

CHAPTER I

INTRODUCTION

1.1 Background of the Study

As a human being, people indeed have to face countless struggle to survive and keep alive to this day. They obviously will face uncertain things happen in their life and they have to struggle in order to survive. To be specific, struggles may be regarded as a test or an opportunity to develop human's character and to prove someone's bravery in defense of some causes. However, to some extent, people may deal with some extreme conditions to their physical well-being. When someone encounters threats against their physical well-being, naturally their concerns are mainly directed to the goals which directly connected to the physical survival. In other words, they unhesitatingly fulfill their basic needs first before anything else.

It is clear that a number of needs are much more urgent than other. The needs for air, food, and water are the most essential needs for human to survive. An American psychologist named Abraham Maslow is best known for his theory on human needs. Besides those three vital needs, Maslow specified the human basic needs into five stages. According to Buck (1988, p.33), the five stages of needs according to Maslow are physiological need, safety need, belongingness and love need, esteem need, and self-fulfillment need.

During the survival, people are much more likely to struggle against some deprivation. In response to that, their behaviour is said to be driven what Maslow called by the deficiency motivation. Based on Maslow (1954), the deficiency

motivation is an aversion state of tension that makes a person seeks the goals that will fulfill the needs and thus reduce the tension. In contrast, Maslow also provides the growth motivation that stimulates the development of someone's potential. This motivation is for people who are striving for self-actualization.

According to Cathibee (2013, para 1), literature can be said to be the mirror of life because it reflects and comments on aspects of things people encounter in their daily lives. To be specific, the works of literature have the ability to reflect what happens in the society today and it correlates with the way how people think and behave toward something in their lives. In other words, literature is related to a field of study called psychology. As Minderop (2016, p. 2) stated that the role of literature and psychology is basically in symbiosis because both have functions in this life. Literature and psychology are not only deal with the problem of human as an individual and social being but also they use human experience as the same foundation in a research study.

Movie is one of various types of literary works. Movie is recognized as a unique and powerful art with painting, sculpture, music, literature, and drama merged as one as stated by Boggs & Petrie (2008, p. 3). Movie and literature synchronize to inspire and enrich one another. Both of them also dignify human mind through action, images, words and replicating life of human beings as stated by Ramrao (2016, p. 2).

The development of human being in the making of the movie into more advanced can be seen through adaptation of movie. According to Boggs & Petrie (2008, p. 430), an adaptation of movie is a movie based on another original work

such as novel, short story, play or biography. The adaptation movie makes literature look more realistic as mentioned by Ramrao (2016, p. 2). Therefore, through learning movie and literature at the same time help to boost the progress of human civilization. It can be assumed that the more understanding people have, the more completely they will appreciate art and open up their awareness and new depths of understanding towards events happen surround them.

One of the movies which opens up the new depths of understanding about the Maslow's hierarchy of needs can be seen from *Adrift* movie. *Adrift* movie is adapted from a novel based on a true story of Tami Oldham with title *Red Sky in Mourning: A true story of love, loss, and survival at sea* (1998). A movie by Baltasar Kormákur (2018, IMDb, *Adrift*) tells about a couple -Tami Oldham Ashcraft and Richard Sharp- who agreed to sail to deliver the yacht from Tahiti to San Diego. Tami and Richard accidentally were caught in the most horrible hurricane in the history, which is the Hurricane Raymond in the Pacific Ocean in 1983. Unfortunately, their boat was in ruined and both of them, especially Richard was badly injured. Being stranded in the ocean with no hope for rescue, Tami must struggle and find the strength and also determination to save herself and the man she loves. Back in real-time, Tami realizes that her perception of the injured Richard is nothing but a hallucination and surrenders to the reality that Richard has been lost at sea. After all alone was being stranded for forty-one days in total, Tami finally survived and being rescued by the people in the land. In this movie, it can be shown that though Tami struggles to fulfill her basic needs during the survival in the ocean, she can

satisfy the most important needs at that time, which is physiological needs such as food, water, warm and rest, then followed by the fulfillment of safety needs.

The story in *Adrift* movie is delivered in a set of flashbacks. According to Lentz (2013, para 1), a flashback is a literary device in a story that provides some background information on events, situations, or a character's past history. Most of the time, the authors use flashbacks to reveal some important truths about a character's past that the audience might not have known before. In this movie, the flashbacks are presented as memories and thus allow the audiences to get some key piece of information necessary to understand the development of the plot.

This study will highlight the basic needs based on Maslow's hierarchy of needs, especially what needs to be fulfilled in order to survive in a critical situation of being stranded in the ocean and also how Tami fulfills her hierarchy of needs. The hierarchy of needs proposed by Abraham Maslow and movie studies are used in analyzing this study. The Maslow's theory of needs is applied to describe how the theory works to achieve each stage of human's need, especially human basic needs, while movie studies is used to expose the indirect meaning of scenes and dialogues in the movie.

1.2 Problem of the Study

Adrift movie tells the phenomenon of human's struggle to fulfill the basic needs. More specific, this movie expresses a critical situation of being stranded in the ocean so do the basic needs become unstable and very urgent. In this particular situation, the main character actually struggles to fulfill her very basic needs in order to survive. Therefore, the problem of this study focuses on how Tami Oldham

can fulfill her basic needs to survive during a critical situation of being stranded in the ocean which manifested in *Adrift* movie.

1.3 Objective of the Study

Based on the problem of the study, the aim of this study is to find out how Tami Oldham as the main character in *Adrift* movie fulfills her basic needs to survive the critical situation of being stranded in the ocean.