



Miranda's Hierarchy of Needs Illustrated in *Life as We Knew It* by Susan Beth

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Abstract. In order to be human, we must satisfy our needs, which include well-being. People's level of contentment with their lives is influenced by these needs. The study's first goal is to learn about Susan Beth's *Life as We Knew It* novel, regarding Miranda's hierarchy of human needs. The second goal is to learn about the effects of meeting Miranda's needs. The sentence, dialogue, and quote from the novel serve as the source of the data used in this study. The study demonstrates Miranda's ability to meet all of their requirements, including psychological ones like food, water, sex, and oxygen; safety requirements (personal safety, freedom from fear, and protection); belonging and love (support, friendship, family, and love); needs for self-esteem in the form of respect from others, appreciation, and self-actualization. On the other hand, it provided a synopsis of the effects of meeting the order of human needs. In terms of connotative effects, Miranda gained a sense of belonging and acceptance from others. In terms of cognitive effects, she gained knowledge and integration that will help her skate well. When Miranda encounters difficulties in her life, she exhibits a calmer nature.

Keywords: Humanistic Psychology · Psychology and Literature · Cognitive effect · Connotative

1 Introduction

During this pandemic, Covid-19 has a positive effect on a number of people. The positive effects of Covid-19 can be seen worldwide, according to the journal of environmental science and technology. It improves air and water quality in terms of PM2.5, N02, and Co, which were insignificant in 2003 as there is no pollution there, it is suitable for the world [1]. However, there are numerous negative effects of Covid-19, such as stress and a lack of self-actualization as a result of the home isolation policy. People should follow the government's rules when it comes to lockdown, working from home, and learning at home as a society because they spend their time with their family doing everything, it makes people feel stressed; Covid-19 itself causes stress, anxiety, and depression in a number of people [2].

According to the idea of human needs, people have goals to meet their needs; a particular requirement for the outcome, like happiness and contentment. Because human

needs arise throughout life, they must be discussed as human beings, we ought to know what we need to complete it. In academic fields, hierarchy plays a significant role. While, in academic fields like philosophy, mathematics, organizational theory, and others, hierarchy is a fundamental idea. However, the researcher uses a hierarchy of human needs theory to analyze satisfaction. According to Abraham Maslow's theories, people's psychological health depends on their ability to feel satisfied, and if these needs are not met, they will experience mental illness [3]. This hierarchy is based on the idea that humans are able to function because they need things to grow psychologically [4].

The mental requirements of self-acknowledgement, positive relationships with others, freedom, typical predominance, reason throughout everyday life, and singular development are all aspects of psychological growth. Mental well-being perspectives emphasize the fulfillment of human potential and full participation in life. Additionally, psychological development enables individuals to achieve their goals; since it molds individuals into human well-being [5].

Maslow is of the opinion that the theory of the hierarchy of needs is unique in some way. Because motivations can account for all human behavior, the motivational theory explains why people act the way they do [6]. In this study, the focus is on Susan Beth's *Live As We Knew It* story and Miranda's Hierarchy of Human Needs theory, as well as the consequences of satisfying these needs. The novel tells us how Miranda tried to meet her needs despite the complicated circumstances, which is one of the reasons the researchers used it. In addition, Miranda's struggle to save herself and her family necessitates an investigation based on the Hierarchy of Human Needs theory. The five-stage hierarchy of human needs theory is essential for research and explanation. Regarding human development. This research aims to investigate the hierarchy of human needs regarding Miranda's character and the effect of fulfilling the needs.

2 Method

This study employs literary criticism to define, classify, analyze, and evaluate literary works by utilizing the hierarchy of human needs theory [7]. The five stages of human needs depicted in Susan Beth's novel *Life as We Knew It* are examined by the researchers, as is Miranda's obligation to satisfy her needs.

The data used in this section come from Susan Beth's novel *Life as We Knew It*, which was first published in English in 2006. The first book, *Life as We Knew It*, is a science fiction dilogy; the second book, *The Dead and The Gone*, is the sequel. Harcourt Children's Books is the publisher of this book. The novel has 400 pages at the same time. In October 2006, the book became the first pocket book paperback edition produced in the United States.

The researchers use a number of steps to conduct an analysis after collecting the data. First, determining the data that was gathered as a literary device. Second, Miranda's needs hierarchy and its effects have been identified. Third, describing, explaining, and interpreting Fourth, explaining the omitted data in order to better illustrate Miranda's hierarchy of needs and its effects. Fifth, discuss the connection between the discovered data. Last but not least, drawing a conclusion based on the findings and discussion from the previous step.

3 Result

3.1 Miranda Hierarchy of Needs

3.1.1 Physiological Needs

Based on Abraham Maslow's theory, the crucial part of human needs is psychological needs or necessities that every human needs to fulfill when the psychological needs are satisfied. The needs are met. The people will then be motivated to obtain the additional level of needs. Food, water, air, a place to sleep, food, and sex are all considered psychological needs. Miranda's character in Susan Beth's *Life as We Knew It* relies on her mother to meet her psychological needs. This is explained in the following dialogue.

"I went to the bank this morning, mom said, "and I filled the gas tank, and gas was already at five dollars a gallon. So I went to the supermarket, and the electricity went out, and there was chaos there, so they just said a hundred dollars for each wagon." (P.33)

Miranda gets the money from her mother, as the dialogue above demonstrates. Her mother is aware that the catastrophe will affect them. The information comes from a television show that looks into whether or not the moon will hit Earth. However, the news is still unclear due to the lack of an announcement from a scientist. In this instance, Miranda, the protagonist of Susan Beth's *Life as We Knew It*, is the mother of three children: a daughter named Miranda, a son named Matt, and a son named John. The mother tries to convince her children to prepare for the worst when they hear about a disaster. The fundamental necessities should be prepared first. As a result, they shop at the supermarket for everything they need, including gas, water, and other necessities. The mental requirements that must be satisfied and the gas used to make food are both contained in this water because of her mother, the requirements here can be met.

In this quotation, Miranda shows that she can fulfill her physiological needs by herself.

"I weeded the vegetable garden since mom does that daily, and I washed the dishes. Then just to prove I was good for something; I scrubbed the bathroom and cleaned the kitchen" (P.45)

When the disaster strikes and Miranda's family runs out of food, her mother tries to set an example for her children, including Miranda, by planting a garden with vegetables, tubers, and other crops. As a result, Miranda attempted to assist her mother in obtaining the garden product. Food is the vegetable; It indicates that Miranda can satisfy her physiological requirements on her own and with the assistance of the other.

Clothes, a blanket, and food are the third necessities for the body; With Ms. Nesbit, Miranda meets these requirements. Miranda's mother is friends with Ms. Nesbit; She also lives nearby Miranda's house and is a neighbor. Ms. Nesbit has a good relationship with her mother and frequently spends time with her as friends; however, Ms. Nesbit here is typically older than her mother. Because of this, Ms. Nesbit is a very friendly and kind person. Miranda values Ms. Nesbit as much as she values her own mother and best friend. Ms. Nesbit gave up on life during the disaster because she believed she was

old and had nothing else to worry about. She asked Miranda to take everything that could be used for them, and that was all she did. She loved Miranda's family so much that she thought of Miranda's mother as her own daughter, and she wanted Miranda to take everything if she died. Things from Ms. Nesbit's home. The quotation is in following data:

"I went downstairs then and walked through the bedrooms and looked in the closet. There were clean towels and clothes that Ms. Nesbit must not have used. Clean sheets and blanket and quilts. No matter how warm we might be in the sunroom, an extra blanket seemed like a good idea. There were boxes of tissue I knew we could use and rolls of toilet paper, aspirin, painkillers.

Then I allowed myself to go to the kitchen. I opened the cabinets, and I saw cans of soup vegetables and tuna of chicken. All the stuff we'd been eating for a month now. There was not enough to eat three meals a day, but every can would keep us alive a little bit longer." (P.42)

At that moment, getting food is hard, there is no supermarket open, there is no local market available, people are dying because of starving, they should minimize the food for a long time as they could to survive in the hard situations. So, Ms. Nesbit gives them all the food, blanket, aspirin to makes Miranda's family alive. It means here Miranda fulfills her basic needs with Ms. Nesbit's help.

The other psychological needs are sleep. It is as shown in the following dialogue.

"Monday

I stayed out all day, searching, gathering kindling

I fell asleep in the woods this afternoon, just collapsed into sleep. The mosquitoes must have loved me; I have half a dozen bites; I don't remember from this morning."
(P.56)

The data above shows Miranda fulfills her basic needs: the sleep. Sleeping is very important for human to recharge their energy to do activity. The data above taken from the dialogue when Miranda sleeps in the wood. She needs to sleep even she sleep in the woods because she is tired during the swimming classes that she takes.

3.1.2 Safety Needs

The second level of pyramid theory is safety requirements. The hierarchy of human needs proposed by Abraham Maslow will attempt to satisfy the needs of others once the psychological needs are satisfied. The need for safety includes safeguards against threats and relief from anxiety and fear.

"All the stores in town are empty; there is not much to take out of any of them, so I don't know why they even bothered. It was the plywood they seemed most interested in. They'd remove sheets of it, and put it into a pick-up truck, No one even showed me up on the street. For all I know, I was the only person who saw what they were doing. I banged hard against them, I did not want to yell because I

was only a couple of blocks away from where the gang had been taking down the plywood, and I was scared they'd realized I was there; I picked into the window, of course, things were dark, and I couldn't see anybody." (P.161)

It's not easy to live after a disaster. Some people quit and pass away. Some people make it through even in bad ways, like stealing food, to stay alive. Miranda is attempting to report food theft to the police, but she was alone when they saw her. Nobody was around when she was hiding on the course. It appears that when a person feels threatened, they will do everything in their power to save themselves; she tried to protect herself despite not having any fear. It indicates that she already meets her safety needs. The second data regarding Miranda's safety requirements.

"I had not eaten since supper the night, and I started feeling woozy. I felt myself kind of floating into the ground. I don't think I lost consciousness because I remember the second guard coming over and lifting me, but I stand with myself to go home using the bike." (P.121)

In this instance, Miranda is starving because she did not follow her mother's rules about when to eat. Her mother had a rule that everyone in the family had to eat once a day in order to survive the disaster. Matt eats in the evening, John eats in the morning, and the mother only eats in the evening. Miranda can eat in the afternoon. Because her mother is unable to move due to a knee injury, Miranda goes to the hospital to get help. Miranda asks a doctor for assistance at the hospital, but the only doctor was busy. There were a lot of people in the hospital, and there was not enough medicine to treat 3,000 people per day. She tried to stand up on her own despite feeling dizzy when she told the officer. It indicates that she can defend herself.

3.1.3 Love and Belonging Needs

Susan Beth's *Life as We Knew It* tells the story of Miranda as a teenager growing up in a broken home. She lives with his mother and her siblings, but the data below show that she frequently wonders why no one loves her. The initial data:

"Sammi told me she's going to the prom with Bob Peter's son. I know I should not be jealous, but I am not because nobody asks me. Sometimes I think no one ever will. So I'll spend the rest of my Life in front of my computer."(P.29)

It shows how lonely Miranda is and how much she wants to be loved, like Sammy was loved by Bob Peter's son, in those sentences. Because she did not receive the affections of the others, it makes her envious. She is still having trouble meeting her needs for love and belonging here. The following data:

"I called Megan and told her to bring her history notes with her, and we'd study for the rest together, and she agreed." (P.34)

In that sentence, she tries to make a good friendship with Megan; Megan is Miranda's friend. At that time, Megan visited Miranda's house. They had dinner together. There

was also a friend of her mother named Ms. Nesbit and Peter. They talked to each other. Miranda started to get closer to Megan by inviting her to study together. The third data:

“We’ll be king and queen of the prom, and Dan said, ‘I’d be honored, your majesty I said

Dan bent over and kissed my hand’. Our face met, and we kissed; it should have been even more romantic moments of my Life.” (P.83)

In this data, Miranda gets the affections from Dan. Dan here is her boyfriend; she needs love and belonging from Dan as a couple. As a couple usually people show up their felling or love language. According to the Journal of Couple and Family Psychology research, love language is divided into five categories, and the first love language is word affirmations. The second is quality time. The third is receiving gifts, acts of services, the last is physical touches [8]; while the kiss is physical touch and when Dan says ‘I’d honor to be your majesty’ is categorized as word affirmations. So, it makes Miranda gets the affections from her partner. On the other hand, data which she did not yet get the love and belonging needs:

“I don’t know if she’d even take me on, “I said; it is about the money. There’s money to send Jonny to baseball camp this summer, but not enough money for me to have skating.” (P.105)

Miranda feels like the mother did not love her like she loves Johnny; it makes her jealous of Johnny. From the sentences above, Miranda did not get the trust from her mother to do skating. At the same time, trust is a part of love and belonging needs. Here, Miranda did not get the Love and belonging conditions yet. The next data;

“I love you,’ I said. ‘I could not remember the last time I’d said that to mom

I love you too, sweetie; she said, ‘are you hungry? Would you like some lunch?

I love you too, I said, ‘and the baby is going to be all right. Everything will be; I know it.” (P.70)

From that sentence, Miranda gets Love and belonging needs from her mother. Although she did not get love and belonging from her mother at first, she often envies her brother Matt and John. Still, after the disaster happened to them, they care for each other and struggle to live, then she gets the Love and belonging needs from her mother. The following data:

“Just hearing Dad says all that and smelling bread in the kitchen made me feel more optimistic.” (P.94)

The sentences above represent how Miranda care for her father. Miranda and her father did not live in one place, her father moved in with her step mother, when the accident came to them, she thinks whether the father and stepmother are fine or not. When the father calls, it makes her optimistic because she knows her father is fine. The next data:

“You and your brothers are essential things, “dad said. Thanks ‘For being intelligent, funny, and beautiful for finding swimming when skating did not work out. For all the things you’re doing to make your mothers easier. For not complaining when you have so much to complain about. For being a daughter, any father would be proud of. I knew asking you to be the baby’s godmother was the right thing, and the past few, I’ve realized just how right it is. I am so glad I am your father I love you so much.” (P.154)

The data represent Miranda’s father’s love for Miranda, and he shows how proud to be her father. At first, Miranda did not realize that the father loves her because he loves the other sibling, but Miranda grows to be a good daughter after the disaster happened. She did not complain about the rules and showed up her care to her family. In addition, the father shows his love language that is word affirmations. The words are intelligent, funny, and beautiful, love you, and glad to be your father.

3.1.4 Esteem Needs

Esteem needs to be divided into two categories; first, self-esteem or self-appreciation obtained from within human beings illustrates the desire to achieve success, ability, independence, and self-confidence. Second, appreciation from other people shows attention, acceptance, and recognition.

As human, Miranda tries to figure out her ability to achieve something in her life. During the disaster, she tries to learn skating, volleyball and also swimming. The first data:

“I was thinking,” she said, “well, I know it’s way too soon, and I haven’t even discussed it with your father yet, but would you like to be the baby’s godmother? Of course, you don’t have to answer right away, but do think about it, all right?”
 “Of course, I’ll think about it”. I sad. You and daddy think about it also.” (P.94)

In that data, Lisa wants Miranda to be the baby’s Godmother. Lisa here is the step-mother of Miranda, but she respects Miranda like her own children; in this case, she gets the esteems need from Lisa. The second data:

“The hot topic at Brandon Erlich’s fan site is how good chance is to win Olympic gold. Most people think not very, but many of us think he has a real shot and medaling, and ice is slippery, and you never know. I guess I’d like to retake skating lessons I’ve missed in the past couple of years, and besides?” (P.22)

It makes Miranda grow to be a good person during the disaster, tries to reach her ability, and feels confident about her knowledge, she learns skating, and she wants to skate like Brandon Ehrlich’s. The third data:

“She did not say I’d never be good enough at swimming for a college squad, which was kind of nice of her. I’m never going to be good enough for anything the way things are going.” (P.23)

Esteem needs also refer to the attentions and also appreciations from the other. Based on the text above, Miranda has not got attention and appreciation from her mother. She thinks her mother did not get enough and satisfied for everything she does. The fourth data:

“I got my grades, and they're all pretty much as I expected, my math grade was dragged down by those stupid tests (or by those tests where I was stupid), so I am going to have to talk mom this weekend.”(P.62)

For that data, Miranda has done tests, and she confident about her ability. She expected the grades would pretty, and she got as like what she expected. It shows the reader how secure she thinks very stupid, even in the math test, but in the other lesson, she got good grades. In this case, she gets self-esteem that is confidences. The following data:

“I pray to accept god's will without any doubts,” she replied. I pray to be worthy of his LoveLove. Pray for eternal Life in heaven. I pray for you, Miranda, and I pray for Revered Marshall says we should, for the soul of the poor sinners that they should see the light and be spared the eternal flames of the bell.” (P.26)

At that time, the tsunami comes when the asteroid hit the moon, which makes the situation dangerous; there is no electricity and food supply, as Megan thinks she will die. She says to Miranda she accepts the conditions that have been given to them. Then, it shows the acceptance of Miranda as her friend. Acceptance is one of the parts of esteem needs that need to fulfill.

3.1.5 Actualizations Needs

Self-actualization is the motivational theory's highest pyramid, which was proposed by Abraham Maslow and states that satisfying the four stages of the hierarchy of needs will motivate people. Humans will acquire the skills necessary to discover the true meaning of life in this scenario. They will experiment and learn something that inspires them to become the person they want to be based on their capabilities. Until they achieve the perfect state of what they want in life, people will continue to actualize themselves. Then, despite having the needs for self-actualization, they will discover a new potential in themselves like Miranda, who wants to improve her skating, volleyball, and swimming skills. She attempts every one of the abilities and tracks down the genuine significance of life that she searched for. The info:

“First, I won the cross-country ski race. Then, when I got the fond, I skate my legendary gold medal-winning long program. I could hear the thousands of people in the stan cheering my every move.

The ice was showered with flowers and teddy bears, the tv commentators said they were honored to be in the arena to see such as performance, I wiped away a tear and two in the kiss and cry, every one of my competitors came up to me and congratulated me on the skate century I stood proudly on the podium as the American flag went up. I smiled and sang along the star-spangled banner.” (P.318)

3.2 The Effects of Fulfilling Hierarchy of Human Needs

According to Abraham Maslow's viewpoint, satisfying a person's hierarchy of human needs typically results in the connotative effective, character traits, and interpersonal effects. In Susan Beth's *Life as We Knew It*, Miranda has satisfied the physiological needs, safety needs, love and belonging needs, esteem needs, and self-actualization needs of humans. Maslow asserts that if a person already meets their needs, their life will be happier. This is also illustrated in Susan Beth's *Life as We Knew It*, where Miranda already meets her needs. The data that follow indicate this.:

“Do people ever realize how precious life is? I know I never did before. There was always time. There was always a future” (P.167)

In that quotation, Miranda felt happy because she already doing the great things in her life, the disaster makes her more alive and think that her life is precious. When the disaster comes the tried to fulfill her needs include the basic needs till the higher level of needs in the hard situations but after fulfilling her needs Miranda get the effects of fulfilling hierarchy of needs [9–11] that is happiness, she thinks that life is precious and she confidently said there is always a hope that should arise.

At that time, in the story *Life as We Knew It* by Susan Beth, the disaster got worse and was crushed. There was no food to eat because supermarkets and local markets were closed, there was no water to drink, the disaster started from May to March, about 11 months, people on that city lived without electricity and electronics. Summer to winter passes, the urgency makes them motivated to meet their needs it makes them independent in terms of meeting their needs. Independent here categorized as the effects of fulfilling hierarchy of human needs [12–14] based on Maslow perspectives.

“I fell so much better about things. After a day like today, I felt like we will make it though, that if we love each other and work hard enough. We'll survive whatever might happen next” (P.134)

It is shown from these data that Miranda is much happier about everything; She believes that despite everything she has gone through, she can overcome it as long as she is with the people she loves and puts in the effort to do so. It demonstrates that she is extremely thankful to have someone who loves her and is optimistic about her future. Here, Miranda already experiences the confidence-boosting effects of satisfying the hierarchy of human needs.

When people are satisfied with four initial needs, they usually want to achieve other things such as appreciation, care from others, and become more independent people. In Maslow's theory, this is called esteem needs [15, 16]. After that, people can achieve the ability in accordance with what they strive for, this is called self-actualization. Esteem needs and self-actualizations will not be achieved if there is no desire from within. People must be motivated by something and eventually develop passion to achieve it [17, 18]. Just like in the following data:

I do like it, “mom said, but the way she slammed the dishwasher closed let me know she did not like it nearly as much as I thought she did.” But you have swimming

and you were planning on trying out for the volleyball team in the fall. You can't handle three sports. Two's probably a stretch, especially if you want to work on the school paper

So, I'll skate instead of volleyball, I said "mom I know my limitations but I love skating, I don't understand why you don't want me to (P.171)

In this instance, Miranda persuades her mother that she could pursue anything she wanted, and she developed her skills in three sports: swimming, volleyball, and skating. She really likes it and thinks she can do everything right, but she also really appreciates her mother, so she talked about why she didn't let her skate. That's what Miranda's mother did because skating is very expensive and she should be able to cut costs by choosing a sport she enjoys based on her abilities without having to spend money. The information Miranda gathered allowed her to meet her independent needs. Nevertheless, one of the characteristics of effective effects is independence.

4 Conclusion

The first one, Miranda's needs as the main character in Susan Beth's *Life as We Knew It*, is based on Abraham Maslow's motivational theory, the Hierarchy of Human Needs. Last but not least, the effects that satisfying the hierarchy of human needs has on Miranda, as depicted in Susan Beth's *Life as We Knew It*, which is based on Abraham Maslow's theories.

First and foremost, Miranda is able to satisfy all of her needs, which include physiological needs, basic needs, safety, love and belonging, esteem, and self-actualization. The physiological needs that Miranda must fulfill are food, water, and sleep. On the other hand, the safety needs, which demonstrate self-protection and freedom from fear, are the second stage of needs that Miranda must meet. Love and belonging needs, also known as social needs, are the third stage of Miranda's needs.

These needs include receiving affection from her mother, father, and friends like Megan, Becky, and Sammy, among others. Then, needs for self-esteem included acceptance, respect, independence, and appreciation from other people. Finally, the highest stage is her self-actualizations which ability to achieve something; she gets to be a skaters' champion in the particular event.

In contrast, the researchers also provided a summary of the effects of Miranda's depiction of a hierarchy of human needs. She experienced positive connotative effects, such as a sense of belonging and acceptance from others, as well as positive cognitive effects, which helped her become a better skater. The final one refers to Miranda's calm demeanor in the face of adversity.

The researchers present recommendations for the readers and the other researcher following the conclusion of the discussions. The reader can use this study to gain additional insight into the hierarchy of human life-related needs. Some people won't be able to meet those needs, and others won't know how to do so. The other researcher hopes that it will serve as references with different objects and the same theory for them to see the distant view of the human needs' hierarchy.

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