

# IDENTITY OF TIMO CRUZ CHARACTER THROUGH NEEDS FULFILLMENT IN THE *COACH CARTER* MOVIE

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## ABSTRACT

This research aimed to find out how Timo Cruz as the main character in *Coach Carter* movie obtained his real identity by examining the needs Timo Cruz fulfilled using Abraham Maslow's theory of Five Hierarchy of Needs. To begin with, the researcher analyzed the needs that Timo Cruz fulfilled from the first stage to the fifth stage. After analyzing the needs, the researcher then analyzed the four identities from James Marcia's theory. Furthermore, the researcher identified what stage of needs that could be linked up to the identity. The method used in this research was qualitative research. The data were analyzed through Abraham Maslow's theory about Five Hierarchy of Needs and Four Identity Status by James Marcia. The movie was analyzed by the characters' conversation and dialogue script. The researcher used some steps to collect the data to be examined. In analyzing the data, the researcher was watching the movie several times, comprehended the dialogues and the pictures of the movie related to needs fulfillment and identity of Timo Cruz character. The researcher found the needs of Timo Cruz character based on the Abraham Maslow's theory on five needs; physiological needs, safety needs, social needs, esteem needs and self-actualization needs. The researcher also found the identity of Timo Cruz that focused on four identities; identity foreclosure, diffusion, moratorium and achievement. Afterwards, the researcher explained the most dominant needs like social needs and identity from character Timo Cruz.

**Key words:** needs, identity

## ABSTRAK

*Penelitian ini bertujuan untuk mengetahui bagaimana cara tokoh utama dalam film Coach Carter, Timo Cruz memperoleh identitas sebenarnya dengan mengkaji berbagai kebutuhan yang telah dipenuhi olehnya melalui teori Hirarki Lima Kebutuhan dari Abraham Maslow. Pada langkah awal, peneliti menganalisa kebutuhan-kebutuhan yang telah dipenuhi oleh Timo Cruz mulai tingkatan pertama sampai pada tingkatan kelima. Selanjutnya peneliti menganalisa empat identitas dari teori James Marcia. Pada langkah ini, peneliti mengidentifikasi tingkatan kebutuhan apa yang memiliki hubungan dengan identitas. Metode yang digunakan dalam penelitian ini merupakan penelitian kualitatif. Data yang sudah dikumpulkan kemudian dianalisa menggunakan teori Hirarki Lima Kebutuhan oleh Abraham Maslow dan teori Empat Identitas oleh James Marcia. Percakapan-percakapan para tokoh serta naskah dialog lah yang dianalisa dari film ini. Peneliti menggunakan beberapa cara dalam mengumpulkan data-data*

*untuk dianalisa selanjutnya. Dalam menganalisa data-data tersebut, peneliti telah menonton film ini beberapa kali, kemudian menghubungkan beberapa dialog dan adegan yang ada dalam film Coach Carter dengan pemenuhan kebutuhan dan identitas dari tokoh Timo Cruz. Peneliti menemukan adanya pemenuhan kebutuhan oleh tokoh Timo Cruz berdasarkan teori Lima Kebutuhan Abraham Maslow; kebutuhan fisiologis, kebutuhan rasa aman, kebutuhan sosial, kebutuhan untuk diapresiasi, dan kebutuhan aktualisasi diri. Selain lima kebutuhan tersebut, peneliti juga menemukan identitas Timo Cruz berdasarkan pada empat identitas James Marcia: pengambilan identitas, difusi identitas, penundaan identitas, dan pencapaian identitas. Setelah itu, peneliti menjelaskan kebutuhan yang paling berpengaruh seperti kebutuhan sosial dan identitas dari tokoh Timo Cruz.*

**Kata kunci:** *kebutuhan, identitas*

## **A. INTRODUCTION**

As a human being, we always search for the satisfaction of our basic needs (Ward & Lasen, 2009, p. 2); human have to survive to fulfill their needs. If the requirement of needs has been fulfilled, then it will show a sense of self satisfaction in ourselves. It is really important to fulfill human needs because it is part of human survival. If the needs are not being fulfilled, the human will be stressful and their life will not be properly functioned. In short, the needs are the important things that human must be fulfilled.

How identity related through needs fulfillment is how human interact in their daily activities. When human fulfill their needs through daily activity, there is some identity will come through the needs. For instance, the fulfillments of needs are related with the identity creation such as wearing a uniform as the physiological needs. A person who wears a proper uniform as the way to fulfill their needs will create the identity itself. An appropriate identity will be given by the other people when one is seen wearing a proper uniform. With an appropriate uniform, other people set their thoughts that this person is an impressive individual when seeing them wears the proper uniform. Therefore, the impressive sense here is already created the person's identity through the uniform that the person wears. Moreover, Ward and Lasen state that "Need is a trait that impels an individual to pursue a goal through an action and also gives purpose, meaning and direction for the behavior of the individual" (2). In other words, needs fulfillment will eventually form people's identity because identity itself is a figure of what sort of people they are. Furthermore, pursuit of this identity gives them the motivation and the direction to fulfill their needs.

In the *Coach Carter* movie, there was a character named Timo Cruz. This research focused on this character because this character was a troubled student in Carter's basketball team. He even joined a gangster and consumed the drugs. As known in general, a person who has involved to drugs and gangster will be ended up in prison, even death consequence as the worst. But, Timo Cruz in this movie was shown as a person that able to get out from those things and became a great student and basketball player. The reality in this movie that showed him to have the capability of getting himself free from such things like gangster, drugs and changes his personality to be a better man than before was something that was interesting to be discussed. The researcher analyzed how Timo Cruz fulfilled his needs in the gang that made his

identity as a gangster, and then finally changed him to become a good student and a great basketball player as his new identity.

This research focused on the needs of Timo Cruz analysis. The analysis included of how his activity that related into his needs fulfillment and how these needs fulfillment formed his identity. There were two main theories that the researcher used in this research. The first one was Five Hierarchy Needs by Abraham Maslow which as the main research theory. The second one was Identity Status theory by James Marcia to examine the identity of the character.

In finding out the identity of Timo Cruz, the researcher analysed two questions: (1) How does Timo Cruz acquire his needs in the movie of *Coach Carter*? (2) How do the needs form Timo Cruz's identity? The objectives of those questions are (1) to find out Timo Cruz's way in acquiring his needs in the *Coach Carter* movie (2) to find out how Timo Cruz's needs form his identity. The significances of this research are (1) Theoretically, the researcher was capable to contribute and to explain the ways of people acquire needs' fulfillment especially in the character of Timo Cruz in the movie *Coach Carter*. (2) Practically, this research can be a useful reference for other researchers and support their researches, especially for those who focus on the theory of needs by Maslow.

## **B. REVIEW OF RELATED LITERATURE**

### **1. Abraham Maslow's Hierarchy of Needs**

According to Maslow, human has five needs that formed the stage or can define as Hierarchy of Needs (*Physiological, Safety, Social, Esteem and Self-actualization*).

#### **a. Physiological Needs**

Physiological needs are the basic needs: The body craves for food, drink, sleep, oxygen, sex, freedom of movement, and a moderate temperature. When any of these needs are in short supply, we will feel the distressing tension of hunger, thirst, fatigue, shortness of breath, sexual frustration, confinement, or the discomfort of being too hot or cold (Griffin, p. 127).

Physiological needs cannot be separated from human's life because this need is a crucial need for human. Humans need to breathe, food, water, shelter, clothes, and sleep which these six types of needs are concluded as the physiological needs. By fulfilling these physiological needs, human can live worthy because they can eat, sleep, have clothes, and house.

#### **b. Safety Needs**

Safety needs is a need that consists of security and protection, financial income, and health. Humans need the security and protection because they have to guarantee themselves to be safe from something that could threaten them. They absolutely do not want to be in dangerous moment (robbery or murder) every time with their family, that is why they need to fulfill the safety needs among them (Ward & Lasen, 2009, p. 4).

#### **c. Social Needs**

The next step is human will think how to find friends by doing conversation with people, marriage, have family, join community, etc. By not socializing themselves, human will be looked like do not have friends; they tend to be lonely and anti-social

human. They will be taken negatively by other, because do not have social life; you become increasing loneliness and social anxieties (Boeree, 2006, p. 1). Human needs for warm relations with people for a place in his group, and he will strive with great intensity to achieve this goal (Green, 2000, p. 9).

Human will look for socialize with other because in this world, it is impossible for human not socializing with each other. Human needs to feel love and accepted by other people in order to avoid problems such as loneliness, depression, and anxiety.

#### **d. Esteem Needs**

Esteem needs is looking for appreciation and respect from another human and looking for a sense which can make them valued for other people and can make a big contribution for many people like success in academic or in athletic participation. If esteem needs are fulfilled, then the moral of human will increase because they achieve something that boosts their moral. Maslow also notes two versions of esteem needs. First is lower esteem that is a need for respect other person and second is higher esteem which a need for self-respect.

#### **e. Self-actualization Needs**

When human have achieved the first four categories of basic needs, they begin to develop their interest in actualizing themselves of the self-actualization needs. In this last category of needs, this can be said as the self-development one. Self-actualization has been described as reaching one's full potential, and it is eternal because it has no determined end point (Cunningham 15).

In short, the self actualization is not about finding the needs of physiological, safety, social, and esteem, but this needs is about to find the potential motivation inside of people and then of the human and develop it. It is important for human to find their potential because their potential can be important for job or hobbies that can be useful to gain money.

## **2. The Four Identity Status Theory by James Marcia**

Marcia uses the term identity status to label and describes four unique developmental identity stations or points, which are: *Identity Foreclosure*, *Identity Diffusion*, *Identity Moratorium*, and *Identity Achievement*. Each identity status represents a particular configuration of youth's progress with regard to identity exploration and commitment to the values, beliefs, and goals that contributed to identity (Oswalt, 2010, p. 1).

#### **a. Identity Foreclosure**

Identity foreclosure is the first step of adolescent in the process of finding a sense of self. This identity is the condition where adolescent accepted the identity, relevant roles, values, or goal of the future which has been attached to them that given from childhood and family or others and does not have an identity crisis. Foreclosures are established identity without active consideration of other identity possibilities in the area. The commitment is made to the first ideas with seriously consideration, often an idea from one's parental family (Waterman, 1988, p. 191).

To sum up, the identity foreclosure is the condition where adolescent only accept the identity which has been attached to them. Moreover, these adolescents have no crisis identity and they also accept what identity that has already existed for them.

#### **b. Identity Diffusion**

Identity Diffusion is an adolescent that still does not have direction about finding of true identity. It happens when adolescents are still unstable about their identity and looking for their established identity. This identity diffusion happens to children and adolescent, and there is no commitment identity in this diffusion on adolescent. Furthermore, foreclosure adolescents have been least able to integrate ideas and to think analytically; they, along with diffusions, have also been most likely to make errors in judgment because of reduced attention (Kroger, 2006, p. 213). For the truth, this diffusion is a normal for adolescents because it is a normal phase in a journey of personality development.

#### **c. Identity Moratorium**

Thill argues that Identity moratorium is a time for searching one position of identity, religious, ethnic or other form of identity. In addition, a person that experiences moratorium tends to be confused because of the identity exploration. This is because the adolescent must go through this identity before he or she can find a true identity (1). Adolescents start one step to find their identity make them explore choices or optional. Sometime it makes them confuse and tired to be around. They also use their identity status in determining who they are and who they are to be. This is what adolescents pass on the search of their identity in Identity Moratorium.

#### **d. Identity Achievement**

This identity describes when the teenagers already got their self-identity; they will not be easily under pressured by another life commitment. Adolescent who gets identity achievement will be able to examine the variety of choices around them (Thill 1).

Identity achievement can be achieved by adolescents if they have passed the identity moratorium which makes them confuse and tiring for exploration in facing many individual different options of identity. Once teenagers get their self-identity, they will not be disturbed by another pressure because they will be consistent on their chosen directions of life.

### **C. RESEARCH METHOD**

The researcher used the qualitative research in identifying about the fulfillment needs in the character of Timo Cruz. Moreover, this research focused on needs fulfillment and the identity development. This research used Maslow's five kinds of hierarchy needs as the main theory and the identity theory by Marcia as the second theory in the character of Timo Cruz. The researcher described the fulfillment needs and identity development in the main character throughout the movie. The data that were taken from the movie that the researcher needed to complete this research were the dialogues. The dialogues were taken from the characters' dialogues that were spoken by them in the movie specifically by Timo Cruz. Also, the data were analyzed using theories which already explained in the review of related journal. The last one, the researcher made the conclusion based on the findings and the supporting analysis.

## **D. FINDINGS**

### **1. Needs of Timo Cruz Character**

#### **a. Physiological Needs**

Timo Cruz was capable to fulfill his physiological needs such as: sleep, freedom of movement and thirst. Timo Cruz was able to get his freedom of movement depend on where he was. If he was in basketball court, he could not get his freedom of movement because Coach Carter controlled his movement. When Timo Cruz was outside the basketball court, he was free to go anywhere.

#### **b. Safety Needs**

Timo Cruz fulfilled his safety needs through Coach Carter at which he considered as protection, financial security from his cousin, and protection from his friends. Timo Cruz was a drug dealer with his cousin, Renny and he earned money from selling the drugs. There was only Ken Carter and the basketball team that he considered to be able to save and protect him from the reality of the gangster world he had been into that made his cousin got killed.

#### **c. Social needs**

Timo Cruz gained his social needs from his family, friends, basketball team, gangster group and coach. Cruz in his Social needs was proven as someone who had relation with Coach Carter as a coach basketball team at Richmond high school. Timo Cruz also had cousin named Renny. Besides Timo Cruz's cousin and Coach, he also had close friends in school, who were his teammates. They were Damien Carter, Junior Battle, Worm and Jason Lyle. They also helped Timo Cruz when he was in trouble. There was another time when Timo Cruz could not finish 80 suicides and 500 pushups punishment given by Ken Carter and finally Ken Carter asked him to leave the basketball field because he could not finish his punishment. Seeing the failed attempt of Timo Cruz, his friends helped him to finish the remaining punishment. Timo Cruz also had a relation with gangster as a drug dealer. It indicated that he was not only had friends in school, but also had relation outside the school.

#### **d. Esteem Needs**

Timo Cruz fulfilled his esteem needs such as glory, recognition, attention, reputation, appreciation, dignity, dominance and also looking for a sense being valued and made contribution for another people. Timo Cruz and his teammate won the tournament and they got the trophy 22<sup>nd</sup> Annual Bayhill Tournament basketball. It indicated that Timo Cruz and his teammate already gave his school the fame and glory after winning the championship. Furthermore, the players got appreciation, recognition from other team that had already battled with Cruz's team, and made the school's reputation better. The Esteem needs also found in Timo Cruz character could be seen through his **desire** to play basketball. It showed that he wanted to make a contribution through basketball with his friends.

#### **e. Self-actualization needs:**

Timo Cruz fulfilled this needs could be seen in the end of the movie where he continued his study in college and also became a basketball player. He realized if there was no future for him if he became a gangster.



## **2. Finding Identity of Timo Cruz**

### **a. Identity Foreclosure**

Timo Cruz, his character had two identities from the beginning of the movie and he did not have an identity crisis and kept use these two identities which were as the basketball player in high school and also a gangster.

### **b. Identity Diffusion**

Timo Cruz was a character that could be categorized into the identity diffusion. Coach Carter knew some of his basketball player already involved with the gangster especially Timo Cruz. That was why he told Timo Cruz that he was a scared and confused young man. It was because Timo Cruz could not make a commitment for his identity, which identity he must took: be a basketball player or a gangster.

The researcher chose Renny as Timo Cruz's identity diffusion because his cousin's role gave bad impact for Timo Cruz toward his school and basketball career. It was because Renny's activities as a gangster in the other hand supported Cruz's financial problem that he could not get it from his school activities or as a basketball player. This relationship between Timo Cruz and his cousin confused him in finding his real identity whether to become a student and basketball player or following his cousin's way into gangster activities. In this issue, Renny's role as a gangster got Timo Cruz really confused to define his true identity because when he was with his cousin doing the gangster activities, he could get the financial support in which he could not get from his school and basketball activities.

### **c. Identity Moratorium**

Timo Cruz chose his identity as a basketball player and as a student in his school and he did not take a choice as a gangster anymore. He chose his identity as a basketball player because of the Coach Carter as the one who saved him from the gangster and made Timo Cruz realized that basketball and his school were really important than the gangster.

### **d. Identity Achievement**

After exploring his finding true identity, Timo Cruz chose his identity as basketball player and a student which in the end of the movie he continued his school to university and still became a basketball player. He finally chose his identity as a student and basketball player because he realized that the gangster activity was a wrong way.

## **E. CONCLUSION**

From physiological needs, Timo Cruz achieved his physiological needs in the form of thirst, sleep and freedom of movement. From safety needs, Timo Cruz achieved his financial security from his cousin and he also obtained his security and protection from his friends and coach. From social needs, Timo Cruz earned social needs from his friends in school, basketball team, cousin and his gangster group. From esteem needs, Timo Cruz earned esteem needs from basketball competition to get his fame, glory, recognition, attention and esteem from gangster and friends. Timo Cruz also earned his self actualization needs from his basketball skill. His desire to keep playing basketball,

even though sometimes his bad behavior caused him in and out from the team, it led him to the fact that he became a great basketball player in his school.

The researcher here also tried to analyze the needs to find the relationship between Timo Cruz's fulfillment needs and identity that Timo Cruz earned from his needs fulfillment. From social needs, because he was not able to choose among his school, basketball and gangster, his social needs at which made the identity diffusion appeared toward him. Since Timo Cruz's safety needs was fulfilled by his coach and friends in his school, he started to find his identity moratorium as a student and basketball player. In the end, Timo Cruz's self actualization as a basketball player that made him earned his identity achievement as a student and basketball player as his real identities.

Furthermore, the researcher found out the most dominant needs in Timo Cruz character were Social needs and Esteem needs. It was because this character had many activities and interaction. The researcher also found out social needs had relation with identity foreclosure which made this character exploring the real identity.

The result of identification was needs fulfillment able to affect identity that Timo Cruz earned. From the analysis above, the character of Timo Cruz fulfilled his needs and these needs also brought him into identity that he earned, which became a student and a basketball player.

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