

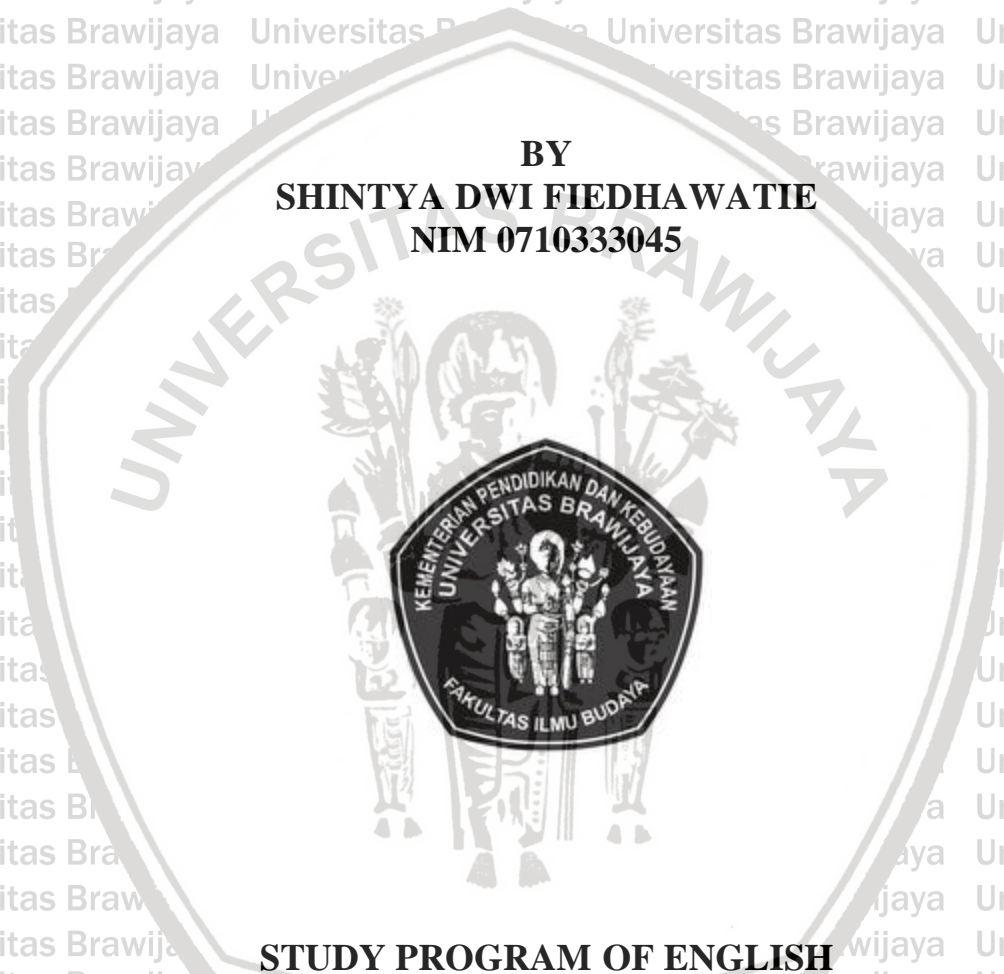
**MASLOW'S HIERARCHY OF NEEDS MANIFESTED BY THE  
MAIN CHARACTER IN THE *FORREST GUMP* THE MOVIE**

**THESIS**

**BY**

**SHINTYA DWI FIEDHAWATIE**

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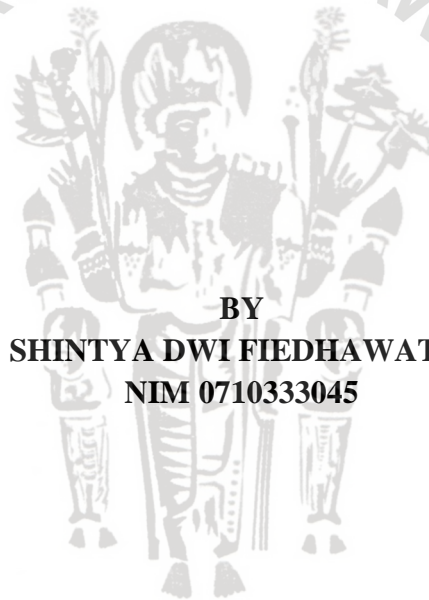
**STUDY PROGRAM OF ENGLISH  
DEPARTMENT OF LANGUAGES AND LITERATURE  
FACULTY OF CULTURAL STUDIES  
UNIVERSITAS BRAWIJAYA**

**2013**

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MAIN CHARACTER IN THE *FORREST GUMP* THE MOVIE**

**THESIS**

**Presented to  
University of Brawijaya  
In partial fulfillment of the requirements  
For the degree of *Sarjana Sastra***



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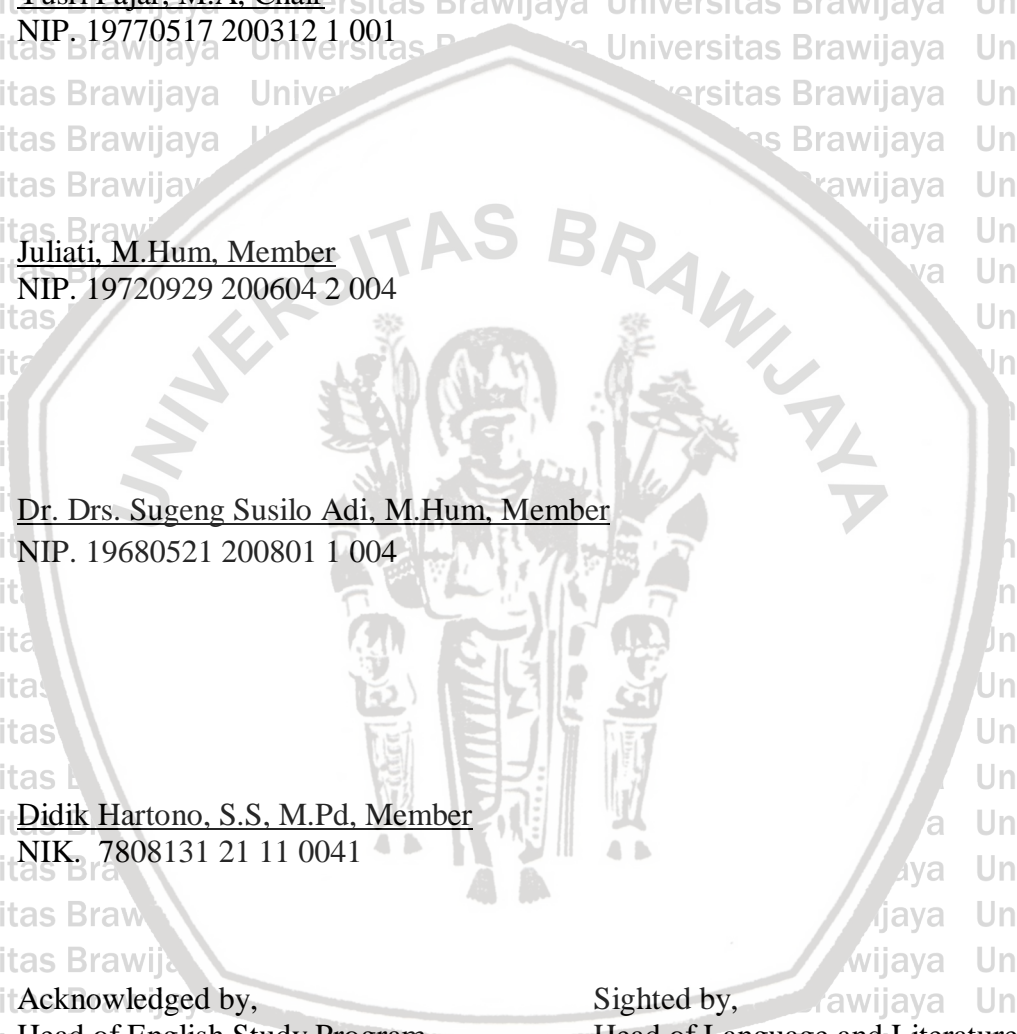
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Finally, the writer realizes that this thesis is still far from being perfect and satisfactory. However, the writer hopes that this research can be useful for the all readers.

Malang, June 2013

The Writer

Shintya Dwi Fidhawatie





## ABSTRACT

Fiedhawatie, Shintya Dwi. 2013. *Maslow's Hierarchy of Needs Manifested By The Main Character of Forrest Gump The Movie*. Supervisor: Dr. Drs. Sugeng Susilo Adi, M.Hum ; Co-supervisor: Didik Hartono, S.S, M.Pd.

Keywords: Maslow's hierarchy of needs, self-actualization, Forrest Gump, Forrest Gump The Movie.

A film is one of literary works. American film has long been popular with recreating American history. *Forrest Gump* movie is chosen to be analyzed in this thesis because it shows the reality and the western historical themes. To support the analysis of the main character, some theories of the Hierarchy of Needs by Abraham Maslows are utilized to get better understanding about the main character. Since the object of the study is a movie, the researcher also use the movie studies. The formulated research problem is on Maslow's hierarchy of needs manifested by the main character in *Forrest Gump* the movie.

The result of this study shows that the Hierarchy of Needs by Abraham Maslow is manifested by *Forrest Gump*, the main character in this movie. Little *Forrest* cannot walk properly without braces in his legs, but miraculously he can walk and even run. This kind of way for being secure, from being bullied, brought him to reach all the impossible things that people think he cannot do. The satisfaction for being loved and belonging with his closest people taught him to face his own destiny. Being rich, famous and having a medal of honor, actually, he did not meant to do it. It is just all about caring, protecting and keeping the people around for being safe and having a comfortable live. Finally, he thought that maybe each people have their own destiny or just live floating around accidental-like on a breeze. At the last, *Forrest* has his destiny as a "godzilionaire", a good friend, lovely husband, and a great man as a son and a father.

The other researchers need to do further studies and carry out other pieces of analysis reveal to the important and useful things in *Forrest Gump* the movie. The second possibility is the next researchers may keep using Maslow's Hierarchy of Needs but they can have different object to analyze or they can use the same movie but different approach.



## ABSTRAK

Fiedhawatie, Shintya Dwi. 2013. **Hirarki Kebutuhan oleh Maslow Termanifestasikan Oleh Karakter Utama Dalam Film Forrest Gump.** Pembimbing (I) Dr. Drs. Sugeng Susilo Adi, M.Hum (II) Didik Hartono, S.S, M.Pd.

Kata kunci: hirarki kebutuhan oleh *Maslow*, aktualisasi diri, Forrest Gump, film Forrest Gump

Sebuah film adalah salah satu karya sastra. Film Amerika telah lama populer dengan menceritakan ulang sejarah Amerika. Film Forrest Gump dipilih untuk dianalisis dalam skripsi ini karena menunjukkan realitas dan tema-tema sejarah Barat. Untuk mendukung analisis karakter utama, beberapa teori Hirarki Kebutuhan oleh Abraham Maslow digunakan untuk mendapatkan pemahaman yang lebih baik tentang karakter utama. Karena obyek penelitian ini adalah film, peneliti juga menggunakan studi film. Rumusan masalah yang disusun adalah tentang Hirarki Kebutuhan oleh Maslow yang dimanifestasikan oleh pemeran utama dalam film Forrest Gump.

Hasil penelitian ini menunjukkan bahwa Hirarki Kebutuhan oleh Abraham Maslow dimanifestasikan oleh Forrest Gump, tokoh utama dalam film ini. Forrest kecil tidak dapat berjalan dengan baik tanpa alat bantu besi di kakinya, tetapi secara ajaib dia bisa berjalan dan bahkan berlari. Dengan cara untuk mengamankan diri ini, dari gangguan, telah membawanya mencapai semua hal yang mustahil yang orang pikir tidak bisa dia lakukan. Kepuasan karena dicintai dan saling memiliki dengan orang-orang terdekatnya mengajarnya untuk menghadapi takdirnya sendiri. Menjadi kaya, terkenal dan memiliki medali kehormatan, sebenarnya, ia tidak bermaksud untuk melakukannya. Ini hanya tentang merawat, melindungi dan menjaga orang di sekitar untuk menjadi aman dan memiliki hidup yang nyaman. Akhirnya, ia berpikir bahwa mungkin setiap orang memiliki nasib mereka sendiri atau hanya hidup mengambang tanpa sengaja seperti tertiuip angin. Pada arakhirnya, dia memiliki takdirnya sebagai "godzilionaire", seorang teman baik, suami yang mencintai, dan sebagai anak dan ayah yang hebat.

Peneliti lain perlu melakukan penelitian lebih lanjut dan mengeluarkan bagian lain dari analisis serta mengungkapkan hal-hal penting dan berguna dalam film Forrest Gump. Kemungkinan kedua adalah peneliti berikutnya dapat tetap menggunakan Hirarki Kebutuhan dari Maslow tetapi mereka dapat memiliki objek yang berbeda untuk dianalisis atau mereka dapat menggunakan film yang sama tapi dengan pendekatan yang berbeda.

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# CHAPTER I

## INTRODUCTION

This chapter presents the background of this study and some details that support this study, that are background of the study, problem of the study, and objective of the study.

### 1.1 Background of the Study

A film is one of literary works, it shows an art by using moving pictures and sound to tell stories and help its viewers to learn about new ideas, experiences, or to have entertainment. Belton (1999, p.1) writes that aspects of the character and culture surface in the movies play a key role in this construction, representation and transmission. Coyne (2008, p.8) adds that “film-makers have consequently used the movies to consolidate powerful national myths that are instructive to citizens, reflective of individual and societal aspirations, and – not insignificantly – exported for consumption by the rest of the world. However, Hughes (2007:18) refers to “a shortcoming in film as a media for communicating history as well as in the practical arrangements that see historians and filmmakers drawn together.

Nowadays, every country can make film with their-own supremacy. One of the countries which has famous film production is the United States of America. In particular, American film has long been popular with recreating American history. The filmmakers have sought to express their translations of the past on screen. In addition, Toplin (1988) explain that historical films help to



shape the thinking of millions and the depictions seen on the screen often influence the public's view of historical subjects much more than books do.

One of the movies which show the reality and the western historical themes is *Forrest Gump*. Directed by Robert Zemeckis in 1994, *Forrest Gump* is an example of a film which popular both in the US and other countries. This is the story of a man with a low IQ in passing three climactic decades of American history and it was one of the biggest box office successes of 1994, earning more than three hundred million dollars in the US, has made an industry of merchandising and winning six Academy Awards, including best picture, director and actor. Despite its commercial success, there were mixed reactions to *Forrest Gump*, as the reconstruction film of recent American history it had the controversy. Since it dealt with American social history, the local viewers need a lot of exposure to American culture to get the point of the film. Politics, family, gender, race and identity are some of the subjects pictured from the film. This film draws the very positive finding in Gump as a good model for living in such time in America.

Gump is the good example of kind-hearted person in leadership. Though not everyone may identify him as a leader, his character shows the role model in various ways for us, for example as an educator on community issues, a translator or interpreter of issues, problem-solver, process coordinator, team builder, source of empowerment, change agent, facilitator of conflict resolution, and so on. Gump characterizes all those attributes mainly from his devotion to

people as well as his style to never ask the reason of something, but just do the job he is assigned and do the best as he can do.

In addition, *Forrest Gump* is the story of a very kind and gentle person. His disability brings him to the label of a fool which gifted by his society. It's true that he is not too smart, but he is very fortunate, because he has a mother and friend who love him. And for that reason, he could be wise enough to accept his own condition and countering the label even though just by repeating his mothers words.

Furthermore, *Forrest Gump* is generally acknowledged to be a great imaginative retelling of the American era from the 50s to the early 80s. Forrest him-self tells his own stories through the flashbacks, narrated by his voice-over to strangers at the bus stop. This was a unique way to highlights the gap between Forrest's special understanding of events and their socio-historical meaning.

To support the analysis of the main character, some theories of the Hierarchy of Needs by Abraham Maslows are utilized to get better understanding about the main character in the *Forrest Gump*. The Hierarchy of Needs by Maslow is showing the steps of the main character for being self-actualized. Since the object of the study is a movie, the researcher also using the movie studies to help in get the deeper understanding about the film. Based on the illustrated reasons above

the researcher intends to analyze **“Maslow’s Hierarchy of Needs Manifested By The By The Main Character In The *Forrest Gump* Movie.”**

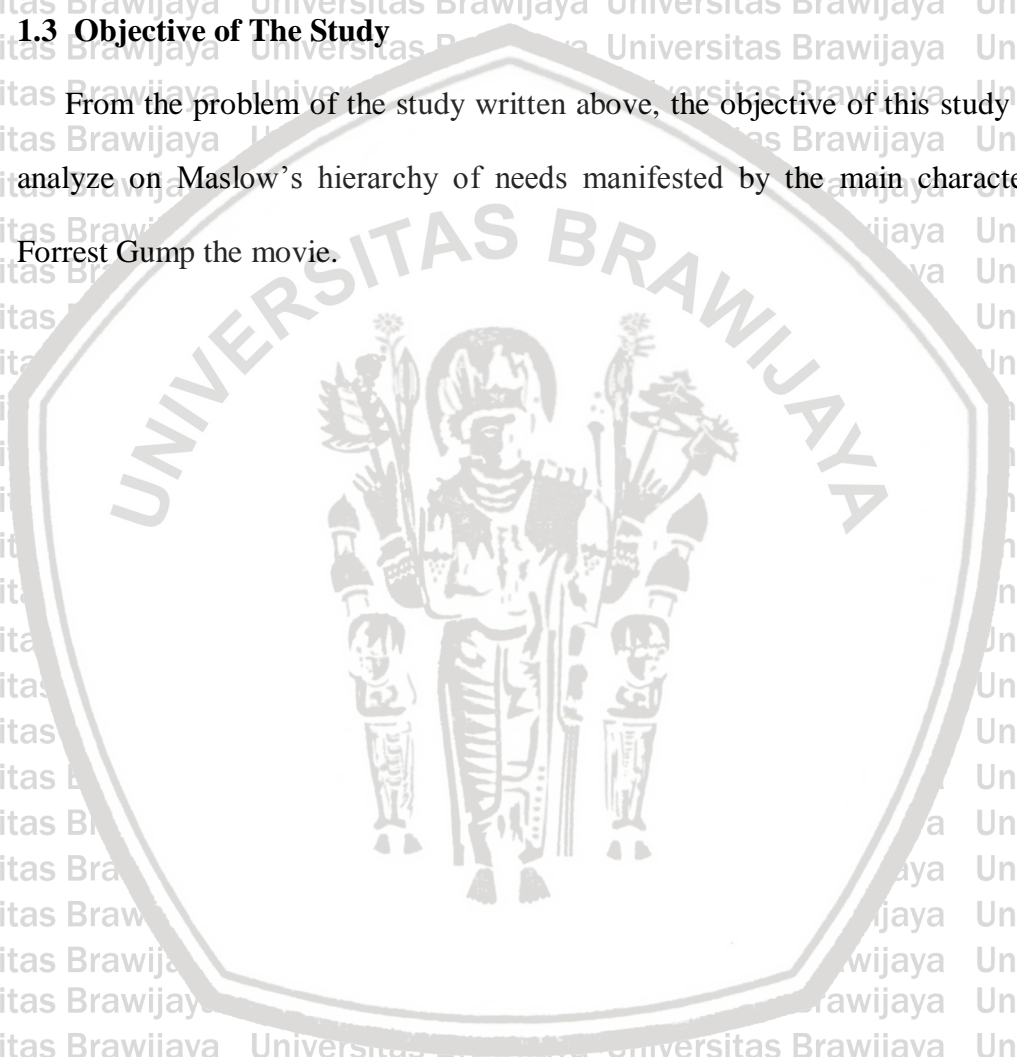


## 1.2 Problem of The Study

In line with the background of the study, the researcher formulates the research problem on Maslow's hierarchy of needs manifested by the main character in Forrest Gump the movie.

## 1.3 Objective of The Study

From the problem of the study written above, the objective of this study is to analyze on Maslow's hierarchy of needs manifested by the main character in Forrest Gump the movie.



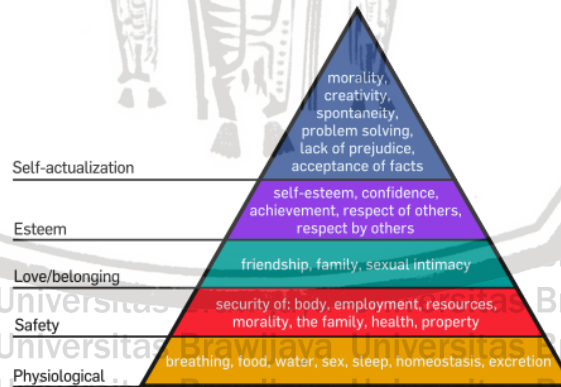
## CHAPTER II

### REVIEW OF RELATED LITERATURE

This chapter is concerned to some literature. Since this study is an analysis of the steps for being self actualized which is manifested in the movie, it reviews theories related to Hierarchy of Needs by Abraham Harold Maslow, the Wisefool concept and some previous studies.

#### 2.1 Hierarchy of Needs

Human being will never be satisfied with his or her needs. Maslow describes that man is a living creature that will never be satisfied fully with his or her life, one need has been satisfied and other needs will occur (1970). In other words, “fundamental needs must be satisfied before an individual is free to progress from psychological needs, and these in turn must be met before the person can realize self-actualization needs. Maslow (1970) said that there are five primary levels on the ladder of human needs.



**Figure 2.1 The Pyramid of the Hierarchy of Needs by Abraham Maslow**



It can be clarified from the Figure 2.1 about the pyramid of the Hierarchy of Needs by Abraham Maslow that represents the steps for being self-actualized person. As the picture shown, the very bottom part is the basic needs of the human being. If the person has fulfilled some of the needs at the first step, then they can go on to the next step. While they are trying to fulfill the second step, unconsciously they have finished the first step. That is how the people go for the further steps and being self-actualized.

### 2.1.1 Physiological needs

The lowest level of needs may be called *physiological* needs. These are needs of the body as a physiological system. They consist of the need to breathe air, hunger, thirst, avoidance of extreme heat and cold, etc. Physiological needs must come first in a life, for it is the fundamental needs that help us to get further needs. If these fundamental needs are not met or satisfied, individuals are, of course, hopeless to make further development dealing with his or life. For instance, if the need for being hungry is not fulfilled, the needs for others are difficult to do. Thus, it is impossible for us to ignore from the physiological needs, since they have a strong effect over human being's attitude. Furthermore, fundamental needs are the most important thing for human to live in the world before an individual is free to progress to upper level. The major effects from the satisfaction of psychological needs nominate the behavior of individuals.

### 2.1.2 Safety Needs

When individuals' physiological needs have been satisfied, it will raise another need that dominates and governs individual dealing with need for self-security. This need is considered as motivation to feel peace, secure, safe, and out of danger from his or her environment. Maslow (1970) stated that that "need for self-security is very obvious and this need is an innate reflex, learning process, or the influence of individuals' experience. Thus, from this explanation, the individuals will be able to neutralize and anticipate any treat for themselves.

For example, an adult man, as a man they need protection of being safety during works and earning the incomes as their main priority. Another example, the religious system of belief and philosophy contains moral and ethical value as a means of gaining self-security. Self security is really needed, as in case, when individuals are having terrible condition like war, social evil, riot and natural disaster, individual will have an obstacle in developing his or her carrier.

Basically security needs are the needs for being free from anxiety of physical danger and being taken away from their basic psychological needs. As the result, when the needs of physiological and safety are satisfied, then will gain the higher level of needs, the need for *love and belonging*.

### 2.1.3 Need for love and belonging

Once individuals have gained control over physical environment, they can then turn their attention to social inputs. Social needs are dominant for individuals in striving for meaningful relation with other for the sake of happiness. This is the



basic social or affiliation motive, which drives people to seek contact with others and to build satisfying relations with them.

To be a human being, somebody must have other people around them.

Maslow (1970) explained that people have an innate need for affection and love that can be satisfied only by other people. Thus, individuals must affiliate with others, and identify himself or herself with one or more like-minded individuals.

When he or she identify with someone else, they learn to perceive part of the world as that person presumable does.

To build an affective and emotional relationship with other people, either with equal sex or not, in family or social environment, needs for love and belonging plays an important role. Otherwise, without having love and affection, individuals are controlled by hatred, loneliness, worthless, and disappointed feeling.

#### **2.1.4 Need for self-esteem**

Satisfaction of love and belongingness needs triggers the emergence of the *esteem* need. In this stage of need gratification, persons also want to be esteemed, by the people they are in contact with, as well as by themselves: they want to know that they are capable of achievement and success. Maslow classifies need for self-esteem into two categories. First, it is internal respond against them dealing with getting competence, self confident, adequacy, autonomy, and freedom. Thus, individuals are sure that they have self-esteem and are able to cope with obstacles in life. Second is achievement. In this case, individuals need appreciations over what they to do.

Individuals will feel confident, forceful, capable, and valuable, if need for self-esteem is satisfied. On the contrary, individuals will feel frustrated and upset, if this need is not satisfied. The result of it has a strong effect on individual development in facing his coming life, for they feel inferior, weak, worthless, and hopeless to accept a real life. They feel pessimistic with other people.

### **2.1.5 Need for self-actualization**

Self-actualization is reached when all needs are fulfilled, in particular the highest need. Self-actualization is not a fixed state, but a process of development which does not end. The word derives from the idea that each individual has a lot of hidden potentialities: talents or competences he or she could develop, but which have as yet not come to the surface. Self-actualization signifies that these potentialities of the self are made actual, are *actualized* in a continuing process of unfolding.

Need for self-actualization arises when the lower levels of other needs are fulfilled well. Self-actualization, on the other hand, may be called a *growth* need, in the sense that deviations from the previously reached equilibrium state are not reduced, but enhanced, made to grow, in a deviation-amplifying positive feedback. The deviations to be amplified are changes which can be interpreted as improvements in some way of the overall personality, as development of remaining potentialities.

The form of self-actualization is different from one another. Each individual has a different potential and difficulty to actualize. According to



Maslow (1970) clarifies that it is not easy to reach self-actualization degree and to fulfill this need, for there are a number of troubles that must be passed through:

First, it is internal trouble dealing with misunderstanding, doubt, and even individuals' fear feeling to express their own potential. Thus, their own potential is not developed. Further, the challenge of need for self-actualization comes from external or society. Society has a tendency to personalize individuals' condition like character, talent, and potential. On the other hand, society has a cultural stereotype about how an individual is called "Gentlemen" or "not". If society appreciates this case, the individuals will take a count of characteristic that refers to this attitude. The last trouble over self-actualization is negative effect from self-security. Individual development process needs responsible to take a risk, make a mistake and get a rid of unconstructive habit. Thus, it is easy for individuals to reach self-actualization. As a result, the achievement of self-actualization needs only a conducive environment, but also contemporaneous individuals' experience.

Maslow (1970) stated that there are some characteristics of individuals who are able to do self-actualization. Here are some characteristics according to Cherry (2010):

1. *Acceptance of self, others, and nature.* Self-actualizing person are not shamed or guilty about their human nature, with its shortcomings, imperfections, frailties, and weakness. Nor are they critical of these aspects of other people. They respect and esteem themselves and others. Moreover, they are honest, open, and genuine, without pose or façade. They are not, however, self-

satisfied, but are concerned about discrepancies what is and what might be and should be in themselves, others, and society.

2. *Problem-centeredness.* Self-actualizing person are not ego-centered but focus on problems outside themselves. They are mission-oriented, often on the basis of a sense of responsibility, duty, or obligation rather than personal choice.

3. *Spontaneity.* Self-actualizing person are not hampered by convention, but they do not flout it. They are not conformist, but neither are they anti-conformist for the sake of being so. They are not externally motivated or even goal-directed rather; their motivation is the internal one of growth and development, the actualization of themselves and their potentials.

4. *Need for privacy.* Self-actualizing person enjoy solitude and privacy. It is possible for them to remain unruffled and undisturbed by what upsets others. They may even appear to be social. This is a characteristic that does not appear in other description. It is perhaps related to a sense of security and self-sufficiency.

5. *Creativeness.* All of Maslow's subjects were judged to be creative, each in his or her own way. The creativity here is not the special-talent creativeness. It is a creativeness potentially inherent in everyone but usually suffocated by acculturation. Creativeness is a characteristic that most would agree characterizes self-actualizing person.

6. *Peak experiences.* "Feeling of limitless horizons opening up to the vision, the feeling of being simultaneously more powerful and also more helpless than



one ever was before, the feeling of ecstasy and wonder and awe, the loss of placement in time and space with, finally, the conviction that something extremely important and valuable had happened, so that the subject was to some extent transformed and strengthened even in his daily life by such experiences.” Abraham Maslow

7. *Democratic values and attitudes.* The Self-Actualized person is able to learn from anyone, is humble and friendly with anyone regardless of class, education, political belief, race or color.

## 2.2 The Wisefool Concept

The concept of fool wise is first fully articulated in the Renaissance. The archetypal wise fool is explicitly claimed that wise derived from awareness of ignorance and whose distinctive teaching method consisted in exposing the foolishness of the wise.

Wisefool seems a word that has two different main word with different meaning, there is wise and fool. However, Phan (2001) state that wise fool is different from the other kinds of the mental deficiency, it is believed as a source of knowledge that more like the supernatural person who inspired wisdom better than accumulate information through formal education. Moreover, it is necessary to differentiate fools who are born to be a fool as the natural destiny, from the fools who influence the foolishness for being free from the punishment of what they would do.

Besides those differences above, any type of fools have some similar things. First, fools are considered to lead a carefree and even happy life, because of their disability of intelligence, they do not have capability to remember the past and being guilty of faults and failures or planning for the future and feel the pain of being afraid of something. Second, because fools are not supposed to possess intelligence, their presence is not expected by the society. They are “all-licensed,” or can be called as the free people, allowed to say and do whatever they want to do without being afraid of any effects. Third, when their foolishness is spread into a wider social context, their disagreement can be turned into ideological doctrine, their naturalism into social anarchy, and their spoken expression into literary satire.

It is agreed that foolishness is contradictive with being wise, but their wise is not something earned and learned but something emerged and rewarded. Furthermore, foolish wise is seen as a gift of knowledge, fast respond for doing something without fully understanding why, and their ability to understand something secret in a very clear way.

### **2.3 Movie Studies**

Films help to shape the thinking of millions film viewer. Often the depictions seen on the screen influence the public’s view of subjects much more than books do. Film can effectively present the visual aspects of human life.

Making interpretation of films does not only include the analysis of themes, characters, and points of view but also focus on how the viewers see and read movie in its relation to the art of the movie. Nowadays, the development of film



or movie industry has increased significantly for years in accordance with the advance technology of film instruments. Films (movies, motion pictures) are a type of communication which uses moving pictures and sound to tell stories or help people to learn about new ideas.

There are important cinematic elements that cannot be disregarded, since they are orchestrated to amplify the thoughts and emotions that actors convey to the audience. So, when analyzing a film, these are some cinematic elements to consider: camera movement / panning, photography, lighting, Mise-En-Scène, sound, and editing. The writer focuses, in this thesis, on Mise-En-Scène elements to analysis the film.

By analyzing with Mise-En-Scène, it can be dig up the idea of the film. In Mise-En-Scène, camera shot is an important element. Sergei Eisenstein (1949) isolated a “basic” unit of movie and called it the “shot”. It is not defined systemically but described merely as the smallest unit of movie that the moviemaker uses. The camera placement is divided into four major section, they are center, top, bottom, and sides (Giannetti, 2002, p. 49). The most important element is central portion because it can be used as the focal point. This central dominance tends to be visually undramatic and favored when the subject is compelling. The area near the top can suggest some ideas of power, authority, and aspiration. The area near the bottom tends to suggest subservience, vulnerability, and powerlessness (Gianetti, 2002, p.52). This area often exploited to suggest danger because it seems that the object is in danger and dominated by the object above. The side portion (left and right) suggest insignificance because the portion

can be far from the center. It can be used as the symbolical expression of the lack of light, unknown, unseen, and fearful. Sometimes, the darkness area can symbolize the death.

This camera placement is divided into six basic categories. They are extreme long shot, long shot, full shot, medium shot, close-up, and extreme close-up shot (Giannetti, 2002, p. 52). Extreme shot is taken from great distance, so it shows much of the locale to show scene-setting takes place. The long shot is the most complex in the cinema, it ranges correspond approximately to the distance between the audience and the stage than the viewer can have more specific ideas of the setting. It is the closest to full shot that includes the human body in full, with the head in the top and feet in the bottom of the frame. Besides concentrating to the character, this still consist more amount of setting details which can show the social relationships. Medium shot is the functional shot. It is useful for shooting exposition scenes because it shows the figure from knees or waist up.

This shot can tell the personal relationship. There are some variations of medium shot. They are two-shot (contain two figures from waist up), three shot (three figures), and over-the-shoulder shot (two figures, one with his or her part of the back). Close-up concentrates on the small object because it tends to elevate the important thing. Also known as the personal shot, this shot shows intimacy which can make the viewer understand the emotion of the character and feel empathy of them. The extreme close-up is the variation of close-up. This shot shows only small part of human body for example eyes or mouth. This dramatic shot creates



an intense mood and provides interaction between the audience and the viewer (Giannetti, 2002, p.13).

## 2.4 The Synopsis of *Forrest Gump* Movie

Adapted from the novel by Winston Groom, *Forrest Gump* was written by Eric Roth and stars Tom Hanks in the title role. It explores the life saga of a simple man, Forrest Gump, who has an IQ of 75 and goes through life changing the world without even knowing it. The movie chronicles the different generations of growing up in America. Forrest is born in the small town rural south in the 50s and goes to Vietnam in the 60s; comes back and wanders through the protest movements of the late 60s-early 70s; becomes a rich entrepreneur in the 80s and after a self searching in 90s run across America, finally settles down with the love of his life.

Forrest meets presidents Kennedy, Johnson, and Nixon. He influences the likes of Elvis Presley, John Lennon, and Abbie Hoffman, not to mention the lives of those around him. He affects critical historical events like the start of Apple Computers and the uncovering of the Watergate burglary. He even becomes a media icon. He does all this and more, yet because of his simpleton mental status, he never realizes his impact on the world. He remains a simple man with a simple love of life and a simple desire to be with "his girl," Jenny, played by actress Robin Wright-Penn.

Throughout the picture, Forrest is surrounded by people who are striving for personal dreams and ambitions, trying to find something bigger than themselves to give meaning to their lives. A military lieutenant wants to follow

his family line of dead war heroes by dying in the war himself, a fellow soldier dream of starting a shrimp business after the war; and Jenny dreams of being famous and touching people's lives.

Forrest's life is filled with random tragedies that turn out for the better in the end. He is born with a spine problem that forces him to wear leg braces and get teased by the kids. But this brings out his miraculous ability to run, which gives him a future. A tragic hurricane helps Forrest's shrimping business become an industry overnight, while at the same time destroys everyone else's in the area.

Throughout the entire movie, Forrest has no intent or purpose yet achieves what most would consider a grand destiny: Wealth, fame, influence.

Because of his amazing running ability, Forrest leads his college football team to become all American while never even realizing what he is doing on the field. After personally meeting four presidents, his response to such an envied good fortune is, "The real great thing about meeting the president of the United States is the food they give you." (Forrest Gump, minute 00:28:56) While running across America, he draws a crowd of people after him because he seems to be "a man with a purpose, someone who's got it all together, who's got it all figured out." (Forrest Gump, minute 00:42:49) Yet we know he has no conscious reason or goal at all. The masses look for hope, a higher purpose, and find it where none exists. People will create messiahs out of nothing because of their need to follow something outside of themselves.

Lieutenant Dan, Forrest's counterpart and friend, has a breakdown because he has convinced himself that, everybody have a destiny and nothing just happens



because it's all part of a plan. And yet, his hoped-for destiny of a glorious death on the battlefield is botched when Forrest rescues him.

After all these chance events turned fortuitous, and purposeful events turned arbitrary, Forrest concludes his monologue at his beloved's grave with, "I don't know if we each have a destiny, or we're all just floating accidental-like in the breeze. But I think maybe it's both. Maybe both are happening at the same time." (Forrest Gump, minute 02:57:57)

This synthesis of chance and destiny is what the movie is all about. So much of life seems to happen without purpose, or as the bumper sticker in the movie says, "S\_\_\_ Happens," and, as Forrest Momma always said, "Life is like a box of chocolates. You'll never know what you're gonna get. Yet at the same time, according to Lieutenant Dan Taylor, it's all part of a plan, a plan that people cannot know, so everybody must make their own destiny.

## 2.5 Previous Studies

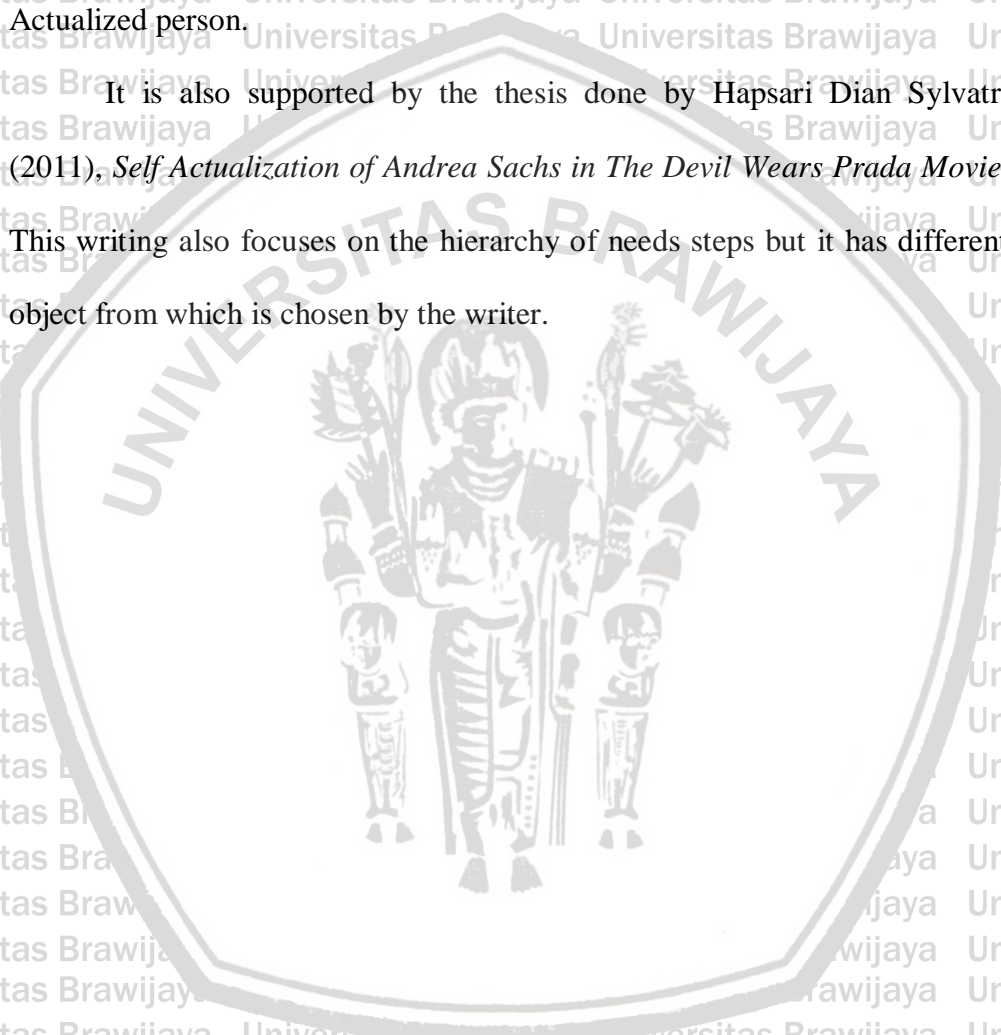
The theoretical discussion above is supported by the empirical works or studies done by Arvin Raharja (2011) entitled *The Change of Libidinal Investment to Self-Actualization Foind In Michael berg Character in "The Reader" Film*. Therefore he focuses on revealing the change of libidinal investment into self actualization of Michael Berg. He does not focus on the steps of hierarchy of needs theory by Abraham Maslow, because in *The Reader* the steps of hierarchy of needs do not work properly. It is because there is a jump needs which is started with safely needs.

That thesis and the writer's thesis have some differences. The writer focuses on how the main character fulfilling the steps of hierarchy of need.

Here, the researcher reveals the steps by showing how the main character fulfilling his basic needs by having the relationship with his society. After fulfilling the steps, the main character can be catagorized as the Self-Actualized person.

It is also supported by the thesis done by Hapsari Dian Sylvatri (2011), *Self Actualization of Andrea Sachs in The Devil Wears Prada Movie*.

This writing also focuses on the hierarchy of needs steps but it has different object from which is chosen by the writer.





## CHAPTER III

### FINDINGS AND DISCUSSION

This section answers the research question concerning the objective of the study mentioned in chapter 1. This chapter will show the analysis of the wise fool character in fulfilling his basic needs for being self-actualized as presented by the main character in *Forrest Gump* the movie.

As the writer has stated in chapter 2, human will never be satisfied with his or her need. In line with it, there is Maslow's description about the man is a living creature that will never be satisfied fully with his or her life, one need has been satisfied and other needs will occur (1970). Those statements definitely happen to the main character of *Forrest Gump* movie. Maslow's Hierarchy of Needs can be used to show the steps of needs that occur in *Forrest Gump* live story. This begins with his physiological needs as a human being then goes to the higher steps of needs until he got to the level of being self-actualized.

#### 3.1 Forest Gump's Background

This movie begins with the trip of a feather. First, it drops down toward the city below, as people walk past and cars drive by and nearly lands on a man's shoulder. Then it floats under a passing car which sends it back up in the air. And finally it lands on a man's mud soaked shoe. The feather flies follow where the wind took it. It described Forrest's life journey through his destiny. Forrest's life is not much different, where he follows his footsteps and executes all obligations as possible.

Forrest Gump was born in Alabama and lives with his mother, Mrs.

Gump. They both live in an old house in Greenbow, a house of his mother's family.

Forrest : We lived about a quarter mile of Route 17, about a half mile from the town of Greenbow, Alabama. That's in the country of Greenbow. Our house had been in Momma's family since her grandpa's grandpa's grandpa had come across the ocean about a thousand years ago. Something like that.

(Forrest Gump, minute 00:06:44)

Forrest Gump is known as a child with low IQ and many people say that he is stupid. Since childhood he was rejected by the some people who mock at him. So that he only spoke to his mother. Because of it, it is hard for him to make a friend with someone and to through his time he tends to be quite and thoughtful. He also has a problem with his body. His back is crooked like a question mark and it forces him to be fitted with an orthopedic shoes and metal leg braces. These things are going to make him as straight as an arrow.

Mrs. Gump has her own way to encourage his son, Forrest Gump. This situation makes Forrest always trust her and does what has been said by her. He always remembers what his mother has said, even in his first day school.

Bus Driver : Are you comin' along?

Forrest : Momma said not to be taking riders from strangers.

Bus Driver : This is bus to school.

Forrest : I'm Forrest Gump.

Bus Driver : I'm Dorothy Harris.

Forrest : Well, now we ain't strangers anymore.

The conversation below proves that Forrest always in line with his mother. But, even though he lives with his mother and almost just talk with her, in his first day



school Forrest success making friend with a girl, Jenny. Because of his habitually, Forrest just be a friend with Jenny.

Forrest's journey of friendship does not always run smooth. He is hated by some of his friends. This condition makes Forrest heckled and thrown with stones on several occasions. Forrest fear and starts running to avoid his friends. But, because of this experience, Forrest becomes interested to continue running wherever he goes. He himself does not find the exact reason why he likes to run.

He just wants to run. This new hobby finally brings him to the long journey that is never thought before.

### **3.2 Physiological Needs**

The most basic needs are physiological needs. As the writer has stated at the second chapter, these are needs of the body as a physiological system, that consist of the needs to have food, liquid, sleep, oxygen to breath, sex, moderate temperature, etc. Maslow (1970) stated that these physiological needs have the very strong influence towards human behavior, as long as the needs are not being fulfilled or satisfied.

Forrest's basic needs required is his dependence on orthopedic shoes that support him in walking. Because of it, he is able to walk and help his body straight. As a responsible mother who always loves her son, Mrs. Gump brings the poor Forrest to see a doctor to be like children in general.



(a)

(b)

### Figure 3.2 Forrest dependence in orthopedic shoes

Figure 3.2 (a) shows by using the central camera placement. It shows the focal point when Forrest's first time saw his leg with braces. He is surprised to see it. The braces help him to walk and keep straight. And when he tries to walk with them at the first time, he falls down. However, during the time Forrest can master the steps and getting used to walk using braces.

Mrs. Gump : Don't ever let anybody tell you they're better than you, Forrest. If God intended everybody to be the same, he'd have given us all braces on our legs  
(Forrest Gump, minute 00:06:31)

From the expression above, Mrs. Gump does want his son seen as the other children and she is angry when some people look at Forrest and do not take their eyes. Even when Forrest's shoe tucked in a hole, some guys just look and do not try to help him. They feel weird about what they are seeing. The miracle begins to happen when Forrest insulted by his friends. Forrest starts running and became faster and makes his friends left far behind. But then, his friends use a bicycle to catch up. He is not realizing that this incident makes Forrest begins to weave his destiny. Figure 3.2 (b) shows when Forrest breaks the braces on his legs. It just



happened when he runs and it makes Forrest loves running. From that act Forrest always runs everywhere he goes.

To complement the needs of his leg with braces, Forrest also needs food and drinks for his body. This movie does not show specifically how the needs of food and drinks required by Forrest. But there is some meaning on it in several scenes.

Forrest : I could eat about a million and a half of these. My momma always said, 'Life was like a box of chocolates. You never know what you're gonna get'.  
(Forrest Gump, minute 00:03:41)

Behind his excitement in eating chocolate, there is a philosophy of a box of chocolates that he ever uttered that makes it is not just a box of chocolate which has the different flavors in it. It can be annoying because some of those chocolates are super good and some are pretty gross, so people have to just grab one and see what they get. It is like a surprise, much like in which they never know what is going to come next. This philosophy comes when Forrest asks his mother about his destiny. In line with the philosophy of a box chocolate, Forrest only through his life away and he never planned what he would do next. But the movie tells that he gained success and other successes as well as grief and loss. In every journey he does, Forrest does what people say to him and what he has to do. Forrest seems more comfortable if he can fulfill his responsibilities.

When the White House invited him to get the award for All – America football player, Forrest chooses to drink 15 bottle beverage without eating at all.

He is just not hungry and although the food is provided free of charge, he does eat

nothing. In this case shows that Forrest just does what he wants to, and his instincts work right.

President Kennedy : Congratulation. How does it feel to be an All – America?

1<sup>st</sup> Player : It's an honor, Sir.

President Kennedy : Congratulation. How does it feel to be an All – America?

2<sup>nd</sup> Player : Very good, Sir.

President Kennedy : Congratulation. How do you feel?

Forrest : I gotta pee.

President Kennedy : I believe he said he had to go pee.

(Forrest Gump, minute 00:29:31)

He is not shy when the President asks what he feels and Forrest replies that he wants to urinate. It is right because Forrest answer truthfully what is being asked to him even the TV show broadcasts it in live.

Then when Jenny left him after Forrest's mother passed away, he looks really frustrated. So he decided to run, which could be mean as he wants to run from his problems, across the city and even the residents. In the middle of running, he still keeps on attention to his physical needs.

Forrest : When I got tired, I slept. When I got hungry, I ate..

(Forrest Gump, minute 02:40:54)

Forrest just kept on going with his running activities. He just felt want to run, not to torture himself even though he had bunch of problem, that is why he fulfilled his natural needs, to sleep and eat.

From the explanation above, it can be concluded that Forrest's physiological needs are not too prominent in this film, although this requirement is necessary to continue his life as a human being. Forrest Gump is a pure man who receives everything literary and he does he wants. He almost does not care



about his physiological needs which are already fulfilled as shown by his physical growth in the movie.

### 3.3 Safety Needs

Forrest had a sense of security since he was a child from his mother. His mother always wants to protect Forrest, because she is the closest person in Forrest's life. When he was a child, he was despised by some friends. From the social environment itself Forrest need a safety. Jenny, the only friend of Forrest since his first ride to school who care on him, yell at him to run so he can safe from his friends who threw stones to him.

The experience in his childhood with some friends makes Forrest love something he never thought before, running. Forrest loves running and always runs wherever he wants. In the first, run is a way to escape his friends' persecution, but the more mature running becomes a habit.



**Figure 3.3 Forrest first run**

The figure 3.3 shows the scene which using the long shot because it let the audience to identify the performance of Forrest's running in the first time.

Little Forrest's body condition does not make him give up and trauma in walking or running. He is an optimist and believes in everything he does.

Forrest's new hobby brings him to the football contest. From here, he becomes one of football players who have been invited to the White House to meet the President for several times and get an award.



**Figure 3.4 Forrest as the football player**

The figure 3.4 portrays when Forrest running as one of the football player. This is the path that is never considered by his family, but he agrees to go to university because he only needs to run. Forrest get the scholarship to the Alabama University and play for its football club. This becomes his destiny, being a famous football player.

Besides his running ability to avoid the danger, Forrest decided to join the Army after he graduated from the University of Alabama.



**Figure 3.5 Forrest joining Army**



The figure 3.5 portrays how Forrest comfortable joining the Army unit. Besides, he felt safe with himself and surrounding, especially when he has another new friend, Bubba.

Forrest feels comfortable and safe in the Army because he only does what he was told to and his duty is completing the task. He does not need think of anything else, because he himself is considered in Army. The other evidence contained in this movie is when Forrest never got confuse over what to do.

Then, when he was abandoned by Jenny for the last time, he chooses to run around the United States. He does not know how he feels, but the reason that he has is he wants to run until he feels tired.



**Figure 3.6 Forrest's running**

Jenny is the closest friend, moreover Forrest is in love with her and he wants Jenny marry him. But Jenny refuses it and chooses to leave him alone. The figure 3.6 portrays the scene of the film taken by the long shot. It shows Forrest running across the country state including the distance he will run through. His running is the way to forget what is happening to him and to find a peace and safety feeling in him.

### 3.4 Needs for Love and Belonging

It is clearly shown in the movie about Forrest Gump with his mother's proximity. But in order to fulfill the needs of love and belonging, this analysis highlights Forrest's relationship with the people around him. In his childhood, Forrest has Jenny as his only friend. During his life, this film shows only a few people who interact with him. In building the interaction, Forrest needs a process in reaching these needs (love and belonging). When he joins the Army, he makes Bubba, a new friend, as his best friend. Although in some conversation with Bubba Forrest seldom provide meaningful responses, but Bubba is very meaningful in his life. Then, his relationship with the Army Lieutenant, Dan Taylor becomes better after the Vietnam War. The analysis of Need for Love and Belonging will be divided into four sub chapters.

#### a. The relationship between Forrest and his mother

Living together since Forrest just a little makes the relationship with her mother becomes very close. This leads to the interdependence and entanglement between the two. So even though they are separated by distance, they still support each other. Mrs. Gump has a way to make Forrest feels happy and accepted. Their house becomes a temporary dorm for the people passing through because they have some empty rooms. By renting their rooms, Mrs. Gump gets money. Forrest himself thinks her mother is a real smart lady. She always encourages Forrest and says that Forrest is no different than anybody else. She tries to put Forrest into the public school. Initially, Forrest is refused to enter a public school because



his IQ is below the average; his IQ is five points below the standard measure of public schools. His mother is arguing with the principle and says that her son is going to get the same opportunities as everyone else. She does not want Forrest to go to the special school. Because of the persistence of his mother, Forrest can enter the public school and underwent his destiny.



**Figure 3.7 Forrest Gump and His mother**

Forrest always believes in her, even his mother is sick and dying.

Figure 3.7 above portrays how close the relationship is. Forrest knows that his mother is dying when he is in the sea, working as a shrimp boat captain. Because of his caring to his mother, he swims across the sea and runs to his house.

Forrest : What's the matter, Momma?

Mrs. Gump : I'm dyin', Forrest. Come on, sit down over here.

Forrest : Why are you dyin', Momma?

Mrs. Gump : It's my time. It is just my time. Oh, now, don't you be afraid, sweetheart. Death is just a part of life. It's something we're all destined to do. I didn't know it, but I was destined to be your momma. I did the best I could.

Forrest : You did good, Momma.  
Mrs. Gump : Well, I happened to believe you make your own destiny. You have to do the best with what God gave you.  
Forrest : What's my destiny, Momma?  
Mrs. Gump : You're gonna have to figure that out for yourself. Life is a box of chocolate, Forrest. You never know what you're gonna get.  
(Forrest Gump, minute 02:27:24)

Mrs. Gump always has a way to explain things to Forrest so makes Forrest understand them. Realizing that she will be separated with his son, Mrs. Gump chooses to say goodbye in a memorable way, by advising Forrest of the fate that will be undertaken. He does what his mother said to him, even when some people come to Forrest's house and ask him to use their paddle. According his mother, he has to say that he likes to use it, and it would hurt nobody.

b. The relationship between Forrest and Jenny

Jenny is the special friend for Forrest. Although Jenny ever asks him whether he is stupid, Jenny still becomes Forrest life's part. There is a scene when Forrest thinks that Jenny's father is a loving man that always kisses and touches Jenny and her sister. But in other hand, Jenny was hiding from her father and asks Forrest to pray with her. In her praying, Jenny asks God to change her to be a bird that can fly far away.

As a good friend, Forrest knows what Jenny needs.

Jenny : Do you ever dream, Forrest, about who you're gonna be?  
Forrest : Who I'm gonna be?  
Jenny : Yeah.  
Forrest : Aren't I going to be me?



Jenny : Well, you'll always be you, just another kind of you. You know? I want to be famous. I want to be a singer like Joan Baez. I just want to be an empty stage with my guitar, my voice... just me.  
(Forrest Gump, minute 00:26:16)

So that, when Jenny decided to leave Forrest, Forrest knew that it was the best for her. When Forrest knew that without him Jenny was able to realize her dream. Forrest let her go and also happy for her. Their relationship is tinged by some polemics between them. Jenny wanted to have a full freedom of her life and she wanted to fly free as a bird. She realized that if Forrest is nearby, Forrest will always try to protect her constantly and it makes Jenny is not free to make what she wants. For several times, Forrest had help Jenny for not being hurt, but Jenny refused his favor. Although Jenny and Forrest were like peas and carrots, Jenny thinks that they are in the different world.

Forrest always thought of Jenny. When he was in Vietnam, Forrest wrote a letter to Jenny almost every day. He told her the situation in Vietnam and what he has done. But there was no reply from her. Until one day in a hospital, Forrest knew that none of his letters is delivered, Jenny has moved. After his mother passed away, Forrest feels lonely and wish Jenny were there at his side.

Though he is busy with his new job, he still thinks about Jenny.

And then one day, Jenny comes to Forrest's house and decides to

stay there. They spend time together to chat, play ping-pong and walk around. But, Jenny leaves Forrest when Forrest asks her to marry him.



**Figure 3.8 Forrest, Jenny and Little Forrest**

Jenny comes again in Forrest love with a letter and asks him to visit her in her apartment. Forrest misses her too much and he already forgave Jenny. Forrest feels happier when he knows that Jenny has a son, a son from Forrest himself. It makes Forrest decide to marry Jenny and live together with their son in Forrest house. The figure 3.8 shows the happy Forrest new family.

Forrest's happiness is just for few moments because Jenny passed away soon after being sick. But, Jenny still exists in his son. Having Jenny is the happiest thing in his life.



c. The relationship between Forrest and Bubba

Bubba is Forrest's closest friend after Jenny. Forrest's first encounter with Bubba happens when they join the Army. They sit by side, this is also happens at the first time his encounter with Jenny. Here, Forrest feels close to Bubba and he becomes his nearest person to share. Bubba is someone who is talkative in talking about shrimp and telling Forrest about his goal to become a famous shrimp entrepreneur. Bubba asks Forrest to be with him as the shrimp entrepreneur and fulfill his dream.

As be a friend with Bubba, Forrest does not talk or respond him too much. Forrest accepts whatever Bubba says with no rebuttal, for him it is a commandment. Forrest and Bubba have an agreement if one day they become the successful shrimp entrepreneur, they will divide the funding and benefits into two.

Their friendship becomes strong and there is a desire in need each other. When they do their duty in Vietnam War, they are attacked by Vietnam militants who fire them. Threatened, Forrest and the Army are forced to retreat and they have to run to the safer place. Forrest has been accustomed to run fast and it makes him superior. But as he runs, he thinks Bubba and determines to save Bubba. After a few moments he has saved some of the army, but he has not find Bubba yet. He finds Bubba at the limit time, when the American bombers start to bomb and flatten the Vietnam. Figure 3.9 (a) portrays the long shot-taken scene, when Forrest tries to save Bubba's life by carrying him up and running backwards to

avoid the explosion behind him. At that time, Forrest actually also shot in his buttock, but it does not make him give up to save his best friend.



(a)

(b)

**Figure 3.9 The relationship between Forrest and Bubba**

Bubba dies in the war, by the river in Vietnam. Forrest has done his best to save Bubba. Although Bubba died, Forrest has vowed to help Bubba as the shrimp entrepreneur. Figure 3.9 (b) portrays Forrest visit Bubba's grave to tell that he had realize what has been dreamed by Bubba. Forrest makes Bubba's dreams come true to become the shrimp entrepreneur.

Forrest : Hey, Bubba, it's me, Forrest Gump. I remember everything you said, and I got it all figured out. I'm taking the twenty-four thousand, five hundred and six-two dollars and forty seven cents that I got... well, that's left after a new hair cut and a new suit and I took Momma out to real fancy dinner and I bought a bus ticket and three Doctor Peppers.

Forrest detailing all expenditures and report on Bubba. Bubba has taught him all about shrimping. Forrest makes every effort to get more



shrimp. It is not easy, but finally Forrest becomes a very successful shrimp entrepreneur, so he does not have to worry about money again. He has his own ship and brands. According to his promise to Bubba, he distributes Bubba rights and it changes Bubba's family life.

#### d. The Relationship between Forrest and Lieutenant Dan Taylor

Dan Taylor is a lieutenant stationed in Vietnam. Initial encounter between Forrest and Dan Taylor happens in Vietnam. He likes Forrest because he always listens and does what he was told of. But when the Vietnam War, he hates Forrest because had saved his life. He thinks that he deserved to die with honor in battlefield. Forrest's deed in saving his life brings him to the life with realizing his legs are gone and for life he took advantages of the support from government's funding.

Lt. Dan : Now, you listen to me. We all have a destiny. Nothing just happens, it's all part of a plan. I should have died out there with my men! But now, I'm nothing but goddamned cripple! A legless freak. Look! Look! Look at me! Do you see that? Do you know what it's like not to be able to use your legs?

Forrest : Well.. Yes, Sir, I do.

Lt. Dan : Did you hear what I said? You cheated me. I had a destiny. I was supposed to die in the field! With honor! That was my destiny! And you cheated me out of it! You understand what I'm saying, Gump? This wasn't supposed to happen. Not to me. I had a destiny. I was Lieutenant Dan Taylor.  
(Forrest Gump, minute 00:57:51)

Dan Taylor thinks Forrest has turned the fate that should be in his life. And when Forrest tells him about Bubba's dream, he downplayed

Forrest's saying and challenge him whether Forrest becomes a Shrimp boat captain so he will be an astronaut.



**Figure 3.10 The relationship between Forrest and Dan Taylor**

Although initially Dan Taylor insults what Forrest does, but Forrest is the person who helps him to get his destiny as a finance consulting of Forrest and Bubba's company, being his partner. This is contrast when he still hates Forrest and lives with government funding support. Figure 3.10 shows Taylor starts to talk to Forrest. When he begins to reconcile with Forrest and God, he gets a second chance to live, because he realizes that Forrest is the only one who accepts him sincerely and always supports him.

Dan Taylor attends to Forrest's wedding party with his fiancée. There is a difference in his face, he is happier in life and his legs have been replaced with artificial limbs. They are made from titanium, the aerospace manufacturing materials. Taylor proves his promise when he says when Forrest becomes a shrimp boat captain, he will be the



astronaut. Although he is not the true astronaut, he is successful to use its materials on his legs.

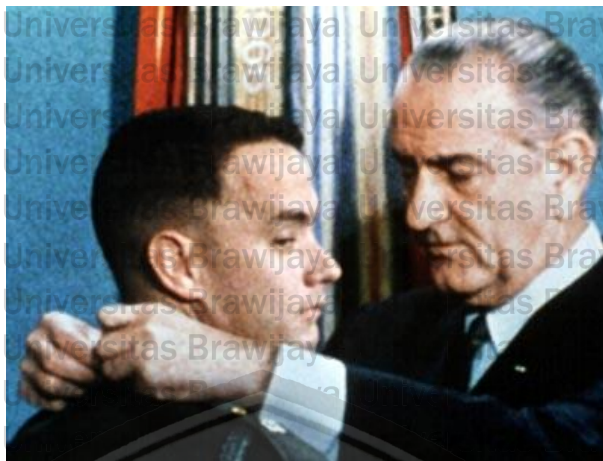
### 3.4 Need for self-esteem

Forrest Gump basically does everything with his own principle of what is considered to do. He has no wide knowledge and his IQ is below the standard make Forrest thinks only with his Id. But in his life, Forrest gets much better impression from his social environment.



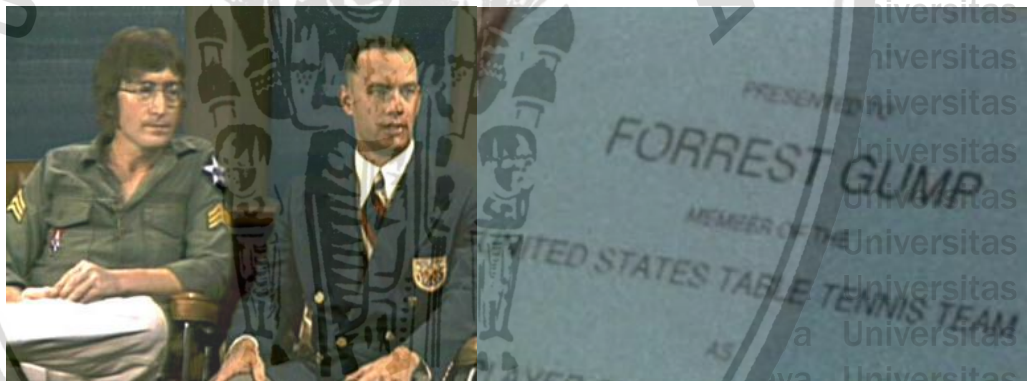
**Figure 3.11 Forrest and President Kennedy in the White House**

The first thing is he becomes a football athlete of Alabama and in the end of his journey as football athlete, he is graduated from a college and gets award from President Kennedy as shown at figure 3.11.



**Figure 3.12 Receiving the medal of honor from President Johnson**

The second is, seen at figure 3.12, it is a medium shot-taken scene when he gets a medal of honor from President Johnson because of his service in saving the Army in Vietnam War. This is the second time he visits the White House to receive the medal.



(a)

(b)

**Figure 3.13 Ping-Pong Player Achievements**

Then, he becomes a ping-pong player and the Army decides him to be on the All-America Ping-Pong Team. His highest achievement is playing ping-pong against China. So that is the first time All-America visits China. Some people consider Forrest is the national celebrity. Figure 3.13 (a) shows how famous he is



which as famous as music big star that moment, John Lennon. Because of that,

Forrest also gets a plaque from President Nixon. The plaque is shown at figure 3.13 (b), it is written 'Presented to Forrest Gump, member of the United States table tennis team as a player of the year for 1971'.

When his service for Army is up, he decides to continue Bubba's dream to be a shrimp boat captain. Bubba's words are like a command for him that he has to be a captain and be a successful entrepreneur. And that is what he does.

FORREST: And since people still needed them shrimps for shrimp cocktails and barbecues and all and we were the only boat left standing "Bubba-Gump" shrimp's what they got. We got a whole bunch of boats. Twelve Jenny's, a big ol' warehouse, we even have hats that says "Bubba-Gump" on 'em. "Bubba-Gump Shrimp." It's a household name.  
(Forrest Gump, minute 02:24:15)

As the dialogue shows, from one boat named Jenny, there are 12 Jennies exist. It means he has already success. Because he is successfull, he starts to share his money to the Baptist church and make a Gump Medical Center Bayou La Batre in Alabama.

Forrest's closest people also proud of him, his mother thank to God because of his son's success. At the last time of her life, Mrs. Gump is happy in finishing her duty as a mother. Jenny also experiences the same thing. Realizing her destiny is being with Forrest, Jenny also ends her life near Forrest. Jenny knows that Forrest sincere heart brings her to the happy life. Dan Taylor also gives his appreciation as Forrest's former lieutenant and co-workers. He thanks to Forrest for saving his life and gives him a second change through his life.

What Forrest achieved is actually never be planned by him nor his family.

He himself just follows where the wind brings him and does his duty and assignment with the best. Anything he gets is prove that he does everything with earnestly and use his heart. He does not care when people say he is stupid. It proves that everything will end in maximum result if it is done correctly.

### **3.6 Need for self-actualization**

The highest self-actualization that is made by Forrest is he convinces his closest people about their destiny. Forrest never knows and plans his own destiny because he only uses his id as a human until the day his mother passed away. His mother underwent her fate as a single parent for Forrest and completes all the needs of her small family. With the intelligence she has, she is able to manage the family financial so they are not lack of money. The other thing suffered by Bubba. He has long aspired to be a shrimp boat captain. He plans anything if he becomes a captain one day. He teaches anything about shrimp to Forrest. But the fate says he has to die in battlefield even though Forrest tries to save him. Bubba cannot make his dream comes true. Contrary to Bubba, Dan Taylor wants himself to be killed in Vietnam, die with honor in the battlefield. But Forrest saves him and makes him live with the pain. It makes him hates Forrest and thinks Forrest does the big mistake. But his encountering with Forrest brings him to the natural destiny that is to be an entrepreneur after being Forrest's co-worker in Bubba-Gump Shrimp.



The process above makes Forrest being self-actualized person. It is because a self-actualized person has categorizes which is shown by Forrest:

1. *Acceptance of self, others, and nature.* They sees human nature as is, has a lack of crippling guilt or shame, enjoys himself without regret or apology, and has no unnecessary inhibitions.

FORREST: Now, because I had been a football star, and a war hero, and a national celebrity, and a shrimpin' boat captain, and a college graduate, the city of fathers of Greenbow, Alabama, decided to get together and offered me a fine job.

EXT. FOOTBALL FIELD – DAY: Forrest rides a lawn tractor as he moves the football field lawn.

FORREST: So, I never went back to work for Lieutenant Dan.  
(Forrest Gump, minute 02:29:21)

From the expression above, Forrest stated his feeling for being a gardener in the University of Alabama. Although he got a big shrimpin' company, he did not being ashamed, moreover he just did the cutting-grass job without get any salary.

The people with this character are not, however, self-satisfied, but are concerned about discrepancies what is and what might be and should be in themselves, others, and society.

*FORREST: Now, Momma said there's only so much fortune a man really needs....and the rest is just for showing off. So, I gave a whole bunch of it to the Four Square Gospel Church. And I gave a whole bunch to the Bayou La Batre Fishing Hospital.*



**Figure 3.14 Foursquare Baptist Church and Fishing Hospital**

From the dialogue above, Forrest Gump clearly stated that he is concerned about the society although it is not from his thought. He just follows what his mom said about being a rich person. The Figure 3.14 (a) and (b) portrays the Church and the Hospital he spend bunch of money.

2. *Peak experiences.* Individuals who are Self-Actualized often have what Maslow termed as the *peak experiences*. Moments that made the feeling of limitless horizons opening up to the vision, the feeling of being simultaneously more powerful and also more helpless than one ever was before, the feeling of ecstasy and wonder and awe, the loss of placement in time and space with, finally, the conviction that something extremely important and valuable had happened, so that the subject was to some extent transformed and strengthened even in his daily life by such experiences.





**Figure 3.15 Forrest sitting alone in his home**

The figure 3.15 portrays Forrest Gump sitting alone inside his house. This scene uses the extreme shot, which has taken from great distance, and show that Forrest is just all alone after his mother's dead and being abandoned by Jenny. This is the experience of the loss of placement in time and space with two most important women in his life. That is the exact time he decides to run without any destination.

FORREST: Anyway, like I was saying, I had a lot of company. My Momma always said you got to put the past behind you before you can move on. And I think that's what my running was all about. I had run for three years, two months, fourteen days, and sixteen hours.  
(Forrest Gump, minute 02:44:24)

The dialogue above reveals the reason of Forrest's running days. He finally realized that he run for put his past for being all alone behind. Again, this thought did not come from he himself, he just remembered what his mother said and did it. Then right after he decided to move on, he got a letter from Jenny, the lady that he wanted to marry with.



(a)

(b)

**Figure 3.16 Forrest told by Jenny that he has a son.**

The figure 3.16 above shows Forrest's expression when he knew that Jenny's son is his too. He felt guilty and was worried about the child for being his son, a low IQ-ed man.

JENNY : I'm a momma. His name is Forrest.

FORREST : Like me.

JENNY : I named him after his Daddy.

FORREST : He got a daddy named Forrest, too?

JENNY : You're his daddy, Forrest.

SCENE PLAY: Forrest continues to stare at Forrest Jr. Forrest then looks frightened and starts to back away.

JENNY : Hey, Forrest, look at me. Look at me, Forrest. There's nothing you need to do, okay? You didn't do anything wrong. Okay?

SCENE PLAY: Jenny turns and looks at Forrest Jr. in the other room.

JENNY : Isn't he beautiful?

FORREST : He's the most beautiful thing I've ever seen. But... is, is he smart, or is he...

JENNY : He's very smart. He's one of the smartest in his class.

SCENE PLAY: Forrest breathes deep. He looks at Jenny, then at Forrest Jr.

(Forrest Gump, minute 02:48:45)



The dialogues between Forrest and Jenny above shows the conversation when Forrest felt guilty and frightened, then Jenny calm him down and told him that he did not do anything wrong and stated that little Forrest is one of the smartest kids in the class. This moment is one of the peak experiences that made him lost the *neurotic symptom* or anxiety for being low IQ-ed person. Here he started to receive his destiny for being a good husband for Jenny and the best father for little Forrest.

3. *Democratic values and attitudes.* The Self-Actualized person is able to learn from anyone, is humble and friendly with anyone regardless of class, education, political belief, race or color.



**Figure 3.17 Forrest sitting in the bus stop with some people**

Forrest makes friend with anybody. He is a really humble and friendly to the people around him. Figure 3.17 (a) and (b) portrays the social relationship of Forrest which can be taken by a full shot. He has some nice talk with some different people in the bus stop and telling them his story. He did not pay any attention to gender, status and color. He just talks to them even some of them did not really care or belief of the story. In another time, he also has a black

friend in the Army, Bubba. He also helps the other soldiers in the battle field no matter who they are. This kind of relationship is firstly shown by Mrs. Gump, Forrest's mother. She has Ms. Louise, a black lady, as her company in take care her big Gump house. Forrest just applying like his mother does.

### 3.7 Self-actualized Wisefool

After discussing the steps of Forrest Gump for being self-actualized, we should go back to the story of Forrest Gump itself. From the beginning of the story, which narrated by Forrest himself, shows the situation of Forrest Gump physically and mentally. The film clearly describe the disability of little Forrest who cannot use his feet that caused by his back was like a question mark. From the story, also, we can get the other description of Forrest condition.



**Figure 3.18 Forrest IQ chart**

According to IQ Tester, IQ values between 71 to 80 means a lower level of mental retardation. Individuals with these values graduate primary school with difficulties but are successful in special schools ([www.ie.iqtester.eu](http://www.ie.iqtester.eu)). Figure 3.18 shows the



IQ chart which is shown by the principle in the school. It is a close up scene exposing the pencil which points at the Forrest's point which is under the normal range. This really states that he can be categorized a fool.

**FOOTBALL COACH:** He must be the stupidest son-of-a-bitch alive. But he sure is fast  
(Forrest Gump, minute 00:21:42)

The expression above is stated by Forrest's College Football coach. The man admitted Forrest ability to run very fast, but he knows that Forrest is a fool so he yell the direction to Forrest inside the football field for making him doing exactly what to do to win the game.

The foolishness of Forrest is always asked by some people including Jenny. The people ask him if he is stupid or something, but Forrest easily answered with what his mother said about stupid is the stupid does. It is a kind of defense that his mother told him. And this is another prove that he is wise enough to be able to answer what people stated to him.

As clearly explained above, Forrest is not a normal person who has normal IQ but he is self-actualized. Many people doubt his successfulness but he has proved and tackles what people think about him. He has his destiny as a "godzillionaire", a good friend, lovely husband, and a great man as a son and a father.

## CHAPTER IV

### CONCLUSION AND SUGGESTION

The followings are the conclusion and suggestion dealing with the finding of the research.

#### 4.1 Conclusion

To be self-actualized, as one of human basic needs, is something that humans want to achieve. To reach this final need, people have to fulfill the four-first needs first. *Forrest Gump* the movie provides the process of self actualization of the main character named Forrest Gump and those steps direct the writer to show that the main character is the wise fool one.

First, Forrest has been fulfilled all his basic needs. Forrest basic needs required is his dependence on orthopedic shoes that support him in walking. But after the “miracle-happens”, he is able to walk. Furthermore, he can run and his ability to run fast has brought his life for being self-actualized although only with low IQ.

Forrest’s second and third basic needs have been easier to fulfill after getting the normal body. Whenever he got in trouble, he followed what Jenny said and just run, like what he did in the battle field while he joining the army. That is how he passed his safety need. And of course as we have already know, he got some really good friends as the closest person beside his mother and Jenny. He has Bubba and Lieutenant Dan Taylor as his partner in the army, as a friend who always got their back and a good commander. They also have a really good



partnership in the shrimping company. Bubba as the one who had the dream for being a shrimping boat captain has told Forrest whatever takes for being super good in catches the shrimp. He got a backup from Lieutenant Dan when Forrest already became a shrimping boat captain and take care the Bubba-Gump Shrimp Corporation.

The esteem needs just follow the first-three needs before. His hidden ability has made him invited to the White House and meets the President of the United States then got some achievements.

Being a self-actualized person, Forrest already has some of the character of self-actualized person. He has the acceptance of self, others, and nature. He already passed the peak experiences in his life. And his democratic values and attitude especially towards other people were already done since he was just a kid.

Forrest is a self-actualized wise fool. His limitation does not really limit him to fulfill his basic needs as a human. He is the wise fool man which has success in facing his destiny.

#### **4.2 Suggestion**

*Forrest Gump* the movie still offers many literary aspects that are not explored yet. Therefore, it is suggested for the next researchers to analyze other aspects that arise in the movie. Next, others researchers may keep using Maslow's Hierarchy of Needs but they can have different object to analyze or they can use the same movie but different approach to get the findings so they can have a further research on this personality theory.

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