

**THE ESTEEM NEED OF NORA SEED IN MATT HAIG'S *THE  
MIDNIGHT LIBRARY***

Presented to  
Universitas Islam Negeri Maulana Malik Ibrahim Malang in Partial Fulfillment of the  
Requirements for the Degree of *Sarjana Sastra* (S.S)

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**2024**

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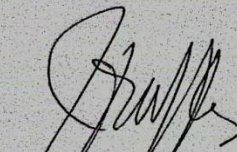
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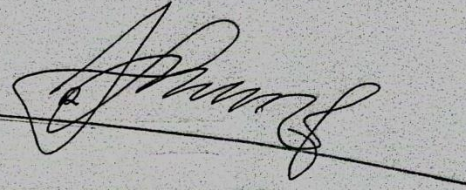
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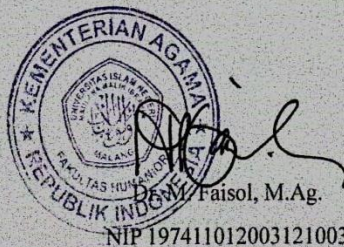
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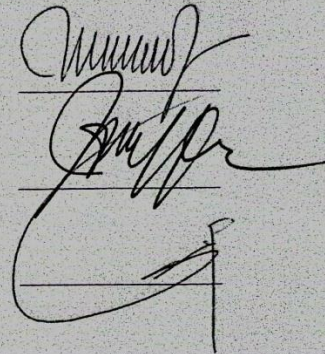
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## **MOTTO**

فَإِنَّ مَعَ الْعُسْرِ يُسْرًا , إِنَّ مَعَ الْعُسْرِ يُسْرًا

“So truly with difficulty there is ease. "Indeed, with difficulty there is ease"

(QS. Al-Insyirah: 5-6)

Life is choice, therefore life that is not at stake is never won

## **DEDICATION**

I am honored to dedicate this study to myself and my biggest support system of my life, Mrs. Siti Munasikatun and also to Mr. Sukarni Alm.

## ACKNOWLEDGMENTS

The researchers want to convey on this occasion to give thanks to the presence of Allah SWT for the grace and the strengths and patience that have been given during this research all praise and thank you for the author's blessing so that the writer can complete the thesis entitled *The Esteem Need Of Nora Seed In Matt Haig's The Midnight Library*.

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Thank you to my mother, Mrs. Siti Munasikatun S.Pd., who never tires of praying for me and supporting me. This could be achieved because of the role of my mother who kept reminding me to do this research, not forgetting to thank my father, Mr. Sukarni (Alm), who has guided me what it means to live.

Thank you to all elements who have helped me to complete this thesis, motivating, encouraging and giving prayers, thanks to the help of all the elements I was able to complete it well and responsibly

Thank you to myself for achieving this level through this difficulty and have struggled to complete this challenge the end, the researcher said that the results of this study may be useful and contribute to the advancement

of science in society. Hopefully the results of this thesis writing can provide inspiration and motivation to the readers.

The reseacrher

Moh. Iqbal Muammar Al Fauzi



## ABSTRACT

**Fauzi, Moh. Iqbal Muammar Al.** (2024). The Esteem Need Of Nora Seed In Matt Haig's *The Midnight Library*. Undergraduate Thesis. Department of English Literature, Faculty of Humanities, Universitas Islam Negeri Maulana Malik Ibrahim Malang. Advisor Mr. Ahmad Ghozi, M.A.

*Keywords: Hierarchy of Needs, The Esteem Needs.*

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Self-esteem needs are one of the important aspects in human life that create self-confidence, motivation and self-confidence. Self-esteem needs are the needs to provide self-confidence and proper belief to oneself and others. This study aims to describe how the process of the character Nora Seed in the novel *The Midnight Library* tries to fulfill her self-esteem needs based on Abraham Maslow's Hierarchy of Needs theory. In this study, the researcher used the literary criticism method. The researcher used a psychology literature approach, especially the humanistic psychology of Abraham Maslow's Hierarchy of Needs theory to analyze Matt Haig's novel *The Midnight Library*. In the Hierarchy of Needs theory, there are five levels of human needs, but in this study the researcher focused more on the fourth level of needs, namely self-esteem needs which include data obtained by reading and recording data relevant to the problems and research theories. The results of the study revealed that Nora Seed in the novel "*The Midnight Library*" was able to fulfill her self-esteem needs through two components, The first component is the need for self-esteem through herself. In the need for self-esteem from herself, Nora Seed has fulfilled her self-confidence, motivation to get out of trouble and she is able to have power over herself to fulfill her self-esteem. The second component is the need for self-esteem from others, in this case Nora Seed has fulfilled it by being respected by others through those closest to her, appreciation for her work and good recognition from people around Nora Seed.

## المخلص

فوزي، محمد إقبال معمر آل (2024). الحاجة إلى التقدير لدى نورا سيد في رواية مكتبة منتصف الل لمات هيج. أطروحة جامعية. قسم الأدب الإنجليزي، كلية العلوم الإنسانية، جامعة إسلام نيجري مولانا مالك إبراهيم مالانج.

المشرف السيد أحمد غوزي أمراجعة أمريكية.

الكلمات المفتاحية: التسلسل الهرمي للاحتياجات، احتياجات التقدير.

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الحاجة إلى احترام الذات هي واحدة من الجوانب الهامة للحياة البشرية التي تخلق الثقة بالنفس والتحفيز والثقة بالنفس. الحاجة إلى احترام الذات هي الحاجة إلى إعطاء الثقة الصحيحة للذات والآخرين. هدف هذا البحث إلى وصف كيف تحاول عملية شخصية نورا في رواية مكتبة منتصف الليل تلبية احتياجات احترام الذات بناء على نظرية أبراهام ماسلو حول التسلسل الهرمي للاحتياجات. يستخدم الباحث في هذه الدراسة منهج النقد الأدبي. استخدم الباحث نهج علم النفس الأدبي، وخاصة علم النفس الإنساني، نظرية أبراهام ماسلو للتسلسل الهرمي للاحتياجات لتحليل رواية مكتبة منتصف الليل لمات هيج. في نظرية التسلسل الهرمي للاحتياجات، هناك خمسة مستويات للاحتياجات البشرية، ولكن في هذه الدراسة يركز الباحث بشكل أكبر على المستوى الرابع من الاحتياجات، وهو الحاجة إلى احترام الذات الذي يتضمن البيانات التي تم الحصول عليها عن طريق قراءة وتسجيل البيانات التي يتم الحصول عليها.

## ABSTRAK

**Fauzi, Moh. Iqbal Muammar Al.** (2024). The Esteem Need Of Nora Seed In Matt Haig's *The Midnight Library*. Undergraduate Thesis. Department of English Literature, Faculty of Humanities, Universitas Islam Negeri Maulana Malik Ibrahim Malang. Advisor Mr. Ahmad Ghozi, M.A.

Kata kunci : Hierarki kebutuhan, kebutuhan harga diri

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Kebutuhan harga diri merupakan salah satu aspek penting dalam kehidupan manusia yang menciptakan rasa percaya diri, motivasi dan keyakinan diri. Kebutuhan harga diri merupakan kebutuhan untuk memberikan rasa percaya diri dan keyakinan yang tepat kepada diri sendiri dan orang lain. Penelitian ini bertujuan untuk mendeskripsikan bagaimana proses tokoh Nora Seed dalam novel *The Midnight Library* berusaha memenuhi kebutuhan harga dirinya berdasarkan teori Hirarki Kebutuhan Abraham Maslow. Dalam penelitian ini, peneliti menggunakan metode kritik sastra. Peneliti menggunakan pendekatan psikologi sastra khususnya psikologi humanistik teori Hirarki Kebutuhan Abraham Maslow untuk menganalisis novel *The Midnight Library* karya Matt Haig. Dalam teori Hirarki Kebutuhan terdapat lima tingkatan kebutuhan manusia, namun dalam penelitian ini peneliti lebih memfokuskan pada kebutuhan tingkat keempat yaitu kebutuhan harga diri yang meliputi data yang diperoleh dengan cara membaca dan mencatat data yang relevan dengan permasalahan dan teori penelitian. Hasil penelitian mengungkapkan bahwa Nora Seed dalam novel "*The Midnight Library*" mampu memenuhi kebutuhan harga dirinya melalui dua komponen, komponen yang pertama kebutuhan harga diri melalui dirinya sendiri. Dalam kebutuhan harga diri dari dirinya sendiri Nora seed telah memenuhi kepercayaan dirinya, motivasi untuk keluar dari masalah dan dia mampu mempunyai kekuasaan pada dirinya untuk memenuhi harga dirinya. Komponen yang kedua yaitu kebutuhan harga dirinya dari orang lain, dalam hal ini nora seed telah memenuhinya dari dihormati orang lain lewat orang terdekatnya, apresiasi untuk karyanya dan pengakuan yang baik dari orang di sekitar Nora seed.



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# CHAPTER I

## INTRODUCTION

This chapter contains several points explaining the background of the research, such as the research topic and previous research. In addition, the research problem, the importance of the research, the scope of the research, and its limitations are all explained. Finally, the definition of key terms to provide important information so that readers can recognize terms that require understanding.

### **A. Background of the Study**

In everyday life, the need for self-esteem is often the main driver of various individual behaviors and actions (Maslow, 1943). When someone has high self-esteem, they tend to feel more confident, motivated, and able to face life's challenges and pressures. On the other hand, low self-esteem can lead to various psychological problems such as anxiety, depression, and lack of motivation (Pyszczynski et al., 2004). Self-esteem includes two main components: feelings of personal competence (self-efficacy) and recognition from others (recognition). The need for personal competence relates to a person's belief in their ability to overcome challenges and achieve goals. While recognition from others involves the recognition, appreciation, and respect received from the social environment. In addition to affecting individuals, the need for self-esteem also affects social dynamics and society as a whole. Individuals who feel appreciated tend to be more productive, creative, and contribute positively to their environment. Conversely,



low self-esteem can trigger conflict, social isolation, and dissatisfaction that have a negative impact on social cohesion.

The need for self-esteem also plays an important role in various aspects of life, including education, work, and social relationships. In the context of education, the importance of meeting self-esteem needs becomes increasingly apparent. An educational environment that supports and values each individual can help students develop optimally (Pyszczynski et al., 2004). Teachers and educators have an important role in creating a positive environment and building students' self-esteem, which in turn will improve their academic achievement and psychological well-being. In the workplace, the need for self-esteem also plays an important role. Employees who feel appreciated and recognized for their abilities tend to be more motivated and loyal to the company (Susmika et al., 2022). Management that is able to provide rewards and positive feedback effectively can increase employee productivity and job satisfaction. Overall, fulfilling the need for self-esteem is essential to creating psychologically healthy individuals and a harmonious society. Therefore, it is important for every element in society, including families, schools, and workplaces, to understand and fulfill this need for self-esteem. In this process we can start by looking for literary works.

In the case of the need for self-esteem depicted in a novel entitled *The Midnight Library* (Haig, 2020). Nora Seed is a woman plagued by regret. Feeling that her life has been a failure, Nora makes a desperate choice. She awakens in a mysterious library, a fantastical space between life and death. The library is overseen by the wise and enigmatic librarian, Mrs. Elm. The library houses an

extraordinary collection, not of fictional books but of countless versions of Nora's own life. Each book represents a different path Nora could have taken, a choice she never made. Nora Seed's internal conflict becomes a positive force for change in her life. It forces her to reevaluate her beliefs and values, and it leads her to new and innovative solutions to her problems. Nora Seed's journey through the library at midnight is a journey of self-discovery. She learns to accept herself for who she is, her faults and all. She also learns that it is never too late to change her life and make it the life she has always wanted.

In order to support researchers in studying the form of self-esteem needs, several previous studies were found related to topics, theories, and objects related to the research. The first previous research was on the anxiety and defense mechanisms of the main character in Matt Haig's *The Midnight Library* (Salsabilla, 2023). This study uses the theory of anxiety and defense mechanisms from Sigmund Freud and Anna Freud. This study found three types of anxiety experienced by Nora Seed, namely realistic anxiety, moral anxiety, and neurotic anxiety.

The second research is the esteem needs in the main character of 'Me Before You' movie (Anggraeni et al., 2021). This study examines the characteristics and hierarchy of human needs, especially self-esteem needs, which appear in the main character named Will Traynor. The results of this study reveal seven main character characters consisting of the hierarchy of self-esteem needs: sensitive, open-minded, friendly, kind, confident, humble, and stubborn.

The third research is the science fiction of trauma in Matt Haig's *The Midnight Library* (Unal, 2024). This study examines a new literary subgenre known

as The Science Fiction of Trauma which involves a distinctive combination of science fiction components and the study of the complex effects of trauma. The study argues that science fiction narratives often deal with trauma more explicitly than traditional literary studies, which may be reluctant to grapple with the complex and messy nature of trauma.

The fourth research is philosophical exploration of existentialism and absurdism in Matt Haig's *The Midnight Library* (Rehan & Zahra, 2021). This study explains that the existentialist theory states that humans can determine the meaning of their own lives only by using their consciousness. The power of free will and personal responsibility can allow humans to determine the meaning of their lives. The purpose of this study is to explore the themes of Existentialism and Absurdism in Matt Haig's novel *The Midnight Library*.

The fifth research is Nora's developmental trajectory as a labyrinth of reality: a feminist reading of Matt Haig's *The Midnight Library* (Ahmed, 2023). This study presents a feminist interpretation of Matt Haig's book *The Midnight Library* (2020). The aim is to examine Nora's journey in finding a meaningful life amidst a complex labyrinth by exploring various realities in the library, symbolizing the deep complexity experienced by women in a patriarchal society. This study uses feminist theory which is an "umbrella" concept for many sub-feminist theories, where Nora's issues are in line with the strands of Feminist Psychodynamic Theory.

The sixth research is the analysis of motivational messages in the film "Rentang Kisah" (Abraham Maslow's theory approach) (Ramadan, 2023). The aim of this research is to find out what the form of motivational messages contained in



the film "Rentang Stories" is from the perspective of Abraham Maslow's theory. In this analysis there are findings of five strata that were proposed by Abraham Maslow.

The seventh research is an analysis of the short story Love and Lies by Husnul Khotimah reviewed from the perspective of Abraham Maslow's Psychological Theory (Abraham, 2024). The analysis involved intensive exploration of the literary work, identifying and correlating data with Maslow's theory. The novel was examined through the lens of Maslow's Hierarchy of Needs, including physiological, safety, belonging and love, esteem needs, and self-actualization. The findings confirmed that all five levels were met, concluding that the characters in "Love and Lies" fulfill the psychological hierarchy proposed by Maslow.

The eighth study is a psychological analysis of the main character in the novel "God, Let Me Be a Prostitute" by Muhidin M. Dahlan. A Review of Abraham Maslow's Humanistic Psychology (Jumiati et al., 2022). The novel Tuhan, Izinkan Aku Menjadi Pelacur is one of the novels that raises the issue of inner conflict and psychological problems of the main character. The results of the analysis based on Abraham Maslow's humanistic psychology theory, found 25 data that showed the psychology of the main character includes five levels of needs that are well met. Thus, it can be concluded that the character Nidah is a smart, simple, friendly and able to respect others.

The ninth research is a study of Abraham Maslow's humanism in the novel Nayla by Djenar Maesa Ayu (Widayanti, 2022). This study describes the needs of the characters according to Abraham Maslow's humanism theory in the novel

"Nayla" by Djenar Maesa Ayu. The results of the study indicate that the humanism theory contained in the novel *Nayla* by Djenar Maesa Ayu found 41 data consisting of physiological needs, the need for security, the need for belonging and love, the need for appreciation, and the need for self-actualization.

The tenth research is an analysis of the personality of the main character in the novel *Pukul Setengah Lima* by Rintik Sedu using Abraham Maslow's Humanistic approach (Ramadan, 2024). The purpose of this study is to reveal the personality of the main character in the novel and analyze the reasons why the personality can emerge. This study can be concluded that the main character does not fully meet these needs, the reason why the personality appears in the main character is because the main character has not reached the peak of self-actualization, he does not fulfill the need for security and love so that the main character experiences basic anxiety and causes him to be unable to reach the peak of self-actualization because low-level needs have not been fully met.

Therefore, the previous studies mentioned above are very important in analyzing this study. The difference in this study is that the researcher uses Abraham Maslow's humanistic psychology theory with the object of the novel *The Midnight Library*, the similarity in the research items or ideas used by the researcher in the previous study is the reason why the study was used. So that new information and gaps can be obtained between this study and its predecessors. The uniqueness and specificity of this study are based on the analysis of previous studies. First, the relationship between Abraham Maslow's theory and research on self-esteem needs and the setting of Matt Haig's *The Midnight Library*. Second, in order to obtain a

concise interpretation, the researcher conducted a more in-depth analysis of the form of Maslow's hierarchy of needs, especially in fulfilling self-esteem needs. Therefore, there are shortcomings in the study of each of these topics.

So that the researcher has a problem formulation related to the analysis of self-esteem needs in the main character named Nora Seed in the novel *The Midnight Library* by Matt Haig.

### **B. Problem of the Study**

Seeing the uniqueness of the self-esteem needs experienced, as described in the introduction above, has shown that there is an interesting and important issue to be studied in more depth with question formulated as follows, “How does Nora Seed fulfill her self-esteem needs in the novel *The Midnight Library*?”

### **C. Significance of the Study**

Theoretically, this study can provide an understanding that literary works can be a reflection of human life. In addition, this study is expected to contribute to literature studies related to the analysis of self-esteem needs, especially in humans. In addition, this study also aims to expand knowledge in the field of literary studies.

Practically, this study can be useful for readers and researchers themselves in understanding the concept and types of self-esteem problems by contributing to increasing knowledge about self-esteem needs that are currently common among adolescents and adults. By analyzing using a humanistic psychology approach, especially self-esteem needs reflected through the main characters in novels and literary studies.



#### **D. Scope and Limitations**

This study examines the problem of self-esteem needs as depicted in the novel *The Midnight Library* by Matt Haig. This study focuses on the need for self-esteem experienced by the main character named Nora Seed. Both the humanistic psychology theory by Abraham Maslow and the literary psychology approach will be used in analyzing the self-esteem needs depicted in the novel.

Specifically, this study will refer to the depiction of the need for self-esteem faced by the main character Nora Seed in the novel *The Midnight Library*. By only limiting it to one problem formulation, it does not preclude the possibility for subsequent researchers to research it again with a broader problem focus so that it will produce new findings that are more optimal and diverse.

#### **E. Definitions of Key Terms**

##### **Self Esteem Needs**

Self esteem needs is the human need to feel valuable and appreciated by oneself and others. This need includes respect, recognition, competence, and self-confidence (Maslow, 1962).

##### **Self Exploration**

Self exploration is the process by which a person seeks a deeper understanding of themselves, including values, beliefs, goals, and identity. It involves reflection and assessment of life experiences, relationships, and personal desires and dreams (Muhr et al., 2012).

### Self Awareness

Self awareness is a person's ability to recognize and understand themselves, including their thoughts, emotions, and behaviors. This includes awareness of strengths and weaknesses, personal values, and the impact of actions on others (Eurich, 2018).

## CHAPTER II

### REVIEW RELATED OF LITERATURE

In this chapter, a review of related literature used in this study will be presented. The sources needed regarding the topic to be discussed include Abraham Maslow's humanistic psychology theory using a literary psychology approach.

#### **A. Psychology of Literature**

Psychology literature is a study of literature that views works as mental activities. Literary works depict several aspects of social reality, in other words, literature functions as a mirror of life (Ghozi, 2008). The author will use creativity, feeling, and work in creating works. Likewise, readers, in responding to works, cannot be separated from their respective mental states. The author will capture mental symptoms and then process them into text and complete them with their mental states. Literary works that are viewed as psychological phenomena will display mental aspects through characters if the text happens to be in the form of drama or prose (Endraswara, 2013).

Psychology literature divides the term into four possible meanings. First, the study of the psychology of the author as a type or as a person. Second, the study of the creative process. Third, the study of the types and laws of psychology applied to literary works. Fourth, studying the impact of literary works on readers (reader psychology) (Wellek, R & Warren, 1956). Based on the description above, the psychology literature referred to in this study is the study of science or theoretical study of the psyche in a literary work, be it in the form of the psychology of the

author, the description of the psychology of the characters and the psychology of the readers. The appeal of psychology literature, especially lies in the various expressions of the psyche, the soul is never single. The soul in a literary work is always in turmoil.

### **B. Humanistic Psychology**

A psychological perspective known as "humanistic psychology" first appeared in the middle of the 20th century. It was founded on the ideas of phenomenology and existentialism, as well as the work of early pioneers like Carl Rogers. Through an exploration of meaning, values, freedom, tragedy, personal responsibility, human potential, spirituality, and self-actualization, it takes a holistic perspective to human existence (Koeswara, 1986). Humanism is the language of humanity; humanity, on the other hand, is the terminology of comprehending the nature of humanity. Humanism is undoubtedly a movement or school of thought that seeks to restore mankind to its rightful place in the universe.

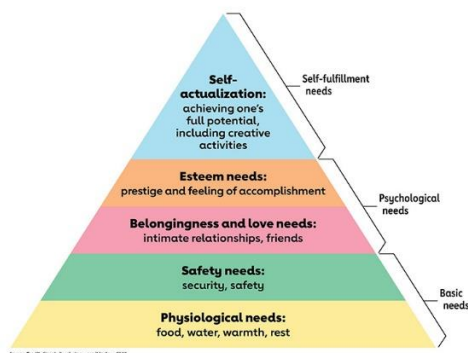
One of the psychological schools that arose in the 1950s was humanistic psychology, which was founded on the notion that existentialism had its origins in the Middle Ages. Abraham Maslow, Carl Rogers, Clark Moustakas, and other psychologists established a professional association in the late 1950s with the goal of concentrating on different aspects of human uniqueness, including the self, self-actualization, health, hope, love, creativity, nature, individuality, and the like (Koeswara, 1986). Humanistic psychology, which Maslow based his theory on, places a strong focus on the aspects of humanity that are connected to the human environment, with a particular emphasis on the freedom of the individual to voice

opinions and make decisions about their own values, objectives, and purpose. Humanistic psychology adds positive determinants like love, creativity, meaning, and values for personal development to the fundamental elements of behaviourism and psychoanalysis. There are a lot of people that support humanistic psychology. What sets it apart from other schools of thought is its fundamental tenet, which is that life is about more than merely acting; it's about finding purpose. Additionally, Abraham Maslow, the founder of this school, said that "the study of self-actualization is absolutely the foundation for universal psychology," which is a concept that sets the theory of humanistic psychology apart ( Goble, 1970).

The basic principle of humanistic psychology is the individual as a whole unit. Maslow stated that in the theory of humanism the division into the hierarchy of needs is, the first is physiological needs, the second is the need for safety and security, the third is social needs, the fourth is the need for self-esteem, the fifth is the need for self-actualization.

### **C. Hierarchy of Needs**

The hierarchy of needs is one of the most well-known theories of motivation by psychologist Abraham Maslow. The hierarchy is often represented as a pyramid, with the most basic needs at the bottom and more complex needs at the top. Maslow believed that humans are driven to understand and accept themselves as fully as possible (Maslow, 1954). Maslow argued that humans are motivated to satisfy their needs in a sequential manner. Lower-level needs must be satisfied before individuals can focus on higher-level needs. If people's needs are not met, they can experience internal conflict and distress (Maslow, 1962).



sumber : (Maslow, 1962)

## 1. The Physiological Needs

The needs that are usually used as the starting point for motivational theories are what are called physiological drives. Basic physiological needs are probably self-explanatory – they include things that are essential for our survival. Some examples of physiological needs are: food, water, shelter (Maslow, 1962).

In addition to the basic needs of nutrition, water, and temperature regulation, physiological needs also include things like shelter and clothing. This also includes sexual reproduction in this hierarchy of needs because it is essential for the survival and reproduction of the species (Maslow, 1962).

## 2. The Safety Needs

If physiological needs are relatively well met, a new set of needs emerges, which we can roughly categorize as safety needs. Everything that has been said about physiological needs is also true, albeit to a lesser degree, about these desires. As we move up the second level of the hierarchy of needs, the requirements begin to become a little more complex. At this level, the need for safety and security becomes primary. People want to control and organize their lives, so the need for safety and security contributes greatly to behavior at this level. Some basic safety



and security needs include: financial security, health and fitness, and safety from accidents and injuries (Maslow, 1962).

Looking for a job, getting health insurance and health care, contributing money to a savings account, and moving to a safer neighborhood are examples of actions motivated by the need for safety and security (Maslow, 1962).

### 3. The Belongingness and Love Needs

If physiological and safety needs are met well, then the need for love, affection, and belonging will emerge. The need for love and belonging in the hierarchy of needs includes things like love, acceptance, and belonging. At this level, the need for emotional connection drives human behavior. Some things that meet this need include: friendship, romantic attachment, family, social groups, community groups, churches and religious organizations (Maslow, 1962).

To avoid problems such as loneliness, depression, and anxiety, it is important for a person to feel loved and accepted by others. Personal relationships with friends, family, and lovers play an important role, as does involvement in other groups that may include religious groups, sports teams, book clubs, and other group activities (Maslow, 1962).

### 4. The Esteem Needs

Everyone in our society has a need or desire for a stable and well-founded assessment of themselves, for self-respect, or self-esteem, and for the esteem of others. By well-founded self-esteem, we mean self-esteem that is based on actual capacity, achievement, and the respect of others (Maslow, 1962).

At the fourth level in the hierarchy of needs is the need for esteem and respect. When the needs at the bottom three levels have been satisfied, esteem needs begin to play a more prominent role in motivating behavior. In addition to the need for a sense of achievement and prestige, esteem needs include such things as self-esteem and personal worth. People need to feel that they are valued by others and that they are making a contribution to the world. Participation in professional activities, academic achievement, athletic or team participation, and personal hobbies can all play a role in satisfying esteem needs. People who are able to satisfy esteem needs by achieving good self-esteem and the recognition of others tend to feel confident in their abilities. Those who lack self-esteem and respect from others may develop feelings of inferiority. However, failure to satisfy these needs results in feelings of inferiority, weakness, and helplessness. These feelings in turn lead to basic desperation or compensation (Maslow, 1962).

##### 5. The Needs for Self-Actualization

This is the highest level in Maslow's hierarchy of needs. Self-actualizing people are self-aware, concerned with personal growth, less concerned with the opinions of others, and interested in fulfilling their potential. Rather than focusing on psychopathology and what is wrong with humans, Maslow formulated a more positive explanation of human behavior that focuses on what is good. He was interested in human potential, and how we realize that potential (Maslow, 1943).

Self-actualization growth refers to the need for personal growth and discovery that is present throughout one's life. For Maslow, a person is always 'becoming' and never static in this sense. In self-actualization, a person finds

meaning in life that is important to him or her (Maslow, 1962). Because each person is unique, the motivation for self-actualization leads people in different directions. For some, self-actualization can be achieved through the creation of art or literature, for others through sports, in the classroom, or in a corporate setting. Maslow believed that self-actualization can be measured through the concept of peak experiences. These occur when a person experiences the world as it is, and there is a feeling of euphoria, joy, and wonder (Maslow, 1962). It is important to note that self-actualization is a continuous process of becoming a person, not a perfect state that one reaches 'happily ever after' (Mustafa, 2022).

#### **D. Esteem Needs From Self**

The hierarchy of self-esteem needs is a concept that describes the stages or levels of needs that must be met by a person in order to achieve a strong and positive sense of self-esteem. Based on Abraham Maslow's hierarchy of needs concept, self-esteem needs are placed above social or belongingness needs and below self-actualization needs (Maslow, 1962).

At this level, a person has a need to feel appreciated, recognized, respected, and accepted by themselves and others (Maslow, 1962). The need for self-esteem includes self-confidence, positive self-esteem, and satisfaction with the achievements and abilities they have. Individuals who fulfill this need will have high self-confidence, be able to appreciate themselves without relying on validation from others, and can overcome fear or doubt about themselves.

The importance of fulfilling one's self-esteem needs is so that one can live authentically and build healthy relationships with others. Without sufficient self-

esteem, one may be susceptible to feelings of low self-esteem, anxiety, or self-defeating behavior (Maslow, 1962). Therefore, maintaining one's self-esteem needs requires awareness of one's own values, strengths, and weaknesses and efforts to strengthen one's self-confidence and self-esteem. By understanding and fulfilling one's self-esteem needs, one can achieve a higher level of emotional and psychological well-being, so that one is able to face life's challenges more steadily and live a better quality of life.

#### **E. Esteem Needs from Others**

The hierarchy of esteem needs from others is a concept proposed by Abraham Maslow in his hierarchy of needs theory. In this concept, Maslow states that after physiological, safety, affection/belongingness, and self-esteem needs are met, individuals will seek recognition, appreciation, and self-esteem from others as a higher need (Maslow, 1962).

The esteem need from others includes two main aspects that are interrelated, recognition from others, Humans need recognition and validation from their surroundings to feel valued and accepted (Maslow, 1962). This can be in the form of praise, awards, or appreciation for achievements or contributions that have been made. Recognition from others provides a sense of satisfaction and strengthens a person's self-esteem. Next is a positive relationship with others, positive and supportive interactions with others are also an important part of the need for self-esteem. Relationships that are constructive, affectionate, and respectful can help a person feel valued and valuable. In a relationship like this, a person feels accepted as they are and feels that their contribution has meaning to others.

When someone feels recognized and appreciated by others, they will feel more confident, have higher self-esteem, and feel happier. However, excessive dependence on recognition from others can also be a problem, because it can cause emotional instability and self-esteem that is susceptible to being affected by other people's opinions.

In the context of Maslow's Hierarchy of Needs, the need for self-esteem from others plays a role in fulfilling the need for self-esteem, which is the desire to reach one's full potential and become the best version of oneself (Maslow, 1962). By feeling appreciated and accepted by others, a person can feel more motivated to develop themselves, pursue their dreams, and become a more independent and developed person.

## **CHAPTER III**

### **RESEARCH METHOD**

In the third chapter of this research, the methodology used by the researcher will be described. This research method includes four main elements, namely the first research design, the second data source, the third data collection process, and the fourth data analysis. This approach aims to help researchers detail and organize research in a structured manner.

#### **A. Research Design**

This research falls into the realm of literary criticism research because its focus is on literary analysis, especially novels. The literary criticism approach involves in-depth exploration of the phenomena or content contained in a literary work. The main objective of this research is to achieve a deeper understanding of the context and scope of the literary work that is the focus of the study. The main data used in this study comes from literary criticism, and the object of research is the literary work itself. Then the researcher uses the theory applied in this study. In this study, the researcher uses one of Abraham Maslow's Humanistic Psychology theories.

#### **B. Data Source**

In this study, the data source is a printed novel entitled "The Midnight Library" by Matt Haig published in 2020 with 304 pages. This novel consists of words, sentences, and phrases that are relevant to answer the questions that are the objectives of this study. In addition, the author uses related research such as theses,



journals, books and internet sources related to Abraham Maslow's theory to support the results and findings of his research.

### **C. Data Collection**

In the data collection process, there are several steps that must be considered in analyzing the research object, namely the novel "The Midnight Library". Researchers must take a series of actions to ensure the accuracy of the data collected. First, researchers read the novel by applying skimming and scanning techniques to understand the overall content. This process is then repeated, but with a more specific focus on the core elements that are the center of attention in this study, and relevant data is tagged. Second, researchers also look for additional data related to the topic from similar objects or theories to provide deeper support for this study.

### **D .Data Analysis**

In the data analysis process, researchers carried out four main stages. The first step involves data sorting, where researchers separate data that has been marked when reading the novel. The second step is that researchers group data based on categories or types that are relevant to the theory used. In the third step, namely analysis, researchers individually analyze each data by referring to the theoretical framework of Abraham Maslow's Humanistic Psychology. This theory is applied to provide answers to research problems, as well as interpretations and conclusions obtained. The fourth step includes summarizing the results of the analysis and drawing conclusions from the entire study.

## CHAPTER IV

### FINDINGS AND DISCUSSION

This chapter will explain two things, the first is the fulfillment of Nora Seed's esteem need through herself, the second is the fulfillment of Nora Seed's esteem need through from others.

#### **A. Fulfillment Through Herself**

Self-esteem demands arise from internal variables such as self-esteem and self-confidence, and are driven by the need for independence, achievement, and honor (Maslow, 1943). Simply put, the human need for self-esteem requires that it be fulfilled through independent living, achieving important goals, gaining admiration, and triumphing over life's challenges. Nora Seed, the protagonist of *The Midnight Library*, explores the concepts of self-esteem and self-confidence.

##### 1. Confidence

Self-confidence is a positive attitude in the form of belief and trust in one's own abilities. Self-confidence can also be interpreted as the ability to develop a positive assessment of oneself and the surrounding environment (Rais, 2022). Self-confidence is something that is very much needed by every human being to progress better in their lives. In the process of finding Nora Seed's self-confidence, it can be seen through the following quote:

*"Between life and death is a library," he said. "And inside that library, the shelves are endless. Each book offers a chance to try out other lives you might have lived. To see how things might have been different if you had made other choices... Would you do anything differently, if you had the chance to undo your regrets?" (p.46)*

The quote above contains Mrs. Elm Nora Seed's explanation that gives Nora Seed confidence that her life is not over, she already believes that she is still worthy of living. The narrative above shows that Mrs. Elm not only provides information about the Midnight Library, but also provides emotional support that is very important for Nora. The trust given by Mrs. Elm becomes a catalyst for Nora to begin a journey of self-discovery and overcome her regrets. Through her words, Mrs. Elm has planted seeds of hope and confidence in Nora.

The quote, describes the library as a metaphor for life and the possibilities that exist within it. This phrase shows that every book or choice in our lives is like a doorway to an alternate reality where we can live a different life. From the quote, it is clear that Nora Seed is contemplating the opportunity to change her choices in life and try to live a different life. The message conveyed by Mrs. Elm encourages Nora to question her regrets and gives her an idea that there is potential to do things differently.

From here, it can be seen that Nora is in the process of introspection and self-reflection. Although she may not yet be completely confident, Nora is on her way to a deeper understanding of herself and the opportunities that exist for change. The message inspired Nora to reconsider her choices and explore new possibilities.

So, although it is not clear to what extent Nora has confidence in herself, Mrs. Elm provides Nora with the insight and encouragement to begin to see the potential for change and the opportunity to change the direction of her life. In doing so, Nora is on a journey of exploration and self-discovery that may ultimately lead to a deeper understanding of her own strengths and confidence.

But in the next process NoraSeed still does not believe that he is still worthy of living because his initial goal in committing suicide was to die, meaning he wanted to leave a life that he felt was not beneficial to him, this can be seen in the following narrative:

*"So why am I not dead yet? Why doesn't death come to me? I invited it with open arms. I wanted to die. But here I am, still existing. I still feel everything."(p.47)*

The quote explains that Nora Seed talks about her desire to die but her amazement that death has not visited her. Although she invites death with open arms, she still exists and feels everything. From this analysis, it is seen that Nora actually shows a lack of confidence in her ability to end her own life.

There is no positive self-confidence in Nora in the quote. Instead, she may feel trapped in a situation she does not want and is confused as to why death has not come to her even though she wants it so badly. Nora's feelings and thoughts may be filled with emptiness and despair, rather than with the confidence to move on.

Thus, the analysis of the quotations shows that NoraSeed actually shows no confidence to live again, but rather despair and a gripping emptiness. Nora may need help and support to get out of this dark circle and find the meaning of her life again.

However, in Nora Seed's other life, Nora Seed has little by little found the confidence to live, we can see this through the following conversation:

*joe : are you okay with all this?  
 Nora: okay with everything what?  
 J: so today's speaker  
 N: Oh, yeah, how long?  
 J: forty minutes  
 N: Of course.(p.136)*

The conversation above shows that Nora is in high self-confidence even though she is faced with a situation that she does not fully understand at first. Although initially not fully aware of the topic of conversation, Nora quickly adjusts and shows readiness and self-confidence in facing the situation.

When asked if she was okay with being a speaker that day, Nora calmly asked again to confirm the topic. Although at first a little confused, after knowing that she was asked to be a speaker, Nora immediately asked about the duration of time given. When Joe told her that she only had forty minutes, Nora firmly answered "of course" without hesitation.

Nora's short and steady response shows that she is confident in her ability to perform as a speaker in the limited time. She does not seem stressed or worried about the time limit, but rather confidently accepts the challenge and looks fun. Pleasant feelings are also needed to sharpen concentration (Sari et al., 2021). This attitude shows that Nora has high self-confidence and is ready to face challenges with a positive and optimistic attitude.

In a different context, Nora Seed might initially be afraid of the general situation of public speaking. However, when Joe asks her specifically for her availability for that day, in a more relaxed and personal conversational context, her fear diminishes, or Nora Seed already believes in her abilities because when Joe asks her availability, Nora feels confident with the material to be presented or with Joe's support. This sense of trust can overcome her initial fear. However, it is possible that there is a change in Nora Seed's emotions, because a person's emotions

can change in a short time. It is possible that when Joe makes his request, Nora is feeling calmer or more excited than before.

Thus, by using the phrase “of course” as her response, Nora expresses her confidence and readiness to face the given task with a calm and steady attitude. This entire conversation reflects Nora’s character who is confident and ready to overcome any challenges that come her way.

This is reinforced by the following narrative:

*"What is the happiness you are aiming for?"  
"I don't know. I guess I want my life to mean something. I want to do something good."(p.154)*

This sentence shows Nora Seed's confident nature to live again because she states that although she currently does not know what her true happiness is, she has a clear desire to make her life meaningful by doing something good. This shows that Nora has confidence that she has control over the direction of her life and the ability to improve her situation, even though she may not have a definite answer at this time. Nora's desire to do something good also shows her optimism and strong determination to create positive change, as well as the belief that small acts of kindness can have a big impact in achieving happiness and meaning in her life. Thus, although Nora may currently still feel doubtful or unsure about the direction of her life, her confidence to try and strive to do her best shows that she has a strong belief in the potential to live again and find true happiness.

Abraham Maslow (Maslow, 1954) believes that individuals who can fulfill their self-esteem needs will experience personal growth and feel more confident in living their lives. When someone feels competent, appreciated, and able to do the



things they want, their self-confidence will increase. Strong and positive self-confidence can be a solid foundation for individuals to face challenges and achieve their life goals more effectively.

Abraham Maslow in his book (Maslow, 1954) explains that every individual who wants to fulfill their self-confidence will definitely cause feelings of humble. This is shown by Nora Seed when she spoke with Neil, here is the conversation:

*"Right. That's interesting."*

*Nora was pretty sure her brother knew Friday was her day off. That fact stabbed her inside. "I'm happy here."*

*"It's just that you're not happy."*

*Neil was right. The mental issues were festering inside him. His thoughts were vomiting themselves out. He smiled broadly. (p.24)*

Nora sounded deeply humble This quote reflects his deep feelings. He admits the piercing truth that even though he says he is happy in his current situation, Neil knows that he is not really happy.

By saying this, Nora shows her humble nature by not defending herself or lying about her feelings. She admits that she is struggling with her internal issues despite trying to show a positive attitude on the outside.

Nora shows that “the soul-trouble is rotting inside her,” Nora faces the reality that her happiness is not entirely there, despite her efforts to maintain it. The smile she spreads can be seen as an attempt to hide her true feelings, showing a humble nature that accepts her weaknesses and the unhappiness she feels. Nora also expresses sincerity by expressing her feelings without disguise and without trying to sweeten the situation. By acknowledging her limitations and unhappiness, she shows humility because she is aware of her fragility and shortcomings.

This quote reveals the gap between Nora's words ("I'm happy here") and her more complex emotional reality. From a humble perspective, a more effective approach might be to give Nora the space to express her feelings fully without feeling judged or misunderstood.

Abraham Maslow (Maslow, 1954) said about humility in the context of self-esteem needs that the existence of healthy low self-esteem can be an important step in striving for self-confidence fulfillment and achieving full potential in self-esteem fulfillment. Healthy humility is when someone has a balanced sense of humility, where they value themselves without putting others down. Healthy humility can help someone to remain humble but still confident and have good self-esteem.

## 2. Achievement

appreciation to fulfill self-esteem needs is very necessary because it increases her self-esteem needs (Susanto & Lestari, 2018). In this case, Nora Seed appreciates herself through the events that occur in the library at midnight. Here is her conversation with Mrs. Elm::

*Isn't that why I came to the Midnight Library in the first place? Because I lost my way?"*

*"Well, yes. But now you're lost in your wanderings. Which means, you're really lost. You'll never find out how you want to live like this."*

*"What if there was never a way? What if I'm... trapped?"*

*"As long as there are books on the shelves, you're never trapped. Every book is a potential way out." "I don't understand life," Nora pouted. "You don't need to understand life. You just need to live."*

*Nora shook her head. This was a bit too much for a philosophy graduate to digest.*

*"But I don't want to be like this," Nora said. "I don't want to be like Hugo. I don't want to be bouncing around forever."*

*"Alright. Then you need to listen to me carefully. Now, do you want my advice or not?"*

*"Yes. Of course. It feels a little late, but yes, Mrs. Elm, I would be very grateful for your advice on this matter." (p.278-279)*

The quote above shows that Nora seems to appreciate her complicated life when she is experiencing confusion and despair. Losing her direction in life makes her feel trapped and does not understand life. However, when faced with the statement that every book is a potential way out, Nora may begin to see hope in finding the right path in life for her. Nora's appreciation is seen from her desire not to be like Hugo, a person who is constantly moving from one life to another. She feels that a life that is directionless and constantly changing is not an option she wants to take. In her confusion, Nora still shows a desire to live a life with purpose and stability.

Although it is difficult for Nora to absorb Mrs. Elm's advice easily because the level of difficulty is too high, her willingness to accept advice shows that she is aware of the need for guidance in finding her direction in life. In this context, Nora encourages her to seek help and advice that can help her find her desired path in life.

Overall, in a situation of doubt and despair, Nora's appreciation remains burning within her, encouraging her to seek answers and solutions in order to understand life and live life with purpose and usefulness.

Appreciation from Mrs. Elm also has a great influence in Nora Seed's life, as evidenced by the following narrative:

*To his frustration, nothing happened, and then he remembered what Mrs. Elm had said. Want was an interesting word. It meant something was missing. So he crossed it out and tried again.  
Nora decides to live.  
Nothing. He tried again.  
Nora is ready for life.(p.344)*

From the quote above, it can be seen that Nora experienced a change in attitude and actions that illustrate her self-esteem. Initially, Nora felt frustrated and disappointed because she did not see the desired progress. However, when Nora remembered Mrs. Elm's advice, she had a new understanding of the meaning of the word "want" which indicates a lack or need to do something more than just a desire. Nora then did not lament her failure or failure, but instead she chose to take positive action by crossing out negative sentences and continuing to try until she found the right formulation.

Nora's steps to decide to live and state that she was ready to live show that she was not trapped in a hopeless or passive attitude. Instead, she showed enthusiasm to continue trying and improving herself, and showed appreciation that she was able to achieve success. Nora's mental attitude that changed from disappointment to strong determination to continue trying is a characteristic of self-esteem.

Thus, the narrative analysis illustrates that Nora is driven by self-esteem, where she is not only able to face obstacles and failures, but also has a strong internal drive to continue moving forward, improving herself, and achieving her desired goals.

In the context of achievement, Abraham Maslow said (Maslow, 1954), The need for self-esteem can play an important role. Individuals who have self-esteem tend to be motivated to achieve esteem in order to increase their sense of self-worth. They may have a strong drive to succeed in certain areas, gain recognition from

others, or achieve goals that give them a sense of prestige or status. In this case, Nora received encouragement from Mrs. Elm, the librarian.

*"Do you feel that? All the time?"*

*"Yeah. I mean... I want to feel it. I mean, I love Molly. I might love Ash. But I guess, maybe... that's not my life. I didn't build it myself. I walked into another version of myself. I was photocopied into that perfect life. But it wasn't me."*

*00:00:15*

*"I don't want to die," Nora said, her voice suddenly high but also fragile. She was shaking from the depths of her being. "I don't want to die."*

*Mrs. Elm stared at Nora with wide eyes. Her eyes were shining with a small spark of an idea. "You need to get out of here."(p.338)*

In this quote, Nora Seed describes her inner turmoil regarding her identity and existence. She feels trapped in a life that seems perfect, but does not reflect her true self. The line "I mean, I love Molly. I might love Ash. But I guess, maybe... that's not my life" shows Nora's confusion about love and relationships. She feels disconnected from the life she's living, as if she's living an inauthentic version of herself.

The statement "I want to feel it" reflects Nora's desire to experience a life of meaning and happiness. However, while she feels love, she also feels dissatisfaction. This reflects the basic human need for validation and self-esteem. We need recognition of who we are in order to feel complete and fulfilled in life.

When Nora says, "I don't want to die," this expression reflects her fear of losing everything that might suggest hope. At this point, she is struggling with the idea that the life she is living is not fulfilling her deep emotional and self-esteem needs. There is a desire to be recognized and appreciated, not only by others but also by herself.

Mrs. Elm gives a response that suggests Nora needs to “get out of here,” which could be interpreted as an encouragement to explore herself more deeply. This suggests the need for action to value herself, beyond the expectations of others or the version of “perfect” she lives by. Nora must find a way to overcome this confusion and connect with her true desires and values in order to fulfill her self-esteem needs.

Maslow explains in (Maslow, 1943) that appreciation in fulfilling self-esteem needs lies in the individual's efforts to feel appreciated, recognized, and accepted by others and by themselves. When a person's self-esteem needs are met, the individual feels positive value, is confident, and has confidence in his/her ability to achieve goals.

### 3. Mastery

In order to fulfill her own self-esteem needs, Nora Seed must increase her self-mastery, we can see this through the following conversation:

*Have you ever tried something like this?” asked the nurse.  
 “Not in this life.”  
 “So how do you feel now?”  
 “I don't know. It's a bit strange. But I don't want to die anymore.”(p.350)*

The quote above illustrates Nora Seed’s feelings as she experiences a pivotal moment of reflection. When the nurse asks her about her past experiences, Nora’s response not only indicates uncertainty, but also a profound inner transformation.

Nora states, “I don’t want to die anymore,” reflecting a sense of power within them to place value on life. This admission indicates a change in her outlook on existence. The will to live indicates that the individual is beginning to fulfill her self-esteem needs.

In the context of Maslow's theory, self-esteem needs focus on self-confidence, esteem, and social acceptance. When the character says she feels "a little weird," she is showing discomfort with her feelings, but also an acknowledgement of new hope. Feeling the will to live and not wanting to die anymore can be seen as an important step in building a positive sense of self-esteem.

Nora's power lies in her ability to change her perspective on life and death. Every individual has the power to choose how they view their life. When Nora asserts her will to live, she is demonstrating control over her own life narrative.

This quote is not only about uncertainty, but also a tribute to Nora's power to rediscover her will to live. It illustrates how Nora is beginning to fulfill her self-esteem needs, which is an important step toward better mental and emotional health. This quote is not only about uncertainty, but also a tribute to Nora's power to rediscover her will to live.

This illustrates how Nora begins to fulfill her self-esteem needs, which is an important step towards better mental and emotional health. Overall, this conversation illustrates a change in Nora's self-esteem and outlook on life. While there may still be feelings of strangeness and confusion, her strong will to continue living shows that Nora is experiencing a positive change in the way she sees herself and the world around her (Maslow, 1954) states that if a person has fulfilled their esteem needs and achieved self-esteem, they gain mastery within themselves which increases their motivation in life.



## **B. Fulfillment of Self-Esteem Needs from Others**

This need for esteem is based on the evaluation and judgment of others. Abraham Maslow classified the desire for recognition and appreciation from others, including status and prestige, as part of the second category of esteem needs (Maslow, 1943). Simply put, individuals have a strong desire to gain respect, admiration, and recognition from others.

### **1. Respect**

In the process of fulfilling self-esteem needs, the first thing that must be fulfilled is respect from others. This process is the result of maintaining social position or class which is formed through the process of social reproduction (Rahayu, 2022). Nora Seed is actually a person who has a lot of skills, we can see this through Nora Seed's conversation with Mrs. Elm below:

Nora smiled. "The rain on other planets is even worse."  
"Worse than Bedfordshire?"  
"On Venus it rains pure acid."  
Mrs. Elm pulled a tissue from her sleeve and blew her nose gently. "Well, see? With the brains you've got, you can do anything." (p.12)

The quote above illustrates the impression of respect between the characters of Nora and Mrs. Elm. Nora seems to have extensive knowledge about natural phenomena on other planets, which makes Mrs. Elm appreciate her so that she mentions her abilities with praise "With the brains you have, you can do anything." This statement shows that Mrs. Elm acknowledges Nora's intelligence or knowledge, thus reflecting her respect for Nora.

In addition, Mrs. Elm's reaction of taking out a tissue from under her sleeve and blowing her nose slowly also reflects her empathy and concern for Nora. This

action may have been done in response to the information Nora gave about acid rain on Venus. Although this action is small, it can be understood as an expression of sympathy or concern for their conversation.

Overall, the interaction between Nora and Mrs. Elm in the narrative shows a positive relationship dynamic, where both respect each other. Nora is shown as someone who has quite extensive knowledge and is seen to be respected by Mrs. Elm through the compliments she gives. On the other hand, Mrs. Elm also shows empathy and concern for Nora, which can be seen from her action of taking out a tissue to respond to the information given by Nora. Thus, the narrative shows that the interaction between the two is based on mutual respect and concern, creating a positive relationship between them.

In the next incident, Nora Seed met her boss, Neil, at her workplace. This incident began when Nora Seed arrived late at the shop because her cat died last night. Here is the conversation:

*"Listen. Nora, I like you.*

*'Neil is harmless. A fifty-something guitar fanatic who makes lame jokes and puts on a pretty good live show of Dylan covers in the shop.*

*"I also know you have mental health issues."*

*"Everyone has mental health issues."*

*"You know what I mean."*

*"I feel much better, generally,"(p.22)*

The short conversation between Neil and Nora shows the closeness and mutual understanding between the two. Neil honestly expresses his feelings to

Nora, creating an open and honest atmosphere between them. Nora accepts Neil's expression without showing any rejection or disappointment.

Neil then refers to Nora's mental health issues, showing that he cares and is concerned about her well-being. Nora does not feel offended or threatened by this discussion, indicating that their relationship is based on mutual understanding and honesty.

Nora's statement that "Everyone has mental health issues" shows that she does not feel judged or weirded out by Neil. This reflects the openness and acceptance between the two. Nora does not feel alone or isolated in her mental health experiences because Neil clearly states his understanding.

Neil also confirmed that he was feeling better in general, indicating that he was open in sharing his feelings with Nora. Nora received this statement from Neil in a positive way, reflecting the support and care between them.

Overall, the narrative shows a close relationship between Neil and Nora, based on mutual understanding, support, and honesty. They are able to talk openly about their feelings and personal problems without fear of being judged or rejected. This creates a healthy and respectful relationship between the two.

In the continuation of the conversation between Neil and Nora Seed, Neil continues to praise Nora Seed for remaining optimistic and confident in the life she lives, here is the conversation:

*"What do you want to say, Neil?"*

*"It's never too late to chase your dreams."*

*"Pretty sure it's too late to chase that one."*

*"You're a man of many talents, Nora. A degree in philosophy..."(p.23)*

From the quote above, it is clear that Neil gives Nora positive encouragement with the message, "It's never too late to chase a dream." This shows that Neil supports and encourages Nora to keep believing in herself and to pursue whatever dreams she may have. However, Nora's response, "Pretty sure it's too late to chase that one," conveys doubt and perhaps a sense of hopelessness about a dream that seems impossible to achieve. This shows that she is feeling a little depressed or pessimistic.

When Neil acknowledges Nora's expertise and degree in philosophy, he is showing respect and acknowledging Nora's excellence. This shows that Neil values Nora as an intelligent and talented individual.

In terms of interaction, Neil is seen as a supportive and enthusiastic figure, while Nora seems to be feeling inferior or doubtful of her abilities. Neil tries to boost Nora's spirit and confidence with positive reinforcement and appreciation for her achievements in certain areas.

So, the relationship between Neil and Nora in this conversation shows that there is mutual respect and support between the two, even though Nora is feeling doubtful or pessimistic about the possibility of achieving a particular dream. Neil seems to act as a source of inspiration for Nora, while Nora may need further encouragement to fight for her dreams.

In the context of the need for self-esteem from others, Abraham Maslow (Maslow, 1954) said that a person feels it is important to be respected by others in order to fulfill the need for recognition and a sense of being appreciated as a valuable individual. When a person receives positive recognition, acceptance, and

appreciation from others, this can strengthen self-esteem and fulfill his psychological needs.

## 2. Recognition

People have a natural urge to feel appreciated and recognized by others. Recognition from others can affect a person's self-perception of their value and dignity. In the context of the need for self-esteem, a person seeks recognition, acceptance, and appreciation from their environment. In this case, Nora Seed received a lot of recognition from her life experiments, this can be seen when Nora Seed met Hugo when Nora Seed became a glaciologist, Hugo praised Nora Seed's personality in this life, here is the conversation:

*Hugo stared at her. His eyes were beautiful. Nora felt for a moment drawn into his orbit like a satellite drawn to earth. 'charming, charming, intelligent, beautiful. More or less the same as now'.(p.194)*

The quote above shows Hugo giving a full complimenting recognition to Nora. He looks into Nora's eyes and describes the beauty of her eyes as "beautiful". This shows that Hugo acknowledges Nora's beauty, both physically and perhaps also her inner beauty.

When Hugo mentions that Nora is like a "satellite drawn to the earth," this illustrates how Nora captivates and is drawn to him like the gravitational pull between the earth and a satellite. This analogy implies that Nora has a power that is attractive and alluring to him.

Then, Hugo goes on to mention other positive qualities such as “charming, charming, intelligent, beautiful.” The use of these words shows Hugo’s appreciation for Nora as a woman who has charm, charm, intelligence, and beauty.

By showing feelings of recognition of Nora's qualities, Hugo indirectly gives honor and appreciation to Nora. The praise given is a form of recognition of the specialness and qualities possessed by Nora, which shows that Hugo greatly appreciates Nora's existence and character. Thus, this sentence clearly shows recognition of Nora's beauty, attractiveness, and qualities as an individual who attracts Hugo's attention and admiration.

In another life when she was a famous musician, Nora Seed received recognition from a woman who was probably Nora Seed's manager when she was a musician, we can see this below:

*A woman sat next to him. She wasn't in the band, but she seemed important. She was about fifty years old. Maybe she was a manager. Maybe she worked for a record label. She had the air of a stern mother. But she opened the conversation with a smile. 'absolute genius he said. That simon & garfunkel song. You're trending in south america. N: cool  
Already uploaded the question from your accounts.(p.212)*

The description of the woman sitting next to Nora Seed depicts a powerful and influential figure in the music industry, perhaps a manager or record label worker. Although she may seem like someone fierce at first, the woman starts the conversation with a smile, showing her friendly side.

By acknowledging Nora’s genius in Simon & Garfunkel’s song and letting her know that it’s trending in South America, the woman not only shows her extensive knowledge of music but also shows her genuine appreciation. Her act of

actively sharing Nora's content from her accounts shows her dedication and admiration for Nora's work.

When the woman started talking, it was clear that Nora's presence in the music world had indeed made a significant impact and was recognized even by people in the industry. The woman not only admired Nora's music, but also appreciated the success she had achieved. Through this interaction, it was clear that Nora was a figure who had made an impact in her music industry and was respected by fellow professionals in the field.

In this way, through the recognition and appreciation of the woman, we can see how important peer recognition is in the industry, and how Nora is respected and recognized for her talents. In addition, this interaction also shows that behind Nora's success and influence, there is a network of people who support her and genuinely appreciate her work.

When Nora Seed toured Brazil, she received a lot of recognition from her fans, we can see this through the following narrative:

*He reached the keyboard, sat down in his high chair, and pulled the microphone a little closer. "Thank you, São Paulo," he said. "We love you." And Brazil roared back.*

*This, it seemed, was power. The power of fame. Like all the pop icons he had ever seen on social media, who could say a word and get millions of "likes" and "shares." (p.208)*

The above quote equates the power of fame with the power of social media, where "likes" and "shares" are the measures of recognition. This illustrates that social media often prioritizes image and popularity over quality or depth of content. The power of social media in providing recognition can be very different from the more genuine and profound recognition that might come from firsthand experience or substantively recognized work.

Nora's experience also highlights the potential impact of external validation on one's self-esteem. The applause and cheers from the audience in São Paulo likely made her feel important and appreciated. Seeking validation from others is a common aspect of human nature, as individuals often crave the acceptance and approval of their peers in order to feel a sense of belonging and self-worth. In this context, Nora's need for external validation was evident as she enjoyed the admiration of the audience, which bolstered her self-esteem and self-worth.

The importance of recognition from others in fulfilling the need for self-esteem emphasizes the importance of social interaction and interpersonal relationships in Nora Seed's personality development and psychological well-being (Maslow, 1954). By receiving recognition and appreciation from others, Nora Seed can build self-confidence and develop her potential optimally.

### 3. Appreciation

People who have a need for self-esteem from others tend to seek recognition, appreciation, and a sense of achievement from their environment, whether in the form of verbal appreciation, praise, or positive assessment of performance or achievements that have been achieved. Appreciation from others is important because it can strengthen a person's sense of self-esteem and provide motivation to continue to develop and achieve success. Nora Seed in trying her life she gained admiration for life as a musician, we can see this below:

*Now, if I may ask about the album.... Pottersville. You wrote all the lyrics, right?"*  
*"Mostly, yes," Nora guessed, eyeing the small, familiar mole on her left hand.*  
*"He wrote it all," Joanna interjected.*  
*Marcelo nodded as his colleague, still grinning, fiddled with the volume on his laptop.*  
*"I think 'Feathers' is my favorite song," Marcelo said, as the drinks arrived.*  
*"I'm glad you like it." (p.226)*



The quote above shows Marcelo expressing his appreciation for Nora's work, namely the lyrics in the album "Pottersville". Although Nora revealed that most of the lyrics were written by her, Joanna firmly stated that she wrote them all.

When Marcelo mentioned his favorite song, "Feathers", it shows that he really enjoys Nora's work. Nora's reaction of expressing her happiness at Marcelo's compliment also reflects her appreciation for her work that has succeeded in gaining praise.

In the context of appreciation, the interaction between Marcelo, Nora, and Joanna illustrates an interesting dynamic. Marcelo as a music fan shows genuine appreciation for someone's work, while Nora and Joanna as creators of the work respond in different ways. Nora humbly acknowledges her major contribution, while Joanna confidently states that she wrote it all.

The quote shows how one person's appreciation for another's work can create an interesting interplay of praise, recognition, and appreciation. It also emphasizes the importance of accepting appreciation from others with humility and pride in the work that has been produced.

Fulfilling the need for self-esteem from other people is an important step in a person's journey towards self-actualization according to the concept initiated by Maslow (Maslow, 1943). In this context, gaining appreciation from the surrounding environment can be an effective motivator for someone to reach their full potential and achieve happiness and success in life.

## CHAPTER V

### CONCLUSION AND SUGGESTIONS

The conclusion of this study is presented in this chapter. The answers to the research problems raised by the researcher in the previous chapter will be discussed in this conclusion. This chapter also contains the author's suggestions for readers and further researchers from different perspectives.

#### A. Conclusion

The conclusion of this study shows that the character of Nora Seed in the novel *"The Midnight Library"* is able to fulfill her self-esteem needs through two components, the first component is the need for self-esteem through herself. In the need for self-esteem from herself, Nora Seed has fulfilled her self-confidence, motivation to get out of trouble and she is able to have the power in herself to fulfill her self-esteem. The second component is the need for self-esteem from others, in this case Nora Seed has fulfilled it from being respected by others through those closest to her, appreciation for her work and good recognition from people around Nora Seed. Awareness of the importance of understanding and fulfilling these needs allows Nora to find inner peace and satisfaction in her life, even within the framework of a parallel reality created by the story.

Thus, this study provides an overview of how important the process of self-discovery and self-acceptance is in fulfilling one's self-esteem needs. Through a comparison with Maslow's hierarchy of needs concept, it can be concluded that achieving happiness and life satisfaction is closely related to understanding and fulfilling these basic needs. Overall, the character of Nora Seed in the novel "The

"Midnight Library" provides inspiration for the power of self-transformation and the potential that each individual has to achieve a more meaningful and significant life.

### **B. Suggestion**

Based on the conclusion of the discussion and data analysis, the researcher intends to provide recommendations to readers and further researchers. For readers, this study can add insight to be able to know when individuals have fulfilled both of these self-esteem needs, such as character, self-confidence, humility, motivation, reputation, recognition and respect that they have. In addition, the researcher hopes that readers can learn to manage their self-esteem needs as well as possible. such as Nora Seed who has found her self-esteem through herself and others to continue her life and not give up.

The researcher also hopes that other scholars who are interested in the same idea or item might use this work as a reference. It is therefore preferable to examine the theory from a different angle, such as the perspective of the need for security or the desire for love and belonging, if another researcher wishes to employ it. Furthermore, it is preferable to choose a different theory if the following researcher is also interested in the same object. Because of its novel approach, this study will thereby bridge the knowledge gap and advance the field of research.

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## CURICULUM VITAE



**Moh. Iqbal Muammar Al Fauzi** was born in Kediri on July 10, 2002. The author was born to the couple Sukarni and Siti Muansikatun. He is the first of two children his sibling is Salwa Naili Aziziyah Al Fauzi. MAN 4 Jombang was his last previous education enter university. He graduated from the school, and in 2020 he continued his education in the field of English Literature Department of UIN Maulana Malik Ibrahim Malang and graduating in 2024. While studying at the university, he activated in several organizations such as Being a Representative on the Executive Board of Humanities Faculty of UIN Malang (DEMA Faculty of Humanities 2023), Became Minister of Home Affairs for the University Student Executive Council (DEMA-U 2024), Steering Committee in PBAK University 2024 UIN Malang, Committee in PBAK-F HUM 2022 UIN Malang, Committee for the 2022 Cultural Festival, Faculty of Humanities, UIN Malang. This was useful for him in gaining soft skills, expanding networks, new perspectives and teamwork experience, as well as in terms of building a critical thinking framework and communication skills, especially when it comes to public speaking.