

## CHAPTER 1

### INTRODUCTION

#### 1.1 Background

Movie is a visual medium used to convey stories, information, or messages through a series of moving images accompanied by sound. According to Hiawan Pratista (2008), movies are audiovisual mediums that include two elements: narrative and cinematic. Movies can be either fiction or non-fiction and are typically created for entertainment, education, documentation, or propaganda purposes. According to Blain Brown (2018) movie is a visual storytelling medium that uses moving images and sound to create an emotional and intellectual experience for the audience. This means that a movie is a sequence of moving images recorded with sound to tell a story and is shown in cinemas or on television. Movie have long been recognized as a powerful medium for storytelling, offering audiences a window into different cultures, emotions, and psychological experiences. Beyond entertainment, movie often serve as reflections of human behavior, struggles, and aspirations that can be analyzed in depth. Humans have goals and many demands in their life. Humans often make life goals to live better and more decently. In achieving their life goals, humans need motivation to achieve these goals or needs. In addition to occurring in actual human life, psychological

requirements and experiential variables are frequently employed as captivating subjects in movies.

One of the movies that is related to psychological issues is the movie *Damsel*. The movie *Damsel*, which was released by Netflix on March 8, 2024, depicts the extraordinary progress of its main character. This movie was directed by Juan Carlos Fresnadillo and written by Dan Mazeau. Based on a screenplay by Dan Mazeau, this is a groundbreaking collaboration between New York Times bestselling author, Evelyn Skye. The movie *Damsel* follows a young woman named Elodie, a princess who agrees to marry a prince from another Kingdom for political reasons. However, after the wedding, Elodie is betrayed and sacrificed to a dragon as part of the Kingdom's long-standing tradition. Trapped inside the dragon's cave, Elodie must fight to survive without anyone's help. Using her intelligence, courage, and determination, she struggles to defy her fate and find a way to escape from the dragon's grasp. This epic classic fantasy action movie presents a gripping tale of survival and self-discovery, challenging the classic stereotype of the "damsel in distress" by portraying a strong female protagonist who fights to save herself. Throughout the movie, the main character's experiences can be examined through the lens of Maslow's Hierarchy of Needs to understand how each stage of need influences her actions, decisions, and overall character development. By tracing the shifts in the character's motivations as she navigates through hardships, Elodie's struggle, starting from seeking her safety, until she was

finally able to escape from the dragon's cave and fulfill her needs according to the Maslow's Hierarchy of Needs theory: physiological needs, safety needs, love and belongingness needs, esteem needs, and self-actualization (Abraham H. Maslow, 1943).

This study aims to analyze how human needs evolve under extreme circumstances. This study is significant because it provides deeper insights into the psychological dynamics of characters in movies and demonstrates how psychological concepts can be applied in moviemaking to create more realistic and engaging characters. Moreover, this study contributes to the fields of literature, movie, and psychology by enhancing the understanding of character representation in popular media. To explain what needs must be addressed, this study utilizes Abraham H. Maslow's Hierarchy of Needs theory. The researcher employs a qualitative descriptive methodology with a descriptive type to describe Maslow's theory concepts in the movie *Damsel*. This study collects data using a literary study approach, which involves listening to and studying the movie.

## 1.2 Limitation of the Problem

This study focuses on the main character, Elodie, in the Netflix movie *Damsel* (2024), up to the stage of self-actualisation using Maslow's Hierarchy of Needs theory. Maslow's theory is a paradigm for analyzing human behavioral motivation, consisting of five levels; physiological

needs, safety needs, love and belongingness needs, esteem needs, and self-actualization.

### 1.3 Research Question

Based on the background and the limitation of the problem, here is the research question:

1. How does the main character achieves her self-actualization?

### 1.4 Objective of the Research

Based on the research question, here is the objective of the research:

1. To analyze how the main character achieves her self-actualization.

