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SHAHRAZAD: A STUDY OF ABRAHAM MASLOW’S HUMANISTIC
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HIERARCHY OF NEEDS IN NAJIB MAHFUZD'S SHORT STORY SHAHRAZAD: A STUDY OF ABRAHAM MASLOW'S HUMANISTIC PSYCHOLOGICAL THEORY

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Abstract: "This study explores the psychological dynamics of Shahrazad, the main character in Najib Mahfouz's short story *Shahrazad*, through the lens of Abraham Maslow's hierarchy of needs. Utilizing a qualitative descriptive method rooted in literary psychology, the research examines textual units of dialogue and narrative that reflect the character's personal fulfillment. Data were gathered using the listening and note-taking technique, followed by manual codification and textual interpretation. The findings reveal that Shahrazad successfully met all five levels of Maslow's hierarchy in an ideal manner. Her basic physiological and safety needs were secured by stable access to food through her work and financial stability from pension benefits. Her need for belonging was fulfilled through a harmonious marriage, whereas her esteem needs were met by her resolute stance on maintaining her dignity within society. Ultimately, Shahrazad reached complete self-actualization, evidenced by her noble demeanor, her resilience when confronting life's hardships, and a profound spiritual maturity marked by her unwavering faith in God."

Keywords: Hierarchy of Needs, Abraham Maslow, Shahrazad, Literary Psychology, Short Story.

Abstrak: "Penelitian ini mengkaji dinamika kepribadian tokoh Shahrazad dalam cerpen *Shahrazad* karya Najib Mahfuzd menggunakan teori hierarki kebutuhan Abraham Maslow. Metode yang digunakan adalah deskriptif kualitatif dengan pendekatan psikologi sastra. Sumber data penelitian berupa unit tekstual dialog dan narasi dalam cerpen yang mencerminkan pemenuhan kebutuhan tokoh utama. Pengumpulan data dilakukan melalui metode simak dan catat, kemudian dianalisis dengan teknik kodifikasi manual serta interpretasi tekstual. Hasil penelitian menunjukkan bahwa Shahrazad berhasil memenuhi kelima tingkatan hierarki kebutuhan Maslow secara ideal. Kebutuhan fisiologis dan rasa aman terpenuhi melalui stabilitas pangan dalam pekerjaan dan jaminan finansial dari uang pensiun. Kebutuhan kasih sayang tercapai lewat pernikahan yang harmonis, sementara kebutuhan penghargaan didapatkan melalui ketegasan tokoh dalam menjaga harga diri di lingkungan sosial. Pada puncaknya, Shahrazad mencapai aktualisasi diri yang sempurna. Hal ini tercermin dari karakternya yang agung, ketangguhan menghadapi tantangan hidup, serta kematangan spiritualitas berupa keimanan yang kokoh kepada Tuhan. Penelitian ini diharapkan memberi kontribusi teoretis bagi perkembangan kajian psikologi sastra, khususnya analisis eksistensi tokoh utama dalam sastra Arab."

Kata kunci : Hierarki Kebutuhan, Abraham Maslow, Shahrazad, Psikologi Sastra, Cerpen.

INTRODUCTION

The hierarchy of needs theory developed by Abraham Maslow posits that every individual possesses an inherent internal drive to satisfy basic, essential life requirements. These fundamental needs serve as the primary motivation guiding human actions and decisions.¹ Within a humanistic perspective, these human needs form the bedrock that shapes behavior and fosters the necessary motivation for personal development and self-actualization.² Consequently, an individual's success in navigating psychological challenges heavily relies on how they prioritize these needs in response to their immediate circumstances and environmental conditions.³

The structured hierarchy of human needs forms the core of Abraham Maslow's humanistic psychology. This framework begins at the most fundamental level with physiological needs, which encompass basic bodily necessities such as food, water, air, clothing, and shelter, before moving hierarchically to the second level, safety needs, which involve physical and non-physical protection from harm and criminal threats.⁴ Once these basic aspects are secured, human motivation advances toward the third and fourth levels love and belongingness needs, expressed through friendships, romance, and harmonious social relationships, followed by self esteem needs, which include stable self evaluation, respect, prestige, and appreciation from the social environment.⁵ Ultimately, this hierarchical progression culminates in self actualization needs, where an individual strives to fully develop their inherent potential to guide and direct themselves toward psychological fulfillment and maximum creative capacity.⁶

In literary studies, the integration of literature and psychology creates an interdisciplinary framework known as the psychology of literature. This perspective utilizes psychological theories to dissect the internal, mental elements embedded within a literary text.⁷

¹ Andriansyah Bari and Randy Hidayat, "Toeri Hirarki Kebutuhan Maslow Terhadap Pengambilan Keputusan," *Jurnal Psikologi Sosial* 20, no. 2 (2022): 9.

² Rania Zulfi Fajriyah, Maemonah Maemonah, and Maryamah Maryamah, "Teori Humanistik Kebutuhan Maslow Dalam Pembelajaran Pendidikan Agama Islam Sekolah Dasar (Analisis Artikel Jurnal Sinta 2-6)," *Jiip - Jurnal Ilmiah Ilmu Pendidikan* 4, no. 8 (2021): 894, <https://doi.org/10.54371/jiip.v4i8.361>.

³ Muhibbin Muhibbin and Marfuatun Marfuatun, "Urgensi Teori Hierarki Kebutuhan Maslow Dalam Meminimalisir Prokrastinasi Akademik Di Kalangan Mahasiswa," *Educatio* 15, no. 2 (2020): 12, <https://doi.org/10.29408/edc.v15i2.2714>.

⁴ Bari and Hidayat, "Toeri Hirarki Kebutuhan Maslow Terhadap Pengambilan Keputusan," 10.

⁵ Muhammad Insan Jauhari and Karyono Karyono, "Teori Humanistik Maslow Dan Kompetensi Pedagogik," *Sustainable Jurnal Kajian Mutu Pendidikan* 5, no. 2 (2022): 255–56, <https://doi.org/10.32923/kjimp.v5i2.2585>.

⁶ Fajriyah, Maemonah, and Maryamah, "Teori Humanistik Kebutuhan Maslow Dalam Pembelajaran Pendidikan Agama Islam Sekolah Dasar (Analisis Artikel Jurnal Sinta 2-6)," 897.

⁷ Khalimatus Sa'diyah et al., "Hierarki Kebutuhan Tokoh Utama Dalam Novel 'Sayap-Sayap Patah' Karya Kahlil Gibran" 8, no. 1 (2024): 100.

Aligning with this view, the application of Abraham Maslow's hierarchy of needs serves as a scientific instrument to identify and interpret the psychological conflicts experienced by characters in a story.⁸ Furthermore, through this approach, literary works are viewed as reflections of real life, where character behaviors are driven by efforts to fulfill basic necessities and achieve long term inner satisfaction.⁹ Consequently, employing Maslow's model allows for a profound analysis regarding character evolution and the underlying motives behind their actions, mirroring the genuine complexity of human nature.

Character existence within short stories represents a captivating aspect to explore due to its role in mirroring human life through fiction. In constructing fictional narratives, authors deliberately shape their characters with unique traits, messages, and distinct psychological profiles. Through the lens of literary psychology, this interdisciplinary fusion produces a profound analysis of the psychological dimensions and behaviors embedded within the text.¹⁰ This internal dynamic aligns with the perspective that fictional characters are creative constructs embedded with psychological conflicts and motivations to fulfill life needs.¹¹ Despite the limited narrative space in short stories, the intensity of a character's psychological responses to their needs ranging from physiological demands to self-actualization is captured in a more focused and profound manner through the central conflict.¹² Consequently, applying Maslow's theory to short stories serves to dissect the core motives behind a character's actions and thoughts, reflecting the authentic psychological realities of human nature.

These hierarchical characteristics of human needs can be clearly observed in Najib Mahfuzd's short story *Shahrazad*, which serves as the object of this study. Within its narrative, the short story depicts the protagonist's journey as they confront various complex situations to satisfy their life needs. The dynamics experienced by the main character indicate a progression

⁸ Anisa Nurwahidah, Ian Wahyuni, and Ahmad Mubarak, "Hierarki Kebutuhan Tokoh Utama Dalam Novel Represi Karya Fakhrisina Amalia: Kajian Psikologi Sastra Abraham Maslow," *Ilmu Budaya: Jurnal Bahasa, Sastra, Seni, Dan Budaya* 7, no. 4 (2023): 1399–1408.

⁹ Ahmad Sofi Nurfiqih and Ade Hikmat, "Hierarki Kebutuhan Abraham Maslow Novel Kembara Rindu Karya Habiburrahman El-Shirazy Dan Implementasinya Dalam Pembelajaran Sekolah Menengah (Studi Psikologi Sastra)," *Hortatori: Jurnal Pendidikan Bahasa Dan Sastra Indonesia* 7, no. 2 (2023): 108, <https://doi.org/10.30998/jh.v7i2.1956>.

¹⁰ Mega Adriyanti, Annisa Pramudita Kumala, and Hendry Sugara, "DIMENSI HIERARKI KEBUTUHAN TOKOH UTAMA DALAM KUMPULAN CERPEN 'KUKILA' KARYA AAN MANSYUR: KAJIAN PSIKOLOGI HUMANISTIK," *Jurnal Bastra (Bahasa Dan Sastra)* 10, no. 4 (2025): 1341.

¹¹ Saharul Hariyono and Nurhadi, "Hierarki Kebutuhan Tokoh Utama Dalam Dua Cerpen Faisal Oddang (Needs Hierarchy of the Central Characters in Two Short Stories by Faisal Oddang)," *Sawerigading* 26, no. 1 (2020): 19–20.

¹² Hendry Sugara and Maula Hanifa, "Analisis Hierarki Kebutuhan Abraham Maslow Dalam Cerpen 'Pelajaran Mengarang' Karya Seno Gumira Ajidarma," *Literasi: Jurnal Bahasa Dan Sastra Indonesia Serta Pembelajarannya* 8, no. 1 (2024): 35–37.

of need fulfillment that aligns with the five levels of the hierarchy, spanning from efforts to sustain basic necessities to achieving the stage of self actualization. The conflicts emerging within the story do not merely drive the plot forward but also represent the human struggle to balance the drives for physiological needs, safety, love and belonging, and self esteem. Consequently, *Shahrazad* holds profound relevance for an in depth analysis to uncover how this structural hierarchy of needs functions in shaping the character's traits and actions.

Numerous prior studies have explored the application of Abraham Maslow's hierarchy of needs theory across various literary works. First, Amil and Tariq (2023), in their article titled "Representation of Women: Analyzing 19th and 20th Century Short Stories using Maslow's Hierarchy of Needs," examined how the basic needs and autonomy of female characters are depicted in 19th and 20th-century Western short stories. Their study specifically focuses on analyzing the needs of female characters amidst the social pressures of patriarchal societies.¹³ Second, Nugraheni et al. (2023), through their research titled "Analysis of the Main Character in the Novel Heartbreak Motel by Ika Natassa: Psychological Study of Abraham Maslow's Literature," investigated how a protagonist in a prose work struggles to fulfill their levels of needs as part of a literary psychology study.¹⁴ Lastly, Khurshid and Khurshid (2024), in the article "Maslow's Hierarchy of Needs in Liam O'Flaherty's Short Story, 'His First Flight'," identified how a character's journey from fear to courage mirrors the progression through the hierarchy of needs toward achieving self-actualization.¹⁵

The fundamental difference between the aforementioned studies and this research lies in the material object. While previous studies examined Western short stories or popular Indonesian novels, this study specifically investigates Najib Mahfuz's short story, *Shahrazad*. To the best of the author's knowledge, no prior study has applied Maslow's theory to *Shahrazad*, making this research highly essential to bridge the academic gap within the discourse of modern Arabic literature.

Based on the introduction outlined above, this study addresses the research question of how the hierarchy of needs is manifested in the character of Shahrazad within the short story *Shahrazad* from Abraham Maslow's perspective. Maslow's approach is highly relevant for this

¹³ Bushra Amil and Abdur Rehman Tariq, "Representation of Women: Analyzing 19 Th and 20 Th Century Short Stories Using Maslow's Hierarchy of Needs," *Research Journal of Language and Literary Studies* 3, no. 2 (2023): 69–93.

¹⁴ Luthfa Nugraheni et al., "Analysis of the Main Character in the Novel Heartbreak Motel by Ika Natassa: Psychological Study of Abraham Maslow's Literature," *ICCCM Journal of Social Sciences and Humanities* 2, no. 2 (2023): 37–47.

¹⁵ Mahnoor Khurshid and Sana Khurshid, "Maslow's Hierarchy of Needs in Liam O'Flaherty's Short Story, 'His First Flight' Mahnoor," 2024 7, no. June 2024 (2024): 301–9.

short story because the plot specifically depicts the protagonist's extreme transformative journey moving from the nadir of a physiological crisis involving starvation, through efforts to secure safety via financial stability, to a struggle against social isolation and loneliness, which ultimately culminates in achieving self actualization through a steadfast declaration of faith in Allah as her guiding principles of life.

Consequently, the objective of this study is to identify and describe in depth each level of needs experienced and achieved by the character Shahrazad based on Maslow's hierarchy of needs theory. Theoretically, the contributions of this research are expected to enrich the development of Arabic literary criticism through a humanistic psychological approach. Practically, the findings of this study are anticipated to serve as a valuable reference for readers in understanding the process of human resilience when confronting life adversities through the appropriate fulfillment of psychological needs.

LITERATURE REVIEW

The literature review in this study encompasses a framework of systematic theories and concepts used as the foundation for analyzing the material object. The presented theories are selected based on their direct relevance to the research focus, which pertains to the fulfillment of the protagonist's needs. Broadly, this section will elaborate on Abraham Maslow's concept of humanistic psychology, the nature of literary psychology as the analytical tool, and a general overview of Najib Mahfuz's short story, *Shahrazad*.

A. Maslow's Hierarchy of Needs

Abraham Maslow's Hierarchy of Needs classifies human needs into five primary levels that progress step by step and possess a close correlation with the concept of human welfare in Islam (Mustafa, 2022). The most fundamental level is occupied by physiological needs (such as food, water, and air), which directly intersect with the aspect of *Dharuriyyat* (necessities), as human life cannot persist without them. Once basic needs and safety are secured, an individual's motivation shifts toward the subsequent levels social needs and the need for self-esteem. The pinnacle of this hierarchy is self actualization, which focuses on developing spiritual and moral potential, as well as seeking life purpose. Furthermore, the expansion of Maslow's theory, which incorporates the dimensions of cognitive and aesthetic needs, is proven to align with the concept of *Tahsiniyyat* (embellishments) within *Maqashid Shariah*, serving to refine, perfect, and

beautify the quality of human life.¹⁶

B. Psychological Approach in Literature

The psychological approach in literature serves as an essential method to examine the inner workings and mental phenomena of characters within a literary text. According to Siswantoro, literary psychology focuses on studying specific psychological phenomena experienced by main characters as they respond or react to themselves and their surroundings, allowing their psychological states and behavioral patterns to be uncovered through their actions (Pradnyana dkk.,2019). Consequently, utilizing psychological theories in literary analysis helps researchers explore untouched dimensions of a text, adding artistic value, coherence, and complexity to the overall understanding of the characters' motivations within the narrative.¹⁷

C. Najib Mahfuzd's Short Story *Shahrazad*

Najib Mahfuzd, whose full name is Najib Mahfuzd Abd Al-Aziz Ibrahim Ahmad Fasya, was a prominent contemporary Arab writer born on December 11, 1911, in Cairo, Egypt (Jannah dan Tasnimah, 2023). He is highly recognized in Arab literature for paving the way for the Arab realism movement, shifting the literary paradigm from romanticism to a realistic style that carefully analyzes society. His monumental contributions to world literature culminated on October 13, 1988, when his famous trilogy successfully won the prestigious Nobel Prize in Literature from the International Literary Academy in Sweden.¹⁸

This short story, *Shahrazad*, broadly focuses on the story of the main character's life struggles in facing major threats and complex conflict situations occurring in their surrounding environment. Through this narrative, Najib Mahfuzd depicts how the main character must make difficult decisions to maintain their life and existence. The emotional dynamics, fascinating behavior, and inner conflicts experienced by the character in this short story demonstrate a very deep psychological turmoil. Therefore, the character's characteristics and actions are highly suitable for further analysis using a literary psychology approach, specifically through the lens of Maslow's hierarchy of needs theory, which was explained in the previous chapter.

24, no. 2 (2022): 953–55. “مقاصد الشريعة ومراعاتها للاحتياجات الإنسانية” مصطفى كامل محمد مصطفى, “مصطفى كامل محمد مصطفى”, 24, no. 2 (2022): 953–55.

¹⁷ I Wayan Gede Pradnyana, Gde Artawan, and I Made Sutama, “Psikologi Tokoh Dalam Novel Suti Karya Sapardi Djoko Damono: Analisis Psikologi Sastra,” *Jurnal Ilmiah Pendidikan Dan Pembelajaran* 3, no. 3 (2019): 340.

¹⁸ Raudhatul Jannah and Tatik Maryatut Tasnimah, “Tokoh Dan Perbedaan Aliran Realisme Barat Dan Timur Dalam Perkembangan Kesusastraan Arab,” *A Jamiy: Jurnal Bahasa Dan Sastra Arab* 12, no. 1 (2023): 10–12.

RESEARCH METHOD

This study employs a descriptive analytical method utilizing a literary psychology approach to examine the psychological aspects of characters in literary texts.¹⁹ The material object of this research is Najib Mahfuzd's short story *Shahrazad*, taken from the anthology *Khammarat al-Qitt al-Aswad* (The Black Cat Tavern), whereas the formal object focuses on the main character's psychological traits. Data consisting of textual excerpts depicting emotional dynamics and internal conflicts are collected through close reading, employing the observation and note taking technique. Subsequently, the data are analyzed textually by integrating Abraham Maslow's hierarchy of needs theory. This theory provides a structural framework to analyze the characteristics, behaviors, and existential modes of the main character in maintaining survival.

FINDINGS AND DISCUSSION

This section presents an in depth analysis and discussion regarding the personality dynamics of Shahrazad in Najib Mahfuzd's short story *Shahrazad*, based on the lens of Abraham Maslow's hierarchy of needs theory. Through a literary psychology approach, the collected textual units of narrative and dialogue will be dissected to reveal how the main character struggles for her existence and fulfills her psychological demands. To provide a systematic, comprehensive presentation that aligns with Maslow's line of thought, the discussion in this study is hierarchically divided into the following five analytical sub sections.

A. Analysis of Shahrazad's Physiological Needs

Based on the analysis of the short story, Shahrazad's physiological needs are manifested through several forms of basic physical fulfillment, particularly food, shelter, and clothing. These needs are reflected in several textual passages throughout the story. This is evidenced through the following textual data units :

شبعْتُ بعد جوع.

"I am full after being hungry."

فاستأجرتُ شَقَّةً صغيرةً

"So I rented a small apartment."

¹⁹ Novia Permata Silviandari et al., "Kepribadian Tokoh Meirose Dalam Film Surga Yang Tak Dirindukan (Kajian Psikologi Humanistik Abraham Maslow) Pendahuluan Karya Sastra Merupakan Hasil Pemikiran Kreatif Penulis Yang Diangkat Dari Realitas Permasalahan Individu Di Kehidupan Nyata (Pradopo" 6 (2023): 4.

نظير أجر، غير الإقامة والغذاء والكساء

“in return for wages, in addition to accommodation, food, and clothing.”

These passages show that Shahrazad experiences the fulfillment of several basic physical needs. “فاستأجرت شقة” indicates the satisfaction of her need for food, while “شبعْتُ بعد جوع” and “الإقامة والغذاء والكساء” indicate access to shelter, food, and clothing. These conditions correspond to Maslow's physiological needs as the basic requirements for human survival.

B. Analysis of Shahrazad's Safety Needs

After fulfilling some of her basic physical needs, Shahrazad also experiences the fulfillment of safety needs through financial stability and protection from extreme insecurity. This can be seen in several passages:

وَاطْمَأْنَنْتُ بَعْدَ خَوْفٍ، ودعوتُ الله أن يمدَّ في عمره إلى الأبد

“and I felt at ease after fear, and I prayed to God to prolong his life forever.”

ولكنني سمعتُ عن قانونٍ جديدٍ للمعاشاتٍ يسمح بإعادة المعاش للمطلقة أول مرة، وتبيَّن أنه ينطبق عليّ

"But I heard there is a new pension law that allows the reinstatement of pensions for women divorced for the first time, and it turns out it applies to me."

ولي موردٌ رزقي بسيطٌ، ولكنه بالإضافة إلى المعاش حمائي من الموتِ جوعاً أو التدهورِ في الطرقاتِ

“I have a small source of livelihood, which, in addition to the pension, protected me from dying of hunger or deteriorating on the streets.”

These passages indicate that Shahrazad gains financial stability and protection from insecurity through her pension and source of livelihood. The phrase “حمائي من الموت جوعاً أو” directly shows the protective function of these resources, while “واطمأنت بعد” indicates a transition from fear to a sense of security. Therefore, the passages demonstrate several forms of fulfillment of Shahrazad's safety needs.

C. Analysis of Shahrazad's Love and Belonging Needs

والواقع أننا عشنا قصة حب كما تقولون، واستمرت حتى فيما بعد الزواج

"And the truth is, we shared a love story, as people say, and it endured even after marriage."

The data above indicate that Shahrazad's interpersonal needs have been emotionally fulfilled. She successfully established a genuine emotional bond through a marital relationship rooted in love. This fulfillment aligns with Maslow's theory that achieving social needs brings true happiness to an individual, particularly through social interactions and a strong sense of acceptance from others.²⁰ This harmonious relationship proves that Shahrazad is capable of overcoming social isolation by loving and being loved within a compassionate domestic sphere.

D. Analysis of Shahrazad's Esteem Needs

The fourth-level need relates to self-esteem, honor, and recognition from the surrounding environment. At this level, Shahrazad is confronted with a dilemmic situation regarding her self esteem while staying at her relative's residence, as illustrated in the following excerpt :

أُقيمت عند أختي زمناً، ولكنني شعرت مع الأيام بأنها إقامة غير مرغوب فيها

"I stayed at my sister's house for a while, but over time, I felt that my presence there was unwanted!"

لم؟

“ why?”

ذاك كان شعوري، وهو لم يخطئ

"That was my feeling, and it was true."

كيف، وهي أختك التي قاسمتك في الماضي العذاب؟

"How is that possible, when she is your sister who once shared your suffering?"

قدر فكان!

"That was the fate that happened!"

زوجها؟

“Her husband?”

تقريباً!

“Almost!”

²⁰ Khusnul Fatimah et al., “Dimensi Reward Dan Punishment Dalam Pendidikan: Perspektif Hierarki Kebutuhan Maslow,” *AS-SABIQUN* 6, no. 4 (2024): 699.

ضاق بوجودك في مسكنه؟

"Did she dislike your presence in her house?"

تقريباً، المهم أنني اضطررت إلى مغادرة البيت إبقاءً على رابطة الأخوة

"Almost. The important thing is that I was forced to leave the house to preserve the bond of sisterhood."

ولكنك لم تذكرني السبب صراحة، دعيني أظن. لعلها الغيرة؟

"But you didn't state the reason explicitly, let me guess. Could it be jealousy?"

وهم الغيرة، وهو الأصح!

"The illusion of jealousy, and that is more accurate."

The subsequent dialogue elucidates the root of this discomfort, revealing that it stemmed from her brother-in-law's jealousy. Consequently, Shahrazad opted to take a decisive stance :

وهم الغيرة، وهو الأصح! المهم أنني اضطررت إلى مغادرة البيت إبقاءً على رابطة الأخوة...

"The illusion of jealousy, and that is more accurate! The important thing is that I was compelled to leave the house to preserve the bond of sisterhood..."

This textual excerpt serves as concrete evidence of how Shahrazad actualizes her self-esteem needs. In line with research regarding the application of Maslow's theory to women, the fulfillment of needs at this level is crucial for shaping self-identity, which breeds confidence and positive recognition.²¹ Rather than remaining in an environment that fails to respect her presence, she courageously chooses to leave the house. This decision is made to uphold her dignity and honor as a woman, while simultaneously serving as a rational effort to preserve the harmony of sisterly bonds from being fractured by external conflicts.

E. Analysis of Shahrazad's Self-Actualization Needs

The pinnacle of Shahrazad's self-actualization and spiritual maturity is concretely captured through the psychological recognition found in the following text:

ولكن عليك أن تواجهي حياتك بشجاعتك المعهودة

"But you must face your life with your accustomed courage."

²¹ Yeyen Komalasari, "Pengembangan Karier Wanita Berdasarkan Teori Motivasi Hirarki Kebutuhan Abraham Maslow," *E-Jurnal Ekonomi Dan Bisnis Universitas Udayana* 11, no. 9 (2022): 1112.

ولكني

“But i.....”

قاطعها قائلاً، وقد ألحت عليه رغبة مفاجئة في إنهاء المقابلة بأسرع ما يمكن: "أصغي إليّ، إنكِ سيدة عظيمة. من فضل الشقاء علينا أحياناً أن يجعل منا عظماء؛ إنكِ سيدة عظيمة، وكنتِ عظيمة حتى في عثراتكِ العابرة، وأنتِ عظيمة في وحدتكِ، وستتحقق عظمتكِ أكثر عندما تقضين على وحدتكِ بضربة شجاعة فائقة. سيدتي، لا قيمة لحياتنا، لا معنى لها، ولا جدوى من استمرارها إلا بالإيمان بالناس مهما يصيبنا من الناس، والإيمان بالله سبحانه وتعالى إيماناً لا يتزعزع، مهما وكيفما جرت مقاديره

"He interrupted her, driven by a sudden, pressing urge to end the interview as quickly as possible: Listen to me, you are a great woman. It is sometimes the virtue of misery that it makes us great, you are a great woman, and you were great even in your fleeting stumbles. You are great in your solitude, and your greatness will be realized even more when you put an end to your isolation with a stroke of supreme courage. My lady, our lives have no value, no meaning, and no purpose in continuing, except through faith in people regardless of what we suffer from them and an unwavering faith in God Almighty, no matter how or where His decrees may lead."

ونظر في عينيها، فتلقى نظرة مغرورة بالخيبة والإخفاق، إنها ذكية أيضاً، أذكى مما قدّر، وها هي تبتسم ابتسامة خفيفة، ولكنها أحجلته لدرجة ما، وتمتعت: إني مؤمنة بالله يا أستاذ

"He looked into her eyes and met a gaze brimming with disappointment and failure. She was intelligent too, far more intelligent than he had estimated; there she was, flashing a faint smile that somehow made him feel ashamed, as she murmured: I have faith in God, Professor."

لوح بيده في حماس وقال كل ما عداه باطل سبحانه وتعالى

"She waved her hand enthusiastically and said, Everything else is false Glory be to Him, the Almighty."

The excerpt above serves as authentic evidence that the character of Shahrazad has successfully reached the gateway of perfect self actualization. The reaffirmation that Shahrazad is a "great woman," along with the encouragement to "face life with courage," proves that she is recognized as a resilient figure who has transcended all lower levels of human needs. Through her response, filled with tranquility and a faint smile, Shahrazad demonstrates the true characteristics of an individual who has attained the pinnacle of psychological maturity, wherein she is capable of integrating past suffering into a newfound strength. Her profound expression of spirituality through the declaration, "I have faith in God," stands as absolute proof

that Shahrazad's personality has been entirely actualized through mature faith, life optimism, and ultimate psychological fortitude. This achievement of self-actualization profoundly impacts an individual's psychological state at a higher level, fostering a distinct transformation in perception, cognitive processing, and the internal drive to continually progress and develop beyond life's basic adversities.²²

CONCLUSION

Based on the psychological analysis of Najib Mahfuzd's short story *Shahrazad*, it is concluded that the female protagonist successfully navigates and fulfills all five tiers of Abraham Maslow's hierarchy of needs. Her journey progresses systematically from satisfying baseline physiological and safety requirements via employment and pension rights, to securing emotional belonging through a loving marriage. Furthermore, her self esteem is validated by her firm decision to leave an unwelcoming domestic environment to preserve her personal honor. Ultimately, Shahrazad reaches the pinnacle of self actualization, manifested through her profound emotional resilience, dignified autonomy, and an unwavering spiritual declaration of faith in God when confronting isolation.

As a recommendation for future academic discourse, this study suggests that subsequent researchers expand the literary exploration of Mahfuzd's *Shahrazad*. While this paper strictly uncovers character motivation through a humanistic psychological lens, alternative analytical frameworks such as feminist literary criticism or existentialist theories could be employed to further unpack the multi layered complexities of the protagonist's female autonomy and agency.

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²² Tri Wiyoko, "Filsafat Humanisme Abraham Maslow Dalam Perspektif Pembelajaran Berdiferensiasi," *Jurnal Muara Pendidikan* 9, no. 2 (2024): 339.

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