

**“Need for Appreciation in Rajkumar Hirani’s 3 Idiots Movie  
(2009):  
A Humanistic Psychological Approach”**

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**ABSTRACT**

*The major problem of this study is the need for appreciation reflected in Rajkumar Hirani’s 3 Idiots movie (2009). The purpose of the research is to analyze the movie based on the structural elements of 3 Idiots movie 2009 and to describe the struggle of appreciation of Ranchoddas “Rancho” Shamaldas Chanchad, Farhan Qureshi, and Raju Rastogi in getting their appreciation based on the humanistic psychological perspective. The type of the research is qualitative. The object of the study is 3 Idiots Story movie directed by Rajkumar Hirani and publishing by Vidhu Vinod Chopra in 2009. The primary data source is 3 Idiots Story movie itself and the secondary data sources are the other sources related to the movie. The method of collecting data is the library research. The technique of data analysis is descriptive analysis. Based on analysis; the study shows the following conclusions. Firstly, based on the structural analysis indicated that each of narrative and technical element is interrelated to each other. Secondly, based on the humanistic psychological analysis depicts three people who struggle and prove their appreciation. Need for appreciation is prominent thing in this story.*

**Keywords:** *appreciation, 3 Idiots, psychological, humanistic, need*

**1. Introduction**

Life is struggle, sacrifice, and worthy. On the other side, the people say that life means study or effort. People must struggle their right and obligation too. The struggling, sacrificing, and affording are one of requisites for acquiring their appreciations, dreams, and aims. The appreciation is the last destination that is brought into reality by the people. So everyone needs appreciation in their life. The appreciation is like a dream, goal or destination. Appreciation need includes self actualization of human needs. Self actualization is one fundamental need in humanistic psychological theory. This need is part of hierarchy need in humanistic psychological theory. Humanistic psychology views humans as active creature with freedom. Abraham Maslow had explained the humanistic analysis in the psychological theory. The theory of Maslow is the hierarchy of needs that are the psychological needs, safety needs, love and belonging needs and esteem

needs. The four points above is the deficient needs or the basic needs. Maslow next had explained the growth needs as a motivation of human. In humanistic psychology approach, a need for appreciation is focused on individual. The fundamental believe of humanistic psychology was that people are innately good, with mental and social problems resulting from deviations from this natural tendency. Basically, all people need for appreciations, but their appreciations are different by one people to another people. People have different dreams, hopes, desires, prayers, needs, and the way to make their appreciations to be tangible and useful. They have many problems that face in proving their appreciations in their life. And they also have strategies to achieve their appreciations comes true.

Many students of English Department have studied the humanistic psychological approach as a research problem. However, after looking for several literature reviews at least in Muhammadiyah University of Surakarta and Surakarta and Yogyakarta region, the writer has found one research about 3 Idiots movie done by other researcher. The research paper is The Anxiety of Raju Rastogi in Rajkumar Hirani's 3 Idiots Movie (2009): A Psychoanalytic Approach. She is Krisnawati, the student of Muhammadiyah University of Surakarta. Further in this study, the researcher focuses on the psychoanalytic perspective analysis of movie. The researcher analyzes the psychoanalytic approach based on the Sigmund Freud's psychoanalytic theory. The goals of this research are to clarify the structural elements of 3 Idiots movie, and to analyze the anxiety of the main characters using psychoanalytic approach. Actually, the writer just uses one of the characters on 3 Idiots, Raju Rastogi.

## 2. Background

There four reasons why the writer is interested in analyzing this movie are: the first is the movie breaks all opening box office records in India. 3 Idiots has become the highest-grossing Bollywood movie of all time in India. It is the highest grossing film in opening weekend in India and has the highest opening day collections for a Bollywood film. The second is this movie starred by the famous actor, Aamir Khan. He is an Indian actor, film director and film producer. Khan is part of several commercially successful movies and has established himself as one of the leading actors of Hindi cinema, delivering a number of highly acclaimed performances. The third is this movie gives many aspirations for many people dealing with acquiring appreciation need in real life. This movie can inspire the people to be positive thinking in a variety of conditions. While positive thinking is not necessarily solving the problem, at least it will help to solve the problems. One thing is raised in 3 Idiots is the quotes of Rancho, "all is well" (all fine). In addition, the fourth reason is this movie gives spirit in pursuing appreciation. In acquiring appreciation, people have to follow their conscience, do not pretend to be, and do the best to prove it. The appreciation need is interesting to be analyzed relating to humanistic. Those are why; the writer uses a humanistic psychological approach to analyze this movie.

Need for appreciation is focused on individual. Basically, all people need for appreciations, but their appreciations are different by one people to another people. People have different dreams, hopes, desires, prayers, needs, and the way to make their appreciations to be tangible and useful. They have many problems faced in proving their appreciations in their life. And they also have strategies to achieve their appreciations comes true. The writer formulates this paper based on the major aspect that will be observed, especially in needing for appreciation in 3 Idiots

### 3. Literature Review

#### 3.1. *Humanistic Psychological Perspective*

Humanistic psychology emphasizes human capacity for goodness, creativity, and freedom. Unlike the strictly deterministic and somewhat mechanic views of humans to be found in Freud's psychoanalysis and in contemporary behaviorism, humanistic psychology construes the human being as rational, purposeful and autonomous, capable of creativity and able to experience deep insight into reality. Most of the books which have relation to humanistic perspective cited that humanistic is a study of human being. It is different from psychology perspective before, such as psychoanalytic and behaviorism. Humanistic is emphasizes the analysis on the human's needs that motivate them. The famous authors of humanistic perspective are Abraham Maslow and Carl Rogers. It is the third evolution in psychology perspective. Humanistic perspective looks a human as the whole, not from these elements or side. According to Cartwright (in Eysenck, 1995: 47), humanistic psychology is "concerned with topics that are meaningful to human being, focusing upon subjective experience and the unique unpredictable events in individual human lives".

#### 3.2. *Major Principle of Humanistic Psychology*

Maslow proposes a theory that explains basic lower level needs must be satisfied or relatively satisfied before, higher level needs becomes motivators. Maslow listed the following needs in order of their prepotency: Physiological needs, safety and security needs, belongingness and love needs, Self-esteem needs, and self-actualization needs.

Feist (1985: 378) said that needs can be arranged on a hierarchy with each ascending rung representing a higher need, but one less basic to survival. The hierarchy of needs is also referred to as the theory of proponent needs. It means that though the people have satisfied the higher level like esteem and self-actualization, when they feel thirsty or hungry, they will stop striving (at least temporarily) for those higher needs and will return to the unsatisfied lower level. So hunger has prepotency over esteem or self-actualization.

##### a. Physiological Needs

Physiological needs are everything which needed by the human to survive their life. It is related the human as an organism. It becomes the basic need which should be exerted first. If someone is unable to meet this one, of course he will be difficult to reach the next needs. For example, someone who feels hungry, he prefers to reach food than staying at home. However the dangers face him, it is not the reason give in to the conditions. Sometimes, someone does something that not suitable with rule, value and moral.

According to Maslow (in Phares, 1984: 184) these include needs for food, water, sex, sleep, and elimination. These needs are not unlike those that drive other animals. They must be generally satisfied before we can contemplate the next level. Psychological needs differ from higher level needs in at least two important respects. First, they are the only needs that can be completely satisfied or even overly satisfied. One can get enough to eat so that food completely loses its motivational power. For someone who has just finished a large meal, the thought of more food can have a nauseating effect. A second characteristic peculiar to psychological needs is their recurring nature.

b. Safety and Security Needs

These needs related to the environment; include the safety of biological environment and physical environment. As the Maslow's statement (in Phares, 1984: 184), here we have needs for structure, security, order, avoidance of pain, and protection.

From Maslow's statement, it can be observed by using the baby. If the baby hears something which is unfamiliar, he or she will be fear and cry. It make the baby will be enjoyable if he or she close their mother. Children need protection from their parents in order to his growth to be calm, peaceful and get positive impression. Human was inclined to choose or stay in the places which give protection.

c. Belongingness and Love Needs

Human have desire to belong and love something. It is one of the powerful motivations of the human to do something. It can be from the people surrounding of him, especially couple and family. According to Phares, (1984: 185), once physiological and safety needs have needs secured, needs for affiliation and affection become prominent. In the wide meaning, it refers to special feeling of the human to something. It can be a material or immaterial. Because the problems in the society, these needs become the difficult thing. Chaos, war, conflict and removal of the people from one place to others are several examples. Communication is the prominent thing which influences the relationship of the people.

d. Self-Esteem Needs

Appropriate with Maslow's theory, self-esteem needs can be classified into two categories. The first is self-esteem from an

inner side of him. In this level, someone will analyze his confidence, competence, independence, power of personality and freedom. Someone will be satisfied by himself, if they are able to meet their desire. It is different from one person to other, depends on their desire. The second is self-esteem from the people surrounding of an individual. Prestige, confession of the people becomes important to meet for several people. If someone is unable to meet, it makes someone frustrated, not confidence, and stress. The good management of the desire is very important in this level to prevent the bad motivation. The other people have influence and dangerous for the person's personality, if it based on the opinion of the other person. Maslow (in Koeswara, 1991: 125) explains that the healthy self-esteem is based on the achievement than prestige, status, and descent.

e. Self-Actualization Needs

Self-actualization is the higher level of human's needs according to Maslow's theory. Not everyone is able to reach this level and few people who have this desire. In fact everyone is able to reach this level by use their existing potential. A student, scientist, teacher and the other worker who work suitable with their profession will reach this level, if they use their capital for a significant purpose. That unusual person who has, on the whole, satisfied all the previous needs is in a position to seek self-actualization. This person can pursue the attainment of his or her full potential. The goal is to become all that you can become (Phares, 1984: 185).

3.3. *Structural Element of the Movie*

The writer uses technical term of movie to analyze the data that supports his research paper. There are two elements of film; there are narrative and technical elements. Narrative elements are the elements, which build the story of the film, consisting of characters, setting, plot, point of view, and theme.

Characters and Characterization become the major element of the movie. The viewer is able to identify the protagonist part or the other from the characterization here. Character can give color and sense to the movie. Setting is important to show where the story takes place. Place is able to show the sense and the story begins. Point of view influences the story in subject matter. Style refers to how the author uses the language in his movie. It reflects the author knowledge, background and style in writing. Through his language, the author wants to show the style, emotion, and feeling. It is the important point to make clear what actually the author intends to say in action in the story.

#### **4. Method**

The object of the study is need for appreciation (of the major character) in Rajkumar Hirani's *3 Idiots* movie. In analyzing the data

found in the movie, the researcher uses descriptive qualitative research for this research because it is suitable for explaining the analysis and there is no need a statistic evaluation. In this study, there are two kinds of data. There are primary data and secondary data. The primary data sources are taken from 3 Idiots and its manuscript, particularly the dialogs, statements and actions reflecting of the story and the characters that support this research. The secondary data sources are taken from other source, which are related to the primary data that support the analysis. There are articles, books and virtual references and other relevant information. The data are taken by watching the movie of 3 Idiots in order to understand about the movie. It includes particularly the dialogs, statements and actions reflecting of the story and the characters that support this research. The data are collected from the books that related to the topic. The 3 Idiots movie had many interesting problems that can be analyzed and discussed. The researcher limited the study on need for appreciation and how the major characters clutch their appreciation. However, the researcher focused this research on the humanistic perspective analysis of this movie. The researcher analyzed the humanistic approach based on the Abraham Maslow theory. The goals of this research are to clarify the structural element and the humanistic analysis of 3 Idiots movie. Actually, the researcher only used major character on 3 Idiots movie. The technique of data analysis is descriptive. The stages that used in analyzing data of this study are clarifying the data by selecting the necessary ones. The next is analyzing the data based on the humanistic psychological perspective. This stage is where the writer applies the humanistic psychological perspective which related to term, topic, issue and aspects of the movie.

## 5. Findings and Discussion

### *a. Findings*

#### *5.1. Physiological Needs*

Based on the physiological needs, the needs of Rancchoddas “Rancho” Shyamaldas Chanchad, Farhan Qureshi, and Raju Rastogi (major character) included as physiological needs are the need to breathe, the need for water, the need to food, the need for clothes, the need for sleep, the need for elimination, and the need for regulate body temperature. This movie reflects the need of physiological needs. To fulfill these needs, the major characters of this movie need struggle to satisfy these needs. From all the explanation above, Rancho, Farhan, and Raju always get problems to fulfill their needs. It can be concluded that hungry is one of the primary motive why Rancho, Farhan, and Raju have to struggle. A hungry person is motivated to eat, not to make friends or gain self-esteem, which will do everything in order, is able to eat. They do not see beyond food, and so long as this need remains unsatisfied, their one of primary motivation is to obtain something to eat. It means that these

needs are not easy to get for him. But, actually he can fulfill their needs of physiological.

#### 5.2. *Safety Needs*

3 Idiots movie reflects safety needs. Physical security, protection, avoidance of pain or sick, and freedom from such threatening forces as illness, fear, anxiety, worry, danger, and chaos are the needs that concern with security and safety needs in 3 Idiots movie. In fulfilling the needs for physical security and the needs for protection, Rancho, Farhan, and Raju face some problems. Farhan is forced to be engineering, but he does not like it. He likes to be wild animal photography. In here, Farhan needs protection; he should have freedom to choose his desire. There is no one asks his desire.

#### 5.3. *Belongingness and Love Needs*

The 3 Idiots movie reflects belongingness and love needs. These are needs can be satisfied by Rancho, Farhan and Raju (major characters). This case becomes the one of major part that is emphasized by the writer. Need for care included in belongingness and love needs. This is a manifestation of the love. Someone who has need for love should love and be loved by another. A true love is different from need for sex. Need for sex includes in physiological needs on the first place of hierarchy of needs, whereas love has a place itself. Dealing on the explanation above, it can be observed that mutual understand each other's. Rancho, Farhan, and Raju should be gave a care in order to communication of each other can be understandable. So, they can satisfy the needs of belongingness and loves well.

#### 5.4. *Self-Esteem Needs*

This movie reflects needs for self-esteem. This need can be divided into two classifications. These are the needs of self-respect and esteem from others. They are respected by others, recognition, fame, reputation, appreciation, and dignity. The major characters (Rancho, Farhan, and Raju) need these needs. For needs of self-respect, they want to become a successful person. It is their dreams. So, they try to prove their desire, they are able to meet this need. In the other side, Raju in fulfilling this need, he braves himself to attend to the job interview. Raju answers the questions honestly, so he can get the job. He can satisfy this need well.

#### 5.5. *Self-Actualization Needs*

This movie reflects self-actualization needs. Need for actualization become the prominent thing in this story. It is said in the most of the story. Rancho, Farhan, and Raju (major character) want to become a successful person in their dream. And then it comes true. He always efforts and maximizes his ability. So, they try to prove their desire, they able to meet this need. After analyzing the film using humanistic approach, Rancho, Farhan, and Raju (major character) reflect

the hierarchy needs, physiological needs, safety needs, belongingness and love, esteem-needs, self-actualization needs.

**b. Discussion**

Need for appreciation is focused on individual. Basically, all people need for appreciations, but their appreciations are different by one people to another people. This statement is also same with Freud's theory. People have different dreams, hopes, desires, prayers, needs, and the way to make their appreciations to be tangible and useful. They have many problems faced in proving their appreciations in their life. And they also have strategies to achieve their appreciations comes true. Rancho, Farhan, and Raju after maximizing their abilities and solving their problems, can get their appreciation. Based on facts above, the need for appreciation of Rancho, Farhan, and Raju are fulfilled well by them. Rancho passion is for knowledge and taking apart and building machines rather than the conventional obsession of the other students with exam ranks. Farhan is a smart boy, he loves photographer but chooses engineer because his father's pressure. Farhan feels that no one care with his desire, no one want to ask to him about his desire, his future. He is fear man. He has pressure with his family's condition. He obligates to go forward his family and make uplift his family fortunes. After analyzing the film using humanistic approach, Rancho, Farhan, and Raju (major character) reflect the hierarchy needs, physiological needs, safety needs, belongingness and love, esteem-needs, self-actualization needs.

**6. Conclusion**

Based on the analysis in previous chapter and problem statement of the research on Rajkumar Hirani's 3 Idiots movie, the writer will draw some conclusions to answer the problem statement. First, the structural analysis shows whole elements of the movie present in unity, it means that the elements of the film support the story and complete one with others element. The idea of author about how to reach the meaning of difficulties in getting appreciation is reflected by Rancho, Farhan Qureshi, and Raju Rastogi in this movie. Major character becomes the representative of a person who needs for appreciation. It tells about how the important of appreciation. The combination narrative elements and technical elements have the unity and successful relate to one another then formulated into a good movie. Second, from humanistic approach, it is evident that there is a close relation between the movie production of this movie and the social reality underlying it. The writer finds that Rancho, Farhan Qureshi, and Raju Rastogi reflect hierarchy need theory which is purposed by Abraham Maslow. They cover five hierarchy; physiological needs, safety needs, belongingness and love needs, self-esteem needs, and self-actualization needs. They can fulfill their needs well. Third, Rancho, Farhan Qureshi, and Raju Rastogi can be said as a self-actualized person because the characteristics of self-actualization have been portrayed in their personalities. The characteristic is continued freshness of appreciation. They struggle need for appreciation.



Humanistic psychology concerns with topics that are meaningful to human beings, focusing especially upon subjective experience and the unique, unpredictable events in individual human lives. After analyzing Rajkumar Hirani's 3 Idiots movie, the writer says that this movie is an interesting story that consists of humor, romantic, and inspirational. The writer analyzes it by humanistic psychological approach; hierarchy of needs to deal with this movie. The writer also gives some suggestions to the readers when they want to be the next researcher. This movie can be analyzed by using another approach, for example, individual psychological approach focusing on struggle for appreciation by the major characters. Finally, the writer hopes that this researcher will be useful for the reader and other researchers in developing the knowledge dealing with literary studies generally and dealing with this film specifically.

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