

**THE CHARACTERIZATION OF HAZEL LANCASTER IN
FULFILLING HER NEEDS IN *THE FAULT IN OUR STARS* BY
JOHN GREEN (2012): AN INDIVIDUAL PSYCHOLOGICAL
APPROACH**



**Submitted as a Partial Fulfillment of the Requirements
for Getting Bachelor Degree of Education
in English Department School Teacher Training and Education**

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**DEPARTMENT OF ENGLISH EDUCATION
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APPROVAL

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Abstrak

Tujuan dari penelitian ini adalah untuk mendeskripsikan penokohan dan untuk mendeskripsikan fitur psikologis Hazel Lancaster dalam novel *The Fault in Our Stars*. Penelitian ini adalah penelitian deskriptif kualitatif. Sumber data utama dari *The Fault in Our Stars* karya John Green (2012). Sumber data kedua dari berbagai referensi buku, jurnal, website, dan makalah penelitian terdahulu yang terkait. Peneliti menggunakan teknik dokumentasi untuk mengumpulkan data. Dalam menyajikan validitas data, peneliti menggunakan triangulasi dari Denzin (2009). Penelitian ini menggunakan teori karakter dan penokohan oleh Kennedy & Gioia, DiYanni dan teori *hierarchy of human needs* oleh Abraham Maslow untuk menganalisis data. Berdasarkan hasil penelitian, Peneliti menemukan lima penokohan Hazel Lancaster di novel *The Fault in Our Stars*, yaitu: pesimis, penyendiri, peduli, penyayang, dan pencinta buku. Penulis menemukan fitur psikologis Hazel Lancaster bahwa Hazel Lancaster dapat memenuhi kebutuhannya dari yang terendah sampai yang tertinggi.

Kata kunci: karakterisasi, psikologis individu, *The Fault in Our Stars*

Abstract

This research aims to describe the characterizations of Hazel Lancaster and to describe the psychological features of Hazel Lancaster in the novel *The Fault in Our Stars*. It is a descriptive qualitative research. The primary data source is the novel *The Fault in Our Stars* by John Green (2012). The secondary data sources are including references from books, journals, websites, and research papers related to the research. The researcher uses the documentation method to collect the data. In presenting the data validity, the researcher uses triangulation by Denzin (2009). This research applies the theory of character and characterization by Kennedy & Gioia, DiYanni and the theory of hierarchy of human needs by Abraham Maslow's to analyze data. Based on the result, the researcher found five characterizations of Hazel Lancaster in *The Fault in Our Stars*, namely: pessimistic, loner, caring, loving, book lover. The researcher found the psychological features of Hazel Lancaster that Hazel Lancaster can fulfill her needs from the lowest until the highest.

Keywords: characterization, individual psychological, *The Fault in Our Stars*

1. INTRODUCTION

Literature is one of the most creative and universal ways of communicating the emotional, spiritual, and intellectual concerns of humankind. According to Reeve (Kennedy, 1983, p. 182) novel is a picture of real life and manners, and of the time in which it was written. Novel as a literary work reveals some aspects of human life and describes what happened in surroundings, along with its problems, characters, conflict and motivation. According to Robert (1978) in Campbell research (Campbell, 2007, p. 2) motivation is broadly concerned with contemporary determinant of choice, persistence, and vigor of goal directed behavior. It has the power to encourage people to do something to achieve certain goals. On the other hand, motivation is an important element in the development of a person because it leads to the fulfillment of his or her needs.

Esa Kartika Aprintya (Aprintya, 2017) conducted research entitled *Concern in Lung Cancer in John Green's The Fault in Our Stars Novel*. This research uses qualitative research. The results of this researcher are: firstly, 10 major issues responded by readers, those are characters, sentimental, style, plot, craft man ship, lung cancer, only picture, shared link, different language, and short comment. Secondly, the reader's was given both of positive reviews and negative reviews towards lung cancer. Next, Wheny Wulandari (Wulandari, 2016) conducted research entitled *Living with Cancer in John Green in The Fault in Our Stars*. The researcher uses qualitative research. This writer draws three conclusions as follows: the response of a person when they know get cancer; cancer patients would feel desperate and lost their hope to live; the author wants to support the cancer patient to live with cancer not to give up.

The researcher chooses this novel because it is a fabulous book about a young teenage girl who was diagnosed with lung cancer and attends a cancer support group, this novel also gives us examples of how to struggle in facing cancer in our life. The story in this novel is so realistic, we can feel it by reading word by word in every part of this novel. The researcher conducts research entitled *The Characterization of Hazel Lancaster in Fulfilling Her Needs in The Fault in Our Stars by John Green (2012): An Individual Psychological Approach*.

2. METHOD

This research is descriptive qualitative research. Qualitative research is descriptive which the data is collected in the form of words or pictures rather than numbers (Ahsan, 2015, p. 32). The object of this research is the characterization of Hazel Lancaster in fulfilling her needs in *The Fault in Our Stars* by John Green using an individual psychological approach. The primary data source is the novel *The Fault in Our Stars* by John Green (Green, 2012) published on January 10th, 2012 in USA by Dutton books. The secondary data sources of this study are taken from some books, journals, websites, and research papers related to the research. This research used the documentation method to collect data. There are six methods to collect data, as follow: 1) Reading *The Fault in Our Stars* several times in order to get an understanding of what the story was; 2) Searching and browsing to get information from websites, journals, research papers; 3) Reading some books of characterization; 4) Identifying and analyzing the topic of this novel; 5) Taking note of important data from a primary data source and secondary data source; 6) Finally, arranging the important data based on the classification. In presenting data validity, the researcher used triangulation by Denzin. According to Denzin (Denzin, 2012, p. 82) there are three four technique in triangulation: 1) Data source triangulation is collecting data from various sources or participants to get the accuracy of data; 2) Investigator triangulation is technique that uses more than one researcher in collecting and analyzing data; 3) Theory triangulation is applying individual psychological approach to the hypothesis; 4) Methodological triangulation is using documentation methods to make sure all related. There are three processes of analyzing data: 1) Data reduction is taken primary data from the novel; 2) Data display is interpreting the meaning of primary data; 3) Drawing conclusion / verification is the result based on the analysis data (Miles & Huberman, 1984, p. 11).

3. FINDING AND DISCUSSION

3.1 Finding

3.1.1 Characterization

Characterization is the introduction, presentation, and description of character in a work of fiction. Characters refer to the person's character in a novel that has a part in the story and is motivated to talk and act and do something. Characters in a novel interact with each other, often reveal their personality in the process. According to (DiYanni, 2000, p. 55) major character or sometimes called a protagonist is whom matter the most throughout a story. Hazel Grace Lancaster is the protagonist character in the novel *The Fault in Our Stars*. Hazel Grace Lancaster is a sixteen-year-old girl who was diagnosed with Stage IV thyroid cancer. Because of her cancer illness, she becomes pessimistic about anything that happens in her life. Hazel is not only pessimistic but also becomes a loner girl who keeps people at a distance because she does not want to hurt people by her death. Actually, she is a caring person to people around her, especially her friends. She visited Isaac after he had surgery. She is also a loving person. She loves her parents that always give motivation and spirit through her illness. Because of her illness, she just spends her time at home reading the same book over and over again, that shows she becomes a book lover.

3.1.2 Psychological Features of Hazel Lancaster From Maslow's Individual Psychology

Hazel Grace Lancaster is a sixteen-year-old girl in the novel *The Fault in Our Stars*. As a teenager, Hazel has an expectation to meet her favorite author Peter Van Houten. In her search to meeting the favorite author, she has the needs which must be fulfilled in hierarchy of human needs viewed to Maslow's theory.

3.1.2.1 Physiological Needs

Physiological needs are the basic need of a human being. These needs are food, sleep, water, oxygen, and sex. A human will neglect other needs to fulfill these physiological needs.

In this novel, the condition of Hazel is thyroid cancer which has spread to her lungs and she hurts to breathe normally. It can be seen from data:

So I excused myself on the grounds of pain and fatigue, as I often had over the years when seeing Kaitlyn or any of my other friends. In truth, it always hurt. It always hurt not to breathe like a normal person, incessantly reminding your lungs to be lungs, forcing yourself to accept as unsolvable the clawing scraping inside-out ache of underoxygenation. (2012, p. 34)

From the quotation above, Hazel wants a life like a normal human. She complained if she could not breathe like a normal person. She tried to survive with her life in which she had to breathe through the nasal cannula. With this assistance, she can breathe like a normal person.

3.1.2.2 Safety Needs

According to Maslow safety needs are security; stability; dependency; protection; freedom from fear; from anxiety and chaos; and so on (Maslow, 1970, p. 39). In term of the psychological side, safety needs are the condition when someone feels safe and comfortable in the certain environment or person (Jannah, 2018).

In this needs, Hazel wants to be achieved is freedom. It can be seen from data:

I liked my mom, but her perpetual nearness sometimes made me feel weirdly nervous. And I liked Kaitlyn, too. I really did. But years removed from proper full-time schoolic exposure to my peers, I felt a certain unbridgeable distance between us. I think my school friends wanted to help me through my cancer, but they eventually found out that they couldn't. For one thing, there was no through. (2012, p. 34)

From the quotation above, Hazel expressed her nervousness when she had to be close to her mother. She needs freedom which she wants to do on her own.

3.1.2.3 Love and Belongingness Needs

If both the physiological and safety are fairly well gratified, there will emerge the love and affection and belongingness need (Maslow, 1970, p. 43). These needs can be manifested in various ways through affectionate relationships with other people general, friends, lovers, or position in a particular group in society. It can be seen from the data:

Me: "If you want me to be a teenager, don't send me to Support Group. Buy me a fake ID so I can go to clubs, drink vodka, and take pot."

Mom: "You don't take pot, for starters."

Me: "See, that's the kind of thing I'd know if you got me a fake ID."

Mom: "You're going to Support Group."

Me: "UGGGGGGGGGGGGGG."

Mom: "Hazel, you deserve a life." (2012, p. 12)

Hazel is in a condition where she feels pessimistic, this love and belongingness need is a very important need for Hazel, because she needs motivation from those close to her. When she felt pessimistic about her condition, her mother asked her to join a support group.

3.1.2.4 Esteem Needs

According to Maslow esteem needs are divided into two basics. First, self-respect which the former includes such corners as a desire for competence, confidence, independence, achievement, and freedom. A person needs to know that he/she is capable of mastering tasks and challenges in life. Second is the desire for prestige, reputation, status, recognition, and appreciation. (Fauziyah, 2008, pp. 25–26).

Hazel wants the desire for confidence to face her life. It can be seen from the data:

"Excellent. You'll find my leg under the coffee table," he said. Gus pushed himself upright and scooted down to the edge of the couch. I handed him the prosthetic; he fastened it in slow motion. I helped him to stand and then offered my arm to Isaac, guiding him past furniture that suddenly seemed intrusive, realizing that, for the first time in years, I was the healthiest person in the room. (2012, p. 144)

From the quotation above, she felt very grateful to know that she was the healthiest person among her friends who also diagnosed with cancer.

3.1.2.5 Self-Actualization Needs

According to Maslow after all needs are successfully satisfied, it is the appropriate time to fulfill need for self-actualization as the highest need among the other needs.

In this needs, Hazel shows her self-actualization through her struggle to meet her favorite author. It can be seen from the data:

As it got closer to ten, I grew more and more nervous: nervous to see Augustus; nervous to meet Peter Van Houten; nervous that my outfit was not a good outfit; nervous that we wouldn't find the right house since all the houses in Amsterdam looked pretty similar; nervous that we would get lost and never make it back to the Filosoof; nervous nervous nervous. Mom kept trying to talk to me, but I couldn't really listen. I was about to ask her to go upstairs and make sure Augustus was up when he knocked. (2012, pp. 113–114)

From the quotation above, we know that Hazel went to Amsterdam and meet her favorite author, Peter Van Houten. Hazel was delighted that her hopes of knowing the ending of her favorite novel were coming true and she was nervous.

3.2 Discussion

This part will be discussed the characterizations and the psychological features of Hazel Lancaster in the novel *The Fault in Our Stars* by John Green. This research uses the theory of characterization by Kennedy & Gioia, DiYanni, and the theory of the hierarchy of human needs by Abraham Maslow.

Characterization involves the process by which an author reveals a character's personality. In simple terms, characters refer to the person's character in a novel that has a part in the story and is motivated to talk and act and do something. DiYanni (2000) showed characters in fiction can be conveniently classified as major, minor, static, and dynamic. Major character or sometimes called a protagonist is whom matter the most throughout a story (DiYanni, 2000, p. 55). The major character status is usually clearly defined.

Through the motivation human needs, Maslow (1970) showed the hierarchy of needs is a motivation theory in psychology that is often displayed as a pyramid consists of physiological needs, safety needs, love and belongingness needs, esteem needs, and self-actualization needs. This theory as human motivation can teach someone to appreciate the way he/she lives and the value of life. These needs can indicate a person's character or behavior when they try to fulfill all of the human needs. All of the needs must be fulfilled one by one, the process is not works if the basic stage of human need are not satisfied.

First, the researcher found five characterizations of Hazel Lancaster in *The Fault in Our Stars*. Hazel is pessimistic about anything that happens in her life because of her cancer illness and she just spends her time at home reads the same book. She also becomes a loner girl who keeps people at a distance because she does not want to hurt people by her death. Although Hazel pessimistic about her condition, she is a caring and loving person to her parents and her friends, Isaac and Augustus. Hazel is also a book lover, it is because her hobby is reading a novel.

Second, the researcher found the psychological features of Hazel Lancaster in *The Fault in Our Stars* novel. With the individual psychological approach by Abraham Maslow, the researcher found that Hazel Lancaster can fulfill her needs from the lowest until the highest. The lowest is physiological needs, she fulfilled her needs for breathing normal, getting sex, and eating. Next is safety needs, she can fulfill her needs to have freedom from her parents and have a good condition for international travel. The love and belongingness needs, she gets from her mother. The esteem needs, Hazel has esteem needs from herself that is she thinks very grateful to know that she was the healthiest person among her friends who also diagnosed with cancer. The highest is the self-actualization needs, she can reach her expectation meet Peter Van Houten in Amsterdam and known about the ending of the novel *An Imperial Affliction*.

4. CONCLUSION

The research used the novel *The Fault in Our Stars* by John Green (2012) to analyze the characterization of Hazel Lancaster in fulfilling her needs. The story is about a young teenage girl who was diagnosed with lung cancer wants to fulfill her needs. This research applies an individual psychological approach by Kennedy & Gioia, DiYanni, and Abraham Maslow. The result of this research presents two conclusions, as follows: first, the researcher found five characterizations of Hazel Lancaster in *The Fault in Our Stars*, there are: pessimistic, loner, caring, loving, and book lover. Second, the researcher found the psychological features of Hazel Lancaster that Hazel Lancaster can fulfill her needs from the lowest until the highest. There are five basic needs: physiological needs, safety needs, love and belongingness needs, esteem needs, and self-actualization needs.

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