

ROBERT'S SELF-ACTUALIZATION IN DAN BROWN'S *ANGELS AND DEMONS*: A HUMANISTIC PSYCHOLOGICAL APPROACH



RESEARCH PAPER

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by:

MISS. SULAIKHOR SAMSEE

A 320 010 194

**SCHOOL OF TEACHER TRAINING AND EDUCATION
MUHAMMADIYAH UNIVERSITY OF SURAKARTA**

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CHAPTER I

INTRODUCTION

A. Background of the Study

One of the most unique creatures all over the world is human beings that consist of physical, psychological, and mental substance. They always face problems of their life. To encounter the kind of problems, human beings will compete to escape from the press of painful thing, building their own self to extend the hand for feeling satisfaction in the matter of inner self and the outer world.

One of the problems which is faced by human being is need. Maslow in Franken (1982:437) states that these needs are organized where the lowest needs must be satisfied first. When these basic needs have been satisfied, the next, set of need come to exert their influence. If all the basic needs have been satisfied, so the need for self-actualization will be come. To reach self-actualization, they should effort in order to it come true. Dealing with this case, Ryckman (1985: 396) says that there is a possibility of moving toward self-actualization of one's own unique potentialities.

Literary works often bring up the idea of self-actualization. One of literary works that convey this idea is novel, for example Dan Brown's novel. In this case the researcher wants to analyze the Dan Brown's novel. Because Dan Brown is a popular author. He has many famous international best seller novels such as; *The Da Vinci Code*, *Angels and Demons*, *Deception Point*, *Digital Fortress*. One of his writing about self-actualization in his novel is

Angels and Demons. This novel is very interesting. It was published by Pocket books a division of Simon and Schuster, Inc. New York 2000. and it consists of 567 and 137 chapters.

In Brown's novel *Angels and Demons*, the major character, Robert Langdon is a symbologist. He is a professor of religious iconology at Harvard University. In one morning, he receives a fax which says that there is a murder in *CERN (Conseil Europeen pour la Recherche Nucleaire)* at SWISS and there will be a time bomb in *Vatican*. When he sees the victim of murder from the fax, he feels so astonished because there is a sign "*Illuminati*" : *Illuminati* is the most powerful underground organization ever to walk the earth.

Then, this *Illuminati* sign is like a puzzle to be guessed in order to protect Vatican from the bomb explosion. As a symbologist, he is interested in revealing the meaning of that sign. He feels challenged to reveal that sign. Of course, as a symbologist he must be able to reveal that sign.

To understand a work of literature, we can use some approaches to know the emotions of each character and also their humanistic psychology, behavioral psychology, individual psychology, or social psychology. In this case, the researcher will use the humanistic psychological approach.

This research concerns with an effort of the major character to reach self-actualization. Therefore, humanistic psychology of Abraham Maslow that focuses on hierarchy of needs will be used to analyze the novel as an appropriate theory.

B. Previous Study

As far as the researcher is concerned, there is no scientific study in *Angels and Demons* conducted by university students at least in Muhammadiyah University of Surakarta and Sebelas Maret University. This is why the researcher encourages herself to analyze this novel by using humanistic psychological approach.

C. Problem Statement

Based on the background of the research, the researcher proposes a single problem statement. "How is the major character's self-actualization reflected in Dan Brown's *Angels and Demons*?"

D. Limitation of the Study

To carry the study, the researcher needs to limit the study. The researcher is going to analyze the main character from the humanistic psychology approach.

E. Objectives of the Study

The objectives of the study are as follow:

1. To analyze the novel based on the structural elements.
2. To analyze the novel based on the Maslow's humanistic psychology approach.

F. Benefit of the Study

There are two benefits of the study from theoretical and practical advantages:

1. Theoretically, the result of the study contributes to the larger body of knowledge, particularly literary study.
2. Practically, the result can give a additional knowledge to the previous research on Dan Brown's *Angels and Demons* and also give contribution of the development of literary studies in UMS especially for English Department.

G. Research Method

1. Type of the Research

The researcher uses descriptive qualitative method beside books and other related references to support the subject matter.

2. Object of the Research

Object of the research in this case is Dan Brown's *Angels and Demons*. In conducting the research, the researcher is going to analyze it by using humanistic psychological approach.

3. Type of the Data and the Data Sources

In relation to the problems presented in advance, the types of data and data sources are:

a. Primary

The primary source of data is Dan Brown's *Angels and Demons* first published in 2000 by Pocket Books, New York. Type of data is

text consisting of word phrases and sentences from the novel and others sources corresponding to the problem of the study.

- b. The secondary data* are taken from several references such as essays, commentaries, and other supporting the subject matter.

4. Technique of the Data Collection

In analyzing the data, the researcher does some steps, they are:

- a.* Reading and trying to comprehend the novel
- b.* Reading related references and understanding them to observe the data

5. Technique of the Data Analysis

In analyzing the data, the researcher employs descriptive qualitative analysis or content analysis. The analysis is started from the author and his work and then the structural analysis of the work and finally the humanistic psychological analysis of the literary.

H. Research Paper Organization

The researcher divides the research into five chapters. Chapter one is the introduction which contains background of the study, previous study, problem statement, limitation of the study, objective of the study, benefit of the study, theoretical background, research method, and research paper organization. Chapter two deals with review of underlying theory, in this chapter, the researcher explains the notion of humanistic psychology, main principles of Maslow's humanistic psychology and theoretical application. Chapter three is structural analysis. In this chapter, the researcher explains the structural elements of the story and discussion. Chapter four is data analysis. It

presents a humanistic psychological analysis of the novel. Chapter five is conclusion. This chapter draws the conclusion of the analysis and offers some suggestions.