

The Hierarchy of Needs and Personalities of Characters in the Novel *Luka Cita* by Valerie Patkar

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Article History: Received on 6 February 2026, Revised on 9 February 2026,
Published on 7 April 2026

Abstract: This study aims to describe the portrayal of Abraham Maslow's hierarchy of needs and Sigmund Freud's tripartite personality structure within the characters of Valerie Patkar's novel *Luka Cita*. Employing a descriptive qualitative method, the research used documentation for data collection, with the novel as the primary source. Data were analyzed through content analysis to identify and interpret the relevant psychological constructs. The analysis confirms the presence of both theoretical frameworks. All five stages of Maslow's needs physiological, safety, love/belonging, esteem, and self-actualization are gradually fulfilled by the characters. Simultaneously, the interaction of Freud's id, ego, and superego structures forms the internal conflicts driving character development. The research provides a novel, dual-theory psycho-literary analysis of a contemporary Indonesian novel, concurrently applying Maslow's humanistic and Freud's psychodynamic theories to interpret character motivation and conflict. The study demonstrates a replicable framework for literary criticism, enabling educators and scholars to conduct structured psychological analyses of character development in narrative fiction. It contributes to cross-cultural literary psychology by validating the applicability of these foundational Western psychological theories to modern Indonesian literature, enriching the interpretation of its thematic depth and character complexity.

Keywords: Hierarchy of Needs, Literary Psychology, Personality of Characters

A. Introduction

Literature is part of the branch of art that contains beauty, literature has always been in human civilization since ancient times (Yazdani, & Zohoori, 2023; Duhan, 2015). The presence of literature in human civilization is undeniably in great demand because the presence of literature is accepted and as entertainment from the fatigue of society facing the turmoil of life, especially literature contains inspiring life values. Literature as entertainment that contains artistic value that will not be obsolete by time from ancient times to modern times until now literature still has its own attraction of interesting and aesthetic works. Literature is the result of the creativity of an author who comes from human life directly through creation or essays using language media. In addition, literature is the result of a culture that attaches importance to beauty by using language

media in its delivery. Literature is a creation in oral or written form that has various advantages such as originality, artistry, beauty in content and expression, and using language as a medium. Meanwhile, according to Iskandar & Suyatno (2021), literature is a window to the soul, literature presents humans in various actions to achieve desired expectations. Literature is a manifestation of the human mind and emotions.

Literary works are a reflection of the contradictions and conflicts that occur in human life, because the stories raised in literary works are in accordance with the reality that exists in people's lives (Fajriani, et al., 2024). So that literary works are the product of intellectual, emotional, and human will creations that are manifested through the power of imagination and conveyed through the medium of language. As Endraswara (2013) argues that literary works are works that are produced from human life stories that are full of challenges, the expression of the reality of life with artistic language so that it is able to arouse the feelings of its readers. The literary work produced by each writer is a result motivated by personal experiences that are felt, seen and heard by the writer. Therefore, the disclosure of perceived psychological conditions can be described through language as the medium. Literary works have an imaginary nature, created from a combination of deep thoughts, fantasies, and feelings of the author, then arranged in a series of words that are able to captivate and arouse emotions in readers. One form of literary work produced by writers is novels (Fatahilah, et al., 2022; Adlan & Nirmawan, 2023).

Novels are imaginative works that tell the problems in human life with a long and complex plot, so that novels are representations of the reality of human life that are never free from contradiction (Hutasoit, et al., 2023). As well as Semi (2021's) opinion that novels are grouped into fictional works. The creation of a novel requires a high level of imagination. In a novel, the author goes to great lengths to use storylines to direct the reader to see and understand the representation of the reality of life. In general, novels raise issues and problems that exist in daily life. Therefore, novels can be seen as a reflection or an image of human existence. The stories in the novel also vary, ranging from romantic stories of romance, social, political, religious, and life conflicts that drain emotions for the reader. In addition, novel connoisseurs are not only limited to reading a novel, but more than that, novel connoisseurs can analyze a literary work of this type of prose using various approaches. One approach that can be used to analyze novels is the literary psychology approach (Widayanti, 2022).

Literary psychology is a study that examines literary works, especially novels, which are believed to be able to describe psychological activities and processes. In reviewing a literary work, the approach of literary psychology is used (Moghaddam, 2004; Aras, 2015). What needs to be considered is how closely related psychology and the author's expertise are in presenting existing fictional characters with psychiatric problems (Minderop, 2018). In addition, literary psychology is a science that will continue to develop, along with the development of thought which is strengthened by relevant studies among psychological experts on human character that have given rise to a theory that arises due to the influence

of the individual viewpoints and experiences of experts who trigger the theory of literary psychology. Literary theories that can be used to analyze a literary work are the psychological theory of Abraham Maslow's hierarchy of needs and Sigmund Freud's personality theory. Both theories are relevant and discuss the needs and personality of humans as individual and social beings.

Analyzing the focus of the characters' characters, it can be described the emotions, characters, characters, hierarchy of needs and personalities as well as the inner conflicts experienced by the characters contained in literary works. If a lover of literature, especially an educator, analyzes a novel using the theory of hierarchy of needs and personality, namely Abraham Maslow's theory and Sigmund Freud's theory, it will benefit.

The benefits of analyzing the hierarchy of needs and personality of the characters of a novel are very important. Because the function of literary works other than entertainment or recreation is to have a much more important function, namely literary works can be teaching materials because one of the functions of literature is didactic. Through the analysis of the hierarchy of needs and character of characters in a literary work, namely an educator's novel, an educator can describe a character who has a hierarchy of needs and an inspiring personality to be an example of role models, motivation for students, this can be a teaching material for an educator. As in literary learning in the 2013 curriculum on inspirational story material (K13, KD 3.11) Identify the content of expressions of sympathy, concern, empathy or personal feelings from the inspirational story text read and heard. In this case, an educator can describe a character who has a hierarchy of needs and personality, a good character to be able to inspire and motivate students to learn. As the opinion of Rosnawati & Wahab (2021) Motivation has an influence on the effectiveness of learning activities. Motivation is defined as the impact of the need and desire for something and the direction of a person's behavior. If the hierarchy of students' needs and personalities has been met, their motivation to learn will increase. The hierarchy of needs and needs is a human psychological symptom that can be analyzed by utilizing the literary psychology approach. The theory that can be used to analyze the hierarchy of needs and personality is with two theories of literary psychology, namely in this case using the theory put forward by Sigmund Freud and the theory of the hierarchy of needs of Abraham Maslow using the literary psychology approach.

Abraham Maslow was born in New York, United States in 1908, a psychologist who was quite influential in the twentieth century, a theorist and a pioneer of the humanistic school of psychology, which inspired a lot about personality theory (Lynch, 1973). Known as Maslow's prominent hierarchy of needs theory to inspire humans to meet their needs ranging from basic needs to the need for self-actualization as human beings and social beings. Maslow's theory is interesting because it is balanced at the top of the pyramid of human needs.

Sigmund Freud is one of the famous psychoanalytic figures of the twentieth century, many theories about human psychology developed by (Freud, & Numbers, 2014; Shreyas, et. al., 2024), one of which he originated the theory of personality as a result of the relationship of three main components, namely *id*, *ego*, and *superego*. This theory is one of the theories that is suitable for analyzing literary works such as novels. A lover of literary works can analyze with two theories, namely Maslow's theory of hierarchy of needs and Sigmund Freud's theory of personality, one of the novels that is suitable for analysis using these two theories is Valerie Patkar's novel *Luka Cita* kaya.

The novel *Luka Cita* by Valerie Patkar has an inspiring, unique and interesting storyline that tells the story of the two main characters, namely Utara and Zavier how the two characters struggle to face the harshness of life many times experiencing failures in achieving their dreams and finding their identity in life. The storyline of this novel tells the story of the character of North, a female chess athlete who experiences dyslexia so that she is unable to excel in terms of her academic education. This made North's parents so disappointed by the situation that North felt burdened and depressed by his shortcomings, eventually he met an inspirational teacher who introduced chess to his life. Because of North's persistence, he was able to excel and make his parents proud of his achievements. However, it lasted a short time, because in a condition that made the North depressed by the competition of the chess world, he had to lose his best friend, this made the North decide to retire early from the chess world that had raised his name.

In addition to the North character in this novel, it also tells the story of Javier, a tough and ambitious young man in building his business company, he founded a start-up company, pioneered a business ambitiously, but in Javier's life he faced family conflicts that drained his emotions and put personality pressure on Javier's character, on the other hand he had to fight for the company or let go because of a circumstance. Examined from the storyline and the conflicts experienced by the characters, this novel is suitable for analysis using the theory of the hierarchy of needs from Abraham Maslow and the personality theory from Sigmund Freud.

Based on the above background explanation, we were interested in analyzing the novel using two theories of the hierarchy of needs from Abraham Maslow and the personality theory from Sigmund Freud. Through these two theories, the researcher will analyze and describe the hierarchical needs and personalities of the characters in the novel *Luka Cita* by Valerie Patkar. Therefore, this research is entitled "Hierarchy of the Needs and Personalities of Characters in the Novel *Luka Cita* by Valerie Patkar". The focus of this research is 1) What is the hierarchy of the needs of the characters in the novel *Luka Cita* by Valerie Patkar; 2) What is the personality of the characters in the novel *Luka Cita* by Valerie Patkar.

B. Methods

This research uses novels as research subjects so that researchers can be more flexible, can be anywhere and anytime. In this study, the researcher used a qualitative descriptive method. Tarigan, (2021) stated that the qualitative descriptive method is a problem-solving procedure that is investigated by describing the state of the subject or object of literary research, for example (novels, dramas, short stories, and poems) by producing descriptive data in the form of written words based on existing facts. The descriptive method is used in this study to analyze or review the analysis of the novel *Luka Cita* by Valerie Patkar. This research uses a literary psychology approach, which is the science that views literary works as a psychiatric activity according to Pamin (Nugroho & Parmin, 2020) the literary psychology approach is an approach applied to literary works (interpreting and assessing literary works with psychology) which is the main study in literary psychology. It can be concluded that in this study, the researcher described the hierarchy of Maslow's needs and the personality of the characters in the novel *Luka Cita* by Valerie Patka using a literary psychology approach.

According to Arikunto (2013), the source of data in the study is the subject from which data can be obtained. The data source used in this study is the primary data source. Primary data sources are the main data sources in a study (Siswanto, 2005). The primary data source in this study is in the form of novel texts. The identification of the data source is as follows:

Title	:	Luka Cita
Author	:	Valerie Patkar
Place of publication	:	Jakarta
Publisher	:	Bhuana of popular science
Year of publication	:	2022
Number of pages	:	440

The data in this study is contained in the novel *Luka Cita* written by Valerie Patkar, consisting of 440 pages, and published by Bhuana Ilmu Populer in 2022. The researcher uses documentation techniques in data collection in the research. Documentation techniques are techniques for finding data about variables, things in the form of transcript records, books, newspapers, papers, inscriptions, and so on (Arikunto, 2013). A document is a record of events that have occurred which is usually in the form of writings, works, pictures of a person. The data analysis technique used by the researcher to analyze this novel is *the content analysis* technique. Jabrohim (2017), stated that *this content analysis* seeks to analyze documents to find out the content and meaning contained in the document. In the data collection technique, the researcher acts as an active reader, namely by reading critically continuously, observing and identifying the language units contained in the novel. The steps of the researcher in analyzing the data are as follows:

1. Read Valerie Patkar's novel *Luka Cita* carefully and carefully;
2. Reading over and over again in analyzing Valerie Patkar's novel *Luka Cita*;
3. Creating a synopsis and identifying the characters in Valerie Patkar's novel *Luka Cita*;
4. Identifying data related to the hierarchy of needs of the characters in Valerie Patkar's novel *Luka Cita*;
5. Identifying data related to the personality structure of characters in Valerie Patkar's novel *Luka Cita*;
6. Analyzing the hierarchical needs and personalities of characters in Valerie Patkar's novel *Luka Cita* using the theories of Abraham Maslow and Sigmund Freud;
7. Read references used in research. Like the theory used to analyze the novel, namely, the theory of Maslow's hierarchy of needs and Sigmund Freud's personality; and
8. Concluding the overall analysis.

C. Results and Discussion

Maslow's Hierarchy of Needs

After we analyzed and studied the novel *Luka Cita* by Valerie Patkar, the research findings showed that the characters experienced dynamics in meeting their needs both psychologically and physiologically complex. The conflict experienced by the characters appears through the struggle between personal desires and social norms. This is in line with Freud's psychoanalytic theory which emphasizes the existence of a battle between the id, ego and superego (Rennison, 2015; Azmi, 2023). The results of the character analysis show that id impulses are in the form of desires to be held back by the superego based on moral values and social values as well as norms that apply in the social environment. Ego acts as a mediator. However, it often makes the characters experience a continuous dilemma.

An overview from the perspective of Maslow's hierarchy of needs theory (Rojas, et. al., 2023; King-Hill, 2015). The figures show efforts to meet basic needs such as physical needs which are the main needs, the need for a sense of security, the need for love and affection, the need to be appreciated to the need for self-actualization. The characters strive in a gradual way to meet all levels of needs. However, some of the characters have unmet needs that cause frustration and affect the development of the character's personality. These findings show that literary works not only contain aesthetic aspects but also present diverse human psychological problems.

Self-defense mechanisms to meet the level of need also arise as a character's strategy to deal with psychological mental pressure. Characters often use rationalization and projection as a form of protection against the failures and guilt they experience. This can indicate that the author has succeeded in presenting a character that is realistic

and close to the personal experience felt by the reader's psychology or connoisseur of literary works because basically the storyline contained in the novel is based on the story and reality based on personal experience, both the author's personal experience and the personal experience of others.

Physiological Needs

The results of the analysis of the research findings can be seen that in the novel *Luka Cita* by Valere Patkar, the characters experience dynamics in meeting the needs of physical needs which are the main needs that must be met before other needs. In meeting physical needs, the characters are described as struggling to meet basic needs such as eating, drinking, shelter and health in the midst of limited living conditions. The fulfillment of these physiological needs is often hampered by the inner conflicts and social pressures experienced by the characters.

In addition, the fulfillment of physical needs in this novel is not only physical but also a symbol of the character's struggle to survive mentally in the midst of the struggle to achieve goals, find identity and find the meaning of life. As experienced by the North character in the midst of the conflict he experienced made it difficult for him to rest and the inner pressure made the North experience obstacles in meeting his physical needs but step by step his physical needs were still met, as well as the character of Javier the family conflict he faced made it difficult for him to meet his physical needs and persistence in establishing his company often made Javier ignore his physical needs, namely food. Although physical needs are the main needs so that whatever obstacles this lack of health is still met, as well as the characters Aslan and Lando to meet their physical needs, one of which is economic limitations that make these two characters to meet their physical needs such as a place to live because they have to rent because they do not have a house, even though the two characters are still met with their physical needs gradually.

Safety Needs

Based on the results of the discussion and data findings in the study, it can be seen that the characters in *Valere Patkar's novel Luka Cita* after the basic needs are met, the characters try to gradually meet all levels of needs based on Maslow's theory. In meeting the needs of a sense of security both physically and psychologically. The characters want to be free from fear, trauma and uncertainty of life. In the course of the story, the character experiences anxiety due to social pressure, especially in the main character, namely the North, caused by the fierce competition in the chess world which has buried his ideals into despair and trauma that has an impact on his psychology. The sense of security in this novel is described not only as physical protection, but also as emotional protection, that is, the need to feel calm, accepted, and not judged by the social environment, even though the need for a sense of security in the Northern characters has been fulfilled both in the family, social and community

environment. Likewise, the character of Javier has fulfilled his need for a sense of security, for example in terms of finances because the character Javier has succeeded in establishing a company and is growing quite rapidly so that the needs of the financial and financial security of the character Javier have been well met, as well as the characters Lando and Aslan. The two characters become Javier's work and at the same time as Javier's right-hand man so that the financial needs of the two characters have been well met. Basically, the need for a sense of security also includes financial needs because a person who has fulfilled his financial needs will feel financially secure and safe from a monetary crisis.

The Need For Ownership And Love

In Valere Patkar's novel *Luka cita*, the characters have been fulfilled the need for ownership and love. Affection, attention and love can be obtained from family, life partners, sabahat and colleagues who show attention and concern. The need for ownership and love is the third level of need based on the theory put forward by Abraham Maslow. Based on the results of data analysis, it was found that the main character of North, in addition to getting affection from his family, he also made love with the character Javier, aiming to provide support to each other to achieve goals and find a purpose in life, while other characters such as Lando and Aslan received affection from family and friends. After the needs of love are met, it will have a positive effect, when the needs of love and affection are met, humans will feel more confident and easy in making decisions in their lives. The need for love becomes a turning point in the character's psychological development, positive interactions help the character begin to trust others and heal inner wounds. This novel emphasizes the importance of emotional connection in building a sense of self-confidence and realizing goals after many failures.

Needs Will Be Appreciated

Based on the results of the analysis of the discussion, it can be found that in the novel *Luka Cita* by Valere Patkar, the characters in need to be appreciated have been fulfilled because the spirit and hard work of the characters in this novel have finally received awards from family, friends and the social environment. The figure of the North thanks to his persistence and hard work he was able to become a female chess athlete who achieved proud achievements and the figure of Javier with his hard work and resilience he managed to establish a company that was able to open jobs for his friends. All the efforts and achievements achieved have received awards from their families, friends and social environment. In addition, the two characters Lando and Aslan have also been fulfilled the need to be appreciated, namely, the two figures have succeeded in carrying out their duties in the company well so that they receive appreciation and praise from Javier as the leader in the company. The need for appreciation in this novel reflects the process of emotional maturation. The character strikes a balance between the need to be appreciated by others and the need to appreciate others.

The Need for Self-Actualization

The need for self-actualization in this novel is the culmination of the character's journey when he achieves a complete self-understanding and finds his identity. Based on the results of data analysis, it can be seen that the main character of North and the character Javier have achieved self-actualization thanks to their hard work and struggle to find their identity and meaning in life. In this novel it provides a lesson that thanks to effort, hard work and struggle will get maximum results. Although before reaching his goal, he must experience sadness and must make peace with the past. In the main character of North thanks to his hard work he managed to become a famous athlete, the character of Javier with his efforts and struggles he managed to establish a company, the character Lando with his hard work he was able to become a reliable graphic designer and Aslan with his hard work he was able to become a reliable employee and was able to complete his tasks well.

Personality of Sigmund Freud

Personality Id

The findings of the study can be found that the characters in Valere Patkar's novel *Luka Cita* have experienced emotional turmoil and inner pressure as a result of the conflicts experienced by the characters. The results of the id personality analysis dominated the figures. It is caused by an emotional impulse in the form of a desire to find one's identity and make peace with the past, resulting in psychological inner pressure. The character tries to escape from pain, rejects harsh reality and seeks instant calm, often acting in an insurmountable way to close off and avoid social pressure. As experienced by the North character, he tries to run away from the problems he is experiencing, namely competition and inner pressure from the chess world, even though he is talented and accomplished as a chess athlete because of the psychological pressure experienced by the North character, he decides to stop being a chess athlete and chooses to apply for a job at Javier's company. Meanwhile, Javier's id personality is also more prominent due to the inner pressure and turmoil he experiences in business competition as well as his ambition to make the company he founded more advanced and successful. Furthermore, the characters Lando and Aslan also experience personality id caused by the pressure in life and work to complete the tasks that are their obligations. Basically, id is a personality that humans carry from birth and becomes a personality under the conscious realm and will instinctively come out if a person is under emotional pressure.

Ego Personality

Based on the results of the analysis of the characters in the novel *Luka Cita* by Valery Patkar, the characters show their ego personality after being able to reconcile with themselves and find their identity and find the meaning of life. The ego function

begins to appear when the problems experienced by the characters in the novel find solutions or solutions. After the conflicts and problems faced gradually find solutions. Just as the conflict experienced by the main character of North gradually improved when he received support from his parents to get out of the chess world that had raised his name, even so, the North character still has the dream of becoming a professional chess athlete so he returns to the world of chess thanks to the encouragement of his lover, Javier and the support of his family and friends. Slowly, the Northern character shows his ego personality and thinks logically and rationally so that he is able to make the best decisions in his life. Although previously North decided to get out of the percasi grub and fight on his own to become a professional chess athlete. The ego personality makes the Northern character careful in acting, he is able to balance impulses or desires emotionally by maintaining stability, using logic in deciding a problem based on reality. While the character of Javier is also able to balance between id personality and ego personality, when making decisions in the business world Javier is slowly able to balance emotions with logic thanks to the support of his two best friends, namely Aslan and Lando so that in deciding a problem Javier is able to think bold and rational.

Superego Personality

Based on the findings of the research, it can be found that the superego personality is reflected in Valere Patkar's novel *Luka Cita* in the more dominant Northern character, he tries to be polite and patient when facing his parents who insist on wanting the North to follow his will, namely not to get out of the chess grub percasi. Although North did not agree with his parents' decision, he still showed respect and respect for his parents, he did not reject them directly, but North showed his hard work to become an athlete independently and be able to make achievements. Superego personality can be seen from moral values, good attitudes and guarding oneself from attitudes that violate the moral rules that apply in the social environment. Overall, the findings of this study show that literary works can be a medium to understand the psychological conditions experienced by humans (Moghaddam, 2004; Dar, 2022). Analysis of literary psychology opens up opportunities to see and interpret authors, create characters with psychological depth and how connoisseurs of literary works can reflect these experiences in the real world.

This research has an innovation in the approach to literary psychology analysis lies in the incorporation of Freud's and Maslow's theories in an integrated manner (Blohowiak, 2012). using these two theories to study and analyze the characters of Valerie Patkar's novel *Luka cita*. The theories used by the researcher are Singmund Frued's personality theory and Maslow's humanistic theory of the hierarchy of needs. This research focuses on examining personality structure and the fulfillment of basic needs, both physiological and psychological needs. In addition, this researcher also presents novelty by integrating the two theories, personality theory and Maslow's hierarchy of needs simultaneously to examine the psychological development of

characters in literary works. Through this approach, the researcher not only explains the aspects of id, ego and superego but also explores how these personality dynamics affect the process of fulfilling needs from the basic level to self-actualization. Thus this study offers a more confessional perspective.

The novelty of this research is expected to make a theoretical and practical contribution to the study of literary psychology, especially in expanding understanding of how the personality of characters develops along with the fulfillment of life needs. In addition, this study also enriches the literature review by bringing together two theories of personality and humanistic psychology in one integrated analysis. So as to produce findings that are more in-depth and relevant to the complex context of modern human life.

D. Conclusions

This study demonstrates that a dual-theoretical framework, integrating Sigmund Freud's personality structure with Abraham Maslow's hierarchy of needs, provides a profound and comprehensive lens for analyzing character development in Valerie Patkar's novel *Luka Cita*. The key finding is the intricate interplay between internal psychological conflicts and the external pursuit of need fulfillment across the four primary characters Utara, Javier, Aslan, and Lando. Freud's model reveals how each character consistently navigates the tension between instinctual Id impulses, realistic Ego mediations, and moral Superego dictates, driven by their respective conflicts. Simultaneously, Maslow's theory maps their motivational journeys, confirming that all characters achieve self-actualization only after sequentially satisfying their physiological, safety, love/belonging, and esteem needs. Crucially, the research confirms that personality dynamics directly shape the manner in which each character strives for and attains these needs. The primary practical implication lies in literary pedagogy and creative writing. This analytical model offers a structured method for students and writers to deconstruct and construct complex characters, understanding how deep-seated psychological forces logically motivate a character's actions and growth arcs. Furthermore, the novel itself, through this analysis, can be seen as a valuable pedagogical tool for teaching foundational concepts in personality psychology and humanistic motivation in an engaging, narrative context. For future research, it is recommended to apply this combined Freudian-Maslowian framework to a broader corpus of contemporary Indonesian literature to test its explanatory universality across different genres and authors. Additionally, research could qualitatively explore reader reception, investigating whether audiences intuitively perceive these psychological layers and whether such recognition affects the novel's impact. Finally, incorporating other developmental or social psychology theories could offer comparative insights, potentially revealing dimensions of character interaction and social influence that this initial dual-theory approach may not fully capture. This study thus establishes a robust interdisciplinary foundation for further exploration of the rich nexus between psychology and narrative fiction.

E. Acknowledgement

We acknowledge the respondents, lecturers and friends in Universitas PGRI Palembang.

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