

PERSONALITY TRAITS AND THE HIERARCHY OF NEEDS OF THE MAIN CHARACTER'S IN *MOON KNIGHT* TV SERIES

Rezky Febrian Adha¹, Femmy Dahlan²

¹ Student of English Department, Faculty Humanities, Bung Hatta University

² Lecturer of English Department, Faculty Humanities, Bung Hatta University

Email:

kyrezch@gmail.com¹

femmydahlan@bunghatta.ac.id²

ABSTRACT

This study examines the hierarchy of needs and personality traits of the main character depicted in the *Moon Knight* TV series. The main character, Marc Spector, is a man with dissociative identity disorder (DID). The aim of this study is to reveal how Spector and his alter egos fulfil their needs and how the fulfilment of the needs is associated with their personality traits. This study utilizes Maslow's hierarchy of needs and McCrae and Costa personality traits theory. A qualitative descriptive method is employed and involves non-participatory and observational data collection. The results are a total of 54 data were found, with 22 data related to the hierarchy of needs and 32 data related to the main characters and his alter ego personality traits. In conclusion, this study reveals that personality traits of Marc and the alter egos is associated with their fulfillment of hierarchy of needs. Steven's high levels of conscientiousness help to fulfill the physiological needs. Marc and Jack's low levels of neuroticism help to fulfill the safety needs. Steven and Marc's high level of extroversion help to fulfill the love and belongingness needs. Steven and Marc's high level of openness help to fulfill the esteem needs. Marc and Steven's high levels of agreeableness and conscientiousness traits help to reach self-actualization.

Keywords: *Moon Knight*, hierarchy of needs, personality traits

INTRODUCTION

Joseph and Dennis state film uses visual and verbal means of communication, verbal through speech and visual through action and gesture. Ultimately, a film, like a novel, compresses and extends time and space, allowing the viewer to freely move between their vast boundaries [1]. Film and psychology are two things that cannot be separated. Miller and Stam wrote that "Film theorists, critics, and commentators have been drawn to psychoanalytic ideas to explain film because film seems to exhibit a fundamental kinship with the irrational that psychoanalysis seeks to explain" [2]

In the context of psychology, the writer in this study analyzed the hierarchy of needs of the main character with the two alter egos and the relationship with their personality traits. Maslow specifies a theory about humanistic psychology. According to Cherry, humanistic psychology is an approach that focuses studying the full person and places a particular focus on ideas like self-actualization, self-efficacy, and free will.

Humanistic psychology focuses on helping persons to reach their full potential and optimize their well-being rather than on dysfunction [3]. Therefore, Maslow specifies a theory about the levels of the hierarchy of human needs. Regarding Maslow's theory of hierarchy of needs, McLeod proposes a well-organized model consisting of five levels that describe the development of human motivation. This hierarchical framework begins with basic physiological needs and advances through safety, social connection, self-esteem, and ultimately reaches self-actualization, which is the fulfillment of one's potential [4].

On the other hand, personality traits are enduring patterns of thoughts, feelings, and behaviors that distinguish individuals from one another. They remain relatively stable over time and consistent across various situations, forming the core of an individual's personality. These traits influence how people perceive the world, respond to stress, interact with others, and make decisions [5]. *Moon Knight* TV series portrays the main character named Marc Spector. Marc adopted the

alias Moon Knight and returned to the United States. He suffers from dissociative identity disorder and has adopted two alter egos, namely Steven Grant and Jake Lockley. Marc Spector is a complex figure who received his Moon Knight skills from the Egyptian god Khonshu after a near-death experience. While dealing with dissociative identity disorder and painful memories from his violent past, he uses the powers to fight crime as Moon Knight.

For this reason, the aim of this study is to reveal how Spector and his alter egos fulfil their needs and how the fulfilment of the needs is associated with their personality traits. Therefore, this study uses Maslow's hierarchy of needs theory to examines the main character needs, and uses McCrae and Costa's personality traits theory to examines the main character and the alter egos traits.

METHOD

This study applied the descriptive qualitative method. This study focused on the main character of *Moon Knight* series. According to Cresswell, a qualitative research study looks into and comprehends what individuals or groups believe to be a social or human issue. It is employed to investigate the cause and mechanism of a social phenomenon [6]. According to Litchman, in qualitative research, descriptive data is gathered using words or images rather than numerical values [7]. For this reason, the writer uses descriptive qualitative method to describes the data.

This study primary data is collected directly by the writer in this study. In this study, the writer obtained primary data from the television series *Moon Knight* Season 1 that consist of 6 episodes. It is an action series directed by Mohamed Diab and written by Jeremy Slater set in 30th march 2022. It is a Marvel Studios production, also known as Marvel Cinematic Universe (MCU). Therefore, the study focused on the main character Marc Spector with the alter ego Steven Grant and Jake Lockley.

Secondary data used in this study as a supporting data from various sources such as books, the internet, and a journal. The writer used these components to support this study that related about personality traits and hierarchy of needs theory by Maslow in order to discover the information the writer was looking for.

FINDINGS ANG DISCUSSION

In this research, the writer found there are 54 total of data on the series that consist of 22 data of hierarchy of needs and 32 data related to the main character and the alter egos personality traits. The Hierarchy of needs data consist of 4 physiological needs, 5 safety needs, 6 love and belongingness needs, 4 esteem needs, and 3 self-actualization needs data. The writer also found 12 personality traits data of Marc Spector, with the alter egos, Steven Grant 18 data, and 2 data of Jack Lockley. Here the writer present the safety and self-actualization for the hierarchy of needs.

Hierarchy of Needs

Safety Needs

Episodes : 1 "The Goldfish Problems"

Timestamp: 00:40:00

Alter ego : Marc Spector



Figure. 1A. Steven chased by a monster



Figure. 1B. Marc Spector takeover and fight the monster

STEVEN. Oh, God. I'm gonna die. I'm gonna die, I'm gonna die.

MARC. Look at me. You're not gonna die. Let me save us.

Figure above depicts a crucial scene in the first episode, the scene portrays Steven Grant switch personalities with Marc Spector after get chased by a mythology creature, portraying his safety needs. This transition from Steven to Marc Spector occurs as Steven faces a life-threatening situation, unable to confront and manage the imminent danger. The emergence of Marc, a more combat-ready and assertive personality, serves as a protective mechanism, ensuring Steven survival in perilous circumstances. The underlined dialogue above shows the ability of Marc Spector that can protect Steven from the danger. This scene portrays Steven deep-seated need for security and protection, revealing the complex coping mechanisms his mind employs to safeguard his well-being. The switch portrays the precariousness of Steven sense of safety,

demonstrating the extent to which his psychological stability is intertwined with his ability to navigate and respond to perceived threats.

Self-actualization Needs

Episodes : 6 “Gods and Monsters”
 Timestamp : 00:26:55
 Alter ego : Steven Grant and Marc Spector

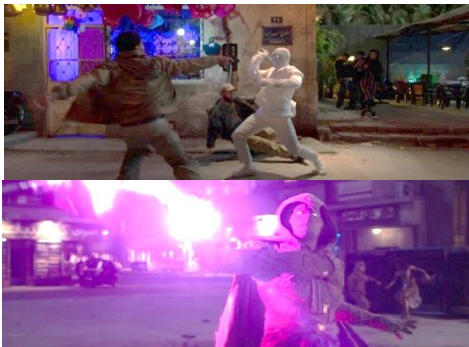


Figure 2. Marc and Steven fighting together

Figure 2 above portrays Steven gains confidence and works alongside Marc during the last battle in Cairo. This scene portrays the significant growth. This mutual respect and confidence are pivotal steps towards the self-actualization. Therefore, by embracing Marc and Steven combined identity and working through the past, Marc and Steven as the main character of this series reach a higher level of self-actualization. This scene portrays the culmination of Marc and Steven journey towards personal growth and psychological integration, as they fully accept and integrate all aspects of themselves.

Personality Traits

For the personality traits, the writer presents the neuroticism of Marc Spector and Steven Grant’s conscientiousness.

(1) Marc Spector Neuroticism

Episodes : 1 “The Goldfish Problems”
 Timestamp: 00:40:18



Figure 3. Marc conversation with Steven

MARC. Steven, I can save us. But I can't have you fightin' me this time. You need to give me control. You understand?

STEVEN. No, what... Control of what? What are you talking about? That thing's about to break through the door. We're out of time.

STEVEN. Oh, God. I'm gonna die.

MARC. Look at me. You're not gonna die. Let me save us.

This scene shows Marc's low neuroticism in particular because Steven feels less stressed because of Marc's calm and comforting tone of voice to help Steven by switching identities to defeat the monster. Marc's low level of neuroticism can be seen by his capacity to keep emotional control and to be a comforting figure even in the face of danger. Steven's emotional instability represents in significant contrast to Marc's calm and collected communication, which shows Marc's ability to remain consistent and resilient while facing challenges. The body language of Marc's while calming Steven down portrayed to be stand tall and confident, as can be seen in figure 3 above. Marc Spector's stable and consistent behaviour also demonstrated in the first sentence, particularly when compared to Steven's extreme fear and panic.

(2) Steven Grant

Conscientiousness

Episodes : 1 “The Goldfish Problems”
 Timestamp: 00:02:33



Figure 4. Steven Grant sleep routine

Figure 4 above portrays the alter Steven Grant who has difficulties in sleeping that have him to tie himself to the bed and make a marker with sands in purpose to make him could sleep without getting any disruption with his alter egos when sleeping. This shows the high levels of Conscientiousness because of his levels of organization. This demonstrates Steven's meticulous and responsible nature, as he takes measures to ensure his safety and maintain control over his unpredictable behaviour.

Furthermore, In *Moon Knight* TV series, the main character, Marc Spector, along with his alter egos Steven Grant and Jake Lockley, fulfil different levels of Maslow's hierarchy of needs, with each alter personality traits influencing how these needs are met. Physiological needs are primarily

fulfils by Steven Grant, whose high conscientiousness plays a vital role in maintaining his daily routines and ensuring basic needs are met. Steven's meticulousness and attention to detail provide him with a sense of stability and normalcy, which is essential for managing his anxiety. His structured approach to everyday tasks, such as eating and adhering to a schedule, helps him fulfil these physiological needs, demonstrating how his personality traits drive his need for consistency and order.

Safety needs are predominantly fulfilled by Marc Spector, whose high neuroticism, conscientiousness, and agreeableness influence his protective instincts and strategic thinking. Marc's military background and heightened awareness of danger compel him to prioritize safety

CONCLUSION AND SUGGESTION

In conclusion, this study shows how the main character and his alter egos fulfil their needs and how the fulfilment of the needs is associated with their personality traits. The series intricately weaves these personality traits into the broader framework of Maslow hierarchy of needs, illustrating the characters struggles and growth as they seek to satisfy their basic and higher order needs. Marc's quest for safety and esteem is evident in his protective behavior towards Layla and his efforts to confront his traumatic past, thereby enhancing his self-worth. Steven journey is marked by his pursuit of belonging and love, seen in his interactions with Layla and his colleagues, as well as his eventual realization of his importance in Marc life, which bolsters his self-esteem. Jake sporadic appearances, marked by violence and determination, highlight his role in ensuring the physical safety of the personas, albeit through ruthless means.

ACKNOWLEDGMENTS

The writer expresses the deepest gratitude to

Femmy Dahlan, S.S., M.Hum., as my supervisor guided and supervised throughout the preparation of this article with patience, dedication, and authenticity. The writer also expresses thank you to the examiners, Prof. Dr. Elfiondri, M.Hum. and Dra. Nova Rina, M. Hum., for giving support, consideration, and insightful comments.

REFERENCES

- [1] M. B. Joseph and W. P. Dennis, *The Art of Watching Films*, vol. 53, no. 9. 2012.
- [2] T. Miller and R. Stam, "A Companion to Film Theory," *A Companion to Film Theory*, pp. 45–63, 2007, doi: 10.1111/b.9780631206453.2003.00004.x.
- [3] K. Cherry, "What Is Humanistic Psychology? A Psychology Perspective Influenced By Humanism," *Verywell Mind*. [Online]. Available: <https://www.verywellmind.com/what-is-humanistic-psychology-2795242>
- [4] S. McLeod, "Hierarchy of Needs (Maslow)," *Bloom. Encycl. Des.*, pp. 150–150, 2017, doi: 10.5040/9781472596161-bed-h038.
- [5] G. Matthews, I. J. Deary, and M. C. Whiteman, *Personality Traits : Second Edition*, vol. 11, no. 1. 2003. [Online]. Available: <http://link.springer.com/10.1007/978-3-319-59379-1%0Ahttp://dx.doi.org/10.1016/B978-0-12-420070-8.00002-7%0Ahttp://dx.doi.org/10.1016/j.ab.2015.03.024%0Ahttps://doi.org/10.1080/07352689.2018.1441103%0Ahttp://www.chile.bmw-motorrad.cl/sync/showroom/lam/es/>
- [6] J. W. Cresswell, *Qualitative Inquiry & Research Design : Choosing Among Five Approaches*, 3rd editio., vol. 4, no. 1. SAGE Publications, Inc., 2013.
- [7] M. Litchman, *Qualitative research in education*, no. 18. 2012. doi: 10.46661/ijeri.5917.

