

Structural Approach to Saroo Brierly's Motivation to Search for His Origin in *A Long Way Home: A Memoir Novel 2013*

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Abstract: Motivation is a process that shows the intensity and perseverance of a person to achieve goals. Strong motivation will bring someone to achieve his goal. This research is discussing about Saroo's motivation to find the root of his origin through structuralism approach on the novel entitled *A Long Way Home: A Memoir Novel 2013*. This study uses qualitative descriptive method by collecting data that come from the sentences and dialog in the novel. In this study, the writer uses Abraham Maslow's hierarchy of needs theory to identify Saroo Brierly's motivation in fulfilling his needs using a structural approach. After all the data well collected and valid, this can be full explained what is the motivation of Saroo. The analysis shows that Saroo keens to look for the root of his culture. Saroo's behavior indicates the need for belonging, which is one of the needs stated by Abraham Maslow in the hierarchy of needs. The needs motivate people to act and make their wishes, be generous or act whatever they want.

Keywords: *hierarchy of needs, motivation, Saroo Brierly*

RESEARCH BACKGROUND

Literary work is an expression of ideas, suggestions, experiences, opinions, and the author's feelings in imaginative terms or real life. *Literary work reflects reality* (Cartmell & Whelehan, 2013), but it is made more aesthetically through language that is conveyed communicatively to express the author's intent to the readers or audiences. An example, the novel *A Long Way Home* is made based on the true story of the author. The author describes his life story in the novel aesthetically and delivers the story's contents to the public. The relationship between reader/audience and the author; literary works have different roles. Besides having a role as a process of transferring information from the author to the audience/readers, literary works also hold a role as a text created by the author as a text that has moral value to be absorbed by the audience.

The researcher wants to analyze an autobiography novel by a famous writer named Saroo Brierly. According to the Cambridge dictionary, the autobiography novel is *a book about a person's life, written by that person*. Based on the title "A Structural Approach to Saroo Brierly's Motivation to Search for His Origin in *A Long Way Home: A Memoir Novel 2013*" this proposal contains the journey of Saroo in searching about his origin during his adult life. Life's journey is a process of endless struggle, dreams, and hopes, filled with determination, expressed by action. The researcher uses Abraham Maslow's Hierarchy of Needs theory in making this research.

A Long Way Home is a novel written by Saroo Brierley based on his personal experience. The book was published on June 24, 2013, by Viking Australia publisher in Australia. The book's setting was in India and Australia, where Saroo lived. This book consists of 13 chapters and 272 pages using all English.

Saroo Brierley, whose real name is Sheru Munshi Khan, was born on May 22, 1981 in Ganesh Talai, India (*Saroo's biography from starsunfolded.com*). Saroo was still five when he got lost from his older brother in the train station. Being homeless in Calcutta for about two months until someone took him to a children's shelter, and then he was adopted by his Australian parents (Sue and John Brierley). Saroo lives happily with his parents and adopted older brother in Hobart, Tasmania. Saroo does not know and remembers anything because when he first came to Australia, Saroo was still five years old (cited from *A long Way Home's* synopsis).

Nevertheless, there are many transitions in his life. Starting from his childhood life in India, he went missing on a train, got lost in Calcutta, and was almost kidnapped and imprisoned. Saroo attended the Australia International Hotel School, Canberra. Saroo graduated with a major in hospitality and business then he worked as a businessman (*Saroo's biography from starsunfolded.com*). After 25 years had passed, Saroo finally found her mother and siblings.

A Long Way Home in 2016 was adapted into a film and was nominated for four Golden Globes and six Academy Awards (listed on Wikipedia). According to *Amazon.com* this book was also nominated as the best autobiography and became a bestselling book.

According to Jrank (2015), *most human behavior is the result of desires, impulses, and memories that have been repressed into an unconscious state, but still influence actions—sometimes, those produce an action from the people. The unique point is that society always sees that a white household is better well off than a household from people of color.* From the novel, it can be identified that Saroo Brierly still wanted to look for the root of his culture. Saroo Brierly's behavior indicated the need for belonging, which is one of the needs stated by Abraham Maslow in the hierarchy of needs. Those needs motivate people to act and make their wishes, be generous or act whatever they want. In this study, the writer uses Abraham Maslow's hierarchy of needs theory to identify Saroo Brierly's motivation in fulfilling his needs using a structural approach.

The structural approach is suitable because structuralism gives attention to the analysis of literary elements. *The elements of literary work, especially prose, in theme, events, background, or disposition characterizations, plot, point of view, setting, perspective, style and tone, and even irony as described in the novel* (Kenney, 1966). Using this approach, the writer will be able to unpack, explain, and explore possible linkages and various aspects that give meaning to the literary works. Therefore, the title of this research is *A Structural Approach to Saroo Brierly's Motivation to Search for His Origin in A Long Way Home: A Memoir Novel 2013*.

REVIEW OF RELATED LITERATURE

Some references such as journals and articles are needed for researchers to research the proposals they will make. With those journals, the researcher got much insight into the topics being discussed. The purpose of previous research is used as a reference to the findings and the method of proposing. Researchers provide several research results in the form of journals and articles from the internet. In this way, the researcher is guided by some previous studies with the same subject and topic.

1. “Saroo’s Struggle to Find His Family in A Long Way Home: A Memoir Novel by Saroo Brierley” by Tamam, Ma'ruf.

This journal discusses Saroo's Struggle to Find His Family, which means telling about Saroo's journey for 25 years lost and then finding his true family. In this journal, the writer uses the New Criticism theory to discover two main reasons; Saroo's character, why he is very curious about his family, and Saroo's struggle to find his family, despite living well in Australia with his adoptive parents. He keeps looking for his family even though he only has a very small chance. Based on the journal, the New Criticism dominated literary studies from the 1940s through the 1960s, has left a lasting imprint on the way we read and write about literature. *Tyson said that new criticism tries to examine the formal elements such as images, symbols, metaphors, rhyme, meter, point of view, setting, characterization, plot, and so forth to interpret the text (Tyson 137).*

The focus that the author takes lies in the **characters, characterization**, and conflict in the story. First, the writer concludes that Saroo was smart, brave, responsible, hardworking, and mistrustful. As portrayed in the story, Saroo is a person who is persistent in finding his family. This is the real evidence that is described in the story.

This journal uses a qualitative approach by collecting data from other books or papers, and qualitative research aims to consider a particular research topic or question from different perspectives.

2. “The Motivation of The Main Characters To Cherish Their Life As Seen In John Green’s The Fault In Our Stars” by Lia Damayanti

The goals of this study are to explain Augustus Waters and Hazel Grace's personalities and their desire to enjoy their lives. This novel is addressed from the perspective of the characters and their traits as an integral aspect of the tale to reach the objectives. The characterization is based on Murphy's notion of nine ways of characterization. After examining the characteristics of each main character, Augustus Waters and Hazel Grace, the author uses a psychological method to examine their desire to enjoy their lives, with the idea of motivation as a specific notion inside that approach.

The psychological approach is the most effective instrument for analysis since it focuses on the psychological state of the story's character. According to the research, they appear to have distinct features. Augustus Waters' clear speech demonstrates that he is an optimistic and kind person. Hazel Grace is, however, a pessimist, distant, and loving girl, as seen by her direct words. She is afraid of hurting people in her life; therefore, she does not want to become closer to them.

Maslow's hierarchy of needs, which is concerned with the classification of requirements that humans have in their lives, such as physiological needs, security, social needs, esteem needs, and self-actualization, may also represent their motivation in cherishing their lives. Their motivation may also be observed through Huffman's extrinsic and intrinsic motivation, as well as Ruch's drive to succeed, in addition to Maslow's hierarchy of needs.

This journal uses a qualitative approach by collecting data from other books or papers, and qualitative research aims to consider a particular research topic or question from different perspectives.

RESEARCH METHOD

Data are the real facts about people, places, events, and things that are important to be organized. A collection of facts or figures and can be processed into useful information (Bernard; 2012). In this section, the researcher makes sure the data was well collected. Data collection is the process of capturing and scraping data and putting it into some data record. In this section, the researcher makes sure the data was well collected. The researcher used a descriptive approach to data analysis. The purpose of a descriptive approach is to look at specific information, which may be found in both primary and secondary data sources. The researcher offers some interpretations of the novel, focusing on the main character of A Long Way Home novel, which the researcher wishes to investigate using Abraham Maslow's Hierarchy of Needs theory.

The data collection base uses A Long Way Home: A Memoir Novel by Saroo Brierley 2013. Researchers perform several stages in collecting data to be written in the proposal.

1. Read the A Long Way Home: A Memoir Novel by Saroo Brierley 2013 to get the best understanding of the data needed to be written in the proposal.
2. Read several journals and articles related to using Abraham Maslow's Hierarchy of Needs to get the theory needed to analyze data and information to support research.
3. Analyze Saroo's in the novel through his appearance, habits, or daily behavior, and pay attention to the conversations or dialogue the character makes.
4. Write and then record some essential data for research purposes.

RESULT AND DISCUSSION

1. An Analysis of Structuralism

In analysing this journal, the researcher uses structuralism approach. Structuralism approach is the suitable and most relatable approach can be used in this research because structuralism can emphasizes the intrinsic elements contained in literary works "*the structure of a literary work can be regarded as an arrangement, firmness, and depiction of all elements and materials which shaping a unity*" (Abrams, 1981: 68). Structural analysis is a way to find a literary work's overall meaning and be the subject of study. This can be done by stripping and exposing literary works' elements that form the relationship and integrity of literary works. Structural analysis can be done by identifying, reviewing, and describing the functions and relationships between intrinsic elements, including themes, plots, characters and characterizations, settings, and points of view. The characteristic of structural theory assumes that literary works are autonomous units and can be understood as a unity and interconnected with one another. It means that the things the researcher wants to identify from the literary work are come from within the literary work that the researcher choose, which gives meaning to what the researcher seeks.

Steps that can be applied in the application of structuralism:

- 1) Identify the intrinsic elements that build a complete and clear literary work, including themes, characters, settings, and plots. In this study, the researcher will only discuss the plot, setting, and characters.

- 2) Examine the elements that have been identified to describe the themes, characters, settings, and plots in a literary work.
- 3) Describe the function of each element to find out the Theme, character, setting, and plot in a literary work.
- 4) Link each element so that the intrinsic elements in a literary work. Thus, it can be concluded that the results of the analysis through identification, study, and description of functions and linking between related elements to create all aspects of creating a literary work.

Structural elements contain several points such as:

- 1) Plot

A Long Way Home: A Memoir novel tells about the journey of Saroo Brierly, who got lost on a train in India when he was five years old. At that time, Saroo could not write, read, or even recall the name of his hometown and his last name, which symbolizes his identity. However, despite being lost, Saroo survived alone for three weeks on the rough street of Calcutta before an Australian couple adopted him. Upon the adoption, Saroo lived in Australia, feeling grateful for being raised by both Australian couples. Despite his gratitude for his foster parents, Saroo never ceased to wonder about his origin. Never once had he lost hope that he would discover his origin one day. He eventually satisfied his curiosity with the advent of Google Earth; Saroo looked for a map of India and went to the extent of decorating his room with maps of India. His determination went fruitful; after years of searching, Saroo miraculously found what he was looking for and set off to find his original family. The flow of the story, plot consists of exposition, rising action, climax, falling action.

- 2) Theme

The dominating concept or main insight of a work of fiction is called the theme. According to Birkerts (1993:67) *Theme is the dominant of ideas and what the work is about, and it is central to story*. This novel brings 3 main themes to be discussed, such as; Family, poverty, survival and technology.

- 3) Setting

Time, location and events where the story was happen. This novel takes location settings in India 1981-1986 and Australia 1987- he found his true family.

- 4) Point of view

Point of view refers to the way a story is told, from which side does the writer told the story he or she wrote. In this novel, Saroo uses the first-person point of view, which means he is the main character who tells the whole storyline that happened. Usually, the first person point of view uses "I" as a pronoun.

- 5) Character and characterization

Character is the distinctive values, personality of a person who exists in the story. Meanwhile, characterization or disposition is a description of the character of the story. Characterization can be symbolized by physical, behavior, sadness, anger, etc. Saroo, in the story, is a powerful and intelligent figure. He found ingenious ways to achieve his goals. Saroo is also a person

who is persistent in achieving his goals, being consistent in doing things. Persistence is the ability to keep getting up when faced with difficulty, no matter how many times someone gets pulled down. Despite failure and frustration, Saroo's optimism kept him going, which saved him from quitting up.

2) The Motivation of Saroo Brierly to Found His Origin

Motivation is a process that shows the intensity and perseverance of a person to achieve goals. Strong motivation will bring someone to achieve his goal.

"higher needs can only emerge only as lower needs are satisfied." (quoted from McClelland, 1985: 41).

Saroo's behavior indicates the need for belonging, which is one of the needs stated by Abraham Maslow in the hierarchy of needs. The needs motivate people to act and make their wishes, be generous or act whatever they want.

1. Self-Actualization

In Abraham Maslow's hierarchy of needs, self-actualization stands at the top. These needs will require a lot of effort, patience, and persistence. Saroo is motivated to investigate his roots and prove that he can achieve his goals. Saroo's high motivation comes from his need to be noticed. Humans will try to fulfill one level of need first. After the first level is fulfilled, humans will try to fulfill the needs at the next level. Based on this theory, the researcher can identify each of Saroo Brierly's needs. The motivation to search for origins can be categorized as the highest need, the need for **self-actualization**. This is the basis or the beginning of the story of his search for identity begins. *Self-actualization is the desire to gain satisfaction with him/her or self-fulfillment, to realize all of his potentials, to become whatever he can do* (Alwisol, 2004:206).

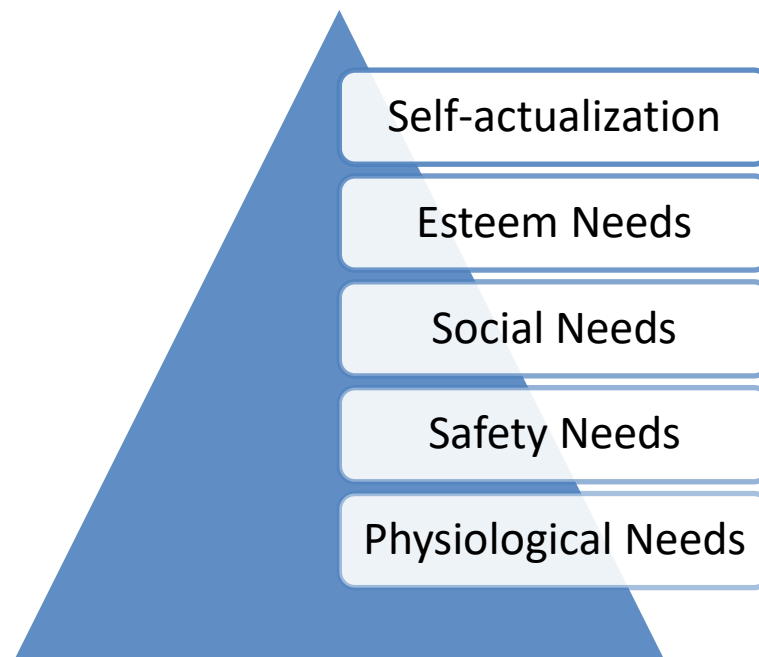


Image 1. Abraham Maslow's Hierarchy of Needs

This story hits the deepest part of my heart. The journey of Saroo Brierley when he was five and lost without any knowledge about who is he. He just remembers that he has Ammi (he doesn't even know his mother's name), Guddu, Kallu, and Shekhila. He even mispronounced the place where he lived (he pronounced as Ganestaley, not Ganesh Talai), which is why the police hard to find Saroo's parents. It's not easy to go through it all, with a few memory about his childhood past and little language skills. Saroo often thinks to stop it. However, hope and spirit make Saroo wants to meet his family.

A strong desire to find his family makes Saro not discouraged, written in the quote:

My stomach knotted. How could this be? Things had looked so right all the way from Burhanpur, which surely must be the 'B' town I had tried to remember. But if the bridge and the river were correct, where was Ginestlay? I tried not to despair. (Saroo Brierley, Pg 102)

In various ways, have searched but could not find a bright spot where is the location of the city where he was born. He looked for Ginestlay for a long time, but he could not find it. He searched Burhanpur effortlessly from the start, comparing what he recalled about the city beginning with "B" with a picture he discovered on Google Earth. The bridge and river were just as he remembered them, but Ginestlay was nowhere to be found. There is no city called Ginestley anywhere. Saroo tries very hard to remember what he remembers when he was five years old.

After continuing his search for a while, Saroo began to find light about the city where he was born. He tells his girlfriend and father that he found new clues using the map. Nevertheless, his father wasn't convinced by Saroo's findings and said:

'Really? On a map?' I could tell he was skeptical. 'you're sure?' (Saroo Brierley, Pg 103)

Saroo continues searching for his birthplace; he tells his mother and gets the support he wants. His mother believed that Saroo had a very high motivation to find himself and where his origin belonged.

After convincing himself to continue the tracking, Saroo searched through Facebook. Using the group an area in India, he asked one of the group members about the area with a fountain next to the cinema because, for 24 years missing, that is all Saroo remembered. Moreover, they replied that one such area starts with the letter "G" named Ganesh Talai, not Ganestley as Saroo remembers for the past 24 years.

After finding the clue, Saroo rushed to prepare to leave for India. He came to a place called Ganesh Taley and found his family there. The desire to be found that Saroo had been looking for found a bright spot. Long story short, Saroo arrives at the village where his mother lives, as in the quote.

After only about fifteen meters, the man stopped in front of three women who were standing outside a doorway, all of them looking in my direction. 'this is your mother,' he said. I was too stunned to ask which one - I half-wondered whether this was a prank. Incapable of doing anything else, I looked from one to the next. The first was certainly not her. There was something familiar about the woman in the middle, and the third woman was a stranger. It was the woman in the middle. (Saroo Brierley, Pg 116)

2. Family

Saroo Brierley, an Australian man, adopted from India as a child, tells his story in *A Long Way Home*. Saroo spends years as an adult searching the internet for his birth family and birthplace. When he turned 30, he traveled to India to visit his birth mother. Saroo was born to a Muslim father and a Hindu mother. Although his father is Muslim, he is abusive to his family. Because of this, Saroo and his siblings had no interaction with their father during their youth. Saroo's last conviction that blood and marriage are insufficient or imperfect signifiers of the family is influenced by this. Saroo Brierley wrote a novel about his journey with his biological family. He claims that it makes them allows him to understand himself and his background better.

There always seemed to be another emotional journey ahead of me yet to be traveled. Would Mum feel somehow less bonded to me when she met the woman who had given me birth? Would she worry that Kamla, my mother, might demand my return? Would Kamla find it impossible to connect with Mum, or feel awkward about being thrust together with her in front of the cameras? I knew Mum was nervous about that, as well as about what would, amazingly, be her first visit to India. Of course, I had always wanted to bring my two families together, and they had all spoken of looking forward to such a meeting.

–Saroo (Pages 158 Chapter Epilogue)

Saroo emphasizes that a feeling and the unbreakable connections he shares with both of his mothers, rather than blood, are what defines a family. Despite and because of the horrible conditions that have pulled them apart and taken them together, both Saroo's family members, both Indian and Australian, keep building healthy and caring families.

CONCLUSION

Based on the research conducted above, using a structuralism approach that examines the literature based on the intrinsic elements contained in the story and uses motivation theory included in the hierarchy of needs from Abraham Maslow. The researcher found that the main character's primary motivation in the novel, namely Saroo Brierly, to find his place of origin is the feeling to be found, self-actualization, which drives him to find his true self. The concept of self-actualization is utilizing their talents and abilities to show others that they can achieve their goals. In addition, Saroo's motivation is to find his lost family. One of his biggest goals is to find his long-dissolved biological family.

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