

**EMOTIONAL INTELLIGENCE DEVELOPMENT IN  
DANIEL KEYES' *FLOWERS FOR ALGERNON* (1966):  
A HUMANISTIC PSYCHOLOGICAL APPROACH**



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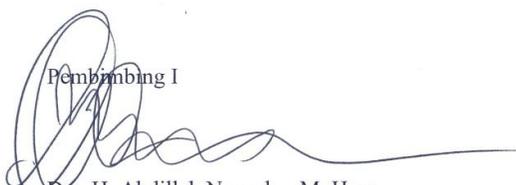
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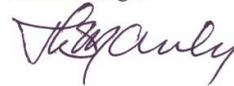
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**ABSTRACT**

*The study is focused on whole needs of the major character from humanistic psychological perspective. The aim of the study is to show the human needs and emotional intelligence of Charlie Gordon in reaching his self- actualization.*

*The object of the research is a science fictional novel entitled *Flowers for Algernon* (1966) by Daniel Keyes., in analyzing *Flowers for Algernon* novel, the writer uses qualitative method and humanistic psychology approach. The data sources consist of primary data and secondary data sources. The primary data source is the novel *Flowers for Algernon* itself and the secondary data sources are the other sources related to the analysis such as the author's biography, books of literary theory of the object and issue. The method of the data collection is descriptive analysis.*

*The result of the research demonstrates the following conclusions. Firstly, literary works and psychological phenomena therefore have the same object, human being. Second, Daniel Keyes views that self- actualized person is fulfillment in doing the best. Third, Daniel Keyes pictures the experience and the struggle to achieve self- actualization by the major character. It shows that human will be motivated to attend his self- actualization after gratifying the lower needs (basic needs). A person will develop himself, to be what he wants to be and to reach the goal in life.*

**Keywords:** *Emotional Intelligence, Daniel Keyes, Humanistic Psychological Approach*

A.

## Introduction

### 1. Background of the Study

*Flowers for Algernon* novel is story of a man named Charlie Gordon. Charlie, a man is the floor sweeper whom is born by having IQ 68 and always being joke of his friends, until a day of the experiment that is intended to increase the human's intelligence changes him to be a genius. Afterwards, Algernon, a mouse who is previously success thought the same experiment losing grade drastically and eventually died. Here in Charlie's life furthermore will be known, how the intelligence has been reached by the operation of experiment does not make him happy in the real life. Only a little of success, he gets it and then he losses it all because he experiencing the derogation again.

Daniel Keyes' literary works, *Flowers for Algernon* is his best work. It is an interesting novel that gives more learning about someone namely Charlie Gordon who previously has a mentality derogation be a genius in period but he has troubles in his life. The researcher is interested in the relationship between emotion and intelligence influence the social and life of someone reflected in Charlie Gordon as the main character where he is related to Maslow's Hierarchy. This study is conducted under the title "Emotional Intelligence Development in Daniel Keyes' *Flowers for Algernon* (1966): A Humanistic Psychological Approach".

### 2. Literature Review

The researcher found the first researcher who has related study is a researcher named Yuliana, a student of Bina Nusantara University who writes a research paper entitled "Structural Analysis of *Flowers for Algernon* by Daniel Keyes: Signifying the Needs of Main Character". In her research paper, she concerns on applied of Structural Theory by Todorov who relates between the true life and sequences of novel story for getting plot of cause – effect and then it will appear the main function to get a catalyst which causes the novel story to be developed. After

getting the main function, then this theory can be supported by hierarchy's needs theory of Maslow to analyze criticism of needs of the main character.

**3. Problem Statement**

The major problem of this study is "How is the Emotional Intelligence Development of the main character in journal of the living is reflected in *Flowers for Algernon*?"

**4. Limitation of the Study**

To carry out this study, the researcher needs to limit the study. The writer is going to analyze the main character, Charlie Gordon, viewed by Maslow's humanistic psychology.

**5. Objective of the Study**

The objectives of the research are:

- a. To describe the structural elements of the novel.
- b. To analyze the novel by means of humanistic psychological perspective.

**6. Benefits of the Study**

**a. Theoretical Benefit**

This study is expected to give contribution to the larger body of knowledge, particularly literary studies on *Flowers for Algernon*.

**b. Practical Benefit**

This study is expected to help the present the researcher himself to enrich his knowledge dealing with humanistic approach and to get more understanding about the novel, especially Daniel Keyes' *Flowers for Algernon*.

**7. Underlying Theory**

**a. Humanistic Psychology**

Maslow is one of the founders of humanistic psychology. He is a thinker of hierarchical theory of motivation, he believes that much of human behavior can be explained by the individual's tendency to

seek personal goal, states that make life useful and significant (Hjelle, 1981:364).

Humanistic psychologist understanding of behavior is different from psychoanalyst and behaviorist. They argue that people are free agents, have free will, and are conscious and creative and born with an inner motivation to fulfill their potential (Roger in Dworetzky, 1988: 488). Abraham Maslow (1908 – 1970) is the thinker of hierarchical theory of motivation; he believes that much of human behavior can be explained by the individualist tendency to seek personal goals. In his system, as one personal desire is satisfied, another surface to take its place (Benson, 1998: 109). He began with the assumptions that people are free to shape their own lives and their most important motivation is desire to achieve self-actualization (Wortman, 1988: 366). So Maslow divided his hierarchy of needs to be five levels.

1) **Physiological Needs**

Physiological needs are essential, powerful and obvious needs among other basic needs of human being. Physically men need food, drink, home, sex, sleep and oxygen (Hjelle, 1981: 369).

2) **Safety Needs**

Safety needs is a higher need from physiological needs. As to Maslow, safety need is the need to guard against physical harms (Maslow in Powel, 1983: 455).

3) **Love and Belonging Needs**

Love and belonging needs play a significant role throughout human being lives. Without love, a child would not grow to psychological health. Adults who do not give and receive love often engage in self-defeating behavior, but in reality they have a strong need to be accepted and loved by other people (Feist, 1985: 380).

#### 4) **Self-Esteem Needs**

Maslow says esteem needs is the need to have self-respect, to feel useful, and to demonstrate competence in one's life (Maslow in Powel, 1983: 445).

#### 5) **Self-Actualization Needs**

Self-actualization according to Maslow is the humanistic perception that people move in the direction of fully developing their personal potential, especially their emotional potential (Maslow in Powel, 1983: 54).

### **B. Structural Elements of the Novel**

There are two kinds of elements, which back up literary work, namely intrinsic and extrinsic element. Intrinsic elements, which include character, setting, plot, point of view, style, and theme (Nurgiyantoro, 1995: 79). The writer will focus to analyze the structural of the novel based on intrinsic element as narrative to limit scope of research.

#### 1) **Character and Characterization**

Character is as an imaginary person who inhabits in a story. Character is imaginary of the author, so characterization is the most important part in developing a story. The character does not only function to play a story, but also deliver idea, plot, and theme (Fananie, 1997: 86-87).

#### 2) **Setting**

Setting is the place and time at which a novel is set (Hornby, 1985: 1076). Setting of place refers to the location of the events within a story and setting of time refers to when the events arose within a story.

#### 3) **Plot**

Plot is a plan or an outline of the events in a novel, which stresses on the causality of the events (Hornby, 1985:

951). Plot of this novel consists of exposition, complication, climax, resolution, causality and plausibility.

4) **Point of View**

According to Abrams, point of view is the way the author uses in telling the story. That is used as medium to give the character, characterization, setting, and some of events, which form the story (Nurgiyantoro, 1995: 142).

5) **Theme**

Kennedy (1983: 103) argues that “the theme of the story is whatever general idea or insight the entire story reveals. Kennedy (1983: 103) adds that in literary fiction, a theme is seldom so obvious. That is, a theme needs not be a moral or message: it may be what the happenings add up to, what the story is about.

6) **Style**

Kennedy (in Koesnosoebroto. 1988:126) explains that style refers to the individual traits or characteristics of a piece of writing: to a writer particular ways of managing words that we come to recognize as habitual or customary.

**B. Research Method**

The research method is divided into five points; they are type of research, object of the study, data and data source, method of collecting data, and method of analyzing data.

1. **Type of the Study**

In this research, the researcher uses qualitative research because the researcher intends to analyze *Flowers for Algernon* novel.

2. **Object of the Study**

The researcher takes Daniel Keyes’ *Flowers for Algernon* which. published by Worthsword Editions limited on 1966 as the object of the study.

### 3. **Type of the Data and the Data Source**

The data of the research are words, phrase, and sentences taken from two sources which are divided into two categories: primary source and secondary source:

#### a. Primary Source

The primary source of data in this research is the novel *Flowers for Algernon* by Daniel Keyes.

#### b. Secondary Source

In this research the writer uses the secondary sources such as books of psychology, essays, study, and literary theories.

### 4. **Technique of the Data Collection**

The method of collecting data in this research is library research. The techniques are as follows:

a. Reading *Flowers for Algernon* repeatedly.

b. Taking note of the important part from both primary and secondary sources.

c. Classifying the data into some categories.

d. Selecting them by rejecting the irrelevant data that do not support the topic of the study.

### 5. **Technique of the Data Analysis.**

The technique that is used for analyzing the data is descriptive. It means that the researcher describes the text and content analysis to get the characteristic of the data to humanistic psychological analysis of the novel *Flowers for Algernon*. Then, the researcher interprets those data through the study.

## C. **Finding and Discussion**

### 1. **Structural Elements of *Flowers for Algernon* Novel**

#### a. **Character and Characterization**

##### 1) **Major Character :**

**a) Charlie Gordon**

Charlie Gordon is a man who has attained the age of thirty two years – old. At his age right now, he cannot read and write well. Basically, he has experienced the mentally derogation since childhood. But he has the power for going forward which he learns everything to write on his progression diary with leading from Mrs. Kinnian and two psychologists namely Prof. Nemur and Dr. Strauss. Moreover Charlie is the protagonist as well as the narrator of the story.

**2) Minor Character :**

**a) Mrs. Alice Kinnian**

She is a teacher at the Beckman college centre special school for retarded adults where Charlie is a student. She suggests his name to the research team of the psychology department, as a possible candidate for the experiment. Charlie loves and depends on her, and she cares for him till the end of the novel.

**b) Profesor Harold Nemur**

He is a scientist who is a senior member of the research team in charge of the experiment that heightens Charlie's intelligence. As an arrogant and career-obsessed man, Nemur treats Charlie as a laboratory animal rather than a human being. Nemur has a tendency to imply that he creates Charlie, as if his mentally challenged patient is not a human. Nemur is tormented somewhat by his wife, who seems even more fixated on his career than he is.

**c) Dr Jay Strauss**

He is a neurologist and psychiatrist who perform the experimental operation that raises Charlie's intelligence,

and Nemur's partner in the experiment. Dr. Strauss conducts therapy sessions with Charlie after the operation. Unlike Nemur, Dr. Strauss maintains interest in and concern for Charlie's emotional development.

**d) Rose Gordon**

She is Charlie's mother who appears mainly in Charlie's flashes of memory that he has about his disturbed childhood. She initially denies his retarded state and drives him to overcome it, but rejects him completely after bearing a second Normal child. She makes an appearance towards the end of the novel, as a senile and still unhappy, obsessed woman.

**b. Setting**

**1) Setting of Time**

*Flowers for Algernon* novel is set in unclearly time enough in the past. Charlie Gordon as the narrator and main character tell to the reader on his two – moments at right now and flash back of himself. He tell more talking about poetry and science and philosophy-about Shakespeare and Milton; Newton and Einstein and Freud; about Plato and Hegel and Kant that they happened about under 1960 which before this novel was created. The other thing was exiting here that he knew and read about *Robinson Crusoe* novel but as far as the narrator knew which the book was published by Worrtsword Editions Limited on 1719, created by Daniel Defoe.

**2) Setting of Place**

**a) Donner's Bakery**

The place where Charlie works at the person who is Charlie's uncle friend named Donner. In this place, Charlie has spent his time about over fifteenth years after

his uncle took him at Warren home. Charlie has the position as the floor sweeper.

b) The Beekman School for Retarded Adults

This place that Charlie learns everything about knowledge. Charlie studies here leading by the experiment of psychology team. Charlie's first love also comes from this place where he falls in love with Alice Kinnian who is as Charlie's teacher.

c) Psychology Laboratory

This place is a part of Beekman School for Retarded Adults. It is used as the operation and experiment place for Charlie and Algernon. The both of them also used to race finding way out on each of their problem. Charlie uses rebus of the way while Algernon uses the labyrinth.

d) Brooklyn, New York

Brooklyn was an address where Charlie and his family lived ago. This place was still placed by his mother and sister. While his father choosed to leave them. They didn't live together again because the different principle of themselves. So they decided to separate away.

**c. Plot**

**1) Exposition**

*Flowers for Algernon* Novel has a three - part story, which is the prologue; Charlie's flashback story, the core story; stories of Charlie's conflict between intelligence and emotion , and the epilogue which is the end of the story of Charlie's retardation.

**2) Complication**

The first conflict is external conflict which it happened after Charlie was operated by the team of psychology research that made him be more knowing

about everything. In the workplace, he didn't work like usual. He could operate the Bakery machine after his friends gave the example, the way of operating the Bakery machine for him. Its beginning was directed to joke Charlie but he finely could do that. It made his friends annoyed because they felt Charlie who had changed be smarter than them.

### **3) Climax**

Climax of Charlie's life is when Charlie who begins knowing his mentally retardation after his operation is little by little started to detect. At that time, he meets and speaks very much to Mr Nemur because he has the problem of Algernon's retardation and it is not too responded seriously by the team of psychology research. That happened makes Charlie mauseated and annoyed by what the team doesn't anything especially for the head of psychology's team, Harold Nemur.

### **4) Resolution**

In the complication, there are at least four essentials conflicts. Three of those are external conflicts, and other three are internal conflicts. As usual, after the climax, the story is ended by a resolution. In this story, the resolution of the climax of this story when Charlie Gordon chooses to leave his life and live along in Warren home. He feels this option is the best way to leaving everything that he has experienced ever though it is painful. He doesn't want to get into a mess for himself or other people.

### **5) Causality**

When Charlie begins to introduce between his workplace and his school at Beekman. He more applies his lesson from Beekman School to his workplace. He

understands what his Beekman School gives and moreover it gives the effect for Charlie. He wants to learn more and ask to his friends at workplace or Beekman school.

#### **6) Plausibility**

The story in this novel makes drastic change on the major character so that the story shows plausibility. As the main character, Charlie is the person whose mentally retardation since he was a child. His appearance in the mid of his family was very complicated to accept by his family, especially his mother and sister. He wanted to be smart someday and when he got a chance be operated by team of psychology research of Beekman school where he took it. Although eventually he experienced the retardation again that made him leaving his life forever. From conflict of the story that Daniel Keyes built the plot that results a good plausibility of the story.

#### **d. Point of View**

This novel is categorized into first person point of view. The narrator creates the main character here is Charlie Gordon as protagonist as well as the narrator of the story. The narrator tells his personality, social environment and condition in the mid of society. In this novel, the words are written like people's diary. It is very interested in his life where it focuses on the background of the person such as intelligence, emotion, love and infliction.

#### **e. Theme**

Kennedy (1983: 103) argues that "the theme of the story is whatever general idea or insight the entire story reveals. The theme of *Flowers for Algernon* novel tells about the human who was born as the mentally retarded

person. That person named Charlie Gordon where in his family was not accepted by his mother and sister. While when he grew older that his friends played trick on Charlie. That was why Charlie choosed be operated to be smart then in order to be not underestimated by his friends again. On the contrary, it made Charlie be far away from his friends and also love that fail with Alice Kinnian and Fay Lilman.

**f. Style**

**1) Grammatical Structure**

In narrating the story, the author uses standard grammatical structure.

**2) Sentence Construction**

In this sentence construction, the dominant style of this novel is language sentences. This is to make narration or illustration. Daniel Keyes often uses long sentence constructions in writing this novel.

**3) Diction**

Diction is the word choice of writer. Daniel Keyes also utilizes the mockery language in writing some dialogues in this novel.

**2. Maslow's Hierarchy of Needs Analysis**

**a. Physiological Needs**

The other thing that Charlie fulfills in the Physiological needs are in sex need. He does it usual with Fay Lilman as the first girlfriend. The fact, Fay herself likes three matters ; dancing, drawing and sex. The activity that they can do together which are sex.

**b. Safety Needs**

The major character in the novel, Charlie surely is lack of safety needs moreover he is a poor boy. When Charlie

was a child who often got a raw deal from his mother cause every mistake that Charlie did, it would be given the punishment by his mother. His mother's cruel treatment who made his father had the pip what his wife did it for Charlie. Someday, as Charlie's sister was born and growing older, eventually Charlie became the sacrifice of his sister's appearance where he was sent to Warren home. It is done because his mother had to save her daughter from her son who was dumb. Although his father didn't want to do it the first.

**c. Love and Belonging Needs**

When Charlie was still child who just got a little of love from his family. It was got by his uncle who always payed attention for Charlie although he knew that Charlie seemed undesirable by his family. But he really took care for Charlie.

**d. Self Esteem Needs**

Lots of the people give an honor for Charlie's work and effort to be a smart people. Unexceptional his leader, Dr Strauss who gives the motivation and spirit before he is operated by the team of psychology research of Beekman College. The thing that seldom he gets them when he works in the Bakery.

**e. Self Actualization Needs**

After Charlie is operated by the team of psychological research of Beekman College, he much wants to learn and know about the knowledge. He much spends the time in the Beekman University. He also listens the university student's conversation. Sometimes he look for the material that the student talking about. Because learning is indeed the dream of Charlie be smart, so the other people will see and respect him as the real human.

### 3. Emotional Intelligence Analysis

In *Flowers for Algernon* novel much has the relationship between Charlie with the emotional intelligence here. In Charlie's life story, his brain intelligence development is very related by his development of the emotion intelligence. Based on Reuven Bar-On's opinion who express the result of his researching about emotional quotient/ intelligence is divided into five general areas or realms and fifteen subsections or scales.

#### a. Intrapersonal Realm

1) Self-Awareness: ability to recognize yourself, In this case, Charlie realizes that his relationship with his girlfriend, Fay Lilman is over because Charlie only has so little time to free with her. So unsurprised, Fay Lilman chooses to find out the new boyfriend. Charlie's work makes him busy with his own business. That's why their relationship becomes wide apart.

2) Assertiveness: ability to clearly express your thought, Charlie answers the respond of Nemur as the rebuttal over his belief and thought which are expressed in opened. His statement doesn't show the aggressiveness.

3) Independence: ability to self – directed and controlled, after Charlie runs away with his mouse, Algernon, he thinks to do the project which is done by the team of psychological research of Beekman School independently.

4) Self – regarded: ability to recognize strength and weakness, although Charlie is borne as a mentally retarded but he can write the words good enough. He also works in the Donner's bakery as the floor sweeper. He is very glad to join with his friends and make them happy because of him. A pride that he has a livable life with his friends because since he is still child, there is nobody be able to make him as happy as like this.

5) Self – actualization: ability to realize the potential, in the development, Charlie begins to know and analyze what happen to him and Algernon in the Beekman research. An analyze that makes him able to explain all of the research problems. It is the proof which Charlie can actualize himself to solving and understanding the problem.

#### **b. Interpersonal Realm**

1) Empathy: ability to understand, the empathy is shown by Dr Strauss to Charlie over his emotion who is not controlled. He intensely understands what Charlie feels. Here Charlie tries to express his opinion which the empty of his true friends although he is around the great people. The different with the life before, although he is in the bakery with his friends who always play trick on him, but he approves them because it makes him happy nearby with his friends.

2) Ssocial responsibility: ability to be cooperative, after he most learns on the knowledge who begins to know and take care to get along with other. He visits Warren home where he lived ago. He feels happy which has helped the children there. Its matter makes him feels in around of the comfortable place.

3) Interpersonal relationships: ability to forge and maintain, Charlie's friends still remember when they most play trick on Charlie. It is done as Charlie is still reputed as the dumb man. But Charlie doesn't care it, he is so happy to make his friends laugh. At the finally, his friends consciously help Charlie when he really has the serious condition on mentally retarded than before.

#### **c. Adaptability Realm**

1) Reality testing: ability to see things, Charlie thinks that doing an unusual activity in the Bakery which is to make the batter of cake in the mixer, he can do it. But his friends appraise it as the joke and amazing because they know that Charlie cannot do it before. It is

caused Charlie who is considered as the mentally retarded man by the people, included his friends. Charlie also thinks that his friends argue it as the weird that he does. The thing which needs learning about this study is Charlie should think positively and doesn't worry the changing of his friends' attitude to him.

2) Flexibility: ability to adjust feeling, thought, Charlie tries to control his emotion over the speech before which more offending his heart because he is only considered as the guinea pig. He awares as Strauss speaks in front of the scientists meeting about the Cause of Charlie's mentally retarded.

3) Problem – solving: ability to define problem, Charlie faces the problem on himself. The flaw of the experiment that is done by the Beekman College which makes him frustration and afraid on his mentally retarded is going back again like before. But he can face everything although he knows it is so sad for him.

#### **d. Stress Management Realm**

1) Stress tolerance: ability to remain calm and focused, in this case, Charlie can begin handling his problem as calm down. It is showed where he is not panic as he runs away with his mouse, Algernon. The key of his success is heart and thought that mutual has good continuity.

2) Impulse control : ability to resist or delay, the impulse of Charlie has passed after he considers the next speaker who is Dr Strauss explaining as detailed on the factors of Charlie's mentally retarded and objective of the psychology research. The Charlie's attitude changing that previously shows anger and aggressive to be calm and assertive. Those are based on Charlie's state of mind that becomes cautious before stepping. Finally, it controls himself on doing the worse action.

#### e. General Mood Realm

- 1) Optimism: ability to maintain a realistically positive attitude, Charlie's optimism has been realized by the brain operation of the team of psychology research from Beekman School. Although he is smart in the beginning but eventually, he experiences the mentally retarded again. He hopes what he does; it will be the spirit and motivation for the dumber like him in the future. He really does it especially for him and absolutely for science.
- 2) Happiness: ability to feel satisfied in life, in the final of the story, Charlie as the main character shows the happiness with his friends where they really pay attention and take care him. The fact that they know about Charlie's mental retardation again. It really makes them so sad and efforts to rub up the ring for Charlie.

#### D. Conclusion

After analyzing structural element of Daniel Keyes's *Flowers for Algernon* novel. Then the researcher analyzes of Charlie's personality using Humanistic psychological theory and Emotional intelligence issue. the writerr then comes to the following conclusions.

First, there is a close relationship between a literary work and psychological phenomena. Novel as one of the literary works describes story of human's life through its fictional characters. The problem in the novel also occurs in the real life. So that it explores the human's uniqueness to solve it. The literature and psychology therefore have the same object that is human being.

Second, in *Flowers for Algernon*, Daniel Keyes views that self-actualized person can find fulfillment by doing the best of which he or she is capable through an effort to become the best what he or

she can be. Daniel Keyes wants to tell that self-actualization person is doing the best to others.

Third, Daniel Keyes wants to show the experience and struggle of the major character in achieving self-actualization. Human beings have capability to grow and are able to be they should be.

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