

Unraveling the Motivational Drive of Mccandless in SEAN PENN'S Film "Into the Wild"

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Abstract

This research studies about the motivation of the main character who chooses to leave his family for free and peaceful life. The objectives of this research is unraveling and exploring McCandless motivation in the movie "into the wild" directed by Sean Penn. The approach used in this research is a qualitative approach with the type of content analysis study. In this cas, psychological analysis is employed. The data are collected through observing the script of the film and take notes. The result of this research shows that there are intrinsic motivation, extrinsic motivation and also there are five types broader motivation that classified into physiological needs, safety needs, love belongingness needs, esteem needs and self-actualization.

Keywords: Film, Main Character, Motivation, Psychology

Introduction

In literary works someone can study the Motivation contained in a person. Finding motivation in literary works, namely films, is certainly very useful and beneficial if the motivation that is carried out is good, it can also be applied in the daily world. Thus, it is very interesting to do research.

This study chose the film "Into the Wild" by Sean Penn as the object because the story that contains motivation and also how he struggles to survive. This film written by a director named Sean Penn in 2007 a film based on a true story. It is based on a narrative from the point of view of his own family, namely Carine, Christopher's sister. But still refers to the book that tells his life. It happened after graduating from Emory University, Chris wanted to continue his studies.

However, that changed. This change was in line with his disappointment in the life he lived. He is fed up with everything. Including the love from his parents during this time. He thought it was nothing but a lie. Moreover, he himself witnessed that his parents were not people who got along even though they came from among people who were genius, luxurious and famous. Then he did not continue his studies at Harvard and chose to leave the life he lives today.

For the past years, the writer understand that motivation as the driving force that helps the writer to move on, move up and move forward in life. This is understood accordingly with these experts explanation. Motivation is the process of influencing or encouraging from outside a person or a working group from outside, therefore, they want to a achieve something that has been determined as it stated by Samsudin (2010;281). In addition, Umam in Nughraeni (2013) defines that the definition of motivation includes various aspects of human behavior or behavior that can be encourage someone to behave or not behave”. Weiner in Djafar (2021) defines that motivation is a desire or urge that arises in a person either consciously or unconsciously to do something with a specific purpose. The motivation that exists in a person is the driving force that will realize a behavior in order to achieve the goal of self-satisfaction.

Motivation are divided into two, there are intrinsic motivation and extrinsic motivation. Intrinsic Motivation explained as an urge that come from within of oneself. It relates to the need of a person to proof its existence. Extrinsic motivation is something that is expected to be obtained from outside one's self. This motivation is usually in the form of value derived from a material, for example a reward in the form of money or other incentives obtained for an effort that has been

Apart from intrinsic and extrinsic type of motivation, Hjelle and Ziegler in Truman & Kuncara (2017) divides types of motivation based on Maslow's classification such as physiological needs, safety needs, love belongingness needs, esteem needs, and self-actualization. The further explanation will be presented in the findings and discussion chapter.

Methodology

The researchers use qualitative research. Prastowo (2010;15) states that qualitative research is a research step that produces a description of the data in the form of writing or speech, as well as the behavior of the people being observed. This study aims to unravel the motivational drive of the main character. In analyzing the motivation of main character in the film “Into the Wild” the researcher applies psychology approach. The psychological approach is an approach that uses the

perspective of psychology, which is an approach that looks at the study of the human psyche. Psychological approach is an approach that aims to see the state of the human soul (Hakim, 2014). This approach is used to describe the main character McCandless in the film “into The Wild” by Sean Penn. The techniques of collecting the data in this research are taken through watch the movie multiple times and take notes on the possible dialog or narration that shows the main characters motivational drive. The research object in this research is the film script of the movie entitled “Into the Wild” by Sean Penn, published in 2007. The techniques of analyzing the data are based on Miles and Huberman in Rijali (2019) as follow: 1) Data reduction, In this point, researchers identify and classify the data which relates to motivation in McCandless. 2) Data display. In this step, the researchers describe the data and related them to the theories. 3) Conclusion drawing. In this step, the researchers draw the conclusion as the result of this research.

Findings and Discussion

There are several data that the researcher finds deal with the intrinsic and extrinsic motivation in McCandless as the main character in the film as follow:

1) Intrinsic Motivation

Data 01

Chris talks to himself while he writing in the small book.

Chris: “strong. You can do anything, you can go anywhere. Money, power are an illusion. It's up here. You can be here. Me and you.”

(Scene 41:08 / 41:16)

In data 01, the words “strong. You can do anything, you can go anywhere.” are classified into motivation because these words are the affirmative words which have impact to someone to be keep in spirit. This kinds of words can also be classified into building a self-trust. Such kinds of utterances may lead an attitude such as a self-praise. As Retno 2018 states that giving a praise will increase a positive emotion to a person in controlling his feelings. In the case in data 01, the words such as spoken by McCandless to himself are categorized as building a self-praise. This kind of utterances is classified into intrinsic motivation. The Intrinsic motivation is motivation the desire or encouragement of someone who wants to do an action caused by a factor of encouragement that comes from within oneself because in each individual or group there is an urge to do it. (Tambunan in Hendryko, 2021).

Data 02

Chris : (Chris talks to himself while writing on his book) ”I've decided I'm going to live this life for some time to come. The freedom and simple beauty is just too good to pass.”

(Scene 01:31 - 01:46)

In data 02, the words *"I've decided I'm going to live this life for some time to come."* are spoken by McCandles to himself when he sees beautiful scenery which motivates him to keep in living for his life and continuing his journey to reach his dream to Alaska. This word can be classified into building a strong bounding, in which humans have a strong relationship with nature, It deals with Riharjo (2015) who states that humans have feelings of strong bounding and potential to build interactions with nature that can effect their happiness and well-being. In the case in data 02, the words strong bounding spoken by Mccandless to himself are classified into intrinsic motivation.

2) Extrinsic Motivation

Data 03

Rainey :” the navy bulldozed and abandoned this base down there, and all that's is this huge grid of concrete foundation, or slabs.
Rainey :” you would dig the slabs. If you're on the road still.
Jan : “you'd love it. Fellow travelers. Just living on the cheap under the sun. can't beat it.
Chris :”sounds good”
Jan :”If you come, I'll make you a proper hat.
Chris : "promise?"
Jan : “I swear to god.”

(Scene 36:33 – 36:58)

In data 03, the words *"you'd love it. Fellow travelers. Just living on the cheap under the sun. can't beat it"* are spoken by Jan to Mccandless. In this case, Mccandless gives his respon *"sounds good"*. The words in data 05 are about getting help from others. These others' helpings make McCandless has more spirit to continue and struggle for his journey to Alaska. As Kharunnisa (2021) states when someone feels that has been given a help by others or she calls as 'altuarism', the brain will respond that makes a person feel happy. We can see this from McCandless' responses when he has a help from some people. The words in these data are classified into extrinsic motivation, According to Tambunan in Hendryko (2021), extrinsic motivation is something that is expected to be obtained from outside one's self. This motivation is usually in the form of value derived from a material, for example a reward in the form of money or other incentives obtained for an effort that has been made

Deal with the types of motivation in McCandless, the researcher finds several data as follow:

1) Physiological Needs

Data 04

"See Christopher starving from his trip then he hunted a forest rabbit and burned it and then he ate and enjoyed it." (Scene 07:41-07:53)

In data 04, the scenes *"Christopher starved from his trip then he hunted a forest rabbit and burned it and then he ate and enjoyed it."* Are

classified into motivation because give the impact to someone how to survive as Mccandless survives in the Alaska. Survival is the ability to survive inside a condition or condition. Life defense can also be interpreted as a technique or knowledge in dealing with various threats to personal safety (Zaluchu, 2021). The scene describe how Mccandelss to survive in Alaska, therefore is classified into psychological need motivation, in which according to Maslow physiological needs is the most basic and most powerful, because it is to survive physically. Maslow said that in physiological needs are the most important needs in satisfaction because related with life existence, and the needs such as food, water, oxygen, activity, rest, temperature balancing, sex, and need to stimulant sensory. Someone who is shortage such as food, safety, loves and esteem more likely to give priority to the feeling of hungry and needed food, physiological needs will be the main motivation rather than the needs of others. Physiological needs are the most important needs in satisfaction because related with life existence, and the needs such as food, water, oxygen, activity, rest, temperature balancing, sex, and need to stimulant sensory.

2) Safety Needs

Safety needs include the needs of protection, security, law, freedom from fear and anxiety. After fulfilled the physiological needs, then the needs of safety come. The needs of safety are needed for feeling freedom from fear and anxiety, to keep exist and safe from danger. Based on Maslow, the safety needs can be observed in infants and children because of their powerlessness and dependency on the family so if these is not fulfilled then the child will feel anxious and insecure. Physiological needs are short-term survival, while security is a long-term survival.

Data 05

Chris : I'm going to Alaska

Wayne : Alaska,? Or City Alaska ? because they do have markets in Alaska. City in Alaska, no Alaska.

Chris : no man, *Alaska, Alaska. I'm gonna be all the way out there, all the way fucking out there. Just on my own. You know, no fucking watch, no ma, no ax, no nothing, nothing. Just be out there. Just out be there in it, you know ? into the wild. (Scene 45:55 – 47:30)*

In data 05 the words *“Alaska, Alaska. I'm gonna be all the way out there, all the way fucking out there. Just on my own.”* Are spoken by McCandless to person which motivates him to keep living and feel freedom in Alaska. This word described into meaningful life and real enjoyment of life. In which a person chose enjoyment of life and meaningful they feel safety. As Huda (2021) states that human wants suffering in his life. The essence of happiness in life is not avoiding unpleasant feelings, suffering and discomfort. However, do not let the feeling of suffering run uncontrollably

as to erase all pleasant moods. This means that in living our lives we not only need a little discomfort like worrying about failure which will be able to direct us to always try to improve it which bring us to feel safety. In this case in data 10, the words are spoken by McCandless to his friends relate to the explanation about safety needs that mentioned above.

3) Love and Belongingness Needs

Love and belongingness needs related to the desire of a person that in need to be in relationship. Those relationship particularly highlight the eagerness to be involved or closely related to the family member of a person she/he be with. It encourages people to have or to initiate affective and emotional bond with other people and expecting to be loved by other.

Data 06

"Fellow travelers is where Jan and Rainey live. While they were listening to music, suddenly Jan saw Chris' bag and tramp equipment, when he was looking for the owner of the bag. Chris suddenly appeared from behind and immediately Jan gives him a hug."

(scene 01:31 - 01:45)

In data 13 the scenes *"Chris suddenly appeared from behind and immediately Jan gave him a hug."* Are described when he feels happy which motivates him to live in Alaska for a long time. According to Rusydi in Harijanto & Setiawan (2017) defines that happiness is a positive feeling that can be felt in the form of feeling happy, peaceful and having peace.

2) The Esteem Needs

Data 7

Wilhelmina : *"Excuse me, I'm going to get my son. He just graduated today from Emory College.*

Chris, hi! We've been waiting

Chris : *"hi, dad*

Walt : *"Congratulations son."*

"This is a big step."

Chris : *"thank you, dad."* (scene 17:19 – 17:28)

In data 16 the *"Congratulations son, this is a big step."* Are spoken by McCandless father, these words are the affirmative words which impact to someone who get award according to Holmes in susanti (2019) states praise as an utterance that shows positive politeness, therefore this words classified into the esteem needs. According to Maslow in Truman & Kuncara, (2017) Esteem needs have two kinds of award; those are respect for us, and respect for the judgments of others. Esteem needs expecting two things, one of it are the respect to us and the judgement of other about us should be respected too. Moreover, Maslow

categorized the needs into two subsidiary sets. Those are self-respect and esteem from others.

In addition Maslow in Diana Sofiana, (2015) defines these needs are divided into two. First, self-respect or respect which includes; desire to acquire competence, strong personality. Second, the existence of appreciation from others which includes the need to achieve achievements in life so as to get appreciation from other parties.

5) Self-actualization

Self-actualization needs are needs that do not involve balance, but involve a constant desire to fulfill one's potential. This need is a need that encourages individuals to express themselves or self-actualization. It is related to the individual's desire to self-improvement. This self-improvement helps the individuals to be able to employ their capability to achieve anything.

Data 08

Chris : *(Chris talk to himself and writing on the wood.) "two years he walked the earth. Phone number. No pets. No cigarettes. Ultimate freedom of extremist, an aesthetic voyager. Whose home is the road?. So now, after two rambling years comes the final and greatest adventure. The climactic battle to kill. The false being within and victoriously concludes the spiritual revolution. No longer to be poisoned by civilization, he flees, and walks alone upon the land to become lost in the wild."*

(scene 11:17 – 11:48)

In data 17 the words "two years he walked the earth, phone number, No pets, No cigarettes." Are spoken by McCandless to himself which proves he can live in the nature without anything that live in Alaska is the big struggle to survival. This words classifieds into building confidence. In which, someone can struggle if they believe in their self. As Chitra (2017) states that Building self-confidence is not easy when one begins to focus, then one sees a wide open road and has the confidence to go further over time one will know one's true identity. In the case in data 17, the words such building confidence as spoken by McCandless to himself, in which according to Maslow (in Truman & Kuncara, 2017) self-actualization is a person's desire for self-improvement, his or her drive to make actual what he or she is potentially, desire to become everything that one is capable of becoming.

Conclusion

The result of this research shows that there are intrinsic and extrinsic motivational drive. Those types of motivational drive supported by the broader explanation in the types of motivation classified by Maslow. The broader types falls into five categories. Physiological needs, safety needs, love belongingness needs, esteem needs, and self-actualization.

As this research intended, it is hoped to help the fellow students, general community, academician, and also fellow researchers in enriching the knowledge about motivational drive. This research is far from perfect, and it is hope that there will be a room for improvement in the future.

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