AN ANALYSIS OF MASLOW'S HIERARCHY OF NEEDS IN THE MAIN CHARACTER GARY JOHNSON IN *HIT MAN* (2023) MOVIE BY RICHARD LINKLATER'S

THESIS

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ABSTRACT

This study analyzes the main character's needs in *Hit man* (2023) movie directed by Richard Linklater in the perspective of Maslow's hierarchy of needs. The study is focused on the main character's needs and characteristics of self-actualization. The aims are to describe the man character's needs and characteristic self-actualization. This study applies Abraham Maslow's Hierarchy of Needs theory. The background of this research is grounded in the interdisciplinary relationship between literature, film, and psychology, particularly humanistic psychology, which emphasizes personal growth and self-actualization. This study draws upon the psychology of literature as its theoretical framework, focusing on Maslow's five levels of human needs and the characteristics of self-actualizing individuals. A descriptive qualitative method is employed, with the film serving as the primary data source, while dialogues, scenes, and character actions function as units of analysis. Data are collected through close observation of the film and analyzed by categorizing Gary Johnson's experiences according to the hierarchy of needs. The findings reveal that Gary successfully fulfills all levels of Maslow's hierarchy, including physiological, safety, love and belonging, and esteem needs, which ultimately enable him to reach self-actualization. Furthermore, Gary exhibits several characteristics of self-actualizing individuals, such as More Efficient Perception of Reality; Acceptance of Self, Others, and Nature; Spontaneity, Simplicity, and Naturalness; Creativeness; and Resistance to Enculturation. In conclusion, this study demonstrates that Gary Johnson's character development reflects a comprehensive process of human growth as explained through Maslow's Hierarchy of Needs, in which the fulfillment of basic, psychological, and esteem needs enables individuals to reach self-actualization. Thus, human motivation and identity formation can be understood as a continuous developmental process driven by the satisfaction of hierarchical needs.

Keywords: Hierarchy of Needs, Self-Actualization, Creativeness

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CHAPTER I

INTRODUCTION

1.1. Background of The Study

Literature is a creative expression of human experiences, thoughts, and emotions, conveyed through language and various forms of storytelling. It encompasses diverse genres, including poetry, drama, prose, and other narrative forms, which offer insight into the complexities of human life. According to Eagleton, literature reflects societal norms, values, and ideologies, allowing readers to engage critically with their cultural context (14). Furthermore, literature is not merely a reflection of reality but also a medium through which authors explore philosophical, cultural, and psychological themes. As Abrams asserts, literature provides a space for the aesthetic and intellectual exploration of human existence (45).

A literary product through which can be explored psychologically is film. Film, as a modern extension of literature, serves as a visual narrative that combines storytelling with artistic expression. It brings characters and plots to life, enabling viewers to engage with literary themes in a dynamic and immersive way. Bazin emphasizes that film, much like traditional literature, can be a vehicle for profound artistic and emotional expression (27). Moreover, film is a part of literature in the sense that it uses narrative structures, character development, and thematic exploration, akin to written texts. Stam notes that the relationship between film and literature is symbiotic, with both forms influencing and enriching one another (Stam 63).

The study of film within the domain of literature provides an opportunity to analyze how cinematic techniques contribute to narrative development and character exploration. Films, like traditional literary works, often delve into human emotions, moral dilemmas, and societal structures. The visual medium of film enriches storytelling by combining

dialogue, imagery, and sound to evoke emotional and intellectual responses (McFarlane 12). They provide a platform to study the interplay between visual storytelling and thematic depth. Chatman argues that narrative in film shares fundamental principles with literature, including plot, character, and theme, while leveraging unique cinematic tools to enhance these elements (Chatman 58). *Hit Man* (2023), directed by Richard Linklater, is an exemplary film that merges humor and crime to examine profound psychological and emotional experiences, particularly through its main character, Gary Johnson. The movie's narrative provides fertile ground for exploring psychological theories within literature. As Smith highlights, films with complex protagonists often mirror literary explorations of human nature, making them valuable subjects for interdisciplinary analysis (99).

Psychology in literature is an interdisciplinary approach that examines how psychological theories and concepts manifest within literary works. It emphasizes the psychological depth of characters, their motivations, and the dynamics of their development. Tyson explains that psychological approaches to literature enable readers to uncover the subconscious drives and internal conflicts of characters (75). Humanistic psychology, which emerged as a response to the deterministic views of psychoanalysis and behaviorism, centers on individual growth, self-actualization, and the inherent potential of humans. It is particularly relevant to literary analysis as it focuses on understanding human behavior and personal transformation.

Abraham Maslow's Hierarchy of Needs is one of the most relevant frameworks for understanding human motivation and character development. Maslow argued that the hierarchy of needs ranging from physiological needs and the need for safety to the desire for love and belonging, esteem, and self-actualization, drives human behavior (35). According to Maslow, before basic needs are met, a person who is hungry or in danger cannot fully pursue self-actualization (35). Characters in literature and film often illustrate

these needs through their transformations, desires, and struggles. Characters in literature and film often navigate these needs, with their journeys reflecting personal struggles and growth. As Ryckman notes, Maslow's theory provides valuable insight into the motivations and aspirations of individuals, both real and fictional (Ryckman 89). In Hit Man, at the beginning of the film, Gary Johnson has unfulfilled needs. Therefore, it can be analyzed from this perspective, because Gary Johnson's motivation to fulfill his needs drives his character to develop, driven by his desire to become the person he dreams of being. In line with what Maslow said about people who achieve self-actualization at the highest level of the hierarchy of needs, "what a man can be, he must be. This need we may call self-actualization" (46).

According to Maslow's further research, self-actualization is a continuous process of reaching one's potential and finding meaning outside of oneself, rather than a static state (272). Goldstein also supports this idea, stating that the basic drive of human life is the tendency of organisms to fully actualize themselves (41).

The film *Hit Man* (2023) tells the story of Gary Johnson, a professor whose rigid life helps law enforcement by pretending to be a fake hitman in an undercover operation. His ordinary daily life takes an unexpected turn when he takes on the role of a hitman, particularly when he plays the character 'Ron' when dealing with his client Madison, and develops a romantic relationship with Madison, a woman who is the target of one of the undercover operations. The film's narrative explores themes of identity, morality, and self-discovery, making it an interesting subject for psychological and literary analysis. Film narratives often reflect the psychological and ethical dilemmas faced by their characters, offering viewers a mirror to their own experiences (Bordwell and Thompson 121).

This object was chosen by the writer because the film *Hit Man* (2023) presents an in-depth description of psychological aspects; however, until now, it has never been

studied academically. Additionally, the film is based on a true story, making Gary Johnson's psychological journey even more compelling as it depicts real-life human experiences. The main character, Gary Johnson, is portrayed as a professor who initially appears to have fulfilled his basic needs but still exhibits unmet needs. Thus, by examining Gary Johnson's drive to fulfill his needs through the lens of Maslow's Hierarchy of Needs, where the final stage is self-actualization, this study attempts to provide a more comprehensive analysis. Furthermore, this study also aims to examine the characteristics of self-actualization reflected in Gary Johnson. The concepts of the hierarchy of needs and the characteristics of self-actualization were proposed by Abraham Maslow. Therefore, this study is expected to provide an interdisciplinary perspective in character analysis by connecting the fields of psychology, literature, and film studies, and to broaden our understanding of human motivation in modern films through an analysis of Gary Johnson's needs using Maslow's theory.

This research is important because it uses cinematic analysis to combine literature and psychology. This study adds to our understanding of how human desires and self-actualization are depicted in contemporary films based on real events by analyzing Gary Johnson's motivations and development in *Hit Man 2023* movie. According to Maslow, the story of mankind is the story of men and women who underestimate themselves (270). This study aims to show how self-discovery, emotional connection, and recognition influence personal satisfaction in the context of fiction and the real world through Gary's development. The film's storyline, based on a true story, makes Gary Johnson's psychological journey particularly compelling, as it reflects real human experiences in the exploration of identity and personal growth. Furthermore, the application of Maslow's Hierarchy of Needs to Gary's transformation allows for a deeper understanding of how human motivation drives self-actualization.

1.2. Research Question

Based on the background of the study, the writer poses the following research question for this study:

1. How does the main character fulfill his needs based on Maslow's hierarchy of needs theory in *Hit Man* (2023) movie?

2. How are the characteristics of self-actualization need reflected in the main character?

1.3. Objective of The Study

Based on the research question , the purposes of this research are:

1. To desscribe the main character fulfill his needs based on Maslow's hierarchy of needs theory in *Hit Man* (2023) movie.

2. To desscribe the characteristics of self-actualization need reflected in the main character.

1.4. Scope of The Study

This study focuses specifically on analyzing the main character, Gary Johnson, in the film *Hit Man* (2023) using Abraham Maslow's hierarchy of needs theory, which includes physiological needs, safety needs, love and belonging needs, esteem needs, and self-actualization needs. In addition, this study also analyzes the characteristics of self-actualization as described by Maslow and how these characteristics are reflected in Gary Johnson's personality, behavior, and self-development throughout the film, with the analysis limited only to the events, dialogues, and scenes shown in the film *Hit Man* without comparing it to other films, other literary works, or other psychological theories. Thus emphasizing how Maslow's hierarchy of needs and the characteristics of self-actualization are represented through the character of Gary Johnson in the context of the film.

1.5. Significance of The Study

The significance of this study is for interdisciplinary contribution to the fields of literature, film studies, and psychology by analyzing Gary Johnson's character in *Hit Man* (2023) through the lens of Maslow's hierarchy of needs. By examining how humanistic psychological concepts influence the character's motivations and development, the research provides a deeper understanding of how cinematic narratives explore complex human experiences. The study emphasizes the role of narrative structure and key scenes in illustrating psychological theories, offering a methodological framework for similar analyses in other works. Furthermore, it underscores the value of film as a modern literary medium capable of capturing the nuances of human behavior, thereby enriching academic discourse across multiple disciplines.

CHAPTER II

REVIEW OF RELATED LITERATURE

2.1. Previous Study

While *Hit Man* (2023) has not yet been the subject of formal academic research, its narrative and character development can be situated within broader scholarly discussions on the application of psychological theories in film and literature. Studies on Maslow's hierarchy of needs, such as those by Ryckman, have demonstrated the framework's utility in analyzing the motivations and personal growth of fictional characters across various media (Ryckman 89). Similarly, Tyson highlights how psychological approaches in literature uncover the subconscious drives and conflicts that shape character behavior, offering a foundation for examining Gary Johnson's development in Hit Man (Tyson).

In the realm of film criticism, reviews have noted *Hit Man* unique approach to character exploration and thematic depth. The New Yorker describes the film as a subversion of traditional hitman tropes, focusing instead on the psychological and moral dilemmas faced by its protagonist. This aligns with Bordwell and Thompson's assertion that film narratives often mirror complex psychological realities, using visual and narrative tools to reflect human experiences (121). Moreover, Glen Powell's portrayal of Gary Johnson has been praised for its nuanced depiction of identity and improvisation, a quality central to the film's narrative (Roger Ebert).

Richard Linklater's body of work further contextualizes the film's emphasis on character-driven storytelling. Scholars such as Bazin have observed that Linklater's films frequently explore existential themes and human relationships through a blend of humor and introspection (Bazin). Although Hit Man has yet to receive extensive academic

attention, this study aims to bridge the gap by applying Maslow's hierarchy of needs to analyze the character development of Gary Johnson, contributing to the growing discourse on the intersection of psychology and cinematic storytelling.

Although this film has not been studied before, Abraham Maslow's hierarchy of needs theory has been studied several times, One of the previous studies is a thesis by Fita Megeta Sari (2017) entitled *Hierarchy of Needs Analysis of the Main Character in Love, Rosie Film*. The study focuses on how Rosie, as the main character, fulfills the third level of Maslow's hierarchy of needs, namely love and belongingness needs. Using a qualitative descriptive method, the research emphasizes Rosie's efforts to achieve emotional connection and romantic fulfillment, and it finds that the character fulfills physiological needs, safety needs, and love and belongingness needs (Megeta Sari).

However, this study differs from previous studies in several important aspects. First, the object of this study is the film Hit Man (2023) directed by Richard Linklater which has not been studied academically before, especially from a psychological analysis perspective using Maslow's theory. The main character is Gary Johnson, whereas previous studies took the film *Love, Rosie.*

Second, this study differs from previous studies in terms of the scope and depth of analysis. Previous studies only found fulfillment of needs up to the third level of Maslow's hierarchy of needs, namely love and belonging needs without continuing to higher levels. In contrast, this study analyzes the entire hierarchy of needs experienced by Gary Johnson, starting from physiological needs, safety needs, love and belonging needs, to esteem needs, up to the fifth and highest level, namely self-actualization. In addition, this study not only identifies the fulfillment of self-actualization needs, but also analyzes the characteristics of self-actualization.

2.2. Theoretical Framework

2.2.1. Psychology of Literature

The psychology of literature is an interdisciplinary approach that examines the intersection of psychological theories and literary texts, focusing on how characters' behaviors, motivations, and development reflect psychological principles. This perspective seeks to uncover the internal drives, conflicts, and subconscious elements that shape characters and narratives, providing deeper insights into human nature as represented in literature. Tyson emphasizes that psychological approaches in literary analysis allow readers to explore the emotional and cognitive dimensions of characters, uncovering layers of meaning within texts (Tyson). Similarly, Holland argues that the psychological dynamics of readers and characters are interwoven, making literature a site for understanding both individual and collective human experiences (Holland 21)

Humanistic psychology, particularly the work of Abraham Maslow, has been instrumental in literary studies, as it prioritizes the understanding of personal growth, self-actualization, and the pursuit of fulfillment. Maslow's hierarchy of needs provides a framework for analyzing how characters navigate their basic and psychological needs to achieve self-actualization (Maslow 35). Ryckman elaborates on this theory's application to literature, suggesting that characters' progression through these needs reflects their psychological depth and development (Ryckman). Additionally, Jung's theory of archetypes has influenced literary analysis by exploring universal patterns of behavior and motivation, which are often reflected in character arcs (Jung 42).

Literature and film, as forms of storytelling, mirror the psychological struggles and aspirations of individuals. Bordwell and Thompson note that narratives often incorporate psychological elements to engage audiences emotionally and intellectually, offering a platform to examine the human condition (121). In the context of Hit Man (2023), integrating the psychology of literature allows for a detailed analysis of how Gary

Johnson's journey reflects Maslow's hierarchy of needs, revealing the interplay between his motivations, actions, and personal growth. By applying psychological theories to this cinematic narrative, the study underscores the broader applicability of psychology in understanding narrative structures and thematic depth across literature and film.

2.2.2. Hierarchy of Human Needs Theory

Prior to higher level requirements becoming motivation, lower level needs must be met, or at least mostly met, according to Maslow's hierarchy of needs theory. Conative needs, or those with a striving or motivating nature, make up the five needs that make up this hierarchy. These demands, which Maslow frequently called "basic needs," might be grouped on a ladder or hierarchy, where each rung indicates a need that is more important for life but less essential. Priority over higher level wants means that lower level needs must be met, or at least partially met, before higher level demands are triggered. For instance, anyone driven by self-actualization or self-esteem has to have had their food and safety needs met in the past. Therefore, safety and hunger are more important than self-actualization and self-esteem (Feist and Feist 280).

The hierarchy has been widely applied in various disciplines, including psychology, education, and literature, as a framework for understanding human behavior and development. Ryckman emphasizes that Maslow's theory provides valuable insights into human aspirations and how they evolve over time, highlighting the dynamic nature of motivation (Ryckman). In the context of literary and cinematic analysis, this model offers a lens to explore characters' psychological depth, motivations, and growth. Characters often experience conflicts or breakthroughs at different levels of the hierarchy, making it a robust tool for examining narrative structures and thematic development.

In addition to its sequential nature, the hierarchy of needs underscores the interdependence of physical, emotional, and psychological dimensions of human

existence. For instance, unmet physiological or safety needs can impede progress toward achieving emotional intimacy or personal fulfillment. Tyson notes that this interplay is frequently depicted in literature and film, where characters grapple with external and internal obstacles that mirror real-life struggles (Tyson). Applying Maslow's framework to narratives allows for a nuanced understanding of how characters navigate their needs, aspirations, and personal growth.

Maslow's hierarchy is often visualized as a pyramid, with each level representing a distinct category of needs. The five levels, along with their implications for individual behavior and development, are as follows:

2.2.2.1. Physiological Needs

These are the most basic and essential requirements for survival, such as food, water, air, sleep, and shelter. Without these, individuals cannot function or focus on higher-level needs. Maslow emphasizes that these needs form the foundation of the hierarchy, as they are critical for maintaining life (Maslow 35).

2.2.2.2. Safety Needs

When physiological needs are relatively satisfied, the next primary human motivation is safety needs, encompassing the desire for security, stability, order, protection, and freedom from fear, anxiety, and chaos. These needs can dominate an individual's behavior and shape the way they think, perceive the world, and define their values, causing the individual to function primarily as a seeker of security. Safety needs are most clearly observed in children, as they express fear openly in response to unexpected situations, new stimuli, illness, or separation from parents, reflecting their dependence on protective figures. Children also tend to prefer routine, consistency, and structured environments, while family conflict, injustice, or harsh treatment can generate deep anxiety by threatening their sense of security. In adults living in stable societies,

safety needs are generally fulfilled and therefore no longer function as the main drivers of behavior; however, these needs may re-emerge in situations of social crisis, instability, or psychological disturbance. In this context, safety needs in adults are often seen through a tendency to choose stable jobs (Maslow 39-43).

2.2.2.3. Love And Belonging Needs

This The next level of the hierarchy of needs is social and belonging needs. If physiological needs and safety needs have been sufficiently met, the next motivating needs are love and belonging needs. Humans need to feel accepted in society and family, and need a partner. Examples of these needs are friendship, family, and romantic partners (Maslow 43).

2.2.2.4. Self Esteem

Esteem needs pertain to the desire for self-respect, recognition, and a sense of accomplishment. Maslow divides this level into two categories: lower esteem, which includes the need for status and recognition from others, and higher esteem, which involves self-confidence and competence (Maslow 45).

2.2.2.5. Self-Actualization

The highest level in the hierarchy of needs is self-actualization, which is the effort of humans to reach their full potential. This need is fulfilled when a person is able to become their true self. Maslow gives the example that a musician must make music, an artist must paint, and a poet must write poetry, followed by the words "what a man can be he must be" (46).

2.2.3. Characteristics of Self-Actualizing People

The need for self-actualization is only triggered after all the needs of the previous 4 needs have been met. Self-actualization, according to Maslow, is the desire to be and do what one is "born to do". "A musician must make music, an artist must paint, and a poet

must write." Signs of restlessness are manifestations of these needs. In other words, the person is restless, agitated, and missing something. It is quite easy to determine what is causing a person's restlessness if they are hungry, insecure, unloved or unaccepted, or lack confidence. When self-actualization is required, one's desires are not always clear (Simons et al. 281).

There are 15 kinds of self-actualization characteristics described by Maslow, but Maslow also emphasized that to achieve self-actualization does not have to fulfill all of these characteristics. Being self-actualized does not require exhibiting all 15 characteristics, and self-actualized individuals are not the only ones who do. Maslow distinguished between perfection and self-actualization. Reaching one's potential is all that self-actualization entails. Therefore, one can achieve self-actualization while being foolish, wasteful, conceited, and rude (McLeod 11). here are 15 kinds of characteristics of self-actuliazing people according to maslow (Feist and Feist 296).

2.2.3.1 More Efficient Perception of Reality

More efficient perception of Reality is one part of the characteristics of self-actualization. Maslow stated in Feist and Feist, People who have achieved self - actualization can more easily see the lies or false hoods in others. Not only in humans but they can also see falsehoods in literature, art, and music. In addition, they can also see positives and negatives in others that most people cannot see. They understand noble values more clearly than others and are less prejudiced and less likely to see the world as they want it to be. In addition, self-actualized people tend to be less afraid and more comfortable with the unknown. Not only do they have a greater tolerance for ambiguity, but they also actively seek it out, and are comfortable with problems and puzzles that have no definitive solution right or wrong. They welcome doubt, uncertainty, unpredictability,

and uncharted paths, a quality that makes self-actualized people well-suited to be philosophers, explorers, or scientists (297).

2.2.3.2 Acceptance of Self, Others, and Nature

Self-actualized individuals are able to accept themselves as they are. They are not defensive or insincere, nor are they weighed down by unhealthy feelings of guilt. They maintain natural and healthy appetites for food, sleep, and sexuality, do not excessively criticize their own flaws, and are free from unnecessary anxiety or shame. Likewise, they accept other people without feeling a compulsive urge to correct, teach, or change them. They can tolerate others' weaknesses and are not threatened by others' strengths. They also accept nature, including human nature, as it is, without expecting perfection from themselves or from others. They understand that human life involves suffering, aging, and ultimately death (Feist and Feist 297).

2.2.3.3 Spontaneity Simplicity, and Naturalness

According to Maslow in Feist and Feist Self-actualizing individuals tend to act in a spontaneous, simple, and natural way. They are not bound by rigid social conventions, although they do not rebel against them unnecessarily. While they possess strong ethical principles, their behavior may sometimes be seen as unconventional or nonconforming. In most situations, they follow social norms either because the matter is not significant to them or out of respect for others. However, when a situation truly matters, they are willing to stand by their values, even if it leads to social disapproval or isolation. Their resemblance to children and animals lies in this genuine, unforced, and natural manner of behaving (297–298).

2.2.3.4 Problem-Centering

The next characteristic of people who achieve self-actualization is "problem-centering." According Feist and Feist, People who achieve self-actualization will care about issues beyond their personal problems. In contrast, people who have not achieved self-actualization usually focus only on their own problems. Therefore, individuals who have achieved self-actualization have goals that are greater than simply improving themselves personally. They view work not merely as a means of earning a living but as a mission and purpose in life. They focus on important issues and do not dwell on trivial or insignificant matters (298).

In conclusion, they not only focus on personal issues but are also interested in issues outside themselves. When working, they are very thorough and love their work, and do not get distracted by minor issues that could disturb them.

2.2.3.5 The Need for Privacy

The next characteristic is the need for privacy. Feist and Feist state that people who achieve self-actualization can find pleasure in solitude and privacy. They do not depend on others and feel comfortable both when they are with others and when they are alone. People who have achieved self-actualization may appear indifferent, but in fact they are only indifferent to trivial matters, they have great concern for the welfare of others. They do not spend time seeking validation from others. They are independent and capable of resisting societal pressure to always conform to conventions (298).

In other words, because they have fulfilled their social and belonging needs, they do not crave validation or need to be with other people to find pleasure and comfort.

2.2.3.6 Autonomy

The next characteristic of people who have achieved self-actualization is autonomy. According to Feist and Feist, people who achieve self-actualization are individuals who are independent (autonomous) and rely on themselves to grow, even though they have

experienced a sense of security and love from others. No one is born completely independent, but receiving unconditional love and acceptance greatly contributes to strengthening self-esteem. When they achieve this, they are no longer affected by criticism and praise, and they do not need recognition from others. Independence provides them with emotional stability and peace of mind that those who live to seek the approval of others do not have (298).

2.2.3.7 Continued Freshness of Appreciation

The next characteristic is the Continued Freshness of Appreciation. According to Maslow in Feist and Feist, people who have achieved self-actualization have the extraordinary ability to repeatedly appreciate the fundamental things in life with awe and happiness. They are highly aware of the importance of health, friends, loved ones, economic stability, and political freedom. Unlike others who view blessings such as flowers, food, and friends as ordinary, those who have achieved self-actualization perceive these things as something fresh. They do not complain about life but instead are grateful for what they have (299).

2.2.3.8 The Peak Experience

According to Feist and Feist, almost everyone experiences peak experiences, and peak experiences are also divided into several levels, some are mild, some are moderate and some are very strong. For example, a long distance runner feels detached from his body and feels beyond his limits, this is one of the mild forms of peak experience this experience may often occur to everyone without realizing it (299).

This peak experience can occur when a person feels very happy or very satisfied, and sometimes occurs during ordinary moments such as a sunset or a great view of nature. This experience occurs suddenly and cannot be intentionally created, "...but these

experiences cannot be brought on by an act of the will; often they occur at unexpected, quite ordinary moments " (299).

2.2.3.9 *Gemeinschaftsgefühl* (Social Interest)

According to Feist and Feist Gemeinschaftsgefühl, Adler's term for social interest, communal feeling, or a sense of unity with all humanity, is possessed by self-actualizing people. Maslow discovered that his self-actualizers showed some concern for other individuals. Self-actualizers relate with everyone and genuinely care about helping others, including friends and strangers, while frequently feeling like strangers in a strange place (300).

Self-actualizers may grow irate, irritated, or dissatisfied with other people, but they never lose their love for people in general. More precisely, self-actualizing individuals are often saddened, exasperated, and even enraged by the shortcomings of the average person , according to Maslow in feist and feist, yet they nonetheless sense a fundamental kinship with that individual (300).

2.2.3.10 Profound Interpersonal Relations

According to Feist and Feist , people who achieve self-actualization have affection and concern for the general public, but for personal relationships or close friends they choose only a few people, they feel there is no need to establish friendships with everyone. although they have few friends, their relationships are very deep and intimate. they prefer to be friends with mentally healthy people and avoid friends with people who are childish. they are often disliked by others or not understood by others but they are often adored and admired by others for their contributions to their work or business (300).

2.2.3.11 The Democratic Character Structure

Maslow in Feist and Feist explains that everyone who achieves self-actualization has democratic values. They can show kindness and concern for others without imposing

their social class, race, age, or gender, and may not even be aware of the subtle differences that exist between people (300).

According to Feist and Feist Individuals who achieve self-actualization have the desire and ability to learn from others. In a learning environment, they compare the knowledge they already have with what they can learn through observation. They understand that people who are not very healthy sometimes have a lot to teach them, and they tend to respect, if not like, being around such people. However, they do not passively accept the bad behavior of others; instead, they are reluctant to accept the behavior of other (300).

2.2.3.12 Discrimination Between Means and Ends

The characteristic of people who have achieved self-actualization is that they not only enjoy the end result of an activity, but they also enjoy the process of the activity itself, Feist and Feist "They enjoy doing something for its own sake and not just because it is ameans to some other. Maslow also stated in Feist and Feist people who have achieved self-actualization can often enjoy for its own sake the getting to some place as well as the arriving. Sometimes they can turn even the most mundane and uninteresting task into a game that is inherently entertaining " (300-301).

2.2.3.13 Philosophical Sense of Humor

According to Feist and Feist, people who achieve self-actualization have a "mature" sense of humor. Their humor is not like that of others, which is vulgar, offensive, or sexual, and it does not belittle others. They do not often joke around; usually, they use humor to convey a message or provide information. Their humor does not make people laugh out loud but rather elicits a slight smile. Their humor is spontaneous and natural. Such humor often loses its humor when retold; one must be present to understand it (301).

2.2.3.14 Creativeness

One characteristic of people who achieve self-actualization is creativity. According to Feist and Feist, Maslow said that creative people and people who achieve self-actualization can be said to be relatively the same (Feist and Feist).

The meaning of creative here is not creative in everything, but rather creative in their respective fields. Maslow gives an example in Feist and Feist "Creativity can come from almost anywhere. He said that whereas his selfactualizing mother-in-law had no special talents as a writer or artist, she was trulycreative in preparing homemade soup. Maslow remarked that first-rate soup wasmore creative than second-rate poetry!" (301).

2.2.3.15 Resistance to Enculturation

According to Feist and Feist the last characteristics identified by Maslow is resistance to enculturation. People who achieve self-actualization have a sense of awe for their surroundings and are able to fulfill their relevant daily needs. They are not antisocial individuals, nor do they deliberately behave in ways that are contrary to norms. Instead, they are independent, adhere to their own standards of behavior. They do not overtly reject trivial cultural aspects such as hairstyles, clothing styles, or traffic rules. However, when it comes to important matters, they will try to resist society's attempts to mold them based on existing cultural norms (301-302).

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CHAPTER III

RESEARCH METHOD

3.1. Approach

Descriptive qualitative approach was used in this study. The main character portrayed in *Hit Man* movie is the subject of this study. According to Cresswell, a qualitative research study looks at and evaluates what people or organizations see to be a social or human problem. It is employed to investigate a social phenomenon's mechanism and cause.

Instead of using numerical values to collect descriptive data, qualitative research uses words or images (Litchman 177). As a result, the writer uses a descriptive qualitative approach to describe the data. Because the writer is concerned in character psychology issues, extrinsic methods are used. Maslow's hierarchy of needs is highlighted by the study's extrinsic method, which focuses on the main character's social background and humanistic psychology.

This research employs a humanistic psychological approach to personality by using Abraham Maslow's Hierarchy of Needs theory as a case study. According to Bressler, a psychological critic sees an author's story as a dream that only reveals the story's apparent meaning at first glance (94).

Ultimately, psychological criticism uses psychological methods to examine the thoughts, feelings, and behaviors of literary characters in order to gain a better comprehension of the work. It looks at how psychological theories like Maslow's hierarchy of needs and Freud's idea of the unconscious are reflected in the relationships, actions, and objectives of the characters. It is comparable to comprehending how the plot's development is influenced by the psychological makeup of the characters (Bressler 96).

3.2. Source of Data

The data in this study was collected directly by the writer. The data was obtained from the film *Hit Man* (2023), a crime action and comedy film directed by Richard Linklater and starring Glen Powell. The film tells the story of Gary Johnson, a man who lives a double life while facing the moral and emotional consequences of his profession. This study does not focus on character development, but rather on the fulfillment of Maslow's Hierarchy of Needs and the representation of self-actualization characteristics displayed throughout the film. The film raises themes related to human motivation, identity, and the process of achieving self-actualization. Released on October 13, 2023, and produced by 20th Century Studios, this film provides significant material for analyzing how Gary Johnson's experiences, decisions, and interactions reflect the fulfillment of his needs and the emergence of self-actualization characteristics as he carries out his role in disguise.

3.3. Research Technique

3.3.1. Data Collection

The writer's role in this study is to collect data in the form of scenes, dialogues, and character interactions from the film *Hit Man* (2023), with a focus on the fulfillment of Maslow's hierarchy of needs by the main character (Gary Johnson). This study aims to analyze how the main character's journey reflects the process of fulfilling his needs and to find characteristics of self-actualization based on Maslow's hierarchy of needs in the film.

First, the writer carefully watched the film, identifying key moments of action, dialogue, and relationships between the main characters that reflect the fulfillment of Maslow's hierarchy of needs and the representation of self-actualization characteristics. These observations were collected through meticulous documentation of scenes depicting how the main character fulfilled his physiological, safety, love and belonging, and self-

esteem needs, which ultimately led him to self-actualization. Special attention was given to crucial scenes that revealed how his attitudes, decisions, and interactions depicted the characteristics of self-actualization, as reflected in his behavior.

Second, the collected data was organized and categorized based on Maslow's Hierarchy of Needs and self-actualization characteristics. The writer focused the analysis on how the main character's experiences and relationships with other characters influenced his efforts to fulfill his physiological needs, safety needs, love and belonging needs, esteem needs, and ultimately self-actualization. In addition, the analysis also focuses on how the main character's behavior, attitudes, and decisions reflect the characteristics of individuals who actualize themselves. The data is then analyzed systematically to answer the research questions and provide an understanding of the process of fulfilling the hierarchy of needs and the representation of self-actualization characteristics in the main character.

3.3.2. Data Analysis

Data analysis for this study was conducted qualitatively to answer the research questions regarding the fulfillment of Maslow's hierarchy of needs and the characteristics of self-actualization reflected in the main character of *Hit Man* (2023). This analysis focuses on identifying and interpreting scenes, dialogues, and character interactions that illustrate the main character's efforts to satisfy his needs, ranging from basic needs to self-actualization. Furthermore, the analysis examines how his attitudes, decisions, and behaviors represent the characteristics of a self-actualizing individual as portrayed throughout the film.

First, the collected data was organized into categories based on Maslow's Hierarchy of Needs and self-actualization characteristics. Each category covers important moments in the film that reflect the main character's efforts to fulfill physiological needs, the need

for safety, the need for love and belonging, the need for esteem, and finally, self-actualization. In addition, these categories also analyze how the main character's attitudes, behaviors, and decisions represent the characteristics of individuals who actualize themselves, as seen through their responses to internal conflicts and external challenges throughout the storyline.

Second, the writer analyzes the main character's relationships with other important characters, such as allies and opponents, to explore how these interactions contribute to the fulfillment of Maslow's Hierarchy of Needs and the formation of self-actualization characteristics. The influence of these relationships is evaluated based on how the interactions help the main character fulfill their needs for love and belonging, esteem, and encourage them towards self-actualization. In addition, this analysis also examines how the attitudes and decisions that arise in these relationships reflect the characteristics of individuals who actualize themselves throughout the story in the film.

Third, the writer analyses the main character's personal decisions and actions throughout the film, such as his responses to situations, how he handles his needs, and his efforts to seek redemption or self-acceptance. These moments are analysed to determine the extent to which they align with theories of self-actualisation and personal growth, reflecting the main character's journey towards self-understanding.

Finally, these findings were synthesized to draw conclusions about the fulfillment of Maslow's Hierarchy of Needs and the representation of self-actualization characteristics in the main character in *Hit Man* (2023), in accordance with the research problem formulation. This analysis highlights how the fulfillment of needs from basic to higher levels contributes to the achievement of self-actualization, which is reflected through the attitudes, behaviors, and decisions of the main character throughout the film. Thus, this

study provides a comprehensive understanding of the relationship between the fulfillment of the hierarchy of needs and the emergence of self-actualization characteristics in the main character's journey.

CHAPTER IV

RESEARCH FINDINGS AND DISCUSSION

This chapter explains film analysis based on research questions. This chapter is divided into two parts: Gary Johnson's hierarchy of needs and the characteristics of people who have achieved self-actualization as described by Gary. For data analysis, the writer uses the film *Hit Man* 2023, written by Richard Linklater, which the writer also uses as a source of dialogue and images for illustration.

4.1 The Main Characters Hierarchy of Needs

Hit Man (2023), directed by Richard Linklater, tells the story of Gary Johnson, a psychology and philosophy professor who secretly works with the police in an undercover operation, pretending to be a hit man to catch people who try to hire his services. During one of his missions, he meets a woman who wants to kill her husband, and this encounter becomes a turning point in his life. Gary begins to develop emotional feelings for the woman, causing him to no longer act entirely professionally as an officer. As a result, he becomes increasingly involved in his double life, questioning his identity, moral values, and how he views himself.

When Gary was assigned to go undercover as a fake hit man with the identity "Ron," he began to show a different side of his personality. In this role, he appeared more confident, assertive, and courageous than in his quiet life as a professor. This experience made him realize the difference between himself as Gary and the role he played as Ron. Therefore, his transformation can be analyzed through Maslow's Hierarchy of Needs, particularly in relation to his efforts to fulfill his esteem needs, which gradually led to a process of self-actualization.

4.1.1 Physiological Needs

The first need that must be met is physiological needs. If this need is not met, a person will find it difficult to fulfill their next needs, because according to Maslow, people tend to satisfy their hunger in their stomachs first rather than their hunger for love. Physiological needs are basic needs that humans must have in order to sustain life. The physiological needs that Gary fulfills in *Hit man* (2023) movie include food, water, shelter, and sleep.

A. Food

One example of physiological needs depicted in the 2023 film *Hit man* through the character Gary Johnson is food. The following is evidence of Gary eating at several places.

Data 1A

Gary Johnson is eating in his home *(Hit man* 2023 movie. 00:02:33).

Data 1A shows Gary Johnson eating alone in his kitchen, enjoying a simple meal by himself as part of his daily routine. He lives completely alone, without close friends, family members, or romantic relationships to accompany him. His solitary life highlights the absence of emotional connections in his personal life. Eating is one of the basic human needs because it is essential for survival, including food, water, sleep, and other physical needs. Through this activity, it can be concluded that Gary fulfills his basic physiological

needs, namely the need for food. In another scene, Gary is also seen eating when meeting his first client, further reinforcing the idea that he consistently meets his basic physiological needs. He lives alone with a cat and a bird, as stated by Gary in the monologue below.

Gary: I know on the surface my life looks simple, a little plain. **A guy feeding birds and living alone with his cats** in the suburbs, but I liked my inner life*. (Hit man* 2023 movie. 00:02:33).

The second piece of data that the author found can be seen in the image below where he was eating when he met his first client.

Data 1B
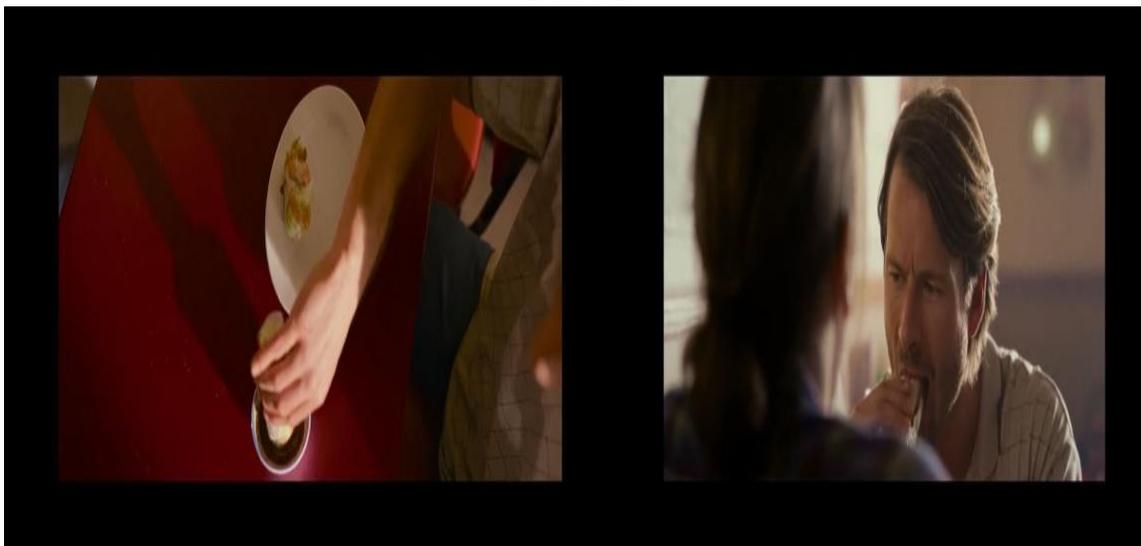
Gary is eating at restaurant *(Hit man* 2023 movie. 00:13:21).

Data 1B shows Gary Johnson, the main character of the film, eating a piece of food. In this scene, Gary is not eating alone; he is eating with his first client as a fake hit man. From the film, we can see that Gary is eating at a simple restaurant. Gary, the main character of the film, appears to be taking a piece of food from his plate, dipping it in sauce, and then biting into it. The restaurant has a simple atmosphere with natural lighting from outside, indicating that this scene takes place during the day. According to Abraham

Maslow's hierarchy of needs theory, this scene shows that Gary is fulfilling his basic needs, namely eating, which falls under the category of physiological needs. Therefore, this scene clearly shows that Gary has fulfilled one of the basic needs in Maslow's theory by eating.

The third data found by writer is that Gary was eating pie and preparing to meet his client. We can see this pie-eating activity in the picture below

Data 1C

Gary is eating pie at restaurant *(Hit man* 2023 movie. 00:19:21).

Data 1C indicates Gary eating pie. He appears to be eating alone before his client approaches him. He is eating in a simple restaurant with a quiet atmosphere. The natural light coming through the window indicates that this scene takes place during the day. According to Abraham Maslow's hierarchy of needs theory, Gary is fulfilling his physiological needs, which are the basic human needs to eat in order to sustain life.

The next data found by the author is when Gary was eating pie with Madison. This activity is shown in the image below.

Data 1D

Gary is eating pie at restaurant *(Hit man* 2023 movie. 00:32:23).

Data 1D shows Gary enjoying a slice of pie. In this scene, Gary is not alone. He is enjoying the pie with his client, Madison, who will later become his girlfriend. The sunlight coming in from outside indicates that this scene takes place in the afternoon. The atmosphere in this scene appears calm. According to Maslow (1954), one of the physiological needs is eating. This scene also indicates that Gary has fulfilled his basic needs, or what can also be called physiological needs.

The author found the next data at the end of the movie *Hit man* (2023). Data showing that Gary meets his physiological needs can be seen in the image below.

Data 1E

Gary is eating potato chip (*Hit man* 2023 movie. 01:47:36).

Data 1E indicates that Gary is preparing food, after which Gary is seen chatting casually with Madison and her two children. During the conversation, Gary is seen enjoying cassava chips. The natural light coming through the window indicates that this scene takes place during the day. According to Maslow, eating is one of the basic needs. In this scene, it is clear that Gary Johnson has fulfilled that need.

B. Water

The second part of Gary Johnson's physiological needs, as depicted in *Hit man* 2023 movie is water. According to Maslow, this physiological need is to sustain life (35). Water here means drinking, because without drinking, people cannot live. Below is some data showing Gary Johnson fulfilling his physiological needs, specifically water.

The first data found by the writer is when Gary was sitting alone at the dining table with a bowl of food and a glass of water. Evidence of this data can be seen in data 1A. Although the scene of drinking water directly is not shown, the scene of eating and a glass of water on the table indicates that Gary will need drinking water after eating. This scene

shows that Gary has fulfilled a basic need in the hierarchy of needs, namely the physiological needs for water.

The second data found by writer is when Gary was having a meeting with his colleagues and superiors at the police station. It can be seen from data 1F below.

Data 1F

Gary drinks at work *(Hit man* 2023 movie. 00:29:54).

Data 1F shows Gary holding a glass of drink and drinking it. It is not specifically explained what Gary is drinking in this scene. At this moment, Gary is not alone; he is with his coworkers and superiors at the police station. They are having a meeting and discussing work. Based on Maslow's hierarchy of needs theory (1954), water is one of the physiological needs. In this scene, it is clear that Gary has fulfilled this need by drinking the beverage in his hand.

The next data found by writer is when Gary and Madison first met at a simple and quiet coffee shop. Can be seen in the data below

Data 1G

Gary is enjoy a cup of coffee *(Hit man* 2023 movie. 00:33:43).

Gary's physiological needs are further demonstrated in the 1G data. In this scene, Gary is seen drinking a glass of liquid, but the film does not specify what kind of drink he is consuming. At this moment, Gary is not enjoying his drink alone; he is drinking with Madison, and this is the first time they have met. Based on the location where they meet, which is a coffee shop, it is likely that Gary is drinking coffee. The natural light entering the room indicates that this scene takes place during the day. The scene of Gary drinking a glass of liquid is Gary's attempt to fulfill his physiological needs, specifically his need for water.

The next data found by writer is when Gary drank tap water in the bathroom. Can be seen from the image below

Data 1H
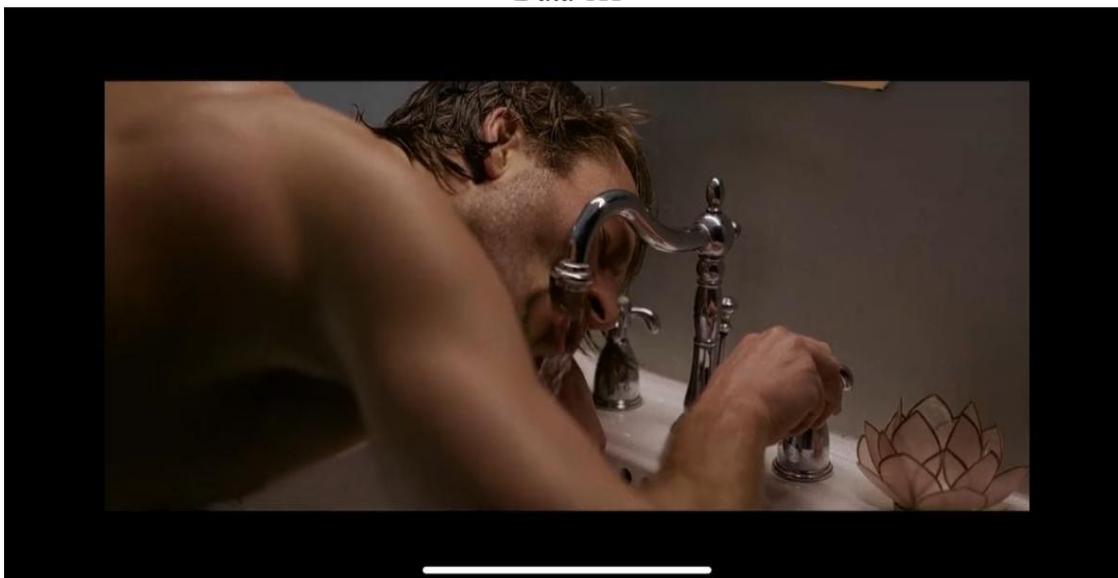
Gary drank tap water in the bathroom *(Hit man* 2023 movie. 00:49:32).

The fulfillment of Gary's physiological needs, as depicted in the 2023 film *Hit Man*, is indicated in data 1H. Gary is seen bending his head toward the faucet and drinking water directly. His body appears exhausted after having just finished having sex with Madison, so he seems to be in desperate need of water to drink. The scene takes place in Madison's bathroom. Maslow states that water is one of the physiological needs, and in this scene, Gary has clearly fulfilled his physiological need for water.

The next data found by writer is when Gary Johnson returned home from campus after teaching, holding a bottle of drink in his hand. This can be seen in the image below

Data 1I

Gary is carrying drinks (*Hit man* 2023 movie. 00:53:12)

Data 1I shows Gary carrying a bottle of drink in his hand. In the 2023 film *Hit Man*, it is not explained what kind of drink he is carrying. Gary looks excited after teaching and walking around campus while greeting his students. This scene takes place during the day. This is an example of a basic or physiological need according to Maslow (1954), namely water. The scene shows that Gary has fulfilled his basic physiological need by consuming water.

C. Shelter

One of the most basic or physiological needs in Maslow's hierarchy of needs theory is shelter. Shelter here refers to a place where a person can take refuge from wild animals, storms, snow, etc. Below is evidence that Gary Johnson has fulfilled one of his basic needs, namely shelter.

The first data found by writer that Gary had fulfilled the basic need for shelter was when Gary returned home from teaching at noon and parked his car in front of his house. We can see this data below.

Data 1J

Gary parked his car in front of his house (*Hit man* 2023 movie. 00:02:15)

This scene (Data 1J) shows a simple house with red brick walls and a small yard in front. Gary is seen parking his car there, and the scene continues in data 1A, showing that it is Gary's house. Here we can see that by owning a house, Gary has fulfilled one of the physiological needs in Maslow's hierarchy of needs theory, namely shelter.

D. Sleep

One of the physiological needs outlined by Abraham Maslow in his hierarchy of needs is sleep. In the context of basic human needs, sleep is essential for maintaining physical balance, emotional stability, and rational thinking. If a person has not fulfilled this need, it will hinder their progress in achieving the next level of needs, such as safety, love, and so on.

The only data the author found related to sleep was when Gary woke up after having sex with Madison at Madison's house. This data can be seen in the image below.

Data 1K

Gary woke up in Madison's room. *(Hit man* 2023 movie. 00:51:01).

This scene shows Gary waking up with Madison. Both of them are on a comfortable bed in a calm and intimate atmosphere. This scene clearly illustrates that Gary has fulfilled his physiological needs, namely sleep.

Based on analysis in *Hit Man* (2023) movie, it can be concluded that Gary Johnson successfully fulfills all of Abraham Maslow's physiological needs. Basic needs such as food and drink are met in several scenes where Gary enjoys food and drink, whether at home, at the office, or when he is with Madison. Based on these scenes, Gary is able to maintain his physical and mental health with a high intake, which is very important in balancing his daily activities. There is also no indication in the movie that Gary is hungry or thirsty.

In addition, Gary's needs for sleep and shelter are also well met. The moment when he sleeps in Madison's room shows that his desire for sleep is fulfilled physically and emotionally, while his simple home provides a sense of stability and security. As a result, all of Gary's physiological needs are met, including the need for food, water, shelter, and sleep, without any deficiencies. This situation shows that Gary has achieved stability at the lowest level of Maslow's hierarchy of needs, which is the foundation for advancing to higher levels of needs such as self-actualization, security, and love.

4.1.2   Safety Needs

Based on *hit man* (2023) movie, the main character Gary Johnson is portrayed as having fulfilled his safety needs based on the explanation below

The first data showing that Gary has fulfilled his safety needs is the fact that he is an adult. Gary is an adult, as can be seen from the picture below.

Data 2A

Gary is an adult *(Hit man* 2023 movie 00:02:18).

In *Hit man* 2023 movie, the image above (data 2A) shows that based on his posture and facial features, Gary can be said to be an adult. According to Maslow, the need for safety is usually felt most strongly by children because they are still dependent on others for protection and are easily frightened by uncertainty. In contrast, Gary Johnson is an adult who is able to face uncertainty without fear and does not need protection from others in his daily life (41).

In adults living in stable societies, the need for security is generally fulfilled and therefore no longer functions as a primary driver of behavior, and is usually expressed through the need for job stability. However, this need can resurface when individuals experience social crises, instability, or psychological distress (Maslow 42). Gary Johnson

is not described as being in such a condition. He lives in a stable environment, has a clear and stable job, and shows no signs of psychological distress, as explained below

Next is how Gary Johnson fulfills his job stability. Job stability refers to a person's need to feel secure from uncertainty in the work environment and be able to perform their duties steadily. Gary Johnson has two jobs. His main job is as a lecturer, and his side job is as a secret agent in the New Orleans Police Department as a fake hit man. His main job is as a lecturer, His job as a lecturer is shown through his monologue below

Gary: My name is Gary Johnson, and for a few years **I'd been teaching psychology and philosophy classes at the University of New Orleans.**
(Hit man 2023 movie 00:02:59).

The monologue above explains that Gary's main job is as a lecturer for a few years. As a lecturer, Gary teaches psychology and philosophy classes at the University of New Orleans. Gary's work as a lecturer is also supported by the image below

Data 2B

Gary is teaching in class *(Hit man* 2023 movie 00:01:49).

The image above (data 2B) shows Gary standing in front of his students conducting a teaching session at the University of New Orleans. During the teaching session, there are no scenes depicting Gary being in danger while performing his duties as a lecturer. Therefore, Gary's job as a lecturer is a stable one.

Gary Johnson's second job was as a undercover for the New Orleans Police Department and mostly handles murder cases. In this role, he helped the police uncover the mastermind behind the assassination plot. This work can be seen in Gary's monologue below

Gary: I also had a flair for all things electronic and digital and found myself supplementing **my income by working part-time undercover with the New Orleans Police Department**. After some obligatory training, I was soon hiding cameras, mics, and getting good recordings, mostly in murder-for-hire cases.

 (*Hit man* 2023 movie 00:03:11)

In the monologue above, it is said that Gary went undercover at the New Orleans Police Department to earn extra income as a fake hit man. Gary's job as a fake hit man is also supported by the image below.

Data 2C

Gary and his client are having a discussion. *(Hit man* 2023 movie 00:12:18)

The scene above (2C) shows the main character, Gary, talking to a guy who wants to hire him to kill someone. In this scene, Gary's task is to uncover the identity and intentions of the man who is trying to arrange a contract killing. In the data above (data 2C), it can be seen that the man who wants to kill someone appears to be giving money to Gary, which is evidence to arrest the man for his intention to kill. After evidence of the murder transaction is obtained in the form of payment given to Gary, the man will be arrested by the police as shown in the image below

Data 2D

If you so desire, and cannot afford one, one will be appointed to you by the court.

be used against you in a court of law. You have the right to an attorney.

Gary is watching the arrest of his client. *(Hit man* 2023 movie 00:15:33)

The scene above shows Gary looking at the person who hired him to kill someone. The scene takes place in daylight with natural light from the sky. The person appears to be arrested by two police officers and taken to the police station.

Although Gary's job seems dangerous, throughout the plot of the movie *Hit Man* (2023), Gary Johnson, who plays a hit man, is never actually in a dangerous situation or experiences job instability. This is because his role as a hit man is only part of an undercover assignment in collaboration with the police. Working under police protection and supervision, every one of Gary's activities is designed to gather evidence and trap criminals, thereby controlling physical risks and threats to his job. Therefore, Gary's role

as a "fake hit man" does not place him in unsafe working conditions, but rather demonstrates job stability and security guaranteed by the police institution. As shown in the following image

Data 2E

Claude and Phil monitored Gary through hidden cameras. *(Hit man* 2023 movie 00:11:30)

In the image above (data 2E), Claude and Phil are monitoring Gary Johnson through a hidden camera. Gary Johnson can safely carry out his role as a fake hit man because his entire operation is under police surveillance. Every meeting with a client is conducted as part of an official cover and is monitored directly through surveillance cameras. His colleagues, Claude and Phil, constantly monitor the situation from the control room to ensure Gary's safety and anticipate any potential dangers. With this support and monitoring in place, Gary is not truly in a risky position as a real hit man, but rather as part of a structured and controlled law enforcement strategy.

In addition, Gary's role as a fake hit man (data 2C) could potentially threaten his safety. His involvement in undercover police operations puts him in risky and unpredictable situations, which is in stark contrast to his previous stable life as a university lecturer. Logically, interacting with individual intent on murder could endanger

his physical safety and emotional stability. From an external perspective, this new role seems to challenge his need for protection, stability, and freedom from fear.

However, in the movie *Hit Man* (2023), Gary is portrayed as remaining relatively safe despite facing these risks. First, he operates under police supervision, which provides him with legal protection and institutional support. Second, as a psychology professor, he has a strong understanding of human behavior. His ability to read motives, emotions, and intentions allows him to anticipate potential threats and maintain control over every interaction. Instead of acting recklessly, Gary approaches situations analytically and strategically. This shows that even though his role appears dangerous, his security needs are still met because he has situational control, intellectual competence, and systemic protection. Therefore, even in high-risk environments, Gary's sense of security and stability are not fundamentally disrupted.

Furthermore, Gary is depicted as being in good physical and mental health. He does not experience major social crises, extreme conflict, or instability in his daily life. His routine is organized, his employment is secure, and he is not shown to be in immediate danger or exposed to serious social threats. Overall, these conditions illustrate that Gary lives in a stable and secure state, both personally and professionally as shown in the image below

Data 2F

Gary is relaxing at home. *(Hit man* 2023 movie 00:43:00)

In the image above (Data 2F), Gary is shown sitting comfortably in his home. While looking at his cell phone, he also appears to be holding his pet cat on his lap. This scene shows that Gary is living a comfortable and safe life, and is not in a situation of social crisis, such as war or other extreme conditions that could interfere with the fulfillment of safety needs. In addition, Gary also appears to be in good health, with no mental disorders or serious illnesses. Throughout the film, Gary is portrayed as a healthy individual who is not in a state of social crisis.

It can be concluded that Gary Johnson is an adult who is able to live independently without relying on the protection of his parents or others. He has a stable job as a lecturer and as a fake hit man who works with the police, so his economic and employment needs are met. In addition, Gary is not depicted as being in a situation of social crisis, such as war or unstable social conditions, and is shown to be in good mental and physical health throughout the film. There are no scenes showing Gary experiencing mental disorders or serious illnesses. Therefore, it can be concluded that Gary Johnson has fulfilled the second level of the hierarchy of needs, namely safety needs. Gary's next need is love and belonging needs, as explained below.

4.1.3   Love and belonging needs

In Abraham Maslow's hierarchy of needs, love and belonging needs are the third level of needs after physiological needs and safety needs. At this stage, individuals are driven to build meaningful emotional relationships, such as romantic love, friendship, intimacy, and a sense of belonging in a social group. Maslow emphasized that failure to fulfill these needs can lead to feelings of loneliness, and emotional emptiness, even if other basic needs have been met (Maslow 43).

At the beginning of the film *Hit Man* (2023), based on the data and analysis presented earlier, Gary Johnson is portrayed as an individual who has successfully fulfilled his physiological and safety needs. He has a stable job as a philosophy lecturer and also works with the police, which indicated economic stability, a structured routine, and institutional protection that guarantees a sense of security in his life. This condition indicates that Gary is not in a situation that threatens his physical safety or the stability of his life.

However, even though Gary's security needs were met, the film initially depicted that he had not fulfilled his needs for love and social attachment. Gary had no close friendships, was not in a romantic relationship with anyone, and lived alone without strong family ties. As seen in (Data 1A), Gary lives alone in his house, which indicates a void in the fulfillment of his emotional needs, especially his romantic relationships. Therefore, at this stage, Gary Johnson's main motivation shifts from fulfilling his security needs to fulfilling his love and attachment needs, namely romantic relationships. Gary's efforts to fulfill these romantic relationships can be seen in the explanation of the image below

Data 3A

Madison and Gary first meet *(Hit man* 2023 movie.00:34:35).

The process of fulfilling Gary's love and belonging needs is pictured by the movie when he is undercover as a hit man. The scene in the image above (data 3A) shows the moment Gary Johnson (undercover as Ron) and Madison first meet at a restaurant. Visually, the camera's focus on the envelope containing money on the table is the main symbol of the transactional relationship that commonly occurs between clients and hit men as shown in the image below

In the context of undercover work, if Gary accepts money from Madison, Madison will legally be considered to have had the intent and evidence to commit murder, which will directly lead to his arrest. Gary's refusal of the money shows that he consciously protected Madison, even though it was contrary to the standard operating procedures he applied to other clients. Gary treated Madison differently from his previous clients because he loves Madison as pictured by (data 3B) below.

Data 3B

Gary and Madison love each other *(Hit man* 2023 movie.00:49:56).

Data 3B above shows the development of Gary and Madison's relationship. At this stage, Gary no longer appears isolated as he did at the beginning of the film. Gary now has someone he loves and who loves him back. Data 3B above is also supported by the conversation between Gary and Madison below

Madison:" **I like this, us"**
Gary: **"yeah"**
(*Hit man* 2023 movie.00:49:56).

Madison's words, "I like this, us," and Gary's response, "Yeah," show that they love each other. Their relationship has developed not only through physical contact, as shown in data 3B above, but also through words.

Although Gary's love and belonging needs have been fulfilled at this stage, Gary, as Ron, has not yet revealed his true identity to Madison. Ron is a persona that he deliberately created for professional disguise purposes. Madison only knows Ron as a hit man, so the love and acceptance that Gary receives is not directed at his true self, but at the false identity that he presents. As a result, although Gary emotionally feels closeness, intimacy, and a sense of belonging, but there is still no honesty at this stage.

As the movie progresses, Gary Johnson finally reveals his real name to Madison, as seen in the data below

Data 3C

Gary revealed his real name to Madison *(Hit man* 2023 movie.01:24:00).

Data 3C above depicts the moment when Gary finally reveals his real name and identity to Madison by saying, "*My real name is Gary Johnson.*" Although in this scene Madison appears disappointed with Gary for having lied to her all this time, saying, "*So you've been lying to me this whole time.*"

Madison's initial reaction of disappointment shows that she felt betrayed by the lies that had previously sustained their relationship. This disappointment reflects the emotional conflict that is natural when trust in a relationship is disrupted. However, in the end, Madison eventually accepted Gary Johnson, as shown in the data below

Data 3C

Gary is eating with his family. *(Hit man* 2023 movie.01:47:43).

Data 3D above shows Gary eating with his family. At this point, it appears that Gary and Madison have two children, which is also evidence that Madison has finally accepted Gary and is in a more serious relationship with him.

In *Hit Man (*2023) movie, Gary Johnson's love and belonging needs is fulfilled not only through his personal relationships, but also through his social roles in the workplace. Gary's sense of social belonging is evident when he plays two different professional roles, namely as a lecturer and as a fake hit man in a police operation.

As a philosophy and psychology lecturer, Gary demonstrates a sense of belonging in the academic environment as described in (data 2B). He is part of the campus community where he is accepted and valued as an intellectual. His interactions with students in the classroom create stable and meaningful social relationships. He has a clear identity as a teacher, which makes him feel part of the education system and scientific community. His acceptance and recognized role in the academic environment show that he has a place of social acceptance in his profession as a lecturer.

Meanwhile, in his role as a fake hit man working with the police, as shown in (data 2C), Gary also felt a strong sense of belonging. He did not work alone, but was part of a team with a common goal, namely to assist law enforcement through undercover

operations. The trust placed in him, his coordination with fellow police officers, and his involvement in every mission show that he is accepted as an important part of the group. Through teamwork and the responsibilities he carries out, Gary shows that he belongs socially in his work in this field.

Based on the analysis of love and belonging needs in Gary Jonson, it can be concluded that Gary Johnson successfully fulfilled his love and belonging needs. Initially, even though his physiological and safety needs were met, Gary still experienced social emptiness because he lived alone without deep emotional relationships. The fulfillment of his love and belonging needs began to be seen through his relationship with Madison, which was initially built on a false identity, but eventually became an honest relationship when Gary revealed his true self and was still accepted. This acceptance developed into a more serious commitment that led to the formation of a family, which signified a stable and authentic emotional bond. In addition, Gary's sense of belonging is also evident in his professional life, both as a lecturer accepted in the academic community and as part of a police team in undercover operations, where he gains trust and teamwork. Thus, Gary is no longer portrayed as an isolated individual, but as a person who is emotionally and socially connected, so that his need for love and belonging can be said to have been fulfilled.

4.1.4 Esteem needs

After the love and belonging needs are fulfilled, human motivation will change to fulfill the next needs, which are esteem needs. esteem needs is ranks fourth in Abraham Maslow's hierarchy of needs, after the needs for safety, love and belonging, and physiological needs. At this stage, humans need recognition from both themselves and their social environment. Maslow distinguishes between two types of esteem needs:

internal recognition (self-esteem), which includes self-confidence, competence, and personal achievement, and external recognition (esteem from others), which includes status, respect, and recognition from others (Maslow 45).

According to Maslow, self-esteem is considered stronger and more important for a person's psychological well-being, but external recognition is more fragile because it depends on the opinions of others. When both of these needs are met, people will feel competent, valuable, and appreciated, which will give them stable motivation to continue to develop and reach the peak of development self-actualization (Maslow 45).

In *Hit man* (2023) movie, the character Gary Johnson has achieved both esteem from others and self-esteem, as can be seen from the explanation below

Esteem from others is part of Maslow's esteem needs, which relates to the appreciation or recognition that comes from other people. At this stage, a person needs respect, praise, status, and positive assessment from their social environment. When other people appreciate someone, it makes them feel accepted, important, and respected. However, if this need is not met, a person can feel belittled or ignored. Evidence that Gary Johnson has met these needs can be seen in the data below

Data 4A
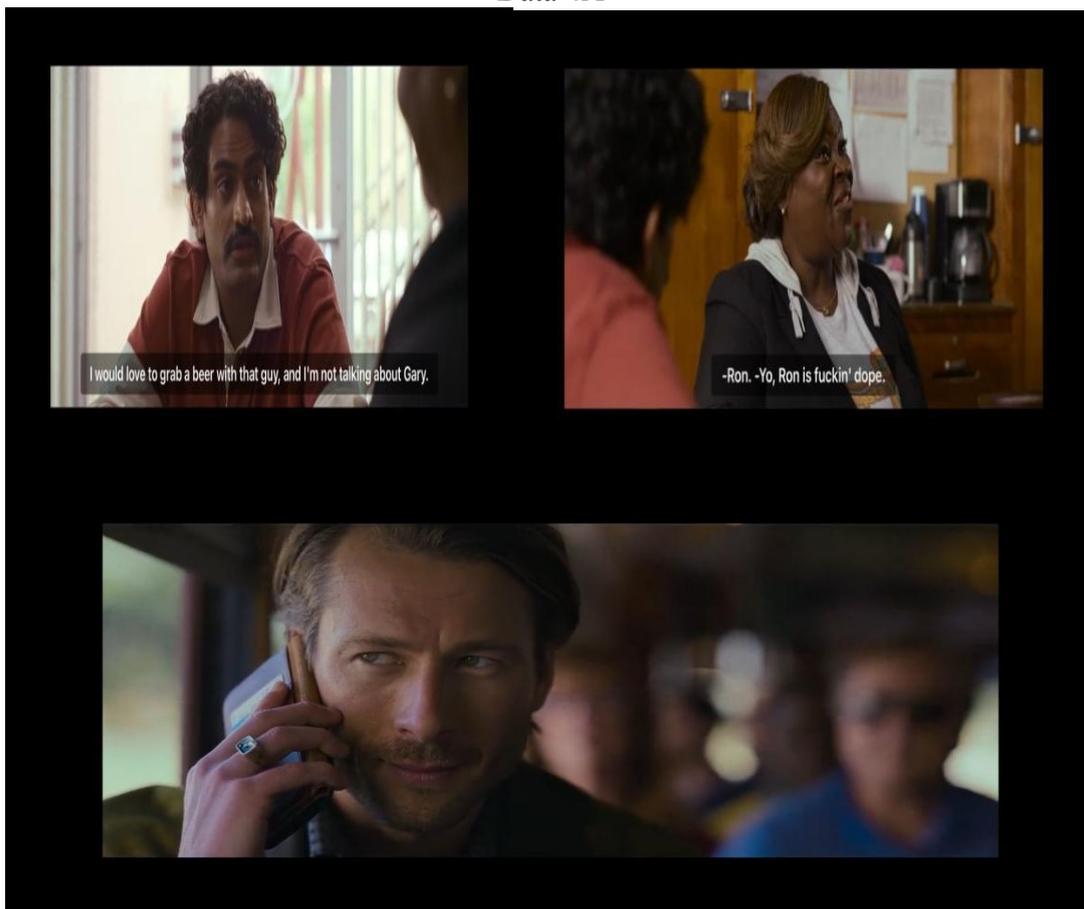
Claude and Phil praised Gary. *(Hit man* 2023 movie.00:39:00).

Data 4A, indicates Gary talking on the phone with Claudete and Phil, his colleagues at the police station. Gary receives praise from Claude and Phil. This moment occurs indirectly. When Claudete and Phil think the phone call has ended, it turns out that it has not. At that moment, Claude and Phil praise Gary for his portrayal of the character Ron, and Gary accidentally overhears them. They really like the character Ron played by Gary, and Gary smiles after receiving the praise, as seen in data 4A. Additionally, this data is further supported by the conversation between Claude and Phil, which Gary overheard. See their conversation below

Claude. I mean, I know he dropped the ball on this one, but… What's the name he used?
Phil. Ron.
Claude. **Yo, Ron is fuckin' dope He's like a Caucasian Idris.**

Phil: **I would love to grab a beer with that guy, and I'm not talking about Gary.**

Claude: **I would get black-out drunk with Ron.**

Phil: I'd let him talk me into ripping lines on the way to Vegas.

Claude: **I would rip my I.U.D. out for Ron.**

Phil: **I wouldn't share a straw with Gary. Gary is hung like a straw, but Ron? Strictly nightstick.**

Claude: **I mean, it's kind of sounding like you would fuck Ron, too.**

Phil: **I would take your sloppy seconds… if it were Ron.**

<p style="text-align:center">(Hit man 2023 movie.00:39:06).</p>

Based on the conversation above, it can be seen that Gary receives recognition from his friends. Statements such as "*Ron is fuckin' dope*" reflect admiration and social acceptance, which reinforce Gary's status and self-image in the eyes of others. Although the praise is actually given to the character Ron, indirectly they are giving it to Gary because Ron is part of Gary's identity. It also confirms that through Ron's identity, Gary receives recognition that he did not previously receive. Thus, this scene can be analyzed as evidence that Gary has achieved lower esteem needs, because he receives validation, praise, and recognition from his social environment, which plays an important role in increasing his confidence and self-esteem.

The next is self-esteem. Self-esteem is a form of self-appreciation that comes from within a person, not from the judgment of others. Maslow explains that internal esteem includes self-confidence, a sense of competence, independence, and the feeling that one has personal value and strength. This is the main foundation of self-esteem because it allows a person to continue to feel valuable even without praise or recognition from others. In *Hit man* 2023 movie, Gary Johnson's character can be seen fulfilling his self-esteem based on the explanation below

Data 4B

Gary praised himself. *(Hit man* 2023 movie.00:49:00).

After Gary gained recognition from others, namely his friends, Gary's next motivation was to gain recognition from him-self. The above data shows a scene of Gary and Madison being very intimate with each other, followed by Gary's monologue below

Gary: **I liked Ron. He wasn't a thinker. He was a doer.**

(*Hit man* 2023 movie.00:49:05)

In the monologue above, it is clear that Gary praises himself through the statement "I liked Ron." This praise is reinforced by his explanation that Ron was a man of action, unlike Gary, who tended to think too much, as shown in the sentence "He wasn't a thinker. He was a doer." Through this comparison, Gary assesses Ron's character which he created and played as a braver, more active, and more assertive version of himself.

By praising Ron, Gary is actually evaluating and appreciating himself, because Ron represents Gary's potential. This moment shows that Gary is beginning to realize his hidden internal potential, which he had not been aware of until now, and inadvertently acknowledges himself as a fake hit man, namely his ability to act more courageously. This awareness marks an important psychological development, in which Gary not only accepts praise from others (his friends) but also recognizes his own value, even though at

this stage Gary still seems to separate Ron's and Gary character, who is actually himself. However, this is a process of achieving self-actualization. Further explanation can be found below

4.1.5 Self-Actualization

According to Maslow, after a person has successfully fulfilled their esteem needs, the next need is self-actualization. Self-actualization is the highest level of the hierarchy of needs. At this stage, a person has been able to become what they want to be and discover their greatest potential (46).

In explanation **4.1.4**, namely esteem needs, it can be said that Gary Johnson has fulfilled lower and higher esteem needs. Gary Johnson has gained recognition from his friends and also from himself. Gary's next need is self-actualization. In *hit man* 2023 movie, Gary successfully fulfills this need, as can be seen from the monologue below

Gary: **As love can do, somewhere along the way, it changed me. I eventually found the proper cocktail of Gary and Ron.** After all, life is short. You gotta live on your own terms.

(Hit man 2023 movie.01:47:30).

In the monologue above when Gary says " *I eventually found the proper cocktail of Gary and Ron*" Shows that Gary has achieved self-actualization by bringing the character of Ron into his real life. At this stage, Ron is no longer just a persona or temporary role, but has become part of Gary's true identity. Not only that, Gary's appearance also changed, and he gained confidence and respect when teaching, as shown in the picture below

Data 5A

Gary before achieving self-actualization *(Hit man* 2023 movie.00:01:35).

Data 5A2

seize the identity you want for yourself.

Gary has achieved self-actualization. *(Hit man* 2023 movie.01:45:00).

Based on a comparison of data 5A1 and 5A2, there is a significant change in Gary that illustrates the process of self-actualization. In data 5A2, Gary appears as a figure who does not yet have strong self-confidence. He wears glasses, dresses simply, and displays awkward body language. At this stage, his students do not give him adequate appreciation or respect, so his position as a teacher appears weak and lacking in authority. This condition shows that he has not yet fulfilled his need for esteem, either internally or externally.

In contrast, in data 5A2, Gary shows a clear change he takes off his glasses, wears neater and more stylish clothes, and displays a much more confident expression and

posture. This transformation in appearance is in line with the increased appreciation from his students, who now see Gary as a more competent and charismatic figure. This change shows that Gary has successfully fulfilled his esteem needs and is moving towards the stage of self-actualization. With increased self-confidence and social acceptance, Gary is able to become the version of him-self that he wants to be, namely a person who is free to determine his identity, more authentic, and more appreciated. This confirms that Gary has achieved self-actualization through a process of personal transformation that is visible both psychologically and visually.

According to Maslow, self-actualization is the stage when a person is able to discover, accept, and realize their greatest potential in life (46).

At this stage, Gary Johnson can be analyzed as having achieved self-actualization because he successfully recognized and developed traits within himself that he had never been aware of before. These traits, such as courage to act, self-confidence, and assertiveness, emerged and developed through his role as Ron. Through this experience, Gary not only played a role, but actually discovered his true potential. By embodying the character of Ron in real life, Gary showed that he was able to realize his deepest potential and live more authentically, courageously, and confidently, just like his motivation.

4.2 Characteristic of Actualization in the Main Character

Abraham Maslow in Feist and Feist said that people who achieve self-actualization have certain characteristics. There are 15 characteristics of people who achieve self-actualization according to Maslow (296).

But in *Hit man* (2023) movie, the writer only found 5 characteristics in the main character, Gary Johnson. The fifth characteristics possessed by Gary can be seen from the explanation below

4.2.1 More Efficient Perception of Reality

One of the characteristics of self-actualization is a more efficient perception of reality. According to Maslow in Feist and Feist People with a more efficient perception of reality are able to distinguish between what is genuine and what is false. They are not easily deceived by outward appearances and can view both the positive and negative aspects of a situation in a balanced way. They also do not see the world based on personal desires, prejudices, or illusions, but rather according to facts and objective reality (297).

This characteristic is reflected in Gary Johnson's character in the movie, *Hit Man* 2023. For example, when Gary Johnson operates undercover as a fake hit man, he is able to read the character of his targets and become what they want with precision. This is evident in the way he adapts his responses to each client, demonstrating his ability to see others more clearly, as shown in the image below

Data A1
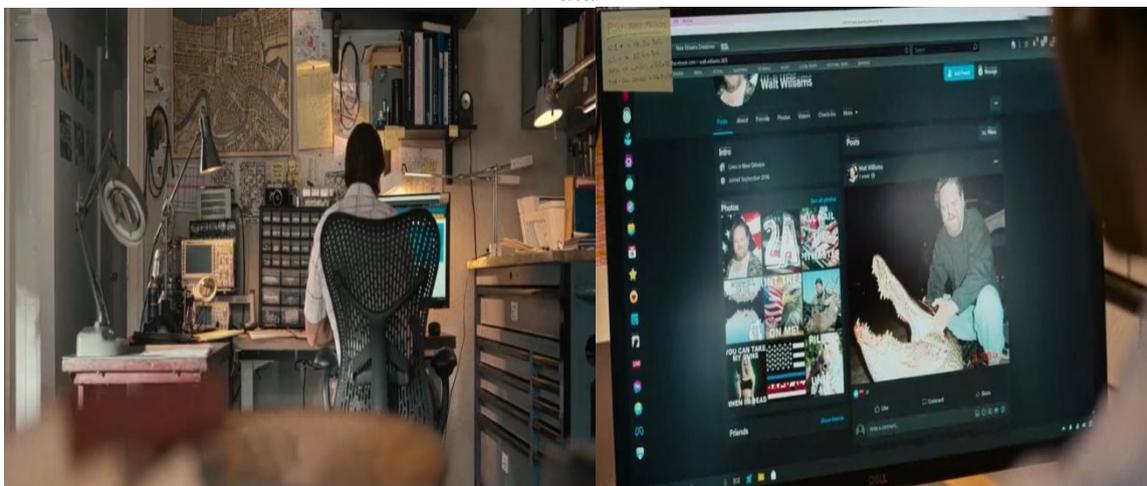
Gary is observing his target *(Hit man* 2023 movie.00:18:50).

In the image above (Data 5A), Gary is seen sitting and staring at a computer screen. Visual observation reveals thumbs-up and comment symbols, indicating that Gary is browsing social media. In this scene, Gary is carefully observing his target by examining what the target posts on social media. He analyzes the content of the posts to gain insights

into their personality, preferences, and so on. This observation allows Gary to understand the target more accurately based on factual information rather than assumptions.

By understanding the target's character through social media, Gary is able to disguise himself as the person the target desires or hopes. As a result, his disguise is effective, and the target responds positively and shows interest in Gary during their interaction. This outcome demonstrates Gary's ability to perceive reality clearly and objectively, as he successfully interprets the target's true character and adjusts his behavior accordingly, as shown in the image above

Data A2

Gary interacts with his target. (*Hit man* 2023 movie.00:19:31).

The image above (Data 5B) shows Gary interacting with his target, followed by the conversation presented below

The target: **how`s the pie?**
Gary: **all pie is good pie**
The target: **all right**
 (*Hit man* 2023 movie.00:19:31).

When the target asks, "How's the pie?", Gary responds with a different appearance and intonation by saying, "All pie is good pie." The target then replies with a smile, "All right." This interaction indicates that Gary succeeds in pleasing his client and effectively becomes the person the client desires or expectations. Through this response, Gary demonstrates his ability to adapt his behavior and communication style to match the client's expectations

Based on the explanation above, it can be concluded that Gary has a more efficient perception of reality, especially in his perception of others. In the film, this characteristic is demonstrated through his ability to clearly understand human behavior and desires. The film does not depict Gary's perception of reality in relation to music or art; the film focuses on his accurate and objective understanding of individuals, especially his targets.

4.2.2 Acceptance of Self, Others, and Nature

One of the characteristics of individuals who achieve self-actualization according to Maslow is acceptance of self, others, and nature, which is the ability to accept oneself, accept others as they are, and accept the imperfect nature of human beings (Feist and Feist 297).

In the film Hit Man (2023), the film depicts Gary Johnson accepting himself and others as they are, but Gary Johnson's acceptance of nature is not depicted in this film. Gary's self-acceptance becomes very clear when he combines the persona "Ron" that he created with his true identity, no longer separating his true self from the role he once used as a disguise, as shown in the image below

Data B1

Gary is enjoying time with his family *(Hit man* 2023 movie.01:47:50).

This scene shows Gary enjoying time with his two children and Madison, and at this point he is no longer pretending to be Ron in Madison's presence. Instead, Gary presents himself authentically by fully accepting who he is. This moment represents a significant shift in his character development, as he no longer relies on a contrived persona to define his identity or gain acceptance. His comfort and openness in this situation demonstrates an inner peace and self-acceptance that he previously lacked. This acceptance is further reinforced by Gary's monologue below, which clearly reveals his awareness of his true self and his readiness to live life honestly without any masks or false identities.

Gary: As love can do, somewhere along the way, it changed me. **I eventually found the proper cocktail of Gary and Ron. After all, life is short. You gotta live on your own terms.**

(Hit man 2023 movie.01:47:30).

In the monologue above, when Gary says, "*I eventually found the proper cocktail of Gary and Ron,*" it signifies that he has accepted himself as he is, because he no longer separates his true identity from the persona he created. This sentence reflects his awareness that both sides of his identity can coexist harmoniously, and also marks a turning point in his personal development. Instead of denying or hiding parts of him-self,

Gary embraces his true self fully and authentically, demonstrating a clear sense of self-acceptance.

In the movie *Hit Man* (2023), Gary Johnson is seen not only accepting himself, but also accepting Madison for who she is. He chooses and accepts Madison despite being aware of her background and the conflicts that come with it. Thus, Gary's acceptance encompasses both him-self and others, as shown in the following image

Data B2

And for the record, I think I'm in love with you, too.

We can agree this is kind of the worst, right?

Gary accepts Madison as she is. *(Hit man* 2023 movie.01:43:48).

Data B2 shows that Gary continues to love and choose Madison even though he knows her background, including her conflict with her husband. This scene confirms that Gary's feelings are no longer based on a momentary attraction or the false identity he used before, but on a deeper acceptance. Gary understands the complexity of Madison's situation, but he does not use it as a reason to walk away. Instead, he continues to show emotional commitment and a willingness to be with Madison. This attitude reflects that Gary accepts Madison for who she is, with all her past and the consequences that come with it. Thus, the scene shows Gary's emotional maturity in building a relationship that is not based on idealization, but on realistic and sincere acceptance.

Based on an analysis of the film Hit Man (2023), it can be concluded that Gary Johnson demonstrates clear self-acceptance and acceptance of others, although acceptance

of nature is not depicted in the film. Gary's self-acceptance is evident when he integrates the persona "Ron" with his true identity, no longer separating his true self from the role he once used as a disguise. This integration marks a turning point in his personal growth, as he chooses to live honestly and comfortably without relying on a false identity. In addition, Gary's acceptance of others is reflected in his relationship with Madison. Despite knowing her background and the conflicts surrounding her past, he continues to love and choose her sincerely. His decision demonstrates emotional maturity and a willingness to accept Madison for who she is. Therefore, the film ultimately depicts Gary as having one of the characteristics of a person who has achieved self-actualization: Acceptance of Self, Others, and Nature.

4.2.3 Spontaneity, Simplicity, and Naturalness

Another characteristic of people who achieve self-actualization is spontaneity, simplicity, and naturalness. According to Maslow in Feist and Feist people who possess these characteristics usually they are not rigidly bound by social norms, but neither do they rebel against them without clear reason. Although they have strong ethical principles, their behavior can sometimes be considered unconventional or inconsistent with common customs. In many situations, they continue to follow social rules, either because it is not very important to them or as a form of respect for others. However, when faced with situations that are truly meaningful, they are willing to defend their beliefs, even if it means facing rejection or social exclusion (297–298).

In the movie Hit Man (2023), Gary Johnson demonstrates this characteristic, especially **spontaneity**, when protecting Madison from her abusive husband. As explained in the image below

Data C1

Gary protects Madison *(Hit man* 2023 movie.01:02:34).

The image above (Data C1) shows a scene in which Gary Johnson is walking with

Madison in a public place after they return from a date. Suddenly, Madison's husband

(Ray) arrives with a friend and attempts to attack her, as reflected in the dialogue below

Madison: **Ray, can you just leave us alone?**
Ray: **Goddamn it, Madison. Don't walk away from me, Don't you fucking walk away
from me, you ungrateful bitch! Come here!**
Shit!
Gary: **Apologize, motherfucker.**
Madison: **Yeah. He said apologize, motherfucker.**

(*Hit man* 2023 movie.01:02:29).

The conversation above shows Madison telling her husband to leave, but he refuses

and instead attacks her while shouting, "*Don't you fucking walk away from me, you*

ungrateful bitch! Come here!'' as depicted in the image above (data C1). After this, Gary

spontaneously pulls out a gun in a public place and says, "*Apologize, motherfucker*."

Madison's husband and his friend then raise their hands and leave, walking away from

Gary and Madison, as illustrated in (Data C1).

The image above (Data C1), supported by the preceding dialogue, illustrates that when Madison is attacked by her husband in a public space, Gary responds by spontaneously drawing his weapon without engaging in prolonged or calculated consideration. Although his action may be viewed as socially and legally inappropriate, he chooses to act because it is meaningful and morally justified according to his personal values. Gary's response is simple and natural, driven by an immediate need to protect Madison from a real and present danger, without concealing his intentions or conforming to social expectations.

In addition to showing spontaneity, Gary Johnson in the movie Hit Man (2023) is also portrayed as having a strong character of **simplicity**. This aspect can be clearly seen at the beginning of the film when he lives a simple life with his pet cat. Gary is depicted as living in an ordinary house without luxury, going about his teaching routine, then spending time at home with his pets, as shown in the following scene.

Data C2

Gary lives simply. *(Hit man* 2023 movie.00:02:24).

In Data C2, Gary Johnson is portrayed living a modest and grounded life after returning home from teaching. The scene shows him watering his plants and spending time with his two cats, emphasizing the quiet rhythm of his daily routine. There is no indication of extravagance, social ambition, or a desire to impress others. Instead, the

focus is on ordinary domestic activities that reflect stability and emotional balance. This depiction strongly highlights that Gary possesses the characteristic of simplicity, as he feels comfortable within an uncomplicated and unpretentious lifestyle.

Furthermore, this simplicity is not only visible in his material condition but also in his attitude toward life. Gary does not seek excitement, luxury, or constant social validation. He finds contentment in small, meaningful routines such as caring for his plants and pets. These actions symbolize patience, responsibility, and self-sufficiency, showing that he is emotionally fulfilled without relying on external recognition. Through this scene, it becomes clear that simplicity is a fundamental aspect of Gary's character, shaping the way he lives and understands him-self.

In conclusion, Gary Johnson in *Hit Man* (2023) demonstrates the characteristics of spontaneity, simplicity, and naturalness through his actions and lifestyle. His spontaneity is evident when he immediately protects Madison from her abusive husband without hesitation, acting based on his personal moral conviction rather than rigid social norms. His simplicity is reflected in his modest daily life as a lecturer, living in an ordinary house, and spending time caring for his plants and cats without seeking luxury or social recognition. Although naturalness is not explicitly highlighted in the film, it can be inferred from the consistency between his values and his behavior, as he responds to situations in a sincere and authentic manner. Therefore, Gary can be understood as embodying spontaneity, simplicity, and an implied sense of naturalnesss.

4.2.4 Creativeness

According to Maslow in Feist and Feist, individuals who have achieved self-actualization tend to be creative in their respective fields (301). Gary demonstrates this characteristic when he disguises himself and creates multiple personas, as shown in the image below

Data D1

Gary colored his eyes and hair *(Hit man* 2023 movie.00:20:46).

In the image above (Data D1), the scene shows Gary coloring his eyes and teeth as part of his disguise. He does this to create a different persona in line with the character he wants to portray. By changing his appearance in detail, Gary makes his role more convincing and helps his target believe that he is truly a professional hit man. This disguise is not just about appearance, but also about building a convincing identity. His creativity helps him understand what his target expects to see and allows him to effectively meet those expectations. Through this disguise, Gary demonstrates that creativity plays an important role in his work, especially in supporting successful deception and interactions with others. Not only that, Gary even wears fake hair and tattoos, as shown in the image below.

Data D2

Gary wears fake hair and tattoos *(Hit man* 2023 movie.00:21:33).

The image above (data D2) shows that not only did he paint his teeth and eyes, but he also used false tattoo and a wig to perfect his disguise. These additional details made his appearance even more convincing and realistic. By carefully changing various aspects of his appearance, Gary successfully transformed himself into the persona he wanted to play.

Based on the above explanation, it can be concluded that Gary has one of the characteristics of self-actualization, namely creativeness. By coloring his teeth and eye, as well as using false tattoo and a wig, Gary shows that he can creatively adjust his appearances to suit each situation. This creativity helps him gain the trust of his targets and carry out his role effectively, proving that Gary is very creative in his field.

4.2.5 Resistance to Enculturation.

The final characteristic of self-actualization that the author found in Gary was Resistance to Enculturation. According to Maslow in Feist and Feist, people with these characteristics are not antisocial or consciously disobedient, but they have their own rules and do not blindly follow the rules of others (301).

Gary Johnson demonstrated this characteristic when he refused to take Madison's money as payment for Madison hiring Gary as a hit man, as shown in the image below.

Data E1

Gary is having a discussion with Madison *(Hit man* 2023 movie.00:21:33).

The image above (data E1) shows Gary and Madison sitting in a restaurant. They are discussing the murder. In this scene, Madison wants to kill her abusive husband and hires Gary, but Gary refuses to take Madison's money, which would be evidence for the police to arrest Madison. Even though Gary is scolded by his colleagues, Gary seems to have his own rules that he considers important, as shown in the conversation below.

Claude: **So, you're a fuckin' life coach now?**

Jasper: **what I just saw and listened to what I saw and listened to? I'm not believing it.**

Gary: What?

Claude: "What?" Never mind our sting operation…

Phil: **"Let me be your therapist?"**

Gary: **She's not a killer. She just needs to get it together. I'm just out here serving the overall public good.**

<div align="center">(Hit man 2023 movie.00:37:45).</div>

The conversation above takes place after Gary did not take Madison's money and let her go. Claude, Phill, and Jasper are Gary's colleagues at the police station who are tasked with monitoring Gary on surveillance cameras. The conversation shows that his colleagues are angry with Gary for letting Madison go, but Gary continues to follow his own rules even though they conflict with those of his colleagues. This is because Gary believes that Madison is not a murderer. Based on the above analysis, it can be concluded that Gary has his own set of rules and does not blindly follow the rules of others, indicating that Gary Johnson possesses one of the characteristics of a person who has achieved self-actualization, namely resistance to enculturation.

CHAPTER V

CONCLUSION

5.1   Conclusion

This study aims to analyze Gary Johnson's Hierarchy of Needs in the film *Hit Man* (2023) based on Abraham Maslow's Hierarchy of Needs theory, as well as to identify how the characteristics of self-actualization are reflected in the main character. Based on the data analysis and discussion presented in the previous chapters, several conclusions can be drawn that directly address the research questions of this study.

First, regarding the hierarchy of needs experienced by Gary Johnson, the findings indicate that Gary has fulfilled his physiological needs and safety needs since the beginning of the story, as reflected in his stable job and relatively orderly life. However, Gary experiences a deficiency in love and belonging needs, which is shown through his reserved personality, loneliness, and lack of emotional relationships. Through his interaction with Madison, Gary begins to fulfill his love and belonging needs.

Secondly, after fulfilling his need for love and belonging, Gary demonstrated that his need for appreciation had been fulfilled. This was evident in his increased self-confidence, courage in making decisions, and recognition of his own values and abilities to become the person he wanted to be. Gary's role as Ron helped him realise his previously hidden potential, so that he no longer saw himself as a passive and rigid individual.

Third, this study found that Gary Johnson ultimately reached the stage of self-actualisation where he was finally able to become the person he wanted to be, by applying

Ron's personality in his real life. Gary Johnson also exhibited several characteristics of individuals who have achieved self-actualisation as proposed by Maslow, such as a more efficient perception of reality, acceptance of self, others and nature, focus on problems, and creativity. The peak of Gary's self-actualisation was evident when he was able to integrate his two identities, Gary and Ron, into a whole personality and live authentically according to his personal values and choices.

Therefore, it can be concluded that the fulfillment of Gary Johnson's needs in the movie *Hit Man* (2023) reflects the gradual process of fulfilling human needs as described in Maslow's hierarchy of needs theory. This film illustrates that self-actualization is the result of life experiences, self-reflection, and the courage of individuals to recognize and develop their highest potential.

5.2   Suggestion

Based on the results of this study, the author offers several suggestions. First, future researchers are encouraged to examine the film *Hit Man* (2023) using other psychological approaches, such as identity theory, existential psychology, or psychoanalysis, in order to obtain more diverse perspectives. Second, future studies may compare the character of Gary Johnson with main character from other films that share a similar theme of self-transformation to enrich psychological-based literary and film studies. Third, for readers and film enthusiasts, this research is expected to serve as a reflection that the courage to search for one's desired identity, to accept oneself, and to develop personal potential is an important step toward achieving a meaningful life and self-actualization.

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