

Hierarchy of Needs Analysis of The Main Character of A Novel American Royals by Katharine McGee

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ABSTRACT

Cheating in violation of norms is an act of betrayal of a partner that is caused by the fading of normative values within the perpetrator. Cheating can make the victim disappointed and traumatized because they feel their trust has been destroyed by their partner. To collect the data, researchers used the documentation method. The final results of this research will be described descriptively in the form of words, phrases, sentences and paragraphs. Theory of Hierarchy of Needs by Abraham Maslow can be seen in the novel American Royals by Katharine McGee, there are many needs experience by physiological needs, safety needs, love needs, self-esteem and self-actualization. The result of this research is the physiological need that Beatrice needs is the fulfillment of the love needs. When the emotional of physiological needs are not contented it will be trigger negative mental issues and cause the impact on the individual. Furthermore, it not only damaging the mental health, but it can also affect someone's physical health.

Keywords: Cheating, Hierarchy of Needs, American Royals, Literary

INTRODUCTION

Having a peaceful relationship with a lover is everyone's dream. However, in a relationship there are obstacles and sorrows that must be faced by them. While a relationship is the faith between both of the lovers to keep each other, nevertheless the betrayal often comes and ruins their commitment. In the past, cheating was known by taboos and no one dared to do it publically. Nowadays, one of the reasons for the increasing number of divorce cases in various countries is cheating. Cheating is a backstreet romantic or sexual relationship between man and woman in a prohibited

way, where both of them have their own partner. It happened because of human ego and there is an opportunity to get it.(Rinaldo et al., 2023)

As time goes by, cheating is not only having backstreet relationships by meeting in real life or doing skinships. With the sophistication of time they could cheat and connect with their secret partner in virtual ways by using social media, so their relationships can be more secretive and not visible on the surface. Although, cheating is violation of norms and unfaithful behavior of a person, most people now think that cheating is normal.(Sahni & Jain, 2018)

Cheating in violation of norms is an act of betrayal of a partner that is caused by the fading of normative values within the perpetrator. Many parties are hurt by cheating. Not only the cheating partner or the family. However the society also feels hurt that cheating is condemned and considered shameful behavior. (Weiser et al., 2023)

When examined more deeply, this act of cheating violates the norms of decency. Because in cheating there are of course lies, adultery and disrespect for your partner. Based on human instincts, every human being's conscience has the potential to differentiate between good and bad things. And cheating behavior is a form of denying one's conscience.(Azzahra & Suhadi, 2021)

Cheating will usually be carried out in secret and secretly. If the partner being cheating on starts to become suspicious, it is not uncommon for the perpetrator to lie and make plans with the cheater. This of course violates the norms of decency. The perpetrator will lie continuously as a form of self-defense. As a result, the perpetrator of this affair will live in fear that one day his partner will find the truth out.(DePaulo & Kashy, 1998)

Cheating in a relationship is an act of betrayal or violation committed by someone in a relationship. This unfaithfulness can be proven by cheating. Cheating can make the victim disappointed and traumatized because they feel their trust has been destroyed by their partner. However it is not uncommon for victims to decide to continue the relationship even though they already know that their partner is no longer faithful for some reason.(Tröger et al., 2018) Cheating can arise due to dissatisfaction with one's partner. Dissatisfaction can come from emotional factors or sexual factors or both. Then the lack of communication and lack of openness makes the relationship less healthy and leads to seeking comfort from other people.(Lubis et al., 2019)

From the many cases of cheating, with a person's feeling of dissatisfaction in a monogamous relationship and the inability to control excessive desires when seeing someone other than their partner, this result

in cheating occurs in a relationship. Cheating often arises when a person has the opportunity to cheat on their partner. Because, a human always take every chances that happened in their life, so when they have a desire and a will they could take ever chances that come in their life and sometimes people don't care if it will be good or evil ways to get their goals.(Varma et al., 2023)

In the past, society was absolutely against cheating, because it was an unnatural act of someone's behavior and was against the norms. However, the current situation in society has changed, where there are some people who reject cheating and others who approve and normalize it. Nowadays, lack of open-minded by people seems so rude, as they normalize a lapse of good ways and galvanize everyone to be one of them.(METİNOĞLU, 2022)

As time progresses, the billboards for freedom of thought focus on meaning, or we call it open-mindedness, which spreads to people throughout the world. This is one of the factors causing cheating to be normalized today. Under the pretext of being open-minded, this gives rise to thoughts that are risky regarding a commitment in a romantic relationship, "if you cheat, I will cheat on you too."(Niriwa et al., 2022)

Cheating is also normalized by the open-mindedness that exists in society and is absorbed without long-term thoughts. They only conclude that every human being has the right to freedom to channel what they want, so this becomes dysfunctional and goes beyond reasonable limits. Where today cheating is commonplace and is retaliation for a partner's behavior that is not materially or non-materially satisfying.(Elanda et al., 2022)

This study is analysis the one of Katherine McGee's literary work by the title "American Royals". This novel is described about the live of American royals family where the main lead character here is the first princess of royal family. The pursue of the first princess to be the next Queen of America make her trapped with a lot of conflict that come on her way to be the Queen. The aim of this study is to know how was the mental condition of the main character to face all the problems. To facilitate the study, the researcher will apply the theory of hierarchy of need by Abraham Maslow.(Oktapiana & Skolastika, 2022)

METHOD

To analyze the data in this article, researchers used qualitative methods. Qualitative method is research that is subjective in nature and involves values that are less concrete than quantitative research, including: quality, behavior and conjecture (Kusuma & Rahman, 2022). Deep understanding of data is also a qualitative method. By using these methods in this research,

the researcher can answer all the problem of the object in this research with analyzing the data with form “how” and “why” to the main problem of the object.

To collect the data, researchers used the documentation method. The documentation method is a record of past events in the form of written works, works of art, or a monumental work by a figure (Sianipar & Jusmaya, 2019). After collecting data using the documentation method, the final results of this research will be described descriptively in the form of words, phrases, sentences and paragraphs. (Lubis & Satria, 2021)

A qualitative data has two main data to apply in the research., primary data and secondary data. A primary data of the researcher apply as the object is the novel “American Royals” by Katharine McGee, and the secondary data is the theory book from Theory of Human Motivation by Abraham Maslow, and journals.

FINDINGS AND DISCUSSION

A. Hierarchy of Needs

The hierarchy of needs theory is a theory created by Abraham Maslow which discusses the theory of human needs which must be obtained one by one. The first need must be met first so that subsequent needs will only be met afterwards (Bahuwa, 2018).

That phenomenon can be seen in the novel American Royals by Katharine McGee, there are many needs experience by physiological needs, safety needs, love needs, self-esteem and self-actualization.

Based on the results of research conducted by researchers regarding the analysis of Maslow’s hierarchy of needs for the character Beatrice in the novel American Royals by Katharine McGee, researchers found several data on the character’s behavior and actions related to fulfilling Maslow’s needs theory.

1. The Physiological Needs

The psychological needs are basic needs or the lowest in Maslow’s pyramid of needs which concerns basic human needs such as eating, drinking, sleeping and sexual needs (Virginia & Satria, 2022). All human living in this world need basic needs as very important needs and must be met properly. This subcategory will explain the physical needs of the character Beatrice, who is depicted as an American crown princess.

Data 1

Before Beatrice could answer, her stomach gave a loud, angry rumble. (McGee, 2019, 173)

This data emerged when Beatrice was trapped by a snowstorm with her bodyguard, Connor. And they had to take shelter for a while in a cottage in Montrose. The text shows the existence of physiological needs in the characters in Maslow's hierarchy of needs. In this narrative, Beatrice needs basic needs in the form of food. Beatrice's stomach growled as a sign that she needed food immediately so that her physical needs were met. By indicating that her stomach is rumbling, it will be a motivation for Beatrice to get what she needs so that her needs can be met immediately.

Data 2

Moments later he emerged with a bag of macaroni and some Alfredo sauce in a jar. "Looks like your option are pasta...pasta." (McGee, 2019, 173)

After Connor heard Beatrice's stomach growling, he immediately looked for whatever was in the kitchen of the cottage, leaving Beatrice still embarrassed because of the sound of her stomach. And Connor found ingredients that could be used to make pasta. In this case there is an attempt by Connor and Beatrice to fulfill their needs by looking for food. In this situation, what is found in the refrigerator can represent the fulfillment of the character's physiological needs for survival. And finally her physiological need for food has been met.

Data 3

She got out of the bed and went to open her windows, to gaze at the net of lights that glittered over the capital. (McGee, 2019, 294)

Beatrice wakes up from sleep after having to have a party last night with her fiancée's family, Teddy. In this data there are physiological needs in Maslow's needs theory, where in this data Beatrice has just woken up. And in terms of physiological needs, sleep is something that humans need to be able to continue living and also to maintain stamina the next day. So, Beatrice has received the need for sleep in this narrative.

Data 4

She said again and again, kissing him each time: on his nose, his temple, the corner of his mouth. (McGee, 2019, 208)

After Connor expressed his deep love for Beatrice, she suddenly felt like the happiest woman in the world and Beatrice suddenly straddled Connor's

body and expressed her desire. This data shows Beatrice's need for sex. She kisses Connor continuously as a sign that she needs Connor to fulfill her sexual desires. Connor and Beatrice were lost in the atmosphere they created after both expressing their feelings for each other.

2. Safety Needs

The safety needs is the second need in Abraham Maslow's hierarchy of needs theory. This needs for safety means someone's feelings of importance safety. Both body safety, work, morality, family, health, property, and possession (Ronie & Hellystia, 2019). All humans need a sense of security so they can live their lives peacefully and happily. This subcategory will explain about the safety needs of the Beatrice character.

Data 1

Her personal security detail, Connor, glanced up from where he stood outside the door, next to the king's protection officer. (McGee, 2019, 5)

Beatrice has a personal bodyguard named Connor. He is a member of the Revere Guard, an elite officer corps who dedicate their lives to serving the crown princess. This data shows that Beatrice is physically protected by her bodyguard named Connor, whom she trusts as her personal bodyguard, so that her security in this case is physically guaranteed because of the presence of this bodyguard. Every human being needs a sense of security and Beatrice has obtained that need for security from her family who provides her with a personal bodyguard.

Data 2

Barely an hour later, she and Connor were standing in a tiny cottage on the outskirts of Montrose. It wasn't exactly what Beatrice was used to, but her options had been fairly limited, given that it was late at night and in blizzard conditions. (McGee, 2019, 170)

When Beatrice was going to attend a family party at Telluride, a snow storm suddenly occurred and forced her plane to land somewhere else first and it was still far from Telluride. This narrative shows Beatrice and Connor seeking shelter in a small cottage on the outskirts of Montrose. in this case, Beatrice and Connor needed a safe place to take refuge and they managed to find a place to fulfill their safety needs.

Data 3

"Don't go," she pleaded, and instinctively tugged him back down so that she lay curled against him. She burrowed deeper into her sheets, which were stitched in the corner with the royal crest. (McGee, 2019, 205)

A week after Beatrice and Connor were trapped in a cabin in Montrose due to a snowstorm, Beatrice slept in the same bed as Connor. And Beatrice was very happy to find Connor when she woke up. She was so happy and felt like she wanted this snow storm to continue, because she didn't want to meet her fiancé and chose to stay with Connor. This data shows that Beatrice feels comfortable and safe with Connor and begs Connor not to leave Beatrice. This narrative shows that Beatrice needs protection and feels that Connor can make her feels safe physically and mentally.

Data 4

Beatrice cleared her throat, "One more thing. I know we'll both share the news with our families, but would you mind if we didn't tell anyone else, just until the press announcement I don't want to risk a media leak (McGee, 2019, 238)

Beatrice immediately proposed to Teddy officially after her father said that he had stage four lung cancer and he wanted to see Beatrice get married before he died. This made Beatrice have to take quick movements to do, even though it seemed hasty, she had already calculated it. This text shows safety needs in Maslow's need theory, where Beatrice wants to stay safe from news on the media about her engagement with Teddy so that Connor will not find out about it and not leave Beatrice. Because she wasn't ready to lose his bodyguard and lover any time soon. So, she asked Teddy to keep it a secret from everyone except their respective families. He asked for it because she felt safe with Connor and still didn't want to be separated from him.

3. Love Needs

The love needs will arise when the previous two needs are met properly. This need for love involves giving and receiving. This needs can be met by parents, friends, or partners (Sitepu & Putri, 2020). This subcategory will explained about the love needs of Beatrice character.

Data 1

Sam's eyes blazed. "Then go make them different! Get unengaged to Teddy so you can both move on with your lives!" (McGee, 2019, 298)

Samantha, Beatrice's sister, shows the supports for the infidelity that Beatrice did with Connor and asked her to end up her engagement to Teddy. This data shows the love needs in Maslow's needs theory, where Beatrice stand with her love to Connor, but also stay engaged to Teddy, and also by that words from Samantha actually shows that she loves Teddy and tried to make Beatrice end of her engagement to Teddy by supporting and normalizing the cheating in her sister's love relationship.

Data 2

He was still so close, his mouth dangerously near hers. "Apparently I would rather be around you like this, would rather chaperone your dates with Lord Theodore Eaton, than say goodbye to you forever." He gave his head a bitter shake. "Clearly, I have a bit of a weak spot when it comes to you." (McGee, 2019, 175)

After Connor and Beatrice confess their feelings to each other, Connor feels afraid because it should be never happened. However, Beatrice wants to cross the line with Connor. And finally, the two of them crossed over their line between the crown princess and a bodyguard. This data shows love needs in Maslow's needs theory. Where in this data it shows that Connor really loves Beatrice and tells her that she is ready for all possibilities and all circumstances, even when she has to accompany Beatrice on a date with Teddy. Connor meant this to Beatrice that he loved her so much. Connor said this because Beatrice didn't fully believe that Connor loved her as much as she loved Connor. So, Connor said it will be the proofs of what Beatrice's mind was wrong and shows that he really loves Beatrice.

Data 3

Kissing Connor felt terrifying and familiar all at once, like returning home after a lifetime of being lost. (McGee, 2019, 177)

While they are at a cottage in Montrose, the two reveal to each other that they have had feelings for each other for a long time. But Connor knows, he shouldn't ever like the crown princess. In this data there are love needs in Maslow's needs theory where this data shows the affection that Beatrice gets from Connor. In accordance with Maslow's opinion, the needs for love and affection is the desire to establish relationships with other people. And based on this data, Beatrice is more comfortable in having a relationship

with her own bodyguard because she feels that with Connor it is like she is back to being who is she.

Data 4

Before Connor could react, Beatrice had flipped herself up so that she was sitting on top of him, straddling his torso. "I love you, too," she told him, laughing a little at her dizzying, delirious joy. "I love you, I love you, I love you." (McGee, 2019, 208)

In the morning when Connor and Beatrice slept together, Connor expressed his deepest feelings to Beatrice which made Beatrice feel like she was in love and so happy that she wanted to share everything with Connor. In this data there are love needs in Maslow's needs theory. In this text, Beatrice feels happy with Connor and tries to show how much all her love to Connor by saying "I love you" repeatedly, and this results in a feeling of great happiness.

4. Self-esteem Needs

Self-esteem is a person's assessment of themselves or the assessment of other people which represents an assessment of their own worthiness with a combination of self-confidence and self-esteem. (Noval & Srivastava, 2018). In this case is a person's need to receive or be given respect.

Data 1

No, it was much safer if the heir to the throne had no sexual past for the press to rake through: no baggage from past boyfriends, no exes who might sell intimate secrets in a tell-all memoir. (McGee, 2019, 7)

All the actions and track record of a successor to the throne will be closely watched by the media and the people. Therefore, Beatrice always keeps herself from exposing too much about her love life as a form of the self-esteem. This data shows that Beatrice takes great care of herself so as not to have a bad track record regarding her love story. Because Beatrice knows that this matter will of course be highly highlighted by the media so that the discussion will continue to spread and be discussed throughout the American people.

Data 2

"Beatrice, when you do choose someone, he won't just be your husband. He will also be America's first king consort, and being married to the reigning monarch is a full-time job." (McGee, 2019, 9)

Beatrice's parents want Beatrice to immediately find a life partner as well as someone who can lighten her burden when she becomes Queen of America. Therefore,

Beatrice's parents gave her a list of prince names and let Beatrice select them one by one. This data shows the existence of the self-esteem in Maslow's hierarchy of needs. This data shows a direct quote from the king or Beatrice's father who acknowledged that the honor that Beatrice had would also be shared by her future partner. In this case, the king indirectly acknowledged that Beatrice's honor was so great that the person who accompanied her would also receive the same honor.

Data 3

"You listen to those people with respect, and try to address their concerns, even when they refuse to grant you the same courtesy. Because you will be their queen. Whether they like it or not." (McGee, 2019, 216)

Beatrice was very worried when she thought that she would have to be the successor to the throne when her father died. She was so worried about American's views of her. She is also afraid that many people will not like his leadership. In the text above, it's according to the self-esteem in Maslow's needs theory, where in this data Beatrice's father admits that she can be someone who can be relied on by her people. This quote makes Beatrice feel worthy and confident after previously saying that she was unable to be the successor with all the burdens she had to carry. So, her father's words became an expression of recognition that had an influence on her level of self-confidence.

Data 4

"I'm so proud of you, Beatrice. You are incredibly smart and wise beyond your years." (McGee, 2019, 432)

Before he died, Beatrice's father said that he was very proud of Beatrice because she could grow into a person who was ready to lead America even though there were still many thoughts that haunted her. In this data, there is the self-esteem in Maslow's needs theory, where this data shows Beatrice's father said the words smart and wise show the abilities that Beatrice had, which her father recognizes as a form of appreciation and added value to her self-esteem. This text actually also contains the implied meaning of the word wise. That is, Beatrice must be able to prioritize

America even when it comes to choosing a partner. In the sense that she should prefer Teddy over Connor, and Beatrice knows that.

5. Self-Actualization Needs

Self-actualization is the maximum use of an individual's abilities and talents. When the need for self-esteem is satisfied, a need will arise where a person will need self-actualization. This need is more prominent in the need to maximize one's potential. (Jaya, Arifin, & Lubis, 2022)

Data 1

"I understand." Beatrice willed herself to be strong for her dad, to be Beatrice the successor. (McGee, 2019, 214)

After Beatrice learned the news about her father's illness, she was truly determined to become a strong successor to the throne when her father died. In this text there is self-actualization in Maslow's needs theory where in the narrative Beatrice actualize that she can become strong as her father's successor. In this condition, fulfilling the need for self-actualization requires efforts to achieve potential by taking advantage of every opportunity that comes so that one's ability to become a successor will continue to develop.

Data 2

She thought of the task that lay ahead: of all the things she would have to embody and build and improve and unite. Of all the millions of people whose voices she was charged with presenting. (McGee, 2019, 219)

This data shows the existence of self-actualization in Maslow's needs theory, where in this data Beatrice assumes that in the future she will become a leader who embodies, increases and also unites the voices of millions of people. With her achievements and the education that her parents provided as provisions for continuing the throne, Beatrice is confident that she will become a reliable leader even though the tasks she will carry out in the future will not be easy.

Data 3

"Is America going to love me the way Connor does? Listen to my secrets and kiss me good morning and tell me my dreams are worth chasing? All I've ever done for America is give and give and give, and still America wants more! When will it ever be enough?" (McGee, 2019, 393)

In this data there is self-actualization in Maslow's needs theory, where this narrative shows self-actualization of her desire to get approval to marry Connor instead of Teddy. Beatrice is inclined to prove to her father that her relationship with Connor is not something that should be forbidden even though it is against Royal regulations. But she wants to prove that she will be happy and fine if she marries Connor.

Data 4

Beatrice had grown used to the tours, the way she had to smile and make eye contact with every person she met, thanking them for their time, greeting them by name. she knew just how important these moments were for the image of the royal family McGee, 2019, 78)

In this data there is self-actualization in Maslow's needs theory. Based on this data, Beatrice already understands how crown princess should behave when meeting many people. She is confident that what she is doing will get a positive response and make the kingdom's image good. With this understanding, Beatrice continues to learn by respecting her people.

CONCLUSION

Based on the results of study on the main character in the novel *American Royals* by Katherine McGee, it can be concluded from the hierarchy of needs by Abraham Maslow, the physiological need that Beatrice needs is the fulfillment of the love needs. When the emotional of physiological needs are not contented it will be trigger negative mental issues and cause the impact on the individual. Furthermore, it not only damaging the mental health, but it can also affect someone's physical health.

The problems faced by Beatrice pushed her to take the infidelity in her love relationship. Beatrice shows that her physical and security had been completed, meanwhile she felt discontented with her love needs. Yet, at the time she feel her love needs will be contented by someone her loved, she had to take the risk of violating royals regulations. By the feeling of craving her love needs, she was brave enough to break the rules by having a backstreet relationship with Connor, her bodyguard, even though she already had a noble fiancé.

When Beatrice found out that Connor also had a same love and feeling for her, at that moment cheating become normalized for Beatrice as a member of royal family because with this affair she got satisfaction where she can breathe and feel a freedom with him that she couldn't get from her fiancé as he only an aristocrat man, who lives with a lot of regulation through

his life. And when Samantha, her sister, knew about her cheating with Connor, she also give supports to end the engagement with Teddy. It shows that the royal family had been normalized the cheating action.

After the proposal of Beatrice engagement with Teddy, with a bungling action, she decided to go against royal regulations and revealed that she had a backstreet relationship with her bodyguard and confessing all her sins to her father. However, at the end of the day she realized, when her father was died, there is a throne that she had to protect for her pride as a future queen of America. Finally, she left Connor for the sake of the royal throne and chose Teddy as her partner of successor of her throne.

The moral value of this study is the love and the pride. When Beatrice feel full of secure under her father's arms, she only pursue her love needs as she was going grow up without a warm love as she wanted. But, when her father was in severe pain, at that time her pride was taking the roles of her life, no need love for keeping her pride of the throne.

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