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## THE HIERARCHY OF NEEDS IN WEINER'S LITTLE EARTHQUAKES

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### Abstrak

Penelitian ini bertujuan untuk menggambarkan Hirarki Kebutuhan dibuktikan terhadap tokoh utama dalam novel. Penelitian ini menggunakan teori Maslow yang mengemukakan lima tahapan dalam Hirarki Kebutuhan termasuk kebutuhan psikologi, kebutuhan keamanan, kebutuhan memiliki dan cinta, kebutuhan penghargaan, dan kebutuhan aktualisasi diri. Penelitian ini menggunakan metode diskriptif kualitatif. Data pada penelitian ini didapatkan dari dialog dan narasi dalam novel. Hasil dari analisis mengindikasikan bahwa seluruh tokoh utama mempunyai banyak kekuatan untuk memenuhi Hirarki Kebutuhan

Kata kunci: karakterutama, *Maslow*, Hirarki Kebutuhan.

### Abstract

This research aimed to describe the Hierarchy of Needs manifested to the main character in the novel. It applies psychological Maslow's theory, who proposes five steps of Hierarchy of Needs covering Psychological Needs, Safety Needs, Belongingness and Love Needs, Esteem Needs, and Self-Actualization. This research used descriptive qualitative method. The data in this research were in written form taken from the dialogue and narration of the novel. The result of analysis indicates that all of characters have a lot of power to fulfill the Hierarchy of Needs.

Keywords: *main character, Maslow, hierarchy of needs.*

## BACKGROUND

*Little Earthquakes* tells about the dreams of American women and also as the dream of woman in the world. This highly acclaimed storyteller brings readers a tale of romance, friendship, forgiveness, and extreme sleep deprivation, as four very different women navigate one of life's most wonderful and perilous transitions: the journey of new motherhood. In general, this novel describes how women past their level's needs. There are long processes for them in life, started from making relationship, marriage, to be the wife, pregnant, have baby and to be the best mother for their family. For researcher, *Little Earthquakes* likes a mini biography from fourth women characters. Each character has different problems with their family.

The first is Lia, who had to face the reality for the death of her son. She has recently lost a baby to SIDS is known as cot death or crib death, is the sudden unexplained death of a child less than one year of age. Another character is Becky, an overweight but thoroughly appealing chef at a chic bistro. Married to an adoring doctor and living in a cozy row house but unfortunately she gets troubles with her parents in law. Next is Kelly, she is going to have everything perfect. Then her husband loses his job and her world is turned upside down as she goes back to work when her baby is twelve-weeks-old. She struggles with exhaustion while she tries to do it all. Although she needs help, she refuses to let her husband do anything and is furious when he doesn't. He finally leaves her. The last is Ayinde the gorgeous wife of an NBA superstar and also as a rich wife but in other hand her husband was affair with other women.

Through *Little Earthquakes*, Weiner wants to portray the power of female as wife in this era. She showed that it was possible for women in this era to achieve sacrifice and success on her own, no matter odds were against her. Here, Weiner explored the obstacles that Lia, Becky, Kelly, and Ayinde are encounters in their struggle, and showed how they are able to solve their problems under psychological pleasure.

The researcher chooses *Little Earthquake* because Weiner explored the power of love and surrender in solving the obstacle toward those characters. Another interest thing is all characters face unhappiness with humor and a confidence because they have friendship to each other. To analyze the character in this novel, the researcher used psychological aspect using Maslow's theory because it matched to achieve the purpose of this study.

Psychological criticism by applying psychological theory of Maslow that Human Basic Motivation refers to *Hierarchy of Needs*. It is a motivational theory in psychology comprising a five-tier model of human needs, often depicted as hierarchical levels within a pyramid. The hierarchy of needs five-stage model includes of the first is *Biological and physiological needs* for example air, food, drink, shelter, warmth, sex, sleep. Next is a *Safety need* - protection from elements, security, order, law, stability, freedom from fear. The third is *Love and belongingness needs* - friendship, intimacy, trust, and acceptance, receiving and giving affection and love. Affiliating, being part of a group (family, friends, work). Next is *Esteem needs* - which Maslow classified into two categories: (i) esteem for oneself (dignity, achievement, mastery, independence) and (ii) the desire for reputation or respect from others (e.g., status, prestige). Maslow indicated that the need for respect or reputation is most important for children and adolescents and precedes real self-esteem or dignity. And the last is *Self-actualization needs* - realizing personal potential, self-fulfillment, seeking personal growth and peak experiences.

Actually there are many previous studies using Maslow's theory toward literary work. For example Ratih (2014) "A Psychological Analysis of The Main Character in Green's *The Fault in Our Stars*" The aims of this study are focused: (1) to identify the

method of characterization and the type of character used by the author to describe the main character itself in this book. (2) to explain Three Dimensional theory of the main character especially the psychological dimension of it, in order to analyze her behavior/personality in general and how it is developed for the rest of the story. (3) To analyze and explain the relation between the main character's psychological needs development according to Maslow's motivational theory in facing her chronic illness and her psychological condition using Kubler-Ross's theory in order to know which grief stages that the main character is going through along the story in correlation of her behavior/personality.

The next is Abidin (2017) **An Analysis of a Main Character's Motivation in Nicholas Sparks' Novel Entitled "A Walk To Remember"** In this study, he is interested to analyze the main character and her motivation to survive against cancer.

Different with others, the researcher comes up with *The Hierarchy of Needs in Weiner's Little Earthquakes* as the title of the research. There are many differentiation between them start from the title of object analysis and the characterizations of character which focused in woman ways.

Referring to the reason above, the objective of the problem was describing:

1. The characterization that main characters have in Weiner's *Little Earthquakes*.
2. The power of main characters to fulfill the Hierarchy of Needs.

## **METHOD**

This study uses descriptive qualitative design in describing how the struggle of major characters is able to achieve her power in Jennifer Weiner's *Little Earthquakes* under Maslow's psychological approach. Bogdan and Taylor in Kurniasari (2007: 24) states that *qualitative methodologies refer to research procedures which produce descriptive data: people's own written or spoken words and observable behavior*.

The data in this research were the dialogues and narrations in novel *Little Earthquakes* by Jennifer Weiner was published in 2004 by Atria Books a division of Simon & Schuster, Inc. Another data drive some resources which are relevant to the object of study.

Research Instrument in this research is the researcher. According to Bogdan and Biklen in Sugiyono (2012) in qualitative research, the researcher is the key instrument. Author as an instrument in this study serves to establish the focus of research, selecting data sources, collecting data, assessing the quality of the data, analyze the data, interpret the data, and make conclusions on the findings.

Data Collection in this research is divided into four steps. The first is close reading, the step to understand the data found in the novel and to determine the existence of the data throughout the novel *Little Earthquakes*. Second is brainstorming is the step to jot down all the data. This way likes make source as thing to improve. Next is selecting is to mark the spreading data from brainstorming. The writer selects the conversation of major characters and minor characters in *Little Earthquakes* in terms of friendship, love, duty, and doomed. The last is to classify the data into similar groups, such as the characters' characterizations, the setting described by major character's statements or between the characters' conversation, the conflict appear in character's conversation.

Data Analysis Technique in this research is following some steps. The first step is classifying the data based on the information about main character needs that contained in the data. The second step is finding the answer of research problems by identifying the kinds of needs that showed by the main character in the movie and analyzing the influence of the main character desire in fulfilled his needs. The third was make conclusion for answering the research questions based on result of the research.

## RESULT

The characterization of main characters have in Weiner's *Little Earthquakes*.

### Lia

Lia is the ex-artist. Her physical appearance is **not good looking** when the story begins. She was very contradictive as stated when she comes to Northeast Philadelphia:

What I have now is a gigantic, pink, floral,-printed Vera Bradley bag big enough to hold a human head. If this bag were a person, it would be somebody's dowdy, gray-haired great-aunt, smelling of mothballs and butterscotch candies and insisting on pinching your cheeks. It's horrific. (LE, 2004:3).

However, when Lia was eighteen she was very beautiful. *"I'd chosen new name to go along with my slimmed-down body, the lips I plumped up, the nose I pared down, and the hair whose color I changed at least three times a year."* (LE, 2004:62).

Obviously, by those quotations above we can see that Lia physical appearance is **not attractive** again. It is considered to be something natural. It is because when this story begins Lia have lost her baby and **become depression mother**. After marriage with Sam, she get baby. Lia really love her baby. But, *Little Earthquakes* take her baby to never back again. He was died. But, Lia still feel unbelievable.

I could feel that air getting heavier as I walked toward him, changing from gas to a liquid, something heavy and could. My feet wanted to stop, to freeze in place in the middle of Tracy's beige carpet; my eyelids to rewind the clock, start the day over, the week the month, the year over. I wanted this not to be true. (LE, 2004:236)

She also feels **guilty** to her husband: *"Every time he looked at me, he'd see what had lost; every time I looked at him, I'd see the same thing. I couldn't stay. I couldn't stay and hurt him anymore"*. (LE, 2004:5).

Exactly, Lia has good husband. He is very kind with her. But the problems come from Lia. She feels **blame** herself of this accident. *"I know." I took a deep breath. "I know in my head. But here..." I laid my hand on my heart. I couldn't tell them the rest of it"* (LE, 2004:236). Not only that, she also **feels not safety**. As her statement, *"It had been this way since it happened. Nothing could make me feels safe"*. (LE, 2004:4).

However, beyond her plain physical appearance she does not give up. She has **spirit** to recovery her condition. As she said: *"Get job had been on my list, right after get money and find place to live"* (LE, 2004:220).

Fortunately, she has meet best friend like Becky, Kelly, and Ayinde and make good relation with them. They always give support to her to approve her destiny. As Becky told: *"It wasn't your fault," Becky finally said. "It could have happened even if he'd been sleeping at home"*. (LE, 2004: 236). In the end of story Lia show her power to come back to her husband, Sam to continue their life with new life without traumatic of little earthquake.

### Becky

As Weiner statement, "Becky told them she'd grown up in Florida and had come to Philadelphia for her husband's residency." (Weiner, 2004:44). This statement described that she was very **mature** and sure **ready to be wife**. She wants to belong with her husband to support his career and it was called **loyalty**.

Becky is the chef and the owner of restaurant. She has problem with her weight. She is **not slim** like woman dream. But with her creatively, she gets the match cloth with his size.

Becky pulled of her elastic-waisted black pants, exchanging them for a pair of elastic-waisted blue ones and added an exercise bra that had taken her forty-five minutes on the Internet to find at a site called, God help her, Bigmamas.com. (LE, 2004:10)

Exactly, the weight's problem is normally comes to pregnant women. But for Becky, she is fatter than normally pregnant women. But for her, have trouble with weight it is not make her become people who cannot doing anything. She can prove with become the owner of restaurant and give changes to people especially Lia work in her restaurant. "So, you gonna take the job? Believe me, everyone will be delighted to have you." (LE, 2004: 221)

In other hand, Becky is very **lucky** to have Andrew as her husband. He was responsibility with her, and loving her very much. But she has a **bad relation with her mother-in-law**. For Becky, she is very annoying.

"Becky Rothsteinn-Rabinowitz brushed her curls out of her eyes, pulled the phone out of her pocket, winced when she saw the number displayed on the screen and replaced the phone without answering. "shit," she muttered to no one in particular. That marked her mother-in law Mimi's fifth call in the last two hours." (LE, 2004: 7).

The of dialogs show that Becky was **very concern with her baby**. Not only care with her baby, she also **cared with her friends**.

"Don't be silly," said Becky. Poor thing, she thought. Being in labor all by herself – no husband around, no friend to hold her hand-was about the worst thing she could imagine. ..." we're not just putting you in cab and abandoning you!" (LE, 2004:17).

But, in the end of story, Becky shows her power to approve all about Mimi, her mother-in law. She was knew, that one of way to love and keep her family is understood about Mimi. Mimi likes her mother, too. So there is no reason to make conflict with her.

## **Kelly**

Kelly is an event planner. She was like Barbie doll when the first time Becky meets her. She was **beautiful woman**.

On Becky's right was a tiny girl with a ponytail of cornsilk-fine blond hair and a perky little belly. She wore one of those maternity workout ensembles that come in size Small and Smaller-white-striped track pants, black tank top with contrasting trim hugging her bump. Yoga's Barbie's name turned out to be Kelly! An event planner! This was her first pregnancy! She was twenty-six years old, and she was twenty-seven weeks along! (LE, 2004: 12-13)

She was **concern with her style**. It is likes redundant, but when she comes to her doctor to control her pregnant, DrMendlow had probably thought she was crazy because the first question she'd asked during her first office visit wasn't about diet or exercise or the birth itself but, "Can I get my hair highlighted?". (LE, 2004: 42).

For Kelly, style of hair is very important. Because it is likes crown. But sometimes we need extra budget to care our hair. Fortunately, Kelly is **creative**. All through high school in Ocean City, she'd premade hair. She couldn't afford to have hers straightened, so after the second day of classes, she found a West Philadelphia barbershop a few blocks off campus. She parked herself in the black leather chair in front of the astonished barber and

said, cut it all off. *She had a pixie cut for the rest of collage. It was her signature look. And at twelve bucks per trim, it was one she could afford.* (LE, 2004: 52-53).

Another Kelly's character is very **ambitioning**. When she was child, her mother gives her Scrapbook. The scrapbook was an old photo album that was meant to be the twins' book, but her mother had gotten boring with it, so there only a few snapshots. But Kelly was **not interested in pictures of people**, just pictures of things. She cut out shorts big Colonial houses where the paint on the shutters wasn't flaking in long, curling strips; pictures of shining new minivans; pictures of blue vases full of daffodils and patent-leather tap shoes and a pink Huffy bike with a glitter banana set. Pictures of dresses, picture of shoes, a picture of the coat with real rabbit fur on the collar and cuffs that Missy Henry had worn to school last winter. She hopes all in the scrapbooks will come true in her life. But this character was not match with her mother mind set. Her mother things that have high ambition of things in the world are not good. *"Because God doesn't care about nice things"* (LE, 2004:41)

But in another hand, her perfectionism has god effect. She was **full planning**. Kelly didn't want to buy cheap stuff they'd just have to replace, so she decided to wait until they could afford exactly the things she wanted.

One of Kelly's characters is **quasi-timid**.

*And accepting Ayinde's thank-you and the Kate Spade diaper bags she'd given them both as gifts (Oh, really, this is way to much," Kelly had said , while inwardly she was thrilled and only wished that the bag had said Kate Spade in larger, more visible letters)* (LE, 2004: 39) .

It was always come in real life. Generally women like this. It is not hypocrite. But it is way to keep their prestige.

Kelly must be **struggling** to balance work and motherhood while dealing with an unemployed husband who seems content to channel-surf for eight hours day. Another character from Kelly, she was **care with her friends**. *"Kelly bent and slipped on her shoes and left her, mincing baby steps, out the door, where Andrew Rabinowitz was waiting with the car"* (LE, 2004:30).

## **Ayinde**

She is ex journalist when the story began. Ayinde was **beautiful** woman. On Becky's left was the most beautiful woman Becky had ever seen outside of a movie.

She was tall and caramel-skinned, with cheekbones that could have cut butter, eyes that looked topaz in the candlelight, and a drum-taut-tummy pushing at a light-brown cashmere hoodie. She had perfectly manicured fingernails and, Becky could see once she'd her left hand the size of sugar cube. (LE, 2004:13).

She was life in luxury because she is wife's basketball superstar. But **it does not make her happy**. Her husband very busy and all her activities become public consumption. But she was happy to meet her friends, like Becky, Kelly, and Lia. She like give them gift. It is become reason why her friends call her as royal and generous woman.

When she was child, Ayinde had problems with skin color and it influence to her life.

"The white girls she went to prep school and boarding school with had been perfectly nice, with a few notable exceptions, but their friendship had always had a kind of cloying undertone, as if Ayinde were a lost they'd rescued from the rain. The black girls-the handful of them she'd wanted much to do with her, once they got past the exotic name

and found out that her pedigree made her more like the rich white girls than like them.”(LE, 2004:22).

Problem of skin color it does not make she was feels humiliated. It makes her **strong** to face another problem in the future. For example when she must approve that her husband unfair with another woman.

“I’m sorry,” he finally blurted.

“How could you,” she said.

“I’m sorry,” he said again. “But Ayinde, it was nothing. It was a one-night stand. I don’t know her last name!”

“You think I believe that?” she demanded. “you came to me the night our son was born smelling like some other woman’s perfume” (LE, 2004:265).

Since she was child, her parents educated her to be **brave** woman.

Be brave, her parents used to tell her. She remembered them bending over her bed when she was little, their faces serious in the darkness, her mother’s the color of milk chocolate and her fathers the color of snow. You are pioneer; they’d explain, their eyes shining with earnest good intentions. You are the future. And not everyone’s going to understand it, not everyone’s going to love you the way we do, so you have to be brave. (LE, 2004:21).

When she was adult, Ayinde had marriage with Richard Towne. He is very popular basketball player. His career influence Ayinde’s social life. She tried to be **the best figure**.

In the novel, Ayinde was described as strong pregnant woman. She must face pre-labors without her husband, because he had very busy. She had left dozens of messages at a dizzying array of numbers. She’d called Richard’s cell and his pager; she’d left messages with his agent and his coach, the team’s front office, the maid at their new house in Gladwynne.

At the moment, Ayinde will give up. *“Oh, God!” she groaned. “I can’t do this anymore... I want my mother. The contraction finally loosened its grip. Ayinde started crying, miserable, defeated tears.”* (LE, 2004:29).

But with a long struggle until the finally she can past the emergency moment. *“She felt a sensation of slipping, of great, twisting release, a sudden, shocking emptiness that reminded her, somehow, of her first orgasm, how it had taken her entirely and stolen her breath away.”* (LE, 2004:36).

As a **god wife**, she **had high sense with her husband**. *“Perfume, Ayinde’s mind whispered in a voice that sounded suspiciously”*. (LE, 2004: 35). And in future it proved that her husband had unfair with another woman.

Not only that, in the emergency situation, when her husband unfair with another woman, she faces the complicated situation. Her son suspected breathing rapidly.

Normally the left and the right atria are separated by the atrial septum, and ...” he pointed,” the left and the right ventricles are separated by the ventricular septum’. And Julian has a hole. (LE, 2004: 315).

It makes her feels stress. But, in the end of story, Ayinde show her power with give her husband **forgiveness**. She became conscious that what her husband doing also have correlation with herself. Since they have baby, Ayinde more focus to keep her baby, and

uncared with Richard's needs.

He looked down at the table and said nothing.

"Richard, I had a baby..."

"You had a baby," he said. "but you had a husband, too. I needed you, and you pushed me away." (Weiner, 2004: 265-266).

Fortunately, Ayinde had god friends that always belonging her in many condition.

## **THE POWER OF MAIN CHARACTERS TO FULFILL HIERARCHY OF NEEDS**

### **Physiological Needs**

These are the needs directly related to survival, which we share with other animals. Included here are the needs for food, water, elimination, and sleep. (Kurniasari, 2007:60).

Lia, Becky, Kelly, and Ayinde are similar as people in the world. They need food and water. In the beginning of story, Lia was described as people whose lost appetite. "*Getting through the days. Eating food without tasting it, throwing out the Styrofoam containers.*" (LE, 2004:4). Exactly, Lia can complete this need. Merely, she was traumatic with little earthquakes that take her baby, and it was influence to her appetite.

For Becky, she doesn't have problem of this need. Not only serve food and drink for her, but also she serve food and drink to many people, every day.

It was three o'clock in the afternoon, and he little kitchen was already steamy and warm with the scent of braised pork shoulder in a cinnamon-spiked sauce, cilantro and garlic salsa, and roasting peppers, for the savory flan. Becky took a deep, happy breath and stretched her arms over her head. (LE, 2004:8).

It was natural because Becky was the owner of restaurant and she laws the chef in there. Talk about Becky's Restaurant, there many people go there. Kelly is one of member of there. She like go Mas Restaurant to enjoy special food in there. "*I just love your restaurant. Chicken in mole sauce. It was delicious.*" (LE, 2004: 16). From this quotation, we can see that Kelly can complete a food and drink need.

Similar with her friends, Ayinde doesn't have problem to complete this needs. She has luxury life, which no problems of food and drink. Whatever she wan to eat, her maid will serve her. As Winner said, "*Ayinde nodded, thinking how stranger it was, because in her life, all by yourselves meant all by yourself except for the maid, the cook, and the driver.*" (LE, 2004:105).

### **Safety Need**

After her first need is fulfilled, now the character to the next level of the need. Safety need. As stated above, when little earthquakes take Lia's baby does not make Lia feel safe again.

It had been this way since it happened. Nothing could make me feel safe. Not my husband, San, holding me, not the sad-eyed, sweet-voiced therapist he'd found, the one who'd told me. (LE, 2004:4).

The only one who makes Lia feel safe when she get trauma from little earthquakes is her mother. "*You're my daughter,*" she continued, "*and you'll always have a place here.*" (LE, 2004: 61).

As Maslow (1970:39) stated that *safety need is included protection and stability*. In the night of Becky meet Lia in her terrace, she feels unsafe. She afraid that lia will hurt her baby, even her husband, Andrew not at home. "*There's this woman in the park who's always staring me,*" said Becky. (LE, 2004: 66). Fortunately, she has Andrew who can protect her with his responsibility.



Moving away from another character, Kelly as strong woman never feels unsafe. She has brief character, which bring her in stability condition.

Even Ayinde, as popular basketball's wife, sometimes she feel not safety when she in public. "Listen. My husband ...' her forehead furrowed. "Do you think there's a back door to the hospital or something like that? I don't want anyone to see me like this". (LE, 2004: 17). But, fortunately, her husband prepare bodyguard for his wife.

The quotation reveal that all of characters can also gratify their second basic needs namely safety need.

### **Belongingness and Love Needs**

As Maslow stated in his theory of Hierarchy of Needs, *the absence of friends, a sweetheart or a wife, or children will make a person lonely and empty* (1970:43).

From this novel, the researcher surely agrees that this need can be fulfilled by all characters. Because the power of belongingness and love needs can they get from theirs. They have the power of friends or especially for them called sisterhood.

Not only that, they have husband that can her love, although some of him make her wife disappointed. For character Lia, she has good husband that never left her until the bad condition that Lia have been feel. And in the end of story Lia was described come back to her husband and make good relationship with her mother. "I saw Sam and my mother, walking toward me from Walnut Street, arm in arm. Wonders never do cease, I thought, as I got to my feet. (LE, 2004: 412).

Becky was happy to find Andrew in her life. He loves her very much. It prove when Becky in being in labor.

"I'm feeling great," Becky said, leaning her head against his chest. "But I know it's still early. "She squeezed his hand. "Stay with me okay?"

"I wouldn't leave for anything, "he said. (LE, 2004: 144).

Although Kelly was disappointed to her husband because he being unemployment when they will get baby. But she still gets affectionate from her husband, and her sister Mary, Terry and Dore. They help her when the first day, Kelly come back to her apartment after she being labor.

"Okay, "Kelly called, as she walked into her apartment with baby Oliver in her arms and her husband and her dog and her sisters in her wake. "Terry, there is lasagna in the freezer. Preheat the oven to 350 degrees and bake it for an hour. Mary, would you mind bringing my laptop into the bedroom? I want to send out an announcement...oh, Steve if you go to the My Documents folder on the desktop, can you please enter once wet diaper? (LE, 2004:161).

Belongingness and love needs also get from mother. It comes to Ayinde life. She has lovely mother who always give her affection. As Weiner said:

"Hello, Mother."

"Hello my love. How are you doing?"

"Just fine," Ayinde said as Julian blatte. (LE, 2004:131).

From those quotations, finally all character need of belongingness and love has been fully gratified, even though to achieve them pass so much struggle.

### **Esteem need**

As ex-artist, and her physical appearance is not good looking, so there is no people will care with her, when Lia comeback to Philadelphia. She does not get esteem from people around her. Fortunately, she meet Becky, Kelly, and Ayinde who understood her and give esteem during she recovery her life after little earthquake.

Living with her mother-in law, Becky doesn't get esteem from her. Mimi as mother-in law always have different point of view with Becky. In this case, Becky always gave in because she know Mimi is her husband's mother, and it means she must give esteem to her.

"Just talk to her," Andrew said. "She's lonely."

"She is crazy, Becky though. " Okay she said." Next time she calls. I'll talk to her." (LE, 2004:8).

Sometimes this condition makes Becky as an inferior, but for Becky is not problems because she knew it was risk living together with mother-in law.

Different of Becky whose never require to gets esteem, Kelly work hard to get esteem from people around her. It is have correlation with her character that she was perfectionist. So, she tried all way to find esteem although become liar.

So she was used to shifting the truth into a more palatable lie. She'd spent her whole childhood magically turning passed out into busy or sick or sleeping. She'd be able to turn laid off into paternity leave if she tried hard enough. (LE, 2004:245).

And for Ayinde, all people always talk about her family because her husband was public figure. So, for her get esteem from people around her is not special again. These above quotations evidently show that finally Lia, Becky, Kelly, and Ayinde are successfully gratified her esteem need.

### **Self-Actualization**

Hergenhahn in Kuriniasari said, *to reach the top of Hierarchy of Needs namely self-actualization, firstly people should fulfill the four basic needs. If someone has fulfilled the physiological, safety, belongingness and love, and esteem needs, so he or she can be regarded to be able to step to the top of the need, namely self-actualization* (2007: 69). It was provided that all character in *Little Earthquakes* can gratify their self- actualization.

As her character, Kelly is full planning woman. She likes to organize all in her life to be something perfectionist. From this character she was choose work that have correlation with her characters. She was become event planner. "*Yoga Barbie's name turned out to be Kelly! An event planner!*" (LE, 2004: 13).

Similar with her, Becky whose like eating and cooking, improve her ability and struggling become chef. She was very patient to start her carrier. "*Becky went from bussing to hostessing and waitressing. When she graduated, Darren the manager had hired her full-time.*" (LE, 2004: 68). She was struggle t build her carrier until she become sexy chef and the owner of Mas restaurant.

Become carrier woman, for Ayinde is the same to be house wife. She agrees with Baby Success by Priscilla Prewitt write that:

Before you had back to the salt mines, think carefully of the consequences of your choice. Babies are meant to love their mothers and to be cared for by their mother. Work if you must, but don't kid yourself. Remember that the woman you bring into your house to love your dumpling is going to get some of the hugs, some of the smiles,

some of the sweet little giggles-in short , some of the love- that any baby would rather give to Mom. (LE, 2004: 136).

The above quotation shows self-actualization in Ayinde is being good mother to her son. Exactly, another character is Lia, was get self-actualization being artist. When she was adult, she has dream to be artist in California.

I'd chosen new name to go along with my slimmed-down body, the lips I plumped up, the nose I pared down, and the hair whose color I changed at least three times a year. (LE, 2004:62).

But, little earthquakes broke her carrier. Fortunately, she has spirit to recovery her carrier. She was comeback to Philadelphia and being waitress in Mas restaurant. "*I started work next afternoon, standing in front of the sink in Mas's steamy kitchen, and peeling carrots until my fingers were numb.* (LE, 2004: 221).

Above all, that all characters were able to achieve self-actualization is not only by her struggle, but also supported by their good mental and moral and self-confidence. Sometimes, unattractiveness is not an obstacle, but smartness, strong will, high motivation, feeling of optimistic lead they to gain success. Their maturity and good moral makes Lia, Becky, Kelly, and Ayinde become victory in their life.

## CONCLUSION

From intrinsic aspects there are many powers of women was exist in major character. The first is Lia who get trauma from little earthquakes and make her appearance not good looking again but she can continue her life. She does not give up to recovery her condition. She keeps her spirit to found the job and come back to her husband because exactly she loves him very much. In another hand, with her creatively Becky as helpful and self-confident woman can find her success without worried of weight. She also mature and she can peace with mother- in law. As perfectionist and smart woman, Kelly work hard to make success in her life. The last is Ayinde with her patient, good mentality; good moral, she can forgiving her husband and keep her baby affectionately. And the biggest power they have been is togetherness that some people called sisterhood. Actually all of the power which are they used to fulfill their needs in life. It is relevant with The power of women in *Little Earthquakes* uses Psychological approach applying with Maslow's theory, *Hierarchy of Needs* covering physiological needs, safety needs, belongingness and love needs, esteem needs, and the need of self-actualization.

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