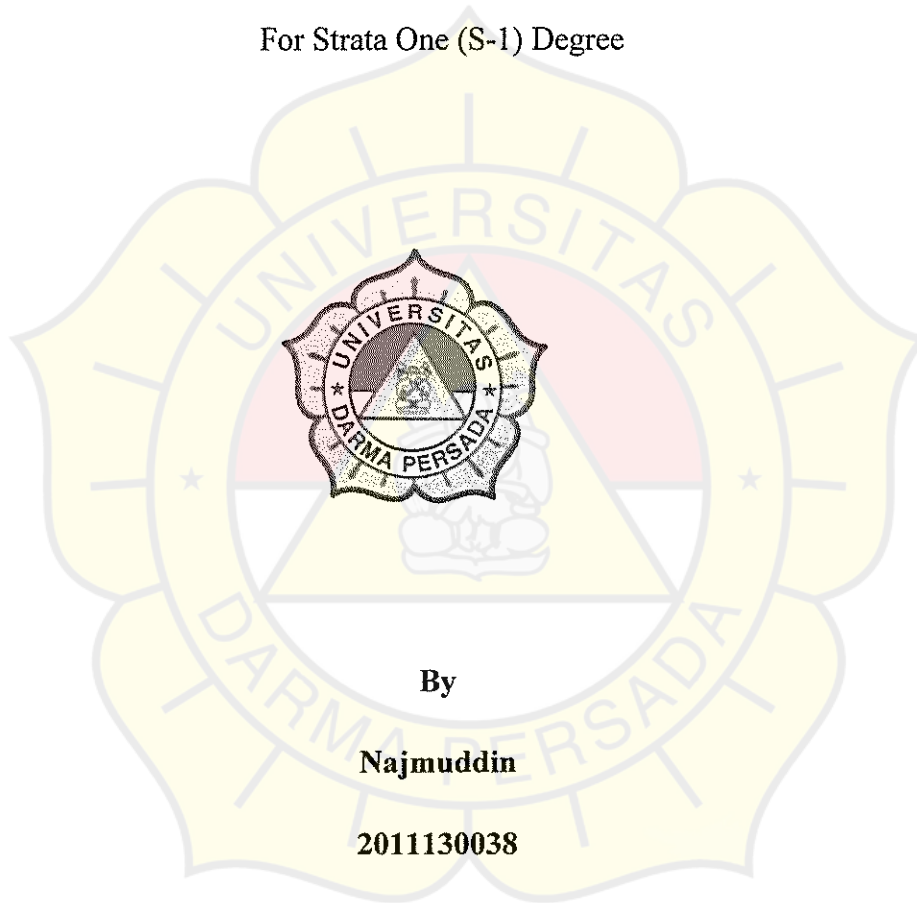


**THE REFLECTION OF MASLOW'S NEEDS HIERARCHY  
AND AMERICAN DREAM IN THE MOVIE *WARRIOR* BY  
GAVIN O'CONNOR**

**TERM PAPER**

Submitted in partial fulfillment of the Requirements

For Strata One (S-1) Degree



By

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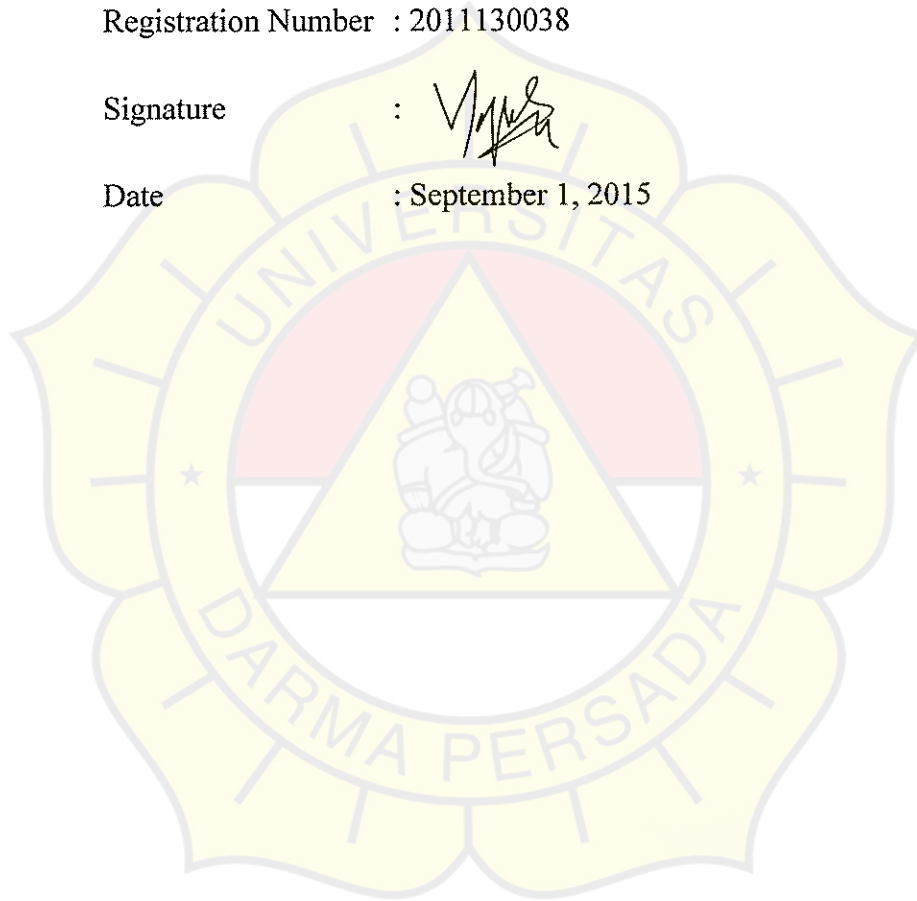
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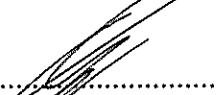
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## PREFACE

*Alhamdulillah* rabbil 'aalamiin, owing to mercy and blessing of Allah SWT, I successfully complete this term paper with the best effort. This term paper which is entitled *The Reflection Of Maslow's Needs Hierarchy And American Dream In The Movie Warrior By Gavin O'connor* is submitted to Strata One English Department of Darma Persada University as one of the requirements for obtaining the Strata One (S1) degree. This research could not be finished without the help and support from the important people who have taken their time to encourage and give the direction to me. I would like to deliver my gratitude to some people who involved in the making of this term paper as follow:

1. Mrs. Dra. Karina Adinda, M.A, as the counselor of my term paper. I completely thank to you for your time and advice that you give. I learn one thing from you that I must do my best effort and mind to find the good idea for this term paper.
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8. UKM SKMI as my religion club. Thank you for your time to give me the best place in your club. I am so proud to be a part of your club. I hope this team will be the best team at the next time.

I hope that this research can give the advantages to the language education especially the English literature for further research of term paper.

Jakarta, August 14, 2015



Najmuddin

## ABSTRACT

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Title : The Reflection of Maslow's Needs Hierarchy and American Dream in Warrior Movie By Gavin O'Connor

This term-paper discusses about the theme of a literary work of film by applying 2(two) approaches; intrinsic and extrinsic approaches. Through the intrinsic approach, the concepts are: characterization using showing method, beside that, there are also characterizations through the action of the character such as: behavior and the motivation of the figure. For the extrinsic approaches there are American Dream and Maslow's Needs Hierarchy by Abraham Maslow. This term-paper explains about Brendan O'Conlon as a father who was struggling for achieving American Dream and getting the top of his needs, happiness. In this research, film *Warrior* and the script are the primary sources and supported by some of relevant theories, concepts, and definitions which as secondary sources.

**Keywords:** American Dream, Maslow's Hierarchy of Needs, Setting, Characterization

## ABSTRAK

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*Skripsi ini membahas tema karya sastra dalam sebuah film dengan menggunakan 2(dua) pendekatan, yaitu secara intrinsik dan ekstrinsik. Dalam pendekatan intrinsik, terdapat konsep-konsep: Karakterisasi melalui metode tidak langsung (Showing) kemudian adapula karakterisasi melalui tindakan para tokoh yang diantaranya melalui tingkah laku dan motivasi yang melandasi; dan untuk pendekatan ekstrinsik terdapat American Dream dan Teori Kebutuhan Bertingkat dari Abraham Maslow. Skripsi membahas tentang Brendan Conlon yang merupakan seorang ayah yang berjuang untuk meraih American Dream dan mencapai puncak dari kebutuhannya, yaitu kebahagiaan. Dalam penelitian film Warrior dan beserta naskahnya merupakan sumber primer dalam skripsi ini dan didukung oleh teori-teori, konsep dan definisi terkait yang menjadi sumber sekunder.*

**Kata kunci:** American Dream, Teori Kebutuhan Bertingkat dari Abraham Maslow, Karakterisasi, Latar



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## CHAPTER I

### INTRODUCTION

#### A. Background of Problem

*Warrior* is a 2011 American sports drama film directed by Gavin O'Connor and starring Tom Hardy and Joel Edgerton as two estranged brothers whose entrance into a mixed martial arts tournament makes them come terms with their lives and each other. Nick Nolte was nominated for an Academy Award for Best Supporting Actor for his role as the father of the two brothers. Jennifer Morrison and Frank Grillo also star. The youngest son of an alcoholic former boxer returns home, where he's trained by his father for competition in a mixed martial arts tournament - a path that puts the fighter on a collision course with his estranged, older brother. Brendan Conlon (Joel Edgerton) lives in suburban Philadelphia with his "ideal" family, but he and his wife Tess (Jennifer Morrison) lament their economic hardships. Brendan works full time as a high school physics teacher, and Tess works two jobs just to stay afloat. Brendan visits the local credit union to discuss refinancing options with the bank manager, but learns that he is underwater in his mortgage and will lose his home within a month. Option less Brendan tells Tess that he'll spend his nights bouncing at a strip club a couple of towns over to make extra money. Brendan wraps up his teaching job in the early afternoon, calls his wife, and tells her that he'll be heading to his bouncing job and to say goodnight to his daughters. He pulls up outside a strip club where a makeshift boxing ring is set up in the parking lot. Brendan lied to Tess. He enters the ring and squeaks out a win over his opponent. Later that evening he arrives home and awakens Tess, who is shocked to see his right eye swollen and bruised. She asks why he lied, and he admits that the house

will be foreclosed on and that amateur MMA fights pay more in one night than bouncing does in a month.<sup>1</sup>

#### **B. Identification of the Problem**

Based on the background of the problem, I identify the character is Brendan Conlon. He has to follow the boxing competitions in order to get money and gain self-esteem in public. My assumption in this movie is the reflection of Maslow's Needs Hierarchy and American Dream theory.

#### **C. Limitation of problem**

Based on the identification of the above problems, I limit the research of Brendan Conlon. I use literature approach, characterization, setting, plot, and theme. I also use the concept of the American Dream and Maslow's Needs Hierarchy.

#### **D. Formulation of problem**

Based on the limitation problem above, I formulate the problem: Is my assumption true that the theme of this movie the reflection of Maslow's Needs Hierarchy and American Dream. In order to answer this question, I formulate the following problems:

1. What is the characterization that is analyzed by showing method?
2. How can the movie *Warrior* the analysis of characterization, setting, and plot support the concepts of Maslow's Needs Hierarchy and American Dream?
3. How can the theme of this film be reinforced by using the result of analysis of the intrinsic and extrinsic approaches?

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<sup>1</sup> <http://www.imdb.com/title/tt1291584/>

## E. Objective the research

Based on the formulation of the problem above, the objective of this research is to show the theme of this research is the reflection of Maslow's Needs Hierarchy and American Dream on character of Brendan. I have to take steps as follows:

1. To analyze the characterization and setting by using showing method.
2. To analyze this film by elaborating characterization, setting, and plot with the concepts of Maslow's Needs Hierarchy and American Dream
3. To analyze the theme that is constructed through the elaboration between the result of intrinsic and extrinsic analysis.

## F. Framework of Theories

Based on the objective of research, I use intrinsic element such as: Showing method; what this speaker said. I also use extrinsic elements such as sociology approaches: The American Dream theory and Psychology approaches: Maslow's Needs Hierarchy.

### 1. Showing Method

#### a. Characterization

Characterization is the art of creating a character for a narrative, include the process of giving some information about them. It may be happening in every their conversation. Characters can be presented by the description in their action, speech, and also their mind<sup>2</sup>

#### b. What the Speaker Said

Albertine Minderop quotes in her book, *Metode Karakterisasi Telaah Fiksi* said: *Pertama-tama pembaca harus memperhatikan substansi dari suatu dialog. Apakah dialog tersebut sesuatu yang penting sehingga dapat mengembangkan peristiwa-peristiwa dalam suatu alur atau sebaliknya.*

---

<sup>2</sup> James H. Pickering & Jeffrey D. Hoepfer, *Concise Companion to Literature* (New York: Macmillan Publishing Co., Inc., 1981), p. 26.

*Bila si penutur selalu berbicara tentang dirinya sendiri tersembul kesan ia seorang yang berpusat pada diri sendiri dan agak membosankan*<sup>3</sup>

## Characterization through dialogue

The task of establishing character through dialogue is not a simple one. Some characters are carefully and guarded in what they say: they speak only by indirection, and what we must infer from their words what they actually mean. Others are open and candid; they tell us, or appear to tell us, exactly what is on their minds. Some characters are given to chronic exaggeration and overstatement; others to understatement and subtlety. It is a rare work of fiction, whose author does not employ dialogue in some way to reveal, establish, and reinforce character<sup>4</sup>

## Characterization through action

To establish character on the basis of action, it is necessary to examine the several events of the plot for what they seem to reveal about the characters, about their unconscious emotional and psychological states as well as about their conscious attitudes and values<sup>5</sup>

## 2. Setting

Setting in fiction is called on to perform a number of desired functions. It may serve five elements.<sup>6</sup>

### a. Setting as background of action

When we speak of setting as background, then, we have in mind a kind of setting that exists by and large for its own sake, without any clear relationship to action or characters, or at best relationship that is only tangential and slight. To see whether setting acts as an essential element in

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<sup>3</sup> Albertine Minderop, *Metode Karakterisasi Telaah Fiksi* (Jakarta: Yayasan Obor Indonesia, 2005), p. 23.

<sup>4</sup> *Ibid.*, p. 32

<sup>5</sup> *Ibid.*, p.34

<sup>6</sup> James H. Pickering & Jeffrey D. Hoepfer, *Concise Companion to Literature* (New York: Macmillan Publishing Co., Inc., 1981), p. 38.



the fiction, or whether it exists merely as decorative and functionless background, we need ask ourselves this: Could the work in question be set in another time and another place without doing it essential damage? If the answer is yes, then the setting can be said to exist as decorative background whose function is largely irrelevant to the purpose of the work as whole<sup>7</sup>

b. Setting as antagonist

Setting in the form of nature can function as a kind of casual agent or antagonist, helping to establish plot conflict and determine the outcome of events<sup>8</sup>

c. Setting as means of creating appropriate atmosphere

Many authors manipulate their settings as a means of arousing the reader's expectations and establishing an appropriate state of mind for events to come<sup>9</sup>

d. Setting as Means Revealing Character

An author can also use the setting to clarify and reveal character by deliberately making setting a metaphoric or symbolic extension of character<sup>10</sup>

e. Setting as Reinforcing of Theme

Setting can also be used as a means of reinforcing and clarifying the theme of a novel or short story<sup>11</sup>.

3. Plot

Plot is defined as the deliberately arranged sequence of interrelated events that constitute the basic narrative structure of a novel or a short story. Events of

---

<sup>7</sup> *Ibid.*, p. 38.

<sup>8</sup> *Ibid.*, p. 39.

<sup>9</sup> *Ibid.*, p. 40.

<sup>10</sup> *Ibid.*, p. 41.

<sup>11</sup> *Ibid.*, p. 42

any kind, of course, inevitably involve people, and for this reason it is virtually impossible to discuss plot in isolation from character<sup>12</sup>

a. Exposition

The exposition is the beginning section in which the author provides the necessary background information, sets the scene, establishes the situation, and dates the action. It may also introduce the characters and the conflict, or the potential for conflict. The exposition may be accomplished in a single sentence or paragraph, or, in the case of some novels, occupy an entire chapter or more<sup>13</sup>

b. Complication

Sometimes refers to as the *rising action*, breaks the existing equilibrium and introduces the characters and the underlying or inciting conflict. The conflict is then developed gradually and intensified<sup>14</sup>

c. Crisis

The crisis also refers to as the *climax*, is the moment at which the plot reaches its point of greatest emotional intensity; it is the turning point of the plot, directly precipitating its resolution.<sup>15</sup>

d. Falling action

Once the crisis, or turning point, has been reached, the tension subsides and the plot moves toward its appointed conclusion.<sup>16</sup>

e. Resolution

The final section of the plot is its resolution; it records the outcome of the conflict and establishes some new equilibrium or stability. The resolution is also referred to as the *conclusion*.<sup>17</sup>

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<sup>12</sup> *Ibid.*, p. 14.

<sup>13</sup> *Ibid.*, p. 16

<sup>14</sup> *Ibid.*, p. 17.

<sup>15</sup> *Ibid.*, p. 17.

<sup>16</sup> *Ibid.*, p. 17.

<sup>17</sup> *Ibid.*, p. 17.



#### 4. American Dream theory

In 1920, Gilbert K. Chesterton, after a visit to the United States, concludes that the American nation is the only nation in the world that is formed by a system. The essence of the system is the belief that the future harmony lies in the individual. The gait is the birth of frontier life which is supported by a very popular belief, namely The American Dream.

The concept of the American Dream includes: gold, gospel, and glory. Elaboration of the above three elements are, first, the purpose of the immigrants to America pursuit of material wealth or natural resources. Second, their efforts to spread their religion, belief or ideology that latter could be interpreted as the spread of liberal democratic principles. Third are their efforts to achieve greatness and glory.<sup>18</sup>

*Gold*, definition gold does not literally refer to gold, but also means riches. Gold also symbolizes American countries that contain abundant natural wealth. In Columbus's first voyage, it aims to observe some of the locals wear a gold ring in their nose and their necks pearl necklace. Since these migrants to the United States is motivated by the gold rush. In this sense it can be synonymous with the treasures of gold and riches in the form of money.

*Glory* is the American dream to achieve greatness, respected and admired by others: *...when he shall make us a praise and glory, that men shall be as a city upon a hill, the eyes of all people are upon us.*

*Gospel*, the concept of gospel, was originally meant the spread of Christianity with the theme that people are industrious, lazy people is there a sinner. Further understanding of the gospel develops worldly orientation essence of success.

The region frontier is struggling with persistent face fierce and full of obstacles to the conditions and changing circumstances. Thus was born the pioneer men and women known as beings brave, hardworking, innovative, individualistic, materialistic, competitive, and quickly take appropriate decisions in various situations that always oriented in everything useful. They are very

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<sup>18</sup> Albertine Minderop, *Pragmatisme – Sikap Hidup dan Prinsip Politik Luar Negeri Amerika* (Jakarta: Yayasan Obor Indonesia, 2006), p. 10

optimistic and always believe tomorrow is always better than today- *'To Americans tomorrow always looked better than today, not because today was miserable, but because it was so good.*

The American Dream concept also refers to the world of education and preference of excellence in economy. This term symbolizes the high appreciation of the education, freedom to choose, the opportunity to choose a private house, obtain security funds, to have an opportunity to do things better than had been done by their parents, have their own company, and the opportunity to work as a laborer start up became manager. American Dream also has the meaning of equality and opportunity.

The achievement of the American Dream depends on the ability of each human being American. Only qualified people and with hard work and outstanding determination, The American Dream can be achieved. The success of a person is not derived from a family background, but from the ability and educators themselves. To achieve The American Dream is not depending on the color of one's skin, but on personality, on the quality of each individual in terms of human resources.

#### 5. Maslow's Needs Hierarchy

Maslow (1943) stated that people are motivated to achieve certain needs. When one need is fulfilled a person seeks to fulfill the next one, and so on. The earliest and most widespread version of Maslow's (1943, 1954) hierarchy of needs includes five motivational needs, often depicted as hierarchical levels within a pyramid. This five stage model can be divided into basic (or deficiency) needs (e.g. physiological, safety, love, and esteem) and growth needs (self-actualization).<sup>19</sup>

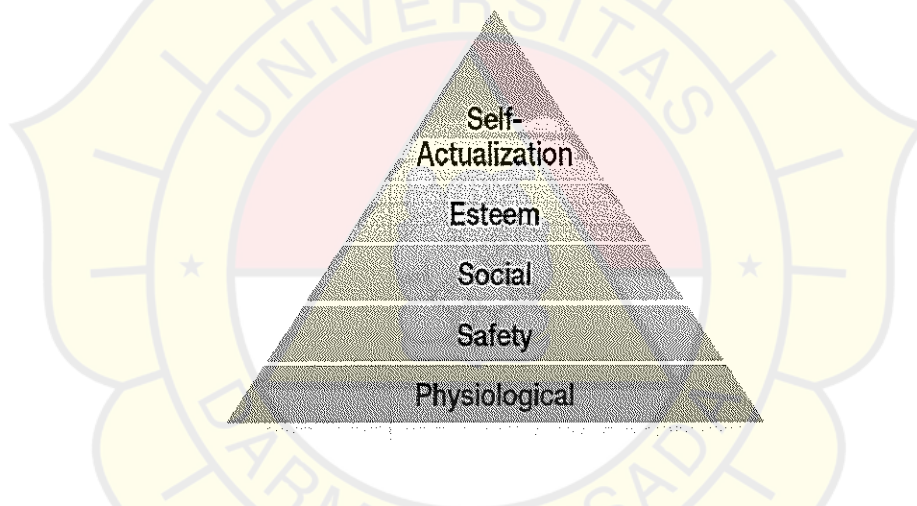
The deficiency or basic needs are said to motivate people when they are unmet. Also, the need to fulfill such needs will become stronger the longer the duration

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<sup>19</sup> <http://www.simplypsychology.org/maslow.html>

they are denied. For example, the longer a person goes without food the more hungry they will become.

One must satisfy lower level basic needs before progressing on to meet higher level growth needs. Once these needs have been reasonably satisfied, one may be able to reach the highest level called self-actualization. Every person is capable and has the desire to move up the hierarchy toward a level of self-actualization. Unfortunately, progress is often disrupted by failure to meet lower level needs. Life experiences including divorce and loss of job may cause an individual to fluctuate between levels of the hierarchy. Maslow noted only one in a hundred people become fully self-actualized because our society rewards motivation primarily based on esteem, love and other social needs.



The expanded hierarchy of needs:

It is important to note that Maslow's (1943, 1954) five stage model has been expanded to include cognitive and aesthetic needs (Maslow, 1970a) and later transcendence needs (Maslow, 1970b). Changes to the original five-stage model are indented and include a seven-stage model and a eight-stage model, both developed during the 1960's and 1970s. But I only use 5 theory of 8 existing theories, that is:

- 1) Self-Actualization needs - realizing personal potential, self-fulfillment, seeking personal growth and peak experiences.
- 2) Esteem needs - self-esteem, achievement, mastery, independence, status, dominance, prestige, managerial responsibility, etc.
- 3) Sosical needs - friendship, intimacy, affection and love, - from work group, family, friends, romantic relationships.
- 4) Safety needs - protection from elements, security, order, law, stability, etc.
- 5) Biological and Physiological needs - air, food, drink, shelter, warmth, sex, sleep, etc.

#### **G. Method of research**

Based on the theoretical framework, I use a variety of qualitative research method. It is a type of research literature, the research tendency is interpretative or analyzing by method of data collection from literary texts.

#### **H. Benefit of research**

Based on the methods of research, this study is expected to be useful for those who interested in deepening knowledge of *Warrior movie by Gavin O'Connorr*. This research may be beneficial because it is done through a new perspective by applying concept: American Dream theory and self esteem which are in sociology and psychology approach so it can show something new for further researches.

#### **I. Systematic Organization of the Research**

Relates to the title of this research, the systematic presentation is written as follows:

##### **CHAPTER ONE: INTRODUCTION**

It consists of Background of the Problem, Identification of Problem, Limitation of the Problem, Formulation of the

Problem, The Objectives of the Research, Theoretical Framework, The Method of the Research, The Benefits of the Research, The Organizational Presentation.

**CHAPTER TWO: THE ANALYSIS OF FILM *WARRIOR* BY INTRINSIC APPROACH**

It consists of: analysis of characterization through showing methods, analysis of character and setting through the concepts of character and setting.

**CHAPTER THREE: THE REFLECTION OF MASLOW'S NEEDS HIERARCHY AND THE AMERICAN DREAM CONCEPT**

It consists of the analysis the theme by using intrinsic and extrinsic approaches.

**CHAPTER FOUR: CONCLUSION**

It consists of conclusion which shows that the theme of this movie is The Reflection Of Maslow's Needs Hierarchy and American Dream.