CHAPTER I

INTRODUCTION

1.1   Background of the Study

Literature is any kind of expression that expresses and transmits feelings, ideas, thoughts, and human attitudes, whether it is written or spoken. As stated by Esten (1978:9), literature is an artistic and imaginative expression of facts through language as a medium, which has a positive impact on human life and society in general. Literature can also be interpreted as a medium through which an author may communicate his ideas and feelings about life. Authors can use literature to describe problems that exist in the community in which they live. Literary works are classified into three types, namely prose, poetry, and drama. As we know, drama is one of the kinds of literary work that can be performed on stage, on film, or on the radio. One kind of drama that shares some aspects of science that can be analyzed is film.

For some people, watching the film has become one of their daily activities. Usually, people watch films for entertainment, to gain knowledge, or to do research. The film is one of the communication mediums to deliver and represent the message to the audience who watch the film. Because of its audiovisual aspect, live visuals, and sounds, the film is also viewed as a potent communication medium with the targeted masses. The film is able to convey a lot in a short amount of time by using images and sounds. When viewing a film, the audience feels as if they can traverse space and time, telling the audience about

1

life and even affecting them. Of the many characters that appear in a film, the audience can appraise the personality of each character based on their motivation, needs, thoughts, feelings, actions, or behavior because each character must have their own unique characteristics. In the film, the main character is the most important part because they represent the heart of the story. According to Gill (1995:127), the main character is a character that plays an important, dominant, and high-intensity role in every conflict that builds a story and is usually complex and fully developed. The main character can support the development of a film through the personality and character of the person and excite the story from the beginning to the end.

From the audience's perspective, the audience prefers convincing dialogue and interesting and relatable characters. In addition, the audience also likes the genre of the film, which is closer to life and more concerned with the problems that often occur in real life. The problems of life itself are closely related to the fulfillment of a series of needs to continue life. In fulfilling life's needs, human behavior has a large influence on the human tendency to live a satisfying life. In this situation, psychology-related behavior is a reflection of personality that may be seen in real life in satisfying needs. The theory of needs is studied by various psychologists in the field of psychology. One of the most popular needs theories was developed by Abraham Maslow. Maslow created the needs theory based on the underlying motivational assumption that humans are always driven by one or more needs. If a need is met, the power of motivation can be lost and then replaced by another need. This theory became known as the "hierarchy of

needs." In this theory, Maslow mentions five levels of needs that are arranged hierarchically.

Based on the explanation above, the writer focused on psychological analysis of the main character, Frances Halladay, viewed by the theory of the Hierarchy of Needs by Abraham Maslow, in fulfilling and achieving her personal needs goals that make her life full of meaning and satisfaction. In addition, the writer has also analyzed the characterization of Frances Halladay by using the theory of Boggs and Petrie about the theory of characterization in the film.

1.2   Problems of the Study

There are two problems examined in this study, namely:

1. How does Frances Halladay fulfill her needs viewed from the theory of Hierarchy of Needs by Abraham Maslow?

2. What are the characterizations of Frances Halladay in the *Frances Ha* film?

1.3   Objectives of the Study

The analysis is focused on the study of the psychological aspects of the *Frances Ha* film. The writer has divided this study into two objectives, which are intended to:

1. To explain how Frances Halladay meets her needs as viewed by the theory of the Hierarchy of Needs by Abraham Maslow.

2. To analyze the characterization of Frances Halladay that is described in the film *Frances Ha*.

1.4 Limitation of the Study

Films can be analyzed from various perspectives. Meanwhile, this study is limited because the writer only focuses on explaining how the main character, Frances Halladay, as presented in the Frances Ha film, meets her needs based on Abraham Maslow's theory of the Hierarchy of Needs (1943) and finding out how Frances Halladay's characterization is described using the theory of the theory by Boggs and Petrie (2008) in their book "The Art of Watching Film".

1.5 Significance of the Study

The writer has goals to be achieved to give the theoretical significance and the practical significance. The following are the explanations:

1.5.1 Theoretical Significance

Based on the objectives of the study, the writer hopes that readers will gain a better understanding of literary works, in this case, films. In particular, the reader understands the process of how the main character in a literary work can successfully fulfill and satisfy his or her needs using a psychoanalysis approach to the Hierarchy of Needs proposed by Maslow.

1.5.2   Practical Significance

Based on the objectives of the study, the result of this study is conducted as an attainment of the requirements for obtaining a bachelor's degree in English Literature at the Mahasaraswati University of Denpasar. Moreover, the writer is expected to make a valuable contribution as a reference to future researchers who may be interested in conducting research that is associated with this study.

CHAPTER II

REVIEW OF RELATED LITERATURE, CONCEPTS, ANDTHEORIES

To gain a better understanding of the psychological aspects of the characterization of Frances Halladay as the main character in the *Frances Ha* film and to study the psychological features of the main character, the writer collects and reviews various references from prior research that was done for use in this study. Aside from that, the author introduces various concepts relevant to this study, as well as several theories to cover the research that was used to analyze the data and show the evidence.

2.1 Review of Related Literature

Takdir Budiman (2018) has conducted a thesis entitled *"The Hierarchy of Main Character Needs in the "Bastard" Webtoon Comic"*. This study intends to examine the main character's hierarchical needs in Bastard's Webtoon comic based on Maslow's theory of the hierarchy of needs, which includes physiological needs, safety needs, love and belongingness needs, esteem needs, and self-actualization needs. He used note-taking as an instrument to obtain valid data and used qualitative descriptive methods in disclosing the data. The results showed that Jin, the main character in the Webtoon comic *Bastard*, had fulfilled his needs, and he made security needs a priority in his life because his father always beat him all the time, so he tried to save himself.

The differences between the previous study and this study are the objective of the study and the source of data for the study. In the previous study, the writer focused on showing the side of needs of the main character in the Webtoon comic entitled *"Bastard."* Meanwhile, for this study, besides the needs of the main character, the writer is also focusing on the characterization of the main character using the theory of Boggs and Petrie about characterization. Furthermore, the data source for this study is from a film entitled *Frances Ha*, whereas, in the previous study, it was from a Webtoon comic entitled *Bastard*. The similarity between this study and the previous study is that both researchers use the same theory of Maslow's Hierarchy of Needs.

The other thesis is based on Putri Arti Lestari's (2019) *"Hierarchy of Needs of Lily Bloom in Colleen Hoover's It Ends With Us"*. This study is focused on finding the intrinsic elements, which are the character and characterization of the main characters and supporting characters, and also the conflicts of the main character in *It Ends with Us* by Colleen Hoover, and intends to examine the extrinsic element of Lily Bloom's Hierarchy of Needs as the main character based on Maslow's theory. The analysis of intrinsic and extrinsic aspects was supported by close reading and contextual methods. The results of this study indicated that the main character in the novel by Colleen Hoover entitled *"It Ends with Us"* can meet all five levels of needs, such as physiological, safety, love and belonging, esteem, and self-actualization needs.

The differences between the previous study and this study are the objective of the study, the method, and the data source of the research. In this

study, the writer is concerned with revealing intrinsic elements such as character, characterization, and conflicts between the main and supporting characters, as well as the extrinsic elements of the main character's hierarchy of needs. Meanwhile, for this study, besides the main character's hierarchy of needs, the writer is only focusing on the characterization of the main character using the theory by Boggs and Petrie about characterization in the film. The method for the previous study used close-reading and contextual methods, whereas in this study the writer used qualitative descriptive methods. Furthermore, the source of data for this study is from a film entitled *Frances Ha*, whereas, in the previous study, it was from a novel by Colleen Hoover entitled *It Ends with Us*. The similarity between both studies is that the researchers used the same theory, which is the Maslow's Hierarchy of Needs.

Pardi Bilalia (2018) has conducted an article entitled *"Psychological Analysis on the Main Character Personality in Roald Dahl's Short Stories"*. In three Roald Dahl short stories, namely, *Fantastic Mr. Fox, The Twits, and The Witches*, the author is interested in exploring the psychology of the personality of the main character using Maslow's theory of five levels of needs. To explain the data in this study, he used the qualitative descriptive method. The result of this study is that short stories by Roald Dahl illustrate the importance of the need and motivation theory by Abraham Maslow that really affects humans, animals, and others.

The differences between the previous study and this study are the objective of the study and the source of data for the research. In the study, Pardi

Bilalia is concerned only with the hierarchy needs of the main character. Meanwhile, for this study, besides the hierarchy needs of the main character, the writer is also focusing on the characterization of the main character using Boggs and Petrie's theory of characterization in the film. Furthermore, the source of data for this study is from a film entitled *Frances Ha*, whereas the previous study used three short stories by Roald Dahl, namely, *Fantastic Mr. Fox, The Twits, and The Witches*. The similarity is that both studies used the same theory and focused on the psychological dimension of the main character, using Maslow's theory of the hierarchy of needs.

2.2   Concepts

This part explains some concepts that are used in order to give a better understanding of this study. There are four concepts that are related to this study. They are: the main character, characterization, the Hierarchy of Needs, and *Frances Ha*.

2.2.1   Main Character

The main character is a significant character that appears continuously or at least almost throughout the whole story, and is also very significant in determining the progress of the plot (Nurgiyantoro, 1998: 176–177). In the plot, the main character plays a significant role. The main character controls the way the story goes, and usually, their actions and decisions will move the plot along and, automatically, they will be most affected by the story.

2.2.2 Characterization

Characterization is when the authors are revealing and present the character. The author takes action or takes place to create and develop character details that bring the characters to life in the story (Pickering and Hoeper, 1981:27-28).

2.2.3 The Hierarchy of Needs

The Hierarchy of Needs is a theory developed by Abraham Harold Maslow that describes how lower-level needs, such as physiological, safety, love and belonging, esteem, and self-actualization, must be met, or at least partially met, before higher level needs become motivators (Feist & Feist, 2008: 286).

2.2.4 Frances Ha

One of Noah Baumbach's films that were released in 2012 is about the main character, Frances Halladay, a mid-20s aspiring dancer who struggles with her career, rent, and friends while trying to find her way through life in New York City(Wikipedia).

2.3 Theories

This study used two main theories as it can be described as below. The first theory of the hierarchy of needs (A Theory of Human Motivation, 1943) was proposed by Abraham Maslow. The theory used in analyzing the psychological dimensions of Frances Halladay, the main character in the film *Frances Ha.*

Meanwhile, in analyzing the characterization of the main character, the writer used Joseph M. Boggs and Dennis W. Petrie's theory (2008, 59–66) in their book entitled The Art of Watching Films.

2.3.1 The Hierarchy of Needs

In 1943, Abraham H. Maslow, an American psychologist, proposed an idea in psychology, namely the Hierarchy of Needs theory, through his paper "A Theory of Human Motivation."

Figure 2.1 The Pyramid of Hierarchy of Needs by Abraham Maslow (Source: https://www.kindpng.com/imgv/TJmxoTh_diagram-of-maslows-hierarchy-of-needs-hierarchy-of/)

Abraham H. Maslow mentions five levels of needs that are arranged hierarchically, such as physiological needs, safety needs, love and belonging needs, esteem needs, and self-actualization needs. The most basic needs are at the bottom of the pyramid, while the most complex needs are at the top. Needs are

organized into a hierarchy of prepotency in which more fundamental needs must be fulfilled more or less (rather than all or none) before higher needs may be met. The purpose of this theory is to study how human motivation partakes in behavior based on the satisfaction or fulfillment of their distinct levels of needs in a hierarchical order. He proposed the Hierarchy of Needs theory, which is based on the basic motivational assumption that people are constantly motivated by one or more needs. If a need is met, the power of motivation can be lost and then replaced by another need (the higher needs) and so on.

2.3.1.1 Physiological Needs

The bottom of the hierarchy of needs is physiological needs. It is the most essential thing and is a biological requirement for a person to survive. Physiological needs consist of the need for food and water, oxygen, shelter, sleep and rest, and sexual desires.

2.3.1.2 Safety Needs

The secondary level is safety needs. Safety needs means that every human being needs to feel safe and secure from danger, risk, or threat in their life. Safety needs include security of body and employment, stability, protection, dependency, and freedom from threatening forces such as war, terrorism, physical assault, anxiety, natural catastrophes, and disease. These needs can be fulfilled by families and society, such as the police, law and order, and schools.

2.3.1.3   Love and Belongingness Needs

After safety needs are met, then needs for love and belonging become prominent. To satisfy these needs, an individual requires interaction with others. These needs include the desire to give and receive love and affection, friendship, the desire to belong to a family, and the desire to be accepted in society. Individuals will experience loneliness or depression if these needs are not met.

2.3.1.4   Esteem Needs

The fourth level is reached when individuals are comfortable with what they have achieved. This level is called esteem needs. It consists of the need for appreciation from oneself (self-esteem or self-respect) and the esteem of others. Self-esteem is related to the desire for achievement, strength, confidence, independence, and freedom. Meanwhile, the esteem of others includes a desire for reputation or prestige, recognition, attention, importance, or appreciation. When esteem needs are met, they are on the verge of self-confidence, worth, strength, capability, and adequacy to be useful and necessary in the world. Individuals will experience inferiority, weakness, and helplessness if these needs are not met.

2.3.1.5   Self-Actualization Needs

This level of needs is at the top of Maslow's hierarchy of needs after physiological, safety, love and belongingness, and esteem needs have been met. Self-actualization refers to the desire of an individual's skills and self-fulfillment to realize his or her own potential. If all of these needs are met, we can frequently

(though not always) anticipate dissatisfaction and restlessness to emerge, unless the person is doing what he or she is best suited to do. For the example, if a musician wants to be happy, he must produce music, an artist must paint, and a poet must write.

2.3.2 Characterization in Film

According to Boggs and Petrie (2008, 2-3), music, sculpture, painting, literature, and drama are all recognized as distinct and powerful art forms. Josef Von Sternberg, a film director, defines film or cinema as a work of art in which the motion follows a discernible rhythm with pauses and tempo, and in which all components of the continuous picture are connected to the whole. The initial thematic aspects that we cannot separate from some of the major elements involved, such as plot, emotional effects or mood, characters, style, texture, or structure. Second, conflict, allegory, characterization, symbolism, and irony are fictional and dramatic components. Cinematography and special visual effects, as well as graphic design, editing, color, sound effects and dialogues, musical score, and acting, are all key aspects of films.

A character becomes a significant point in a film because they play a significant part in the production of the film. In films, the character can be played by a human, an animal, or anything that can cause action and dialogue. According to Milligan (1983: 150), the character is the creation we form from the behaviors of those who repost, the words we are given to say, and the creator's comments. To attract the audience, the characters in the film must be real, understandable,

and worthy of attention. It has been the responsibility of the author to give an interesting characterization to their characters. As stated by Pickering and Hoeper (1981:27–28), characterization occurs when writers are present and reveal the character. There are two methods or techniques by the author in presenting and establishing the character, such as telling methods and showing methods. In these methods, we rely and lean on the exposition and direct commentary on what the author is interested in. Meanwhile, the showing method is an indirect and dramatic method of showing that entails the author stepping back and allowing the characters to express themselves directly through language and actions. In this study, the writer is focused on the analysis of the characters in the film. The following is the theory of revealing the character in a film as viewed by Boggs and Petrie (2008, 59–66) in their book entitled *The Art of Watching Film*.

2.3.2.1 Characterization through Appearance

Casting plays a significant role in the characterization of the film. Movie actors mostly project certain characters as soon as they appear on the screen. The visual and the instantaneous become the main aspects of the characterization of the film. Each actor has a different way of projecting the character they play. When some viewers watch the actors in the film, the first things they notice are their facial features, clothes, physical form, behavior, and the manner in which they move. Although this type of visual impression may turn out to be incorrect as the story progresses, it is a important tool for character development.

2.3.2.2   Characterization through Dialogue

Many fictional characters in the film convey a lot about themselves through their words. Their genuine ideas, behaviors, and sentiments can be revealed subtly through word choice as well as pause, tone, and stress patterns in their speech. The actor's use of language, vocabulary, sentence structures, and certain dialects reveals the characters' social and economic status, mental processes, and educational background. As a result, the audience must pay attention not just to what is said, but also to how the actor says it.

2.3.2.3   Characterization through External Action

Physical appearance can sometimes be a significant part of characterization, but it is often misleading. We can also see that the best reflection of characterization is someone's actions. It has to be assumed that the characters are actually more than just plot instruments in the story; they do it for a purpose, for reasons that suit their overall personality.

2.3.2.4   Characterization through Internal Action

Characterizations are revealed through the characters' inner thoughts and feelings, which include daydreams, unsaid ideas, aspirations, secrets, memories, fantasies, and fears. Even the most attentive audience member or listener may miss it because it is sometimes invisible and inaudible. The most obvious way filmmakers reveal the inner reality is by instructing us to become familiar with the

physical character or aura in the character's mind, so we can see it or listen to what the character thinks, imagines, or recalls.

2.3.2.5 Characterization through Reactions of Other Characters

We learn about a person's characteristics through listening to what other people have to say about him or her in characterization, through other characters' reactions. Characterization is frequently influenced by how the other characters perceive someone. Before the character appears on the screen, a lot of information about him or her is often provided in this approach.

2.3.2.6 Characterization through Contrast: Dramatic Foils

One method of exposing characters in films is to use contrasting foils for characters, which are the opposites of the main character in terms of attitudes, ideas, lifestyles, attitude, personal appearance, and so on. It has the same effect as combining black and white—the black seems blacker and the white appears whiter. In a carnival spectacle, the tallest giant and the smallest midget may be positioned side-by-side, and filmmakers occasionally employ the characters in the same way.

2.3.2.7 Characterization through Caricature and Leitmotif

One or more prominent characteristics or personality traits of the actor may be exaggerated or perverted in order to make the character simple to remember in our memories and brains. A caricature is a term for this device,

which is a physical feature employed in cartooning techniques. Then there's the leitmotif, which is a device. It's when an action, expression, or thought is repeated over and over again until it virtually becomes the character's identity or theme song.

2.3.2.8 Characterization through Choice of Name

In this characterization, there is a technique, namely the name-typing technique. The most important aspect of this strategy is the use of names with the suitable qualities of sound, meaning, or connotation. Each author is very careful in choosing the names of the characters because each character is given a name that indicates its dominant or controlling trait to help the audience build a picture of who the character is.
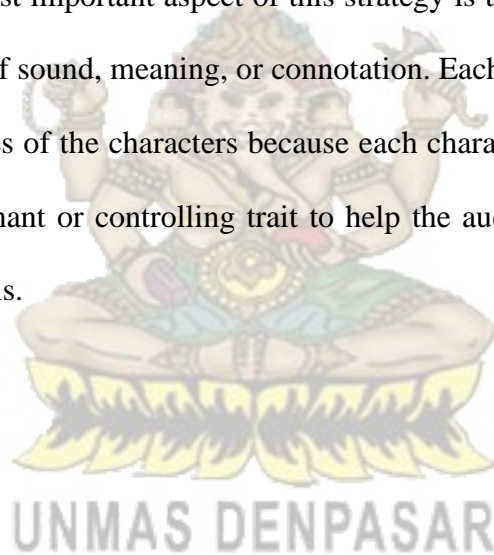
CHAPTER III

RESEARCH METHOD

3.1   Data Source

The data for this study was obtained from *Frances Ha*'s film. It is a comedy-drama film that was written by Noah Baumbach and directed by him. It is his first film shot in black and white. The film premiered on September 1, 2012, at the Telluride Film Festival and was then released on May 17, 2013, in the USA, with duration of 1 hour and 26 minutes. This film was nominated for a number of prestigious international film awards, including the Australian Film Critics Association Awards, the British Independent Film Awards, the Film Independent Spirit Awards, the Golden Globes in the United States, and *Frances Ha* won at the International Cinephile Society Awards 2013 for Best Picture. Frances Ha's story itself is about a woman in her mid-20s, Frances Halladay, as the main character, who has been struggling with her career, rent, and friends as she tries to find her way in New York City. In living a life full of obstacles, Frances never gives up trying to achieve a better life through various efforts based on her potential to be able to actualize herself. The film, *Frances Ha*, reflects the reality of common life problems that we encounter in real life. The efforts made by the main character, Frances Halladay, in meeting various needs are the desire and motivation for the same basic needs for all humans. In this case, the writer's purpose for using this topic and this film as a source of data is to show that the needs of each person and character are different and that difference is interesting to discuss, so that we can

find out the needs of each person and the person's character through a film and take the moral message of the character and how Frances Halladay, as the main character, tries to make ends meet in *Frances Ha*'s film. Therefore, we are not making the mistake of trying to appeal to higher needs when the more basic needs have not been met. The writer got the script for this film from https://www.scriptslug.com/script/frances-ha-2012on the internet, which was used as supporting data. This script will be used for analysis and will be matched with the film itself to gain a better understanding of the film's context.

3.2   Data Collection

This study used the method of observation and documentation to collect the data. Observing the dialogue by reading the script and watching the film *Frances Ha,* to be able to answer the research questions. The following are the steps in collecting data that were used in this study:

1. Focusing on watching the film repeatedly and observing the dialogue of the film by reading the script carefully to get the data.

2. Marking the scenes and dialogue that include the main character's process of fulfilling her needs based on Maslow's theory and the main character's characterization based on theory by Boggs and Petrie.

3. Identifying the data that has been chosen.

3.3   **Data Analysis**

The data were analyzed using the qualitative method, which was thoroughly described systematically and scientifically. In analyzing the data, there are two steps in doing the analysis as follows:

1. Analyzing the five levels of needs of Frances Halladay as presented in the *Frances Ha* film is based on Abraham Maslow's theory of the Hierarchy of Needs (1943).

2. Analyzing the characterization of Frances Halladay that is presented in the *Frances Ha* film is based on the theory by Boggs and Petrie (2008) in their book "The Art of Watching Film".

3.4   **Finding Presentation**

The finding presentation of this study was served in formal and informal methods. The formal method of the presentation of the data means presenting the analysis results in the form of figures and tables, which provide the figure of the pyramid of the Hierarchy of Needs as well as the scenes of the film that contain the main character's needs and characters, and the tables that show the finding of the effort of Frances Halladay to fulfill her five levels of the hierarchy of needs based on Abraham Maslow's theory, as well as the total data of action that shows her characterization in the film *Frances Ha*. Meanwhile, the informal method of the presentation of the data means presenting the analysis results in the form of words and sentences, with the goal of providing sufficient explanation for the readers to understand. The data were shown in narrative form to explain the five-

level hierarchy of needs and the characterization of the main character through the

dialog that is found in the *Frances Ha* film.