

Self-Actualization of the Character Aini in the Novel *Guru Aini* by Andrea Hirata

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Abstract: This research was conducted as an embodiment to apply Abraham Maslow's theory of humanistic psychology in analyzing the self-actualization of the main character in the novel *Guru Aini* by Andrea Hirata. This study was used to determine the character, self-actualization of the character Aini, and the role of the teacher in achieving self-actualization of the character Aini in the novel *Guru Aini* by Andrea Hirata. This study used a qualitative research approach with a descriptive type of research. The data collection technique used is a documentation technique using a novel entitled *Guru Aini* by Andrea Hirata for data collection. Data analysis was carried out by describing the process of organizing the selected data with the environment around the characters and the characters in the novel *Guru Aini* by Andrea Hirata, then the data were analyzed based on Abraham Maslow's theory of humanistic psychology so that it can be concluded characters that were equipped with supporting data. From the method applied in data acquisition, it was found that the needs of Aini character could be fulfilled at every level of the hierarchy of needs in Abraham Maslow's theory of humanistic psychology, which are physiological needs, security, love, and belonging, self-esteem, and self-actualization. From the results presented, it can be concluded that the character Aini in the novel *Guru Aini* by Andrea Hirata has succeeded in realizing his self-actualization.

Keywords: character; self-actualization; teacher's role

RESEARCH BACKGROUND

According to Minderop (2010:15), literary work is a product that comes from the thoughts and psychology of the author who is in a semi-conscious state (subconscious) then when it gets the desired clear form, it is poured into the creation of a conscious literary work (conscious). Literary works can be analyzed using various theories, one of which is a theory about the personality of a character in literary works. Personality is a behavior expressed by humans which is a characteristic of the human being. As stated by Alwisol (2014:7) in his book about his idea of personality which is likened to a mask worn by drama or theater artists where the artists demonstrate or express themselves according to the masks they wear in performances. It describes the mask as a certain personality trait. Therefore, the initial concept of personality is an impression that certain individuals want to show in the social environment so that they can be caught or seen by the social environment.

One of the theories to analyze the personality of characters in literary works is the psychological theory of humanism. The psychology of humanism according to Alwisol (2014:3) emphasizes

the existence of an ability that exists in humans in expressing themselves (self-realization). In analyzing the personality of the character using the theory of humanistic psychology, the object of research is a novel entitled *Guru Aini* by Andrea Hirata. This research was conducted as a form of applying Abraham Maslow's theory of humanistic psychology to analyze the self-actualization of the character Aini in Andrea Hirata's novel *Guru Aini*. The theory and object of study were chosen because there is a relationship between Abraham Maslow's theory of humanistic psychology regarding the hierarchy of needs and the life of the character Aini in the novel *Guru Aini*, which is related to the character Aini who strives to achieve her desires which are in line with the achievement of self-actualization in Abraham Maslow's humanistic psychology theory. In addition, because the novel *Guru Aini* is still relatively new, there are still not many who have conducted research on the novel, and there has been no research analyzing the self-actualization of the character Aini in the novel *Guru Aini* by Andrea Hirata. Therefore, in this study, it was used the hierarchy of needs to analyze the character Aini in Andrea Hirata's novel *Guru Aini* by using the humanistic psychology theory of Abraham Maslow.

REVIEW OF RELATED LITERATURE

Previous research

This study uses the title "Self-Actualization of Aini's Character in the Novel *Guru Aini* by Andrea Hirata". There are previous studies that are relevant to this research, but the research on the Self-Actualization of Aini's Character in the Novel *Guru Aini* by Andrea Hirata has never been done. The first previous research entitled "Social Problems and Character Education in the Novel *Guru Aini* by Andrea Hirata and Its Relevance as Teaching Materials in Schools" by Karisma Krishnia DhiEGA in 2021, Study Program of Indonesian Language and Literature Education, Faculty of Teacher Training and Education, Sebelas Maret University, Surakarta. This thesis discusses the analysis of social problems and character education in the novel, *Guru Aini*, by Andrea Hirata and explains its relevance as teaching material in high school. There is also relevant research entitled "Analysis of References in the Novel *Guru Aini* by Andrea Hirata (Discourse Analysis Study)" by Sri Wulandari in 2021, Indonesian Language Education Study Program, Faculty of Teacher Training and Education, University of Muhammadiyah Mataram. The discussion of this thesis is about reference analysis in the novel *Guru Aini* by Andrea Hirata.

Synopsis of Novel *Guru Aini*

The novel *Guru Aini* by Andrea Hirata tells the story of the life of a woman named Desi Istiqomah who has a high mathematical genius and can be anything she wants in her life, but she chooses to devote herself to being a mathematics teacher in remote parts of the country. For years Desi waited for a genius student but she never found it. Until finally there was a student named Aini who had a low grasping power which tended to be below average, especially in mathematics. Behind her lack of intelligence, Aini has a very strong desire to become a doctor, because she wants to cure her ailing father who people say can only be cured by an expert doctor. Her desire made her want to study mathematics with teacher Desi. Aini eagerly studied mathematics, but she still could not understand it. All the methods used by Desi to teach mathematics to Aini never worked, until the calculus method was used which in the end opened Aini's mind to understand mathematics. Using the calculus method, she showed significant progress in learning mathematics. With her hard work, at her university, she was

accepted into the faculty of medicine.

Definition of Literary Psychology

According to Damono (1977:1), literature is a social institution that uses a medium in the form of language. Language is the product of a social situation. Literary works are created by writers with the intention that they can be enjoyed, understood, and utilized by the community. Then according to View (1984:22-23) literature is something written or a form of language in the form of writing. According to Wellek and Warren (2014:3), literary psychology can be interpreted as an understanding of the writer's soul as a type of person and is a creative activity in the form of a work of art. Meanwhile, Minderop (2010:15), which is closely related to literary psychology, also says that literary work is a product that comes from the thoughts and psychology of the author who is in a semi-conscious state (subconscious) then when she gets the desired clear form, then poured into the creation of literary works consciously (conscious). It can be concluded that literary psychology is the psychological relationship of the author in a semi-conscious to conscious state in the creation of a story that has characters in it, from time to time and aimed to be enjoyed, understood, and utilized by the community.

Abraham Maslow's Theory of Humanistic Psychology

The theory of humanistic psychology or humanism explains the existence of capacity in humans in the form of human values and dignity in an effort to self-statement or self-realization (Alwisol, 2014:199). Abraham Maslow made a theory of motivation based on the existence of a level or hierarchy of needs in which a certain level of needs can be met if the previous level of needs has been also met. The hierarchy of Abraham Maslow's theory of humanistic psychology in Alwisol (2014:204-206) is composed of five hierarchies of needs, (1) Physiological needs can be called the most basic needs because these needs are absolute whereas all other needs are left to meet physiological needs. Examples of physiological needs are food, drink, nutrition, rest, and sex. (2) Safety needs have existed since humans were babies, by crying and screaming when they feel uncomfortable or insecure. In general, children will feel safe when they are close to their families. (3) Love and belonging needs are part of a social group that can arise when the physiological needs and safety needs have been met. According to Maslow, failure to fulfill the need for love is almost entirely the reason for the existence of psychopathology. (4) When the need for love and belonging is met, it weakens and motivation is replaced by self-esteem needs. There are two ways to fulfill the need for self-esteem, namely respecting yourself and getting respect from others. (5) Self-actualization needs are the peak needs and will arise when the four basic needs have been met. Self-actualization is an effort to mobilize all abilities and potential to get something desired.

The Concept of the Teacher and Her Position in Society

The position as a teacher according to Saat (2014) is a profession that demands professionalism which is not only related to the existence of tasks in learning in the classroom but also related to the tasks that exist in the community outside the classroom. Teachers as educators need professionalism as coaches, mentors, teachers, directors, and evaluators. In the community, the teacher becomes a role model and role model for the community. Teachers in the community are required to be someone who should be imitated and imitated in social and social life. Therefore, the position of the teacher in the school environment and his position in the community becomes very decisive, because this is a picture of the position she is holding. The law related to the content of the novel that regulates education is in the Republic of Indonesia Law number 20 of 2003 article 5 which states that (1) All citizens have the right to quality

education. (2) Citizens with disabilities (physical or mental or social disorders) have the right to receive special education. (3) Citizens of remote or underdeveloped areas as well as remote indigenous peoples are entitled to special education services. (4) Citizens who have the potential for intelligence and special talents (excesses) are entitled to special education. And (5) All citizens have the right to have the opportunity to improve lifelong education.

RESEARCH METHOD

This study used a qualitative research approach with a descriptive type of research which according to Sugiyono (2016:9) qualitative descriptive research is a method used to examine the condition of objects that are natural and the researcher is the key instrument. In this study, a total sample or population research was used, according to Sugiyono (2017:57) population research is in the form of a generalization area in the form of subjects or objects that have certain characteristics as determined by the researcher, which conclusions are then drawn. The data collection technique used was documentation. The data analysis method was used to describe the process of organizing the data that was selected with the environment around the characters and the characters in the novel *Guru Aini* by Andrea Hirata, then the existing data were analyzed based on Abraham Maslow's humanistic psychology theory, so it can be concluded that the character equipped with supporting data.

RESULT AND DISCUSSION

Aini's Character in the Novel *Guru Aini* by Andrea Hirata

Based on a search of the novel *Guru Aini* by Andrea Hirata, several data have been obtained that describe the character of Aini. As explained by Majid and Dian (2013:12) that character is a basic character or trait that exists and is inherent in a person. Based on the novel there were several characters possessed by Aini's character. The form of analysis regarding the character of Aini in the novel *Guru Aini* by Andrea Hirata can be seen in the following data.

Happy, go, lucky begitu kata orang zaman sekarang menyebut Aini, Enun, dan Sa'diah itu. Mereka tak peduli pada apa pun. Mereka bersuka cita, iseng, lucu, banyak tingkah, tak disiplin, tak bertanggung jawab, konyol, norak, gila, gaduh, drama, tipikal murid SMA. (Hirata, 2020:73)

The data contains a description indicating that Aini and her two friends are funny, playful, quirky, silly students. Form the vocal group *Trio Aljabra*, such typical high school students. From this data, the behavior of Aini's character towards her two friends indicates that Aini's character has a cheerful character. The cheerful character of Aini's figure was also reflected in the data which description indicated that Aini and her two friends who drank sugar cane as a celebration of Aini were accepted as Desi's students. Based on the behavior of the character, they celebrate success together.

Pulang dari sekolah, Aini langsung ke perpustakaan daerah. Dipinjamnya sebanyak mungkin buku matematika SMP dan SMA. Dipakainya kartu perpustakaan Enun dan Sa'diah supaya dapat meminjam buku lebih banyak. (Hirata, 2020:140)

The data above is in the form of a description indicating that Aini borrowed junior and senior high school math books at the regional library using Enun and Sa'diah cards to borrow as many as possible. It is also shown in the following data, Aini made such an effort to study mathematics. Furthermore, it was illustrated that her character in the novel *Guru Aini* has a character who has a high spirit. This illustrated that she also has a diligent and hardworking

character. Based on the search for the character possessed by the character Aini in the novel *Guru Aini* by Andrea Hirata, it could be seen that the character Aini has a cheerful trait, has a high spirit, and was diligent and hardworking.

Self-Actualization of Aini's Character in the Novel *Guru Aini* by Andrea Hirata

To analyze the self-actualization of the character Aini in the novel *Guru Aini* by Andrea Hirata, Abraham Maslow's theory of humanistic psychology was used in the form of the five hierarchy of needs. Abraham Maslow's theory of humanistic psychology is a motivational theory that is structured based on the existence of a level or hierarchy of needs where a certain level of needs can be fulfilled if the previous level of needs has also been met. Hierarchy Abraham Maslow's theory of humanistic psychology in Alwisol (199:205) is composed of five need hierarchies, all of which are interrelated with one another. Therefore, the five hierarchies of needs in Abraham Maslow's theory of humanistic psychology are also used as a basis for analyzing the self-actualization of the character Aini in Andrea Hirata's novel *Guru Aini* as follows.

1. Aini's Physiological Needs

Every human being could never be separated from physiological needs in his daily life because physiological needs were the most basic needs that must be met by every human being to survive. As explained by Alwisol (2014:199) that physiological needs are absolute whereas all other needs are abandoned to meet physiological needs such as the need for food, drink, nutrition, rest, and shelter. Data analysis regarding the physiological needs of the character Aini in the novel *Guru Aini* by Andrea Hirata can be seen in the following data.

Tujuannya, mau minum-minum merayakan berkah yang sangat besar itu. Di pasar, ketiga gadis kecil tertawa-tawa gembira sambil minum es tebu. (Hirata, 2020:70)

The data above describes Aini and her two friends drinking *es tebu* as a celebration because her math teacher is not Desi, also, it can be seen that Aini spends more money to buy *es tebu* as a celebration with her best friend, even though buying *es tebu* to celebrate something is not a basic need, so it can be inferred that the physiological needs of Aini's economy have been fulfilled. Drinking *es tebu* as a celebration with his two friends has become a common habit and routine, so it could be seen that Aini's character did not have more problems regarding her basic economic needs.

Namun Dinah sendiri yang kemudian membelikan Aini kapur-kapur berwarna agar Aini tak menulisi dinding dengan arang. (Hirata, 2020:198)

Then the data above describe Dinah (Aini's mother) who buy colored chalk for Aini so that she would not scribble on the walls with charcoal again. This proves that Aini's mother did not have financial problems, because she could buy things for the happiness of Aini who was her daughter, even though if it was only for necessities, charcoal could also be used for writing, but Aini's mother chose to buy her colored chalk to please her. From the data above, it can be concluded that her physiological needs have been fulfilled. Then as stated in the order of the hierarchy of needs, the needs that Aini's character must achieve after the physiological needs are achieved are safety needs.

2. Aini's Safety Needs

In human life, safety needs are met by humans after their physiological needs are met. This is like Maslow's opinion in his book Goble (2011:72) which said that if a person has gotten a

large portion of food and feels full, then another need will appear which has a higher level which dominates more immediately, then this will result in a higher level of need, therefore it makes the person would not concern with his physiological needs anymore. Likewise, Aini's safety needs must be met after her physiological needs are met. The following is a data analysis regarding the safety needs of the character Aini in the novel *Guru Aini* by Andrea Hirata.

Kini yang menanggung nafkah keluarga adalah ibu Aini. Dia melanjutkan pekerjaan suaminya yaitu berdagang mainan anak-anak di kaki lima. Aini punya 2 adik yang masih kecil-kecil. Sejak sang ayah sakit, limbung keluarga yang tinggal di rumah petak kontrakan di belakang Pasar Inpres itu. (Hirata, 2020:77)

Then the data above describes that Aini lives with her father, mother, and two younger siblings in a rented house and her mother works for her family. From these data, it could be seen that the character Aini and her family had a place to live in a rented house which throughout the plot of the novel was not found that indicates the environment in which she lives was not safe, therefore this proved that the safety needs of the character Aini in the neighborhood where she lived has been fulfilled. In addition, Aini's mother who earned money for her family was proof of her responsibility and love for her family, so that the safety needs in the neighborhood where they live were fulfilled.

Bahkan, Nihe dan Junilah yang kini bekerja di warung Kupu Kuli sering menyapanya jika dia pulang sekolah dan lewat di depan warung kopi itu. (Hirata, 2020:122)

The data above describes Nihe and Junilah who work at Kupu Kuli often greeting Aini on the street when she comes home from school. From the data, it can be seen that outside of the neighborhood where she lives and goes to school, she has good social relations, including in places that she often passes by, such as the Warung Kupu Kuli, so that it can prove that the safety needs of her environment have been met. From the data above, it can be concluded that the safety needs, both in the form of security needs in the school environment, security needs in the residential environment, and the security needs of the travel environment by Aini figures have been fulfilled.

3. Aini's Needs for Love and Belonging

In the hierarchy of needs, the need for love and belonging is fulfilled by humans after the safety needs are met. Likewise, the need for love by Aini's character must be fulfilled after the safety needs are met. Based on the opinion of Minderop (2016:299) this need is characterized by a sense of love and belonging, such as a sense of affection and identification. The following is an analysis of data regarding the need for love and belonging to the character Aini in the novel *Guru Aini* by Andrea Hirata.

"Tabahkan hatimu, Aini, usah menangis, hapuslah air matamu." Enun membesarkan hati Aini demi melihat nilai yang merah merona itu. "Semua bukan salahmu, Boi," katanya sambil mengusap-usap punggung Aini. (Hirata, 2020:42)

The data above is in the form of a conversation explaining that Enun encouraged Aini because she could not solve math problems. Enun's concern for Aini when she can't solve math problems is a form of concern for her best friend. This was done so that her friend felt calmer and not sad anymore. The attention between friends illustrates the form of love and affection, as well as a sense of belonging to each other in a friendly relationship.

Malam itu Aini memperlihatkan ijazah itu pada ayahnya, ditunjukkannya nilai 10 matematika

itu. Ayahnya berusaha tersenyum dan bersusah payah mencoba mengangkat kedua jempolnya. (Hirata, 2020:269)

The data above describes Aini's father who tries hard to smile and raises his thumbs because Aini has managed to get a score of 10 in mathematics. Raising the thumbs for the father is not common to do because of his father's difficult condition to move, but it is done with great effort to appreciate and pay attention to Aini who has managed to get a 10 in math. This form of attention by Aini's father explained that Aini's father loved her daughter very much. From the data above, it can be concluded that the need for love and belonging to Aini's character has been fulfilled by the attention, love, and affection shown by the people around her, both shown by her family, friends, and her teacher, Desi who always provided support and direction in the process of achieving what she aspired to until that desire was achieved.

4. Aini's Self-Esteem Needs

Based on the hierarchy of needs, after the needs for love and belonging have been met, the next need that is met is the need for self-esteem. This also applies to the need for self-esteem by the character Aini which can be fulfilled after the needs for love and belonging are fulfilled. According to Alwisol (2014:206), self-esteem needs that are met lead to self-confidence, feeling of self-worth, and usefulness. The following is a data analysis regarding the self-esteem needs of the character Aini in the novel *Guru Aini* by Andrea Hirata.

“Walaupun suaramu paling sumbang di Trio Aljabaria, tapi kau paling cantik dibanding aku dan Sa’diah. Paling tidak ada yang bisa dilihatlah di grup kita itu. Lesung pipimu itu bikin bunyi tamborin kita makin nyaring, Boi!” (Hirata, 2020:85)

Although Aini is seen as an ignorant student in mathematics, the data above explains Enun's conversation praising Aini as the most beautiful member compared to her other friends with her dimples. The praise given by Enun to Aini illustrates that Aini has a beautiful face and charming dimples in her best friend's eyes. This shows that Aini has a form of self-esteem with the advantages she has, namely her beautiful face, even though teacher Desi said that Aini is difficult to teach math to. Which is a deficiency in fulfilling self-esteem, but she also compliments Aini on her sweet appearance, as well as compliments her honesty. Desi's words about Aini, which would be difficult to teach mathematics, are a deficiency in fulfilling her self-esteem, while teacher Desi's words about her sweet face and her honesty is an advantage in fulfilling Aini's self-esteem.

“Aini! Lekas, Boi! Lekas jawab, Aini!” sorak murid perempuan lainnya. Yang paling keras sorakannya adalah Djumiatur Ejaan Lama. Semua murid di deretan bangku belakang mendukung Aini. (Hirata, 2020:219)

The data above describes Djumiatur and the backseat students who support Aini while competing to answer math questions in front of the class. The support by Djumiatur and the backseat students addressed to Aini is a form of encouragement to her, who is competing with the class champions to work on math problems to beat her opponent, and the support from Djumiatur and the backseat students is also a form of pride for Aini because she is their friend in the backseat, because the backseat students can be said to be students who have low grades in class, but then Aini can prove that she can compete with math problems with Nadirah and Jafar's classmates who are known as smart students. So that this is an advantage in fulfilling Aini's self-esteem. From the data above, it can be concluded that Aini's need for self-esteem has been fulfilled.

5. Aini's Self-Actualization

After the four previous hierarchies of needs have been met, the needs that can be met are the needs for self-actualization where this self-actualization need is also the highest (peak) hierarchy of needs because according to Alwisol (2014:205) the new self-actualization needs can be met. if the four previous hierarchies have been met. In this study, the data analysis on self-actualization is divided into three parts, namely the motivation, perseverance, and success sections which are then applied to examine the character Aini in the novel *Guru Aini* by Andrea Hirata. The following is an analysis of the data regarding the self-actualization needs of the character Aini in the novel *Guru Aini* by Andrea Hirata.

Aini kemudian naik ke kelas 3 dengan nilai rapor gilang-gemilang. (Hirata, 2020:236)

Then, the data above describes Aini who went up to grade 3 with brilliant report card results. Aini's grade with satisfactory report cards shows that she achieves the results of the perseverance and enthusiasm that has been spurred on by her understanding of the subject she has learned. This achievement is a testament to the success of Aini's persistence in deepening her knowledge at school. The increase in her grades outside of mathematics, which has also increased rapidly, shows that she continues to study and practice other subjects because of the enthusiasm that has been triggered by her understanding of mathematics, it makes her knowledge outside of mathematics also increase, thus creating values. Aini's capability outside mathematics increased rapidly. The increase in grades is a testament to the success of Aini's persistence to further deepen her knowledge, including in subjects outside of mathematics.

"Nuraini! Fakultas kedokteran! Nuraini! Fakultas kedokteran! Fakultas kedokteran! Fakultas kedokteran!" (Hirata, 2020:279)

The data above describes Aini is mentioned in the column that graduated from the medical faculty at a state university. Aini's achievement of being able to pass the selection at the medical faculty at one of the state universities shows that she reap results from her perseverance and passion for studying science. She can pass the selection to enter the faculty of medicine at a state university, and entering the faculty of medicine is a dream that she has dreamed of for a long time. Aini's strong motivation drives her to excel in studying science, especially mathematics, and her hard work has resulted in a passing selection to enter the medical faculty that she aspires to. This is a success for Aini's struggle and hard work so far in studying mathematics to teacher Desi.

The Teacher's Role in Aini's Character's Self-Actualization Achievement

In achieving the self-actualization of the character Aini in the novel *Guru Aini* by Andrea Hirata, there is the role of a teacher who guides her in the learning process. The learning process according to Suprihatiningrum (2013:80) has a series of things that are done by teachers and students as the basis for reciprocal relationships in educational situations in achieving a certain goal. The teacher is none other than teacher Desi who taught Aini to understand mathematics from scratch because Aini did not understand mathematics at all before being taught by teacher Desi. The roles of teacher Desi in achieving the actualization of the Aini figure can be seen in the following data.

Guru menyambar buku Principles of Calculus di atas meja, membuka halaman yang berisi contoh paling sederhana persamaan diferensial, menjelaskan soal itu pada Aini, lalu dimintanya Aini menganalogikan kemarahan dan ketidakmengertian tadi dalam soal itu. Tercengang Guru melihat Aini dapat membuat analogi dengan akurat. (Hirata, 2020:190)

The data explains the description which indicates that teacher Desi was astonished to see Aini make an analogy between understanding and anger using a calculus approach. Desi, who was astonished to see Aini's success in making an analogy, was a form of expression that was raised by her as an expression of happiness as if she couldn't believe that Aini could do it because she had tended to give up after all previous approaches failed to make Aini succeed in understanding mathematics. This is as expressed by Suprihatiningrum (2013:61) that a teacher is always required to be able to adapt teaching techniques to the different kinds of talents possessed by each student. Desi's research and application of mathematical approaches for Aini is a form of Desi's role as an effort to make Aini understand mathematics.

CONCLUSION

Based on the results and discussion, it can be concluded that the character Aini in the novel *Guru Aini* by Andrea Hirata had cheerful traits, high spirit, diligence, and hardworking. In addition to the character of Aini, it can also be concluded about the achievement of self-actualization of the character Aini in Andrea Hirata's novel *Guru Aini* by fulfilling the five hierarchy of needs based on Abraham Maslow's humanistic psychology theory, which are physiological needs, security needs, love, and belonging needs, self-esteem needs, and ends with the achievement of Aini's need for self-actualization by accepted in the medical faculty at a state university, as getting into the medical faculty is something that she dreams of and aspires to. This illustrates that the efforts and hard work that Aini has done so far had paid off. Therefore, it could be seen that the self-actualization of the character Aini in the novel *Guru Aini* by Andrea Hirata could be inferred from the effort and hard work she did. Behind the achievement of Aini's self-actualization, there is also the role of a teacher who helps her in the process of getting this self-actualization, such as Desi who teaches Aini to study mathematics from zero to become a good mathematician and various other subjects.

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