

CHAPTER 1

INTRODUCTION

1.1. Background of the Research

Literary works can be defined as an intellectual work expressed in written words, numbers, or symbols. There are many literature works in this world that can describe the reflection of the author's life or representative of human life today. There are a lot of events that occurred at this time, have been described by the author at that time in their works. The works which they have created have different purpose and meaning that the author wants to convey to the reader. One of them is a novel 'The Perfect Mother' by Aimee Molloy.

Aimee Molloy is the author of the New York Times bestseller *How Long the Night: Molly Melching's Journey to Help Millions of African Women and Girls Triumph* and the coauthor of several nonfiction books. She lives in Brooklyn with her husband and two daughters. *The Perfect Mother* is her first novel.

In this research, the author describes Winnie as a mother living in modern motherhood in America, so that the writer wants to analyze in depth by using psychology.

This novel shows how a group of mothers who live as a mother. The author also tells how the group of mothers solved the problem that will resonate with women who themselves have children and have faced up to the societal and personal pressures.

"The Perfect Mother" is a novel that focuses on real life problems that affect women. How modern motherhood growing rapidly in America nowadays. Aimee Molloy has always a special interest in women's issues and women's rights, and many of her books have highlighted that fact. American motherhood has changed

in many ways since Mother's Day was first celebrated more than 100 years ago. Today's moms are more educated than ever before. A majority of women with a young child are in the labor force, and more mothers are serving as their family's sole or primary "breadwinner." At the same time, the share of mothers who are stay-at-home moms has held steady in recent decades after falling precipitously in the 1970s and 1980s. Mothers are charge with keeping babies safe and healthy while forming their characters. But then, as now, the edification of mothers is often offer as a substitute for providing mothers resources, like affordable health care, opportunities for clean running water, and healthy food to sustain mothers and families. This is partly because of the stunted welfare state that characterized the United States, even after Progressive reformers has made some improvements, and partly because of the continuity in motherhood ideals: mothers, Americans believed, had a unique moral influence. Through their constant attention, motivation, and sacrifice, mothers could fortify and take responsibility for each generation of the nation's children, with very little structural support, but with a little help from the experts.

At its best, the culture of expertise directs at child-rearing offered mothers a broader range of ideas and solutions than they have once had. Scientific motherhood ideas popularized important improvements in childcare practices, such as immunizations, and, through organizations like the Children's Bureau, help empower mothers with a sense that they could and should take care of their own health while also seeking resources for rearing their children. By the mid-twentieth-century, the most famous childcare advisor, Dr. Benjamin Spock, searches to reassure mothers rather than blame them (though it is worth noting that, like every other major twentieth-century child care adviser, Spock is not a mother and have never been a primary care provider for his or any other children). Also, as child care advice proliferated it become more populist and peer-to-peer oriented, incorporating but sometimes transcending or challenging expertise. And expertise expand as medical and psychological professions open to women and other under-represented groups.

(<https://www.oah.org/tah/issues/2016/november/twentieth-century-american-motherhood-promises-pitfalls-and-continuing-legacies/>)

"The Perfect Mother" novel tells about the group of mothers who accidentally meet at the hospital because they are gave birth in the same month and it calls the May Mothers. They eventually close until an incident befalls Winnie's character who is missing her baby because of abduction. The struggles and the joys of being modern motherhood become the theme of this novel. The struggles is when the baby abduction becomes big news on media. The mothers group is blame for the incident just because they are out without the babies for the joys of being modern motherhood. The issues are very interesting to analyze because they tell and describe the conditions of how modern mothers live in america and also try to fulfill the hierarchy of needs in the current era. Abraham H. Maslow says that all humans are born with instinctive needs. universal needs that drive us to grow and develop, to actualize ourselves, to be all as far as we can. Humans have a struggle or tendency brought from birth to actualize themselves. Human beings are driven by universal needs and are carried from birth, arranged in a level, from the strongest to the weakest. The lowest and the strongest needs must be satisfied before the second level of needs arises from the onward to the highest. (<https://www.libraryjournal.com/?reviewDetail=the-perfect-mother>)

In a work of literature, there are few analyzes that can be used to examine a literary work. Moreover, this study is expected to be useful for those interested in getting deeper knowledge in analyzing the conflict behind the stories of the literary. This study is expected to be useful because I want to analyze it through intrinsic and extrinsic approaches. The applied concepts are through intrinsic approaches, such as Setting, Plot and Theme, as well as Through extrinsic approaches I use Maslow's Hierarchy of Needs theory.

1.2. Identification of the Problems

Based on the background of the problems, I state the problems begin with the missing of Winnie's baby, Midas when she is gather together at a bar with the

members of the May Mothers. This incident open up everything in Winnie’s life. The writer would like to identify the character of Winnie: A mother who missing her child. This problem begins when Winnie live her life after her mother die and live with her son, Midas. Live to be a mother who has one child and without a husband makes it difficult in her life, because on one side Winnie has to be a mother for her baby, but on the other hand, Winnie wants to fulfill her own desires.

1.3. Limitation of the Problems

In accordance with the identification of the problems above, the problems in this research are the fulfillment process of the needs of Winnie in novel “The Perfect Mother”. The applied concepts are through intrinsic approaches, such as showing and telling method, characterization, plot, and setting, as well as an extrinsic approach which is Maslow’s Hierarchy of Needs theory.

1.4. Formulation of the Problems

The research problem is formulated in the form of research questions, as follows:

1. What are the characterizations through telling and showing method?
2. What the setting and background; support the theme in the Aimee Molloy novel “The Perfect Mother”?
3. What is the concepts of Maslow’s Hierarchy Needs be used as a support in the psychology of literature in the Aimee Molloy novel “The Perfect Mother”?
4. What is the theme of this novel being reinforced through the result of analysis of the intrinsic and extrinsic approaches?

1.5. Objectives of the Research

According to the statement of the problems, The writer aim the objective of this research to prove the assumption of the fulfillment process of the need of Winnie in novel “The Perfect Mother”. In order to achieve that objective, The writer make several steps as follow:

1. To analyze the characterizations through telling and showing method showing methods.
2. To analyze the plot and background; can support the theme.
3. To prove that Maslow’s Hierarchy of Needs concepts can be used as a support in the psychology of literature.
4. To reinforce theme by using the result of analysis of the intrinsic and extrinsic approaches.

1.6. Methods of the Research

Based on theoretical framework, The writer use the research method with a variety of qualitative, type of literature research, analysis by using collecting data which are in the form of novel entitled *The Perfect Mother* as a primary source and supported by a number of aspects related to the theory, concept, and supported by some literature that is connected with suitable definition or theory as the secondary source.

1.7. Benefits of Research

This study is expected to be beneficial for students who are interested in getting deeper of the novel *The Perfect Mother* by Aimee Molloy. This study is expected to be useful because it is done through a new perspective by applying the concepts of Maslow’s hierarchy of needs in a women that live as a modern motherhood that included in the field of psychoanalytic literature that shown as something new and uncovered for subsequent studies or research.

1.8. Systematic Organization of the Research

Based on the explanation above, the order of the presentation is written as follows:

CHAPTER I: INTRODUCTION

It consists of: the background of the research, the identification of the problems, the limitation of the problems, the statement of the problems, the objectives of the research, the methods of the research, the benefits of research, Systematic Organization of the Research.

CHAPTER II: FRAMEWORK OF THEORIES

It consists of: intrinsic and extrinsic approaches. Intrinsic approach includes characterization (showing and telling methods), setting and plot. extrinsic approaches i use psychological approaches - Maslow's Hierarchy of Needs concept with five multilevel needs concept

CHAPTER III: ANALYSIS THE NOVEL OF *THE PERFECT MOTHER* THROUGH INTRINSIC APPROACH

It consists of: Analysis of characterization through showing and telling methods, analysis of setting and plot through the concepts of setting and plot. The concepts must appear in several parts.

CHAPTER IV: THE FULFILLMENT PROCESS OF THE NEEDS OF WINNIE CHARACTER IN NOVEL *THE PERFECT MOTHER*

It consists of: Analysis of the novel which reflects the Hierarchy of Needs Theory. The analyses above are shown in some sub-chapters.

CHAPTER V: CLOSING

It consists of: a conclusion and evaluation from the sub-chapters and the implication of the evaluated result that shows the theme of this novel is “THE FULFILLMENT PROCESS OF THE NEEDS OF WINNIE IN NOVEL *THE PERFECT MOTHER*”.

Attachment: References and Scheme of the Research.

