

**CALEB'S CHARACTERIZATION ON THE MOVIE OF *FIREPROOF* DIRECTED BY ALEX KENDRICK AND STEVEN KEDNDRICK: Hierarchy Needs Study by Maslow**Ilona Viviana Kusuma<sup>1</sup>, Irpan Ali Rahman<sup>2</sup><sup>1)2)</sup> Universitas Buddhi Dharma

Jl. Imam Bonjol No. 41 Karawaci Ilir, Tangerang, Indonesia

<sup>1)</sup> irpanalirahman@gmail.com<sup>2)</sup> ubd.fsh@gmail.com*Article history:*Received 12/1/2022;  
Revised 12/8/2022;  
Accepted 12/19/2022;  
Available online 12/30/2022*Keywords:*Character  
Characterization  
Self Esteem  
Hierarchy Needs**Abstract**

The research aimed to analyze about the characterization of the main character and to reveal the Self Esteem of the main character on "*Fireproof*" directed by Alex Kendrick and Steven Kendrick in 2008. In this research, the writer uses hazo and Claudio Naranjo's (1950) concept, which divided characterization into nine parts. To support the research, the writer use Abraham Maslow theory about Self Esteem Characterization. In the theory, explain about how people face life with more confidence, kindness, optimism, and aspects that lead on setting and achieving one's objectives. The writer use qualitative method approach in which taking the quotes as the evidence to support analyzing the research. After doing the research, the writer discovered that Caleb as the main character has various Characterization. He also has a strong esteem to fix his household problem and maintain his marriage.

**I. INTRODUCTION**

Literature, in its broadest sense is any written work; etymologically the term derives from Latin *litteratura* "writing formed with letters", although some definitions include spoken or sung texts. More restrictively, it is writing that possesses literary merit, and language that foregrounds literariness, as opposed to ordinary language. Literature can be classified according to whether it is fiction or non-fiction and whether it is poetry or prose; it can be further distinguished according to major forms such as the novel, short story or drama; and works are often categorized according to historical periods or their adherence to certain aesthetic features or expectations (genre).

According to Henry van Dyke (1988), Literature consists of those writing which interpret the meanings of nature and life, in words of charm and power, touched with the personality of the author, in artistic forms of permanent interest.

Therefore, the writer concludes that "Literature" is a result of thinking, experience, and imagination of the person contained in the form of words. In addition, the beauty of those words would have an impact on our five sense. When we read literary works such as novels or short story, we might feel what the writer said, although we never feel or be or where the authors explain. We might feel that we are able to see with our eyes, hear with our ears, smell with our noses, skin or feel with our tongue, we could be someone else.

Literature will be more meaningful if it is created in drama. In past time, literature expressed in the drama theater. But in this modern times literature expressed in a movie that we can see by easier way, through watching. When litterateur make their works through movies, most of people are easier to feel the emotion in the movie. They might be touched in each scene which are shown in the movie. Because they can see each scene directly. They do not need to imagine anything just like when they read novels.

Movie is a recording of moving images that tells a story and that people watch on a screen or television. It is also a modern and popular art form created for interests of business and entertainment. Movie was made in two main ways. The first through the technique of shooting and recording through a movie camera. This involves with the shooting image or object. The second one uses traditional animation techniques. How this is done through a computer graphics animation or CGI techniques. Both can also be combined with other techniques and visual effects. Filming usually takes a relatively long time. It also requires each desk jobs, ranging from director, producer, editor, wardrobe, visual effects and others.

Nowadays, movie has developed fast. Movie is the act of human thinking or imagination, which could be happen in real life. Most of people usually more interested watching a movie because they often feel that the story in the movie is similar to that in the real one. They prefer to watch than read. This is because watching is a better way to understand the story. For example, when a director who has been succeeded in filming the story from a novel. Most people are more interested in watching than to buy and read the book, because they think, it will be interesting to understand the contents of the book by an audiovisual look, which can be more real than we just read and imagine the scene.

Movie can be media of entertainment and education. Movie has many functions both as a media of entertainment and to educate all ages. Everyone needs entertainment each day. Usually, they get entertained each day by watching the movie. Nowadays, it is easy to watch a movie at a cinema and on television. Even now, people can watch a movie in the VCD and DVD format at home. Besides as media of entertainment, a movie serves as media of educate to give education for instance, life value, to people through the story and the characters in the movie.

According to Effendy (1984) movie is defined because of cultural and artistic expression tool. The film as a mass communication is a combination of a variety of technology such as photography and sound recording art both visual arts and theater, literature, art and architecture as well as art music. In addition, as we know, one of the important things that make the movie becomes more interesting is the character in the movie.

Character is the hallmark of which is owned by an object or individual. Characterization is genuine and rooted in the personality or individual objects, as well as an "engine" that drives how an act, behave, say, and respond to something (Kertajaya, 2010). We can conclude, that things that make characters become different is ourselves. If we can control ourselves to always irritated, then the result is a grumpy character. But if we can control ourselves to be friendly, then the result is a kindhearted character. In this "*Fireproof*" movie we can learn about a character who never give up to preserve a marriage. A character who have confidence to change his emotional personality to be patient and better to maintain his marriage.

The writer interested to analyzed the movie to learn about a long lasting, great commitment, loyalty, and respect in a marriage. Catherine's husband, named Caleb, whose job is a firefighter has a problem in his marriage life. When he underwent the problem until they decided to divorce. He tried to keep his marriage together by his loyalty and commitment. He committed to never leave his wife alone. He asked his father to help him. Caleb finally gets a book called "The Love Dare" from his father. For forty days, Caleb follows the contents of the book, which eventually makes him able to preserve his marriage.

## II. THEORETICAL BACKGROUND

Character is one of the important elements of literature. Everyone has their own character in their own life. According to Richard Gill (1995:127), character is a person in a literary work whose have had some short of identity, which is made up by appearance, conversation, action, named and possibly through going on the head. A character is a person who helps the author to send their message from the story or drama that they made. The author needs the character as the tools for sending the point or message from their works.

Bennet (2004) says that character is the life of literature: they are the objects of our curiosity and fascination, affection and dislike, admiration and condemnation. It can be concluded through a statement of Bennet that every person has their own character and uniqueness, has their own appeal, feeling to love and to be loved, and has their different likes and dislikes. It is all become part of how we conceive ourselves and part of whom we are.

According to Rosenberg (1960), self-esteem is the positive or negative attitude toward the self. It is part of self-concept, which is the sum of a person's thoughts and emotions when seeing him as the object. Other researchers believe that self-esteem is the emotional evaluation of the person's own value, that is, the individual's judgment of himself. Olsen, Breckler, & Wiggins (2008) make a different reference to self-esteem indicating that it is the disposition of the person, which represents the judgment of his own merit.

Abraham Maslow's (1943) hierarchy of needs is a motivational theory in psychology that describes the needs of human behavior, they are:

1. The first levels of needs are considered basic needs like Biological and

Physiological needs (food, water, air, shelter, warmth, sleep).

2. The second level of needs is Safety needs (protection from elements, security, order, law, stability, and freedom from fear).
3. The third level of needs for social connections and relationships with others (love and belongingness needs - friendship, intimacy, affection and love, - from work group, family, friends, romantic relationships).
4. The fourth level in Maslow's hierarchy of needs is based on emotions and the need for self-esteem and self-respect (achievement, mastery, independence, status, dominance, prestige, self-respect, and respect from others).
5. The fifth level of needs is self-actualization needs (realizing personal potential, self-fulfillment, seeking personal growth and peak experiences).

Maslow adds that mental health cannot be achieved if the central core of the individual, has not been accepted, loved, respected by others and by himself. Self-esteem, thus, allows people to face life with more confidence, kindness, optimism, and aspects that lead on setting and achieving one's objectives. It also allows individuals to be more ambitious, without having success as their main goal, but every experience is lived, emotional, spiritual or creative. Understanding that self-esteem is important, its development increases the individuals' ability to treat with respect and goodwill to others as well as to acquire good interpersonal relationships while avoiding the destructive ones. Finally, it appears that self-esteem in the workplace enhances creativity.

Self-esteem is used to describe a person's overall sense of self-worth or personal value. Self-esteem is often sees as personality trait, which means that it tends to be stable and enduring. Self-esteem can involve a variety of beliefs about the self, such

as the appraisal of one's own appearance, beliefs, emotions, and behaviors. Too little self-esteem can leave people feeling defeated or depressed. It can also lead people to make bad choices, fall into destructive relationships, or fail to live up to their full potential. Self-esteem is how a person feels about themselves and what they do. Someone with positive self-esteem will generally approach things thinking they are a good person who deserves love and support and can succeed in life. Someone with low or negative self-esteem will generally think they are not good at things, don't deserve love or support and that situations will work out badly for them.

Self-esteem assumed as satisfaction with perceived self-evaluation or the positive or negative evaluation of the self, how one feel about it. Self-esteem also can be concluded as feeling good about ourselves (pretensions) and how well we actually do (success), are inextricably linked; we can feel better about ourselves by succeeding in the world but also by varying the levels of our hopes and expectations. Esteem needs refer to the need for respect, self-esteem, and self confidence. Esteem needs are the basis for human desire, we all have to be accepted and valued by others. People are motivated to achieve certain needs. When one need is fulfilled a person seeks to fulfill the next one, and so on. Every person is capable and has the desire to move up the hierarchy toward a level of self-actualization. Unfortunately, progress is often disrupted by failure to meet lower level needs. Life experiences may cause an individual to fluctuate between levels of the hierarchy.

### III. METHODS

In this thesis, the writer uses the qualitative methods and used the psychology approach to analyze the data. Qualitative research is more subjective in nature than Quantitative research, involves examining, and reflecting on the less tangible aspects of a research subjects, e.g. values, attitudes, and perceptions. Also using

the type of the data, form, document, writing, collecting data and the analysis. On the other hand, qualitative method is more descriptive to analyze an ambitious character in "Fireproof" movie.

The writer did library research such as reading several books for references and browse the relevant internet website to gain any information related to this research.

### IV. RESULT

Self-Esteem is highly correlated with self-confidence. Self-confidence is extremely important in almost every aspect of our lives, yet so many people struggle to find it. Our level of self-confidence can show in many ways: our behavior, our body language, how we speak, what we say, and so on.

Someone with positive self-esteem will generally approach things thinking he is a good person who deserves love and support and can succeed in life. In "Fireproof" movie, Caleb approaches people who think he is a good man such as Caleb's Dad and Caleb's friend (Michael). He asks advices from them about Caleb's problem, although sometimes Caleb does not want to accept any advices from them, because he is stubborn and never want to be blamed.

(Caleb and Michael are in the gym. Caleb tells his problem to Michael but Michael thinks it is all happen not because Catherine's faults. Michael thinks Caleb treated Catherine wrong).

Caleb : It ain't working, Michael. How is it that I get respect everywhere I go except in my own house?

Michael : I've been there, and it's a hard place to be. What'd you do about it? I realized that it wasn't my marriage that was broken. I just didn't know how to make it work.

Caleb : What does that mean?



Michael : That treadmill's not broken. But if you don't know how to run it, it ain't gonna work for you.

Caleb : You saying I need counseling?

Michael : Well, I think everybody needs counseling.

Caleb : Hey, look, man, I am not about to go talk to somebody I don't even know about something that's none of their business.

Michael : All right. Catherine does need to respect you. But just remember, a woman's like a rose. If you treat her right, she'll bloom. If you don't, she'll wilt.

*(Script Page: 7)*

(Caleb does not feel comfortable with Catherine attitudes, so he ask his parents to come. He tells his parents about his problem with Catherine. But Caleb's mother feels that it's all was not Catherine faults).

Caleb's Dad : Son, how long has this been going on?

Caleb : I don't know, Dad. We've had our arguments now and then but it seems like now she is constantly frustrated with me. I mean, I walk in the door and she's mad about something.

Caleb's Mom : Have you given her reason to be upset? I've never known Catherine to be unreasonable.

Caleb : I could have saved the lives of two people at work and if I'm not here helping wash the dishes, I'm a horrible husband.

*(Script Page: 22 – 23)*

Caleb's Mom : But, Caleb, she needs your help here as well. Doesn't she help her parents out every week? She can't do everything around here.

Caleb : You sound like you're taking her side.

Caleb's Mom : But she's working and she's trying...

Caleb : Mom, I do not need you to tell me I'm doing everything wrong. I've got Catherine for that. I am not the problem, she is.

*(Script Page: 23)*

(Caleb takes a walk in the garden behind his house with his father. He does not like his mother's opinion because he thinks his mother says Caleb was the only one that wrong and Catherine did not do anything wrong).

Caleb : Dad, why did you have to bring her?

Caleb's Dad : Caleb, because she's my wife. And your mother, no one love you more than her.

Caleb : She just-- She's always fixing me. She's still trying to fix me. I'm not broken.

Caleb's Dad : Son, if you're looking for a perfect mother I'm afraid there's not one out there. But she's a good woman. And I love her now more than I ever have.

Caleb : I'm not saying I don't love her, Dad. Just that she... She grates on me.

*(Script Page: 23 - 24)*

Caleb : Dad, I'm glad you didn't split up but I would have understood if you had.

Caleb's Dad : Do you know why we didn't?

Caleb : Not really. She realized she couldn't do any better?

Caleb's Dad : Not quite. Caleb, the Lord did a work in us. In both of us.

Caleb : The Lord? You're giving credit to God?

Caleb's Dad : Why does that bother you?  
You've always believed in  
God.

Caleb : If there's a God out there, he's not  
interested in me and my problems.

Caleb's Dad : I disagree. I'd say he's very  
interested.

Caleb : Then where's he been in my life?

Caleb's Dad : He's been at work all around  
you. You just haven't realized  
it. You haven't exactly given  
him an open invitation.

*(Script Page: 24 - 25)*

From the movie, the writer concludes that in every marriage takes work. The Bible says that love means sacrificially giving of yourself for another. It warns that marriages can slowly fall apart as a result of small bad choices, and shows what Biblical love looks like to love sincerely and always forgive. It tells us a story of true love, hope and salvation in a day when marriages are marked with infidelity, lack of commitment and selfishness

## V. CONCLUSIONS

Based on the result of the study, the writer conclude that in every married life has its own story. Many married couples struggle to maintain their marriage but they failed in the end. The marriage problems become a marriage dissolution or we usually call it as divorce. It happens because they use their emotion to solve the problem. Married couples sometimes experience many problems in their household. But if they can understand each other, they can maintain their marriage. Of course the most important is a good communication and respect. A good communication and respect will make the married life run smooth.

In the movie "Fireproof", Caleb as Catherine's husband is easy to get angry. He can not make a good communication between him and his wife. He always decide his own decision and can not use his self-control to build up the household. He use his emotional to handle a conflict with the madness. He also can not respect his wife. The factors which have made Caleb becomes a temperamental person is the impact of parents who used to have household problem once. In addition, another factor of Caleb being a selfish person also derives from his father's attitude. He used to be a selfish person. His father also wanted to divorce his mother but because his mother can shows the true love of her then they back together. As such, the parents' attitude could be a factor which shapes the character of their child or children.

Caleb has been tired of having an unharmonious family. He used to wanted a quarrel with his wife almost every time he meet his wife at home. He tried to ask his father and his friend's opinion in order to improve his family relationship. His father requested Caleb to introspect himself or what he had done to his wife. In addition, Caleb also given a book by his father. The book *The Love Dare* shows him ways how to mend his marital relationship within 40 days. After following advice in the book, he finally could rebuild good and harmonious relationship with his wife. However, *The Love Dare* book is only a tool to guide Caleb. The most important is his intention and high self esteem to change his bad attitude. Caleb feels motivated by the contents of *The Love Dare* book. So his self esteem is increased and he feels confident to maintain his marriage.

## REFERENCES

- Aristotle (2009) *Nicomachean ethics* (trans: Ross, W.D.). Oxford: Oxford University Press.
- Bennet, et al, Andrew.2004. *Introducing to Literature*.UK.Pearson Education Limited.3<sup>rd</sup> edition.
- Broussard, S. C., and Garrison, M. E. B.2004. *The relationship between classroom motivation and academic achievement in elementary school- aged children*. Family and Consumer Sciences Research Journal, 33 p.106–120.
- Effendy, Onong Uchjana . 1984. *Televisi Siaran, Teori dan Praktek*. Bandung : Alumni. PT.Citra Aditya Bakti.
- Gill, Richard. (1995). *Mastering English Literature* 2 nd ed. London: Macmillan Press Ltd.
- Kertajaya, Hermawan. 2010. *Grow with Character: The Model Marketing*. Jakarta: PT. Gramedia Pustaka Utama.
- Olsen, J. M., Breckler, S. J., & Wiggins, E. C. (2008). *Social Psychology Alive*. Ontario: Nelson.
- Maslow, A. H. (1943). *A theory of human motivation*. *Psychological Review*, 50(4), 370–396.
- Rosenberg, M. J. (1960). A structural theory of attitude dynamics. *Public Opinion Quarterly*, 24, 319-340  
<http://dx.doi.org/10.1086/266951>
- Riso, Don Richard, & Russ Hudson. (1987). *Personality Types: Using the Enneagram for Self- Discovery*. Boston and New York: Houghton Mifflin Company.
- Van Dyke, Henry. (1988). *The Footpath to Peace*. Dodge Publishing Company

### Internet Sources:

- <http://mediaonlinenews.com/pengembangan-diri/9-tipe-kepribadian-manusia-berdasarkan-enneagram>
- <https://www.verywell.com/maslows-needs-hierarchy-2795961>
- <https://brittanyekrueger.com/2014/10/20/characterization-according-to-aristotle/>
- <https://www.enneagraminstitute.com/the-traditional-enneagram>
- <http://www.bimbingan.org/definisi-film.htm>
- [http://classiclit.about.com/od/literaryterms/g/aa\\_whatisliter.htm](http://classiclit.about.com/od/literaryterms/g/aa_whatisliter.htm)
- <http://study.com/academy/lesson/gordon-allports-personality-theory.html>
- <https://www.verywell.com/maslows-needs-hierarchy-2795961>