

Human Needs and Conflicts Experienced in The Film *Turning Red*

By Domee Shi

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ABSTRACT

This study analyzes the fulfillment of human needs and the conflicts in fulfilling these needs by the main character in the film *Turning Red* by Domee Shi. The purpose of this study is to explain how the main character fulfills human needs and to find out the conflicts that occur in fulfilling human needs seen by the main character in the film *Turning Red* by Domee Shi. Researcher used a psychological approach. Researcher used a qualitative descriptive method. Sources of data in this study are scripts, images and dialogue from the film *Turning Red* by Domee Shi. In collecting data, researcher used documentation techniques. Then the data were analyzed using descriptive analysis. The results of the analysis in this study indicate that researcher found five levels of human needs using Abraham Maslow's hierarchy of needs theory, namely physiological needs, safety needs, love and belonging needs, self-esteem needs, and self-actualization needs. This study shows that human needs have been fulfilled by the main character in the film *Turning Red* by Domee Shi. Then, the researcher found three conflicts in fulfilling human needs, especially at the level of self-esteem and self-actualization using Kurt Lewin's conflict theory, namely approach-approach conflict, avoidance-avoidance conflict, and approach-avoidance conflict. This study shows that the main character has resolved conflicts in fulfilling human needs, especially at the level of self-esteem and self-actualization in the film *Turning Red* by Domee Shi.



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Introduction

Many literary works deal with character development and conflict resolution from a psychological perspective. In literary works, the behavior of the characters is changed from

the beginning to the end of the story. This change is called character evolution. Hurlock (2017) also states that in psychology, character development is related to personality development. Personality development is the development of organized patterns of behavior and attitudes that make a person different.

Gill (2006) states that a character is someone in a literary work. A character is a person in a literary work who has a sense of identity. Identity is shaped by appearances, conversations, actions, names, and perhaps thoughts that come to mind. That is, a character is a person or persons in a literary work who have a kind of identity formed from appearances, actions, names, dialogues, and thoughts.

Analysis of characters and their attitudes is a psychological act because each character confirms unique personalities and individual differences. Characterization in a literary work can be an explanation that the creation of a character can be seen from degrees, inherited types, personality, and appearance. Characters in plays or novels are considered psychologically correct, (Wellek and Warren, 2015).

Conflict is psychological because a character struggles with himself to identify and solve the things faced (Nurgiyantoro, 2015). The conflicts that humans have are what make literati interested in pouring them into literary works that are considered psychological phenomena. Literary works that are seen as psychiatric phenomena will display psychological aspects through their characters. This phenomenon that occurs in humans makes a writer have the idea to create a literary work, such as short stories, plays, novels, or films. Literary works as psychological phenomena are a requirement for the role of psychological illustration (Afkarina & Wardhani, 2019).

Turning Red directed by Dome Shi was released on March 11, 2022, on the Disney+ Hotstar app. Turning Red is an animated teen fantasy film. Bringing nostalgia with stunning visuals, the appeal of this film lies in the various messages it presents, namely that change is not something to be afraid of. The problem in this film begins when the main character named Meilin Lee has a mother who is very protective of her child, so that Mei does not feel free to express herself. Moreover, Mei was going through puberty and it received a lot of taboos from her parents, which made Mei often fight with her mother, and made her unable to control her emotions (Pananto, 2022).

The hierarchy of needs exists not only in real life but also in the characters of literary works such as films. The character created by the author can have human behavior, thoughts, and feelings. It can make the reader feel that it is real. Researcher interested in examining the hierarchy of human needs for the main character and the conflicts in fulfilling these needs.

According to Ellen Pastorino & Susann Doyle Portillo (2010), states that psychology is the study of behavior and mental processes, including biological actions, feelings, and states. Mental processes include problem solving, intelligence, and memory. The science that studies human behavior and its activities is studied to explore the manifestations of the human soul. This includes behavior, actions, feelings, and biological states.

Psychology describes and examines psychological activities common to adults and normal people, such as observational ability, willpower, emotions, motivation, etc. Psychology is not only concerned with human behavior in terms of motor activity but also with broad aspects of behavior such as talking, running, looking, remembering, thinking, and much more. Studying psychology means trying to understand human beings as personal and social beings. Thus there is a two-way relationship based on the mutual interaction between literature and psychology, in the form of evaluating literary works with psychological resources and obtaining psychological truths from literary works (Yimer, 2019).

Maslow built a theory of needs that became known as the Hierarchy of Needs theory. In this hierarchy theory of needs, Maslow mentions five hierarchically arranged human needs. It is called hierarchy because the fulfillment of these five needs is based on top priority. Maslow also explained that man is a living being who will never be fully satisfied with his life, one need has been satisfied and another need will arise. In other words, fundamental needs must be met before the free individual develops from psychological needs, and these in turn must be met before the person can realize the need for self-actualization.

Maslow said that there are five primary levels on the ladder of human needs. First is, Psychological Needs. These needs are the most basic and instinctive in the hierarchy because all needs become secondary until these physiological needs are met. Needs are the first basis that human beings will seek to achieve life satisfaction. Physiological needs such as water, food, shelter, activity, oxygen, air, and sleep. Second is safety needs. According to Maslow (2019), safety needs include physical security, confidence, protection, freedom, stability, and dependability. The need for law, order, and structure is also a security need. The third need is love and need belongness. If physiological needs and the need for security have been met, then comes the need for love, compassion, and belonging. These needs include the urge to be friendly, the desire to have a partner and offspring, the need to be close to family, and interpersonal needs such as the need to give and receive love. The fourth is self-esteem. Esteem needs can include self-esteem or appreciation from others because humans have a need to respect, and be trusted by others, self-confidence, self-stability, recognition, self-pride, freedom, and appreciation. When this is necessary to reach the level of self-confidence a person will also increase and have high self-esteem. This will affect social activities in the community. The last one is self-actualization . This need is a need that

drives the individual to self-expression or self-actualization. It refers to the need to become all that one is capable of to develop one's full potential. (Kaur, 2013). Have a healthy personality It is the highest level of Maslow's hierarchy of needs. Self-actualizing people are people who want to fulfil their potential, are self-aware, care about personal growth, care less about the opinions of others, become the cantering of problems, and acceptance of realism.

Conflict is a condition of the emergence of two or more needs at once that occurs in the psychological environment. Conflict is also called a condition in the field of individual life where there are forces that are in opposite directions but have the same portion of power. Lewin (2013) states that conflict is a situation where a person receives an equal but opposite power.

Kurt Lewin mentions that there are three factors of conflict, namely: Approach – approach Conflict which two forces pushing each other in opposite directions, for example, people are faced with two mutually favorable choices. That a person has a choice between two choices, but he can only choose one. Second factor is Avoidance-Avoidance Conflict which is a distant conflict, two forces hinder in opposite directions, for example, people are faced with two equally unpopular choices. It can also be characterized as two unvirtuous motives that appear, and the confusion that arises because moving away from which one implies that one must also satisfy other negative motives. The third one is Approach-avoidance Conflict which two driving and inhibiting forces, arises from one goal and is faced with choices that contain elements of likes and dislikes. This conflict occurs when two opposing forces emerge from the same goal at the same time. The selection of this value raises conflicts in individuals. The last is Multiple Approach-avoidance Conflict. Multiple approach-avoidance conflict is a type of psychological conflict that occurs when a person is faced with a situation in which there are multiple options, each with both positive and negative aspects, and the person is forced to make a choice among them.

The related research was taken from Fitria Ramadani (2021), a student of Sultan Thaha Saifuddin Jambi Islamic University in her research entitled "The Importance of Psychological Needs in Cast Away Film by Robert Zameckis". This research is focused on describing the fulfillment of Chuck's psychological needs. The results revealed that there are two types of Psychological Needs in Robert Zameckis' Cast Away, namely food and water. Then there are two factors for Chuck to meet his psychological needs in Robert Zameckis' Cast Away, namely the intrinsic factor of love and extrinsic factors such as work, friends, and Kelly.

The second research was taken from Nanik Marianti (2018) a student of Sultan Thaha Saifuddin Jambi Islamic University, who wrote a thesis entitled "The Safety and Esteem Needs, Fulfillment of Thomas as Seen in the Maze Runner's Film by Wess Ball". This research is focused on knowing the factors that influence Thomas to meet a sense of security and be valued, how Thomas meets a sense of security and is valued, and the impact of fulfilling a sense of security and appreciation Thomas in the film Maze Runner by Wess Ball.

The third research was taken from Fitria Nurkholis (2018), Sultan Thaha Saifuddin Jambi State Islamic University, who wrote a thesis entitled "Safety Need Reflected in the Valley of Shadows Novel by Dorothy Daniels". The results of this study show first, the character of Nancy Keith in the novel is the protagonist and can be described as the life of main character of life in the village of Sycamore, living in a cabin, she is a great teacher, a

condition that is not good in Nancy's life. Second, there are two main ways the main character meets his security needs, namely: 1. Commitment: a. he secures his identity, b. he gets a safe place 2. Making a good relationship: a. asking for protection from her aunt and her friend, b. she wants trust from others. Thirdly, there are several effects in fulfilling Nancy's sense of security, they are: 1. Self-confidence: a. freedom, b. self-confidence, 2. Happiness: a. Happiness b. satisfaction.

Method

The researcher used qualitative and descriptive research methods that are in line with the objectives of this study. The data is collected in the form of words as a descriptive explanation of the numbers. The results of the study contain excerpts from the data to describe and present them substantively. Qualitative is one type of research that does not include calculations or enumerations. The data used in qualitative research is in the form of words, sentences, discourses, pictures, diaries, memorandums, and videos. It is used to understand a phenomenon by concentrating on the overall picture rather than breaking it down into variables, the goal is more on a holistic picture and a deep understanding than the analysis of numerical data (Moelong, 2017).

Descriptive research is research that aims to accurately describe a phenomenon in terms of its characteristics, in which data are analyzed through interpretation rather than statistical analysis. Moh Nazir (2011) states that a descriptive method for describing research results. That is, it makes it easier for research to get the right data. In addition, descriptive methods are accurate systematic descriptions of individuals, groups, or communities, events, phenomena, or characteristics (such as choosing feelings or attitudes of preference).

Then the researcher chose a qualitative method of analyzed descriptive data written by the researcher to observed in this study. The data were analyzed used qualitative methods and presented descriptively. Used this a qualitative approach, the researcher finds it easy to analyzed the fulfillment of human needs and the conflicts described by the character Mailin Lee in *Turning Red* by Domee Shi from a psychological approach.

Finding and Discussion

A. Fulfillment of Human Needs the Main Character Depicted in the Film *Turning Red* by Domee Shi

Humans will never be satisfied with their needs. In line with that, there is Maslow's description (2019), humans are living beings whose lives are never fully satisfied, one need is satisfied, and another need will arise. This statement must have happened to the main character of the movie *Turning Red* by Domee Shi. Maslow's Hierarchy of Needs theory can be used to show the steps of needs that occur in Mailin Lee's life story as the main character in the film. It begins with his physiological needs as a human being then goes to a higher step of needs until he reaches the level of self-actualization.

The most basic needs are physiological needs. These first-level basic needs are related to the needs of each person's body. This basic need reflected through some of the scenes in the movie. Dialogue below is one of the examples.

Mother: Mei-Mei you finally come home, you're 10 minutes late. What's wrong? You're hurt?
are you hungry? (While putting food in Mei's mouth). How is your school today?

Mei: Great, as always.

Mother: Oh this is just a little intellectual mother. Now be an exemplary student tomorrow to be the secretary-general of the United Nations. Our ancestors will definitely be proud.

Mei: **(Eat available food).**

From the dialogues above, it can be seen that Mei came home from school to go to the temple next to her house. Mei, who was 10 minutes late because she was intercepted by her friend at karaoke, chose to go home because Mei felt she had responsibility for the temple run by her family. Then Mei's mother was worried about Mei's condition and thrust food into Mei's mouth and gobbled it up.

Second need is safety. This security need is more in children because their awareness of self-limitations is still lacking, so there is a need for others to provide security for them. An example of fulfilling the safety needs in this Turning Red film is when Mei wakes up surprised at her transformation into a giant red panda. Mei feels uncomfortable and hides behind the curtains in the bathroom. It can be concluded that humans will look for a safe place or something useful to protect their physical safety and comfort. Human beings have a fear of something. Humans need security and feel protection from some fears. Then it can be concluded that the data above has met the safety needs of Mei in the film Turning Red by Domee Shi.

Third need is the need for love, compassion, and belonging. The example of the fulfillment of this need can be seen through this dialogue.

Father : Father bring your doll

Mei : Thank you father

Mother: **This is only temporary Mei-Mei, this way we don't have to worry about other bad events (kissing Mei's forehead) Good night.**

Father : **Red is the color of luck.**

From the dialogue above, it can be seen that Mei's parents tried to calm Mei down after they found out about Mei's incident that turned into a red panda. Mei is exiled to a different room to avoid unstable emotions from occurring. The dialogue between Mother and Mei above shows that Mother Mei wants to convince Mei that what is happening now is not a terrible thing. Similarly, Father Mei's dialogue means that being a red panda is not a scary thing to deal with.

Fourth need is self-esteem. Self-esteem can come from oneself or others. For example, the fulfillment of esteem needs in the film Turning Red is when Mei shows a card for access to use public transportation at a fairly young age which can be seen in following dialogue.

Mei: **Not to brag, but being 13 means I'm officially a grown-up at least according to the Toronto Transit Commission.**

Bus driver: **good for you!**

Another example of self-esteem is as follow.

Mei: **I know, it's a lot, but this is grade eight. I don't got time to mess around. I guess you could call me...**

Teacher: **A very enterprising, mildly annoying young lady.**

Tyler: **An overachieving dork-narc.**

Mei: **I accept and embrace all labels. Share by sidewalk, people!**

anyway, who cares what stupid evil Tyler or anyone else thinks? This is going to be my year.

From the dialogues above, it can be seen that Mei is a smart and talented child even though it is annoying. Although Mei is busy, she is still number one academically in her life. Mei is also an energetic child and very confident in what he does. Mei excels both academically and outside of academia. Mei is the kind of person who loves herself. As long as she does not harm others.

The last need is self actualization. Maslow described self-actualization as a person's need to achieve what she wants to do. For example, in fulfilling the need for self-actualization in this turning red film, when Mei chooses to remain a panda even though it conflicts with family choices, especially her mother. This scene can be seen from the image and script below:

Mother: **You can do it. Keep going!**

Mei: **No!**

Grandma: What happened? What was that?

Mother: Mei-Mei... it's okay we can do it again. Mei-Mei?

Mei: **I'm keeping it.**

Grandma: **What did she say? Keeping it?**

Mei: **I'm keeping it!**

Mother: Mei-Mei

Grandma: Stop her!

Mother: **What are you doing? Stop, Mei-Mei!**

Auntie: Don't let her go!

Mei: **No! I'm going to the concert!**

Mother: Get back here!

Grandma: This is a disaster. Unbelievable

B. Conflicts Experience of the Main Character in Fulfillment of Human Needs in the Film Turning Red by Domee Shi

Conflicts can arise from various motives. One of the reasons why humans as living beings cause conflict is that when human civilization advances to a certain level, they will gradually lose self-control, which will lead to conflict. This statement occurs in the main character of the film Turning Red by Domee Shi, namely in fulfilling the hierarchy of human needs at the level of self-esteem needs and self-actualization.

In presenting this data, the researcher only discusses three conflicts, namely approach-approach conflict, avoidance-avoidance conflict, and approach-avoidance conflict. while some approach-avoidance conflicts were not discussed due to missing data. The researcher used Kurt Lewin's theory to analyze conflicts that occur in fulfilling the hierarchy of human needs, especially at the fourth and fifth levels.

1. Approach-approach conflict

The example of conflict can be seen as follow.

Miriam: **Wait! We're going karaoke today.**

Abby: Yes!

Priya: **Come with us. Please.**

Mei: **I... Cannot. it's cleaning day**

Miriam: **Mei, every day is cleaning day. Can't you just get one afternoon off?**

Mei: **But I like cleaning. (GASPS) Plus, I got this new feather duster and, oh, my gosh, you guys, it picks up so much dirt, it's bananas!**

Miriam: **Fine. I'll let you go. If you can pass the gauntlet.** Come on. Uh! Oh.

Mei: Mir, not now...

Miriam: **You can't resist it.**

(Mei and Friends Sings)

Miriam: **You passed. And here is your reward. Ninety-nine Australian tour, with the Girl I Love Your Jeans remix.**

Mei: **O-M-G, Mir! I'll guard it with my life! (KISSING LOUDLY) Oh, thank you, thank you, thank you! 4-Town 4-ever! We'll karaoke another time, I promise! It'll be on me. The snacks, the tunes...**

From the dialogue above, it can be seen that Mei is faced with two choices that she both likes, namely her best friend invites her to work together while there are activities the cleaning that Mei likes, especially coupled with a new duster that can lift a lot of dust. In addition to her love of cleaning, Mei feels an obligation and responsibility to the temple that her family runs. Both of those things are very pleasant things. But in the end, Mei chose to go home to clean the temple with her mother with her new feather duster.

The explanation refers to the conflict faced by Mei where the conflict is classified as a complex conflict that Mei involve more than two equally positive forces. This led to guidance in choosing him, but in the end, Mei managed to resolve the conflict by accepting the challenge from Meriam to sing along with him afterward Meriam also gave a gift because Mei had successfully accepted her challenge and invited Mei to choose to do cleaning activities at the temple.

1. Avoidance – avoidance Conflict

The second conflict of Kurt Lewin's theory is called the avoidance-avoidance conflict. Avoidance-avoidance conflict occurs when a person is faced with two unfavorable choices, (Lewin, 2013). It can also be described as the creation of two negative motives and confusion arises when it is required to move away from one negative motive but on the other hand, must also satisfy the other negative motive. When faced with this type of conflict, a person will feel uncomfortable.

In the film Tuning Red, the researcher found the avoidance-avoidance conflict in the scene where When Mei was studying but immediately painted a man, namely the daisy-mart guard named Dason, Then Mei's mothers found out about such things and angered Mei's mothers. Mei because mother forbade this. This scene can be seen in the scripts below:

Mei: **Hmm. Kind a look like Devon. I don't get what Mir sees in him. He's not that cute. Okay, his shoulder's, like, kind of nice, I guess. His eyes are... Fine.**

(mother enters the room)

Mother: May-May. Do you want a snack?

Mei: Cool, great, thanks.

Don't look at the notebook, don't look at the notebook, don't! No!

Mother: **Oh. Is this your homework?**

Mei: Mom... Don't!

Mother: Oh, my. What... What is...

Mei: Do not.

Mother: **Mei-Mei, what is this?**

Mei: **It's nothing. Just a boy. He's no one.**

Mother: **A boy? Who is he? Did he do these things to you?**

Mei: **No! It's just made up, Mom! It's not real.**

Mother: **That hat. Is that the sketchy clerk from the Daisy Mart?**

This scene shows the hierarchy of human needs one of the needs of self-esteem, where researchers conclude that this scene is part of the self-actualization faced by two choices she didn't like very much. Mei puts aside her ego and needs to appreciate what her mother does. Maybe her mother thought it was a defense for Mei, but for Mei, it was a shame. It is undeniable that at the end of the dialogue, Mei mentions that she is fine, solely because she does not want her mother to go further and do anything outside reason.

Both of these choices are difficult choices, on the one hand, Mei feels very embarrassed and disappointed about it, but on the one hand, she is also not comfortable if she has to advise his mother. Then at the end of the dialogue, Mei said that everything was fine. So, it can be concluded that this scene really shows the avoidance-avoidance conflict that occurs and Mei has chosen her choice even though the choice is not what she likes.

2. Approach-avoidance Conflict

The third conflict of Kurt Lewin's theory is called approach-avoidance conflict. According to Lewin (2013), This conflict develops when two opposing forces emerge from the same goal at the same time. That is, conflict arises when two opposing motives about an object are present at the same time, one positive and the other negative. Then there is guidance, on whether to approach or stay away from the object.

For example, in the film *Turning Red* where Mei and her best friend discuss how if Mei did not perform the ritual of releasing the panda from her body and set the panda forever in the body That's because her best friend prefers the Panda version of Mei over the previous one. For more details this scene can be seen in the picture and script below:

Miriam: **Mei, what if you didn't do the ritual? What if you kept the panda?**

Mei: **What?**

Miriam: **Look at you! You're not the same feather-Dustin', straight-A, goody-goody...**

Priya: **Who we never saw, like, ever.**

Abby: yes.

Miriam: **You're such a rebel now.**

Mei: **Guys, I can't be like this forever. My whole family would freak. Especially my mom. All her hopes and dreams are pinned on me.**

Miriam: **I know. But you've really changed and I'm proud of you. Just don't get rid of all of it, you know?**

Abby: **yes. If it weren't for you, none of this would be happening. You the bomb!**

Priya: Word. You da bomb, May.

Mei: No, you da bomb.
Miriam: We all da bomb!
All: Yes. Yes. Yes!
Mei: We da bomb!

In the dialogue above, it can be seen that Mei is gathering with her best friend on the roof of Tyler's house. They told me about tomorrow because tomorrow is the day when they will watch the concert of their favorite boy band called "4town". While imagining how tomorrow's performance will be performed by the boyband.

On the other hand, Miriam suddenly asked what if Mei did not perform the ritual of releasing the panda from her and defending the panda. Mei's friends like Mei who is now with the panda because they see the emergence of freedom from her since the panda is in Mei's body.

Mei denied Mir's question because she could not keep the panda because he was the pride of his family. Mei didn't want to disappoint her parents, especially her mother. Because Mei's mother put all hope into Mei so she had to realize those hopes and dreams. After listening to Mei's explanation, her friend understood it because her friend was very proud of Mei's achievements so far and would continue to support Mei forever.

This scene also shows the hierarchy of human needs one of the esteem needs, where researchers conclude that this scene is part of a sense of recognition and appreciation carried out by her friends Mei, while Mei must realize her mother's wish which makes Mei not free to express herself. Two opposing motives arise about an object being present at the same time, one pleasing and the other unpleasant.

Conclusion

There are some findings related to the topic. First The fulfillment of need in Mei lin reflected well in the movie. The hierarchy of need in Maslow's theory can be shown through the scene in the movie. Second, the researcher found conflict factors in Meilin Lee as the main character in the film Turning Red by Domee Shi. Conflict factors are divided into three types: approach-approach conflict (an individual is faced with two desired choices) positive goals refer to desired alternatives, and avoidance-avoidance conflict (an individual is faced with two choices that are undesirable) Moving away from one negative goal leads to the pursuit of other negative desires, which is a core difficulty with this type of conflict, and an approach-avoidance conflict (an individual who is faced with an unwanted and desirable choice at the same time) when an individual is faced with two desirable options, but only one can be obtained, Positive goal refers to the desired alternative.

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