WHEN AI BECOMES HUMAN: LOVE AND BELONGING NEEDS IN *I AM MOTHER* (2019) FILM

Moh. Supardi,[1*] Fahira Khoirunnisa[2]

[1,] English Literature, Faculty of Humanities, UIN Syarif Hidayatullah Jakarta, Indonesia
[2] English Literature, Faculty of Humanities, UIN Syarif Hidayatullah Jakarta, Indonesia
*Corresponding author: moh.supardi@uinjkt.ac.id

ABSTRACT

The paper aims to examine the cast of artificial intelligence (AI) character in solving the problem of love and belonging needs in I am Mother film. Today, the arise of artificial intelligence (AI) has brought controversial debate among society about ethical consideration and psychological problems. One of the concerns is that the integration of AI with character may open up new approaches and innovation toward AI. The data are qualitatively-described focusing on psychological problems of main character using the third level of the hierarchy of human needs of Abraham Harold Maslow. The data are collected from dialogue, visual capture, and cinematography of I am Mother film. The study reveals that AI has a significant influence on the main character's sense of loss of love and belonging. In this film, the main character undergoes loss of love and belonging needs in four forms, family relationships, friendships, romantic relationships, community, and social group. Consequently, the loss of love and belonging has affected the main character's psychology, feelings of loneliness, isolation, and emotional instability. Fortunately, the main character (Daughter) can overcome her psychological problems, such as creating a close relationship with Mother, improving her self-development, having empathy and caring for their environment, searching for the truth in the outside world, and finding the truth and where she belongs. The study concluded that AI's emotion still needs to be controlled and trained to make up something, such as how to express emotion and feeling because the AI doesn't understand the context since they are still need human involvement in its process of development.

Keywords: *hierarchy of needs, love and belonging, artificial intelligence, psychological problems*

INTRODUCTION

The paper aims to examine the cast of AI character in solving the problem of love and belonging needs in I am Mother film . This is considered significant to discuss the issue of AI characterization through the main character in I am Mother film for three reasons, shaping public understanding and acceptance of technologies; self-awareness and humanities; relationship between a robot and a human. This paper highlights the psychological condition of AI to be like human viewed from the theoretical concept of Abraham Maslow. Understanding the representation of AI in movies may help intercept stereotyping, dystopia or utopia discernment about AI. This may also affect the public's

perception in AI utilization and regulations. The most principal thing is to stabilize the public discourse and a realistic perception of AI's prospective and restrictions.

As has been known, artificial intelligence (AI) today can do work like humans, so it can replicate human intelligence in carrying out various jobs. In fact, artificial intelligence also replaces the role of humans in certain things. So human needs in many aspects can be disrupted if everything can be handled by artificial intelligence (Pakpahan, 2021; Peeters et al., 2021). Therefore, it is important to ensure the existence of AI copes with the hierarchy of human needs through the main character in I am Mother film. This film raises the issue of artificial intelligence robot (Daughter) who is raised by an AI robot (Mother). In this film, the Daughter often feels empty and loneliness since she is not human but she always tries to be like another normal human. Thus, she always learns and imitate the way human act and behave. Her hard effort, struggle and in ways that are incomprehensible, she acquires a human form of consciousness. It goes without saying that AI applications can work faster, with greater operation efficiency and accuracy, and with better decisionmaking than humans. This says that artificial intelligence achievements closely mimic human intelligence in the sense of understanding, reasoning, and learning. This seems to be in lining with the idea (see, for example, P. Schultz & Ellen Schultz, 2017) that the nonfulfilment of human needs can influence character and habits, and thus it is considered significant to see the impacts caused by artificial intelligence.

These become the grounds for this paper to examine the love and belonging needs portrayed through the main character and how she overcomes the problem. As mentioned before that the Daughter in that film longs for love and belonging just like humans need other humans to socialize and to fulfil other needs, such as food, toys, education, and even ballet lessons. However, the Mother seem to ignore the Daughter's desire to be humanized that she also needs a sense of belonging or socialization with other humans, and this was not fulfilled to the main characters' life. This then affect the daughter's psychology and character. Such problem happens when the Daughter heard the sound of someone banging and asking for help outside her isolation room. With fear and curiosity, she secretly opened the door of the isolation room from Mother. The Daughter feels happy when she sees another human (Woman) and also scares because she thinks about the virus spreading outside. However, with Woman's presence, Daughter's curiosity about life outside and her sense of fulfilling her social needs is increasing. With the presence of Woman, the crimes of the AI robot (Mother) against human life are revealed.

These had made the Daughter even more fancy to fulfil her unsatisfied needs. From that moment, she began to focus on how to align with human values, the other collective and universal, such as watching TV shows on her tablet to learn about other humans and even very personal by trying to overcome her loneliness because of her loss of love and belonging needs. She also meets other people and goes into the underground facility secretly from Mother as the evidence that she wants to fulfil her needs. She always asks about the outside world and other people who has succeeded in surviving in the outside world. It then triggered her to join with some communities or groups. As she gets in touch with them, she began to feel that she become more human than before. She feels so excited about how she become more human one is very personal, and the other collective and universal. Such notion is in line with the idea that every human wants to fulfil love and belonging needs including the need to feel like in part of a social group, as well as feeling loved and being loved by others (Hopper, 2020).

Overall, there are ethical issue related to AI characterization in the film, such as issues of authenticity, potential job displacement in the film industry. Therefore, it is significant for filmmakers to consider these issue while embodying the probability of AI. Even though, AI has some restrictions that turn aside to replace human creativity, but the advancement of technology in the future may replicate the emotional depth, intuition, and

unpredictability of human creativity. As we know, In AI most basic form, computers are programmed to mimic human behaviour using extensive data from past examples of similar behaviour. This can range from recognizing differences tasks and performing complex activities, but many people believed that AI can never replace human existence, creativity, and emotional nuance that a human brings to their work.

LITERATURE REVIEW

The 1927 film Metropolis, directed by Fritz Lang, marked one of the earliest cinematic representations of artificial intelligence (AI), serving as a foundational influence for subsequent science fiction films (Springate-Jones, 2020). Between 1927 and 2023, approximately 100 films have featured AI as a central theme (Wikipedia). Over time, the depiction of AI in film has evolved significantly, reflecting advancements in technology and shifting societal attitudes. Early portrayals, such as in Metropolis and James Cameron's The Terminator, often characterized AI and robots as deceptive, aggressive, and antagonistic figures. These representations reflected fears of technological domination and human obsolescence. As technology has increasingly become an integral part of everyday life, film narratives have adapted to present more nuanced depictions of AI. These portrayals align with evolving societal expectations about human-AI interactions and the integration of robots into daily life (Dierte, 2021). AI and robotic entities, once seen as adversaries, are now often portrayed as companions, assistants, and even close allies to humans. For example, the film Her explores a romantic relationship between an AI operating system, Samantha (voiced by Scarlett Johansson), and Theodore (Joaquin Phoenix), a lonely writer. This shift reflects not only changes in societal perceptions but also advancements in technology that allow AI to emulate human behavior, develop self-awareness, and exhibit emotions and feelings (Favaro, 2018).

The external appearance of AI in films has also evolved, with virtual representations frequently taking the form of on-screen displays. In addition, cinematic portrayals of AI now emphasize their increasing capabilities, such as mimicking human traits and achieving levels of intelligence that rival or surpass human cognition. These depictions often reflect underlying social anxieties regarding AI's rapid evolution and its potential to disrupt or overshadow human society. However, such films also convey optimism, envisioning a future where AI can coexist harmoniously with humans, contributing positively to societal progress. Abraham Maslow's hierarchy of needs is utilized to examine the intrinsic elements of humans' motivation. Hierarchy of needs is often depicted in the form of a pyramid with the basic needs at the low level and the need for self-actualization and transcendence at the higher level. The notion is that individuals' most basic needs must be fulfilled before they are motivated to obtain the top needs. These become the ground for this paper to resemble the love and belonging needs applications of AI to analyse the main character in I am Mother film. The artificial intelligence love and belonging needs are taken as the top of Maslow's pyramid of needs. According to Maslow's hierarchy of needs theory, lower-level needs must first be satisfied, or at least substantially satisfied, for higher-level needs to become motivators. The five needs that comprise this hierarchy are conative needs, which means they have a striving or motivational aspect. These needs, which Maslow referred to as "basic needs," might be arranged in a hierarchy or staircase, with each ascending step indicating a higher but less basic survival need. Higher-level needs cannot be satisfied completely before lower-level needs become active because lower-level needs have potential over higher-level needs (Feist & J. Feist, 2009).

Maslow classified the hierarchy of needs into five levels of basic needs: physiological, safety and security, social needs (love and belongingness), esteem, and self-actualization. Physiological needs were the first level need in the hierarchy of human needs. This level of need is crucial and shouldn't be missed. Physiological needs are those

that relate to the growth and development of biology and human life (Feist & J. Feist, 2009; Citra et al., 2020; Griffin et al., 2019; Feist & J. Feist, 2009). The second level of need is safety needs, which has the meaning of feeling secured. After the basic level of need is fulfilled, another need will appear, such as the need for safety. The safety needs include avoiding violence and theft, maintaining mental stability and well-being, protecting one's health and safety, and safeguarding one's finances (Hutauruk & Rudianto, 2022; Feist & J. Feist, 2009; Setiawan, 2014; P. Schultz & Ellen Schultz, 2017). The third level of the hierarchy of human needs is love and belonging. Accordingly if the physiological and safety needs are fully satisfied, the love, affection, and belongingness needs will arise, and the whole process defined above will be repeated with this new centre (Citra et al., 2020; Hopper, 2020; Setiawan, 2014). According to Maslow's classification of the love and belonging needs hierarchy, the requirements of love and belonging needs can be fulfilled through three different scopes. These scopes include one's family, friends, and personal interactions (Hutauruk & Rudianto, 2022).

The fourth level of the hierarchy of needs is esteem needs. As each of the three needs is fully satisfied, the esteem need will arise and take dominance. Every individual in society wants to be respected or is respected by others. Esteem needs include selfrespect, confidence, ability, and the knowledge that others consider them highly (Feist & J. Feist, 2009). While esteem from others includes reputation, status, fame, dominance, recognition, attention, importance, and appreciation (H. Maslow, 1954; Feist & J. Feist, 2009). The highest level of the pyramid in the hierarchy of human needs is Self-actualization includes realizing and fulfilling all of our potential, talents, and abilities. In the hierarchy of needs, self-actualization is the climax of various kinds of needs. This need is relatively hard to fulfil because it takes struggle and sacrifice. They could also face multiple failures during the process (Rahayu et al., 2020; Musthofa, 2018). The process of self-actualization can take various shapes, but Maslow thought that everyone, no matter their profession or hobbies, is capable of increasing their own capabilities and achieving full personality development (Schultz & Schultz, 2017).

METHODS

This paper applied qualitative approach in examining the process of analysing love and belonging needs in I am Mother film (2019). In this process, the data are compared to some films, for example, Brian and Charles (2022) by David Earl and Chris Hayward is a sentient robot out of a mannequin head and an old washing machine and they get up to a bunch of lo-fi larks. AI: Artificial Intelligence (2001) by Steven Spielberg is a film of a robot boy who desperately wants to be human. Tau (2018) by Garry Oldman and Blank (2022) by Natalie Kennedy (to name a few). The social phenomena are explored and analysed through narrative and cinematographic of the main characters' presentation in the film.

The data were collected by a close reading. Close reading requires the comprehension of text purpose, looking at hierarchy and classification of the main characters' development according to Moslow's theory, understanding the whole narrative structure of the movie, and aligning the characters' problems with Moslow's theory while taking notes. More particular strategy is employed during reading process, for instances, underlining the words or sentences of the text. In the process of close reading, the film was carefully observed repeatedly to select multiple relevant subjects. The data collection was mainly focused on two ways: (1) the loss of love and belonging needs, such as describing and identifying problems related to the loss of love and belonging needs, family relationships, friendships, romantic relationships, community, and social group. Moreover, the collected data of this study includes feelings of loneliness, isolation, and emotional instability; (2) problem-solving of the main character, such as creating a close relationship with Mother, improving her self-development, having

empathy and caring for their environment, searching for the truth in the outside world, and finding the truth and where she belongs. Then the collected data were analysed and interpreted focusing on the love and belonging needs of Maslow's hierarchy of needs (2013). There are some relevant parts, such as events and expressions or dialogues categorized by Maslow's love and belonging needs.

FINDINGS AND DISCUSSIONS
The Main Character's Love and Belonging Needs
From the analysis, the study finds that the main character has unsatisfied needs at the third level of the hierarchy of human needs, namely love and belonging needs. According to Abraham Maslow, the concept of love and belonging needs refers to the human desire for family relationships, friendships, romantic relationships, community and social groups (Hopper, 2020). Fulfilling love and belonging needs can influence emotional control, selfesteem, and a sense of identity. If love and belonging needs are not fulfilled, it can result in feelings of loneliness, isolation, and emotional instability (Lumbantoruan & Evyanto, 2021).

Family Relationship
There are several evidences that show the main character needs the presence of other family members in the I Am Mother film. The study found that the artificial intelligence robot that plays the role of mother is not enough to fulfil the love and belonging needs of the main character as a human without the presence of other humans to be her family. Every individual understands the meaning of love, attention, and acceptance from family for the first time (Hutauruk & Rudianto, 2022). This can be seen in the conversation below when Mother showed dozens of human embryos to Daughter, which aims to show about her family:

Mother   : "Go ahead, take a look"
Daughter   : "My brother and sisters are in those?"
Mother   :" Would you like to meet them? They're small now but one   day, they will be as big as you"
Daughter   : "Do you think I'll have a brother or a sister?"
Mother   : "Which one do you like?"
Daughter   : "Both"
Mother   : "A big, big family all together. Would that make you happy?"
Daughter   : "Yeah"
Mother   : "That would make me happy too"
Daughter   : "Why couldn't we born together"
Mother   : "Mothers need time to learn, raising a good child, It's no small task"
Daughter   : "Do you think you'll be ready soon?"
Mother   : "Perhaps"
Daughter   : "And then we can be a family?"
Mother   : "We are family"
Daughter   : "A big family, I mean"
Mother   : "Eventually"
(I Am Mother 06:56 – 07:57)

The conversation above shows that Daughter needs bigger family relationships with the presence of brothers and sisters. She also feels lost and shows a
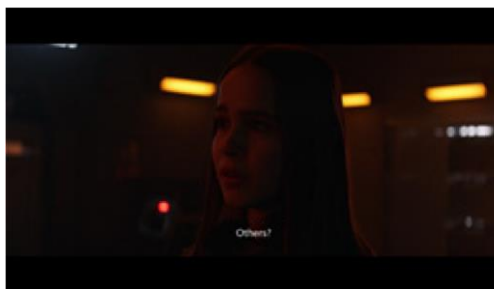
sense of incompleteness in her family. It reflects Maslow's theory about the need for love, closeness, and bonding in family relationships, which constitute important aspects of the need for love and belonging in family relationships. And then Daughter asked about all of the embryos and why they weren't born together. That question shows her confusion about the origin of her family with Mother because she sees that she is different from Mother, who is an artificial intelligence robot. This reflects the loss of complete family identity and also the real relationship between Mother and Daughter is. Then the conversation turns to having more big family relationships, which shows Daughter has hope to fulfil the need for love and belonging from having a big family in the future. But the answer from Mother shows she's not sure about raising a new child to be Daughter's family, which can break her hopes, giving rise to feelings of dissatisfaction with her sense of need for love and belonging. At the end of the conversation, Mother continues to emphasize Daughter's desire to have a bigger family, saying that they, Mother and Daughter, have become family. So this shows that Mother, as an artificial intelligence, plays a full role in the loss of Daughter's sense of need for love and belonging. Like Maslow's statement above, Daughter tries to fulfil and search for her family because she feels unsatisfied with her life because she just lives with Mother, so it creates a sense of dissatisfaction and questions about her family identity. On the other hand, in the scene when Daughter opens the door of the underground facility, Mother mentions "the others" that have the meaning of having a family. It can be seen in the figures and dialog.

We can see the confused face of Daughter, who is asking about what Mother means about "the others" (Figure 1). Then Mother answered with "your family," as we can see in picture (1b). It relates to the explanation above that tells about Daughter is hoped to have a big family and Mother is doubts to make it happen. But here, Daughter is confused about the answer of Mother, who gives the statement that Daughter will have a big family. She was confused by two different statements from Mother, which show that Mother is a big influence on Daughter's sense of loss and desire to have a big family. Especially with Mother's dialogue above, which explains about the authority and shows that Mother as an artificial intelligence, holds all control in the underground facility, including Daughter.

However, behind Daughter's loss and search for her sense of love and belonging, she has fulfilled her love for Mother, who has raised her since she was born, which means that her need for love and belonging for her family has been fulfilled in a small circle, just from Mother. That is a reason that she will look for the bigger overcoming of needs, such as having a big family. As Maslow said, humans will always try to fulfil their sense of satisfaction, from the lowest to the highest (Poston, 2009).

Friendship

According to Abraham Maslow, besides family relationships, every human being also needs a sense of love and belonging in terms of friendship. Every human being

(a)　　　　　　　　　　　　(b)

Figure 1. Family Relationship (a). Unsatisfied with her life (b)
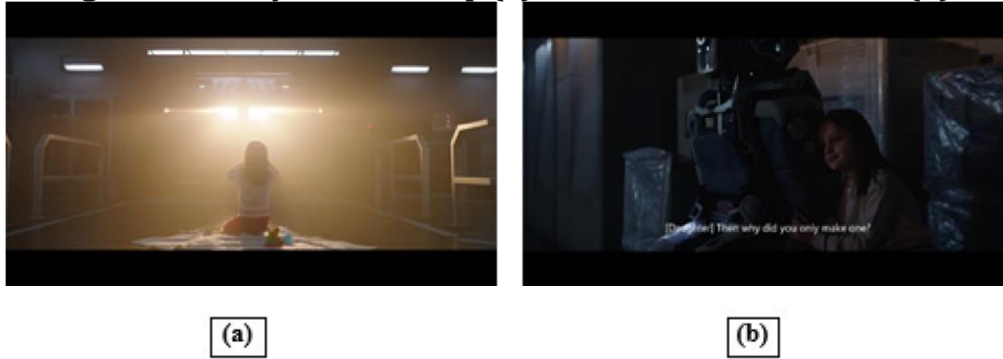

(a)   (b)

Figure 2. Feeling Lonely (a). Doubt about Her Identity (b)

can feel recognized in a place such as the school environment, work environment, social organizations, and society (Maslow, 1943). In many communities across society, love and belonging provide people with confidence in their capacity to make relevant contributions to making choices that improve collective development. In this movie, the main character has never had friends since she was born. She never felt how to exist in a circle of friendship. Similar to the family perspective, here the researcher will analyse how this movie describes the main character's loss of love and belonging needs from the perspective of friendship (Figure 2).

Daughter   : "Why aren't there any more children, Mother?"
Mother   : "There used to be, before the wars"
Daughter   : "I don't want to be a human"
Mother   : "Why is that?"
Daughter   : "They ruined everything"
Mother   : "Humans can be wonderful"
Daughter   : "Then why did you only make one?"
(I Am Mother 0:06:20 – 0:06:47)

The researchers found that the pictures and conversation above describe the main character's loss of love and belonging. The question that Daughter asks Mother about another child and why Mother only makes one human shows that she's feeling lonely. She tries to search for another human by asking that question to Mother. She especially asks about another child of her age who was still a child. It describes that she needs other children to be her friends. That dialog also shows Daughter's doubts about her identity, she tells Mother that she doesn't want to be a human. The researcher found that this question could occur because she has never met another human to see who she really is or what a real human is. In his research, Maslow showed that he had carried out tests on children. He saw that the way children view the world is still too naive and compares it with the people around them (Huber et.al, 2000). So the words that little Daughter said that she didn't want to be human happened because she had never seen a human to compare herself to in her life. Causing in her questioning and trying to search for her own identity.

The pictures also show how lonely Daughter is. Figure 3 describes that daughter in her childhood, just playing by herself. The angle of the camera shot from all the underground facility doors shows Daughter's sense of isolation. The position of Daughter facing the doors and blocking the camera illustrates that she needs her sense of sociability and curiosity about the outside world. It shows how close Mother and

Daughter were in her childhood. It illustrates Daughter's trust in Mother. In her childhood, in the position where there is no other human with her, of course she will look at Mother as a hero and

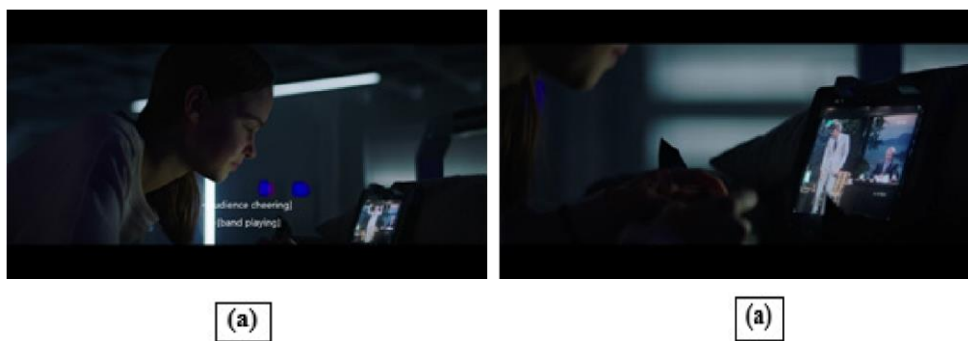Figure 3. Feeling for affection and love (a). Curiosity about Other Humans (b)

Figure 4. Seeking for Relationships (a). Seeking for Community (b)

believe it completely at that time. But on another side, the researcher finds that Woman's dialog is evidence of Daughter's loss of love and belonging in the friendship aspect because, here, Woman realizes that Daughter lost her need. Woman's statement describes that Daughter feels lonely and needs friends. Daughter's expression also shows sadness over what Woman said. So, what Woman said to Daughter is evidence that Daughter lost her need and that she needed friends to satisfy her love and belonging needs.

Romantic Relationship

Fulfilling love and belonging needs from a romantic relationship perspective makes a person deeply connected to another person or partner. Abraham Maslow argued that the need for feelings in romantic relationships includes affection and the need for love, self-fulfilment, and self-esteem, as well as respect and friendship (Sabiela et al, 2017). So that fulfilling this can be a source of happiness and support for both parties. This does not happen in the I Am Mother film; the main character never finds a man of a different gender than her. Throughout her life, she just lived with an artificial intelligence robot as her mother. So when she is a teenager, there are indications that show that she needs and is looking for a partner. There are several things that show how the main character in the I Am Mother film describes her loss of love and belonging needs and tries to feel how to be in a romantic relationship. Based on analysis, Daughter describes that she wants to have a partner or be in a romantic relationship, as shown by her attitude. Overall, the film also helps support the loss of Daughter's sense of love and belonging in a romantic relationship, for example, with certain camera angles. The first evidence is in

the scene when Daughter opens Woman's bag. In here, she found some stuff like corn, a bottle, and a book (Figure 3).

In the scene, she opens Woman's book and finds that there are drawings of many people. She continued to open each sheet to see all of the human drawings. Then she stops and takes a picture of a man who is thought to be the same age as her. From the way she takes one sheet to see the figure more closely, it's a description of Daughter's need to have a romantic relationship. What Daughter does is based on her curiosity about other humans and the outside world. A feeling of dissatisfaction causes a person to be curious (Bayuningrum et al., 2021). Curiosity can occur if someone has never tried or experienced something new, so curiosity makes every person try to do things that are new to them. And with Daughter's condition that she never meets other people and never knows how the outside world is, she feels curious, which occurs because she feels dissatisfaction with her need.

This is evident that Daughter's loss of need for a romantic relationship shows how she expresses her disappointment. In this scene, Daughter successfully escapes from an underground facility with Woman to ask people in the mines for help. But it turns out that what she got was just Woman's lies, there are no other people, and there is no Simon in the outside world. She feels disappointed that she never found what she needed and never learned how to present herself to a social group. The picture above describes how Daughter expresses her disappointment with Woman's lies about Simon, the man in the book. She cried while looking at the picture of the man in the book, it represented that Daughter's hope to fulfil her need for a romantic relationship was gone. She tries to accept that the man's picture is just Woman's lie. A need can be fulfilled in any way, a person will carry out any motive to try to satisfy their need, whether in real or fantasy, such as creating something that satisfies (Farlina & Khaleda, 2019). So, by folding the paper containing the picture of a man into the form of a living creature, Daughter is indirectly influencing her psychology to create things that can satisfy her needs.

Community and Social Groups

The combination of AI and human poses new ethical and dilemmas in its employment. On one hand, AI has no natural feeling and emotion, and on the other hand, human is equipped with feeling and emotion. This challenges dichotomies in modern society to distinguish and separate their role that may require elaboration and reflection about ethical consideration for future generation (see, for example, Chandler and Fuchs, 2019, p. 2). This can lead to a formulation of prescriptive principles that initiate a legal concept to regulate these rising phenomena (Rakowski and Kowalikova, p. 32, 2020). Humans will try to be part of a group and participate in a community. They also say that humans must establish and communicate with each other in order to create mutually satisfying relationships through their involvement in social issues. Interpret the need for love and belonging as a need that drives humans to seek relationships and affection from those closest to them or in the social sphere (Praditya & Wulandari, 2019). In Daughter's condition, she also describes wanting to be a part of a community or social group. She feels lonely because she has lost her need, so there is evidence that shows how she describes her loss of her need (Figure 4).

In this scene, Daughter describes her loss of need while watching a TV show on her tablet. Based on the analysis, the researcher interprets what Daughter does to find out how other people are in a social environment. The tablet appears to be playing a TV show featuring an interviewee and a sizable audience. By watching TV shows containing people in a large environment, it shows that she is trying to fulfill her unsatisfied needs. Maslow asserted that the pursuit of a need motivates human action (Mawere et al., 2016). So Daughter's interest in watching TV shows becomes her motivation to fulfill her socialization needs in a group.

The camera that zooms into the tablet also focuses on the show that Daughter is watching. Some directors like to use the zoom effect to create a stylish element in a film. This can influence the viewer's perception of a film as a whole. Therefore, it is crucial to create an impact that aligns with the director's visual style (M. Boggs & W.Petrie, 2008). Similarly, Grant Sputore, the director of the I Am Mother film, employs this visual effect to draw the viewer's attention to minor details.

Another evidence that shows Daughter's need to be in a social group or community is when she asks Woman about pictures of people in the Woman's book.

Daughter   : "These drawings, Who are they? friends? Are they still.. did you draw them from memory?"
Woman   : "It tell you to go through my stuff?"
Daughter   : "I didn't mean to
Woman   : I think you did"
(I Am Mother 0:41:13 – 0:41:44)

Humans' needs for love and belonging encourage them to communicate with other humans. Communication allows a person to find connections and ways to satisfy their needs (Praditya & Wulandari, 2019). The dialogue above is a conversation between Daughter and Woman, with Daughter starting the conversation. Her sense of loss of love and belonging needs encourage her to start a conversation with Woman. By asking about pictures of people in the book, it shows that she is trying to be in a social group. When she managed to meet Woman and realized that there were other people in the outside world, she tried to find a community with a larger scope. So Daughter's question to Woman about all the pictures of people in the book is based on her feeling of losing her love and belonging needs. The Daughter has a big desire to meet other people in the outside world. As a result, all of the statements the woman made in the dialogue above about other people, the outside world, and her place of residence were false. She took advantage of the situation to let Daughter escape with her. Also, Daughter completely believes what Woman said to her because her need was to motivate her to believe what Woman said to her.

According to Maslow, the human brain is a complex thing that can run simultaneously, causing many motivational needs to form at the same time. Maslow also recognised that the motivation for every human being's needs can dominate all the organs in the body. This puts an individual's needs at the forefront of their life (Sianipar & Jusmaya, 2019). In the dialogue and pictures above, we can see that Daughter was disappointed with what she got. She was disappointed because what she was looking for was nothing, there are no other humans that succeeded in surviving. Based on analysis, Daughter describes that she needs to be present in social groups by saying to Woman that she needs them (other people). By saying that, it really shows that Daughter wants to be a part of the community and social group, she wants to fulfil her unsatisfied needs by going to escape with Woman.
But what she got was just the fact that she never met other humans with a larger scope.

The Main Character's Ways to Overcome Her Loss of Love and Belonging Needs
According to (Ruth & Satria, 2020) an individual is encouraged to have inner ties with other individuals based on love and belonging needs. It can come from family, friends, romantic relationships, and community groups. Maslow said unsatisfied needs can cause psychological problems in humans. Therefore, unfulfilled needs for love and belonging can lead to psychological issues like feelings of loneliness, isolation, and emotional instability in an individual. As has been described in the analysis above of how the film I Am Mother depicts the loss of the need for love and belonging from the main

character both in terms of family relationships, friendship, romantic relationships, and community and social groups. The unfulfilled need for love and belonging leads Daughter, the main character, to experience feelings of loneliness, isolation, and emotional instability. So here, the researcher will analyse how the main character gets out of feelings of loneliness, isolation, and emotional instability.

Feeling of Loneliness

In Maslow's hierarchy of human needs, every human tries to feel loved and accepted in their social environment. If this need is unmet, it may lead to psychological issues that impede the fulfilment of higher-level needs. One psychological problem is the feeling of loneliness. A feeling of loneliness will arise if someone is obstructed from fulfilling their love and belonging needs. Lack of emotional connection to other humans can lead to feelings of loneliness. The absence of love and belonging can lead to loneliness (Maslahat, 2021). She stated that to overcome the feeling of loneliness caused by a lack of love and belonging, someone should have empathy and care for their environment. Also, the feeling of loneliness can be overcome with skill development and building social relationships with the closest one. So next, the researcher will analyse how the main character overcomes her feeling of loneliness.

Creating Close Relationships with Mother

The first evidence of how the main character overcomes her loneliness is creating close relationships with Mother, or artificial intelligence (Figure 5). It shows how close

Figure 5. Overcoming Loneliness (a). Relationship with Mother (b)

Daughter and Mother were during Daughter's childhood. During Daughter's childhood, she continued to view artificial intelligence as her mother, and there was no emotional conflict between them.

The researchers found that Daughter tried to make a family relationship with Mother at her age, who was still a child, to overcome her feeling of loneliness. According to (Horwitz, 2007) in his book, childhood is a time to focus on self-development rather than development with the outside world. Children tend to see the world sentimentally, so they don't see the outside world from various aspects. That statement relates to the evidence above, where Daughter is still focused on fulfilling her needs in her existing role, which is an artificial intelligence robot as her mother. Daughter doesn't have a feel for fulfilling the need from the biggest aspects, like romantic relationships, community, and social group, so she will look up to the one role that is Mother. In her age as a child, she saw that Mother was the only role that could fulfil her love and belonging, so she strengthened her relationship with Mother to overcome her feelings of loneliness.

Improve Her Self-development

Another way that Daughter can overcome her feeling of loneliness is by doing something that she likes to improve her self-development. The pictures above show how Daughter overcame her feeling of loneliness. In figure 6 we can see that Daughter is dancing ballet to improve her skills and overcome her loneliness.

The researchers found that through ballet dance, Daughter can express her feelings and forget a little about how she feels. She can divert feelings of loneliness by doing things that she likes, because that way she can express sensations that are difficult to describe in words. So, to overcome her feeling of loneliness and make a connection with herself, she can do something that she loves, like ballet. Also, it shows she was studying science knowledge, which shows she has an interest in it. Based on analysis, by improving her skill development by studying science, she can have some distraction from her feeling of loneliness. While isolated in an underground facility, she gained knowledge about the outside world by studying something she had never known before. Therefore, this may indirectly contribute to her increased sense of fulfilment, as she seeks real knowledge rather than merely theoretical understanding. However, this can also be a distraction from her feelings of loneliness. So, doing the two things that she likes to develop her skills can be a way for Daughter to divert her lost need for love and belonging so that she can overcome her feelings of loneliness.

Empathy and Care for Their Environment

Another way that Daughter overcomes her feeling of loneliness is by letting Woman into the underground facility. It shows that Daughter was opening the door of an
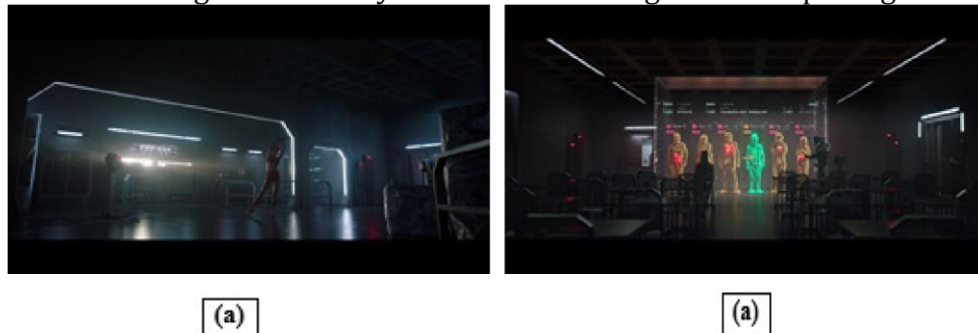

(a)　　　　(a)

Figure 6. Self-development (a). Improving Skill (b)

underground facility for Woman (Figure 7). As previously explained, Daughter lives her entire life alone in the underground facility, never interacting with other humans. Based on her feelings of loneliness, Daughter felt compelled to allow Woman into the underground facility as a way to fulfil her needs for love and belonging and to overcome her loneliness. Moreover, Daughter felt a sense of empathy and sympathy, which led her to decide to help Woman by allowing her entry into the underground facility. So based on analysis, the researcher found that Daughter's hope by letting Woman into the underground facility to overcome her feeling of loneliness because she was isolated during her life there. She also hopes that Woman will bring fulfilment of love and belonging to a larger scope.

Isolation

Feeling isolated is another psychological problem that arises from unfulfilled love and belonging needs. In Maslow's theory, a lack of emotional connection between fellow humans can lead to feelings of isolation. A sense of isolation can arise when

someone feels deep loneliness due to a lack of connection with other people. Building relationships with others and seeking a larger social environment can help overcome feelings of isolation. In the journal (Djumadin et al, 2021), Maslow posits that in adulthood, individuals may struggle to satisfy their love needs, leading to the formation of various social groups as a means to combat feelings of isolation and loneliness. Therefore, in the case of Daughter, who has never socialized with other humans and has been isolated in an underground facility since she was born, there are ways for her to search for the outside world and overcome the feeling of isolation that comes with losing her love and belonging.

Searching for The Truth

The first evidence is from the scene when Daughter discovered a mouse in the underground facility, as shown in the dialogue below:

Daughter : "Mother, look"
Mother : "Did you touch it?"
Daughter : "No"
Mother : "Where did you find it?"
Daughter : "It was crawling around near the air clock; do you think it could be from outside?"
Mother : "It's highly unlikely. But a risk we can't take"
Daughter : "You said could nothing survive out there. Maybe the surface is safe now"
Mother : "If it survived beyond these walls, that doesn't mean it's not carrier"
Daughter : "Mother wait, shouldn't we at least check?"
(I Am Mother 0:15:00 - 0:15:24)

Figure 7. Sense of Empathy and Sympathy

The dialogue above demonstrates how Daughter tries to get out of her sense of isolation by discovering the truth in the outside world. The above scene occurred when Daughter discovered that a living creature in the form of a rat had succeeded in entering the underground facility. Daughter asked Mother about how the animal survived in the outside world. Meanwhile, what Daughter knows from Mother is that the virus has spread in the outside world. Daughter asked Mother to check whether the animal had brought the virus from outside or not, but Mother ignored what Daughter's said and immediately burned that rat. Daughter's actions and words are all driven by her sense of isolation. Daughter tries to overcome her sense of isolation by seeking the truth about the outside

world, saying, "You said nothing could survive out there. Maybe the surface is safe now," as in the dialogue above. Daughter's statement was an illustration of how she was curious about the outside world and was trying to find her social group. The feeling of isolation throughout her life in the underground facility has led her to a deep sense of loneliness. So, the dialogue above shows that Daughter is trying to overcome her sense of isolation by finding out the truth about the outside world from Mother through a living creature in the form of a rat that she caught.

Emotional Instability

Emotional instability is a psychological problem that arises from the loss of love and belonging. Losing love and belonging needs from family, friends, romantic relationships, or the social environment can result in changes in emotional reactions in humans and also make them depressed. Maslow stated that love and belonging needs are important aspects of fulfilling human psychological needs. So, if these needs are not met, a person's psychological or emotional health will be disturbed. A person's emotional instability can cast doubt on their capacity to meet their needs, in both social and personal relationships. In addition, Daughter's experience of emotional instability stemmed from the loss of her love and sense of belonging.

In the case of Daughter in the I Am Mother film, emotional instability occurs because her needs for love and belonging are not fulfilled. And with the emotional instability that she feels, she tries to look for the truth between Mother and Woman. Despite her emotional instability, Daughter succeeds in uncovering the truth about her mother's crime, which she committed as an artificial intelligence robot. Based on analysis, Daughter feels emotional instability when Woman enters the underground facility and tells the truth about the outside world, while Mother also gives different statements that make Daughter doubt both of them. So emotional instability arises, which makes Daughter search for the truth until she finds it and finds the place where she belongs.

Finding The Truth

The evidence shows Daughter's attempt to overcome her emotional instability by discovering Mother's crime and choosing to escape from an underground facility with Woman.

Woman   : "I was right, wasn't I? About the bullet"

Daughter : "About everything"

Woman   : "Everything you're feeling is natural. It's human. But just know, that thing feels nothing for you. It can't"

Daughter : "If we leave, how long would it take to get to the mines?"

Woman   : "Not even a day, a few hours really"

(I Am Mother 1:07:55 – 1:08:49)

In this scene, Daughter knew about Mother's crime that Woman told her, and everything was right, she found all of the evidence by herself. The researcher found that Daughter had felt emotional instability since she was a child because she had lost one aspect of her needs. When she knew the facts and realized that Mother was the source of her loss of love and belonging, she tried to escape with Woman to find a larger social group. This escape plan serves as evidence that the daughter is trying to overcome her emotional instability. She has realized that Mother is the source of her feelings of emotional instability, and she can overcome this psychological problem by escaping from an underground facility. The dialogue above shows Daughter's side with Woman, she feels that with Woman is where she should be. She makes decisions based on the emotional

instability that she has felt throughout her life, choosing someone she considers right. Her perception of Mother is already negative, and Woman's statement about Mother suggests that everything she feels is natural. It's human. But just know, that thing feels nothing for you. It can't. Give Daughter the idea that Mother is an artificial intelligence robot that has no feelings, it is different from Daughter and Woman as humans. So, with feelings of emotional instability, she can overcome them by successfully finding the truth and making decisions about where she should belong.

CONCLUSIONS

The study concludes that I Am Mother may bring about a moral inception for ethical conduct within the context of family, religious institutions, and educational systems. The film deals with AI Daughter and human emotions in which the Mother seems to care for the Daughter as a way in achieving the impulse outcomes. Even though the Daughter does not fully aware of what the fancy outcomes are. The need for love and belonging that Mother cannot fulfil is due to the fact that artificial intelligence does not have feelings of love and is different from humans. This has led to psychological issue for the Daughter, which creates a high level of curiosity and a desire to fulfil her needs. In point of fact, the fostering Daughter was accomplished to acquire knowledge of being sympathetic towards others due to Mother. These are the ways for Daughter to overcome feelings of loneliness by creating a close relationship with Mother, improving her self-development, and having empathy and care for the environment. She also seeks out for the truth in the outside world. This ethical conduct probably will vary from one with another on how to approach the choices of their children as a Mother AI instructor. The conflict between Daughter and Mother can be taken as a moral lesson. The Daughter should deals with some ethical principles about how to act one with another and what is good and bad. The Daughter finally can obtain what was most important in reaching the human value. Such matter requires a flexibility and a fully self-awareness about moral and ethical principles. Small conversations with family, friends, partners, and the social environment can shape people in a better way. Maslow's Hierarchy of Needs concept is a very influential in organizing human needs from the very low level to the top level. The idea is that the basic needs must be fulfilled in order to move up from one level to another level.

REFERENCES

Bayuningrum, W. A. (2021). Curiosity dalam kehidupan sehari-hari. *Psychological journal: science and practice*, 1(1), 32–36.

Citra, Y., Natsir, M., & Astuti, A. D. (2020). The hierarchy of needs portrayed in Jim Preston's character in passengers (2016) film. *Ilmu Budaya: Jurnal Bahasa, Sastra, Seni, dan Budaya*, 4(3), 383-400.

Djumadin, H. (2021). Hierarki kebutuhan tokoh utama dalam novel edensor karya andrea hirata. *Retorika: Jurnal Pembelajaran Bahasa dan Sastra Indonesia*, 2(2), 84–98.

Permana, A. D., Wedawati, M. T., & Rizqan, M. D. A. (2021). Love and belonging needs in john green's the fault in our stars. *Udayana Journal of Social Sciences and Humanities (UJOSSH)*, 5(1), 2130.

Farlina, N., & Khaleda, N. (2019). The potrayal of rachel in fulfilling her love and belonging needs in the girl on the trains novel. *Buletin Al-Turas*, 25(1):113-128.

Feist, J., & Feist, J. G. (2009). Theories of personality (7th edition). New York: Mcgraw-hill.

Griffin, E. A., Ledbetter, A., & Sparks, G. G. (2019). *A first look at communication theory* (10th eds). New York: Mcgraw-hill Education.

Maslow, H. (1954). *Motivation and personality (harper&row)*. London: English edition publisher, inc.

Hopper, E. (2020). Maslow's hierarchy of needs explained.

Horwitz, s. (2007). Markets, maslow, and the evolution of the modern family. Department of economics st. Lawrence university canton, ny 13617, 2.0.

Hutauruk, R. F., & Rudianto, G. (2022). Love and Belonging Needs of the Main Character in The Movie "500 Days of Summer": Psychological Approach. *IDEAS: Journal on English Language Teaching and Learning, Linguistics and Literature,* 10(2), 2088-2099.

Lester D. (2013). Measuring Maslow's hierarchy of needs. *Psychological Reports*, 113(1), 1027–1029.

Lumbantoruan, A., & Evyanto, W. (2021). Analysis love and belonging needs in novel "persuasion" by jane austen: psychological approach. *Journal of Language and Literature*, 7(2), 1-12.

Boggs, J. M., & Petrie, W. D. (2008). *The art of watching films* (7th eds). New York: Mcgraw-hill.

Maslahat, M. (2021). *Problematika psikologis manusia modern dan solusinya perspektif psikologi dan tasawuf. Syifa Al Qulub Jurnal Studi Psikoterapi Sufistik*, 6(1), 74-83.

Maslow, H. (1943). *A theory of human motivation*. Brooklyn: Brooklyn College.

Mawere, M., van Raisen, M., Mubaya, R. T., & van Stam, G. (2016). Maslow's theory of human motivation and its deep roots in individualism: interrogating maslow's applicability in africa. Cameroon: Langaa RPCIG

Mcleod, S. (2024). Simply psychology maslow's hierarchy of needs. Simply psychology.

Musthofa, M. W. (2018). Love and belonging needs analysis of saroo as the main character in lion film.

Schultz, D. P., , & Schultz, S. E. (2017). *Theories of personality* (7th edition). Boston: Cengage Learning.

Pakpahan, R. (2021). Analisa pengaruh implementasi artificial intelligence dalam kehidupan manusia. *JISICOM*, 5(2), 506-512.

Patton, M. Q., Cochran, M., Bricki, N., & Green, J. (2002). Reproduced with kind permission of michael quinn patton.

Peeters, M. M. M., van Diggelen, J., van den Bosch, K., Bronkhorst, A., Neerincx, M. A., Schraagen, j. M., & Raaijmakers, S. (2021). Hybrid collective intelligence in a human–ai society. *Ai & Society*, 36(1), 217–238.

Poston, B. (2009). An exercise in personal exploration: maslow's hierarchy of needs. *The Surgical Technologist*, 41(2), 347-353.

Praditya, P. G., & Wulandari, D. F. The main character's hierarchy of needs as reflected in four: a divergent collection novel by Veronica Roth. KONFERENSI ILMIAH MAHASISWA UNISSULA (KIMU); 2019 October 19; Semarang. Indonesia. Semarang: UNISULLA; 2011.

Rahayu, D. P., Yuwana, S., & Roni, R. (2020). Self actualization in a novel by andrea hirata's laskar pelangi. *ELS Journal on Interdisciplinary Studies in Humanities*, 3(2), 250–264.

Ronie, F. I. M., & Hellystia, D. (2019). Hierarchy of needs analysis of the main character of a novel entitled flawed by cecelia ahern. *Journal of language and literature*, 7(2), 146–154.

Ruth, G. & Satria, R. (2020). Love and belonging needs of main character in novel "me before you" by Jojo Moyes. *Scientia Journal: Jurnal Ilmiah Mahasiswa*, 2(2).

Sabiela, N. L., Kuncara, S. D., & Ariani, S. (2017). Love and belongings needs represented by twin character in the thirteenth tale novel. *Jurnal Ilmu Budaya*, 1(3), 253-264.

Setiawan, h. (2014). Manusia utuh sebuah kajian atas pemikiran abaham maslow (first edition). Pt kanisius. Www.kanisiusmedia.com

Sianipar, a. R., & jusmaya, a. (2019). The unfulfilled love and belonging needs found by the main character in "anna karenina" by leo tolstoy: psychological approach. *Scientia Journal*, 1(2), 1-10.