

## **Needs Character Chihiro in Japanese Movie Call Me Chihiro (ちひろさん) (Psychoanalysis of Henry Murray)**

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**Abstract.** This research is about the needs of the character Chihiro in the film Call Me Chihiro "ちひろさん". The film Call Me Chihiro tells about Chihiro's life after Chihiro left her family and lived independently, which was motivated by Chihiro's past experience when Chihiro felt unaccepted by her family. The purpose of this study is to describe the needs of the character Chihiro in the film Call Me Chihiro "ちひろさん" using Henry Murray's personology theory. This research method is descriptive qualitative which emphasizes the observation of phenomena and examines more into the substance of the meaning of the phenomenon. Qualitative descriptive research aims to describe, depict, explain, explain, and answer in more detail the problems to be studied by studying as much as possible an individual, a group, or an event. Based on the results of the analysis, it is known that the needs of the character Chihiro include, needs aggression, needs autonomy, needs deference, needs nurturance, needs rejection, and needs sex.

**Keywords:** call me chihiro; henry murray; needs; psychoanalysis

### **RESEARCH BACKGROUND**

According to (Damono in Harun, 2022), literature is writing that describes human imagination and is not always directly related to reality. Literature is a written work made creatively such as poetry, prose, or drama, which contains beauty and describes human experiences, both personal and shared (Markhotimah & Oemiati, 2023). According to (Sapardi Djoko Damono in Annissa, 2023), literature is a work conveyed through language and describes human life as it occurs in everyday life. According to (Disastra in Riana, 2020), creating and appreciating literature is an intellectually and emotionally valuable experience, which can make humans more humane. According to (Esten in Jatinegara, 2024), literature plays a positive role in human life because it is a creative and imaginative reflection of individual and community life, conveyed through language as a means of communication. Whether a work can be called literature or not depends on the perception of the reader (Siswanto in Muflikhah, 2003).

Film is a communication medium that conveys messages in a structured manner and has audio-visual elements, aimed at groups or people gathered in a certain place (Lempoy in Panjaitan, 2022). Movie is a series of moving images that are put together into a unified whole. Movies also have the ability to record real events in a social and cultural context, and convey messages through visual media contained in the story (Alfathoni in Karunia, & Natalia, 2020).

Call Me Chihiro is a movie about a woman named Chihiro, a former sex worker who now works at a bento shop by the beach. Chihiro has a gentle nature, so has many customers at the shop, and also has new friends who always make her smile. Chihiro has a chequered past, and doesn't get along well with her own family. When Chihiro was in elementary school, Chihiro met a prostitute when Chihiro was sitting alone on the edge of an empty house, and the presence of the prostitute changed her

feelings of loneliness because of the situation at Chihiro's house that made Chihiro not close to her family, and the prostitute was able to make Chihiro feel like she existed in this world by praising Chihiro's homemade rice balls which even Chihiro's own family never praised her. After Chihiro grew up, Chihiro went to a bento shop and talked to the owner, Chihiro felt comfortable with the owner and decided to apply to work there. Chihiro's life changed after working at the bento shop, and met people who made Chihiro not feel alone anymore.

## **REVIEW OF RELATED LITERATURE**

Personology studies individual human life, as well as the factors that influence their life journey (Azizah, 2018). Murray explained that personality is an abstract concept formulated by experts, not just a description of a person's behavior. This approach is grounded in observable behaviors and the inferred factors derived from them (Alwisol, 2018). In his work *Explorations in Personality*, Murray argues that personality develops as a result of the interaction between an individual's innate psychological needs and external societal pressures (Murray in Rani & Nagalakshmi, 2024). Needs are conceptualized as cognitive mechanisms within the brain that integrate functions such as perception, thought, and behavior, aimed at transforming undesirable or unsatisfactory conditions. Murray concluded that there are 20 important needs, of which 19 are psychogenic, i.e. needs whose satisfaction is not related to specific organic processes and are considered purely psychological needs. One need, namely sex, is physiological because its satisfaction is related to sexual biological processes (Alwisol, 2018). Some needs include, namely need aggression (attack), need autonomy (independent), need deference (respect), need nurturance (care, nurture), need rejection (rejection), need sex (sex).

Need aggression, which is the urge to attack or resist, either verbally or physically. This can manifest as anger, revenge, or irony/sarcasm.

Need autonomy, which is the need to be independent, avoid control, and make one's own decisions. Someone with this need high prefers to be free and dislikes restrictive rules.

Need deference, which is the need to admire and support superiors, praise, follow rules, or leave decisions to seniors or experts.

Need nurturance, which is the drive to care for, help and protect others, especially those who are weak, sick or in need of emotional support.

Need rejection, the need to reject relationships or distance oneself from unwanted people or things. This can show up as isolation or cutting off social contact.

Need sex, which is the need for intimate relationships and sexual expression. Not only physical, but also emotional closeness and intimacy.

Researchers are interested in examining this film because researchers want to know the needs aspect of Chihiro's character, using Henry Murray's psychoanalysis theory. Similar previous research on Henry Murray's personology theory was conducted by (Annisia et al., 2023) with the personology of the character Ai Hoshino in the anime *Oshi No Ko*. This research focuses on the character Ai Hoshino to find out the needs of the character. The results of Annissa's research show that Ai Hoshino has five personological needs, including achievement, exhibition, nurturance, succorance, and deference. The

difference in this research lies in the data sources obtained. The researcher took the source data from the movie *Call Me Chihiro* which until now has never been used for research material in Henry Murray's personology theory.

## RESEARCH METHOD

Research methodology is a series of activities, rules, and procedures used by researchers in a particular discipline. Therefore, research methodology becomes the main guideline in carrying out research (Fiantika et al., 2022). Using a qualitative descriptive approach, this research focuses on observing phenomena and understanding their core meanings. The strength of qualitative analysis lies in the effective use of language to express insights (Safarudin, 2023). Descriptive qualitative is a research method that uses a simple and inductive qualitative approach (Wiwin Yuliani in Faturahman, 2023). In qualitative research, the naturalness of the situation is the main thing, where researchers are directly involved in the problems and conditions that occur in the research context (Yusanto, 2020). Descriptive qualitative research aims to explore and explain problems in detail through in-depth study of individuals, groups, or particular events (Sugiyono in Daniswara & Oemiati, 2023).

## RESULTS AND DISCUSSION

The results of analyzing the movie *Call Me Chihiro* using Henry Murray's personology theory, show that Chihiro's character needs are as follows:

### 3.1. Needs Aggression.



(Minute 21:42)

(Minute 21:59)

(Minute 22:09)

The scene is about Chihiro who is sitting in a park reading a book, then a little boy named Makoto suddenly scares Chihiro by putting a toy snake next to Chihiro and saying that there is a poisonous snake next to Chihiro. Chihiro was shocked and gasped because she thought that there was indeed a poisonous snake beside her. Chihiro was angry because she felt disturbed by Makoto's prank while she was relaxing, so Chihiro took Makoto's toy snake and Makoto asked for her toy snake back.

Chihiro doesn't give it to her until Makoto calls her "grandma". Chihiro doesn't like Makoto's "grandma" call, because it is considered a mockery that Chihiro is actually too young to be called "grandma". Chihiro gets even angrier at Makoto until Chihiro pulls Makoto's shirt collar and says "don't mess with adults.", Chihiro does that action in order to punish Makoto so that Makoto feels deterrent for his actions against Chihiro.

The scene falls into the needs aggression attack because Chihiro is angry with Makoto because Chihiro has been teased and feels insulted by Makoto.

This shows Chihiro has needs aggression when she feels uncomfortable with the treatment of people around her.

### 3.2. Needs Autonomy.



(Minute 03:01)

(Minute 1:57:02)

(Minute 2:05:41)

The scene is about Chihiro working at a bento shop (minute 03:01), then (minute 1:57:02) Chihiro is seen to have left the people at the bento shop to seek another life, and is seen Chihiro working on a farm (minute 2:05:41). Chihiro lives independently and is free with her choices, having no attachments to others, although Chihiro still works for others, but Chihiro does not feel constrained by her boss.

With Chihiro's friendly demeanor, her boss gave her the freedom to choose her path in life. As before, Chihiro had worked at a massage parlor, then suddenly left the massage parlor and worked at a bento shop. But with her actions, it did not make Chihiro's boss at the massage parlor angry, and instead let Chihiro, it shows that Chihiro is not bound and Chihiro is free in choosing her life path.

The scene falls into the Independent autonomy needs, because Chihiro feels free to choose her own path in life, where she works and lives, without the attachment and interference of others.

Chihiro's sense of independence arises because as a child she was not considered in her family, feeling unappreciated. Then Chihiro met a prostitute who made Chihiro feel valued again, but after the prostitute died Chihiro felt alone again and finally forced Chihiro to have an independent nature and not want to be tied to other people.

### 3.3. Needs Deference.



(Minute 05:16)

ちひろ：漬物と梅干しがくっそうまいの

Chihiro: Tsukemono to umeboshi ga kussou ma ino.

Chihiro: The pickled vegetables and pickled plums are delicious.

The scene is about Chihiro complimenting her senior Nagai at the bento shop, saying that Nagai's pickles are delicious.

Although Chihiro thinks Nagai is an annoying person, and his attitude makes Chihiro annoyed, but on the other hand Nagai is a good person, besides Chihiro thinks Nagai's pickled vegetables and pickled plums are very delicious.

Chihiro's attitude of respecting others despite her dislike, shows that Chihiro has needs deference.

### 3.4. Needs Nurturance.



(Minute 06:26)



(Minute 04:27)

The scene shows Chihiro bathing a homeless person she met on the street.

Chihiro is providing care and protection to a homeless person, who Chihiro had previously met on the street, and was being bullied by a child. Chihiro felt compassion and defended the homeless person and protected her from the child's harassment. Chihiro also took the homeless person home and fed her.

Chihiro's compassionate attitude and willingness to take care of a homeless person she doesn't know shows that Chihiro has nurturance needs.

### 3.5. Needs Rejection.



(Minute 47:10)



(Minute 47:47)

弟 : お母さんが亡くなった

よ Otouto : Okasan ga  
 nakunattayo. Otouto : Mom is  
 dead.

ちひろ : やめとく

Chihiro : Yametoku.

Chihiro : I will not come.

The scene shows Chihiro being called by her younger brother, and he tells her that their mother has died.

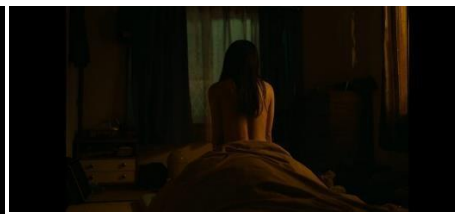
Chihiro, who received news from her brother because her mother had died, said that she would not come because Chihiro did not want to meet her family anymore. Chihiro's refusal to meet with her family was because Chihiro had felt unrecognized by her family and Chihiro felt resentful of her family's treatment.

Chihiro's attitude of trying to separate herself from her family, and refusing to come when given the news by her brother that her mother had died shows that Chihiro has rejection needs, refusing to accept her family back.

### 3.6. Needs Sex.



(Minute 1:11:14)



(Minute 1:11:29)

ちひろ : したくなっちゃった

Chihiro : Shitaku nacchatta.

Chihiro : I'm ready.

The scene shows when Chihiro is excited and wants to have sexual intercourse.

Chihiro said that she was ready. The meaning of Chihiro's words is that Chihiro is ready to release her sexual desires, and Chihiro wants to have sexual intercourse, Chihiro invites her acquaintances to have intercourse and channel her sexual desires.

Chihiro's actions in having sexual intercourse with a male acquaintance show that she has a need for sex.

## CONCLUSION

Based on the results of the analysis, it is known that the needs in Chihiro's character include needs aggression seen when Chihiro punishes and attacks Makoto when Makoto teases Chihiro who is sitting relaxing while reading a book in the park, needs autonomy seen when Chihiro lives freely to determine her own path without any attachment from others around her, needs deference seen when Chihiro respects and praises Nagai the boss where Chihiro works for the food made by Nagai, needs nurturance is seen when Chihiro is protecting a homeless person who is being bullied by a child and Chihiro protects the homeless person by giving him food and care, needs rejection is seen when Chihiro is called by her sister to tell her that her mother has died but Chihiro firmly says that Chihiro will not come to her mother's funeral, needs sex is seen when Chihiro wants to release her sexual desire to a man of her acquaintance.

These needs have positive and negative impacts, the positive impact obtained by Chihiro is that she has many friends and can help people around her. With her friendly and helpful attitude, Chihiro can be with and comfortable with the people around her. The negative impact is that Chihiro has a distance between herself and her family, she refuses to meet her sister and mother again. And the friendship between Chihiro and the people around her did not last forever because Chihiro decided to leave them to work elsewhere.

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