



## Main Character's Personality in the Novel *Adikku Pahlawanku* by Fayanna Ailisha Davianny and *Doa untuk Mama* by Najla Nurdiany Putri

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### ABSTRACT

This study describes the objectives of (1) physiological needs, (2) security needs, (3) love and belonging needs, (4) esteem needs, and (5) self-actualization needs of the main characters in the novels *Adikku Pahlawanku* by Fayanna Ailisha Davianny and *Doa Untuk Mama* by Najla Nurdiany Putri. The phenomena found in this study indicate that the two main characters, namely Tari and Aisyah, experience a layered process of fulfilling needs, starting from fulfilling basic needs such as food and health to higher psychological needs such as emotional support, appreciation, and self-development. In addition, this study found psychological tension in the form of economic anxiety, physical anxiety, and emotional conflict that affect the process of fulfilling the needs of the main characters, but in the end these needs can be fulfilled through the support of family and social environment. Data collection through the process of reduction, grouping, and interpretation of relevant quotes from both novels based on the categories of physiological needs, security, love and belonging, appreciation, and self-actualization in accordance with Maslow's hierarchy of needs theory. The research findings show that both novels display the dynamics of human needs as a whole. Tari and Aisyah are depicted as child characters capable of building emotional resilience through warm family relationships. This research's contribution lies in explaining how children's literature, particularly the novel *KKPK*, can serve as a medium for understanding the psychological development of child characters and its relevance to the formation of readers' characters. Furthermore, this research enriches the study of literary psychology by demonstrating that Maslow's theory can be effectively applied to children's literary texts as objects of scientific study.

*Keywords: main character's personality, novel, adikku pahlawanku, doa untuk mama*

## Kepribadian Tokoh Utama Novel *Adikku Pahlawanku* Karya Fayanna Ailisha Davianny dan *Doa untuk Mama* Karya Najla Nurdiany Putri

### ABSTRAK

Penelitian ini mendeskripsikan tujuan (1) kebutuhan fisiologis, (2) kebutuhan rasa aman, (3) kebutuhan rasa cinta dan memiliki, (4) kebutuhan penghargaan, dan (5) kebutuhan aktualisasi diri tokoh utama dalam novel *Adikku Pahlawanku* karya Fayanna Ailisha Davianny dan *Doa Untuk Mama* karya Najla Nurdiany Putri. Fenomena yang ditemukan dalam penelitian ini menunjukkan bahwa kedua tokoh utama, yakni Tari dan Aisyah, mengalami proses pemenuhan kebutuhan yang berlapis, dimulai dari pemenuhan kebutuhan dasar seperti makan dan kesehatan hingga kebutuhan psikologis yang lebih tinggi seperti dukungan emosional, penghargaan, dan pengembangan diri. Selain itu, penelitian ini menemukan adanya ketegangan psikologis berupa kecemasan ekonomi, kecemasan fisik, serta konflik emosional yang memengaruhi proses pemenuhan kebutuhan tokoh utama, namun pada akhirnya kebutuhan tersebut dapat terpenuhi melalui dukungan keluarga dan lingkungan sosial. Pengumpulan data melalui proses reduksi, pengelompokan, dan penafsiran kutipan-kutipan relevan dari kedua novel berdasarkan kategori kebutuhan fisiologis, rasa aman, rasa cinta dan memiliki, penghargaan, serta aktualisasi diri sesuai dengan teori hierarki kebutuhan Maslow. Temuan penelitian menunjukkan bahwa kedua novel menampilkan dinamika kebutuhan manusia secara utuh. Tari dan Aisyah digambarkan sebagai tokoh anak yang mampu membangun ketangguhan emosional melalui hubungan keluarga yang hangat. Kontribusi penelitian ini terletak pada pemaparan bagaimana karya sastra anak, khususnya novel *KKPK* yang dapat menjadi media untuk memahami perkembangan psikologis tokoh anak dan relevansinya terhadap pembentukan karakter pembaca. Selain itu, penelitian ini memperkaya kajian psikologi sastra dengan menunjukkan bahwa teori Maslow dapat diterapkan secara efektif pada teks sastra anak sebagai objek kajian ilmiah.

*Kata kunci: kepribadian tokoh utama, novel, adikku pahlawanku, doa untuk maa*

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## INTRODUCTION

Personality can be seen as a holistic picture of an individual, a combination of various characteristics that demonstrate a person's distinctive characteristics in interacting and relating to others. Each person exhibits different responses to social situations, influenced by underlying personality elements such as temperament, values, and life experiences. Using the hierarchy of needs theory developed by Abraham Maslow, this study will investigate how the physiological, safety, love and belonging, esteem, and self-actualization needs experienced by the main characters influence their personalities and the social interactions they engage in. Maslow's hierarchy of needs theory explains how humans fulfill their needs in stages.

Novels often serve as rich and in-depth representations of the social and psychological realities faced by society and individuals. A particularly interesting aspect to analyze is the personality of the main characters in literary works, as this analysis can help understand the dynamics of human needs and how they influence individual behavior and decisions. *My Brother, My Hero*, and *Prayer for Mama* are among the books of interest to be examined in this study. These novels provide an in-depth look at how people struggle to fulfill their needs under uncertain circumstances and how these experiences shape their personalities and identities. *Small Children Have Works (KKPK)* is a literacy program and publishing platform designed to help children develop their interest and talent in writing. The books in this series are written by young authors who share their experiences, ideas, and perspectives on the real world. The two novels, "*My Little Brother, My Hero*" and "*Doa Untuk Mama*," which are part of the "*Kompul Kisah Penuh Karya*" (KKPK), not only offer engaging narratives but also encourage readers to reflect on the values of family, sacrifice, and compassion.

This study uses the novels "*My Little Brother, My Hero*" and "*Doa Untuk Mama*" as data sources because they both tell the story of a young girl facing significant difficulties in her life, caused

by her family's economic decline or her parents' health problems. Through the journeys of the two main characters, Tari and Aira, these novels showcase the emotional and physical struggles they experience, as well as their efforts to fulfill basic and emotional needs in challenging situations. In the study of literary psychology, one of the most important psychological concepts in understanding human motivation is Abraham Maslow's theory of the hierarchy of needs. This article addresses several research questions, namely:

1. What are the physiological needs of the main characters in both novels?
2. What are the safety needs of the main characters?
3. What are the love and belonging needs of the main characters?
4. What are the esteem needs of the main characters?
5. What are the self-actualization needs of the main characters?

The purpose of this study is to describe in depth the fulfillment of physiological needs, safety needs, love and belonging needs, esteem needs, and self-actualization needs in the main characters, using Maslow's hierarchy of needs theory as a basis for analysis. This study also aims to uncover how each of these needs is represented through the characters' actions, dialogue, and social dynamics, thereby providing a more comprehensive picture of the characters' psychological development within the context of the story.

This research is theoretically useful for enriching the study of literary psychology, particularly in the application of Maslow's theory of needs to children's literature. Through an analysis of the character's hierarchy of needs, this research contributes to the development of a new perspective in understanding the psychological dynamics of children in literary texts, while also expanding the body of research linking the humanistic psychology approach to children's fiction narratives. Furthermore, this research can serve as a reference for further studies highlighting the relevance of



psychological theory in character development in Indonesian literature.

Practically, this research provides benefits for teachers, students, and other researchers as a reference in understanding the depiction of children's characters and the life values reflected in the novel *KKPK*. Teachers can utilize the results of this research to develop literature-based learning that emphasizes character education, empathy, and strengthening students' affective aspects. Students and researchers can use it as a reference for examining the relationship between psychological needs and character development in children's literature, as well as as a basis for conducting further research in the fields of literary studies, education, and child developmental psychology. Thus, this research not only broadens academic horizons but also makes a direct contribution to educational practice and child literacy development. To fully understand these benefits, it is important to note that the entire character analysis in this study is grounded in the concept of human needs. This theoretical framework serves as the basis for understanding the behavior, motivations, and psychological dynamics of the characters in the novel.

Human needs are an important concept in psychology and the social sciences. A need is considered a necessity if its fulfillment can prevent health problems and serve as a solution for the individual (Kurniawati, 2021:56). Maslow explained the hierarchy of needs as stages ranging from basic needs to self-actualization, where fundamental needs must be met before an individual can focus on higher-level needs (Fatimah, 2024:687).

### 1. Physiological

Physiological needs are the most basic needs that must be met so that an individual can continue to fulfill other needs (Mahmuda, 2022:3). These needs include food, water, air, and shelter, and impact health, energy, and social interaction. Inability to meet these needs can lead to health problems and social instability.

### 2. Safety

The need for safety includes physical protection, freedom from threats, and emotional calm (Ananto, 2024:75). This need encompasses stability and freedom from fear. In education, a sense of safety can be achieved through a democratic and intimidation-free learning environment, allowing students to feel comfortable participating.

### 3. Love and Belonging

This need is met through close relationships with family, friends, or social groups. According to Maslow, love is a healthy relationship involving trust and respect (Agustiyani, 2023:96). If this need is not met, individuals can feel isolated, lonely, and unappreciated.

### 4. Self-Esteem

Self-esteem relates to recognition, ability, and achievement. A person's self-worth can be seen from their standards and views of themselves and others (Indriana, 2024:107). Maslow divided esteem needs into self-esteem and esteem from others, which are more easily achieved after the needs for love and belonging are met.

### 5. Self-Actualization

Self-actualization is the pinnacle of the hierarchy of needs, a state where a person optimally develops their abilities and potential to achieve meaningful life goals. Individuals who reach this stage possess a strong sense of self, psychological stability, and the ability to contribute positively to others.

To strengthen this theoretical foundation and to position this research within the context of previous studies, it is necessary to examine several relevant studies related to the use of Maslow's theory and literary psychology analysis. Searching for relevant research is essential to understand this research's position among similar studies. This research focuses on the application of Maslow's hierarchy of needs theory to the novels "*Adikku Pahlawanku*" and "*Doa Untuk Mama*" by Fayanna

Ailisha Daviany and Najla Nurdiany Putri. The author found that no other research has examined these two novels with the same focus. However, there are several studies with related themes.

First, Ayu's (2024) thesis, "The Hierarchy of Human Needs in the Novel "What's So Wrong About Your Self-Healing" by Ardhi Mohammad (A Study of Literary Psychology)," uses a literary psychology approach, making it similar to this research, although the novels analyzed are different.

Second, Nugroho (2024) research, "The Personalities of Characters in Maman Suherman's Novel *Re: Dan Perempuan* and Its Implementation as Teaching Material for Novel Text Handouts in High School," is also related because both studies discuss character personalities. The difference is that that study linked the analysis results to teaching materials, while this study does not.

Third, Hendry Sugara and Maula Hanifa's (2024) research, "Analysis of Abraham Maslow's Hierarchy of Needs in the Short Story 'Pelajar Mengarang' by Seno Gumira Ajidarma," uses Maslow's theory, like this study, but the object of study is a short story, not a novel.

## METHOD

This research uses a qualitative descriptive method. Through this method, research data is described thematically according to the research objectives. Razak (2017), Creswell (2008), and Fraenkel et al. (2012) explain that qualitative descriptive methods are suitable for research in the social field.

To gain a comprehensive understanding of the fulfillment of the main characters' needs in the two novels studied, this study was structured through systematic methodological steps. This study uses Abraham Maslow's hierarchy of needs theory as the basis for analyzing the motivation, behavior, and personality development of the main characters in the two novels studied. The approach used is descriptive qualitative interpretive, focusing on the analysis of meaning through literary psychology.

This research does not use quantitative measurements, but rather examines data in the form of sentences, paragraphs, or paragraph fragments that describe the characters' physiological needs and self-actualization. Through interpretation of dialogue, actions, and narrative, this research seeks to uncover the inner dynamics of Tari in the novel "My Little Brother, My Hero" and Aira in "Doa Untuk Mama" based on Maslow's hierarchy of needs theory.

The data sources come from two novels: "My Little Brother, My Hero" by Fayanna Ailisha Daviany (2018, 92 pages) and "Doa Untuk Mama" by Najla Nurdiany Putri (2022:84). Both are published by DAR! Mizan.

The research data consists of information regarding Maslow's five levels of needs: physiological, safety, love and belonging, self-esteem, and self-actualization, contained in words, sentences, paragraphs, and paragraph fragments from both novels. This data is used to strengthen the analysis of the main characters' personalities, in line with the research focus.

The technique used was reading and note-taking. The procedure began with a thorough reading of both novels, marking relevant sections using sticky notes, and then noting quotations that illustrated the psychological needs of the main characters. The data were organized into a data collection instrument table based on Maslow's hierarchy of needs categories (FI, RA, RCM, PD, AD), and then interpreted and coded.

Data analysis was conducted in three stages, as follows:

1. Data reduction was carried out by sorting relevant quotations according to the research objectives.
2. Data presentation was carried out by arranging the classified quotations into a table based on Maslow's five hierarchical needs to facilitate pattern identification.
3. Conclusions were drawn by interpreting the data to answer the research questions. The analysis connected the findings with Maslow's theory and the context of liter-



ary psychology, resulting in a comprehensive picture of the characters' personalities.

## RESULTS

The following results present the needs that align with the Hierarchy of Needs theory. This is demonstrated by the characters, conflicts, and storylines that emphasize the fulfillment of basic needs through to self-actualization. The results indicate that this literary work is not overwhelmed by the need for self-actualization.

### 1. Physiological Needs

The main characters in the novels "Adikku Pahlawanku" by Fayanna Ailisha Davianny and "Doa Untuk Mama" by Najla Nurdiany Putri fulfill their physiological needs. This is demonstrated by their eating habits. This simple activity demonstrates the importance of physical health and family togetherness in daily life, as demonstrated in the following quote:

"On the dining table, there was rice, along with many side dishes such as chicken, fish, corn soup, and so on. There was also chocolate milk and water, which Mama had prepared." (Davianny, 2018:12)

This data demonstrates the fulfillment of basic needs in the form of food and drink, provided by the mother as a form of family care and affection. Tari is depicted enjoying the meal prepared by her mother. Furthermore, this scene also demonstrates the love and attention of parents towards their children, which strengthens the emotional bonds within the family. Another quote demonstrating physiological needs is as follows:

"Soon, Mama appeared, beaming and happy to welcome Dad. Mama appeared carrying Dad's favorite snacks: spring rolls and rice cakes filled with vegetables." (Davianny, 2018:22)

The data demonstrates concern for Father by preparing his favorite snacks. This simple act is not only a daily act of attention, but also reflects a warm emotional connection within the family. Providing Father's preferred food demonstrates that physiological needs can be met through empathetic

interactions. In addition to fulfilling the basic need for food, this act embodies values of affection, appreciation, and a desire to provide comfort to family members. Other quotes demonstrating physiological needs include the following:

"Finally, they arrived. They looked for an empty seat. Upon finding one, a waitress named Siska put down the menu. Aisyah recognized the waitress's name from her name tag. They immediately read the menu together. After figuring out what everyone wanted to eat, Papa wrote down all the food and drinks they would order." (Putri, 2021:43)

This data depicts a family atmosphere filled with warmth and togetherness as they prepare to enjoy mealtime together. Papa's act of writing down food orders for all family members demonstrates his concern and responsibility as the head of the family, who wants to ensure all their basic needs are met.

### 2. The need for safety

Two forms of anxiety emerge in the novel related to the need for safety: economic anxiety and physical anxiety. Economic anxiety emerged when she faced a threat to her health. Therefore, this subchapter will outline how the main character attempts to fulfill her need for safety and the impact of her economic and physical anxiety, as demonstrated in the following quote:

"One day, everyone will hate you, Tari! You'll realize you're different from us. I'll pay you back for everything you've done! How dare you!" Tania muttered as she walked away from the crowd of people trying to help Tari. (Davianny, 2018:17)

This data shows Tari facing a social conflict with her peers, which causes feelings of fear and anxiety. This situation demonstrates that Tari is in a situation that threatens her sense of safety, both emotionally and socially. The conflict she experiences not only affects her emotional stability but also illustrates her need to feel accepted and protected within her environment. This situation reflects the emotional challenges common to chil-

dren when interacting in social environments, such as feelings of discomfort, fear of rejection, and the need for support from those closest to her. Other quotes that demonstrate physiological issues include the following:

"So, Mom has leukemia? They say some people with leukemia don't survive. Oh my God," Aisyah clutched her chest. "It felt like the world was suddenly destroyed." (Putri, 2021:17)

The data shows sadness and fear upon learning of her mother's illness. This emotional reaction illustrates the character's experience of a shaken need for security and affection, as her mother's deteriorating health creates uncertainty and instability within the family environment. This situation not only causes anxiety but also demonstrates the importance of the presence of parental figures as a source of protection and emotional comfort. When a family is unstable, a child's need for security is disrupted, impacting their psychological balance. Another quote that reflects the physiological concerns is as follows:

"Dad must be really worried right now about the cost of the surgery, even though he's actually a worker on the project. They're also a well-off family. But the surgery is expensive. Can he afford it?" (Putri, 2021:22)

The data shows Dad facing financial pressure due to his wife's medical expenses. This situation reflects a threat to a family's need for security, as an unstable financial situation can create anxiety, uncertainty, and worry about meeting basic needs. This economic pressure also illustrates the burden of responsibility borne by the head of the family in ensuring the survival and comfort of family members.

### 3. The need for love and belonging

This need arises after physiological and safety needs are met. The need for love and belonging encompasses affectionate relationships, attention, and emotional bonds with others. In the novels "Adikku Pahlawanku" by Fayanna Ailisha Daviany and "Doa Untuk Mama" by Najla Nurdiany Putri, these needs can be seen through the main charac-

ters' relationships with their families. The love of a father for his children, the love of a mother for her children, and the affection between siblings are tangible manifestations of this need, as demonstrated in the following quote:

"Hi, Daddy's darlings! I miss you all! Mama, where are you?" asked the father, hugging his two children one by one" (Davianny, 2018:22).

This data demonstrates a father's affection for his children. The warm embrace given to Tari and Lista demonstrates the intimacy, emotional closeness, and warmth of family, which are essential foundations for relationships between family members. This simple yet meaningful act reflects the fulfillment of the need for love and belonging, as the child feels valued, protected, and fully accepted by their parental figure. Thus, this scene not only depicts a father's affection but also demonstrates how a harmonious relationship can fulfill the fundamental psychological needs of a child's development. Another quote that demonstrates the physiological aspect is as follows:

"Mommy, get well soon! Aisyah wants us to be together again," Aisyah said, hugging her mother tightly. "God willing, honey. Pray for Mommy to get well soon, okay!" said Mom (Putri, 2021:64).

This data demonstrates the affection and sincerity of a child's love for her mother. Aisyah wants her family to be whole and happy again, so her hug is not only an expression of longing, but also a form of prayer, hope, and deep emotional need. This action illustrates how a child expresses this. This scene not only displays the sincerity of Aisyah's affection but also demonstrates the importance of emotional support in maintaining family harmony and a child's inner balance. Another quote that demonstrates physiological well-being is as follows:

"Papa bent down and stroked Aisyah's head, then hugged her. "Be patient, okay, child," said Dad, crying too, then looked at the doctor, "Thank you, Doctor." (Putri, 2021:77)

The data shows that the presence of her father is a source of comfort for Aisyah. The tender



depiction depicts a loving relationship between father and daughter, creating a safe and reassuring emotional atmosphere. Aisyah feels cared for, loved, and supported by a figure she trusts, so her father's presence provides not only physical comfort but also inner strength. This situation demonstrates that fulfilling the need for love and belonging is crucial in maintaining a child's emotional stability, especially when the family is facing difficulties. The scene illustrates how parental attachment and affection can strengthen a child's psychological resilience in the face of stress and changes in family life.

#### 4. Esteem Needs

This need relates to how individuals are valued, recognized, and earned respect from others. The main characters in the novels *Adikku Pahlawanku* by Fayanna Ailisha Daviany and *Doa Untuk Mama* by Najla Nurdiany Putri demonstrate a need for esteem, both through personal achievements and social interactions. This recognition, building self-confidence, and strengthening one's position within one's environment, is demonstrated in The following quote:

"There's still some, Sis. Don't worry. Even if we run out, Aisyah has a supply of eggs! So you don't have to worry," said Asiyah. "You're getting better at cooking, Aisyah. My little sister is really cool," said Faiha." (Putri, 2021:50)

This data demonstrates pride in Aisyah. This praise encourages Aisyah to continue learning and helping the family. Through small tokens of appreciation, Aisyah feels that her efforts are not in vain, and this builds her self-confidence. Another quote that demonstrates physiological changes is as follows:

"Tari and Lista explained that they had an idea for their father. This project also channeled their father's hobby of making wooden furniture and Tari's hobby of painting." (Daviany, 2018:56)

This data demonstrates the process of self-actualization, through Tari's character, who strives to channel her potential and creativity through painting, which also benefits the family. This ac-

tivity demonstrates collaboration, creativity, and self-awareness of her abilities. Another quote that demonstrates the physiological aspect is as follows: "Okay! Your drawings are so cool! Let's get started! Here are the equipment! I'm going in now. I'll let you know when I'm done baking the chocolate cake," Dad said as he walked in. (Daviany, 2018:61)

The data demonstrates the father's appreciation and support for his children's work. When Tari's efforts and creativity are appreciated, she feels pride, self-confidence, and encouragement to continue developing. Her father's recognition is not only a form of verbal appreciation but also serves as emotional support. This scene demonstrates the crucial role of parental appreciation in building a child's internal motivation and encouraging them to reach their full potential.

#### 5. Self-Actualization Needs

Self-actualization is the process of someone striving to realize their full potential, as exemplified by the main characters in the novels "*54 Adikku Pahlawanku*" (My Little Brother, My Hero) by Fayanna Ailisha Daviany and "*Doa Untuk Mama*" (Doa Untuk Mama) by Najla Nurdiany Putri. The pursuit of independence and developing one's abilities are a form of achieving self-actualization, as illustrated in the following quote:

"Actually, after Papa came home, Aisyah didn't go straight to bed. She prepared her class schedule first and ironed her uniform, Hafiz's, and Fahad's. After that, Aisyah couldn't sleep." (Putri, 2021:25)

The data shows that Aisyah's actions in organizing and preparing for the family's needs demonstrate a high level of discipline and responsibility. She is able to manage her time between school and home affairs, making her an independent and resilient teenager in managing her daily life. Another quote that demonstrates her physiological abilities is as follows:

"It turned out there was a cute purple pencil case inside that said 'DRAWING KIDS'. It contained 3 2B pencils, 3 B pencils, 2 HB pencils, several drawing pens in sizes 0.1, 0.2, and 0.8.

There were also 4 erasers, complete with a ruler, a small sharpener, and colorful markers." (Daviany, 2018:29)

The data demonstrates Tari's efforts to fulfill her self-actualization needs through drawing. The availability of complete drawing equipment is an important tool that supports her hobby, allowing her to continue honing her potential, expressing her ideas, and developing her creativity. Drawing is not only a form of entertainment, but also a platform for Tari to express herself freely and build confidence in her abilities. This scene demonstrates Tari's passion for learning, perseverance, and strong internal drive to continue developing according to her interests and potential. Another quote that demonstrates her physiological needs is as follows:

"After that, they went to the bookstore. Aisyah wanted to look for a second semester 7th grade exercise book. She said it would help her understand better in the second semester." (Putri, 2021:45)

This data depicts Aisyah as a child with a strong passion for learning. She wants to continuously improve herself and achieve good grades in school. This attitude reflects her perseverance and strong determination to continue developing for her future and for the pride of her family.

## DISCUSSION

The results of this study indicate that the fulfillment of the needs of the main characters in the novels *Adikku Pahlawanku* and *Doa Untuk Mama* aligns with Maslow's hierarchy of needs, which includes physiological needs, safety, love and belonging, esteem, and self-actualization. This theoretical link is strong because all stages of needs are represented through actions, dialogue, and family dynamics that form the basis of the characters' psychological development. When basic needs are met, children are depicted as more emotionally stable and able to respond to problems with moral maturity, so Maslow's theory is not only relevant as a psychological concept, but has also been

proven to explain character development in children's literature.

The impact of fulfilling these needs demonstrates that the child characters in both novels become resilient, empathetic, and responsible individuals, capable of maintaining emotional balance despite economic pressures and difficult family circumstances. This psychological impact provides readers with an understanding that positive behavior in children is formed through family support, a sense of security, and loving relationships. Therefore, the novels serve not only as entertainment but also as a medium for internalizing human values.

The connection between Maslow's theory of needs and its impact on character development has direct implications for education. The values presented in the novels support character formation through emotional literacy, where students can learn to understand themselves, manage their emotions, and develop empathy through the characters' experiences. This aligns with the view that education focuses not only on cognitive aspects but also on affective and moral aspects. Therefore, both novels can be utilized in learning to strengthen students' sense of security, love, self-esteem, and motivation.

Maslow's theory can also serve as a foundation for teachers in creating conducive learning environments. Just as the characters in the novels develop after their basic needs are met, students need a safe, valued, and supportive learning environment to reach their potential. Therefore, the integration of psychological theory, the impact of character development, and educational values in novels demonstrates that children's literature plays a significant role as a means of character formation and meaningful social understanding in a learning context.

The limitations of this study primarily lie in its focus on the family environment, thus failing to reflect broader social dynamics. In literary research, contextual limitations can impact the clarity of analysis. The second perspective emphasizes



that the use of descriptive qualitative methods is highly susceptible to researcher interpretive bias. Furthermore, the sample size of two novels with similar themes does not adequately represent the diversity of children's psychological dynamics in contemporary Indonesian literature. The theoretical variables used are also limited to Maslow's, thus precluding multidimensional analysis.

Future research could expand the study to children's novels with different social settings and incorporate developmental psychology theory or a symbolic interactionist perspective for more comprehensive analysis.

## CONCLUSION

Based on the research results and discussions conducted regarding the personalities of the main characters in the novels *Adikku Pahlawanku* by Fayanna Ailisha Daviany and *Doa untuk Mama* by Najla Nurdiany Putri, using Abraham Maslow's Hierarchy of Needs theory, several conclusions can be drawn that align with the research problem formulation. The physiological aspects of both novels are depicted through the main characters and their families' efforts to meet basic needs such as food, health, and creating a warm and harmonious home atmosphere. Despite living in limited circumstances, they strive to maintain togetherness and affection within the family, ensuring that physical and emotional needs are met in a balanced manner, reflecting resilience and gratitude for life.

The sense of security reflects the economic and physical anxieties and threats experienced by the characters due to unstable family situations. Anxiety arises when they lose their jobs, experience economic decline, or experience a parent's illness. However, the characters overcome these fears and anxieties with determination, family support, and the power of prayer. Both novels showcase the characters' efforts to recreate a sense of security through togetherness, affection, and an unyielding spirit.

The feelings of love and belonging in both novels demonstrate the affection between a child

and his parents as a source of strength in facing every challenge. The sincere affection for his ailing mother leads him to sacrifice his time, energy, and feelings for her recovery. Both novels demonstrate that love and belonging are essential needs in human life, serving as sources of happiness, moral strength, and motivation to survive life's difficulties.

The self-esteem of both main characters demonstrates a drive for recognition and appreciation, both from themselves and others. They are depicted as possessing a spirit of responsibility, perseverance, and courage in facing life's challenges for the sake of their families. This attitude reflects a desire to prove their abilities and foster pride in their efforts, thus fulfilling their need for esteem through social recognition and personal belief in their self-worth.

The novels depict the peak of achievement when the main characters are able to demonstrate their full potential despite limitations. In both novels, the main characters demonstrate self-actualization through hard work, responsibility, empathy, sincerity, and determination. They learn to appreciate their family's struggles, make sacrifices for their loved ones, and strive to become useful and meaningful individuals for those around them.

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