

ANALYSIS OF THE HIERARCHY OF NEEDS AND STRIVING FOR SUPERIORITY IN THE MOVIE 500 DAYS OF SUMMER

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ABSTRACT

This research delves into the manifestation of Abraham Maslow's hierarchy of needs and the factors driving striving for superiority, as exemplified by Tom Hansen in the movie 500 Days of Summer. Employing a qualitative methodology, the study analyzes dialogue and monologue data from the film to explore how Tom Hansen embodies Maslow's hierarchy of needs and exhibits factors related to striving for superiority. The findings reveal that Tom Hansen manifests all levels of needs outlined by Maslow, while also demonstrating factors indicative of striving for superiority. Specifically, the analysis identifies 35 instances related to Maslow's Hierarchy of Needs, encompassing physiological needs, safety needs, love and belongingness, esteem needs, and self-actualization. Additionally, 12 instances are identified concerning striving for superiority, including the pursuit of a final goal, striving force as compensation, personal superiority, and striving for success.

Keywords: 500 Days of Summer, Hierarchy of Needs Theory, Striving for Superiority

INTRODUCTION

Manifestation is an unseen action or a feeling from within us that believes that we can make that action happen. As is the case with Abraham Maslow's Hierarchy of Needs theory, needs are an aspect of satisfaction for a human being. According to Maslow (2017, p. 29), "Thus man is a perpetually wanting animal. Ordinarily, the satisfaction of these wants is not altogether mutually exclusive, but only tends to be. The average member of our society is most often partially satisfied and partially unsatisfied in all of his wants." Striving for Superiority is motivating humans to do everything perfectly and completely by making the maximum possible effort so that a person can achieve that superior level. Adler, as cited in Feist (2021, p. 77), posits that "The one dynamic force behind people's behavior is the striving for success or superiority."

In literary works like movies, various themes and psychological concepts are explored to entertain and engage the audience. According to Branigan and Buckland (2014, p. 425), "Film is a language was therefore made not through any direct resemblance between film and natural language, but on methodological grounds: film's specific, underlying reality could be reconstructed by the methods of structural linguistics." This research delves into the manifestation of self-actualization and explores factors driving the striving for superiority process, drawing upon Abraham Maslow's Hierarchy of Needs and Alfred Adler's concept of Striving for Superiority. The protagonist, Tom Hansen, from the movie "500 Days of Summer" serves as the primary data source for this investigation.

Maslow's Hierarchy of Needs theory delineates basic needs or deficiency needs, and meta needs or

growth needs. According to McLeod (2018, p. 1 & 6), "Growth needs, on the other hand, are higher-level needs that are not necessary for survival but are important for personal growth and fulfillment." In contrast, Adler's Striving for Superiority theory emphasizes the innate drive in individuals to overcome feelings of inferiority and achieve mastery or competence in life. Feist (2021, p. 78) elucidates, "Striving for superiority is the innate drive in individuals to overcome their feelings of inferiority and achieve a sense of mastery or competence in life."

Previous research has explored these theories in various contexts, such as literature and film. For instance, studies by Erllayusi Nurafifah (2021), Haekal Hendro Pramono (2013), and Tasya Sheilla Debora Moge (2021) have examined the application of these theories in anime and movies. This research builds upon the existing literature by analyzing the manifestation of self-actualization and striving for superiority in the character of Tom Hansen in the movie "500 Days of Summer." While previous studies have focused on specific characters and contexts, this research aims to provide a comprehensive analysis of these psychological phenomena in the context of the selected movie.

RESEARCH METHOD

Research Design

This study adopts a qualitative research design, as it offers flexibility and allows for inductive reasoning. Qualitative research does not necessitate strict parameters at the outset; rather, it emphasizes openness to new ideas and the freedom to include or exclude aspects based on relevance. In this research, the focus is on analyzing the manifestation of Abraham Maslow's hierarchy of needs and Alfred Adler's striving for superiority in the movie "500 Days of Summer."

Data Source

The primary data source for this study is the movie "500 Days of Summer." Released in 2009, this American romantic comedy, directed by Marc Webb, has a duration of 95 minutes. The movie was accessed from a licensed online platform, specifically <https://www.hotstar.com/>. Data were collected from selected dialogues, monologues, and subtitles featuring Tom Hansen, the main character in "500 Days of Summer".

Data Collection Techniques

Several techniques were employed to collect data pertaining to Tom Hansen's manifestation of hierarchy of needs and striving for superiority factors. Researchers watched the movie, pausing at relevant scenes that align with the aforementioned theories. Detailed notes were taken, including the timestamp, dialogue or monologue content, and any significant contextual details. Subsequently, the collected data were analyzed to identify instances of hierarchy of needs and striving for superiority exhibited by Tom Hansen.

Data Analysis

The collected data were analyzed systematically. Initially, the researcher classified instances of hierarchy of needs and striving for superiority manifested by Tom Hansen. Subsequently, the dialogue content, along with associated subtitles, was scrutinized using theoretical frameworks related to Maslow's hierarchy of needs and Adler's striving for superiority. The analysis involved describing the context of each dialogue, providing interpretations, and drawing conclusions regarding Tom Hansen's portrayal of hierarchy of needs and striving for superiority.

RESULTS AND DISCUSSION

From the data that successfully collected there are 35 data, from Tom Hansen which obtained 4 data from physiological, safety needs 2 data, love and belongingness 3 data, esteem needs 10 data, self-actualization 3 data, final goal 6 data, striving force as compensation 2 data, striving for personal superiority 1 data, and striving for success 3 data. Here are 21 datums attached and analyzed.

Physiological Needs

Physiological needs, as outlined by Abraham Maslow in his Hierarchy of Needs theory, encompass the most fundamental requirements for human survival and well-being. These needs include essentials such as air, water, food, shelter, clothing, and sleep. The concept of homeostasis, an integral aspect of physiological functioning, plays a crucial role in meeting these needs. Homeostasis refers to the body's ability to regulate internal conditions and maintain stability amidst changing external environments. It involves a complex process of feedback mechanisms that ensure the balance of various physiological parameters, such as body temperature, blood pressure, fluid balance, and metabolic functions. In essence, homeostasis acts as a dynamic equilibrium mechanism, continuously adjusting bodily functions to preserve optimal conditions for cellular activities and overall health. For instance, when the body experiences fluctuations in temperature, it initiates responses to either generate or dissipate heat to maintain a constant internal temperature. Similarly, mechanisms like thirst and hunger signal the need for water and nutrients, respectively, prompting individuals to seek sustenance to sustain bodily functions.

Excerpt 1

Rachel: Drink this.

McKenzie: What is that? Rachel: Vodka

*Tom Hansen immediately
drink the vodka.*

(Min. 00:04:50 - 00:04:54)

Excerpt 2

(Min. 00:11:55 - 00:12:05)

Tom Hansen: Yeah. I Studied to be an architect, actually.

Tom Hansen: You did? That's cool. What happened there?

Tom Hansen: It didn't work out.

Tom Hansen: I need a job, and here we are.

In the first excerpt, Tom Hansen's physiological needs are evident in his reaction to his sister Rachel's offer of vodka. The dialogue highlights a moment of emotional distress for Tom, symbolized by his act of breaking plates in his kitchen. Rachel's suggestion for him to drink vodka serves as an attempt to alleviate his sadness, indicating a basic physiological response to emotional discomfort. This interaction underscores the role of alcohol as a coping mechanism, wherein individuals seek temporary relief from emotional turmoil through substance consumption. Additionally, the act of drinking the vodka directly aligns with Maslow's hierarchy of needs, wherein physiological needs such as thirst or hunger take precedence over higher-level needs when they are unmet.

Moving to the second excerpt, Tom Hansen's dialogue at the engagement party sheds light on his physiological needs in the context of his career aspirations. When discussing his past ambition to become an architect, Tom expresses a sense of disappointment and resignation over his current employment situation. His admission that "it didn't work out" reflects a perceived failure to fulfill his

professional goals, resulting in a need for financial stability and job security. By acknowledging his need for employment, Tom illustrates the primacy of physiological needs in Maslow's hierarchy, as the pursuit of basic necessities such as shelter, food, and employment takes precedence over self-actualization or personal fulfillment. These dialogues collectively underscore the significance of physiological needs in shaping Tom Hansen's behavior and decision-making processes throughout the movie, highlighting their fundamental role in human motivation and well-being.

Forced to Work On Greeting Cards to Continue His Life.

The Need of Safety

In the context of Tom Hansen's life, his pursuit of safety needs is evident in his decision to work on greeting cards to sustain his livelihood. Safety needs encompass a fundamental desire for security, both in terms of physical safety and emotional well-being. For Tom, transitioning to a job in greeting cards represents a practical step to ensure financial stability and security for himself. Despite his aspirations of becoming an architect, the need for a steady income compels him to make this pragmatic choice. This decision reflects not only a concern for his own security but also a sense of responsibility to provide for himself and potentially for others. Additionally, the notion of security extends beyond financial stability to include protection of the soul, suggesting a deeper quest for personal fulfillment and emotional security. In navigating this transition, Tom's journey highlights the complex interplay between individual aspirations and the practical realities of life, underscoring the significance of safety needs in shaping his decisions and actions.

Excerpt 3

Tom Hansen was experiencing a depression so severe that he broke all the plates in his house. Tom was not alone there, he was accompanied by his bestfriends, McKenzie and Paul. But Tom kept on breaking plates.

(Min. 00:04:40 - 00:05:05)

Tom Hansen: Rachel. What are you doing here?

Rachel: I'm here to help you.

Tom Hansen: Help me how?

Rachel: First put down the plate.

Rachel: Drink this.

McKenzie: What is that?

Rachel: Vodka.

Tom Hansen: Um.. does Mom know that you're here? Cause it's probably past 10:00

Rachel: Don't worry about it. Just start from the beginning, and tell us what happened. Tom

Hansen: Things were going so well.

Excerpt 4

Tom Hansen and Summer Fin went to the bar to have a drink together there and they met Stanger and the stanger made fun of them.

Stanger: Whatever. So, come on. One drink. What are you drinking?

Summer Fin: I said no, thanks.

Stanger: You're serious? This guy?

Summer Fin: Hey, buddy- You know what? Don't be rude.

Summer Fin: I'm flattered, but I'm not interested. So why don't you go over there and leave us alone? Thanks. (Min. 00:44:43 - 00:44:54)

In both Excerpt 3 and Excerpt 4, elements of safety needs are highlighted in the context of Tom Hansen's experiences. Excerpt 3 depicts Tom's emotional turmoil, as evidenced by his extreme reaction of breaking plates in his house due to severe depression. Despite being surrounded by his friends, McKenzie and Paul, Tom continues to struggle with his inner turmoil, indicating a lack of emotional security

and stability. However, Rachel's intervention symbolizes an attempt to address Tom's distress and provide a sense of security. By offering him vodka and encouraging him to open up about his feelings, Rachel demonstrates a concern for Tom's well-being and a desire to offer him emotional support during his time of need. Her presence and efforts to comfort Tom reflect a fundamental aspect of safety needs – the need for emotional security and protection during times of distress.

In Excerpt 4, the theme of safety needs emerges again, albeit in a different context. Here, Tom and Summer encounter a stranger at a bar who makes them feel uncomfortable and vulnerable. The stranger's intrusive behavior and attempts to mock them create a sense of unease and threat to their emotional well-being. Summer's assertive response to the stranger's advances exemplifies an effort to assert control over their environment and protect themselves from potential harm. By firmly rejecting the stranger's advances and standing up for herself and Tom, Summer demonstrates a commitment to ensuring their safety and security in the face of external threats. This scenario underscores the importance of safety needs not only in terms of physical safety but also in terms of emotional protection and assertiveness in asserting boundaries and maintaining personal security. Overall, these excerpts shed light on the multifaceted nature of safety needs, encompassing both emotional support and assertiveness in the face of external threats, as integral aspects of human well-being and security.

Love and Belongingness

Love and belongingness needs, as outlined in Maslow's hierarchy of needs, delve into the fundamental human desire for social connection and acceptance within their environment.

This third level of needs encapsulates the innate yearning to forge meaningful relationships, feel a sense of belonging, and experience genuine acceptance from others. Individuals inherently seek to establish emotional connections with others, to be embraced for who they are, and to cultivate a sense of community and kinship. Within this framework, the fulfillment of love and belongingness needs extends beyond mere companionship; it encompasses the deeper emotional bonds that foster a sense of inclusion, understanding, and support. Whether through familial ties, friendships, or romantic relationships, humans seek validation, affirmation, and affection from those around them. The pursuit of love and belongingness underscores the intrinsic human desire for social integration and the profound impact of interpersonal connections on overall well-being and fulfillment. Thus, within Maslow's pyramid, the attainment of love and belongingness needs represents a pivotal step towards achieving holistic psychological growth and self-actualization.

Excerpt 5

After the date, Tom Hansen and Summer Fin went to Tom Hansen's house after a day of dating together.

Summer Fin: This is fun.

*Summer Fin: **You are fun.***

*Tom Hansen: *Smile*(Min. 00:29:27 - 00:29:29)*

Excerpt 6

During lunch break, Paul and Tom Hansen went to find lunch while chatting in the street.

Tom Hansen: I don't know, man. I think it's official.

*Tom Hansen: **I'm in love with Summer.** I love her smile.*

Tom Hansen: I love her hair. I love her knees.

Tom Hansen: I love this heart shaped birthmark she has on her neck.

Tom Hansen: I love the way she sometimes licks her lips before she talks. Tom Hansen: I love the sound of her laugh.

Tom Hansen: I love the way she looks when she's sleeping.

(Min. 00:13:36 - 00:13:55)

Excerpt 5 portrays a moment of emotional connection and validation between Tom Hansen and Summer Fin, illustrating elements of love and belongingness needs. Following a date, Summer expresses enjoyment and affection towards Tom, stating, "This is fun. You are fun." This affirmation from Summer not only reflects her appreciation for the time spent together but also signifies a sense of acceptance and connection with Tom. Her words validate Tom's personality and presence, fulfilling his inherent desire for social acceptance and emotional connection. Through this interaction, the deeper yearning for meaningful relationships and a sense of belonging is exemplified, as both characters seek validation and affirmation from each other to fulfill their emotional needs.

In Excerpt 6, Tom Hansen confides in his friend Paul during a lunch break, expressing his feelings of love for Summer. Tom's heartfelt confession reveals his deep emotional attachment and longing for connection, addressing specific attributes of Summer that he admires. This expression of love highlights Tom's need for emotional intimacy and belongingness within his romantic relationship with Summer. By articulating his affection and admiration for her, Tom seeks to strengthen the emotional bond between them and solidify his sense of belonging within the relationship. Through this dialogue, the significance of love and belongingness needs in fostering intimate connections and

emotional fulfillment is underscored, as Tom navigates his feelings of love and attachment towards Summer, striving to deepen their relationship and satisfy his inherent need for emotional connection and acceptance.

Esteem Needs

Esteem needs, the fourth tier in Maslow's hierarchy of needs, encapsulate the human desire for both external recognition and internal self-esteem. This level of need pertains to the innate longing for validation, respect, and appreciation from both others and oneself. When individuals attain esteem needs, they experience a heightened sense of self-worth and confidence, transcending feelings of inadequacy or self-doubt. External validation, such as recognition and praise from peers or society, plays a crucial role in fulfilling this need by affirming one's competence, achievements, and contributions. Moreover, internal self-esteem, derived from a deep sense of self-respect and self-worth, further bolsters individuals' confidence and resilience. When esteem needs are met, individuals feel empowered to assert themselves, pursue their goals, and navigate life with a greater sense of assurance and purpose. This fulfillment of esteem needs not only fosters personal growth and self-actualization but also cultivates a positive self-image and a strong sense of identity, essential components of overall psychological well-being and fulfillment. Thus, esteem needs represent a critical stage in Maslow's hierarchy, wherein individuals strive to attain recognition, appreciation, and self-respect to bolster their confidence and forge a path towards self-fulfillment and personal success.

Excerpt 7

After the date, Tom Hansen and Summer Fin went to Tom Hansen's house after a day of dating together.

Summer Fin: This is fun. Summer Fin: You are fun. Tom Hansen: Thanks.

Esteem needs here based from dialogue that, after going date with Summer Fin and said to Tom Hansen that he is a very exciting man and Tom Hansen said thanks with smile. (Min. 00:29:27 - 00:29:32)

Excerpt 8

When in the elevator Tom was listening to his favorite music, namely Smiths through his headset, and Summer Fin came rushing quickly.

Summer Fin: I love the Smiths. Tom Hansen: Sorry?

Summer Fin: I said I love the Smiths. You have- You have good taste in music.

Tom Hansen: You like the Smiths?

Summer Fin: Yeah. (Min. 00:10:20 - 00:10:31)

Excerpt 7 showcases a moment where Tom Hansen receives external validation, fulfilling his esteem needs. After spending a day together, Summer Fin expresses her enjoyment of their time and compliments Tom, stating, "This is fun. You are fun." This acknowledgment serves as a form of external recognition, affirming Tom's positive attributes and contributing to his sense of self-worth and confidence. Tom's response of "Thanks" indicates his appreciation for the compliment, reflecting a moment of validation that bolsters his esteem. This interaction highlights the significance of external validation in fulfilling esteem needs, as Summer's praise contributes to Tom's sense of competence and worthiness, ultimately bolstering his confidence and self-esteem.

In Excerpt 8, Tom experiences another moment of external validation,

further fulfilling his esteem needs. While listening to his favorite music in the elevator, Tom is approached by Summer Fin, who expresses her admiration for the same band, the Smiths, that Tom is listening to. Summer's affirmation of Tom's taste in music serves as a subtle yet meaningful form of recognition, affirming his preferences and contributing to his sense of self-worth. Tom's surprised yet pleased reaction underscores the impact of Summer's validation on his esteem, as he responds with curiosity and appreciation. This interaction illustrates how external validation, even in small gestures like acknowledging shared interests, plays a crucial role in fulfilling esteem needs by affirming individuals' identities and contributing to their sense of competence and worthiness.

Self-Actualization

Self-actualization, the highest level in Maslow's hierarchy of needs, represents the pinnacle of human development and fulfillment. It encompasses the innate drive to realize one's full potential, seek personal growth, and experience peak moments of self-awareness and achievement. At this stage, individuals are motivated by a deep-seated desire for self-fulfillment and the actualization of their unique talents, abilities, and aspirations. Central to self-actualization is the pursuit of authenticity and meaningfulness in life, whereby individuals strive to align their actions and choices with their inner values, passions, and purpose. This process often involves introspection, self-discovery, and the cultivation of a sense of purpose that transcends material desires or societal expectations.

Self-actualized individuals exhibit a profound sense of autonomy, creativity, and inner-directedness, allowing them to navigate life with a

deep sense of fulfillment and meaning. They embrace challenges as opportunities for growth, continually seek to expand their horizons, and are driven by a relentless quest for personal excellence. Moreover, self-actualization entails the capacity to experience "peak experiences," moments of profound insight, joy, and transcendence that evoke a heightened sense of connectedness with oneself, others, and the world. These peak experiences serve as catalysts for personal growth and self-discovery, often leading individuals to gain deeper insights into their values, beliefs, and purpose in life.

Excerpt 9

After Tom Hansen failed to get Summer Fin's heart and made Tom Hansen depressed that made his work performance worse and left the job.

Summer Fin: "The Architecture of Happiness."

Tom Hansen: Yeah.

Summer Fin: That looks like a good book. (Min. 01:02:32 - 01:02:37)

Excerpt 10

When Tom Hansen wanted to do an interview at a new company, Tom Hansen stopped by his favorite city park and accidentally met Summer Fin and told Summer Fin that he had left the letter office.

Summer Fin: I like your suit.

Tom Hansen: Ah, thanks. You look sharp.

Summer Fin: So do you.

Tom Hansen: Thanks. I quit the office.

Summer Fin: You did? I didn't know. That's great! (Min. 01:22:46 - 01:22:57)

Excerpt 11

After meeting Summer Fin in a city park, Tom Hansen finally arrived at the Interview room. *Tom Hansen: Are you interviewing?*

Autumn: Sorry?

Tom Hansen: Are you interviewing for the position?

Autumn: Oh, yeah. why? Are you?

Tom Hansen: Yeah. (Min. 01:27:59 - 01:28:06)

From the several snippets of the dialogue above, After he met Summer Fin, Tom Hansen's life changed, but Tom failed to get Summer's heart, it made Tom Hansen's life destroyed, but Tom has risen from all that and has a better life and gets another job. Self-Actualization in this dialogue, that Tom Hansen has begun to slowly change by reading architecture books again and finally applying for work in the field of architecture.

Final Goal

The first factor that drives striving for superiority is this final goal, in which humans are the first step having dreams. This dream can make a person compelled to change, dream is that humans have unique goals and they definitely want to achieve them.

Excerpt 12

The start of a conversation between Tom Hansen and his best friend McKenzie about that a beautiful secretary will be working in this office.

Excerpt 13

Tom Hansen: Damn.

McKenzie: I know. She's pretty hot.

Tom Hansen: That sucks.

Tom Hansen: Why is it pretty girls think they can treat people like crap and get away with it?

McKenzie: Centuries of reinforcement.

Tom Hansen: You know what? Screw her. I don't care. (Min. 00:09:36 - 00:09:46)

Excerpt 14

When in the elevator Tom was listening to his favorite music, namely Smiths through his headset, and Summer Fin came rushing quickly.

Summer Fin: I love the Smiths. Tom Hansen: Sorry?

Summer Fin: I said I love the Smiths.
You have- You have good taste in music.

Tom Hansen: You like the Smiths?

Summer Fin: Yeah. (Min. 00:10:20 - 00:10:31)

Excerpt 11 portrays Tom Hansen's pursuit of his final goal, which is hinted at in his decision to seek a new job in the field of architecture. His encounter with Summer Fin prompts a pivotal change in his life trajectory, as he decides to leave his job at the greeting card company and pursue his passion. This signifies a significant step towards realizing his aspirations and achieving his ultimate dreams. Tom's determination to follow his passion for architecture reflects the influence of his final goal, driving him to make bold decisions and pursue a path aligned with his long-term aspirations.

In Excerpt 12, Tom's conversation with McKenzie offers insight into his attitude towards his final goal and his aspirations for personal growth. The discussion about the arrival of a beautiful secretary at their workplace serves as a backdrop to Tom's contemplation of his own goals and desires. This interaction underscores the importance of surrounding oneself with supportive friends who encourage personal development and the pursuit of one's dreams. Despite the distractions around him, Tom remains focused on his final goal, indicating his unwavering commitment to achieving his aspirations despite external pressures or distractions.

Excerpt 13 further illustrates Tom's determination to pursue his final goal despite obstacles or setbacks. His frustration with the behavior of the secretary reflects his refusal to be deterred by external circumstances or negative influences. Instead, Tom maintains a resilient attitude and reaffirms his commitment to his goals,

demonstrating his resilience and determination in the face of challenges. This interaction highlights the role of perseverance and resilience in striving for superiority, as individuals like Tom remain steadfast in their pursuit of their final goal, undeterred by setbacks or obstacles along the way.

Final Goal

At the heart of striving for superiority lies the concept of a final goal, representing the culmination of human aspirations and dreams. This final goal serves as a driving force, igniting within individuals a sense of purpose and direction as they embark on their journey towards self-improvement and fulfillment. Central to this concept is the notion of having dreams, which fuel one's motivation and compel them to enact change in pursuit of their unique goals. Dreams, whether grand or modest, inspire individuals to push beyond their limits, overcome obstacles, and strive for excellence in their endeavors. They represent the manifestation of human desires and ambitions, embodying the innate yearning for growth, achievement, and self-realization. As individuals endeavor to realize their dreams, they undergo a transformative process, evolving both personally and professionally as they work towards actualizing their aspirations. In essence, the pursuit of a final goal encapsulates the essence of striving for superiority, driving individuals to harness their potential, pursue their passions, and ultimately carve out their path towards success and fulfillment.

Excerpt 15

During lunch break, Paul and Tom Hansen went to find lunch while chatting in the street.

Tom Hansen: I don't know, man. I think it's official.

Tom Hansen: I'm in love with Summer. I love her smile.

Tom Hansen: I love her hair. I love her knees.

Tom Hansen: I love this heart shaped birthmark she has on her neck.

Tom Hansen: I love the way she sometimes licks her lips before she talks.

Tom Hansen: I love the sound of her laugh.

Tom Hansen: I love the way she looks when she's sleeping. (Min. 00:13:36 - 00:13:55)

Excerpt 16

After partying and wanted to go home, a half-drunk McKenzie tells Summer Fin that Tom Hansen likes her.

Summer Fin: Um, the other thing. Tom Hansen: What thing?

Summer Fin: Do you... like me?

Tom Hansen: Yeah. Of course I like you.

Summer Fin: As friends?

Tom Hansen: Right. As friends. Summer Fin: Just as friends?

Tom Hansen: Yeah. I mean, I—I don't know. I hadn't really thought about, um... Yes. why?

Summer Fin: No reason. I just think you're interesting, and I'd like for us to be friends. (Min. 00:23:09 - 00:23:43)

Excerpt 15 captures Tom Hansen's admission of his feelings for Summer Fin during a candid conversation with his friend Paul. Tom's detailed expressions of affection illustrate his deep emotional attachment to Summer, emphasizing various aspects of her personality and appearance that he admires. This disclosure reflects Tom's pursuit of his final goal, which entails forming a romantic connection with Summer and fostering a meaningful relationship with her. By articulating his feelings openly, Tom takes a proactive step towards realizing his aspiration of being with Summer, demonstrating his willingness to pursue his dreams and

embrace his emotions despite potential challenges or uncertainties.

In Excerpt 16, the dynamics between Tom Hansen and Summer Fin become more nuanced as they navigate their evolving relationship. McKenzie's revelation to Summer about Tom's feelings introduces a shift in their interaction, prompting Summer to seek clarification from Tom. Tom's response, although initially hesitant, reflects his determination to align his actions with his final goal of winning Summer's affection. Despite Summer's indication of wanting to remain friends, Tom subtly continues to pursue his romantic interest, recognizing the importance of building a foundation of friendship as he strategizes towards achieving his ultimate objective. This exchange underscores Tom's strategic approach to pursuing his final goal, as he tactfully navigates the complexities of interpersonal relationships in his quest for romantic fulfillment with Summer.

Striving Force as Compensation

The concept of "Striving Force as Compensation" delves into the innate human desire for self-improvement and growth. It begins with individuals who possess robust physical health and formidable strength, yet harbor an intrinsic discontentment with their current state. This discontentment stems from a deep-seated feeling of inferiority, compelling them to break free from the constraints of their current circumstances. In their pursuit of becoming their best selves, they seek to transcend the limitations imposed upon them, striving to uncover and harness their untapped strengths and potentials. This innate striving force propels them forward, serving as both a driving motivation and a compensatory mechanism to overcome feelings of inadequacy. Thus, the journey towards self-actualization becomes not merely a quest for personal fulfillment, but a

relentless pursuit to rise above perceived limitations and achieve a state of unparalleled excellence.

Striving Force as Compensation

Excerpt 17

Tom Hansen is invited to a small party thrown by Summer Fin in her own house at rooftop.

Summer Fin: Tom could be a really great architect if he wanted to be.

Summer Fin Friends: That's unusual. I mean, what made you go from one to the other?

Tom Hansen: I guess I just figured, why make something disposable, like a building, when you can make something that lasts forever, like a greeting card? (Min. 01:08:59 - 01:09:12)

Striving force as Compensation from the based from dialogue that, Summer Fin said that Tom Hansen could become a great architecture. Striving force as Compensation in here that, Tom Hansen even though he is very good at drawing and is also a scholar of architecture rather than making greeting cards.

Excerpt 18

Tom Hansen took Summer Fin to his favorite place in the city park to see the beauty of the buildings in New York.

Tom Hansen: I don't know. There's a lot of different stuff you could do.

Summer Fin: Show me. Please. I don't know anything about architecture.

Tom Hansen: You want me to draw you something?

Summer Fin: Yeah.

Tom Hansen: I don't have any paper.

Summer Fin: Well, use my arm. (Min. 00:37:22 - 00:37:32)

Striving force as Compensation from the based from dialogue that, Tom Hansen was asked by Summer Fin to draw a building because Tom Hansen

did not have paper, Summer Fin forced him to draw on her arm. Striving force as Compensation in here that, Tom Hansen is actually very skilled at drawing but he doesn't want to show it to Summer Fin because he doesn't have paper to draw it with and Summer Fin forces Tom Hansen to draw on Summer Fin's arm.

Striving for Personal Superiority

Striving for personal, where humans want to have high fighting power but they choose for themselves not even to see their surroundings regardless of the impact because they have excessive compensation for their excessive feelings of personal superiority.

Excerpt 19

Tom Hansen was waiting in the office where he was called for an interview and waiting for his turn.

Tom Hansen: Are you interviewing for the position?

Autumn: Oh, yeah. why? Are you? Tom Hansen: Yeah.

Autmn: Mm-hmm.

Tom Hansen: My competition. Autumn: It would appear.

Tom Hansen: Yeah. So, a little awkward. Autumn: Yeah.

Tom Hansen: Well, I hope you, um, don't get the job. (Min. 01:28:02 - 01:28:22)

Striving for Personal Superiority from the based from dialogue that, Tom Hansen met his competitor in the waiting room and said that Tom Hansen wished she had not gotten the job. Striving for Personal Superiority in here preparation Tom Hansen was more ready and more confident to pass the interview than his competitors.

Striving for Success

Striving for success is the opposite of striving for personal, where humans carry out their motivation by

looking at their surroundings or social interests.

Excerpt 20

When Tom Hansen finished his work and wanted to take a break at the office and meet his best friend McKenzie.

McKenzie: Don't you have, like, 20 cards to write by Friday?

Tom Hansen: Nope. All done.

McKenzie: Really? Can you help me? 'Cause I've run out of ways to say "congrats."

McKenzie: Okay. I got "Good job," "Well done" and "Way to go." That's it.

Tom Hansen: How 'bout, "Every day you make me proud, but today you get a card."

McKenzie: Shit, that's good! (Min. 00:56:54 - 00:57:12)

Striving for success from the based from dialogue that, McKenzie asked Tom Hansen for help in completing his task and Tom Hansen was willing to help him even though his task was finished. Striving for success in here, Tom Hansen helped McKenzie in doing his work. Tom Hansen immediately helped him without any reward to achieve togetherness and prosperity of the company.

Excerpt 21

After helping McKenzie with his job, Tom Hansen helped a coworker who had run out of ideas write greeting cards.

Tom Hansen: Have you tried "Merry"?

Coworker: Wow! That's perfect! Merry! wow!

(Min. 00:57:16 - 00:57:19)

Striving for success from the based from dialogue that, Tom Hansen is happy to help a coworker who has run out of ideas after helping McKenzie to achieve togetherness and prosperity of the company

Excerpt 20 illustrates striving for success through Tom Hansen's willingness to assist his colleague, McKenzie, even after completing his own tasks. Despite having finished his work, Tom actively engages in helping McKenzie with his workload, demonstrating a sense of social responsibility and a commitment to collective success within the workplace. Tom's suggestion for unique and heartfelt congratulations cards reflects his proactive approach to problem-solving and his desire to contribute positively to the team's dynamics. By offering assistance without any expectation of personal gain, Tom exemplifies the ethos of striving for success by fostering collaboration and enhancing the overall productivity and morale of the company.

In Excerpt 21, Tom Hansen's continued demonstration of striving for success is evident as he extends his assistance to another coworker who is facing creative challenges in writing greeting cards. Tom's enthusiasm and willingness to help, as seen in his suggestion of the simple yet effective word "Merry," highlight his commitment to supporting his colleagues and maintaining a positive and productive work environment. By sharing his creativity and expertise, Tom contributes to the collective success of the team, emphasizing the importance of collaboration and mutual support in achieving common goals. Through these actions, Tom exemplifies the principle of striving for success by actively engaging in activities that promote teamwork, innovation, and the overall prosperity of the organization.

CONCLUSION AND SUGGESTION

Conclusion

The analysis of the hierarchy of needs and striving for superiority in the movie "500 Days of Summer" provides valuable insights into the character of

Tom Hansen. Through the lens of Abraham Maslow's hierarchy of needs, it is evident that Tom progresses through various stages, fulfilling his physiological, safety, love/belonging, esteem, and self-actualization needs. Additionally, Alfred Adler's concept of striving for superiority adds another layer to Tom's character, suggesting a continuous pursuit of excellence and validation.

Suggestion

Future researchers can build upon this analysis by delving deeper into the interplay between Maslow's hierarchy of needs and Adler's striving for superiority within the context of other characters or films. They can explore how different characters navigate these psychological frameworks and how their actions and decisions are influenced by their unmet needs or desire for superiority. Additionally, researchers could examine the implications of these theories on character development, narrative structure, and audience interpretation in various cinematic works. By further exploring these themes, researchers can contribute to a richer understanding of human behavior and motivation as portrayed in film.

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