

CHAPTER I INTRODUCTION

A.1 Background of the study

Basically, love is a profound emotion of fondness and interest in something that brings happiness and contentment. Love in general, according to the dictionary, is an intense, deep affection for another person. Love also means to feel intense affection for someone. Love also refers to a strong liking for something or to liking something a lot (oxfordlearnersdictionaries.com). Also, Hendrick & Hendrick (1992) added that, there is no single phenomenon that can describe what love is, in the end love is a complex set of emotional and mental states.

As a complex set of emotions, feelings, and experiences, love is the emotional connection, affection, attention, and concern for a particular person, object, or even concept. Love is an emotion that impacts lives; without this emotion, life will feel empty. Love is quite significant in our lives, especially because it has certain effects on our psychological health and can boost our self-confidence, self-concept, and self-esteem (Yazdani, 2011, pp. 169-170). It is important to note that love is a subjective experience and can vary greatly from person to person. It is a combination of emotions, cognition, and behaviour that can be observed in close relationships. For some, love may be an emotional reaction as familiar as anger, sadness, joy, and fear. Falling in love increases self-efficacy and self-esteem (Aron, 1995, p. 69).

Indirectly, love is also a part of fulfilling needs. Needs are inherent to all individuals from birth until death. Humans are designed to satisfy their needs.

According to Maslow, the need is necessary for human life because if it is not met, it can interfere with human life. Interference can manifest as being dissatisfied, hungry, unwell, or anxious. A lack of needs would have a negative impact on human life, resulting in dysfunction and death (Maslow, 1970, p. 44).

Because it is a basic human need, the existence of love or the meaning of love appears in many fictional stories as a reflection of non-fictional stories. Fiction is a reflection of non-fiction stories. One form of fiction is film, among the many films with the theme of love, the film that will be analysed in this study is entitled *A Man Called Otto*, which from now on will be referred to as *AMCO*, a drama film released in 2022. According to a review from *CNN Indonesia*, *A Man Called Otto* received a rating of 97 percent from around 2,500 audience reviews and attracted 150,000 viewers in Indonesia also, this film's rating also reached 7.3 on the IMDb page (Dian, 2023). Additionally, *Screen Rant website* stated, the film was also a financial success with earnings exceeding \$100 million worldwide (Chinnici, 2023).

AMCO is a dramatic movie that portrays the experiences of Otto Anderson. Following his departure from a position at a steel company, Otto experienced a profound sense of despair and contemplated suicide due to the recent loss of his spouse, Sonya, six months prior. He attempted to take his own life by hanging and entering a burning vehicle, but was consistently disrupted by the presence of his new neighbours, Marisol, Tommy, and their two children, Abby and Luna.

The film depicts flashbacks from Otto's past, in which he attempts to enlist in the military but is ultimately rejected due to his heart condition. On a train, he

encounters Sonya when he returns a book she had dropped. They later marry and plan to have children, but tragically, Sonya loses their baby when the bus they are on crashes.

The primary theme of the film is the difficulty of coping with the loss of a loved one. Otto is unable to move on from the death of Sonya and experiences feelings of solitude and despair as a result. He attempts to take his own life on multiple occasions, but is repeatedly prevented from doing so by his neighbours, who require his assistance.

Furthermore, the film explores the relationship between neighbours. As the film progresses, the characters of Otto and Marisol become increasingly close, aided by their mutual assistance. Despite his initial reluctance to become involved with his new neighbour, Otto eventually demonstrates a willingness to assist Marisol in the wake of her husband's accident.

Additionally, the film explores the themes of loyalty and friendship. In their formative years, Otto and Reuben collaborated to enhance the urban planning of their neighbourhood. Nevertheless, their friendship was strained when Reuben and Otto held opposing views regarding the optimal vehicle brand. Nevertheless, in the final analysis, Otto remained faithful to their friendship and provided assistance to Reuben when he fell ill.

Furthermore, the film delves into the subjects of gender identity and social acceptance. The film features a transgender character named Malcolm, who serves

to illustrate that despite his distinct gender identity, he is a human being with inherent worth and deserves respect.

The character of Otto is that of an elderly man, frequently encountered in the context of neighbourhoods and housing complexes in real life. Despite his seemingly irascible demeanour and inclination to perceive minor issues as significant problems, Otto is a benevolent individual who is always willing to extend a helping hand to those in need, even if he is initially met with resistance or hostility.

AMCO presents an intriguing cinematic work that engages with a multitude of compelling themes pertaining to the human experience. From the challenge of coping with loss to the intricate dynamics between neighbours, the film interrogates the values espoused by society and encourages individuals to embrace greater openness and acceptance of differences.

In relation to the movie, some studies have found that *AMCO* addresses various issues. As found by Matthaues in his research entitled *Moral Values in the Film A Man Called Otto Analysis of Charles Sanders Peirce's Theory* (2023), the film teaches about the change in Otto's character as a temperamental person to a patient one after meeting a kind new neighbour. In his study, he identified the symbols and signs of the *AMCO* film that were related to the moral message and described the meaning of the message, which was related to the symbols and signs found. This study also uses descriptive qualitative methods based on Pierce's semiotic theory. This thesis contributes to understanding and appreciating films as

works that carry useful moral messages, as well as helping to understand the communication of moral messages through signs and symbols in the film's social and cultural context.

Furthermore, Cut Feby Putri Uzira found five types of moral values in her study entitled *An Analysis of Moral Values in The Movie "A Man Called Otto (2022)*. Five types of moral value in this movie, namely; respect kindness and friendliness, love and affection, honesty, and unselfishness and sensitivity. The most dominant moral values in this movie is unselfishness and sensitivity as much as six scenes. The characters in this movie that most dominantly showed moral values were Otto and Marisol. The methodology used in her study is descriptive qualitative research. The data were gathered by transcribing the dialogue of the movie and then analysing them based on the classification proposed by Linda and Eyre (1997).

Analysing the movie from a psychological approach is important and will provide novelty to the research, moreover when using the Hierarchy of Needs theory especially that of love and belonging which is provide an overview to readers regarding the need for love and belonging in a literary work that occurs in the real world, and contribute to literary criticism. Thus, this study is expected to give a new view from the *AMCO* movie by using Maslow's theory, which is love and belonging needs, it will be found of friendship, intimacy and family. Without love and belonging needs, people will get loneliness or depression.

From the explanation above, this study would like to do a research on the hierarchy of needs of the main character Otto Anderson after he left by his wife

dead in the *AMCO* movie by Marc Forster, focusing on the main character's pursuit in his love and belonging needs. The thesis is entitled **“Otto Anderson's Need of Love and Belonging in *A Man Called Otto*: A Psychological Study”**

A.2 Problems of the Study

Related to the topic chosen about love and belonging of Maslow in the *AMCO* movie, this study decided to have three issues that should be answered in this study.

- 1) What causes Otto Anderson manifest the need of love and belonging?
- 2) How does Otto Anderson manifest the need of love and belonging?
- 3) How does the manifestation of the need contribute to the redefinition of love and belonging?

A.3 Objectives of the Study

Based on the problem above, this study found a few targets that lead to this research:

1. To explain the causes Otto Anderson, manifest the need of love and belonging.
2. To explain Otto Anderson, manifest the need of love and belonging.
3. To explain the manifestation of need, contribute to the redefinition of love and belonging.

A.4 Significance of the Study

In this research, the benefits are twofold: theoretical and practical. The researcher hopes to assist readers in considering these benefits. In terms of

theoretical benefits, the research may enhance insight into and understanding of the theory employed in this research. Theory offers concepts to describe what readers see and the connections between notions. In addition, this research is expected to be reference material for other researchers who want to deepen research related to this research or other literary works, especially films.

While practical, the aim of this research is to provide further insight into the hierarchy of human needs, particularly with regard to love and belonging, according to Abraham Maslow. This study will provide a comprehensive insight into the love and belonging needs that the main character in this movie lacks. This study is very important because the object has characteristics or traits that can be studied, which in the film *AMCO* gives the idea of a lack of love and belonging. Therefore, the writer wants to reveal the ideas contained in the film. Also, the writer hopes that the results of this research can be useful for society, that if they find the same things as in this film in society, it can help knowledge for society and for other researchers as a new reference for conducting similar research in the future.

A.5 Limitation of the Study

To conduct the study, the researcher needed to establish its limitations. Specifically, this study will examine how the love and belonging needs of Otto, a major character in the *AMCO* movie, are portrayed through the lens of Abraham Maslow's Humanistic Psychological Theory.

A.6 Definition of Key Terms

The definition of key term is to explain the points that are considered important in this research:

1) AMCO

AMCO stands for the title of the film used in this research, *A Man Called Otto*.

2) Hierarchy of Needs

The Hierarchy of Needs is a motivational theory of psychology that explains the five different levels of human needs. The lowest level of needs is physiological, while the highest level is self-actualization.

3) Love and Belonging

The need for love and belonging is a fundamental human requirement that is fulfilled through relationships with others based on the principles of inclusion and acceptance.

4) Psychological Study

A psychological study is defined as a research project that seeks to elucidate, and predict human behaviour, thoughts, and emotions.

A.7 Organization of the Study

In general, this research is arranged into five chapters, namely chapter 1, which is the introduction. It explains the primary path of the study, which includes the research background, problem, objectives, significance, research limitations, and research organization. Chapter 2 is the literature review, which contains the framework of the theory used in the study and the thoughts of previous research.

Chapter 3 is the research method. This chapter explains the research methods and data used in this study. There are several sub-chapters, namely the type of data research, the data source, the process of collecting data, and the way of analysing data. Chapter 4 is data analysis. This chapter explains the analysis results based on the theory and research methods used in the study. Chapter 5 in this section is the final part of the contents of the thesis research report, which consists of two parts: a conclusion and suggestions.

