

INTRODUCTION

Since the late 19th century, moving pictures or films have become popular because of their ability to appeal to people's imagination. A meaningful film can be enjoyable and empowering, offering pleasure, focused attention, and inspiring insights into ourselves, others, or the human condition (Niemic, 2024). Character in a film can express problems that occur in human life and convey messages to the audience. They can engage the audiences, stimulating strong emotional responses to the depicted challenges. As the audiences empathize with the characters' struggles, they gain a deeper understanding of human experiences, raising awareness and becoming more attuned to the world around them. Through their actions, conversations, and relationships, the characters represent a wide range of human emotions and needs.

A Man Called Otto (2022) film, a comedy-drama directed by Marc Forster and written by David Magee, with a runtime of 2 hours and 6 minutes. This movie presents the issue of human needs through its story about love, loss, and life. The main character, elderly named Otto, experiences a journey highlighting the significance of fulfilling human needs. Otto struggles with the bitter reality of unfulfilled love and belonging needs following the loss of his wife, influencing his actions and interactions with others. However, meeting new neighbors gives Otto a glimpse of hope, significantly influencing the presence of love and belonging in his life. The movie is adapted from the bestseller *A Man Called Ove* by Fredrik Backman and the film of the same name by Hannes Holm. It has gained popularity among a wide audience, earning recognition like the Christopher Awards for Best Film in 2023. IMDb rates the film at 7.5/10 based on about 159,000 viewer ratings, while Rotten Tomatoes gives it a 97 percent rating from around 2,500 reviews. This film presents positive messages, showcases varied representations of human connection, and present portrayals of hopelessness.

Abraham Maslow, often called the Father of Humanistic Psychology, introduced his influential Theory of Human Motivation. This theory, commonly known as Maslow's Hierarchy of Needs, states that a series of hierarchical needs drive human behavior (Maslow, 1943). Maslow proposed that human behavior is affected by needs, which are adjusted based on the needs that must be satisfied (Trivedi & Mehta, 2019). The hierarchy of needs includes five tiers: physiological, safety, love and belonging, esteem, and self-actualization. Physiological needs are basic needs to support human life which include food, shelter,

clothing, rest, air, water, sleep, sex, and warmth. Safety needs revolve around ensuring protection from security, order, laws, stability, and freedom from fear. Love and belonging needs focus on interpersonal relationships, including friendship, intimacy, affiliating, trust, and acceptance, receiving and giving affection and love, and being part of a group (family, friends, work). Esteem needs include dignity, achievement, mastery, independence, status, and prestige. Self-actualization involves seeking to fulfill potential, achieve self-fulfillment, pursue personal growth, and experience peak moments.

The hierarchy of needs theory has remained a prevalent concept in the field of literature. Some prior research has explored the same theory with varying subjects. Permana et al. (2021) investigate the main characters' differences before and after they fulfill their love and belonging needs in the novel *The Fault in Our Stars*. The fulfillment of love and belonging needs significantly changed their lives, making them more optimistic. Farlina and Khaleda (2019) observed the novel *The Girl on The Train* on how the main character found fulfillment in love and belonging needs in her friend, rather than from her ex-husband or friend as she expected. Meanwhile, Sabiela et al. (2017) found that fulfilling love and belonging needs can significantly alter an individual's character in the novel *The Thirteenth Tale*. These needs are met through the twins' interactions and relationship. Otherwise, unmet needs lead to health and behavior issues. Besides, the replacement of the absence attachment figure still can satisfy the needs of love and belongings. Hutauruk and Rudianto (2022) as well as Lumbantoruan and Evyanto (2021) noted that individuals who cannot fulfill their love and belonging needs through family often seek intimacy or relationships with others, a phenomenon observed mostly in young people. In contrast, Otto, an elderly and lonely character, does not seek new relationships after his wife's death. He remains dependent on the love and belonging needs previously met by his late wife, even isolating himself and attempting suicide. This indicates a different pattern than what is typically observed in younger individuals. This difference may be attributed to the risky mental and motivational challenges faced by older adults.

Unlike those studies that focus on young characters experiencing unfulfilled of love and belonging needs, this research focuses on an elderly character struggling with loneliness and hopelessness. The relevance of this research is highlighted by the increasing demographic of the elderly population, with rising concerns about issues like depression, loneliness, and feelings of incapacity. According to World Health Organisation (2022), every country in the world is experiencing a growth in the number of elderly people. The number of people aged

80 years and over is expected to triple between 2020 and 2050 to reach 426 million people. This research expected to encourage greater empathy and understanding regarding the importance of fulfilling the love and belonging needs, particularly among the elderly. Utilizing Abraham Maslow's hierarchy of needs theory, the study seeks to address the following question: How does the fulfillment of love and belonging needs impact the character development of the main character in *A Man Called Otto* (2022) film?