

## Self-Actualization of The Main Character *Gadis*: a Case Study at Liye's Novel *Sesuk*

Disza Aulia Haryanto<sup>1</sup>, Somadi Sosrohadi<sup>1</sup>, Sukirno<sup>1</sup>

<sup>1</sup>Indonesian Literature Department, Universitas Nasional, Jakarta, Indonesia.

\*Correspondence: [disza.aulia27@gmail.com](mailto:disza.aulia27@gmail.com)

### ABSTRACT

*A literary work is seen not only as a work of art that is expressed through various experiences in social life, but also as a creative work related to psychological symptoms, namely human attitudes and behavior. The purpose of this study is to describe the characteristics of the main character, to describe the form of fulfillment of needs as the main character's self-actualization process, and to describe the self-actualization characteristics contained in the main character. This study uses Abraham Maslow's theory of humanistic psychology. The research method used is descriptive qualitative method. The data were obtained from the text in the novel Sesuk by Tere Liye, data from literature studies using heuristic reading techniques. Data analysis was performed by using hermeneutic reading techniques. The results of the study show that *Gadis* as the main character has both good and bad characters. Fulfilling the physiological needs of the female character, namely eating, drinking, and resting. The fulfillment of the need for security is shown by other characters who look after the girl so that she feels safe. The need for love and belonging is demonstrated by the girl character getting love from the people around her. The need for self-esteem and appreciation is shown by those who try to maintain their self-esteem and parents and people around them who give awards in the form of appreciation to them. The need for actualization is shown through the return of the girl's family to become a complete and harmonious family.*

### ARTICLE HISTORY

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### KEYWORDS

Characters; Characterizations; Novel *Sesuk* by Tere Liye; Self-Actualization.

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### 1. Introduction

Literary work is essentially a result of the creativity of the writer by raising the reality of social life, in this case is humanity (Aziz et al., 2022). This reality itself is related to the complexity of the contents of a work, even to the complexity of the author's own life. Therefore, a literary work is considered not only as a work of art that is expressed through various experiences in social life (Rahman, 2022), but also as a creative work related to psychological symptoms, namely human attitudes and behavior. A literary work is thus a psychological symptom. Behavior reflected in words and deeds is empirical data or facts, an indication of the state of one's soul (Jumiati et al., 2021; Andini, 2017).

Novel is one of the literary works that takes a role in social life. This is due to the large number of novels that have the themes of life's problems (Nahdhiyah et al., 2023; Fairuz et al., 2022). Indeed, this is closely related to the fulfillment of a number of needs in order to continue life, including the process of achieving self-actualization of the characters in a work. The behavior of reaching the needs of life determines the human tendency to obtain a satisfying life (Sosrohadi & Wulandari, 2022). Behavior in this case is related to psychology, which is a reflection of personality seen from the reality of a person's life to meet his needs.

A structural approach in a literary work, especially novel, is important in order to support the depiction of the form of fulfilling the needs of the characters in the work (Rahman, 2010; Junaid et al., 2023). Structuralism is a totality that is coherently built by various building elements (Nurgiyantoro, 2013:57). Therefore, in analyzing a novel in the form of a fictional text, it is possible to analyze its constituent elements, namely the intrinsic elements of the work (Arniati et al., 2019). In the intrinsic element, it focuses on the literary work itself, without seeing any connection with elements outside the literary work (Luthfu & Sosrohadi, 2022).

Intrinsic elements consist of several parts, namely themes, plots, characters and characterizations, and settings. However, this study focuses more on characters and characterizations. Aminuddin (in Milawasri, 2017: 89) reveals, characters are actors in a work that bring events in the fictional story so that they are able to assemble a story as a whole. Characters have an important function, because they are actors who play a role so that the work can be

understood by readers. Meanwhile, according to Zaidan (in Milawasri, 2017: 89) states that characterization is the process of presenting characters through the giving of traits, character and habits that are clearly visible in a story. The author describes the story characters as a medium for expressing the reality of life. Analysis on the characters and characterizations is limited to the main character in the story regarding self-actualization which will be discussed in this study. This is intended to focus on understanding the character and motivation of the main character.

Humans have their own potential. This potential will follow along with the development of his personality. As in the novel *Sesuk* by Tere Liye which describes the process of self-actualization through the main character. Maslow (in Umroh, 2018: 47) states that the process of self-actualization is a way to get satisfaction for oneself, to know all one's potential, to become anything one can do, and to be creative and free to reach the peak of one's potential. In this case, the author of the novel *Sesuk* describes the struggle process of the character 'Gadis' in getting back the love of her parents. Even though he is an independent, brave and responsible person in caring for his two younger siblings, he still needs the figures of his parents to achieve self-actualization. The efforts of the female character in fulfilling all her needs are the result of the desire and motivation for basic needs that are the same for all humans. Therefore, it can be concluded that self-actualization is a psychological need for a person who is natural in achieving his desires and potential.

Human needs are composed of various kinds of drives that are interconnected. In this regard, the girl as the main character tries to fulfill her various needs to become a better person. This is in line with Rogers' view (in Wikibooks, 2021) who believes that humans have a "life force" which is referred to as an actualization tendency, namely motivation that has the goal of developing all of his potential as fully as possible. Carl Rogers' concept was later developed by Abraham Maslow, who concluded that in the hierarchy of self-actualization needs is at the top, which means that the most important goal of living things is not only to survive, but also to try to achieve what is best for their existence. In this regard, this study uses Abraham Maslow's humanistic personality psychology theory known as the Hierarchy of Needs. The hierarchy of needs consists of 5 human needs, namely physiological needs, security, love and belonging, esteem and appreciation, and self-actualization. The description that explains the relationship between these needs can be passed through various stages, both sequential and non-tiered.

Personal descriptions that have succeeded in achieving self-actualization have characteristics or personality traits. Maslow (in Husada & Lustyantje, 2017:21) states that there are several characteristics that indicate a person achieves self-actualization, including: 1) Observing reality efficiently. 2) Accept yourself, others, and the environment as it is. 3) Displays spontaneity, simple, natural. 4) Focus on the problem. 5) Have quality time and need privacy. 6) Function autonomously. 7) Appreciate people and things in a good and sustainable manner. 8) Have peak experience. 9) Have social awareness/interest. 10) Interpersonal relationships. 11) Have democratic values and attitudes. 12) Have strong ethics. 13) Have a sense of humor and philosophy. 14) Have creativity. 15) Refuse enculturation. Based on these characteristics, a person who will self-actualize can recognize all of his potential so that with his ability he can be himself.

Characteristics are part of the quality of an individual's personality so that it will influence behavior. The achievement of self-actualization cannot be separated from the daily life of the individual, so of course it is influenced by the characteristics of the subject concerned. The characteristics disclosed in this study will be specified in the self-actualizing characteristics of the main character. This is what underlies the researcher to choose the novel *Sesuk* by Tere Liye which focuses on the forms of needs experienced by the main character by using Abraham Maslow's study of humanistic psychology.

In relation to the background of the problem above, the formulation of the problem in this study is what are the characteristics of the main character?, what is the form of fulfilling the needs as the main character's self-actualization process?, and what are the characteristics of self-actualization contained in the main character?. The objectives of this study are to describe the characteristics of the main character, to describe the form of fulfillment of needs as the main character's self-actualization process, and to describe the self-actualization characteristics contained in the main character.

Research on humanistic psychology has been carried out by many previous researchers, who studied similar matters with a research focus on aspects of self-actualization. Researchers found several studies, including Yofita Stefani Hidayat's thesis (Hidayat, 2022) from Jenderal Soedirman University with the title *Aktualisasi Diri Tokoh Utama Dalam Novel Hujan Karya Tere Liye* (Self-Actualization of Main Characters in Tere Liye's Rain Novel), as well as Fahmawati Wahyuningtias's thesis (Wahyuningtias, 2022) from the Salatiga State Islamic Institute with the title "Persepsi Jamaah Tabligh Terhadap Aktualisasi Diri Bagi Perempuan Di Desa Payaman Kecamatan Secang Kabupaten

Magelang” (Perceptions of Tabligh Congregation on Self-Actualization for Women in Payaman Village, Secang District, Magelang Regency).

From the similar research that has been reviewed above, both of them have differences from the research that has been done by researchers both in terms of the object studied and the theory used. The object of this study is the literary text in the novel *Sesuk* by Tere Liye (2022), which contains the main character's self-actualization process. This is certainly different from the two previous studies where Hidayat's thesis (2022) uses literary text objects in the novel *Hujan* by Tere Liye (2016), while Wahyuningtias (2022) uses the object of research in the form of tabligh congregation's perceptions of self-actualization for women. The results of the findings in this study were examined using the theory of humanistic psychology put forward by Abraham Maslow, while the two relevant studies used the psychological theory of Carl Rogers.

Based on the description above, research on the analysis of humanistic psychology that focuses on self-actualization has been carried out a lot but the object in the form of the novel *Sesuk* by Tere Liye using Abraham Maslow's humanistic theory has never been found in previous studies. Thus, this research topic seeks a new perspective.

Based on the description of the problems raised in this study, the objectives of this study are formulated as follows; 1) to describe the characteristics of the main character, describe the form of fulfillment of needs as a process of self-actualization of the main character, and 2) to describe the characteristics of self-actualization contained in the character. Both of these objectives can be achieved by presenting text data based on reading hermeneutic techniques by focusing on self-actualization clues as the topic of this research.

## **2. Methodology**

The method used in analyzing this novel is descriptive qualitative method. It is said to be descriptive because this study aims to describe the data that will be analyzed in parsing the main character's self-actualization in the novel *Sesuk* by Tere Liye based on Abraham Maslow's humanistic psychology study. Furthermore, it is said to be qualitative because in explaining concepts using words or sentences instead of using statistics. This is in line with the statement of Sugiyono (2019:9), which states that qualitative research is research that places researchers as key instruments, data collection techniques are carried out by combining and inductive data analysis.

The data in this study are in the form of dialogue and monologue texts in the novel which contain the main character's character, the form of the main character's self-actualization, as well as the main character's self-actualization characteristics. While the data source in this research is the text of the novel *Sesuk* by Tere Liye. This data source acts as a material for obtaining data to be analyzed.

Then the research data was obtained through literature study and heuristic reading techniques. Heuristic reading is an analysis of giving meaning based on language structure. After the data is collected, it is then classified according to the type of problem, namely character data, fulfillment of needs as the main character's self-actualization process, as well as the main character's self-actualization characteristics. Literature study is a technique that is carried out by searching, collecting, reading, and studying reference books related to the research.

After heuristic data collection, the research continued with data analysis techniques using hermeneutic reading. According to Teeuw in (Setyowati Susi and Supriyanto Teguh, 2017) hermeneutics is the science of interpreting literary works and language expressions in a broader sense.

## **3. Result and Discussion**

The results should summarize (scientific) findings of the study. It should be written in clear and concise. The separation or combination of Results and Discussion is accepted. If the result is separated into some subheadings, the subheading should be numbered as following example:

### **A. The Main Character in the Novel *Sesuk* by Tere Liye**

The author of a novel can describe the character, nature, and character of the characters by describing them directly and clearly (Rahman, 2022). As for the character of the girl who is the main character in the novel *Sesuk* by Tere Liye, it can be explained further with the following quotation.

#### **Data 1**

Maksudku, terlepas dari rumah itu bangunan tua, usianya hampir seratus tahun, aku bukan anak

yang penakut, tapi itu tetap saja rumah yang besar sekali, dengan lorong-lorong kosong, kamar-kamar kosong. (Sesuk, 2022:8)

"Ini kejutan. Anak sulung Ayah yang selalu gesit, mandiri, berani, ternyata bisa terlihat melamun. Kunci nomor 12, Gadis, bukan 14." (Sesuk, 2022:77)

I mean, apart from the house being an old building, almost a hundred years old, I'm not the faint of heart, but it's still a huge house, with empty halls, empty rooms. (Sesuk, 2022:8)

"This is a surprise. Father's eldest son, who was always agile, independent, courageous, could actually seem dreamy. Lock number 12, girl, not 14." (Sesuk, 2022:77)

Both of these quotes show that Gadis is a brave girl even though she is only 12 years old. This is not only recognized by herself, but her father also admits that this girl is a brave one. One of the reasons this brave character is created that is based on an independent attitude that has been instilled since she was a child. In fact, Gadis can do something independently since her parents are very busy so they cannot take care of her. She is educated naturally to be an independent child. The independent character of Gadis is expressed in the following quotes.

#### **Data 2**

Entahlah, aku tidak tahu apakah Ayah dan Ibu memang terlalu sibuk atau tidak. Karena sejak kecil, aku terbiasa mandiri. Usia tujuh tahun, aku bisa mengurus sarapanku, bekal sekolahku. (Sesuk, 2022:10)

...Usia delapan aku bisa ke sekolah sendiri dengan sepeda, merapikan kamarku sendiri, menyiapkan keperluan sekolahku, semuanya sendiri. ... (Sesuk, 2022:11)

"Alangkah susah menyuruhmu berhenti bermain layang-layang saja, Tono. Lihat Gadis, dia bahkan membawa adiknya di gendongan sambil mencari bumbu dapur. Seusia dia sudah begitu mandiri, Kamu harus mencontoh Gadis." Nenek Tono mengomel. (Sesuk, 2022:45)

I don't know, I don't know if Mom and Dad are too busy or not. Because since childhood, I used to be independent. Seven years old, I can take care of my breakfast, my school supplies. (Sesuk, 2022:10)

...At eight I could go to school by myself by bicycle, tidy up my own room, prepare my school supplies, all by myself. ... (Sesuk, 2022:11)

"How hard it is to get you to stop flying kites, Tono. Look at Gadis, she even carried her sister in a sling while looking for herbs. She's already so independent at her age, you should follow Girl's example." Granny Tono grumbled. (Sesuk, 2022:45)

Apart from being independent, Gadis also has a responsible character. Gadis accepts this responsibility because her parents cannot take care of her and her two younger siblings, so she decides to take responsibility for taking care of her younger siblings. The character of Gadis's responsibility can be shown in the following quote.

#### **Data 3**

Usia sembilan, aku bahkan bisa mengurus Ragil setiap pulang sekolah. Mengganti popoknya, menyuapinya makan, menggendongnya hingga tertidur. Juga menemani Bagus bermain, belajar. (Sesuk, 2022:11)

At nine, I could even take care of Ragil every time I came home from school. Changing his diapers, feeding him, cuddling him to sleep. Also accompany Bagus to play, study. (Sesuk, 2022:11)

As the oldest child, Gadis has to be the head of the family when her father and mother are busy working. He never complained about the routine he had to do at such a young age. Gadis understands that their parents are busy at work, so they shouldn't complain so they do not burden their parents. Evidence that Gadis is a character who does not complain. It can be seen in the following quotations.

#### **Data 4**

Usia sembilan, aku bahkan bisa mengurus Ragil setiap pulang sekolah. Mengganti popoknya,

menyuapinya makan, menggendongnya hingga tertidur. Juga menemani Bagus bermain, belajar. Aku tidak pernah mengeluh. (Sesuk, 2022:11)

"Kamu tahu, Gadis. Kamu berbeda sekali dari anak-anak lain. Spesial. Sejak bisa mandiri, kamu tidak mau merepotkan siapa pun. Bahkan saat Ayah dan Ibu sibuk bekerja, kamu sekalipun tidak pernah mengeluh. Termasuk saat Ayah membuatmu berjalan empat kilometer kehujanan kemarin sore. Kamu tidak pernah mengeluh." (Sesuk, 2022:103)

At nine, I could even take care of Ragil every time I came home from school. Changing his diapers, feeding him, cuddling him to sleep. Also good accompany playing, learning. I never complain. (Sesuk, 2022:11)

"You know, Gadis. You are so different from the other kids. Special. Since you can be independent, you don't want to bother anyone. Even when Mom and Dad were busy working, you never complained. Including when Dad made you walk four kilometers in the rain yesterday afternoon. You never complain." (Sesuk, 2022:103)

But from all of her good characters, she also has a bad character, namely vengeful. This character emerged due to her busy parents so she had to take care of her two younger siblings, even his parents' busyness caused chaos in her house, including when her younger sibling went missing.

#### Data 5

"AKU MARAH!" Aku berteriak kencang sekali, "AKU BENCI MEREKA!" (Sesuk, 2022:295)

"I AM ANGRY!" I screamed out loud, "I HATE THEM!" (Sesuk, 2022:295)

Lack of affection and the role of parents, Gadis has to live life unlike their peers. This causes wounds and revenge in Gadis's heart, even though she never shows it. Then she only revealed it when asked by Doctor Sesuk, so that finally the reader can find out the vengeful character that exists in Gadis. This vindictive character is a result of the attitude of their parents who do not give love to their daughter.

## B. Fulfillment of Needs as a Process of Self-Actualization in the Novel

### 1. Humanistic Psychology

The personality psychology used in this research is Abraham Maslow's humanistic personality psychology. Maslow argued that humans have a hierarchy of needs that starts from physical needs, namely bodily needs such as food, drink, clothing, and so on, to the highest needs, namely aesthetic needs, such as needs for beauty, art, and others. These needs can also be divided into two main human needs, namely D-needs and B-needs.

### 2. D-Needs

Deficiency needs or can be abbreviated as D-needs are needs that are formed due to a deficiency of what is within oneself. In the novel *Sesuk* by Tere Liye, the character of Gadis as the main character is born in a family that is not harmonious due to her parents' busy schedules so that in fulfilling her needs in the form of food, for example, she has to make her own which in this case is included in D-Needs.

There are four needs that fall into this category, namely physiological needs, safety needs, love and belonging needs, and esteem and appreciation needs. These needs are described in detail as follows.

#### a) Physiological needs

Physiological needs are needs related to physical or physical needs. Gadis who is the oldest child in her family plays an important role, namely being responsible as the head of the family replacing her parents when they are busy working. At only 12 years old, she has to look after her younger siblings and do all the housework in place of his parents. That's what shows that she has to work on her own to meet her physiological needs.

#### Data 6

Aku tahu Ibu akan pergi ke ibu kota juga pagi-pagi, aku memutuskan menyiapkan sarapan. Ibu sibuk berkemas. Selesai masak lauk dan sayur, membuat minuman, aku membangunkan adik-adikku. (Sesuk, 2022:125)

Satu jam menyetrika semua pakaian rapi ditumpuk. Pukul setengah satu, saatnya aku menyiapkan makan siang. "Ragil, ikut Kakak ke dapur, yuk." (Sesuk, 130)

Tadi malam aku tidur lelap. (Sesuk, 2022:34)

I know Mother will be going to the capital city too early in the morning, I decide to prepare breakfast. Mom is busy packing. After cooking side dishes and vegetables, making drinks, I woke my younger siblings. (Sesuk, 2022:125)

One hour of ironing all clothes neatly stacked. At half past one, it's time for me to prepare lunch. "Ragil, come with you to the kitchen, come on." (Sesuk, 130)

Last night I slept soundly. (Sesuk, 2022:34)

Based on the quote above, it can be seen how the girl character tries to fulfill physiological needs, namely the need for rest and the need for food by trying to make the food herself, even what she does is also to fulfill the food needs of her younger siblings because her mother is busy with her own business.

#### b) The Need for Security

The need for security is a psychological need. The sense of security referred to in this need is the feeling of security in everything that threatens him. When the character Bagas is declared missing, Girls are busy looking for him around the village. However, unfortunately until evening has not been found. This immediately made local residents come to help search. Not only looking, several other residents and Tono also took care of the girl and her sister at home. Evidence that Girls get the need for security can be proven in the following quotes.

##### **Data 7**

Tono masih di luar, dia terus berjaga di teras rumah. (Sesuk, 2022:141)

Lima menit kemudian, ibu Tono dan dua penduduk pamit. Motor mereka meninggalkan halaman rumah. Tiga penduduk lain masih berjaga di halaman. (Sesuk, 2022:147)

Tono is still outside, he keeps watch on the terrace of the house. (Sesuk, 2022:141)

Five minutes later, Tono's mother and two residents said goodbye. Their motorbike left the yard. Three other residents were still on guard in the yard. (Sesuk, 2022:147)

Based on the quote above, it can be seen how Gadis is helped by other people in fulfilling the need for a sense of security with the presence of local residents who are on guard at her house to protect, accompany and ensure that the girl's family is safe when Bagas has not been found.

#### c) The need for love and belonging

This need is also known as the need to socialize. Social relationships such as family relationships, friendships, groups, and the community environment are examples of satisfying this need. Like the female character, this need for love and belonging is fulfilled through love from her parents, even though she only gets it when her parents are not busy working. This is evidenced in the following quotation.

##### **Data 8**

"Malam ini kita akan masak pertama kali di rumah ini. Ibu menyiapkan masakan kesukaan Gadis, Bagus, dan Ragil." Ibu tersenyum, membongkar kardus satunya, yang berisi bahan masakan. (Sesuk, 2022:27)

"Tonight we will cook for the first time in this house. Mother serves Gadis, Bagus, and Ragil's favorite dishes." Mother smiled, took apart the other box, which contained cooking ingredients. (Sesuk, 2022:27)

Based on this quote, it can be seen how Gadis can fulfill the need for love and belonging with the presence of her mother who is no longer busy since moving to the village, even her mother makes her children's favorite food which she rarely did before when she was busy working.

#### d) The need for self-esteem and appreciation

This need consists of two parts, namely appreciation from oneself and others. The need for self-esteem is indicated by his words when Tono belittled him. This evidenced can be seen in the following quotation.

**Data 9**

Tentu saja aku tahu tumbuhan itu. Aku ikut mengurus kebun UKS di sekolah. (Sesuk, 2022:43)

Of course I know that plant. I take care of the UKS garden at school. (Sesuk, 2022:43)

The need for appreciation in Gadis character is marked by her character being appreciated by the people around her. This can be seen in the following quotations.

**Data 10**

"Iya. Lihatlah Gadis, anak sulung kita tumbuh sangat membanggakan, karena kamu berhasil mendidiknya. Kita bukan orang tua yang buruk. Kita akan melewati kejadian itu." (Sesuk, 2022:13)

"Alangkah susah menyuruhmu berhenti bermain layang-layang saja, Tono. Lihat Gadis, dia bahkan membawa adiknya di gendongan sambil mencari bumbu dapur. Seusia dia sudah begitu mandiri. Kamu harusnya mencontoh Gadis." Nenek Tono mengomel. (Sesuk, 2022:45)

"Yes. Look at Gadis, our eldest child grows very proud, because you managed to educate him. We're not bad parents. We'll get past that incident." (Sesuk, 2022:13)

"How hard it is to get you to stop flying kites, Tono. Look girl, she even carried her sister in a sling while looking for herbs. At his age he was already so independent. You should follow Gadis's example." Granny Tono grumbled. (Sesuk, 2022:45)

Based on this quote, it can be seen how Gadis character can fulfill the need for self-esteem and appreciation by trying to get rid of being belittled by Tono's character and she also gets various awards or appreciation from others because of her proud character.

**3. B-Needs**

This need is better known as the need for self-actualization. Another term is B-Needs. Maslow (in Umroh, 2018:49) states that self-actualization is the human desire to gain satisfaction with oneself, to realize all one's potential, to become whatever one can do, and to be creative and free to reach the peak of one's potential achievements. In the novel *Sesuk*, the character Gadis has gone through a self-actualization process, successfully making her family whole again with her tenacity, self-character and potential. This is explained in the following text excerpt.

**Data 11**

"Segera putuskan, Gadis. Waktu kita semakin terbatas. Karena di sisi lain, jika celah buruk program android mulai terbentuk, android di masa depan mulai berubah menjadi jahat, mereka juga bisa mengintervensi timeline, mengirim android jahat untuk memastikan adikmu tumbuh dengan pemahaman semakin buruk, membenci orang tuanya, membenci semua manusia." (Sesuk, 2022:313)

"Segera putuskan, Gadis. Waktu kita semakin terbatas. Karena di sisi lain, jika celah buruk program android mulai terbentuk, android di masa depan mulai berubah menjadi jahat, mereka juga bisa mengintervensi timeline, mengirim android jahat untuk memastikan adikmu tumbuh dengan pemahaman semakin buruk, membenci orang tuanya, membenci semua manusia." (Sesuk, 2022:313)

In the quotation above, a situation is described where Gadis decide to restart the situation so that her life can return to normal. Then there is no definite clarity regarding the textual evidence that Gadis did or decided what, but the story continues by returning to the time when the girl and her family were preparing to move house. This proves that the Gadis's decision was to agree to restart the situation as it was a few months ago, so that her family would return to harmony as before when her parents were no longer busy working.

### **C. Characteristics of Self-Actualization in the Novel *Sesuk* by Tere Liye**

Self-actualizing characteristic is a part of an individual's personality that is struggling to achieve self-actualization. This can also be interpreted that these characteristics already exist when a person is achieving needs in the previous stages (Maslow in Setyowati and Supriyanto, 2017). These characteristics have also been seen in the girl before reaching her self-actualization. The self-actualizing characteristics that emerge are as follows:

#### **1. Observing reality efficiently**

Gadis is able to take lessons from the experiences she has gone through. This ability is related to the ability to understand reality efficiently.

##### **Data 12**

Aku menyeringai. Aku tahu maksudnya, Ibu beberapa kali, ditengah kesibukannya, menyempatkan datang di acara sekolah. (Sesuk, 2022: 17)

I smirked. I know what you mean, Mom several times, in the midst of her busy schedule, took the time to attend school events. (Sesuk, 2022: 17)

Gadis thought about this when a teacher said that moving her and her sister had made school events less crowded. Even though what actually happened were not Gadis and Bagas who made the school event lively, but sang Ibu. Sang Ibu indeed comes to the event every year so that the event is crowded with people who want to see mother up close because mother is a famous actress and singer.

#### **2. Accepting yourself, others, and nature as it is**

The girl realized very well that she couldn't put her ego first when si Bapak told her that they were moving house. Thus he tries to like it by accepting the circumstances in his new home environment as something to be grateful for and will motivate him to agree to his move plan.

##### **Data 13**

Aku sebenarnya suka tempat itu, ada bukit-bukit di belakang hutan, ada sungai kecil yang mengalir jernih tidak jauh dari rumah, juga ada waduk yang dipenuhi air saat musim penghujan. Aku suka berdiri di jendela besarnya, menatap hamparan kebun teh tidak jauh dari rumah. Pagi hari, kabut membungkus perbukitan, seperti selimut. Udara terasa dingin. Napasku mengeluarkan uap.

Tapi itu liburan. Empat hari, memang tidak terasa, setiap hari selalu ada hal-hal baru dan seru.

Kalau harus tinggal di sana? Menetap? Berbulan-bulan? Bertahun-tahun? Aku tidak tahu. (Sesuk, 2022:7-8)

I actually like that place, there are hills behind the forest, there is a small river that flows clear not far from the house, there is also a reservoir that fills with water during the rainy season. I like standing at the big window, looking at the expanse of the tea garden not far from the house. In the morning, the fog wraps around the hills, like a blanket. The air was chilly. My breath is steaming.

But that's a vacation. Four days, it doesn't feel like it, every day there are always new and exciting things.

If you have to live there? Stay? Months? Years? I don't know. (Sesuk, 2022:7-8)

Suddenly sang Ayah said that Gadis and her family would move to the village. Suddenly, Gadis honestly disapproved of this, with the evidence that she considered the decision by trying to accept the natural surroundings which could have made her agree to move there.

#### **3. Focussing on the problem**

Gadis is able to put aside things that they think are less important, even if it's their own needs. This character is proven by Gadis who tries to do everything herself while her parents are busy working. He doesn't care if he has to bother taking care of his younger siblings, because the most important thing is that his parents can work without worrying about the condition of their daughter.



#### **Data 14**

"Iya, Bu. Besok hari Minggu, tidak sekolah. Aku bisa mengurus Ragil seharian." (Sesuk, 2022:120)

"Yes, ma'am. Tomorrow is Sunday, no school. I can take care of Ragil all day." (Sesuk, 2022:120)

When Gadis could complain about the situation where her parents work so she is given the responsibility to take care of her two younger siblings, but she holds it back from saying or complaining about it. This is what proves Gadis the character of the girl has a character that focuses on problems, not selfish.

#### **4. Functioning autonomously**

Autonomy from culture and environment is also a characteristic shown by the girl character. In the neighborhood where Gadis and her family have moved, the culture is still strong. Not infrequently residents still believe in mystical things as a result of traditions that are still being lived. Like when it was reported that the village was visited by a ghost, children wore bracelets as a talisman that could ward off the ghost. Luckily, Gadis doesn't believe this, she is not influenced by her friends.

#### **Data 15**

Aku menyeringai. Memangnya hantu bisa diusir dengan gelang? Tapi aku tidak sempat membahasnya, kalimat murid laki-laki lebih dulu terdengar olehku. (Sesuk, 2022:162)

I smirked. Can ghosts be exorcised with bracelets? But I didn't have time to talk about it, the male student's sentence was heard by me first. (Sesuk, 2022:162)

Gadis didn't believe in ghosts, or something like that, which at that time was still believed by local residents. She remained in her stance by not following the beliefs or traditions of the village community.

#### **5. Appreciating people and things in a good and sustainable manner**

After sang Ibu decided to stop working as an artist, Gadis was very happy with this decision. Every day she could see his mother at home, doing housewife work. Not infrequently, Gadis appreciates the appearance of a mother who, even though she is wearing simple clothes, still looks beautiful.

#### **Data 16**

Aku mengangguk. Tersenyum. Menatap Ibu yang melangkah menuju ke depan lagi. Menatap punggungnya. Aku suka sekali melihat Ibu sekarang. Dia selalu terlihat cantik. Apapun pakaian yang dia kenakan, termasuk dengan cemong di dahi, dia tetap cantik. (Sesuk, 2022:27)

I nodded. Smile. Staring at Mother who stepped forward again. Stare at his back. I'd love to see Mom now. She always looks beautiful. Whatever clothes she wears, even with a pout on her forehead, she is still beautiful. (Sesuk, 2022:27)

Gadis always compliment their mother's appearance. Not infrequently she often wears or follows her mother's style so that she looks beautiful like her mother. Gadis's beauty was also appreciated not only by Gadis, but also by Tiur, Gadis's friend.

#### **6. Having a peak experience**

Gadis is are able to actualize themselves because they have sincere and sincere characteristics. This character is contained in the girl, and is described in the following quote.

#### **Data 17**

"Aku tidak pernah bertanya, tidak pernah protes... karena... karena aku tidak mau merepotkan siapapun... aku ingin membantu..." Aku akhirnya menjawab. (Sesuk, 2022:187)

"I never asked, never protested... because... because I didn't want to bother anyone... I wanted to help..." I finally answered. (Sesuk, 2022:187)

The above quote shows the sincerity of Gadis in helping her parents take care of her younger siblings when they are busy working. This character is supported by the sincerity of Gadis who loves her family, even though her parents rarely give her love.

### **7. Having social awareness/interest**

Character of Gadis is a girl who like to socialize. No wonder if he even recognized almost all the residents in the village. Not only social life with each individual, but he also participates in a series of events to fulfill his interest in social events. This is proven by the following text.

#### **Data 18**

Dua hari minggu terakhir, aku juga menghabiskan waktu bermain bersama Tiur. Naik sepeda. Kami menonton pertandingan layang-layang di lapangan luas itu. Ada festival yang diadakan kantor kecamatan, banyak pemain layang-layang yang berdatangan dari kampung lain. (Sesuk, 2022:75)

The last two Sundays, I also spent time playing with Tiur. Riding a bicycle. We watched kite flying in the big field. There was a festival held by the district office, many kite players came from other villages. (Sesuk, 2022:75)

This quote above indicates that Gadis is a person who likes to socialize. Even though she is relatively new to moving to the village, she does not hesitate to socialize with fellow residents in the village.

### **8. Having a Strong Interpersonal relationship**

The characteristics of self-actualization which are also found in the characteristics of Gadis is maintaining relationships between herself and other people. Gadis builds close relationships with her friends because she has the same interest, namely reading books. This was seen when Gadis had to say goodbye to her friends because she had to change schools.

This morning I said goodbye at school. My friends were shocked, they didn't think that I suddenly moved. "Aduh, Gadis, lantas bagaimana dengan geng membaca kita? ("Oh Gadis, what about our reading gang then? my friend exclaimed.

The same interest between Gadis and her friends makes Gadis has a good relationship with them. The relationship was marked by her friends swarming Gadis when she said goodbye because she was going to move house and school.

### **9. Having strong ethics**

Gadis is known as someone who has good characteristics and ethics. After receiving something he always said thank you. This proves that Gadis has strong ethics because she never forgets this.

#### **Data 19**

"Terima kasih banyak, Nek." Aku menerimanya. (Sesuk, 2022:66)

Aku bahagia. Adikku kembali. Terima kasih. Sungguh terima kasih 10.000 kali. (Sesuk, 2022:124)

"Thank you very much, Grandma." I accept it. (Sesuk, 2022:66)

I am happy. My sister is back. Thank You. Really thank you 10,000 times. (Sesuk, 2022:124)

The words of thanks that are always made by Gadis, thanksgiving for what she has received. This is a form of good ethics, because when we get something we should say thank you as a form of appreciating and being grateful for what has been given to us.

### **10. Having a sense of humor and philosophy**

Gadis is not only known as cheerful people, she also often shows her humorous side. Look at the following text

#### **Data 20**

"Biar lebih enak lihat wajahmu, dari tadi wajahmu jelek banget. Kakak jadi kehilangan selera

makan." Aku tertawa, sengaja menggoda adikku, biar meja makan lebih riang. (Sesuk, 2022:128)

"Let me see your face better, your face has been really ugly. Brother has lost his appetite." I laughed, deliberately teasing my sister, so that the dinner table would be more cheerful. (Sesuk, 2022:128)

Gadis is doing this not only because she has a good sense of humor, but also to lighten things up at the dinner table. This is because Bagas is gloomy because his parents left him to work, so that when he is at the dinner table his situation is sad.

#### 4. Conclusion

In the process of self-actualization, Girls are able to meet their needs based on the theory of the hierarchy of needs as proposed by Abraham Maslow. In the novel *Sesuk* by Tere Liye, the character Gadis manages to achieve self-actualization by restoring her harmonious family relationship to how it used to be when her parents decided to stop working, so that Gadis and her two younger siblings get back the love of her parents. Of all the self-actualizing characteristics found in Gadis, the character focuses on the most dominant problem among the other characters. Gadis is able to set aside themselves and their personal interests in order to focus on the problems they face.

The contribution of this research is so that literary readers can obtain various important lessons from the attitude of the main character. There are still many things that have not been revealed in this study, and then become opportunities for the next researcher. At least this research can be used as a reference or reference. Without exception, the readers of this research can be used as material for reflection to understand the characteristics and fulfillment of needs as a process of self-actualization as the topic of this research.

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