

Self-Actualization of Tallie Jones in Danielle Steel's *Betrayal*

Eka Kurniawati¹, Anwari², Uliyah Hikmah³, Fathimah Isnina⁴

Universitas Muhammadiyah Kudus, Indonesia

Email: ekakurniawati@umkudus.ac.id¹

Abstract

The aim of conducting this study is to analyze self-actualization in Danielle Steel's *Betrayal*. The main character Tallie Jones fulfills her need for self-actualization. She lives in a complicated world of untrustworthy people, dishonesty, and superficial values. She is betrayed by two people she loves and trusts and wants to figure out who is stealing money from her. The source of the data was a novel entitled *Betrayal* written by Danielle Steel. It was published in July 2012. This study used the theory of Abraham Maslow's Hierarchy of Needs. It was arranged as follows: 1) the physiological needs, 2) the safety needs, 3) the belongingness and love needs, 4) the esteem needs, and 5) self-actualization needs. Self-actualization was the culmination of the fulfillment of human needs. In analyzing this study the writer used library research. The researchers also used a concept analysis. They related and explained the object to theories, concepts, or other relevant sources. Based on analysis, the writers obtained some significant evidences concerning self-actualization needs. Tallie Jones manages to struggle through several stages to deal with her complicated problem. She grieves and weeps. But, finally, she finds a lover and can actualize herself as an incredible woman in the world.

Keywords: betrayal, hierarchy of needs, self-actualization

INTRODUCTION

Betrayal is one of Danielle Steel's novels. It was published in July 2012. It consists of 416 pages, 21 chapters, and an epilogue. The central character is a movie director named Tallie Jones. She was too focused on his work and did not care about the glitz and glamor of Los Angeles. Eventhough she is an award winning film director (Steel, 2012).

Tallie Jones has a close and loving relationship with her daughter (Max), her father (Samuel Lewis John), her co-producer (Hunter Lyoid), and also her assistant (Brigitte Parker). Steel describes Tallie Jones as the main character who is betrayed by Hunter Lyoid and Brigitte Parker. Hunter Lyoid, who is her husband and co-producer had an affair with Brigitte Parker for four years. While Brigitte Parker stole her money twenty thousand dollars a month for almost 15 years. Besides that, Hunt also has an affair with Angela Morissey and had a child. Steel portrays the dark side of fame and fortune of Tallie Jones as a renowned film director. How does she rise from the downturn she experiences, how does she solve the complicated problems she faces until she can actualize herself as a remarkable woman in the world.

Some critics claimed that Danielle Steel's novel includes in the category of popular literature. She becomes one of the top 100 fiction authors for the year 2010. Popular literature is an imaginary story that is read by public society (Montoro, 2015). Furthermore, literature can also be said as a reflection of the culture of its time. It means that literature mirrors society (Gabriel, 2020). Popular literature is defined as written work that has value of artistic

and eternity. It comes from words *popular* and *culture/literature*. They have broad meaning. *Popular* (*populus* in Greek) means people and *culture* (*colere-cultura* in Latin) means inhabit, cultivate, protect, honour with worship. So, according to Srivastava (2020) popular culture/literature is people's culture/literature which is able to influence 90% of the people and 90% of the time.

From this perspective, it becomes clear that understanding culture/literature other than our own has become necessary, not only for personal enrichment and good society, but for our survival as a remarkable person. Tallie's self-actualization in this novel gives knowledge that a woman must struggle to overcome a shattering betrayal. As our knowledge increases, we will have a better future in fulfilling our needs. For Example: nice work, health care, economic competitiveness, good security, and so on.

METHODOLOGY

This is a library study and applies a concept analysis. This analysis is a kind of activity that links among concepts, characteristics, relationships to other concepts. All of them are explained. Clarity of concept or creation becomes the most important thing in many studies. Nuopponen (2010) says that general study guidelines for example philosophical literature often refer to it as concept analysis.

The researchers try to describe an object. And then, they relate it with theories, concepts, or other sources that are relevant to the research object. They commit close reading of the novel and also its references. They also look for whether there is study which is the same as what will be discussed or not. Next, if they find analysis with same object, they look for a different space.

In this case, the researchers find a journal in 2021 that is written by Ni Made Endri Santika Dewi and her friends. Dewi discusses about *Endocentric Compound in Betrayal* while the researchers of this paper discuss about *Self-Actualization in Betrayal*. Here, there is indeed the same research object. But, it has different topic. Dewi talks about linguistics, meanwhile the researchers of this study talk about psychology precisely the theory of Abraham Maslow's Hierarchy of Needs.

The beginning of this Maslow's Hierarchy of Needs is when he proposed it in his paper entitled *A Theory of Human Motivation* in 1943. It was extended to include his research of humans' innate curiosity. Here, the theory of Maslow was based on Kurt Goldstein's organismic theory of personality named *The Organism 1938* (Freeman, 2023). The Hierarchy of Needs by Maslow is often depicted as a pyramid. It contains five levels.

These five stage models are divided into *D-Needs* (*Deficiency Needs*) and *B-Needs* (*Being Needs*) or *growth needs*. *D-Needs* relate to basic survival and include physiological needs. It consists of first layer to fourth layer. Meanwhile, *B-Needs* are more psychological and relate to the realization of one's full potential and the need to self-actualize. That is fifth layer. These needs are achieved more through intellectual and creative behaviors. *B-Needs* do not stem from a lack of something but rather from a desire to develop as a person. When the growth needs are achieved, human can gain self-actualization (McLeod, 2024).

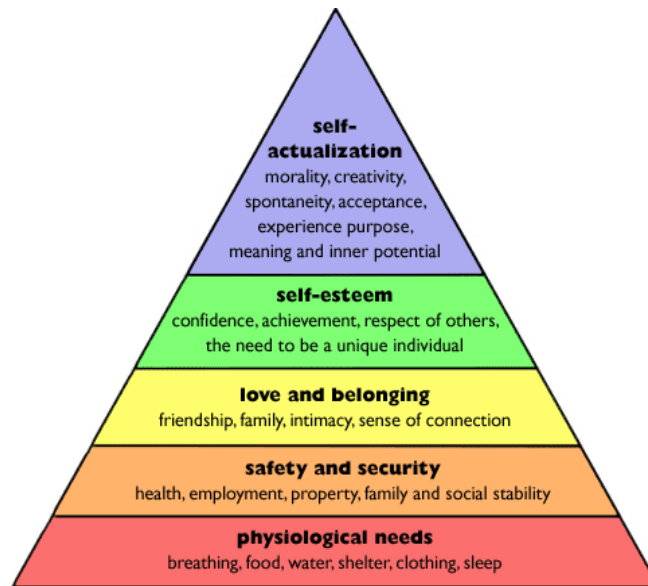


Figure 1. Diagram of Maslow's hierarchy of needs

Humans have a natural urge to actualize themselves. These needs start from basic needs, namely biological and psychological needs. These basic needs must be met so that humans have sufficient freedom to achieve a higher level of realization. Humans have an internal and natural drive to become the best person (Maslow, 1968).

RESULT & DISCUSSION

Result

Self-actualization is the process of self-discovery and the returning to the bright side of human nature. Growth may represent all of ours. (Du, 2017). This is in line with the statement of Carl Rogers (2015) who states that self-actualization is the process of becoming everything that a person is capable of becoming. In the theory of person-centered, self-actualization is ongoing process of fulfilling one's needs through the reinterpretation of experiences, reflection, allows individuals to recover, change and grow.

The process of self-actualization of The main character of this novel follows the pattern: a victim of betrayal, Tallie's life hits rock bottom, struggles as she possibly can, finds a lover, and wins an award.

Discussion

In *The Betrayal*, Tallie Jones becomes the main character because the novel itself tells about Tallie Jones's life in reaching her "enlightenment". The characters are not only divided into major and minor but also static and dynamic (Di Yanni, 2002). Tallie Jones is not only a major character, but also a dynamic character. This is because her attitude and behavior are unstable. The character may seem flat or round (Kennedy, 1995). Tallie Jones also includes in round character because she has an arbitrary attitude.

The evidences regarding the needs of Tallie Jones as the main character of this novel can be seen as follows:

Tabel 1. Data of Tallie Jones' Needs

Number	Kinds of Need	Data
1	Physiological (Breathing, Food, Water, Shelter, Clothing, Sleep)	<p>"The next morning Max and Tallie got up and went out to breakfast. They are at Cafe Cluny nearby. Tallie had eggs Benedict, and Max scrambled eggs." (P. 279)</p> <p>"... she was busier than ever when they moved back to L.A. The house was lonely and quiet without Hunt, but she was getting used to it, and to coming home to an empty house." (P. 212)</p>
2	Safety and Security (Health, Employment, Property, Family, Social Stability)	<p>"She thanked Jim again for dinner before he left, locked the door behind him, and left the TV on in her bedroom all night." (P. 301)</p> <p>"She went to the gym early the next morning, and called Max in New York afterward." (P.124)</p> <p>"Brigittie just killed Hunt. She showed Angela Morissey's Apartment, and fired at him, right in the chest. Tallie looked shocked, and her face went deathly pale as the room reeled around her, and she grabbed Jim's arm to steady herself." (P.293)</p> <p>"Thank you, Jim. It would have been a terrible weekend without you (P. 303)</p>
3	Love and Belongingness (Friendship, Family, Intimacy, Sense of Connection)	<p>"He was very much alive, and so was she. And as she looked up at him, she had no idea what would happen, but what she did know was that she could trust him, and she was safe." (P. 379)</p> <p>"What she wanted was for him to love her and give up Angela, but she could see he wouldn't." (P. 145)</p>
4	Esteem (Confidence, Achievement, Respect for others, The need to be a unique individual.	<p>"He got caught in a difficult situation, and he didn't handle it well, but he always told me how wonderful you are and how much he loved you." (P. 304)</p> <p>"Her films were box-office gold. She had been nominated for two Oscars and six Golden Globes. There were two Golden Globes on her desk, but no Oscars so far." (P. 13)</p> <p>"...then she moved forward, and ran gracefully onto the stage, held the Oscar in her hand for an instant, and closed her eyes, and thanked God for the blessings in her life." (P. 92)</p>
5	Self Actualization (Morality, Creativity, Spontaneity, Acceptance, Experience Purpose, Meaning and Inner Potential.	<p>"Tallie went back to the stage to accept the award for him. And the audience rose for another standing ovation, and this time there were tears in eyes and on cheeks." (P. 393)</p> <p>"Tallie was obsessed with her work, and hated anything that distracted her from it or took a moment of her time away." (P.45)</p> <p>"She was a remarkable woman. And Jim felt like the luckiest man in the world." (p.394)</p>

From the quotations above, Tallie has most of her basic needs fulfilled. Especially, when she was in Los Angeles. She got many things as a present including food, shelter, and many more (data 1). When all needs in the first level are satisfied and are no longer controlling behaviors thoughts, the needs in the second level can become active (Maslow, 1943). In this case, Tallie's needs prove that the argumentation of Maslow is true. When the physiological needs are satisfied, then a new set of needs emerges, that is safety needs (data 2).

According to Maslow (1971): life is a continuous process of choosing between safety (out of fear and need for defense) and risk (for the sake of progress and growth). In Tallie's case, she seemed very afraid of Brigitte. She is afraid of being killed because she has managed to uncover all of Brigitte's crimes. So, there is revenge for Brigitte against Tallie. The novel tells that after killing Hunter Lyoid, Brigitte made a terror to Tallie by telephone. And then Tallie called Jim to overcome her fear (data 2). In this case, it cannot possibly be denied that needs of safety exist. In Tallie's fear, he asked Jim for help. From here, the feeling of love will blossom between them. If both the physiological and the safety needs are fairly well gratified, there will emerge the love and affection, and belongingness needs, and the whole cycle already described will repeat itself with this new center (Boeree quoted in Muthmainnah, 2009).

It appears that love and belongingness needs are also reflected in the quotation (data 3). How Tallie wants Hunt to love her wholeheartedly and let go of his affair, namely Angela Morrissey. However, Hunt would not do so. Even though, Hunt also really loves Tallie. This is also reinforced by the statement of Angela Morrissey. She said to Tallie that Hunt is very proud of and loves Tallie. But, the situation forced him to leave her. Hunt already has a child with his mistress. Hunt's decision that prefer Angela Morrissey to Tallie makes Tallie even worse. However, Steel as the author of this novel presents the figure of Jim as Hunt's replacement. From Jim, the needs of love and belongingness of Tallie can be fulfilled. One thing that must be underlined at this point is that love is not synonymous with sex. Sex may be studied as purely physiological need. Ordinarily, sex behavior is multidetermined, that is to say, determined not only by sexual but also by other needs, chief among which are love and affection needs. Also not to be overlooked is the fact that love needs to involve both giving and receiving love (Maslow, 1943).

The esteem needs to be presented when someone gets praise, a gift, an award, or anything that can be said to be an appreciation for the efforts made. From the quotation above (data 4), it seems that Tallie gets several awards. They are the Oscars and Golden Globes. Besides that, Maslow (1943) also states that everyone has a need or desire for a high evaluation of themselves. With strong self-esteem, it means someone can prove his capacities and achievements. In self-esteem, there are two types of needs, namely: the need for achievement and the need for reputation or appreciation from other people. Here, the statement of Maslow can be proven in the *Betrayal* (data 4).

Self-actualization is a term that was originally introduced by Kurt Goldstein for the motive to realize one's full potential. Creativeness, self expression, spiritual enlightenment, fulfillment of knowledge, and the desire to give back and change society are examples of self-

actualization (Goldstein, 1993). Carl Rogers (2015) used the term self-actualization as the actualization of the individual's sense of self. In person-centered theory, self-actualization is the ongoing process of maintaining and enhancing the individual's self-concept through reflection, and reinterpretations of experience, allowing the individual to recover, develop, and change.

The process of self-actualization of Tallie Jones follows the pattern: the victim of betrayal – Tallie's life hits rock bottom – struggles as she possibly can – finds a lover – and wins an award.

1. The victim of betrayal

At the beginning of the story, Steels describes a woman character named Tallie Jones as a film director with abundant wealth. However, she never went on a spree. She only focuses on work and her family. But, unfortunately, her husband and her assistant betray her. Her husband's betrayal resulted in death. While her assistant ended up in prison. Here, Tallie becomes a victim of betrayal by her husband for 4 years and by her assistant for decades.

2. Tallie's life hits rock bottom

The betrayal of this novel becomes a dark side of Tallie. Her husband whom she loves prefers his mistress to her. Besides that, her assistant stole her money twenty thousand dollars a month for almost 15 years. In addition, his father who was an important figure for her, was sick and died. This stage puts Tallie at the lowest point in her life.

3. Struggle as possibly can

During his father's mourning, there is Jim. An agent FBI who provides full support for Tallie to recover from her downfall. In this phase, Tallie has begun to forget her husband who left her for his mistress. And, she also started calling a famous accountant to audit all his assets which had been corrupted by her assistant for 15 years. Tallie tries to accept Hunt's decision even though it is hard for her. Here, Tallie fights hard to erase her suffering. Finally, her effort was successful. Her assistant was imprisoned.

4. Find a lover

Betrayal was a good easy read and predictable. Because this novel is categorized into popular literature. After reading this novel deeply, the author of this research can predict that this novel has a happy ending. It can be proven by the presence of Jim Kingston. He is described by Steel as a perfect man, a god for Tallie. Love blossomed between them. Tallie was injured by her husband. And, Jim was a widower due to death divorce.

5. Wins an award

Self-actualization is the desire to be as optimal as possible (Maslow, 1943). In achieving her desire to be a famous film director, Tallie faces extraordinary obstacles. Both from inside and outside. The internal factors that hinder Tallie are a lack of confidence and fear of betrayal. The external factors are the death of her beloved father, the betrayal of her husband who becomes her co-producer, and massive corruption over a long time by her personal assistant.

In The novel, Tallie is described as a strong character. She was able to overcome her insecurities and be fearless. This is because of Max and Jim Kingston. Max, who is only her daughter gave full support to Tallie to get back on her feet. So does Jim Kingstone, who always presents whenever and wherever Tallie needs. At the end of the story, Tallie becomes a remarkable woman. She won an Oscar for her credibility as a film director.

CONCLUSION

Five levels of human needs according to Maslow's theory consist of: physiological, safety, love and belongingness, esteem, and self-actualization. This novel bears a theme of massive betrayal. But, how clever a person is at storing rot, the smell will be smelled. The process of self-actualization as the culmination of the needs of Tallie Jones follows the pattern: the victim of betrayal – Tallie's life hits rock bottom – struggles as she possibly can – finds a lover – and wins an award.

This novel is a reflection of literature not only as a mirror to society but also as a didactic material to human being in the world they live. The author of this novel emphasizes the element of betrayal. Its causes, processes, and consequences. The writers hope this research becomes a reference to other researchers, gives impacts the readers to increase their understanding of psychology study, precisely in the type of self-actualization.

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