

## **Inner Conflict as Inhibition the Individual Self-Actualization Needs in the Novel *Last Tang Standing* by Lauren Ho**

**Juwita Shabrina Rahayu**

Universitas Balikpapan

[juwitashabrinarahayu@gmail.com](mailto:juwitashabrinarahayu@gmail.com)

**Rosmiati**

Universitas Balikpapan

[rosmiati@uniba-bpn.ac.id](mailto:rosmiati@uniba-bpn.ac.id)

### ***Abstract:***

*The research is focused on analyzing the inner conflict as inhibition the individual self-actualization needs in the novel Last Tang Standing by Lauren Ho. The purpose is to find out the forms of inner conflict and describe how the forms of inner conflict that occurred inhibit the individual self-actualization needs in the novel Last Tang Standing by Lauren Ho. To analyze the data, the researcher utilized the psychology of literature approach by applying Sigmund Freud's psychoanalytic theory to examine forms of inner conflict, and Abraham Maslow's human motivation theory as a supporting theory to examine individual self-actualization needs. It uses a descriptive qualitative research methodology, in which qualitative data in the form of words is analyzed and described descriptively. Based on data analysis, this research resulted in: (1) The researcher found 6 forms of inner conflict that occurred in the novel named Love and Hate, Wrecked by Success, War Neurosis, Sexual and Ego, Splitting of the Ego in the Process of Defense and Eros and Destructiveness with a total of 68 data. Love and Hate are the most dominant form of inner conflict as much as 37% (25 out of 68 data); (2) The researcher found six forms of inner conflict as inhibiting the individual self-actualization needs: it inhibited Psychological Needs, Safety Needs, Belonging Needs, and Self-Esteem Needs with a total of 48 data. Self-Esteem Needs are the most inhibited need. It is inhibited by inner conflict named Love and Hate, Wrecked by Success, War Neurosis, and Splitting of the Ego in the Process of Defense as much as 39% (19 out of 48 data).*

**Keywords:** *inner conflict, inhibition, self-actualization, Last Tang Standing*

## INTRODUCTION

Humans exist in this world for a purpose, one of which is to achieve self-actualization. By achieving self-actualization, individuals can realize the potential that resides within them. However, each individual will confront various obstacles that may inhibit them to achieve it. It is congruent with Maslow's statement (in Minderop, 2016) Humans strive to express their potential and talents, which are frequently inhibited by societal conditions that reject them. It causes a person to deny his own existence and inhibits him from reaching his true self (p.48-49). The researcher concludes that rejection from society is the inhibition for humans from maximizing and believing in the great potential they have and inhibit their capabilities to achieve their desires, and even triggers conflicts within the individual.

The explanation also gives an idea to the researcher that it can trigger conflict within the individual. Freud has explained (in Christian et al., 2017) that inner conflict as an inevitable feature of the human condition is triggered by a series of circumstances. In psychoanalytic, it can be seen from the contradiction between the Id, the Ego, and the Superego (p.4-5). The researcher concludes that it is created from the three psychological components that contradict and maintain their roles. The Id, which has the urge to fulfill the desire for pleasure, must be in conflict with the Ego which delays pleasure based on the realm of reality. Likewise, the Superego maintains its role in accordance with the existing moral values. So, even though it occurs within a person's mind, the formation of conflict cannot be completely separated from social values and reality conditions that they are currently or have faced.

Inner conflict not only occurred in real life but can also be reflected in literary works, one of which is the novel. Defoe and Richardson (in Mackay, 2011) argue that the novel is a complete and authentic report of human experience through the details of the individuality of the characters and their actions (p.38). The researcher concludes that the novel has a psychological relationship due to its connection with human behavior, which is depicted through its characters and behavior. As illustrated in the novel entitled *Last Tang Standing* by Lauren Ho.

The researcher is interested in choosing the novel *Last Tang Standing* by Lauren Ho as the research object because the problems experienced by Andrea in the novel describe a real-life situation. When an individual experiences an inner conflict, she does not realize that it can inhibit her from achieving self-actualization and she is only struggling with it.

Besides, bringing up the topic of this study is expected to gain new pieces of knowledge and discoveries about how inner conflict inhibits individuals from achieving self-actualization needs in the novel by applying Sigmund Freud's psychoanalytic theory as the main theory and Abraham Maslow's human motivation theory as a supporting theory. It is also expected to provide the reader with an overview of literary criticism so that the reader does not only read a literary work but also attempts to interpret literary works that are related to many actual problems, one of which is psychological issues.

## **LITERATURE REVIEW**

### **INNER CONFLICT IN PSYCHOANALYTIC BY SIGMUND FREUD**

Individuals are constantly faced with different problems. The emergence of a person's inner conflict is one of them. Freud explains (in Christian et al., 2017) it is a contradiction between desires and the nature of external social reality. The conflict between absolute desires lies in the Id, and the assessment of reality lies in an individual's ego. While the Superego stands as a limitation between the realization of the Id and Ego desires and society's values (p.6-7). The researcher concludes that it is created from the three psychological components that contradict and maintain their roles.

The phenomena of the three personality components opposing each other refer to the inner conflict's natural characteristics. According to Freud (as cited in Christian et al., 2017, p. 7-8), there are at least eight forms of inner conflict. These forms of inner conflict will be discussed in the following sub-chapter:

#### **The Affectionate and Sensual Currents**

It formed from a contradiction within the individual to channel love and sexuality, which is triggered by unfamiliarity with sexual activity and a lack of intimacy with his sexual partner. It inhibits someone from channeling the desire to commit sexual acts, which leads to physical impotence in both partners and an inability to get pleasure from sexual acts.

#### **Love and Hate**

It occurs when love and hatred conflict equal in a person and are interrelated, it causes uncertainty and affects a person's ability to make decisions. These uncertainties depend on an internal perception of something. The researcher concludes that it is formed by the ambivalence that is bound up within a person.

#### **Heterosexuality and Homosexuality**

It occurs when a man or woman has a bisexual attraction that is manifested or suppressed inside ever since he was a child. In short, it is formed from one person's inner conflict with his sexual attraction. He hesitated to maintain heterosexuality or homosexuality inside him.

#### **Wrecked By Success**

It occurs when a person's drive to achieve his goal is separated from his Ego satisfaction, which then inhibits the individual from accepting the success that has been achieved. Frustration in a person makes him unable to accept achievement, even if it is a goal he has always desired to accomplish.

#### **War Neurosis**

It is a traumatic neurosis whose formation might be facilitated or driven by a conflict between a previously existing peace ego and a new war ego that develops in a person. The old peaceful ego encourages a person to protect himself from danger or frightening experiences. Meanwhile, the new warlike ego defends itself from the dangers that threaten it from the outside or are assumed by the ego itself. It encourages a person to manipulate

reality. Unconsciously, one's desire and inclination toward a motive, such as ambition, self-esteem, patriotism, obedient habits, and others, are expressed in oneself. As a result, the individual becomes a malingerer and disregards what has happened.

### **Sexual and Ego**

It is formed from the undeniable conflict between the instincts that support sexuality, the attainment of sexual pleasure, and other instincts, with the ego or self-preservation instinct aimed at defending the individual in order to achieve sexual satisfaction.

### **Splitting of the Ego in the Process of Defense**

It occurs when a person's ego is under pressure in a certain situation that pushes the individual to two choices that both have consequences. The first option is for the individual decides to accept the reality of something "dangerous" and sacrifice his inner pleasure. The second option is for the individual decides to ignore the danger and act as if nothing happens in order to keep doing something fun.

### **Eros and Destructiveness**

It results from two confrontations between the two primary drives; Eros which strives to unite what already exists into a grand whole and Destructiveness which seeks to dissolve the unity and destroy the structure that has been formed. So, the two opposing instincts eventually form a person's inner conflict, where there are good and bad sides trying to dominate the individual.

## **HUMAN MOTIVATION BY ABRAHAM MASLOW**

Apart from being created as social beings, humans also have a purpose in life. One of the human goals in life is to fulfill their needs to achieve self-actualization. According to Maslow (in Whitaker, 2000), people are motivated by unsatisfied needs. The lower needs take precedence over higher needs and must be satisfied first (para.3). It is mean humans are motivated to prioritize basic needs and will be more motivated to meet greater goals if their basic needs are fulfilled. In short, the fulfillment of basic needs can lead someone to achieve self-actualization.

The hierarchy of needs in human motivation theory is divided into several levels. According to Maslow (1954, p.35-46), it contains four levels of deficiency needs: Psychological Needs, Safety Needs, Belonging Needs, and Self-Esteem Needs, and one level of growth needs, which consists of Self Actualization Needs.

### **Psychological Needs**

Motivation originates in a person as a result of the encouragement of the fulfillment of the most basic needs. These needs include clothes, food, shelter, and other physical needs. Of course, fulfilling basic needs is essential since human survival is closely involved.

### **Safety Needs**

It is to strive for a person to get a sense of security, especially a sense of protection against danger and threats, and a sense of stability and security. Not only do people need safety, but they also need to be protected from physical and mental damage. In short, a person's demands for safety can be met if they feel completely secure.

### **Belonging Needs**

It develops from a person's belonging needs and drives them to seek love, affection, and a sense of belonging. In conclusion, it can be fulfilled by developing close relationships, feeling love, feeling mutual belonging, not feeling lonely, etc.

### **Self-Esteem Needs**

It arises from the admiration of others, such as appreciation, and self-esteem, such as success. Whereas both are based on reputation and community success. Of course, if these needs are not fulfilled, a person will lose self-esteem, become passive, and be difficult to get along with.

### **Self-Actualization Needs**

It is the culmination of human needs. A person is no longer concerned with meeting other level needs but instead focuses on becoming a better version of themselves. Furthermore, someone who has reached this level of need solely focuses on developing his potential. In short, when the basic needs are fulfilled, a person's primary emphasis will be on realizing the potential within him. In a different way, a person can achieve self-actualization.

## **INNER CONFLICT AS INHIBITION THE INDIVIDUAL SELF-ACTUALIZATION NEEDS**

In analyzing this topic, the researcher utilizes two theories: Sigmund Freud's psychoanalytic theory as the main theory and Abraham Maslow's human motivation theory as a supporting theory. The researcher found the connections between the two theories mentioned. As explained earlier, the formation of inner conflicts within a person's mind cannot be completely separated from social values and realities in Freud's theory. While in Maslow's theory (in Minderop, 2016, p.48-49), explains that humans seeking self-actualization are frequently inhibited by societal conditions that discourage it. For instance, Andrea desperately wants to marry the man she loves, but her family is opposed to her decision. She eventually felt worried, which created inner conflict. She was conflicted between following her own desires and obeying her parents' commands and wishes. It demonstrates that, whereas the inner conflict was triggered by her family's refusal to accept her actions, the conflict was realized within herself and has an effect on her in making life decisions.

Later, the data relating to the categories of forms of inner conflict in Freud's theory are then compared with Maslow's theory. Considering that in order to achieve self-actualization needs, individuals must meet basic needs first, then the data from inner conflicts that might inhibit individuals from fulfilling Psychological Needs, Safety Needs, Belonging Needs, and Self-Esteem Needs are then used as the answers to the second research question.

## **RESEARCH METHODOLOGY**

The researcher applies a descriptive qualitative research methodology, in which qualitative data in the form of words is analyzed and described descriptively. The novel *Last Tang Standing* by Lauren Ho is used as primary data in this research to determine the forms of inner conflicts that occurred and how the inner conflict inhibits the individual self-actualization need in the novel. The researcher focuses on the individual analysis of the main character named Andrea Tang. While the secondary data were taken through library sources and the internet such as journals, e-books, and other literature sources relevant to the object of research. In the researcher's data analysis procedure, the researcher analyzed through several processes: determine what problems will be presented by the chosen novel in order for the description to form a coherent sequence, compile relevant novel quotations that reflect the research topic for analysis, analyze the data found using theories relevant to the main research topic and the data is interpreted in light of the chosen research objective, which is to discover the forms of inner conflict as the inhibition to individual self-actualization needs in the novel. The researcher uses triangulation techniques by Denzin (2018, p.779) to test the validity of the data related to the research problem being investigated by the researcher and hopes the compatibility between the data and the results will generate appropriate answers and reduce the risk of incorrect interpretation.

## **FINDINGS AND DISCUSSION**

### **THE FORMS OF INNER CONFLICT**

Here, the researcher focuses on the individual analysis of the main character named Andrea Tang in the novel using Freud's theory. The researcher was able to identify there are six forms of inner conflict experienced by Andrea Tang.

#### **Love and Hate**

It occurs when love and hatred conflict equally in a person and are interrelated, it causes uncertainty and affects a person's ability to make decisions. This condition is demonstrated in the following excerpt:

Most Chinese parents...want their kids to bring home a mate of: Chinese ethnicity...High earning capacity and/or wealth...Compatible religious faith ... and beliefs deemed incompatible or at odds with our traditions and cultural practices ... Good family background: nebulous, but usually linked to social status and wealth. Compatible values or the "Nice Guy" catch-all: Chinese parents prefer conservative, traditional mates...which can only benefit them...

Despite possessing all other desirable qualities, Suresh fails the first and possibly the third criteria... (Ho, 2020, p.37-38)

The excerpt shows the inner conflict between hate and love that is formed from the demands of the criteria for a life partner that the family has set. Her family, who are of

Chinese descent, have high standards in determining the criteria for married couples. Even though she knows it's all for her own good, this still limits Andrea's choice of life partner. Besides, the man she loves does not fit these criteria. Andrea is having difficulty deciding whether she should follow her family's standards or her own.

### **Wrecked By Success**

It occurs when a person's drive to achieve his goal is separated from his Ego satisfaction, which then inhibits the individual from accepting the success that has been achieved. This condition is demonstrated in the following excerpts:

Zero respect. He'd dismissed me like I was incompetent over one mistake, even though I had been Sungguh Capital's day-to-day contact on their files for the *last four years* and they knew I had sacrificed a lot on a personal level to service them. But he'd only let up when Suresh vouched for me. (Ho, 2020, p.204)

The excerpt shows Andrea's inner conflict as a result of being criticized by Baldev in front of all of her coworkers. Andrea is faced with the reality that her four-year sacrifice working for Baldev was so effectively done and is no longer being appreciated because he regards her as incompetent. Of course, this contradicts her satisfaction with her professional career. Baldev refused to accept any of Andrea's explanations and proceeded to judge her in front of everyone. In line with Freud's theory, the inner conflict that Andrea had experienced was naturally frustrating. It can be seen in the following excerpt:

"I'm a senior associate in a top law firm." Said out loud in this manner I sounded so sad. I didn't ski in Val-d'Isère; I was past my peak hotness; I was just a senior associate. (Ho, 2020, p.286)

The excerpt demonstrates how her frustration causes her to be dissatisfied with her accomplishments. Andrea was a senior associate at a prestigious law firm, but she was unhappy. Especially after being confronted with some painful realities that do not correspond to her pleasure. Aside from her work environment, her inner conflict is triggered by family pressures regarding her relationship and marriage expectations. It can be seen in the following excerpt:

I'd just secured my future, and my family's, no matter what happened at the partnership interview next week. So why didn't I feel like I'd done the right thing? (Ho, 2020, p.344)

The excerpt demonstrates how her frustration inhibits her from feeling joyful despite the fact that she has succeeded in protecting her future and keeping her family happy. She realizes that accepting Eric's proposal will not only make her mother happy but will also secure her future. Andrea will never feel deprived, or dejected by her family's mockery, and she will never have to work hard to pay off her apartment fees. All of this was because she was going to marry Eric, who had everything her family desired. Andrea, on the other hand, could not feel happiness. Her frustration caused her to distrust what she had accomplished.

### **War Neurosis**

It is formed due to the conflict of two egos in a person's mind: the Old Peaceful Ego and the New Warlike Ego. The conflict of two egos encourages a person to pretend to manipulate reality. This condition is demonstrated in the following excerpt:

I couldn't admit to him that I'd been swindled. It was just too humiliating, and we were still just colleagues. Instead, I told him a partial lie. "We broke up by mutual agreement," I croaked. "I'm just being the appropriate amount of annoyed, that's all." (Ho, 2020, p. 143)

The excerpt shows the lies formed by the contradiction between Andrea's two egos. Her Old Peaceful Ego was formed by being afraid of saying the wrong thing and showing Suresh her frailty. On the other hand, Andrea's New Warlike Ego is trying to retain her self-esteem in the face of any condemnation from Suresh. Andrea hides the truth that she has been betrayed and even duped by Orson. Andrea is undoubtedly embarrassed by this fact. She said the untruth to maintain her pride in front of her rivals.

### **Sexual and Ego**

It is formed from the undeniable conflict between the instincts that support sexuality, the attainment of sexual pleasure, and other instincts, with the ego or self-preservation instinct aimed at defending the individual in order to achieve sexual satisfaction. This condition is demonstrated in the following excerpt:

... My thoughts were in a tumult. I wanted to hurdle over the table and jump into his lap. At the back of my head, however, was the insistent reminder that Suresh was engaged ... (Ho, 2020, p. 214-215)

The excerpt shows her inner conflict arose after an awkward conversation with Suresh. Suresh approached her to discuss the incident that occurred between them the day before when she accidentally kissed Suresh's lips while sleeping on the plane. Andrea avoided discussing it because she was embarrassed. But, deep down, she yearned to unleash her sexual desires on Suresh, but she realized she could not since he was engaged. The ego in her then dominated the conflict. Her ego protects her from impulses that may gratify her sexual desires.

### **Splitting of the Ego in the Process of Defense**

It occurs when a person's ego is under pressure in a certain situation that pushes the individual to two choices that both have consequences. This condition is demonstrated in the following excerpt:

A wave of nausea overwhelmed me as the realization broke: for the first time in my life, I would indeed be last at something.

My lower lip trembled. "It should have been Helen," I said. "She was supposed to be my fail-safe, the Last Tang Standing." Now there would be no one else (older) to share the burden of deflecting criticism on being single from my relatives. (Ho, 2020, p. 17)

These excerpts show the psychic trauma that Andrea faces two contradictions within herself, namely the ego which pushed her to accept the painful reality. She just found out that her cousin who is 8 years older than her, announced her wedding date. Of course, she was unable to accept this fact. Andrea always feels a little safe knowing that a cousin much older than her is unmarried and she feels she has someone else to share the burden of fending off the harsh criticism from her family. But in the end, Andrea was struck by the reality. Andrea accepted the fact that now she was the only one left of the Tang family who was still single. The acceptance destroyed her own self-esteem, as seen by her thinking "*for the first time in my life, I will indeed be the last in something*".

### **Eros and Destructiveness**

It results from two confrontations between the two primary drives; Eros and Destructiveness, where the good and bad sides try to dominate the individual. This condition is demonstrated in the following excerpt:

I fought the urge to blurt out, "And now I know your Achilles' heel, sucker!" (Ho, 2020, p. 68)

The excerpts show the destructive instinct that develops when she considers that Suresh is her toughest rival in the office. It triggered when she and Suresh are having lunch together. At that time, they began to get to know each other better and talk about each other's activities outside the office. During the conversation, Andrea was secretly collecting information that she could use in the future to undermine Suresh's career. Of course, the instinct was formed to protect her career and her image in the office. But it is contradicted by the instinct of eros. It can be seen in the following excerpt:

"You're welcome," I said. "Thank you for tonight." On impulse, I reached out and hugged him. (Ho, 2020, p. 143)

Despite the fact that Suresh is her fiercest office rival, she feels an attraction to him that triggers her eros instincts. Suresh has the same mindset and principles as she does. Aside from that, he loves assisting Andrea on several occasions. It encouraged her to do the same for Suresh. After Suresh assisted her, she provided constructive feedback and support for his artwork. It can be seen that Andrea and Suresh feel grateful to each other.

### **INNER CONFLICT AS INHIBITION THE INDIVIDUAL SELF-ACTUALIZATION NEEDS**

After the researcher succeeded in identifying the forms of inner conflict experienced by Andrea Tang using Freud's theory, the researcher selected several data findings to answer the second research question. The researcher found some of the six forms of inner conflict data findings inhibited the fulfillment of the four basic needs, making Andrea inhibited in fulfilling her self-actualization needs.

#### **Inner Conflict Inhibited Psychological Needs**

It is the most basic human need and homeostatic, which means that it is trying to maintain a balance of physical elements such as eating, drinking, sugar, salt, and protein, as well as the

need for rest and sex. The researcher identified that Sexual and Ego's inner conflict inhibited Andrea's Psychological Needs. It is formed in her when confronted with Suresh, her co-worker. There is a conflict between these two instincts which inhibits her from fulfilling her sexual needs. This can be seen in the following excerpt:

... My thoughts were in a tumult. I wanted to hurdle over the table and jump into his lap. At the back of my head, however, was the insistent reminder that Suresh was engaged ... (Ho, 2020, p. 214-215)

The researcher saw the conflict between the two instincts that dominate each other. The reality of her relationship with Suresh inhibits her from performing sexual acts in order to achieve satisfaction. It inhibits Andrea from fulfilling her psychological needs. Although Andrea is very tempted and wants to let go of lust and make love to Suresh, the inner conflict within her is inhibiting her from channeling her lust for sexual gratification. In the end, her sexual needs were not met.

### **Inner Conflict Inhibited Safety Needs**

It is to strive for a person to get a sense of security, especially a sense of protection against danger and threats, and a sense of stability and security. The researcher identified that Eros and Destructiveness of inner conflict inhibited Andrea's Safety Needs. This condition is demonstrated in the following excerpt:

I fought the urge to blurt out, "And now I know your Achilles' heel, sucker!" (Ho, 2020, p. 68)

It develops when she considers that Suresh is her toughest rival in the office and has the potential to get in the way of her promotion to become the law firm in the office. It made her want to bring Suresh down. The researcher saw that her inner nervousness indicated that she did not feel safe, particularly in her career position. It inhibited Andrea from fulfilling her Safety Needs. Even though Andrea has the upper hand over Suresh, her anxiety outweighs her confidence. This also illustrates the extent how which anxiety inhibits her from feeling stable in her career position.

### **Inner Conflict Inhibited Belonging Needs**

It develops from a person's belonging needs and drives them to seek love, affection, and a sense of belonging. The researcher identified that Love and Hate's inner conflict inhibited Andrea's Belonging Needs. It can be seen in the following excerpt:

Most Chinese parents...want their kids to bring home a mate of: Chinese ethnicity...High earning capacity and/or wealth...Compatible religious faith ... and beliefs deemed incompatible or at odds with our traditions and cultural practices ... Good family background: nebulous, but usually linked to social status and wealth. Compatible values or the "Nice Guy" catch-all: Chinese parents prefer conservative, traditional mates...which can only benefit them...

Despite possessing all other desirable qualities, Suresh fails the first and possibly the third criteria... (Ho, 2020, p.37-38)

Andrea has little control over her fate because she was born into an Asian family that is highly strict in defining her life, including the qualifications for a married couple. This makes it difficult to find and choose a life mate. Furthermore, her family's standard criteria do not match the man Andrea prefers. The researcher saw that the conflict of two feelings in Andrea that was formed when attending a family event, inhibited her from fulfilling her Belonging Needs. Even though she realizes it is all for her own good, Andrea's choices for a life mate are limited. Eventually, her condition made it difficult for her to fulfill her feelings of belonging and having a partner, as well as channel love and affection.

### **Inner Conflict Inhibited Self-Esteem Needs**

This need encourages a person to have high self-esteem, autonomy, success, status, recognition, praise, and attention. The researcher identified that Wrecked By Success, War Neurosis, and Splitting of the Ego in the Process of Defense's inner conflict inhibited Andrea's Self-Esteem Needs.

The first topic is Wrecked By Success as an inhibiting factor. This condition is demonstrated in the following excerpts:

Zero respect. He'd dismissed me like I was incompetent over one mistake, even though I had been Sungguh Capital's day-to-day contact on their files for the *last four years* and they knew I had sacrificed a lot on a personal level to service them. But he'd only let up when Suresh vouched for me. (Ho, 2020, p.204)

The researcher saw that Andrea's inner conflict inhibited her from fulfilling her Self-Esteem Needs. Andrea whom several times did not get appreciation from people around her office makes her depressed, and frustrated, and even loses confidence and drops her self-esteem. It also can be seen in the following excerpt:

"I'm a senior associate in a top law firm." Said out loud in this manner I sounded so sad. I didn't ski in Val-d'Isère; I was past my peak hotness; I was just a senior associate. (Ho, 2020, p.286)

Although she was a senior associate at a prestigious law firm, she felt her efforts were not paying off. Because of the demanding work schedule that required her to frequently sacrifice sleep and vacation time, she felt that her career at the law firm fell short of her expectations. She is unable to recognize her accomplishments or feel any sense of achievement as a result of her condition. It impacts her self-confidence, self-appreciation, and self-esteem. Aside from her work environment, family pressures regarding her relationship and marriage expectations inhibit her Self-Esteem Needs. It can be seen in the following excerpt:

I'd just secured my future, and my family's, no matter what happened at the partnership interview next week. So why didn't I feel like I'd done the right thing? (Ho, 2020, p.344)

Inner conflict leads to continuous frustration, inhibiting Andrea from accepting happiness when she can be Eric's partner. The reason is that Eric often takes unilateral decisions. Eric also had time to offer freedom in her life, such as quitting her job and becoming a socialite, but the offer offended her. Andrea believes that Eric's freedom is equivalent to his using his wealth to buy her self-esteem. She felt as if she did not have as much power over decisions as Eric had since she did not have as much money. She believed Eric held a low opinion of her self-worth.

The second topic is War Neurosis as an inhibiting factor. It can be seen in the following excerpts:

I couldn't admit to him that I'd been swindled. It was just too humiliating, and we were still just colleagues. Instead, I told him a partial lie. "We broke up by mutual agreement," I croaked. "I'm just being the appropriate amount of annoyed, that's all." (Ho, 2020, p. 143)

The researcher saw that the conflict between the two egos in her inhibits her from fulfilling her Self-Esteem Needs. This is indicated by her anxiety, which she attributes to her own thoughts about Suresh's reaction if he discovers her true state. She lied because she was nervous, humiliated, and afraid Suresh would use her condition as an excuse to degrade her one day. It shows Andrea's self-esteem suffers as a result of her dread of severe judgment from her surroundings.

The third topic is Splitting of the Ego in the Process of Defense as an inhibiting factor. It can be seen in the following excerpts:

A wave of nausea overwhelmed me as the realization broke: for the first time in my life, I would indeed be last at something. (Ho, 2020, p. 17)

The psychological trauma affected her who had difficulty getting appreciation from the surrounding environment, even destroying her self-esteem and confidence. It can be seen from her reaction after she finds out that a cousin, who is 8 years older than her, announced her wedding date. Her self-esteem suffered when she realized she was the only single member in her family. Her state demonstrated that her need for self-esteem and respect was inhibited.

## **CONCLUSION**

The researcher succeeded in identifying the inner conflict as inhibition the individual in achieving self-actualization needs. Self-Esteem Needs are the most inhibited need. It is inhibited by the forms of Love and Hate, Wrecked By Success, War Neurosis, and Splitting of the Ego in the Process of Defense with 39% of all cases (19 out of 48 data). Belonging Needs are inhibited by the forms of Love and Hate and Splitting of the Ego in the Process of Defense with 23% (11 out of 48 data). Safety Needs are inhibited by the forms of Love and Hate, War Neurosis, Splitting of the Ego in the Process of Defense, and Eros and Destructiveness with 19% (9 out of 48 data). Psychological Needs are inhibited by the forms of Love and Hate, Wrecked By Success, Sexual and Ego, and Eros and

Destructiveness with 19% (9 out of 48 data). The most dominant inhibition factor of individual self-actualization is Wrecked By Success as much as 58% (11 out of 19 data) to fulfill Self-Esteem Needs. It is caused by several circumstances, including pressure from her family towards her relationship and marriage expectations and how the individual was unfairly treated at work. It impacts her low self-esteem and lack of self-confidence. The lack of self-confidence thus inhibits her from making life decisions, both in terms of choosing a life partner and her profession. The researcher concludes that it is very important to control and manage the Wrecked By Success factor to avoid conflict and barriers to fulfill the need. It is because the slightest obstacle in fulfilling one's personal needs can have an impact the inhibition of a person's process to achieve Self-Actualization. When a person is inhibited from achieving self-actualization, they cannot realize the potential within them which can inhibit them from realizing their desires and life goals. They also deny their existence and inhibit themselves from reaching their true self.

## **References**

- Alwisol, (2018). *Psikologi Kepribadian – Edisi Revisi (E-Book)*. Malang: Universitas Muhammadiyah Malang.
- Brenner, M.C. (1969). *An Elementary Textbook of Psychoanalysis*. New York: International University Press. Brown, H.D.
- Christian, C., Eagle, Morris N. & Wolitzky, David L (Eds.). (2017). *Psychoanalytic Perspectives on Conflict (E-Book)*. London and New York: Routledge.
- Dahrendorf, R. (2016). *Chapter 7: Conflict and Critical Theories (E-Book)*. Retrieved January 2nd, 2022 from: [https://us.corwin.com/sites/default/files/upm-binaries/13636\\_Chapter7.pdf](https://us.corwin.com/sites/default/files/upm-binaries/13636_Chapter7.pdf)
- Denzin, Norman. K & Yvonna S. Lincoln. *The SAGE Handbook of Qualitative Research (E-Book)*. Los Angeles, London, New Delhi, Singapore, Washington DC, Melbourne: SAGE Publications Inc.
- Freud, Sigmund. (1937). *The Standard Edition of the Complete Psychological Works of Sigmund Freud Volume: XXIII. Analysis Terminable and Interminable (E-Book)*. London: The Hogarth Press.
- Gabbard, Glen O, Bonnie E. Litowitz & Paul Williams. (2012). *Textbook of Psychoanalysis*. United State of America: American Psychiatry Association.
- Guerin, Wilfred L, Earle Labor, Lee Morgan, Jeanne C. Reesman, John R. Willingham. (2005). *A Handbook of Critical Approaches to Literature*. New York: Oxford University Press.
- Ho, Lauren. (2020). *Last Tang Standing*. London: Harper Collins Publisher.
- Hocker, Joyce L, Keith Berry & William W. Wilmot (2017). *Tenth Edition: Interpersonal Conflict (E-Book)*. New York: McGraw-Hill Education.
- Holland, Norman N. (1990). *Holland's Guide to Psychoanalytic Psychology and Literature-and-Psychology*. New York: Oxford University Press.

- Mackay, M. (2011). *The Cambridge Introduction to The Novel*. United Kingdom: The University Press, Cambridge.
- Makaryk, Irena R (Ed.). (1951) *Encyclopedia of Temporary Literary Theory: Approaches, Scholars, Terms*. Toronto, Buffalo, London: University of Toronto Press.
- Maslow, Abraham H. (1954). *Motivation and Personality (E-Book)*. New York; Evanston; London: Harper & Row, Publisher, Inc.
- \_\_\_\_\_. (1971). *The Farther Reaches of Human Nature (E-Book)*. New York; Evanston; London: Harper & Row, Publisher, Inc.
- Meigita, Endah. (2018). *Konflik Batin Tokoh Mei Rose Dalam Novel Surga Yang Tak Dirindukan Karya Asma Nadia (Kajian Psikologi Sastra Kurt Lewin) (E-Journal)*. Surabaya: Universitas Negeri Surabaya. Retrieved January 2<sup>nd</sup>, 2022 from: <https://jurnalmahasiswa.unesa.ac.id/index.php/bapala/article/view/22336/20475>
- Minderop, Albertine. (2016). *Psikologi Sastra: Karya Sastra, Metoder, Teori dan Contoh Kasus (E-Book)*. Jakarta: Yayasan Pustaka Obor.
- Nitami, Nila (2018). *The Inner Conflict Over the Belief of Humanity with Judge's Legal Belief in The Novel A Time to Kill by John Grisham (Thesis)*. Balikpapan: Universitas Balikpapan.
- Schneider, Kirck J., J. Fraser Pierson, James F.T Bugental (Eds). (2015). *The Handbook of Humanistic Psychology: Second Edition (E-Book)*. California: Sage Publications, Inc.
- Smith, Ivan. (2010). *Freud - Complete Works (PDF)*. Retrieved January 11th, 2022 from: [https://www.valas.fr/IMG/pdf/Freud\\_Complete\\_Works.pdf](https://www.valas.fr/IMG/pdf/Freud_Complete_Works.pdf)
- Sylvatri, Hapsari Dian. (2011). *Self-Actualization of Andrea Sachs in The Devil Wears Prada Movie (Thesis)*. Repository Brawijaya Knowledge Garden. University of Brawijaya. Retrieved January 2nd, 2022 from: <http://repository.ub.ac.id/100354/>
- Taylor, Steven J., Robert Bogdan, Marjorie DeVault. (2016). *Introduction to Qualitative Research Methods A Guidebook and Resource*. Hoboken, New Jersey: John Wiley & Sons, Inc.
- Wellek, Rene & Austin Warren. (1956). *Theory of Literature: Third Edition*. New York: Harcourt, Brace & World, Inc.
- Whitaker, C. (2000). *Dealing with Difficult Behavior & The Maslow Need Hierarchy (E-Journal)*. Semantic Scholar. Retrieved January 2nd, 2022 from: [shorturl.at/bsvV2](https://shorturl.at/bsvV2).