EDUCATIONAL NEED IN *THE RAINBOW TROOPS* BY ANDREA HIRATA (2009):

A HUMANISTIC PSYCHOLOGICAL APPROACH

PUBLICATION ARTICLES

Submitted as a Partial Fulfillment of the Requirements

for Getting Bachelor Degree of Education

in English Department

by

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MUHAMMADIYAH UNIVERSITY OF SURAKARTA
2013
Surat Persetujuan Artikel Publikasi Ilmiah

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EDUCATIONAL NEED IN RAINBOW TROOPS BY ANDREA HINATA (2009): A HUMANISTIC PSYCHOLOGICAL APPROACH

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ABSTRACT

The major issue of this study is how is the educational need reflected in Andrea Hinata novel The Rainbow Troops: a humanistic psychological approach. The objective of this study is to analyze The Rainbow Troops novel based on its structural elements that help the writer identify the narrative aspect and technical element of the major character and to analyze the educational need in The Rainbow Troops novel by Andrea based on humanistic psychological perspective.

The research is qualitative study. The researcher uses two data sources: primary data source and secondary data source. The data collection method is library research by collecting both primary and secondary data. The data analysis method is descriptive qualitative analysis based on psychoanalytic approach.

The results of the study show; firstly, it is about structural analysis of The Rainbow Troops novel. The setting of place and time was suitable with the theme of the novel, where usually people from a small village have a lower education rather than the people from town. It is suitable with the theme of the novel “The education is one of people’s rights on their life”. Secondly, Educational needs of Ikal is showed by the believe of Ikal and his people in Belitong on the modern medicine. With the spirit coming from Bu Mus, he believes that he can save the people’s life from stupidity. Self-Esteem Needs of Ikal, where Ikal as a boy, absolutely really want to satisfy him self with something he likes. Ikal feels satisfy with the way Pak Harfan teaches. As a kid in a small village, they always do a lot of things to satisfy them self, like playing together and also made foolish bets together. Self-Actualization Needs on the end of the story of Rainbow Troops, Finally Ikal success and he gets what he wants as a student in a foreign country.

Keywords: Humanistic Psychological, The Rainbow Troops, Psychological Needs.
A. Introduction

1. Background of the Study

Andrea Hirata is an Indonesian novelist and his debut novel, *The Rainbow Troops* known in Indonesia as *Laskar Pelangi* shattered national sales record, making him the best selling author in Indonesia to date. Hirata has reached over five million readers and has contributed significantly to the development of modern Indonesian literature.

*The Rainbow Troops* is set in Belitung, a little island in the Indonesian archipelago south-east of Sumatra famous for its tin mines. The event narrated in the film is framed by the return in the late 1990s of Ikal (“Curly”) to the village where he was born. His memories take us back to the day he started elementary school at the small Islamic school Muhammadiyah in Gantong 1974: a day full of both hope and trepidation.

The local director of education told Mr. Harfan, the principal of this struggling school, that he can’t form a new class unless he manages to admit at least ten new students. The memory of this unforgettable day is the start of a heartfelt memoir of the highlights of Ikal and his classmates’ journey through education. Their teacher, the caring Miss Muslimah, turns down a post at a more prestigious school in order to continue teaching, while her “Rainbow Troops”, born to miners and fishermen, who haven’t got the means to go to a better school.

Based on the background above, the researcher interests in analyzing *The Rainbow Troops* novel because of several reasons, such as: The Rainbow Troops was adapted for the big screen in 2008 and it has found success not only in Indonesia, but also worldwide and received awards including: A showing at the Berlin International Film Festival (Panorama), 2009, Golden Butterfly Award, 23rd International Children & Young Adults Film Festival, Iran, 2009, 3rd Place Audience Award, 11th Udine Far East International Film, 2009, SIGNIS Award, Hong Kong International Film Festival, 2009, Best Film, Bandung Film Festival, 2009, Best Film, Indonesian Film Festival, 2009, Nomination for Best Film and
Best Editor, Asian Film Awards, 2009. The researcher concludes tries to analyze and find out the humanistic psychology on this movie and its phenomena. The researcher entitles this study with: EDUCATIONAL NEED IN RAINBOW TROOPS BY ANDREA HINATA (2009): A HUMANISTIC PSYCHOLOGICAL APPROACH.

2. Literature Review

The movie is exciting, inspirational, worthy and has a sense. As far as the researcher knows, there is only one analysis related with The Rainbow Troops English version in Muhammadiyah University of Surakarta, but there are many analysis related with Rainbow troops original version. The analysis in English version belongs to Umi Muthi’ Lathifah Fajri (2012) entitled Fictional Finalism of Ikal to Get Better Education in The Rainbow Troops Novel by Andrea Hirata (2009): An Individual Psychological Approach.

Her research is qualitative research. She uses two data sources: primary data source and secondary data source. The secondary data are taken from several references such as articles, website about the movie, commentaries, and other about the author on individual psychological material to support the subject matter. The data collection method is library research by collecting both primary and secondary data. The results of the study show; The rainbow troops is a novel by Andrea Hirata which is written based on real event in live. This novel was published by Bentang Pustaka in 2005 and it was so much copied and translated to English. The theme of this novel is “The struggle of Ikal as rainbow troop’s member to get a better education”. Supported with the point of view from the author, he wants to show that he also feels the condition and situation of the poor education on Belitung Island. The striving for superiority of Ikal appears related with education and friendship where he wants to get a high education and he doesn’t want to loose his friends. The inferiority feelings appear when Ikal knows that he doesn’t want to live alone without his friend. Social interest of Ikal is showed by the character of Ikal that Ikal is
a good kid, everybody knows him because he is a smart kid and also kind and cares with his friend. The fictional finalism of Ikal appears related with two things, the first is a high education and the second is a better life and not primitive condition on his village. The style of life of Ikal appears because he is a kid from one of ancient races in belitong, on his village there is no modern life style so, Ikal is not influenced with a bad thing so he has no bad life style. In The Rainbow Troops there are not much creative self of Ikal, because his struggle appears a lot. Ikal is a traditional kid so his creative effort is running only based on his instinct.

Different from the previous is that, the researcher identifies and limits the problem in the Ikal’s obsession to get a good education in humanistic psychological perspective. In this study the researcher gives the title of his research “Educational Need in Rainbow Troops by Andrea Hinata (2009): A Humanistic Psychological Approach.

3. Problem Statement

The problem statement as follows: “How is the educational need reflected in Adrea Hinata novel The Rainbow Troops: a humanistic psychological approach?”.

4. Limitation of the Study

The writer limits the study on Ikal’s obsession on education among personal needs using humanistic perspective. The writer emphasizes to analyze the major character viewed from human’s side.

5. Objective of the Study

The objectives of the study are to analyze The Rainbow Troops novel based on its structural elements that help the writer identify the narrative aspect and technical element of the major character and to analyze the educational need in The Rainbow Troops novel by Adrea based on humanistic psychological perspective.
6. **Benefit of the Study**

The benefits of this study is expected to give a real contribution and inspiration to the reader in the real world and the literary theory especially humanistic perspective.

7. **Underlying Theory**

1. **Humanistic Psychology**

During the 1950s, humanistic psychology began as a reaction to psychoanalysis and behaviorism, which dominated psychology at the time. Psychoanalysis was focused on understanding the unconscious motivations that drive behavior while behaviorism studied the conditioning processes that produce behavior. Humanist thinkers felt that both psychoanalysis and behaviorism were too pessimistic, either focusing on the most tragic of emotions or failing to take into account the role of personal choice.

Humanistic psychology was instead focused on each individual's potential and stressed the importance of growth and self-actualization. The fundamental belief of humanistic psychology is that people are innately good and that mental and social problems result from deviations from this natural tendency.

During the late 1950s, Abraham Maslow and other psychologists held meetings to discuss the development of a professional organization devoted to a more humanist approach to psychology. They agreed that topics such as self-actualization, creativity and individuality and related topics were the central theme of this new approach. In 1961, they officially established the American Association for Humanistic Psychology (Cherry, 2011 in [link](http://psychology.about.com/od/historyofpsychology/a/hist_humanistic.htm))

Most of the books which have relation to humanistic perspective cited that humanistic is a study of human being. It is different from psychology perspective before, such as psychoanalytic
and behaviorism. Humanistic emphasizes the analysis on the human’s needs that motivate them. The famous authors of humanistic perspective are Abraham Maslow and Carl Rogers. It’s the third evolution in psychology perspective. Humanistic perspective looks a human as the whole, not from these elements or side. According to Cartwright (in Eysenck, 1995: 47), humanistic psychology is:

“Concerned with topics that are meaningful to human being, focusing upon subjective experience and the unique unpredictable events in individual human lives”.

Experience of human’s life to fulfill his needs is very important. It influences the psychological of the human. A human will meet their desires or needs and differences from one person to others depend on their psychological. If someone unable to meet his needs, he will get dissatisfaction and problems. Nevertheless, they have potential to make a good decision or good deeds in term of meeting their needs.

2. Major Principle of Humanistic Psychology

a. Theory of the Hierarchy Needs

   Maslow proposes a theory that basic lower level needs must be satisfied or relatively satisfied before higher level needs becomes motivators. Maslow listed the following needs in order of their prepotency: Physiological needs, safety and security needs, belongingness and love needs, Self-esteem needs, and self-actualization needs.

   Feist (1985: 378) said that needs can be arranged on a hierarchy with each ascending rung representing a higher need, but one less basic to survival. The hierarchy of needs is also referred to as the theory of proponent needs. It means that though the people have satisfied the higher level like esteem and self-actualization, when they feel thirsty or hungry, they will stop striving (at least temporarily) for those higher needs and will return to the
unsatisfied lower level. So that, hunger has prepotency over esteem or self-actualization.

b. Physiological Needs

Physiological needs are everything which is needed by the human to survive their life. It is related to the human as an organism. It becomes the basic need which should be exerted first. If someone is unable to meet this one, of course he will be difficult to reach the next needs. For example, someone who was hungry, he prefers to reach food than stay at home. However the dangers face him, it is not the reason to give up in this conditions. Sometimes, someone do something that is not suitable with rule, value and moral. This is the basic needs of any person based on psychological needs because in affluent societies, most people satisfy their hunger needs as a matter of course.

Psychological needs differ from other needs in at least two important respects. First, they are the only needs that can be completely satisfied or even overly satisfied. Second, the characteristic peculiar to physiological needs is their recurring nature. After people have eaten, they will eventually become hungry again; they constantly need to replenish their food and water supply; and one breath of air must be followed by another, (Feist & Feist, 2009: 281).

c. Safety and Security Needs

These needs related to the environment, include the safety of biological environment and physical environment. As the Maslow’s statement (in Phares, 1984: 184), here we have needs for structure, security, order, avoidance of pain, and protection. From Maslow’s statement it can be observed by using the baby. If the baby hears something which is unfamiliar, they will be fear and cry. It makes the baby will be enjoyable when in the hug of their mother. Children need protection from their parents in order to his
growth to be calm, peaceful and get positive impression. Human was inclined to choose or stay in the places which give protection.

d. Belongingness and Love Needs

Human have desire to belong and love something. It is one of the powerful motivations of the human to do something. It can be from the people surrounding him, especially couple and family. According to Phares, (1984: 185), once physiological and safety needs met, needs for affiliation and affection become prominent.

Belongingness and Love Needs is one of the fundamental reasons that make people related with the others. Affection or emotional relationship is giving them motivation to pass this life more enthusiastically. For example, it is very prominent in the youth people life. Someone who needs attention or emotional relationship from the others as well as family or community environment, shall effort to gets it. Most of the people relate the word “love” with the couple. In the wide meaning, it refers to special feeling of the human to something. It can be a material or immaterial. Because the problems in the society, these needs become the difficult thing. Chaos, war, conflict and removal of the people from one place to others are several examples. Communication is the prominent thing which influences the relationship and connection of the people.

e. Self-Esteem Needs

Appropriate with Maslow’s theory, self-esteem needs can be classified into two categories. The first is self-esteem from an inner side of himself. In this level, someone will analyze his confidence, competence, independence, power of personality and freedom. Someone will be satisfied by himself, if they are able to meet their desire. It is different from one person to other, depends on their desire.
The second is self-esteem from the people surrounding an individual. Prestige, confession of the people becomes important to meet for several people. If unable to meet, it makes someone frustrated, not confident, and stressfull. The good management of the desire is very important in this level to prevent the bad motivation. The other people have influence and dangerous for the person’s personality, if it based on the opinion of the other person. Maslow (in Koeswara, 1991: 125) explains that the healthy self-esteem is based on the achievement than prestige, status, and descent.

According to Maslow (in Phares, 1984: 185), these are the needs of self-respect and esteem from others. We need to feel competent and worthy. At the same time, we require that others recognize our value and competence. Failure to be accepted by the self or others leads to feelings of inferiority and discouragement.

f. Self-Actualization Needs

Self-actualization is the higher level of human’s needs according to Maslow’s theory. Not everyone is able to reach this level and few people who have this desire. In fact everyone is able to reach this level by using their existing potential. A student, scientist, teacher and the other worker who work suitable with their profession will reach this level, if they use their capital for a significant purpose.

That unusual person who has, on the whole, satisfied all the previous needs is in a position to seek self-actualization. This person can pursue the attainment of his or her full potential. The goal is to become all that you can become (Phares, 1984: 185).

Self-actualization has some characteristics which give identity or personality. Characteristics give description of the person who has need for self-actualization. Based on the characteristics of selfactualization, the writer identifies the achievement of the Dave Johnson in his need of actualization.
According to Maslow, self-actualization has several characteristics such as:

1) More Efficient Perception of Reality

Someone who has need for self-actualization will looks the reality of the world as the simple thing. It means that his point of view of this world based on his condition, situation and not others. Problems become the interesting thing or challenge that should be solved. They will be more ready to face the problems and accept the ambiguous or uncertain condition. Nevertheless, these conditions do not come to them before.

2) Acceptance of Self, Others and Nature

They can accept the general things in this world. They will be more delighted to complain the thing which is suitable with the nature. They are not overly critical of their own shortcomings and are not burdened by undue anxiety or shame. They can tolerate the guilt of the other people and not threatened by the power or strength of them.

3) Spontaneity, Simplicity and Naturalness

The response of them to perceive a stimulus or bad condition is spontaneous. They behave conventional or commonly, nevertheless become unconventionally if the condition warrants it. Their action is not over style. Their life is simpler than other.

4) Problem Centered

They are interested to the other people’s problems. Nevertheless these problems are usually related in the human’s life, worthy, self-actualizing people extend their frame or point of view of reference far beyond self. They are concerned with the eternal problems and adopt a solid philosophical and ethical basis for handling these problems.
5) The Need for Privacy

They can be alone without feeling alone. It means that they need to think and enjoy their loneliness. They enjoy solitude and privacy and have no desperate need for others since their love and belongingness needs are satisfied. Sometimes, the other people don’t understand the means of their loneliness. It can make a misunderstanding.

6) Autonomy

They have ability to be independent in the culture and environment. It means that their mind is able to be more independent to think of something, not always follow the others’ opinion. They depend on themselves for growth, self-actualizes have self-confidence, so they are unperturbed and serenity not enjoyed by those who live for the approval of others. Have confidence than others.

7) Continued Freshness of Appreciation

They are always pleasure to actualize their appreciation to or from something. They have wonderful capacity to appreciate again and again freshly, and naively. They are constantly aware of their good fortunes, health, friends, and political freedom. They have good perception about daily phenomena and don’t wastes the time for a boring or uninteresting existence.

8) The Peak Experience

Self-actualizing people have mystical experience about something which gave them a feeling of transcendence. These experiences are able to motivate them to do something. Usually it makes them find out the explanation of this experience.

9) Social Interest (Gemeinschaftsgefühl)

This characteristic is related with the social position. They will be delighted to communicate and socialize with the
others. They like to help the other people as well as his friends sincerely and interest to humanity.

10) Interpersonal Relations

It makes the Self-actualizing people have ability to be popular or famous. They have desire to get as much as relation with the other without negative feeling. Their relationship is with the people in general whether less talented or neurotic one. They will be enjoyable become the person who have personality.

11) The Democratic Character Structure

They could be friendly and considerate with anyone regardless of class, color, age, or sex. They are able to learn the personality of someone and do not classify one person who has ability to the other person.

12) Discrimination between Means and Ends

They have a clear sense or definition about the right and wrong. Sometime it becomes the thought matter, if he has conflict about the basic value. Nevertheless he does not confuse means and ends.

13) Philosophical Sense of Humor

Self-actualizing people have preference to make humor which philosophical not hostile. The sense in his humor doesn’t mean to make the other people hurt or underestimated.

14) Creativeness

This means that self-actualizers have ability and talent to make creativeness. Not only in the commonly, like in the arts nevertheless in their own way. This is one of the characteristic which differentiated with the other people in the achievement matter.
15) Resistance to Enculturation

They have a detachment from their surroundings and are able to transcend any particular culture. It means that they are antisocial or consciously nonconforming, nevertheless, it shows their autonomous and following the own standards rule. They do not waste the energy for the insignificant thing.

B. Research Method

1. Type of the Study

The researcher uses descriptive qualitative research in this research because it is suitable to explain the analysis and there is no need a statistic evaluation. The qualitative is usually called as an ethnographic method, phenomenologist method or impressionistic method. While Paton in Moleong (2000: 103) said that qualitative data analysis is arranging the data formulation, organize into one pattern, categorization and one basic chain. While, According to Whitney in Nasir (1983: 63), descriptive method is searching of the fact with the appropriate interpretation. Descriptive research learns problem in the society, and the arrangement that occur in society and particular situation, including activities relation, behaviors, views, and process take place and effects from a phenomenon.

2. Object of the Study

The object of this study is the need of education of the characters in *The Rainbow Troops* novel by Adrea Hinata.

3. Type of the Data and the Data Source

The data in this study can be divided into two kinds of data, namely primary and secondary data. Primary data are the main data consisting of dialogue, action and description about the character especially characters of *The Rainbow Troops* novel. Secondary data are supporting data consisting of theoretical approach humanistic psychology. In this case, the other secondary data are the qualitative research methodology, and the book abut Andrea Hinata biography.
a. Primary Data Source

Primary data is the *The Rainbow Troops* novel. The data are taken from the character’s description, plot and all of the statement related to the problems.

b. Secondary Data Source

Secondary data are collected from other sources related to the research like the dictionary, website, and also the book related to the research.

The primary data are taken from novel itself such as the the story of the author, the original version of *The Rainbow Troops* while the secondary data are taken from the other data, which have relation with the underlying theory and other materials such as the handbook, and the internet.

4. **Technique of the Data Collection**

The method that will be used by the researcher for collecting the data is library research, the techniques are as follows:

a. Reading the novel several times, until the writer gets adequate information or data to be analyzed then read by other secondary data related to the novel and the theory.

b. Taking notes for the important parts both in primary and secondary sources in data book or note book or by using computer, the data collected then saved the data on the disc.

c. Classifying the data and verified the data based on the humanistic psychological aspect.

d. Concluding the result of the data based on the problem statement.

5. **Technique of the Data Analysis**

The steps used in analyzing the data of this study are clarifying the data by selecting the necessary ones. The next is analyzing the data based on humanistic psychological perspective. In this thesis the technique that will be used to analyze the data is descriptive analysis technique that is the method when analyze the status of human’s group, object, and one set of
C. Research Finding and Discussion

The researcher divided the need into five elements which consist of Physiological Needs, Safety and Security Needs, Belongingness and Love Needs, Self-Esteem Needs, and Self-Actualization Needs. The analysis above shows that Ikal is one of the *rainbow troops* where he has a lot of needs to fulfill his wants, just like their friend on the troops.

Physiological needs of Ikal is showed by the believe of Ikal and his peple in Belitong on the modern medicine. When they are ill, they usually use the traditional medicine, but after the modern equipment and transportation enter the village, people believe that the modern medicine can cure many kind of disease. Ikal believes that people on the village can live with the modern medicine and also they can save with education. Not all the teacher on the village that is trusted by Ikal, because they are only does their work for money and prestige. But it is different with Bu Mus, where she teaches them really from her heart. She does not care about the salary, because she always think that education is important. This make Ikal has a strong spirit to get a high education for his future. With the spirit coming from Bu Mus, he believes that he can save the people’s life from stupidity.

Safety and Security Needs of Ikal showed on the situation one of his friends named Samson, really wants to make him strong with a big muscle, supposes he can fight and face any kind of trouble in front of him. But, Samson teaches him in a wrong way. He pushes Ikal so hard and makes Ikal so scared. To avoid a bad situation and something bad happen to him, then Ikal makes decision to fight back, and he kicks Samson as hard as he can right between his legs. This condition is supposes Ikal can escapes from Samson.
Belongingness and Love of Ikal appear in two ways first love as a friend and love as boy and girl friend. First, love not in the meaning of love as a couple. Ikal has someone that he admired, named Bu Mus. He believes on her because she can give the spirit to stay alive with a strong wants of the students in Muhammadiyah. The second, the love of Ikal relates with love where he is afraid if he looses someone he loves. The situation above is the situation where he accepts the letter that consists of poem from A ling. He reads the sad poem of his girl friend, he is happy but also strikes with a dark feeling of sadness like something terrible will soon happen to him. A ling rejects his love slowly, by using a poem, she tells all of his feeling about Ikal’s love.

Self-Esteem Needs of Ikal, where Ikal as a boy, absolutely really wants to satisfy him self with something he likes. Ikal is very happy when he can read the writing on the poster. Ikal feels satisfy with the way Pak Harfan teaches. So, Ikal regards pak Harfan as the second great’ s teacher after Bu Mus. As a kid in a small village, Ikal and his friends always wild on the outside their house. They always do a lot of things to satisfy them self, like playing together and also making foolish bets together.

Self-Actualization Needs in the end of the story of *Rainbow Troops*, Ikal finally finds his finalism. He conquers the elite PN school, he shows that the kids from the village also has the power to get a high education. It is proved, where finally Ikal is success and he gets what he wants as a student in a foreign country.

**D. Conclusion**

1. **Based on Structural Elements**

   Firstly, there is a relationship between *Rainbow Troops* novel and humanistic psychological approach, first on the element of the novel; The major character Ikal is just a kid where he is coming from the small village in Belitong and he tries to conquer many kind of obstacle on education. The setting of place and time was suitable with the theme of the novel, where usually people from a small village have a lower education rather
than the people from town. It is suitable with the them of the novel “The education is one of people’s rights on their life”.

2. **Based on humanistic psychological approach**

   Based on humanistic psychological approach, it is evident that there is a close relation between the movie production of this movie and the social reality underlying it. The researcher divided the need into five elements which consists of physiological needs, safety and security needs, belongingness and love needs, self-esteem needs, and self-actualization needs. Self actualization needs are also found in forms of two kinds; the need for privacy and efficient perception of reality.

   Physiological needs of Ikal are showed by the believe of Ikal and his people in Belitong on the modern medicine. With the spirit coming from Bu Mus, he believes that he can save the people’s life from stupidity. Safety and Security Needs of Ikal showed on the situation one of his friends named Samson; he pushes Ikal so hard and makes Ikal so scares. To avoid a bad situation and something bad happen to him, then Ikal makes decision to fight back, and he kicks Samson as hard as he can right between his legs. Belongingness and Love of Ikal appears in two ways first love as a friend and love as boy and girl friend. First, love not in the meaning of love as a couple. Ikal has someone that he admired, named Bu Mus. The second, the love of Ikal relates with love where he is afraid if he looses someone he loves. Self-Esteem Needs of Ikal, where Ikal as a boy, absolutely really want to satisfy him self with something he likes. Ikal very happy when he can read the writing on the poster. Ikal feels satisfy with the way Pak Harfan teaches. As a kid in a small village, Ikal and his friends always wild on the outside their house. They always do a lot of things to satisfy them self, like playing together and also made foolish bets together. Self-Actualization Needs on the end of the story of *Rainbow Troops*, Ikal finally finds his finalism. Finally Ikal success and he gets what he wants as a student in a foreign country.
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