

Sexual Identity On Novel *Red, White & Royal Blue* (2019): Abraham Maslow – Psychoanalysis Theory

**Aisyah Nurliana Mashuri,
Yunita Nur Malasari
Budi Tri Santosa**

Faculty of Education and Humanity, Muhammadiyah University
Semarang, Semarang City, Central Java, Indonesia
aisyahnur3003@gmail.com

ABSTRACT

LGBT is a legal thing to do in England society by free to loving someone regardless of gender. This article explain about how character Henry as a prince in the novel *Red, White & Royal Blue* who wants to proving his sexual identity in the society on the basis of some encouragement. In this research, we using the Psychoanalysis theory by A.H Maslow. The problem we raise is that there are still many England people who are still not confident and afraid to admit that they have same-sex attraction, especially public figure. And this research, our primer data is the novel *Red, White & Royal Blue* by Casey McQuiston. Data is analyzed by collecting word, sentences or paragraphs related to belongingness and love needs, esteem needs in Basic needs. And the data we collect, we explain about the character self actualization. The results of our research can be concluded that receiving encouragement from people closest and loved can be a factor for someone to be more brave in admitting something with more confidence. And every people is free to love and express themselves, and everyone has the right to determine their sexual identity.

Keywords: LGBT, Gay, Sexual Identity, Qualitative, Basic Needs.

INTRODUCTION

England society assume that everyone is free to love or self-expression without afraid of discrimination and confidence of tolerance. England society legalize LGBT. LGBT is Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual and Transgender. And this legalize is also has support for encourage the world to stop the gender discrimination, and protect the human rights (Harris et al., 2022: 156). But, not many people in England still not confident that they have interest to same-sex especially Public Figure.

An emotional sense of self that can hamper a someone from assessing them self. That thing has effect to someone feel challenged for their bravery to reveal them sexual identity to public. But, the challenges which arise also very

influence personal abilities in expression. The influence of un-confident of their sexual identity can also trigger their negative thoughts for someone (Hu et al., 2022: 2). So, there is feeling of discomfort or doubt about something such as attitudes and behavior.

Gay feels un-confident for their sexual identity, because they are afraid of social respond which can show discrimination thing (Bayrakdar & King, 2023: 153). The society's factor also can be the main reason of un-confident, because can offending feeling of sexual identity, so that resulting feeling of fear and un-believe towards other people. As for shame to get recognition of sexual orientation, so that influence for their social identity especially public figure.

Un-confidence feelings on sexual identity come up because there is a fear of the society's response. Especially Public Figure who seen as a perfect life. So that, a fear that come up caused from the society's response can restrict themselves to act (Hu et al., 2022: 58). Negative thinking also one of the reason un-confident of sexual identity is come up to self, because there is a feeling of worry about the continuing a career.

A denial of sexual orientation (*Gay*). The denial is for confess a personal factor that their think that was wrong. However, in the fact not all denial is wrong statement, such as the love that people of the same-sex have. Non-recognition come up because there's un-confidence feelings for make a statement to the social environment (*Public*) (McKearney, 2021: 684).

There are feeling of threat from the social environment (*Public*), such as ostracized or underestimated (Bristowe et al., 2023: 222). Another thing is the fear of criticism with the statement that being *Gay* is abnormal. So that statement can influence for their psychological, mental, and physical effect, especially in their recognition of a sexual orientation. The pressure that arises for person's psychological be one of things can triggers a growing sense of someone powerlessness to act.

Unable to define their self as *Gay* dan feel that the social environment favors heterosexual over homosexuals (Hu et al., 2022: 59). A person's feeling of unworthiness in admitting sexual identity, with the feelings of uncertainty related to sexual orientation. The feeling of uncertainty create feel worry about failure in a confession.

Interest is not included of identity. Interest is emotional feeling such as desire from self. Sexual desire also can chance and not sure. The desire can influenced some factor nothing other than a romantic interest. When the interest thing happen, they don't use the identity for self description throughout for self expression (Furness et al., 2020: 292). Same-sex interest is the interest feeling between a personal who has a same gender, such as interest in a romantic relationship between men and men who called *Gay*.

The occurrence people who liking the same-sex none other than social environmental factors (social influence). There's other factor such as trauma from previous bad experiences with opposite-sex relationships, cause of that make them feel more comfortable ad more trusting with the same-sex (Bristowe et al., 2023:222). Their reason more comfort with same-sex because often

interact intensively. Love feelings also come up in self (personal) that make sure of someone's personality for doing what they want to do.

A person's sexual behavior which at first was just amazed, and there's unconsciousness a feeling of liking come up or love result of they feel that thing is reasonable and commonly done. The reasonable is make confidence feelings come up for a express feelings their have. Another factor is the frequent attention of the same-sex. That feeling of paying attention not just adore of body posture, appearance style, but rather followed by romantic feelings that come up from someone's heart with the intention of wanting a further relationship (Zhang et al., 2022: 2)

Synopsis: Red, White & Royal Blue tells of the love exist between Alex Claremont-Diaz as the son of the president of United States with Henry the United Kingdom prince. Alex and Henry often involved royal meetings or political affairs, however them doesn't seem to have a good relationship, but in the fact Henry already interested with Alex since their first meeting. Henry can no longer contain his feeling for Alex, finally he confess his feeling to Alex. At first Alex was shocked and Henry was afraid that Alex would reject him. After that Alex realized that he also liked Henry, then they had a relationship. Their relationship was established secretly because both of them were public figure. And Henry who is a prince is afraid of not being approved by his family and U.K people. Their secret relationship was discovered by a reporter. The relationship between Alex and Henry spread across the two countries. Henry's fear came true, royal family really rejects relationship between boys and boys in kingdom. But Henry's fear were not all true, he still has Alex who loves him, he also has sister who always supports him, and many people agree and defend Henry and Alex's relationship.

Theory: In this research we use the psychodynamic theory developed by Abraham Maslow, because psychodynamic theory describes a person's psychology. And this research that focuses on the character Henry in the novel Red, White and Royal Blue, and Henry's role is as a prince and he is a Gay. As a prince, it's hard for Henry to admit his sexual identity to the public. Because of that, this theory is very supportive for Self -Actualization of Henry that he want to admit to the public about his sexual identity as a gay. Self-Actualization can occur because of encouragement, such as Belongingness and Love needs as the elements that underlie to courage that emerged in Henry to admit his sexual identity. So that, this research also used another element is Esteem Needs which are the basic maintain for someone their reputation or self-esteem. These 2 elements are listed in Basic Needs which explain the needs that person must fulfill.

Purpose: In our research purposes is for proving Henry sexual identity as a gay in the novel Red, White and Royal Blue in getting public recognition with a description of the motivation for Henry's character's achievements without affecting the character's reputation as a public figure. In our research we also want to help the readers for knowing more how the character handle all fears,

doubts faced. To know and understand the story of this novel, the readers have to be supportive and not looking just one side and in this research we also explain how Henry get the basic of courage that arises to dare to admit his sexual identity and even admit their feelings.

Our hope for the readers is that it can increase interest in reading among now and better appreciate literary works

METHOD

In our research we use the qualitative method, and in this research we use the form of data in text form. Qualitative method is increased attention to positionality, subjectivity and reliability in analysis qualitative data, so that focusing on depth observations as direct conversation (McMullin, 2023:140). Using this method can give explanation and the answers of some question that underlying a reason of problem, for example is "how" and "why". Qualitative method has descriptive properties that becomes a describe of solving an analytical problem that describes in detail the recognition of sexual identity in accordance with this topic or theme.

Qualitative data is not measured with numbers but in the text. Qualitative data usually use from inspired by some problem that exist in society and is not in related to human nature or cognitive science (Bochner, 2018:01). Because qualitative data can't be measured so we use some object or subject which can be used as a valid data measurement. Using qualitative data also makes it easier for us to access data for analysis and can improve the quality of research (Skjott Linneberg & Korsgaard, 2019:259).

Qualitative data has 2 kind of data that is primary and secondary. In primary data, our research use object an object in the form of novel entitled, "Red, White & Royal Blue" by Casey McQuiston. In describing secondary data we use references in the form of: Article, Theory Book; "Human and Motivation" by A.H Maslow, And Journal.

Data form: Words, Phrases, Sentences, and Paragraph.

FINDINGS AND DISCUSSION

A. Basic Needs

Basic needs is a Human and Motivation theory which is a definitive theory or a reinforcing theory as encouragement or motivation for human foundations in achieving a goal. Basic needs also means a form of encouragement or a central point in achieving person's goal and specifics personal awareness. Basic needs are the fulfillment of personal needs which are the needs of a whole that underlies more than one need. Basically, human definitely need many needs or in order words is thirst for self fulfillment. That phenomenon can be seen in the character Henry in the novel Red, White and Royal Blue, there are many basic needs experienced by Henry which are Belongingness and Love needs then Esteem needs.

1. Belongingness and Love Needs

Belongingness and love needs are feelings of wanting to belong based on ownership which there romantic feelings, such as love. And this statement is depicted when Henry first dared to confess his love when he kissed Alex with the intention are also showing the ownership. And Henry, who dared to carry out this actions, also indirectly admitted his sexual identity as a gay.

“He kisses Henry until it's feel like he can't breathe, until it's feel like he's going to forget both of their names and titles,”(McQuiston, 2019:138)

he's going to forget both of their names and titles: The belongingness feelings of Henry, there is a love for someone who make him feel comfort and save. Then make Henry get the motivation for confess his feelings, which is love. In another means, this statement is a satisfaction for Henry in love which is defined as self fulfillment in a achievement.

The second data tells about Henry's process of trying to prove his love without sharing it with other people by fulfilling his love needs.

*“... I'm never gonna love anybody in the world like I love you. So, I promise you, one day we'll be able to be just be, and f**k everyone else.” (McQuiston, 2019:312)*

I'm never gonna love anybody in the world like I love you. : proving that fulfilling love needs will defeat all feelings of discomfort and become the basic for belonging to a someone, like a feeling of belonging without discomfort feeling about struggle for belonging.

And for the third data, describes about Henry who dares to show a sense of ownership with an action that has another goal, such as his recognition of his sexual identity.

“But then Henry's kissing him back and it's everything. It feels as good as better than he remembered”. (McQuiston, 2019: 131)

This quote shows the fulfilling of basic needs that based on Belongingness needs, with means achieving a sense of belonging that added the romantic feelings which is proven in *Henry's kissing him*: Thats also proven the belongingness feelings that followed by Self Actualization in the character. *it's everything*: Shows that when the desire is fulfilling with the person who his loves, it is the prove that it can be self motivation to be brave for admit.

Then, in the fourth data, it describes about the form of safety feelings that the character Alex gives to Henry, which aims to show complete ownership of the two characters.

"Alex's hand gropes across the space between them under the table, and the moment his fingertips catch on the back of Henry's wrist, Henry's hand is gripping his, hard." (McQuiston, 2019: 353)

Alex's hand gropes across the space between them under the table: A sense of ownership given to someone with the aim of providing a sense of save and comfort. That feeling motivates Henry to be more brave and not feel isolated.
Henry's hand is gripping his, hard: A form of save feelings that Henry received for more motivate him to fulfill his needs and proving his self.

2. Esteem Needs

Esteem is a self-defence that must be fulfilled on the basic of maintaining a self-esteem or reputation as form for self-actualization. That statement describes when Henry tells to Alex what royal family can't doing something that is considering to deviate from the rules of the kingdom.

"... made it abundantly clear I was not to let anyone know about any deviant desires I might be beginning to harbor that might reflect poorly upon the crown,...." (McQuiston, 2019: 170).

In this quote shows that esteem needs are based on basic needs which aim to maintain reputation, which is proven by *"I was not to let anyone know about any deviant desires"* shows that Henry felt that as a royal family he wasn't allowed to express his feelings of desire too much because he was a prince. Especially relationship that are considered deviated. *"That might reflect poorly upon the crown"* This quote also shows that if a prince which is part of the kingdom does something deviant, it can affect to their reputation.

And in the next data show a form of self-defense by Henry towards his family to protect his self-esteem which he felt was being underestimate.

"He sticks his chin out, steeling himself up. "I'm not a coward," he says. "And I don't want to fix it." (McQuiston, 2019: 346).

The proven of fulfilling basic needs with appropriate self-defense based on Esteem needs as encouragement in achieving a goal, such as maintaining a reputation. This things that proven in *"I'm not a coward," he says* Henry as a prince nor Henry as an ordinary English citizen felt that he had to maintain his self-respect and he did not felt that he was a *Coward* and capable of carrying out his responsibility.

Then the third data, Character Henry is required that as prince should maintain that image of the kingdom. But without an emphasis from his family, Henry felt he was able to carry out his responsibilities well, and felt that what he was doing wasn't wrong.

"It's my life" Henry interjects. "We haven't even gotten a chance yet to see how people will react" . (McQuiston, 2019: 354).

The quote is proven by "*It's my life*" A encouragement to self that maintain a personality choice for fulfilling the achievements without demands. In this statement, Henry stated his choice was his right as an ordinary human being who also needed to fulfill a direction that he wanted to achieve.

Then in the last data, character Henry felt brave to show openly about his love story with Alex, with self-confidence without with people's responses. This data also shows that Henry also has the right to determine what he chooses.

"... 'I love you I love you I love you,' and it doesn't matter, it doesn't matter if anyone sees". (McQuiston, 2019: 358)

The quote shows the sentence "*it doesn't matter if anyone sees*" After Henry feels get his self respect and of the satisfaction of his confidence, he want to show to the society with do something transparent thing that shown his achievement of fulfilling his self without get the impact of his reputation and can carry out obligations given as member of the royal family.

CONCLUSION

Based on our analysis which use 2 of the 5 levels of basic needs from A.H Maslow's psychoanalysis theory. It can be concluded that the character Henry in novel Red, White and Royal Blue has the courage to admit his sexual identity as a gay in the society, even to those closest to him such as family. The courage in Henry's character is based on the encouragement of belongingness and love needs, esteem need which is the feeling of wanting to be loved and belonging that Henry has for the people he cares about and loves. Henry who dared to show his Self-Actualization, he didn't forget the reputation he held so well. In the research of novel Red, White and Royal Blue also contains the meaning that everyone is free to love anyone and express themselves regardless of gender, because everyone has the right to determine their sexual identity, whether they are ordinary people or public figures. And in this research, we found some evidence that encouragement from the close people who we loved, can be an encouragement for someone to admit something, because without this encouragement, we can't feel confident.

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