

# **CHAPTER I**

## **Introduction**

### **1.1 Background of The Research**

One of the most well-known and important theories in psychology is Abraham Maslow's hierarchy of needs theory. The hierarchy consists of five different categories of needs, with esteem needs occupying the fourth spot on the ladder. Esteem needs refer to the basic human desire for self-respect, recognition, and social status. In this thesis proposal, we will explore the concept of esteem needs, significance, and implications for individuals and societies. Maslow's theory suggests that once individuals have satisfied their physiological, safety, and love/belonging needs, they naturally strive towards achieving esteem needs. Esteem can be divided into two categories - the need for self-esteem and Esteem from others. The need for self-esteem refers to a sense of self-worth, self-respect, and self-confidence. On the other hand, the need for Esteem from others is about receiving recognition, appreciation, and admiration.

The fulfillment of esteem needs is crucial to an individual's overall psychological well-being. People who feel valued, respected, and appreciated tend to have a positive self-image, better mental health, and higher motivation. On the other hand, those who feel neglected, undervalued, or unrecognized may experience feelings of inferiority, low self-esteem, and even depression. Research has shown that low self-esteem is associated with various psychological problems, including anxiety, depression, and substance abuse Mann et al., (2004). Esteem needs are

closely related to the concept of identity formation. The need for self-esteem motivates individuals to develop a strong sense of identity and purpose in life. People with a clear sense of self-identity tend to be more resilient, better able to cope with life challenges, and more adaptable to changing circumstances. In contrast, individuals lacking a sense of self-identity may struggle with confusion, uncertainty, and self-doubt. Research by Alessandri et al., (2015) has shown that self-esteem is closely linked to a sense of identity and personal value.

The pursuit of esteem needs has implications for societies as well. Societies that recognize and reward individuals for their accomplishments and contributions tend to have higher motivation and productivity levels among their members. In contrast, societies that do not value individual achievements may experience lower innovation, creativity, and progress levels. Moreover, societies perpetuating negative stereotypes or discriminating against certain groups may lead to social exclusion, identity crises, and other psychological problems. A study by Twenge & Campbell, (2019) found that self-esteem levels have decreased among American youth over the past few decades, which could have implications for their future success and well-being.

The concept of esteem needs has been widely studied in various fields, including psychology, sociology, and education. Researchers have explored different aspects of esteem needs, such as the impact of parenting styles, social media, and cultural differences on the development of self-esteem. A study by Ryan & Deci, (2001) found that individuals who have satisfied their basic psychological needs for autonomy, competence, and relatedness are more likely to have higher

levels of self-esteem. Moreover, practical interventions, such as counselling, mentoring, and group therapy, have been designed to help individuals achieve higher levels of self-esteem and Esteem than others Crocker & Park, (2004).

The concept of esteem needs is also relevant to understanding various societal phenomena. For example, employees' esteem needs can be satisfied in the workplace through recognition and praise for their contributions and achievements. Studies have shown that employees who feel appreciated and valued by their employers tend to have higher job satisfaction, productivity, and organizational commitment Kraimer et al., (2005). Similarly, students' esteem needs can be satisfied in education by recognizing their academic achievements and contributions to classroom discussions. Research has shown that students who receive positive feedback and recognition tend to have higher motivation, engagement, and academic success Bendig, (1953).

In conclusion, Esteem needs to occupy a critical place in Maslow's hierarchy of needs and play an essential role in individuals' psychological well-being and identity formation. The fulfillment of esteem needs is closely linked to self-esteem, a sense of identity, and recognition from others. Societies that value individual achievements and contributions tend to have higher levels of motivation and progress. On the other hand, societies that perpetuate negative stereotypes or discrimination may lead to social exclusion and identity crises. A better understanding of esteem needs can help us design practical interventions to promote individuals' self-esteem and well-being.

As part of studying psychology, Researchers will learn about Esteem need and what drives people. It talks about the world and life of people. Since cross-disciplinary study is becoming more popular, psychology can also be used in literature. Both of them are about the same thing. If literature is a psychological phenomenon that shows in characters' actions, then psychology is the study of psychology Adnan Achiruddin Saleh, (2016). From what has been said above, it is clear that a piece of literature can be looked at from a psychological point of view. This field of study is often called the "psychology of literature." It is a branch of literary studies in which works of literature are read and interpreted based on psychological concepts and theories. In this study, the theory can be used to examine "The Duchess," a book by Danielle Steel.

"The Duchess," written by Danielle Steel published on May 31, 2017. Angélique Latham's father, the Duke of Westerfield, raised her with care at Belgrave Castle after her wealthy French mother died. At age 18, she is her father's most trusted child and has been taught how to run their beautiful estate. However, when he dies, her half-brothers kick her out violently. To stay alive, Angélique would need all her strengths, smarts, beauty, and one bold stroke of luck. Angélique cannot find work after losing her first job as a nanny, so she goes to Paris in a desperate attempt to find work. She helps a young woman escape from a mean madam and gets an idea: she could open an elegant house of pleasure that would protect its women and only serve the best clients. Angélique makes Le Boudoir with the small inheritance her father left her in secret and her great sense of style. With this exciting business, powerful men, hidden desires, and classy women meet.

Nevertheless, she tried to make a life for herself or return to where she should have been, from England to Paris to New York and back to Europe.

Furthermore, the researcher chose this book because no other researcher had looked at it and tried to analyze it. It probably made the research challenging and exciting. Also, the researcher is interested in the author's book. Danielle Steel is an American author born on August 14, 1947, best known for her romance books. She is the most famous author and the fourth most popular fiction writer ever. More than 800 million copies of Danielle Steel's book have been sold. Steel has spent most of her career in California. She writes several books a year and often works on up to five projects simultaneously. Even though there has been "a resounding lack of critical acclaim," all of her books have been bestsellers, including those that came out in hardback (Publishers Weekly). In her books, wealthy families are often in trouble and threatened by nasty things like prison, fraud, blackmail, and suicide. Steel has also written stories and poems for children and started a foundation that gives money to groups that help people with mental illness. Her books have been translated into 43 different languages, and 22 have been made into TV shows, two of which were nominated for Golden Globes.

(Siswanto, 2009) The researcher did previous studies related to this study. The research analyzed Self-actualization in the main character of Daisy Miller in 2009. The writer of this study used library research to do the analysis. Data were taken from a piece of literature called "Daisy Miller," as well as from some books about character development, self-actualization, and others that can help explain its analysis. This research used descriptive qualitative to describe and analyze the data

from the novel's main character, Daisy Miller. The result of this study is that Daisy Miller has reached self-actualization, which can be seen in her actions and the problems she faces in the novel, as Maslow's theory suggests.

Then the study was conducted by Du et al. (2017). The researcher focused on self-esteem at the individual and collective levels but mostly ignored self-esteem at the relational level. The current research investigated relational and collective self-esteem among Chinese college students. They conducted a theory of self-esteem by Tajfel H (1982). The result of this study is four cross-sectional studies and one longitudinal study. Relational self-esteem was associated with greater than-life satisfaction, positive effect, meaning in life, happiness, and subjective vitality.

## **1.2 Identification of the Problem**

The problems will be explored in this study based on the background of the study. The problems are:

1. 'Self-worth' from the main character in the Novel "The Duchess." by Danielle Steel.
2. 'Self-respect' from the main character in the Novel "The Duchess." by Danielle Steel.
3. 'Self-confidence' from the main character in the Novel "The Duchess." by Danielle Steel.
4. The need for having social 'status' from the main character in the Novel "The Duchess." by Danielle Steel.

5. 'Recognition' from others in the main character in the Novel "The Duchess." by Danielle Steel.

### **1.3 Limitation of the Problem**

According to Stoyanov (2017), Maslow classified Esteem needs into two categories. The first category is respect for themselves which is Self-worth, self-respect, and self-confidence. The second category is status, achievement, recognition, and freedom. The researcher limited this research to two categories based on problems in identifying the problem.

1. 'Self-respect' in the main character in the Novel "The Duchess." by Danielle Steel.
2. 'Recognition' from others in the main character in the Novel "The Duchess." by Danielle Steel.

### **1.4 Formulation of the Problem**

Based on the problems mentioned above, they can be formulated as questions.

1. What are the struggles of the main character to gain "Self-Respect" in the Novel "The Duchess" by Danielle Steel?
2. What are the obstacles of the main character to get "Recognition" in the Novel "The Duchess" by Danielle Steel?

### **1.5 Objective of the Research**

The purposes of these papers are:

1. To find out how the main character satisfies the need for 'Self-respect' in the Novel "The Duchess." by Danielle Steel.
2. To find out how the main character satisfies the need for "Recognition" in the main character in the Novel "The Duchess." by Danielle Steel.

### **1.6 Significance of the Research**

Theoretically, this research aims to understand human motivation through a novel by Abraham Maslow's theory, especially about esteem needs. Many researchers have been done on Human Motivation, but just a few are interested in discussing self-esteem through Abraham Maslow's theory. Hopefully, this research can contribute to the reader's interest in psychology by applying the psychological analysis hierarchy of needs by Abraham Maslow's theory in the literature study.

Practically, this research is expected to be helpful. Hopefully, it can be used as one of the new topics in literary studies and make it more varied, and help the reader extend their knowledge through motivation theory and personal psychological Approach to identify the main character's journey in the Novel "The Duchess" satisfying her Esteem needs.



### 1.7 Definition of Key Terms

**Literature** :The origin of the guidelines used for the myriad of activities that fall under the remit of the education sector. "Literature" can also refer to a source for acquiring specific information. This source can take the form of a book or writing in a format other than a book.

**Psychology** :(McDougall, 1967) In his well-known book, "Introduction to Social Psychology," McDougall built a Darwinian theory of human behavior on the idea that people have an instinct or tendency to notice certain stimuli and respond to them to reach some goal. If the response is late, an emotional response will happen.

**Esteem** :Esteem needs are a basic human need identified by psychologist Abraham Maslow in his hierarchy of needs. These needs refer to the desire for individuals to feel respected, valued, and accepted by others and themselves.