

CHAPTER I

INTRODUCTION

1.1 Background

A movie is a form of literary work that aims to convey messages or stories to the audience in a short time. According to Selma Shabrina (2019), Wibowo said in Rizal (2014) that a movie is a tool to convey various kinds of messages to the public through story media and also as a place to show artistic expression for artists, such as expressing their ideas and story ideas. In the literary work itself, the audience can feel the way the characters live or deal with life, which often reflects life in the real world of humans, which is so complex. According to Corrigan and White (2018), in Eka Fajar Rahmani, Empawi, and Sada (2024), movies have an important role in today's culture as they have the potential to emotionally evoke responses, convey meaningful messages, and influence the audience's perspectives. In other words, literature is a form of representation of the soul of a person or human to understand other souls. This includes psychology alongside literature because psychology in literary studies discusses the problem of human psychology or characters in literary works from a different perspective (Anas Ahmadi, 2015).

One of the works that the writer takes as an example of the complexity of life based on character psychology is the movie *The Map of Tiny Perfect Things*. The movie was written by Lev Grossman and then directed by Ian Samuels and was released on February 21, 2021. It was about two teenagers who were trapped in a time loop on the same day. The time loop situation allows them to

explore themselves more without the pressure of time, which makes their character development process more outstanding. The two main characters in this movie have relevance to Maslow's theory of real life, which can be seen in their struggle to face life's challenges to achieve happiness or self-actualization. As Mellor et al. (2008) explain, Baumeister and Leary (1995) state that the need for social relationships with others is a basic motivation for human beings, and this affects a person's psychological and social behavioral health. This shows that the fulfillment of needs is not just a theoretical stage, but is real in the way it impacts the development of human life.

The reflection of this theory can be seen in everyday life, for example, someone who has fulfilled their basic needs will begin to pursue their financial stability, build healthy relationships, and try to get acknowledgment for their achievements. In the end, they are driven to achieve self-actualization, such as pursuing goals, working, or serving the community. This reflection of human needs can also be found in movies, since movies often portray characters struggling through similar phases of life. The movie *The Map of Tiny Perfect Things* (2021) is interesting to analyze as a reflection of this hierarchy of needs, especially since it shows the psychological journey of the two main characters, Mark and Margaret, in facing a time loop that forces them to reflect on their basic needs until they reach the self-actualization phase.

1.2 Limitation of the Problem

This research focuses on the development of the two main characters in the movie *The Map of Tiny Perfect Things*, Mark and Margaret, using Maslow's Hierarchy of Needs theory.

1.3 Research Questions

Based on the background and the limitation of the problem, here are the research questions:

1. How does the character Mark achieve his self-actualization?
2. How does the character Margaret achieve her self-actualization?

1.4 Objectives of the Research

Based on the research questions, here are the objectives of the research:

1. To analyze and identify how the character Mark achieves his self-actualization.
2. To analyze and identify how the character Margaret achieves her self-actualization.

