

CHAPTER I

INTRODUCTION

The first chapter of this research contains several points describing the research background, including the research topic and the previous relevant researches. Furthermore, the study's research questions, identification of the problem, scope of the research, and the objective of the study are also explained.

1.1 Background of the Research

Every human on this planet is gifted with a potential. Although it is hard to find a potential within a person, there is always probably a certain potential that is hidden. Before finding out the potential, usually people would face such hard times and obstacles. There would be different stages that a person face. At the end of the day, it is about time that a person finally achieves his or her potential. It is about how the person realizes and actualizes herself or himself. In finding out the signs if a person is actualizing themselves, we can read a story, such as in a novel, and see how the characters find their true selves. According to Syafitri & Nurizzati, literary works are not just medium to express experience, but also often associated with human behaviours (Syafitri and Nurizzati). Thus, we often see and feel that characters in literary works relate to our lives. In an article entitled "Self-Actualization Myths: What Did Maslow Really Say?" Compton quotes about self-actualization from Abraham Maslow that, "Self-actualizing persons are people who have developed or are developing to the full stature of which they are capable" (Compton). In achieving the self-

actualization phase, he or she needs to see whether all the needs in their lives are fulfilled. There would be physical and spiritual needs for interpersonal relationships.

One novel that portrays the self-actualization process is *The Invisible Life of Addie LaRue*. This book is a fantasy novel that talks about Addie LaRue's journey on finding what she truly wants. She eventually gets what she wants even though that costs her so much. She faces so many obstacles in finding the freedom that she has wished for. She often let her subconscious mind do her favors to live a long life and finds the meaning behind it. The reason why I chose *The Invisible Life of Addie LaRue* by V. E. Schwab is to examine the self-actualization process carried out by the main of the novel and the hero's journey stages experienced by Addie. This research is expected to increase knowledge and provide an overview to readers and other researchers about the process of self-actualization of characters in literary works through the hero's journey pattern. In this novel, I argue that V. E. Schwab is trying to show that Addie LaRue is described to have changed a lot throughout the story and identifying Addie's self-actualization needs.

1.2 Identification of Problem

There are some problems found in *The Invisible Life of Addie LaRue*, such as surviving, conflict with friends and family, identity, and so on. I want to study the self-actualization process of the main character called Addie LaRue, through her life journey using the hero's journey theory. The writer chose self-actualization and the hero's journey because these

problems are often discussed in many literary works to see how a certain character is changed and sacrifice one or two things in order to get to the end of the story. Addie LaRue is desperately wanting to be free and live the way she wants, so she makes a bargain with the devil. To grant her wish, she should pay for it by giving something valuable for her, but the consequence is to be forgotten by everyone on the earth. Her parents, her best friend, even strangers she meets along the way would simply forget and act as if she never existed before. By examining Addie's behaviour and experiences about self-actualization and her heroic journey to save herself and the people that she loves in the novel will be discussed in this study.

1.3 Review of Related Literature

In completing this study, I have reviewed some previous articles and theory about self-actualization and the theory of Hero's Journey by Joseph Campbell. The first related thesis is from Milla Fyrman in 2023, entitled "Escaping the Stereotypical: A character analysis of Addie LaRue in V. E. Schwab's *The Invisible Life of Addie LaRue*". In this thesis, the author talks about the gender stereotype of a hero in the novel. The author use data gained through the novel itself, articles, and related literature. This research focuses on the gender stereotypes in the novel, specifically about female being a hero in a fantasy book. The author found that female in fantasy were used to be portrayed as a weak and helpless character. The author says that Addie LaRue breaks the stereotypes when she starts her unbreakable journey to sell her soul to the devil. Addie can begin to use her freedom and develop into a character who is neither a stereotypical damsel nor a

masculinized hero once she realizes that social norms and boundaries can be crossed (Fyrman). This thesis will not form the basis of my research, but it is useful because it explains that Addie LaRue is in fact, a hero in the novel. This study only focuses on the hero aspects, whereas my research focuses on the self-actualization process.

The second related article is from Julius and Satria in 2022, entitled “Analysis of Hero’s Journey in Jack London’s *The Call of The Wild*”. This article analyzes how the main character, a dog named Buck, went through a sequence of events which led him to a noble ending by using Campbell’s Hero’s Journey theory. The authors use data gained through the novel itself, articles, and related literature. Their research only focuses on the stages of the hero's journey in the main character’s adventure. The authors found that Buck went through 8 steps out of 3 main stages; four stages from Departure stage, three steps from Initiation stage, and one step from Return stage (Julius and Satria). The article is useful to my research topic, as Julius and Satria suggest that the hero’s journey is prominently present in Jack London’s *The Call of The Wild*. This article will not form the basis of my research; however, it will be useful supplementary information for my research on the hero's journey.

The third related article is from Palupi et al., in 2020, entitled “Self-Actualization of the Main Character in Novel *Daun Yang Jatuh Tidak Pernah Membenci Angin* Tere Liye Works” reveals that the self-actualization theory by Abraham Maslow is used to analyze the main character (Tania) in the novel. The authors use a qualitative descriptive

study and content analysis to collect the data. The authors found that Tania succeeded in achieving her self-actualization process. There are 5 stages in it: (a) psychological needs, (b) safety and security needs, (c) love and belonging needs, (d) self-esteem needs, and (d) self-actualization (Palupi et al.). This study only focuses on the self-actualization process, whereas my study will come with the hero's journey theory by Joseph Campbell to sort out the story and the self-actualization process of Addie LaRue's changes.

The fourth related article is from Zebua and Dirgeyasa in 2023, entitled "The Hero's Journey Stages and Character Archetypes in Anthony Horowitz' Novel *Alex Rider (Stormbreaker)*". This article reveals the hero's journey stages and the archetypes in Alex Rider to complete his heroic journey in the story. The theories used in this study is Hero's Journey by Joseph Campbell and the 7 different archetypes by Christopher Vogler. The authors use linguistic features (words, phrases, sentences, and paragraphs) to show the discussion on the hero's journey and archetypes found in the novel. The focus of this study is analyzing the hero's journey and character's archetypes in *Alex Rider: Stormbreaker* by Anthony Horowitz. The result of this study is all of the 17 stages of the hero's journey and the 7 archetypes are found in the story of the novel (Zebua and Tangkas). This article is useful to my research topic, as Zebua and Dirgeyasa suggest that Campbell's theory of hero's journey is also applicable to modern novels. This article will not form the basis of my research; however, it will be useful supplementary information for my research on hero's journey stages.

The fifth related thesis is from Ika Rahmawati Diniar in 2015, entitled “Pi Patel’s Self-Actualization in Yann Martel’s *Life of Pi*”. In this thesis, the author analyzes the needs in achieving Pi Patel’s self-actualization using Abraham Maslow’s Hierarchy of Needs theory. The authors use data gained through the novel itself, articles, and related literature. The author found that Pi’s self-actualization is fulfilled because he has completed the five stages of the needs; namely (a) psychological needs, (b) safety and security needs, (c) love and belonging needs, (d) self-esteem needs, and (e) self-actualization. The author found that Pi is successful to become what he wanted and still stand by his rule to be a religious person, so he can have a better life after experiencing the worse (Diniar et al.). This study only focuses on the self-actualization process, whereas my study will come with the hero’s journey theory by Joseph Campbell to sort out the story and reveal the self-actualization process of Addie LaRue using Hierarchy of Needs by Abraham Maslow.

1.4 Research Questions

Based on the background of the study above, the research problems can be address as follows:

1. Does Addie LaRue achieve her self-actualization based on the novel?
2. How does she survive despite all of the difficulties to be a hero?

1.5 Scope of the Research

This scope of this study is on the challenges to self-actualization and how those obstacles are portrayed by the main character in *The Invisible*

Life of Addie LaRue by V. E. Schwab. The scope of the research is the intrinsic element of the novel, which is the main character. This study will connect to the psychological study, but only focuses on the discussion of the main character more. This study focuses more on how Addie LaRue trying to achieve the life that she always wanted, using the hierarchy of needs by Abraham Maslow.

1.6 Objectives of the Study

Regarding the statements of the problems above, this study is intended to present the description of the analyzes. For the first analysis, this study will analyze the main character's self-actualization process, whether she succeeds in achieving it or not. The second analysis is to analyze how the main character's life journey from the moment she makes a deal to live the life that she has always wanted.

