in his way, knocking cars and buses out of his path, leveling a high-rise with a brush of his thigh.

***Godzilla Vs. Kong The Official Movie Novelization - Chapter 19 Page 276-277***

Then Kong was suddenly there, wrenching Mechagodzilla's head back so the beam shot straight up into the sky. The construct heaved Kong from its back, but that gave time for Godzilla to clamber back up, and now it was two on one.

***Godzilla Vs. Kong The Official Movie Novelization - Chapter 21 Page 300***

### **b. Defiant**

According to Cambridge Dictionary, defiant is an adjective of showing refusal to obey authority, control, and supremacy from another being. This was proven when Kong refused to bow down to Godzilla by defiantly roaring at him even though Kong was defeated in this confrontation against Godzilla in Hong Kong.

The saurian leaned down, so his snout was in Kong's face, and roared. For a moment, Kong just stared back, as if finally acknowledging the fight was over. But then he lifted his head and howled back at the Titan, an act of purest defiance.

***Godzilla Vs. Kong The Official Movie Novelization - Chapter 20 Page 287***

### **c. Gentle**

According to Cambridge Dictionary, gentle means calm, kind, or soft. In the novel, Kong's gentleness can be seen from Kong's relationship with Jia, a deaf orphaned Iwi girl. They bonded with each other like they are a family with Kong being protective of her because he had known Jia ever since he saved her from Skull Island's storm that wiped out the Iwi tribe.

She climbed into the huge cup of his hand. He closed it partway, shutting out the worst of the wind and the rain. And then, like a mountain walking he started off. And Jia was relieved, and she was sad, and she knew everything about her world was changed, and would never be the same again.

***Godzilla Vs. Kong The Official Movie Novelization - Chapter 3 Page 37***

Like all of her people, Jia had a connection to Kong, a complicated one. Early visitors to the island had seen that the Iwi worshipped Kong as a god, and that was true enough. But it went deeper than that; they believed that Kong was Iwi, and the Iwi were Kong. Symbiotic; one people with different forms. It was not unheard of to find such belief in indigenous cultures—the idea that animal spirits and gods were also relatives—but the Iwi-Kong bond seemed especially tight. And Jia's connection to Kong was another thing again. At times, she swore the girl and the Titan could read each other's minds. At the very least, Jia often had a calming influence on him.

***Godzilla Vs. Kong The Official Movie Novelization - Chapter 3 Page 46-47***

#### **d. Intelligent**

According to Cambridge Dictionary, intelligent means having the ability to comprehend, learn, and understand things easily. Kong can be considered as an intelligent being due to his similar cognitive abilities akin to a human. This was proven when Kong showcased his craftsmanship creating a spear using a tree and utilized nearby objects for combat disposals.

In the nearby forest, he picked out a tree of the right size. He grasped it and heaved it from the dark soil, tested its weight. He twisted off the part that went into the dirt and then he stripped off the limbs and broke off the top part, which was too thin. He began grinding the light end of the shaft against a stone, until it formed a point. He hefted it again.

***Godzilla Vs. Kong The Official Movie Novelization - Chapter 3 Page 41***

Another proof of his intelligence was his ability to communicate with others via sign language on certain occasions. This was proven when Kong expressed his longing for home during a rain in the Southern Pacific.

Rain cascaded down Kong, flowing around his thick brow ridges. Rivulets coursed through his fur. Southern Pacific or not, the rain was cold. Her breath caught in her chest as Kong lifted his hand, brought it up to his face. His hand formed a shape.

A sign.

*Home*, he said.

Ilene gaped in amazement. There was no mistake. But as if to prove it, he lowered his hand and raised it again, and again.

*Home. Home.*

***Godzilla Vs. Kong The Official Movie Novelization - Chapter 10 Page 150***

Kong was also able to figure out the mechanism and function behind his battle axe while battling with Godzilla. By observing his battle axe absorbing Godzilla's heat ray, Kong was able to deduce that his battle axe can be used to absorb Godzilla's nuclear abilities and can also be used to charge the battle axe to deal a devastating blow on his opponent once it was fully charged.

Godzilla let go, the beam jetting from his maw, straight toward the other Titan.

Kong jerked his axe up defensively.

The beam struck the blade and the beam stopped. They stood like that for a moment, Godzilla blasting blue fire and Kong using his axe as a shield. And the blade was glowing brighter, and brighter...

***Godzilla Vs. Kong The Official Movie Novelization - Chapter 19 Page 278***

At first, she didn't understand his goal, but then she saw his axe, buried in the side of a building. He reached it, pulled it out, and raised it high to attack Godzilla, who was still a considerable distance away. Kong took a short run and leapt, the axe cocked over his head.

A blue beam shot from Godzilla's mouth, but Kong, sailing in a long arc through the air, blocked the ray with his glowing blade. And it worked.

But that would be the point, wouldn't it? Godzilla's energy beam made him almost invincible. Unless you had something to counter it. Like one of the very fins that charged and channeled the energy. After all, Kong had found it stuck in the skeleton of something like Godzilla.

*Godzilla Vs. Kong The Official Movie Novelization - Chapter 20 Page 281-282*

#### **e. Lonely**

According to Cambridge Dictionary, lonely means that no other person is with you and that you are sad and unhappy as a result. In the novel, Kong's portrayal of being lonely was knowing that Kong was the last of his species that was still alive on Skull Island and Kong was desperate to find another one of his kind in the Hollow Earth even though he had Jia.

Kong was the last of his kind. She could not tolerate having the extinction of his species—or the death of him as an individual—resting on her shoulders. Her job was to keep him from harm, not to mention shield the world from the kind of collateral damage a Titan battle could produce. She would do her level best to do both of those things.

*Godzilla Vs. Kong The Official Movie Novelization - Chapter 3 Page 49-50*

#### **f. Mighty**

According to Cambridge Dictionary, mighty is an adjective for a person that has powerful abilities. In the novel, Kong displayed many feats that can be considered as mighty. This was proven when Kong survived a fall from the entry point in Antarctica to Hollow Earth.

He watched as Kong dropped down and hit a mountainside, clawed at it, alternately falling and sliding until he crashed into a lush, misty rainforest like none Nathan had ever seen.

*Godzilla Vs. Kong The Official Movie Novelization - Chapter 14 Page 216*

Another evidence of this was when Kong delivered several blows that was sufficient enough to knock Godzilla back.

Before the saurian Titan could recover, the ape leapt, bounced off another building, and landed a haymaker on the side of Godzilla's head. Kong tried to renew his headlock, but Godzilla shook him off. Kong answered by clutching both of his fists together and hammering Godzilla down to the pavement—and when the giant lizard stood back up, he used nearby buildings to swing forward, slamming into his opponent with both feet and the full weight of his body.

*Godzilla Vs. Kong The Official Movie Novelization - Chapter 19 Page 277-278*

#### **g. Resilient**

According to Cambridge Dictionary, resilient is a quality of being able to quickly return or recover to its usual state after being beaten or weakened. Kong demonstrated a very high resilience in every worse occasion that he faced in the novel. This was proven when Kong suffered a dislocated shoulder



after he lost his battle against Godzilla, though fortunately Kong was able to recover quickly to join the fight against Mechagodzilla.

Kong looked over to where the abomination-monster was beating down Godzilla. Then he pushed himself to his feet. He gripped his hurt arm, and then cracked his shoulder against a building. Jia felt the grinding crunch of his bone moving into place.

Then, battered, wounded, Kong went back to the fight.

*Godzilla Vs. Kong The Official Movie Novelization - Chapter 21 Page 298*

## **2. Conflict**

### **a. Kong against Godzilla**

The conflict between Titanus Kong and Titanus Gojira species had already existed since ancient times and was currently passed down to both Kong and Godzilla as the continuation of that conflict. This was proven by Dr. Ilene Andrews' statement about the ancient rivalry between Titanus Kong and Titanus Gojira from the standpoint of Iwi tribe mythology. Another evidence of this conflict was the discovery of a battle axe belonging to ancient Kong species that was found in the Hollow Earth, specifically designed to counter Godzilla's atomic abilities. Godzilla viewed Kong as another contender for the Alpha position within the Titan hierarchy, although Kong mostly viewed Godzilla as a threat to his survival and newfound home within the Hollow Earth.

"Yes," she told him. "They have a way of sensing threats. And we believe that they had an ancient rivalry. The myths say they fought each other in a great war."

*Godzilla Vs. Kong The Official Movie Novelization - Chapter 10 Page 148*

### **b. Kong against Warbats**

When Kong entered the Hollow Earth for the first time, he encountered and fought two Warbats, a giant Hollow Earth monster resembling like a snake with the addition of scaly wings. Kong managed to defeat these Warbats and devoured one of them.

It struck like a snake, though, latching its toothy mouth into Kong's arm. Once it had purchase, it quickly wrapped around the Titan like a constrictor, pinning his arms to his sides, and then folded those enormous, beautiful wings around Kong, covering his face and smothering the giant.

*Godzilla Vs. Kong The Official Movie Novelization - Chapter 15 Page 219*

### **c. Kong against Mechagodzilla**

Mechagodzilla was an artificial Titan created by APEX Cybernetics to defeat Godzilla and to end the reign of Titans. The conflict between Kong and Mechagodzilla began after the pilot, Ren Serizawa, lost his consciousness due to the Hollow Earth's energy that merged with Ghidorah's skull within the control panel, causing Mechagodzilla to have its own consciousness from Ghidorah which turned it into a mechanical Titan that destroyed everything at sight. Jia managed to convince Kong that Godzilla wasn't his true enemy, his real enemy was Mechagodzilla instead. By logic, if Mechagodzilla managed to kill Godzilla, then Kong would also get killed by Mechagodzilla since the

overall purpose of Mechagodzilla's creation was to eliminate every Titan, both benevolent and destructive Titans.

*Godzilla. Not. Enemy.*

He snorted at her, roaring his disapproval at the very thought. He didn't believe. How could he? Their kinds had been at war for so long. Godzilla-like Jia, like Kong—he was an orphan now. The last. But this other thing—it had no people, and never had. And it was not right, not a thing that should be in the world. She could feel it all the way to her marrow.

***Godzilla Vs. Kong The Official Movie Novelization - Chapter 21 Page 298***

### **3. Setting**

#### **a. Setting of Place**

##### **1) Skull Island**

This island was originally Kong's, alongside other megafaunas of the island, natural habitat. Though unfortunately due to the influence of Titanus Ghidorah, Skull Island was destroyed by the perpetual storm, which left Skull Island to be inhospitable.

##### **Skull Island Eleven Months Ago**

White light scorched across the dark heavens, leaving a jagged streak of red behind Jia's eyelids as she blinked them shut against the pouring rain. An instant later, she felt the shiver the light made in the earth and air. The water sucked at her ankles, climbing higher toward her calves. She clung to Sister-Mother's hand, felt the calluses there, the strength that kept her going, the grip that forced down her terror. Everything was wrong, and she knew it. She did not know the wind speech of her people, and they rarely used it anyway. But she knew it by their expressions, by the way they held their hands, the set of their shoulders, tilt of their hips when they paused, struggling through the jungle.

***Godzilla Vs. Kong The Official Movie Novelization - Chapter 3 Page 32-33***

##### **2) Monarch Outpost #236**

Situated in Skull Island, this outpost was used primarily to shelter Kong from the island's storm and Godzilla, keeping him safe from other external threats. Though this containment facility could not contain Kong for a long period of time as he slowly figured out that his current environment was a fake one.

"Dr. Andrews," a voice came back. She thought it was Forteson, one of the techs. "There's been a problem. Kong breached the biodome."

She was fully awake now.

"Breached? What do you mean 'breached'?" She went to her bedroom window and threw open the shade, but the jungle outside closed off her view of most of the valley.

"He, uh, made a spear out of a tree and threw it at the ceiling. He put a hole in it."

"In the ceiling," she said. "Is he still in there?"

"Yes," Forteson said. "But I think he's figuring it out."

*Godzilla Vs. Kong The Official Movie Novelization - Chapter 3 Page 43*

### 3) The South Pacific

This setting of place described the event where Kong wakes up after being sedated in the carrier ship and the reveal of Kong's ability to convey sign language, signaling that he wanted to go home.

She and Jia stood on the ship's bridge, looking through glass at the heart-wrenching sight of Kong stretched out, manacled at his ankles, wrists, and neck by chains whose links were larger than most trucks. He was conscious, barely, his glassy eyes shifting now and then in their sockets. Beyond the transport, an armada of ships, both military and civilian, cruised the South Pacific, the largest navel expedition since the fight with Ghidorah and the Titans under its control.

*Godzilla Vs. Kong The Official Movie Novelization - Chapter 10 Page 143*

Rain cascaded down Kong, flowing around his thick brow ridges. Rivulets coursed through his fur. Southern Pacific or not, the rain was cold. Her breath caught in her chest as Kong lifted his hand, brought it up to his face. His hand formed a shape.

*Godzilla Vs. Kong The Official Movie Novelization - Chapter 10 Page 150*

### 4) Tasman Sea

The Tasman Sea was where Kong's first time encounter and battle with Godzilla, though with the aquatic environment puts the favor and edge to Godzilla in this confrontation against Kong and the military fleet.

#### Tasman Sea

Ilene watched Jia sign to Kong.

*Thank you, friend*, was how she would translate in English. But the Iwi concept of "friend" was deeper in every way than its English counterpart. Kong seemed to acknowledge that before he passed out.

She regarded the devastation around them. Godzilla had wrecked their seemingly indomitable fleet in minutes.

*Godzilla Vs. Kong The Official Movie Novelization - Chapter 13 Page 188*

### 5) Antarctica

The destination of Kong's departure from Skull Island in order to bring him to Hollow Earth's entering point, to find an energy source strong enough to defeat Godzilla. This setting contained a Hollow Earth entry point built by Monarch, though the transportation used to traverse Hollow Earth was called HEAV (Hollow Earth Anti-Gravity Vehicle), an aircraft developed by Apex.

He watched the frozen terrain of Antarctica go by beneath him.

*Godzilla Vs. Kong The Official Movie Novelization - Chapter 14 Page 203*

## 6) Hollow Earth

The Hollow Earth was the revealed underground realm or world, akin to Earth, that sustained many bizarre megafaunas and a powerful energy source. Hollow Earth was composed of two different downs, which can be traversed through gravity inversion points. This setting was also described as the birthplace of all Titans.

Below them, above them—for the moment up and down had no meaning. It was the world Nathan knew, turned inside out.

There was no sky; or rather, there was, but it was sandwiched between two different downs. “Below” them, from the direction they had come, he could see vast forests, mountains, rivers, stretching out in every direction. But ahead of them, through a veil of clouds, was another landscape, equally beautiful and rugged, with tree-covered mountains hanging like stalagmites. And those clouds between them centered on a storm, incandescing with interior lightning, illuminating the whole weird scene almost like daylight.

*Godzilla Vs. Kong The Official Movie Novelization – Chapter 14 Page 214*

## 7) Kong Temple

Located within the Hollow Earth, this temple was the remains of the advanced civilization of ancient Kong species, albeit it was later destroyed due to Godzilla’s heat ray that drilled into Hollow Earth from Hong Kong. Kong Temple was also regarded as the conclusive evidence of the existence of Titanus Kong’s species in Hollow Earth.

Ilene and Jia wandered around Kong’s temple, and found more ancient art lurking in the shadows; like the building itself, Ilene suspected much of the painting and sculpture had been done by the Kongs themselves. Dozens more handprints graced the walls, all huge, but still of different sizes, reflecting different members of the race—different sexes and ages. They also found hundreds of smaller, human-sized prints, virtually invisible until you went looking for them, lost in the cavernous space. Most of the small prints were low, near the floor, but once they started looking for them, they saw some were much higher, and far from any ledge in the stone that might have given a human purchase.

*Godzilla Vs. Kong The Official Movie Novelization – Chapter 18 Page 258-259*

## 8) Hong Kong

This particular city was the setting of place where the final round of Kong’s duel against Godzilla and the final battle between Kong and Godzilla against Mechagodzilla, which was possessed by Ghidorah’s consciousness.

As Nathan fought for control and the craft gyred and ascended, Ilene couldn’t tear her gaze from Kong, Godzilla, and the destruction of Hong Kong. Kong was running, leaping, climbing, swinging from skyscrapers, avoiding Godzilla’s energy bolt with agility that was hard to credit to a creature so large, without seeing it firsthand.

*Godzilla Vs. Kong The Official Movie Novelization – Chapter 20 Page 281*

## 9) Kong Monitoring Station

Situated within the Hollow Earth, this setting was used by Monarch to keep monitoring Kong's whereabouts in Hollow Earth after the big battle at Hong Kong.

**Kong Monitoring Station, Hollow Earth,**

**Two Months Later**

Ilene Andrews had spent the morning studying a form of proto-writing inscribed on ruins that preliminary dating suggested were older than the Sumer civilization by ten thousand years. If she was right, that made it the oldest form of graphic communication ever to be discovered. And they had only been back in Hollow Earth for a couple of weeks. Who knew what she might discover in a month, two months, a year? At this point, it wasn't even clear to her who or what had made the inscriptions. Ancient humans, possibly, or some race of beings entirely unknown to science. This was the place where the myths came from, after all—the prototypes of the gods, the demons, the monsters, the heroes. The tales of hell and paradise and everything in between.

*Godzilla Vs. Kong The Official Movie Novelization – Epilogue Page 309-310*

### b. Setting of Time

#### 1) Eleven Months Ago

This setting of time took place when Kong rescued Jia from the storm in Skull Island.

**Skull Island Eleven Months Ago**

White light scorched across the dark heavens, leaving a jagged streak of red behind Jia's eyelids as she blinked them shut against the pouring rain. An instant later, she felt the shiver the light made in the earth and air. The water sucked at her ankles, climbing higher toward her calves. She clung to Sister-Mother's hand, felt the calluses there, the strength that kept her going, the grip that forced down her terror. Everything was wrong, and she knew it. She did not know the wind speech of her people, and they rarely used it anyway. But she knew it by their expressions, by the way they held their hands, the set of their shoulders, tilt of their hips when they paused, struggling through the jungle.

*Godzilla Vs. Kong The Official Movie Novelization – Chapter 3 Page 32-33*

#### 2) Present

This setting described the current events within the novel's narrative starting from Kong's awakening in his containment outpost up to the great battle of Hong Kong that involved Kong, Godzilla, and Mechagodzilla, which ended in a ceasefire between Kong and Godzilla while also concluding the Titan War between Titanus Kong and Titanus Gojira species.

**Skull Island, Present Day**

Kong woke to the sound of leafwings overhead, his arms aching as if he had been climbing. He could not remember what he was pursuing, but it had drawn so far ahead of him he could neither see it nor remember anything but depths and darkness—and a light, of some sort. A light that stung his eyes and flesh and had color like the brightest of skies. And there was an outline, a shape in the clouds. He

should know what it was, but he could not quite remember. But he somehow felt it was out there, circling his territory, looking for a way in.

And he felt *wrong*. Slow. Everything slow, and not bright enough. Nothing exactly the right color, and the smells all wrong.

***Godzilla Vs. Kong The Official Movie Novelization - Chapter 3 Page 39***

That woke Kong, though. He pushed himself up, doggedly determined to finish the fight if he had to. He lifted the glowing axe and bellowed at Godzilla. For a moment they stood like that, two Titans from a lost age, the only survivors of an ancient war, face to face.

Then Kong looked down at the axe. He let it slip from his hand. He straightened a little and regarded Godzilla.

Godzilla held that gaze for a moment. Nathan felt as if he was watching something important, something passing between the two Titans. Then, with a slight growl, Godzilla turned and began walking seaward, unleashing a roar of triumph. Kong joined in, pounding his chest, and together they created a strange—well, if not harmony, at least a welcome cacophony.

***Godzilla Vs. Kong The Official Movie Novelization - Chapter 21 Page 306-307***

**3) Two Months Later**

This temporal setting took place after the conclusion of the great battle in Hong Kong.

**Kong Monitoring Station, Hollow Earth,**

**Two Months Later**

Ilene Andrews had spent the morning studying a form of proto-writing inscribed on ruins that preliminary dating suggested were older than the Sumer civilization by ten thousand years. If she was right, that made it the oldest form of graphic communication ever to be discovered. And they had only been back in Hollow Earth for a couple of weeks. Who knew what she might discover in a month, two months, a year? At this point, it wasn't even clear to her who or what had made the inscriptions. Ancient humans, possibly, or some race of beings entirely unknown to science. This was the place where the myths came from, after all—the prototypes of the gods, the demons, the monsters, the heroes. The tales of hell and paradise and everything in between.

***Godzilla Vs. Kong The Official Movie Novelization - Epilogue Page 309-310***

**c. Setting of Social**

**1) High Class**

This setting of social can be found in Maia Simmons' belongings, one of Kong's escorts to Antarctica and Hollow Earth, which featured expensive accessories of high value.

The woman from the helicopter carried a titanium briefcase and a lot of attitude. She had straight, glossy black hair; he guessed her to be in her late twenties. If she was impressed by the sight of a zillion tons of ape strapped to a freighter—or anything else for that matter—it did not show.

*Godzilla Vs. Kong The Official Movie Novelization - Chapter 10 Page 144*

Another evidence of this setting was Apex's creation such as HEAV (Hollow Earth Anti-Gravity Vehicle), a transportation engineered by Apex's scientists to withstand Hollow Earth's gravity inversion, which was loaned by Monarch at a price equal to Las Vegas' electricity for a week or, in other words, very expensive.

She plowed on as if he hadn't spoken. "Forget about the price tag, which is obscene, of course. The anti-gravity engines alone produce enough charge to light up Las Vegas for a week." She glanced over at him. "Feel free to be impressed."

*Godzilla Vs. Kong The Official Movie Novelization - Chapter 10 Page 145*

## Psychological Elements

In this section, the writers presented the hierarchy of needs according to the structural elements and Kong's character within the novel to provide the core of this research paper.

### 1. Physiological Needs

Physiological needs mostly involved with biological maintenance such as food, drink, rest, and oxygen. Throughout the course of the novel, most of Kong's physiological needs was likely provided by humans, specifically by Monarch when Kong was still in Monarch Outpost #236. Though it was later stated that the outpost could not sustain Kong for much longer and they had no other choice. Later, they decided to transport Kong to Antarctica while also utilizing him to find the Hollow Earth power source to beat Godzilla.

"He's gotten too big, over time," Ben said. "This environment won't sustain him much longer. It's too unstable."

*Godzilla Vs. Kong The Official Movie Novelization - Chapter 3 Page 48*

When Kong was in the carrier ship on the way to Antarctica, he was being fed with tons of fish to satisfy his hunger.

Ilene watched as Kong tucked into the several metric tons of fish one of the trawlers accompanying them deposited on the deck. They had packed away a ship's worth or two of concentrated protein rations in case they had a few bad catches, but so far, the sea had provided well, and Kong seemed to enjoy the catch well enough.

*Godzilla Vs. Kong The Official Movie Novelization - Chapter 11 Page 164*

Lastly, when Kong reached the Hollow Earth for the first time, he fought against two Warbats and proceeded to devour one of them. Thus he achieved the first need, physiological needs.

Kong ripped off the monster's head and began sucking the green gunk out of it.

*Godzilla Vs. Kong The Official Movie Novelization - Chapter 15 Page 220*

### 2. Safety and Security Needs

Safety and security needs usually consisted a feeling of stability and freedom from other threats, otherwise called a place to call home. After he defeated two Warbats and ate one of them, he began

to traverse the terrain within the Hollow Earth, which he adapted quickly to its bizarre environment. His movement also indicated that he was really compatible with Hollow Earth, indicating that Hollow Earth was his new home.

*"He seems to know where he's going," Nathan said.*

*"He certainly can move," Ilene said, feeling a swell of pride.*

***Godzilla Vs. Kong The Official Movie Novelization - Chapter 15 Page 221***

Not long after, Kong entered what looked to be the remains of a temple belonging to ancient Kong species in Hollow Earth. In there, he discovered a battle axe, belonging to his ancestor. Though this discovery was ended abruptly by Godzilla's heat ray bursting through the temple from Hong Kong, signifying that Kong's threat to safety and security needs still existed in Godzilla. Kong, equipped with his battle axe, had to fight Godzilla in Hong Kong, though unfortunately he lost against Godzilla and almost died. Nonetheless, Kong managed to gain Godzilla's respect, so Godzilla would never bother Kong again. Thus removing Godzilla as his threat.

The saurian leaned down, so his snout was in Kong's face, and roared. For a moment, Kong just stared back, as if finally acknowledging the fight was over. But then he lifted his head and howled back at the Titan, an act of purest defiance.

***Godzilla Vs. Kong The Official Movie Novelization - Chapter 20 Page 287***

In addition to that, Mechagodzilla also posed a threat to this specific need as the purpose of Mechagodzilla's creation was to annihilate every Titan on Earth, which would endanger Kong's survival. Since Mechagodzilla was still present, Kong would need to dispose Mechagodzilla to ensure his newfound home and safety. This was all thanks to Jia's persuasion.

*Godzilla. Not. Enemy.*

He snorted at her, roaring his disapproval at the very thought. He didn't believe. How could he? Their kinds had been at war for so long. Godzilla-like Jia, like Kong—he was an orphan now. The last. But this other thing—it had no people, and never had. And it was not right, not a thing that should be in the world. She could feel it all the way to her marrow.

*It's true, she signed, emphatically. She pointed at the mechanical monster. That is enemy. It's true.*

Mother was here, pulling her back again. Kong still looked dubious, but Jia thought maybe he believed her.

*Please, she told him. Be careful.*

Kong looked over to where the abomination-monster was beating down Godzilla. Then he pushed himself to his feet. He gripped his hurt arm, and then cracked his shoulder against a building. Jia felt the grinding crunch of his bone moving into place.

Then, battered, wounded, Kong went back to the fight.

***Godzilla Vs. Kong The Official Movie Novelization - Chapter 21 Page 298***



After the great battle in Hong Kong and the truce between Kong and Godzilla, it was very evident that Kong was feeling safe and happy as he had already found a new place to call home in Hollow Earth and there were no more dangers or threats to his survival. Thus, he achieved the second need by the end of the novel, safety and security needs.

A moment later, Kong landed ahead of them with a tooth-rattling *thud*. He turned back, and for a moment he and Jia stared at one another. Then Kong raised his hand.

*Home*, he signed. Then, with a happy roar, he swung off ahead of them.

*He is home*, Ilene thought. Then she glanced over at Jia. *And so are we*.

In the distance she heard Kong beating his chest, and his triumphant cry echoing through the valley.

***Godzilla Vs. Kong The Official Movie Novelization – Epilogue Page 310-311***

## CONCLUSION

Based from the discussion, the writers concluded that the main character of the novel was Kong. He possessed the quality of brave, defiant, intelligent, lonely, mighty, and resilient traits as a character. Kong also experienced external conflicts, which were Kong against Godzilla, Kong against Warbats, and Kong against Mechagodzilla. Kong's heroic journey finding home included several places such as Skull Island, Monarch Outpost #236, The South Pacific, Tasman Sea, Antarctica, Hollow Earth, Kong Temple, Hong Kong, and Kong Monitoring Station. The story also took place during eleven months ago, present, and two months later. The narrative also showcased a high class social setting. Through Abraham Harold Maslow's theory about hierarchy of needs, the researchers were able to find that Kong managed to fulfill the first two needs, which were Physiological Needs alongside Safety & Security Needs by the end of the novel.

In conclusion, the novelization highlighted Kong's characteristics which closely resembled to a human while still maintaining his animalistic features. The novel also showcased his struggles to fulfill his needs against every external factors that acted as an obstacle and threats to his life and newfound home.

## REFERENCES

- Ahyar, J. (2019). *Apa Itu Sastra: Jenis-jenis Karya Sastra dan Bagaimanakah Cara Menulis dan Mengapresiasi Sastra*. Yogyakarta: Deepublish.
- Arikunto, S. (2019). *Prosedur Penelitian*. Jakarta: Rineka Cipta.
- Bahuwa, R. (2018). An Analysis of Maslow's Hierarchy of Need in The Great Gatsby Novel by Franciss Scott Fitzgerald's. *Jurnal Bahasa dan Sastra Inggris*, 9-10.
- Baldick, C. (2001). *The Concise Oxford Dictionary of Literary Terms*. New York: Oxford University Press.

- BRAVE* / *English meaning*. (n.d.). Retrieved December 31, 2023, from Cambridge Dictionary: <https://dictionary.cambridge.org/dictionary/english/brave>
- DEFIANT* / *English meaning*. (n.d.). Retrieved December 31, 2023, from Cambridge Dictionary: <https://dictionary.cambridge.org/dictionary/english/defiant>
- Endraswara, S. (2013). *Metodologi Penelitian Sastra: Epistemologi, Model, Teori, Dan Aplikasi*. Yogyakarta: CAPS.
- GENTLE* / *English meaning*. (n.d.). Retrieved January 6, 2024, from Cambridge Dictionary: <https://dictionary.cambridge.org/dictionary/english/gentle>
- Handayani, R. (2020). *Metodologi Penelitian Sosial*. Yogyakarta: Trussmedia Grafika.
- Hikmawati, F. (2020). *Metodologi Penelitian*. Depok: PT RajaGrafindo Persada.
- Hjelle, L. A., & Ziegler, D. J. (1992). *Personality Theories: Basic Assumptions, Research, and Applications (Third Edition)*. New York: McGraw-Hill.
- Holman, C. H. (1977). *A Handbook to Literature (Third Edition)*. New York: Odessa Press.
- INTELLIGENT* / *English meaning*. (n.d.). Retrieved January 6, 2024, from Cambridge Dictionary: <https://dictionary.cambridge.org/dictionary/english/intelligent>
- Kennedy, X. J., & Gioia, D. (2016). *Literature: An Introduction to Fiction, Poetry, Drama, and Writing (13th Edition)*. North Carolina: Pearson.
- Keyes, G. (2021). *Godzilla Vs. Kong The Official Movie Novelization*. London: Titan Books.
- Klarer, M. (2004). *An Introduction to Literary Studies: Second Edition*. London: Routledge.
- LONELY* / *English meaning*. (n.d.). Retrieved January 6, 2024, from Cambridge Dictionary: <https://dictionary.cambridge.org/dictionary/english/lonely>
- Maslow, A. H. (1968). *Toward a Psychology of Being*. New York: D. Van Nostrand Company.
- MIGHTY* / *English meaning*. (n.d.). Retrieved December 31, 2023, from Cambridge Dictionary: <https://dictionary.cambridge.org/dictionary/english/mighty>
- Moleong, L. J. (2013). *Metode Penelitian Kualitatif: Edisi Revisi*. Bandung: PT. Remaja Rosdakarya.
- Nassaji, H. (2015). Qualitative and Descriptive Research: Data Type versus Data Analysis. *Language Teaching Research Vol. 19(2)*, 129-132.
- Nurdiyantoro, B. (2013). *Teori Pengkajian Fiksi*. Yogyakarta: Gajah Mada University Press.
- Official Website of Best Selling Author J. Gregory Keyes*. (n.d.). Retrieved December 12, 2023, from Greg Keyes: <https://www.jgregorykeyes.com/>
- Pratami, A. V., Djohan, R. S., & Purwaningsih, E. (2016). The Conflicts of The Main Character in The Novel Entitled "Still Alice" by Lisa Genova. *Jurnal Ilmiah Sastra Volume 4*, 3.

*RESILIENT* / *English meaning*. (n.d.). Retrieved December 31, 2023, from Cambridge Dictionary: <https://dictionary.cambridge.org/dictionary/english/resilient>

Shaffer, C. M. (2008). *Barron's SAT Subject Test Literature*. New York: Barron's Educational Series.

Stanton, R. (2007). *Teori Fiksi*. Yogyakarta: Pustaka Belajar.

Untari, L. D., & Wuryandari, N. W. (2021). Kearifan Lokal dan Potensi Romantisasi dalam Film *Godzilla vs Kong*. 14-15.

Yunadi, A., Kuncara, S. D., & Valiantien, N. M. (2020). Sophie's Needs in *Rooftoppers* Novel by Using Maslow's Theory of Hierarchy of Human Needs. *Jurnal Bahasa, Sastra, Seni, dan Budaya*, 14.