
THE MAIN CHARACTER'S HIERARCHY OF NEEDS AS REFLECTED IN *FOUR: A DIVERGENT COLLECTION* NOVEL BY VERONICA ROTH

¹Putri Giyanwati Praditya*, ²Diyah Fitri Wulandari

English Literature, Faculty of Language and Communication Science, Sultan Agung Islamic University

*Corresponding Author:
putrigiyanwati27@gmail.com

Abstract

This study analyzes Four: A Divergent Collection novel written by Veronica Roth in 2014 using Abraham Maslow's hierarchy of needs that shows the representation of each basic needs to get to the highest needs, self-actualization. This study uses qualitative method. There are two types of data. Those are primary and secondary data. The primary data is taken from the novel Four: A Divergent Collection by Veronica Roth. The secondary data is taken from journals, books, documents, articles, and websites which related to the study. The result of this study showed that the hierarchy of needs can be applied in human life. In the novel Four: A Divergent Collection, the main character tried to satisfy all his needs. The basic needs that Four have been fulfilled were physiological needs, safety needs, belongingness and love needs, and esteem needs. After those basic needs have been satisfied one by one, then he reached his self-actualization.

Keywords: *Hierarchy of Needs, Basic Needs, Self-Actualization,*

1. INTRODUCTION

Human is a creature who has personality. Every human born to have different personalities and of course it makes differences in some aspects of their lives. However, they also have similar things, like desires and needs. All of their desires and needs must be fulfilled. So, they will struggle to make all those things happen to their own ways. It is stated by Griffin that "Although everyone has the same set of the needs, our ways of fulfilling those needs can be different" (Griffin, p.126). It shows that every human has different way to reach and fulfill their needs. Their desires and needs make them motivated to reach their dreams and purposes to live. Without desires and needs, they will not have a dream or purpose to keep living in this world.

Living in this world is the tough task to do for every human. Human must struggle to fulfill all their need to keep alive. When they want to fulfill all their needs, they will meet some obstacles which block their way to reach it. They must pass those obstacles one by one. In order to pass the obstacles, they should solve from the easy to the hard one. It makes easier to pass and solve all the obstacles which block their ways to satisfy their needs.

The need to have a better life push human to fight what they want. It makes the hierarchy of needs appeared in human life. As long as they are still alive, the desire will always be there to satisfy their needs. Because human is born to be a human being who always has needs and never satisfied enough with everything in their life. They always want something more until they die. According to Maslow in Pittman and Zeigler that:

Man is a wanting and rarely reaches a state of complete satisfaction except for a short time. As one desire is satisfied, another pops up to take its place. When this is satisfied, still another comes into the foreground, etc. It is a characteristic of the human being throughout his whole life that he is practically always desiring something (qtd. in Pittman and Zeigler, p.24).

It is in their blood that human always have a desire about something in their whole life. The needs will always appear one by one continuously until their last breath. Therefore, they will not give up until all their needs and goals are completed.

Abraham Harold Maslow is well-known with his theory, hierarchy of needs. According to his theory, self-actualization is the key motivation in hierarchy of needs. Self-actualization can be fulfilled after the basic needs; physiological needs, safety needs, belongingness and love needs, and esteem needs, are completed. "To attain self-actualization, people must satisfy lower level needs such as hunger, safety, love, and esteem. Only after they are relatively satisfied in each of these needs they can reach self-actualization" (Feist and Feist, 2009). All of those lower needs should be fulfilled first one by one before they can reach and satisfy their self-actualization.

Four: A Divergent Collection is a dystopian, science fiction novel which has been written by Veronica Roth and published in 2014. This novel is included in Divergent series novel. The novel tells about a human struggle to live in difficult situation. The main character in the novel shows how human try to fulfill all their needs in order to live their life to the fullest. It describes its main character, *Four* has been going through so many obstacles in his life which make a life-changing in his whole life. His life-changing start when he is choosing Dauntless over than his own faction, Abnegation.

In his life, *Four* gets some difficulties to fulfill all his human needs. When *Four* lives in his father's house as Abnegation, his needs for physiological, safety, belongingness and love, esteem, and self-actualization cannot be fulfilled properly in that place. Although *Four* cannot satisfy some needs properly, but he still survives until he chooses a new faction and becomes a Dauntless member. His desire to escape from his abusive father and try to find his true self pushing him to go out from his old faction and choose Dauntless as his new faction. The moment he leaves Abnegation, *Four* starts to try to fulfill all his human needs one by one until he reaches his self-actualization in Dauntless.

In the case of *Four*, he has inspired the human beings to self-actualize all their potencies in some many conditions. Through his character, it shows that every human being has right to develop their talents. To measure how far the talents can be develop, hierarchy of needs can be used as the method to analyze *Four*'s potencies in the novel.

There are so many literary works that discuss about the self-actualization of the main character; and fortunately, this novel "*Four: A Divergent Collection*" also

discusses about it. To know the representation of each basic needs to get the highest need, self-actualization, this study will analyze the Four's character in Veronica Roth's novel *Four: A Divergent Collection*. In this novel, the main character, Four has his own difficulties to get the hierarchy of needs, but in the end, Four can fulfill all the needs. By reviewing the character in achieving the self-actualization, it will be easy to analyze the representation of each basic needs of human.

2. RESEARCH METHODOLOGY

This study is using qualitative research method. It is a method which analyzes the data using words rather than numbers. It takes from sources of words, sentences, utterance, and dialogues. According to Patton and Cochran that "Qualitative research is characterized by its aims, which relate to understanding some aspect of social life, and its methods which (in general) generate words, rather than numbers, as data for analysis" (Patton and Cochran, 2002). The purpose is to discover the answer of the problem formulation and to complete the analysis.

In organizing the data, this study will use four steps, those are: 1) Reading the novel, 2) Identifying the data, 3) Classifying the data, 4) Reducing the data. The first step of collecting the data is reading the novel. The novel entitled *Four: A Divergent Collection* was read several times. Reading the novel is the important thing to collect the data. The purpose is to get a better understanding of the novel's content. The second is identifying the data. Identifying the data is the way to find some parts of the object that will be analyzed. There are some forms of the data that can be analyzed. The selected data can be in form of description, narration, and prologue, monologue, or dialogue which found from reading the novel. There will be several processes such as, giving codes, underlining the data, highlighting, and noting. The third step of the study is classifying the data. Classifying data is grouping the data according to the problem formulation. There will be a table in classifying the data. It is called as appendix. It consists of columns of number, data, form of data, page, answering problem formulation, comment, and reference. This step will have help to answer the problem formulations of the study. The last method to collect the data is reducing the data. Reducing the data is the process of selecting from a big number of the data to the smaller number. Therefore, reducing the data will help and make easy to analyze the problems in the study.

In this study, the data will be analyzed, and drawn by using descriptive technique. This descriptive technique is stated by statement, description, and quotation or stated through explanation. This step needs collected data that is taken from the previous steps. The complete analysis will be reported in chapter IV which becomes the result of the study.

3. RESULTS AND DISCUSSION

A. The Hierarchy of Needs

Human beings are born to have desires, needs, thoughts, and free wills. All of those are the factors that influence how human determine their behavior. One of the factors which the most dominant of human behavior is needs. The need to have a better life will motivate human to satisfy all their needs. "Human Behavior is motivated by a set of needs" (Rawat, 2016). Basically, human behavior is controlled by the human

needs itself. When a person has some needs, his behavior will focus on how to satisfy his needs. Therefore, the needs have the big influence to how human act in their life.

Hierarchy of needs can be used as a tool in order to understand human behaviour. As Benson and Dundis stated “One way to understand, and motivate, the individual is to revisit Abraham Maslow’s Hierarchy of Needs (Maslow 1954), which has and continues to be used as a means to assist in understanding human behaviour” (Benson and Dundis, 2003). The hierarchy of needs theory helps to learn more deeply how humans’ act in their life. It is also pushed and motivated human to fulfill what they want to live happy in their life.

In his hierarchy of needs theory, he proposes that there are five needs which represent all human needs. For better understanding to examine the five human needs, he uses pyramid as the method. He built a hierarchy of needs pyramid for human needs, laid out in five stages: the physiological needs, safety needs, belongingness and love needs, esteem needs, and self-actualization (Pajouhandeh, 2013).

As the main character, Tobias Eaton (Four) has some ups and downs in his life. Although he lives with his own father, yet his life in Abnegation is way too far from happiness. He can not do everything he wants because of his father and his faction’s strict rules. However, Four tries to find his own happiness and true self by fulfilling all of his human needs one by one. Here are the hierarchy of needs that Four has to be fulfilled in order to live his life to the fullest.

A.1 Physiological Needs

In Abraham Maslow’s hierarchy of needs pyramid, the bottom of pyramid is the physiological needs. This needs is the most basic needs in hierarchy human of needs. It includes the need to eat, drink, sleep, breathing, and so on. “The most basic, the most powerful, the most obvious of man’s needs are his needs for physical survival: his needs for food, liquid, shelter, sex, sleep, and oxygen” (Goble, 2004). Physiological needs is the most important things that should be fulfilled first before the other needs. It is because the physiological needs like the foundation to build the hierarchy of needs. It will control human’s mind and body to satisfy the need until they feel satisfied enough to move to the next stage. It can be proved with some evidences and statements that will be explained below.

His life necessarily is always fulfilled when he lives with his father, even though, his father, as the leader of Abnegation educates him strictly because he wants Four to be independent, also mentally and physically strong son.

Before the sun goes down, I snatch food from the cupboards and the refrigerator: two dinner rolls and raw carrots with the greens still attached, a hunk of cheese and an apple, leftover chicken without any seasoning on it. The food all tastes the same, like dust and paste. I keep my eyes fixed on the door so I don’t collide with my father’s coworkers. He wouldn’t like it if I was still down here when they came. I am finishing off a glass of water when the first council member appears on the doorstep, and I hurry through the living room before my father reaches the door. He waits with his hand on the knob, his eyebrows

raised at me as I slip around the banister. He points up the stairs and I climb them, fast, as he opens the door (Roth 15).

It shows that Four can still eat and drink, even though his father asks him to finish his food immediately before his friends came. He knows that his father does not want him to meet his father's friends. So, he just follows his father's order to eat as soon as possible and then go back to his room. Regardless of the situation, Four has fulfilled his physiological needs by eating some foods and drinking a glass of water.

From the explanation above, it can be concluded that Four can fulfill all his physiological needs. His way to fulfill his needs is indeed not easy. Yet, he satisfies his physiological needs by eating some foods and drinking a glass of water. After his physiological needs is satisfied and no longer takes control, then he can move on to fulfill his safety needs.

A.2 Safety Needs

After the physiological needs is satisfied, then the safety needs can be fulfilled now. This needs is in the second stage in hierarchy of needs. Safety needs can be fulfilled, "when the basic survival needs have been met, the individual moves to the next level and seeks safety, including freedom from anxiety and stress" (Benson and Dundis, 2003). Human will always need to feel safe, secure, and stable from any dangers. When they feel threatened, they will find a way to secure themselves. They will do everything to find a comfortable and safe place to live. However, it is also happened to the main character's life, Four. It can be seen in the conversation below.

Tori: "When you were in the simulation . . . were you aware that it wasn't real?"

Tori says to me as she turns off the machine. She sounds and looks casual, but it's a studied casualness, learned from years of practice. I know it when I see it. I always do.

Suddenly I'm aware of my own heartbeat. This is what my father said would happen. He told me that they would ask me if I was aware during the simulation, and he told me what to say when they did.

Four: "No," I say. "If I was, do you think I would have chewed through my lip?" (Roth 3-4)

When Four takes the simulation test, Tori finds something strange with his test result. She tries to ask Four whether or not he is aware that he is in a simulation. This question makes him anxious, because he will be threatened if someone else knows that he is special as Divergent. So, he lies to Tori that he is not aware in the simulation. He realizes that he is different. He knows it from his father. His father instructs him not to tell anyone about his secret about himself. Therefore, he secures himself by lying to Tori. It means Four tries to satisfy his safety needs.

As the conclusion, Four proves that he can fulfill all his safety needs. His way to fulfill his safety needs is indeed also not easy. When he feels not safe and threatened, he must struggle to find a way out to save himself. It can be seen when he lies to Tori to hide his identity as a different one from others. After his safety needs is satisfied, then he can move on to fulfill his belongingness and love needs.

A.3 Belongingness and Love Needs

The third stage in hierarchy of needs is belongingness and love needs. Belongingness and love needs is “the need of belonging to a group: social communion, communication, involvement in social problems, participation in the life of the community we belong to, attending social events, the need for love and affection from family and from our loved ones” (Melinte, 2013). This need encourages people to find some connections and affections from family, friends, and the other loved ones. Moreover, human must communicate one to another to build satisfying relations. These statements below will show that Four tries to fulfill his belongingness and love needs.

My knuckles are tacky with blood, Eric’s. I try to rub it off but it’s been drying too long. I won the fight, and that means my place in Dauntless is secure for the time being—I should feel satisfied, not afraid. Maybe even happy, to finally belong somewhere, to be among people whose eyes don’t skirt mine at the lunch table (Roth 81).

When Four wins a fight against Eric, he feels that his position is safe for a long time. He is very satisfied because he can defeat Eric, his biggest rival in Dauntless. After his winning, he feels relieved that finally he belongs to Dauntless faction. He realizes that Dauntless is the faction he should be in. The Dauntless people never judge and ignore his existence. Dauntless is better than Abnegation. It shows that Four has fulfilled his belongingness and love needs by realizing that his life is destined to live in Dauntless.

It can be concluded that Four manages to satisfy his belongingness and love needs when he lives in Dauntless. His way to fulfill his belongingness and love needs by finding somewhere he belongs. After all, he has succeeded to fulfill all his belongingness and love needs in Dauntless. After his three previous needs, physiological needs, safety needs, belongingness and love needs are fulfilled, then he can move on to the next stage, esteem needs.

A.4 Esteem Needs

Esteem needs is the fourth stage in hierarchy of needs. This needs can be fulfilled after the three previous needs, physiological, safety, belongingness and love needs are met and satisfied. Esteem needs can be described as the need, “which include self-respect, confidence, competence, and the knowledge that others hold them in high esteem” (Feist and Feist, 2009). Every human must have a feeling of wanting to be recognized and respected by others. In order to do that, they must show their self-confidence, competence, achievement, and so on. Once they succeed, they can boost their existence and career. It is also happened to Four. When he lives in Abnegation, he feels his existence is not recognized by all people around him including his own father. They always ignore him like he never exists. It makes him feel fed up with their treatment. Finally, Four decides to leave Abnegation to join Dauntless. He hopes that in Dauntless he can gain the esteem needs he has longed for. He starts to fulfill his esteem needs when he meets Tori. It is showed in the dialogue below.

Tori: “You’re not a bad runner,” Tori says as she sidles up to me on the platform. “At least for an Abnegation kid.”

Four: “Thanks,” I say.

She grins at me.

Tori: “You’re going to do just fine here, aren’t you?”

Four: “What makes you say that?”

She shrugs.

Tori: “You strike me as someone who’s ready to fight, that’s all” (Roth 34-35).

In the dialogue above shows that Four gets recognition from Tori. He shows his competence by running to follow the Dauntless members. Tori knows that Abnegation are known for their stiffness. So, she surprises Four can follow the Dauntless, even though he is from Abnegation. She gives Four compliments. She also believes that Four can follow and pass all the tests in Dauntless. This is the first time, he gets the recognition from other people. It indicates that Four has started to fulfill his esteem needs. Afterwards, his struggle to satisfy his esteem needs continued.

As the conclusion, Four shows that he can satisfy his esteem needs. He starts to fulfill it after he chooses Dauntless as his new faction. His way to fulfill his esteem needs by showing his competences and talents to other. He wants people to acknowledge and respect him the way he never feels in Abnegation. However, he succeeds to satisfy all his esteem needs step by step until he gets the esteems he has longed for. Furthermore, after all his basic needs are satisfied completely, he can fulfill his self-actualization.

A.5 Self-Actualization

As the last stage and the top in Abraham Maslow’s hierarchy of needs pyramid, self-actualization can be reached when the basic needs are fulfilled. Self-actualization is the need to live the fullest and to explore more the self-potential. According to Ivtzan, “Sitting at the top of Maslow’s ‘hierarchy of needs’ (1943), self-actualization can be described as persons realizing their potential, ‘fulfilling themselves’ and ‘doing the best they are capable of doing’” (Ivtzan, p.114). Every human has their own self-actualization, but still they must struggle first to satisfy the basic needs to reach their own self-actualization. Human can choose their own goal as long as they have desire to accomplish it. This need can help human to motivate themselves to actualize their potentials and live their best life.

This needs can be applied to analyze Four’s life when he reaches his self-actualization. It can be proved with this monologue. “I am not Tobias Eaton, not anymore, never again. I am Dauntless” (Roth 117). It shows Four finally has found his true-self. He realizes that he is not an Abnegation boy anymore. He is free from his fear of his father. Now, he is Four, a Dauntless member. Four believes that he makes the right choice in the Choosing Ceremony Day. He does not regret to leave his old faction, Abnegation. He chooses Dauntless as his new faction.

From the explanation above, it can be concluded that Four has reached his own self-actualization. He actualizes himself by being a Dauntless. He does not just stop being the best Dauntless. He explores deeper about himself. It proves that Four establishes himself to actualize himself as the real and the true Dauntless. And he believes that he can be more than just a Dauntless.

4. CONCLUSION

Based on the analysis, it can be seen that this study has a conclusion that Four as the main character in Veronica Roth’s *Four: A Divergent Collection* novel has fulfilled his hierarchy of needs completely. Four can fulfill his basic needs after he leaves

Abnegation and lives in Dauntless. His basic needs that he gains are physiological needs, safety needs, belongingness and love needs, and esteem needs. He struggles to satisfy all of his basic needs one by one.

The fulfillment of Four's hierarchy of needs can be seen from his attempts. In his first attempt, he satisfies his physiological needs by eating foods and drinking a glass of water. Then, he fulfills his safety needs by telling lie to Tori about his identity. Next, he satisfies his belongingness and love needs by finding somewhere he belongs. Afterwards, he fulfills his esteem needs by showing his competences and talents to other people in Dauntless. After those basic needs are satisfied completely, it motivates Four to fulfill his self-actualization. After those basic needs have satisfied one by one, then self-actualization can be reached. Four reaches his self-actualization by being the true Dauntless. Even he believes that he can be more than just a true Dauntless.

ACKNOWLEDGEMENT

First of all, I would be grateful to Allah SWT, who give me a chance to breath and live in this world until now. Also for the healths, strengths and blessings to finish this study on time. My deepest gratitude to Ms. Diyah Fitri Wulandari who guided and helped me to work on this study by giving me advices and supports so I can finish this study.

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