THE IDEA OF PERFECTION
REVEALED IN JONATHAN’S CONFLICTS
IN RICHARD BACH’S JONATHAN LIVINGSTON SEAGULL

A SARJANA PENDIDIKAN THESIS

Presented as Partial Fulfillment of the Requirements
to Obtain the Sarjana Pendidikan Degree
in English Language Education

By
Carolina Tri Dewi TimTim
051214104

ENGLISH LANGUAGE EDUCATION STUDY PROGRAM
DEPARTMENT OF LANGUAGE AND ARTS EDUCATION
FACULTY OF TEACHERS TRAINING AND EDUCATION
SANATA DHARMA UNIVERSITY
YOGYAKARTA
2012
THE IDEA OF PERFECTION
REVEALED IN JONATHAN’S CONFLICTS
IN RICHARD BACH’S JONATHAN LIVINGSTON SEAGULL

A SARJANA PENDIDIKAN THESIS

Presented as Partial Fulfillment of the Requirements
to Obtain the Sarjana Pendidikan Degree
in English Language Education

By
Carolina Tri Dewi TimTim
051214104

ENGLISH LANGUAGE EDUCATION STUDY PROGRAM
DEPARTMENT OF LANGUAGE AND ARTS EDUCATION
FACULTY OF TEACHERS TRAINING AND EDUCATION
SANATA DHARMA UNIVERSITY
YOGYAKARTA
2012
A Sarjana Pendidikan Thesis on

THE IDEA OF PERFECTION
REVEALED IN JONATHAN’S CONFLICTS
IN RICHARD BACH’S JONATHAN LIVINGSTON SEAGULL

By
Carolina Tri Dewi TimTim
Student Number: 051214104

Approved by

Lucianus Suharjanto, S.J., S.S., STB., M.A.  February 27, 2012
A Sarjana Pendidikan Thesis on

THE IDEA OF PERFECTION

REVEALED IN JONATHAN’S CONFLICTS

IN RICHARD BACH’S JONATHAN LIVINGSTON SEAGULL

By

Carolina Tri Dewi TimTim

Student Number: 051214104

Defended before the Board of Examiners

on March 12, 2012

and Declared Acceptable

Board of Examiners

Chairman: Caecilia Tutyandari, S.Pd., M.Pd.

Secretary: Drs. Barli Bram, M.Ed., Ph.D.

Member: Lucianus Suharjanto, S.J., S.S., STB., M.A.

Member: Henny Herawati, S.Pd., M.Hum.

Member: Caecilia Tutyandari, S.Pd., M.Pd.

Yogyakarta, March 12, 2012

Faculty of Teachers Training and Education
Sanata Dharma University
Dean,

Rohandi, Ph.D.
"Home is not where you live but where they understand you."

- Christian Morgenstern -

"In order to win, you must expect to win."

- Richard Bach -

Dedicated to:

My Beloved Lord, Jesus Christ

My beloved Parents, F.X. Kaswito and Domingas Escurial Soares

My beloved Brothers, Agustinus Soares, Antonio Soares and Mario Soares

Myself, Carolina Tri Dewi TimTim
STATEMENT OF WORK’S ORIGINALITY

I honestly declare that this thesis, which I have written, does not contain of the works or parts of the work of other people, except those cited in the quotations and the references, as a scientific paper should.

Yogyakarta, February 27, 2012

The Writer

Carolina Tri Dewi TimTim
051214104
LEMBAR PERNYATAAN PERSETUJUAN PUBLIKASI KARYA ILMIAH
UNTUK KEPENTINGAN AKADEMIS

Yang bertandatangan di bawah ini, saya mahasiswa Universitas Sanata Dharma:

Nama : Carolina Tri Dewi TimTim
Nomor Mahasiswa : 051214104

Demi pengembangan ilmu pengetahuan, saya memberikan kepada Perpustakaan Universitas Sanata Dharma karya ilmiah saya yang berjudul:

THE IDEA OF PERFECTION
REVEALED IN JONATHAN'S CONFLICTS
IN RICHARD BACH’S JONATHAN LIVINGSTON SEAGULL

Dengan demikian saya memberikan kepada Perpustakaan Universitas Sanata Dharma hak untuk menyimpan, mengalihkan dalam bentuk media lain, mengelolanya dalam bentuk pangkalan data, mendistribusikan secara terbatas, mempublikasikannya di internet atau media lain untuk kepentingan akademis tanpa perlu meminta ijin dari saya maupun memberikan royalti kepada saya selama tetap mencantumkan nama saya sebagai penulis.

Demikian surat penyataan ini saya buat dengan sebenarnya.
Dibuat di Yogyakarta,
Pada tanggal: 27 Februari 2012

Yang menyatakan,

(Carolina Tri Dewi TimTim)
ABSTRACT

TimTim, Carolina Tri Dewi. 2012. The Idea of Perfection Revealed in Jonathan’s Conflict in Richard Bach’s Jonathan Livingston Seagull. Yogyakarta: English Language Education Study Program, Department of Language and Arts Education, Faculty of Teachers Training and Education, Sanata Dharma University.

This thesis analyses Jonathan Livingston Seagull, a novel written by Richard Bach. The novel takes perfection as its main issue. The story is about Jonathan as the main character who has his own dream in life and wants to reach it. Unfortunately, Jonathan’s dream is against the social habit of the seagull which has been kept for years. The conflicts start to arise when Jonathan tries to fulfill his perfection and break the social habit exists. Jonathan never gives up eventhough he has to be an outcast. With effort and sacrifice, finally Jonathan could fulfill his dream to fly beyond limit. Finally, he could reach his perfection in life.

The objective of writing this thesis is to find out the meaning of perfection and its relationship with the conflicts happened in Jonathan, the main character of the novel. To attain the goal, this thesis focused on the question, namely: What do the conflicts that Jonathan encounters reveal about the idea of perfection in Richard Bach’s Jonathan Livingston Seagull?

The method which was applied to this thesis was desk study. The primary source was the novel itself, Jonathan Livingston Seagull. The secondary sources were obtained from several books on psychology. The theory used are self actualization theory and theory of existence. This thesis employed the psychological approach which was aimed to find out the meaning of perfection which was revealed from the conflicts happened related to some psychological theories.

From the analysis, the writer found that perfection in Jonathan’s conflicts are (1) perfection relates to fundamental option or mindset where one is “to be”, (2) perfection is achievable, (3) perfection manifests in excellence, (4) perfection culminates in the habit of sharing. This study also provides some suggestions related to education system. To have a good quality of students, the school has to provide an education system which teaches students to have their competence, conscience and compassion.
ABSTRAK


Tujuan dari skripsi ini adalah untuk mengetahui lebih lanjut mengenai arti dari kesempurnaan dan hubungannya dengan konflik-konflik yang ada. Untuk mencapai tujuan tersebut, skripsi ini menitikberatkan pada pertanyaan, Apa yang diungkapkan oleh konflik-konflik yang dihadapi Jonathan dalam cerita *Jonathan Livingston Seagull* oleh Richard Bach tentang pengertian kesempurnaan?

Untuk mencapai tujuan tersebut, metode yang diterapkan adalah studi pustaka. Sumber utama dalam skripsi ini adalah novel itu sendiri, *Jonathan Livingston Seagull*. Sumber-sumber lain yang juga digunakan dalam skripsi ini diperoleh melalui buku-buku tentang ilmu psikologi. Teori yang digunakan adalah teori aktualisasi diri dan teori ekstensif. Skripsi ini menerapkan pendekatan psikologis yang bertujuan untuk menemukan pengertian kesempurnaan berdasarkan konflik-konflik yang ada dan dihubungkan dengan teori psikologi yang ada.

Berdasarkan analisis penulis menemukan bahwa dalam *Jonathan Livingston Seagull* kesempurnaan dipahami sebagai berikut: (1) kesempurnaan adalah pilihan mendasar di mana seseorang ingin "menjadi", (2) kesempurnaan dapat dicapai, (3) kesempurnaan terwujud dalam keahlian, (4) kesempurnaan memuncak dalam kebiasaan berbagi. Skripsi ini juga menyajikan saran yang berhubungan dengan dunia pendidikan. Untuk menghasilkan murid berkualitas, sekolah harus memberikan sistem pendidikan yang mengajarkan para murid untuk mengembangkan diri mereka dalam hal kompetensi, hati nurani dan rasa sosial.
ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

I praise the Lord Jesus Christ for this beautiful life He gives to me. I am so grateful for His love and blessing. I am so grateful to Him for giving me wonderful life with wonderful people in it, the people who always love me, stay by my side, and give me their greatest support. In this chance, I would like to gratitude them.

First, I would like to thank Father Lucianus Suharjanto, S.J. who has guided me patiently in the process of writing this thesis and has given me the time for consultation on this thesis until it is done. I would like to thank him also for his suggestion and kindness. I also thank Sister Margaret, FCJ. for giving me her time to be my language consultant.

I thank Sanata Dharma University, mostly the English Language Education Study Program, for giving me a chance to study well and develop my English skill. I also express my gratitude to all my lecturers who have shared their knowledge and experiences, who have guided me as their student until I could finish my study. I thank all the staffs of Teachers Training and Education Faculty for the services given since I began studying in this university.

With lots of love, my best gratitude goes to my beloved parents, FX. Kaswito, and Domingas Escurial Soares for their great love they have given to me every single day of my life. I thank them for their great support and prayer until I could finish my study. My gratitude also goes to my brothers
Agustinus Soares, Antonio Soares, and Mario Soares for their love and care, for always supporting me in finishing my thesis.

I would also like to thank all my best friends in English Language Education of 2005, especially, Teteh Dita, Neng Ophi, Mba Vieka, Fitri, Rulla, Mami Dini, and Vega. I thank them very much for giving me their support and friendship up to this time and for giving me motivation so I can finish my study. Thanks a lot for all the best memories that we have made together.

I would also thank all my friends in Mudika Jago, Mas Andre, Arief, Mac, Mba Sari, Puput, Fedy, Bu Titik, and Pak Edi. I also thank Bu Rina, Yosua, Sari, Citra, and all Ceria Demangan crews. My special thanks also go to the girls in kos Ceria, Nora, Desi, Diana, Yanti, and Lia. Thanks for the supports girls. I would also thank CEC super teachers, Mba Widdy, Dian, Rista, Agnes, Yoana, Kaje, Indi, Mega, Anis, and Nita. Thanks for the supports and the laughter.

My special thanks go to my dearest friend, Maksimilianus Tegar, who always supports me and stays by my side through my ups and downs. Thanks for the times we have shared together, for every laughter and tear that we have shared, for being patient with me, for every kindness and for everything you have given to me.

Last but not least, I would like to thank everyone that I cannot mention one by one, who has given me support and attention in the process of writing this thesis. May God bless them all.

Carolina Tri Dewi TimTim
TABLE OF CONTENTS

TITLE PAGE ......................................................................................................................... i
PAGE OF APPROVAL ........................................................................................................... ii
PAGE OF BOARD OF EXAMINERS .................................................................................... iii
PAGE OF DEDICATION ......................................................................................................... iv
STATEMENT OF WORK’S ORIGINALITY ........................................................................ v
PERNYATAAN PERSETUJUAN PUBLIKASI ..................................................................... vi
ABSTRACT .......................................................................................................................... vii
ABSTRAK ................................................................................................................................ viii
ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS .................................................................................................... ix
TABLE OF CONTENTS ...................................................................................................... xi

CHAPTER 1 INTRODUCTION .............................................................................................. 1

1.1 Background of the Study .......................................................................................... 1
1.2 Problem Formulation ............................................................................................ 5
1.3 Objectives of the Study ......................................................................................... 5
1.4 Benefits of the Study ........................................................................................... 5
1.5 Definition of Terms .............................................................................................. 5

CHAPTER 2 REVIEW ON RELATED LITERATURE ......................................................... 7

2.1 Theoretical Description ........................................................................................ 7
2.1.1 Self Actualization Theory ......................................................... 7
  2.1.1.1 Experiencing ................................................................. 9
  2.1.1.2 Making a Growth Choice ............................................... 9
  2.1.1.3 Letting the Self Emerge ............................................... 10
  2.1.1.4 Being Honest and Taking Responsibility ......................... 10
  2.1.1.5 Listening to One Own self .......................................... 11
  2.1.1.6 Using Intelligence ..................................................... 11
  2.1.1.7 Realizing and Having Peak Experience ......................... 11
  2.1.1.8 Opening Oneself Up to Himself ................................... 11
  2.1.2 Theory of Existence ....................................................... 12
    2.1.2.1 Having ................................................................. 13
    2.1.2.2 Being ................................................................. 14
    2.1.2.3 Sharing ............................................................. 15
  2.2 Theoretical Framework ...................................................... 17

CHAPTER 3 METHODOLOGY .......................................................... 19
  3.1 Object of the Study ............................................................. 19
  3.2 Approaches ................................................................. 20
  3.3 Procedures ................................................................. 20
CHAPTER 4 ANALYSIS ................................................................. 23

4.1 Jonathan’s Conflicts Against Himself .................................................. 23

4.1.1 Conflict Against the Tendency of Having: Perfection

Relates to the Fundamental Option where One is “To Be”.................................................. 25

4.1.2 Conflict Against Negative Image: Perfection is Achievable........................................... 27

4.1.2.1 Experiencing ................................................................. 29

4.1.2.2 Making a Growth Choice ................................................. 29

4.1.2.3 Letting the Self Emerge ................................................ 30

4.1.2.4 Being Honest and Taking Responsibility .................................. 31

4.1.2.5 Listening to One Own self ............................................. 33

4.1.2.6 Using Intelligence ........................................................ 34

4.1.2.7 Realizing and Having Peak Experience .................................. 36

4.1.2.8 Opening Oneself Up to Himself ...................................... 38

4.2 Jonathan’s Conflicts Against the Society .............................................. 40

4.2.1 Conflict Against the Habits: Perfection Manifests in Excellence..................................... 41

4.2.2 Conflict Against Egoism: Perfection Culminates in the Habit of Sharing............................ 46
CHAPTER 5 CONCLUSIONS AND SUGGESTIONS.......................... 49

5.1 Conclusions.............................................................................. 49

5.1.1 Perfection is Achievable....................................................... 49

5.1.2 Perfection Relates to the Fundamental Option where
One is “To Be”........................................................................... 50

5.1.3 Perfection Occurs in Self Actualization and Culminates in
Excellence..................................................................................... 51

5.1.4 Perfection Culminates in the Habit of Sharing .................... 52

5.2 Suggestions for the Implementation of Teaching Learning
Process......................................................................................... 53

REFERENCES.................................................................................. 59

APPENDICES

Appendix 1 Summary of the Novel............................................. 61
Appendix 2 Cover of the Novel................................................... 64
Appendix 3 Biography of Richard Bach...................................... 65
Appendix 4 Picture of Richard Bach........................................... 68
CHAPTER 1
INTRODUCTION

This chapter consists of background of the study, objective of the study, problem formulation, and definition of terms. The background of the study provides information on the topic of the study and the reasons for choosing the topic. In the objectives of the study the writer state the focus of the study. In the problem formulation the writer describes the problems formulated to make this study more focused. The last is definition of terms. It defines some important terms in order to avoid misunderstanding.

1.1 Background of the study

In life, people always try to reach perfection. People fight to reach their dreams. Everyone has a different dream to be fulfilled. There is no easy way to fulfill someone’s dream which become his own perfection. To reach that perfection, someone should decide what kind of perfection that actually he wants to reach in his life. To reach that perfection in life, someone should make a sacrifice. He should have motivation, self esteem and also action. Not only that, he also has to follow the process of knowing, learning, failing, and trying.

Everyone has his own freedom in their life, freedom of will. Someone’s life depends on the person himself whether he wants to make his life meaningful or meaningless. Someone’s future life does not depend on the fate or destiny, it depends on the person himself. Someone’s future life is created by that person.
from this moment, from all the action that he takes this moment. While writing the foreword for Alex Pattakos’s *Prisoners of Our Thoughts*, Stephen R. Covey stated about the power of choice. He said that everyone has a choice to choose any kind of action or response towards any condition or circumstance that happens to him (p. viii-ix). This choice of action will be the essence of man’s life which affects man’s future too.

In the book entitled *Personality Theories* written by Larry A. Hjelle and Daniel J. Ziegler, it states about basic tenets of individual psychology constructed by Alfred Adler. One of the fundamental tenets mentions human life as a dynamic striving for perfection (p. 75-76). It could be explained that life has a movement toward the perfection, the direction of growth and expansion. Human always moves toward his goal of life. To reach his goal of life human has to have their own freedom of choice to reach for their perfection. By reaching this perfection, human will reach their self esteem and get position for them selves in the world. This is why human being should create their own action and destiny to construct the future that they want to have.

In life, people always ask about what kind of life that they have or what is life going to be. According to the book entitled *Prisoners of Our Thoughts* that presents some principles of Viktor Frankl and which is written by Alex Pattakos, human do not ask what life is going to be, but life asks human about life. In this book, Viktor Frankl proposes two fundamental ideas. The first one is that human have the responsibility to answer about the meaning of life that life asks to human being. Human also have the responsibility to maintain his existence. The second
idea is that the meaning of life is out of human understanding, human only have to faith it (p. 18).

Novel as one of the literary works could be used to reflect the human life story because the stories sometimes are adapted from human life experience. *Jonathan Livingstone Seagull* as a fable also reflects human life story about the fight for human perfection, about dream and motivation to learn about life. According to Literary Theory by Terry Eagleton (p. 2-3), the literary work, such as novel, is the reflection of social truth in form of word formation. The writer tries to share his life experience, idea, and opinion through literary work, such as novel itself. That is why sometimes literary work could provide a psychoanalytic content that gives the reader a motivational character as a role model. From this motivational character people could also learn about life experience and knowledge about life. According to Milligan (p. 3-4) a work of literature is close to reality in life. It could help the readers to see things as they really are. The events in the story could be similar or even the same as what happens in real life. As a result, a novel could give the readers the knowledge about life or how people face their problem using their feeling and rationale.

*Jonathan Livingstone Seagull* that is written by Richard Bach takes the idea of perfection as the main issue. The book tells about Jonathan as the main character who has his own dream, his own perfection about his life. Unfortunately, his perfection of life contrasts to his social’s thought of the perfection. According to Jonathan, as a seagull, his perfection is the ability to fly up above the sky, toward the limit. Not only that he also considers about dream,
motivation and love in his life as his perfection, because in reaching his perfection
Jonathan has to reach his dream using his motivation to practice and also his love
to share his ability to the other seagulls. By following those steps, Jonathan could
reach his perfection. In contrast, Jonathan’s surroundings think that the perfection
of a seagull’s life is to gather and collect food to survive. Because of this
difference of thoughts, Jonathan is outcasted from his society, the other seagulls
ignore him, ignore his dream of flying. Being ignored and outcasted, Jonathan
never gives up in reaching his dream. He always tries to learn and practice to fly
every time. He always thinks that his destiny is not only collecting fish as his
food, but he has something else that he could do, that is flying beyond limit. He
ignores his social thoughts about what a seagull could do. By ignoring that
thought, he could show to the society of his own that seagull could do something
else besides collecting food. He could break the idea that has been followed by the
society for years about collecting food. Jonathan finally could show his dream to
fly beyond limit.

_Jonathan Livingston Seagull_ is a novel that tells about two kinds of
perfection that happens in life, perfection which is held by the social community
for years and personal perfection which is considered as a wrong perfection by the
social because it breaks the usual habit. The kind of different considerations about
human perfection could be found in our daily life. This novel is discussed because
the story of Jonathan is close to daily life. People mostly have to fight to reach
their own perfection, but not all people are brave enough to break the paradigm of
social thought that has been rooted for years. Hopefully by discussing the idea of
perfection in this novel, many people will be motivated and inspired to reach their
dream and perfection without being afraid of breaking the social thought as far as they do something right for their own life.

1.2 Problem Formulation

The problem of this study is formulated as follows:
What do the conflicts that Jonathan encounters reveal about the idea of perfection in *Jonathan Livingston Seagull*?

1.3 Objectives of the Study

This study is conducted to find out the relationship between the conflicts that happen in Jonathan’s life and the idea of perfection. This study also aims to find out the meaning of perfection as revealed in this novel.

1.4 Benefits of the Study

This study provides a deeper look at Jonathan Livingston Seagull and reveals the richness of the novel. The discussion about perfection in this study and how to reach it contributes to the reader’s understanding on the insights which may help them to grow in maturity.

1.5 Definition of Terms

There are some terms in this study that need some clarification to avoid misunderstanding.
1.5.1 Perfection

In this study, perfection refers to the condition when a subject or an object reaches its wholeness. Perfection is achieved and when it is achieved, the person feels complete (Refers to *Introduction to Psychology*, p. 401). The reason why a person always tries to find the goal of his life is because he wants to fill his emptiness. By fulfilling this emptiness the person finds his perfection, his wholeness. Perfection in this novel refers to the meaning of life that Jonathan achieves while he is going through the process of fulfilling his dream.

1.5.2 Conflict

In this study, conflict refers to the condition when two basic principles are against each other and those two basic principles have their own consequences (Refers to *Psychology: Principles and Application*, p. 726). A person will get an A consequence if he chooses the first principle, but he will also get B consequence if he chooses the second principle. A person should think carefully about his choice if he does not want to get a bad consequence from his decision. In the story, the conflict arises when the main character is going through the process of reaching his dream. While going to fulfill his dream, Jonathan has conflict against himself and his society, because of the difference principles he is holding.
CHAPTER 2

REVIEW ON RELATED LITERATURE

This chapter discusses the theories related to the study. The researcher divides this chapter into two major parts; the first one is theoretical description and the second one is theoretical framework. Theoretical description provides the theoretical review related to the study, while the theoretical framework provides the explanations why those theories are chosen and how they are applied in the study.

2.1 Theoretical Description

This part explains the theoretical reviews on self actualization theory by Abraham Maslow, theory of existence by Erich Fromm and also Viktor Frankl.

2.1.1 Self Actualization Theory

Human being is the most powerful living thing in the world. Human being is God’s creation that has mind, heart and also instinct. They could feel, think, and find out what they really are or what they really want to do in their life for themselves and also for their surroundings. Human being has an ability to know themselves well, as said in Maslow’s *The Farther Reaches of Human Nature*

“...The human being is a choosing, deciding, seeking animal then the question making choices and decision must inevitably be involved any effort to define the human species. But making choices and decisions are a matter of degree, a matter of wisdom, effectiveness and efficiency. “(p. 10)

It is also said that a healthy human being does not want to be controlled (p. 13). They want to feel free and to be free.
Human being has an ability to show his potential and choose what to be or not to be and what to do or not to do. By doing such things, human being is actualizing himself. Self actualized people will be very strict to decide about what is right or wrong. He has less doubt about it rather than average people do. Self actualized people will work hard and devote themselves to something that he thinks very important for him. Human being also has something that is called being values. Those values are intrinsic values which are very precious for self actualizing people’s life. He will try very hard to work on that precious thing, and those being values could be the meaning of life for him (Maslow, p. 42-43).

Self actualization is dealing with how a human being tries to reveal his potential and develop himself to be a better person. To actualize his self, human being is influenced by his environment and also his own self. Someone could actualize himself well if he has a good society which leads him to develop himself well, especially his talent and potential. A bad society will be an inhibiting factor for human being to actualize his potential.

Another factor that influences self actualization could be found inside human being itself. According to Maslow in *The Farther Reaches of Human Nature*, naturally, human has the sense of survival and the sense of growth (p. 20). This is why human being will always fulfill their nature in actualizing their own selves. This kind of sense is called inner signals. Human being has inner signals that help him to find out and understand what he needs to do for himself in this life. These signals also help him to find out what to do or not to do, when to do something and to know what or whom they like or dislike. To have a good self
actualization, human being has to have a good awareness of these signals because these signals will lead the human being itself to find the meaning of life.

There are some requirements to be fulfilled by someone to be able to actualize himself. Those requirements include experiencing, making a growth choice, letting the self emerge, being honest and taking responsibility, listening to own self, using intelligence, realizing and having “peak experiences”, opening oneself up to himself.

2.1.1.1 Experiencing

In *The Farther Reaches of Human Being*, Maslow said that to be a self actualized person, human being should have a moment of experiencing something in a full way, with a mature sense. Human being should have a consciousness of experiencing an important moment of him. With this consciousness, a human being could sense the importance of an experience to his life (p. 44).

2.1.1.2 Making a Growth Choice

There are two kinds of choices, progression choice and regression choice. As a self actualized people, human being has to be able to make a growth choice which leads him to a progression movement rather than regression movement. It is as said in *The Farther Reaches of Human Nature* that

“Self Actualization is an ongoing process: it means making each of the many single choices about whether to lie or be honest, whether to steal or not to steal at a particular point, and it means to make each of these choices as a growth choice. This is a movement toward self actualization.”(p. 44)

Human being should be able to fight his feeling of being afraid in making choice. It will lead human being to self growth.
2.1.1.3 Letting the Self Emerge

There is a self to be actualized when one talked about self actualization. According to Maslow, human being is not an empty white sheet, human has something inside them that is called as inner signals or impulse voices. When human being wants to actualize himself, he has to listen to the voice inside him and not to listen to other people’s voice or command. By listening to the voice inside, human being will realize what needs to be done for the growth of his self. He has to let his self emerge (p. 44-45).

2.1.1.4 Being Honest and Taking Responsibility

Self actualizing means that a human being should be honest with himself and his surroundings. Human should be honest about who they really want to be or what they really want to do in their life. Human being should also be honest about their weakness and strength, they have to be brave to admit their weakness and show their strength to their surroundings. When a person has realized this and he is brave enough to admit those things, it means that a human being has already found his honesty. When a human being has already found his honesty, he will be able to use his strength to actualize himself. It means that he already knows who he really wants to be or what he really wants to do. A self actualized people also have to be responsible with his decision, who he really wants to be or what he really wants to do in his life.

2.1.1.5 Listening to Own Self

By taking some steps already mentioned, human being comes to a better choice; he starts to see his destiny. Human being should be wise to listen to
himself to decide whether he will make a better life for himself or not. Human being should dare to say ‘no’ or ‘yes’ for something by listening to his own self.

2.1.1.6 Using Intelligence

Self actualization occurs when human being use his potentialities. It means that human being deals with his intelligence. A self actualized people is a person that wants to study to improve his knowledge and intelligence. It does not stop there, after having his knowledge and intelligence, he has to be able to apply it in his life.

2.1.1.7 Realizing and Having ‘Peak Experience’

Peak experience is the special moment when a human being feels happy and satisfied because of his achievement at something. Everyone has peak experience, but not everyone realizes it. A self actualized people should be able to realize his own peak experience and have it as their special moment.

2.1.1.8 Opening Oneself up to Himself

It is said in The Farther Reaches of Human Being that a human being should be able to identify their defenses and then give them up with courage. Finding defenses means finding out what and who a person is, what he likes and dislikes, what is good or bad for him, and what his life mission is. This kind of action is difficult to be done because defenses stand for something unpleasant.

In this self actualization theory, perfection refers to how human being could actualize himself through the realization and application of those steps above in his life. If one is able to realize and apply all those steps, it means that he is able to grow into a better person. Human being will be able to realize his
potentials and choose what he wants to be in this life or what kind of life that he wants to have. By doing that, it means that a human being could reach his perfection in life.

This knowledge of self actualization could help the reader to find out how human being find the meaning of his life by doing something that is precious for his life. This theory will be used to find out the process in Jonathan in actualizing himself to reach his perfection.

2.1.2 Theory of Existence

In life, a human being always finds the word ‘having’ and ‘being’. It is a common thing for human being to use those words in daily communication. Both words seem as ordinary words that do not have a special meaning, but do people know the different meaning between those words? Most people do not really realize that actually there is a difference in meaning between the words “having” and “being”.

The difference in meaning between the words “having” and “being” could bring the new knowledge to human life. Both words have basic meaning that will make human being understand about ‘having’ and ‘being’ itself. The words “having” and “being” actually have a great impact in determining human character and also social life, as said in Erich Fromm’s To Have or To Be? that “having” and “being” are two fundamental modes of experience, the respective strengths of which determine the difference between the characters of individuals and various types of social character. (p. 4)
2.1.2.1 Having

Having becomes the word that is used every day in human life. Most of human being thought that having something is very important in life. For example, a human being always thinks that having money in his life is very important, one means nothing without money or in other words it may be said that a human being is nothing if he has no money in this life. The word ‘having’ is always related to the meaning of possession, not only material possession but also another kind of possession such as knowledge or relationship.

According to Fromm, having could help human being to be fully being. It means that by having some properties, knowledge, relationship or experience, a human being could show his real self. By having those things, a human could decide whether he wants to make those things become good things or bad things for himself. It depends on human attitude itself, an attitude that leads to freedom.

A human being could be bad and could make what he has as bad things if he makes what he has as everything that he should get in any way. This will make what he has as a barrier that block his self to see what he should be. If this condition happens, it will block his self actualization too. While a human being could use what he has as a good thing if he could use what he has as a means to help him to find freedom, to find what he really wants to be. If this happens, then a human being could use the word “having” to actualize his self.

2.1.2.2 Being

Being is a word that is difficult to be described. It has been discussed for a long time in philosophical point of view. According to philosophy, there are some
important points related to the word being. In Erich Fromm’s To Have or To Be?, it is mentioned that those important points are the concept of process, activity, and movement as an element in being.

According to Erich Fromm, there are two meanings of being. The first one is mentioned as “being denotes the real and often unconscious motivations that impel human beings, in contrast to deeds and opinions as such and separated from the acting and thinking person” (p. 52). It means that being is a motivation inside human being that pushes oneself to do something for himself, it is not dealing with the action. People sometimes make a mistake by thinking that what they are to do as what they really are. It is just the same as when a human being considers that being good is more important rather than doing some numbers of good actions to show the good side of a human.

For the second meaning, according to Erich Fromm “being is life, activity, birth, renewal, outpouring, flowing out, productivity. In this sense, being is the opposite of having, of egoboundness and egotism” (p. 53). This second meaning is different from the first meaning of being, the second meaning is emphasizing on the action in doing something, not only the motivation inside human being. If a human being wants to be a good person, he has to do something good to show his good side.

From those two meanings, it could be said that being is related to the motivation inside human being and the action that is done because of the push of the motivation that human has. It means that being will push someone to do an
action. If a human being wants to be a good person, he will have a motivation that will push him to do a good action to show his good side as a human being.

In the context of the theory of existence by Erich Fromm, perfection is reached when a human being could balance the meaning of having and being in his life. It means that perfection happens when a human being could use what he has as a mean to encourage his motivation inside becomes a real action to make him become a better person, to make his life free. As an example, when a man possesses knowledge, he has to be able to use that knowledge as his motivation that pushes him to learn more and more about that knowledge and apply it in his life. This action will result in the development of that human’s knowledge and life. He could get his perfection in that knowledge. That knowledge will help him to get something more in his life. By doing that, a human being could reach his perfection because he has balanced what he has and what he should do or he has balanced “having” and “being” in his life.

2.1.2.3 Sharing

In this life, human being is provided with many choices that have to be chosen. Sometimes, people say that life is a matter of choice. As a human being, everyone has their freedom to choose, freedom to do what they want to do or be what they want to be. This freedom is dealing with every aspect in human life. But sometimes, human being chooses not to do something or not to make any choice. Human being chooses to be abstain and do not want to make any change for his own self. This is why a human being could be a prisoner of his own thought, like the title of Alex Pattakos’ Prisoners of Our Thoughts.
In choosing something, a human being also has to be responsible for his own choice. He has to be prepared for the risk that may occur because of his own choice. Human being should be able to read the situation and try to find the right choice for that situation. In his book entitled *Prisoners of our Thoughts*, Alex Pattakos mentioned about true optimism which occur during the choosing time. It is said that

“... what I would call true optimism, we actually make three choices: (1) we chose a positive attitude about the situation at hand; (2) we choose an attitude that supports a form of creative visualization about what’s possible; and (3) we choose an attitude that generates passion for the action that makes the possible become a reality.”

In that statement, it is clearly stated that in making choice, a human being should be able to visualize the possibilities that may occur from his choice. Human being also has to be able to feel the motivation behind his choice. If those things are done, it means that in making his choice a human being could actualize the possibilities of his attitude.

In life, human being also has the freedom to choose what he wants to be, what kind of life that actually he wants to have. Every human being has a desire to reach their goals in life and having a meaningful life. It means that every human also has a will to meaning, as proposed by Viktor Frankl. A will to meaning gives human being the freedom to show his potentials and make his life meaningful for himself and his surroundings. Frankl’s will to meaning is found inside human being, only the human himself who could feel it, control it and make it comes true, no one else could do it. Will to meaning helps a human being to survive from bad experience that he gets while fulfilling his dream.
According to Frankl’s *Man’s Search for Meaning*, will to meaning is found in Frankl’s theory called logotherapy which focuses in finding the meaning of the existence of human being. It is said that

“The term “existential” may be used in three ways: to refer to (1) existence itself, i.e., the specifically human mode of being; (2) the meaning of existence; and (3) the striving to find a concrete meaning in personal existence, that is to say, the will to meaning.”

Will to meaning becomes the primary motivation for human life in finding the meaning of life. By having this will, a human will be able to realize his existence, find his motivation to live and how to mean his own life. This will help a human being to have a better life.

Perfection in the theory of existence is a condition when a human being could realize his own life and motivate himself to be able to make an action to make his life meaningful, at least for his own self. It will be much better if he could also make his life meaningful to everybody else. When someone could do something good for his self and it brings him to a better life, it means that he could reach his perfection by meaning his own life.

### 2.2 Theoretical Framework

In this part, the writer describes some theories that are used to analyze the story of Jonathan Livingston Seagull. Those theories will be used to support the analysis and to answer the question in problem formulation that has been formulated in the first chapter.

There are two theories that are used to analyze the problem in this study. The first theory that is used is self actualization theory by Abraham Maslow. This
theory is used to discuss about Jonathan’s conflict with his negative image of his own ability. This theory shows that Jonathan’s perfection is real when he is able to actualize himself.

The second theory is the theory of existence. In this theory, the writer uses two theorists’ ideas. The first one is about “having” and “being” by Erich Fromm which could be found in his book *To Have or To Be?*, and the second one is about “sharing” by Viktor Frankl which could be found in his book *Man’s Search for Meaning*. The first part of the theory of existence is about “having and being” by Erich Fromm. This theory is used to discuss Jonathan’s conflict with himself, especially the conflict with the tendency of having. This theory helps to find out that actually perfection is being able to do something in purpose to be able to be something. This theory is also used to discuss Jonathan’s conflict against his society especially conflict against the habits. This theory shows what kind of perfection that Jonathan has in this story. While “sharing” as the last part of the theory of existence by Viktor Frankl is used to discuss Jonathan’s conflict against his society, especially the conflict against egoism. This theory shows that the will to meaning play an important role in Jonathan’s perfection.
CHAPTER 3

METHODODOLOGY

Chapter three is divided into three sections; they are objective of the study, approach and procedures. The first section describes the novel used in this study. The second section focuses on the chosen approach that is used in the analysis. The third section concerns steps taken in completing the study.

3.1 Object of the Study

The object of this study is a novella entitled Jonathan Livingston Seagull by Richard Bach, an American writer. Jonathan Livingston Seagull tells us about the flight of a seagull to find the meaning of his life. The main character in this story is named Jonathan Livingston. Jonathan tries to live his life based on what he really likes to do, that is flying. He tries to break the social point of view about flight. In his opinion flight is interesting and gives meaning to his life. He does not think as what his surrounding has thought about flying, in his opinion flying is not a matter of ways in collecting food. He tries to break the opinion that says seagull only flies to collect food in the shore. Because of his thought of flying, Jonathan is outcasted by his flock. They think that Seagull who practices flying is dishonor and should be outcast. Jonathan does not give up even though he has been outcasted by his flock. He always practices everyday until finally he can prove that seagull could fly high without any limitation.

The writer discusses the idea of perfection as revealed in this story. Particularly, the discussion focuses on the conflicts that Jonathan encounters for
striving for excellence. Discussing the conflict in the story the writer finds out about the idea of perfection.

3.2 Approaches

The writer tries to find some theories to analyze the literary work used in this study. These theories help the writer to answer the problem and analyze the topic. In this study, the writer uses the psychology theories in analyzing and discussing the problems.

The approaches used in this study are the psychological approach especially through employing the self actualization theory by Maslow, the theory of existence by Erich Fromm and also Viktor Frankl’s will to meaning. Those theories are used to find out the answer to the problems that is discussed in this study.

3.3 Procedure

There were some steps taken in conducting this study. The first step taken was reading the novel several times. This step helped the writer understood the story. From the first reading, the writer got the knowledge about the plot of the story. In the second reading, the writer tried to focus the attention on the conflict of the story by taking notes on each page which contains the conflict. The third reading was purposed to find the elements that lead to the idea of perfection. The writer tried to collect as much information as possible about each part of the story that helped the writer to find the conflict which happened in the story. Some ideas
were highlighted to help the writer remembered that part. Taking notes also became one of the techniques used in collecting the information provided by the story.

The second step taken was reading some books that are related to the study. This step aimed to collect some theories related to the study, especially the psychological theories related to the idea of perfection and human nature. The writer took notes and highlighted the important information that relates to the study conducted. The theories that the writer read, helped the writer to reveal the answer of the problem. The writer read the novel very well to find out the conflict between Jonathan and his surrounding about their different perception on perfection in their life as seagulls. The writer took notes on the sentences of the story that reveal the conflict. To answer the problem formulation, the writer took notes about some important comments of the story that represented the idea of perfection inside the story of Jonathan’s life as a seagull. The writer also found the theory of self actualization and the theory of existence that helped reveal the idea of perfection in the story of Jonathan Livingston Seagull.

The third step that the writer took was focusing the attention on the conflict that happened. The writer tried to find out some important comments in the story about the different opinion of perfection between Jonathan and his community of seagulls. The writer tried to analyze the conflict to find out how those conflicts in the story could reveal the meaning of perfection. The writer also used the psychological theory, especially the theory of existence of Erich Fromm’s To Have or To Be?
Fourth step focused on the analysis of the conflict. The writer found out the implied meaning of perfection in conflict. Besides that, the writer also analyzed some books which provided the psychological theories, especially the theory about self actualization from Maslow and also Viktor Frankl’s theory of existence. The writer took notes and highlight the important information about the theory that helps the writer to analyze the meaning of perfection as revealed in this story.

Fifth, the writer tried to read the result of the analysis and compare it with the theories provided to make sure that the result is proper to the theory. And finally, the writer made a conclusion on the study and extended the discussion on the signification of the study in educational field.
CHAPTER 4

ANALYSIS

This chapter discusses the analysis of Richard Bach’s *Jonathan Livingston Seagull*. This part discusses the idea of perfection which is revealed from the conflicts that happen within Jonathan himself and the conflicts that happen between Jonathan and his flock.

Conflict is an important part in a story and helps the development of the plot and character. Conflict that the writer means is every problem that occurs in the story that should be overcome by the character in the story. The problem that comes may be very complex that needs solution. This is why conflict usually plays an important role as the main plot in the story.

In the story of *Jonathan Livingston Seagull*, conflicts play a very important role. The conflicts help the main character to reveal the idea of perfection in his life. The following is the discussion on the two kinds of conflicts in Richard Bach’s *Jonathan Livingston Seagull*.

4.1 Jonathan’s Conflict against Himself

The first conflict that happens in Richard Bach’s *Jonathan Livingston Seagull* is Jonathan’s conflict against himself. Here, Jonathan as the main character of the novel has to choose the meaning of his life. He has to choose his own way of life. He has to decide whether he wants to be able to fly or to follow the habits of his flock. If he chooses to learn to fly beyond limit, it means that he
has to break the habits of the flock. But if he chooses to follow the habits of the flock, it means that he ignores his potential, his dream to fly high. Not only that, when he wants to learn about flying he also thinks about his limitation as a gull; he thinks that he would not be able to fly because he is only a gull. The conflict against himself lead Jonathan to find his self identity.

Jonathan’s conflicts against himself that leads him to realize his potential and his real dream. He could make some efforts to fulfill his dream. Finding self identity becomes a step forward for Jonathan in deciding what kind of perfection that he wants to reach in his life as a gull, whether he wants to become the ordinary gull or the extraordinary one. These conflicts also lead Jonathan to find his perfection, his perfection of flying. He finally makes an effort to be able to fly high up in the sky.

Jonathan is a gull that has his own dream, that is to fly beyond limit, but he also belongs to the flock that have their own rules. This fact makes Jonathan acts as if he does not interested in flying, but the fact is that he loves to fly, as seen in the story, ”It's all so pointless, he thought, deliberately dropping a hard-won anchovy to a hungry old gull chasing him. I could be spending all this time learning to fly. There's so much to learn!” (Bach, p. 15). It is clearly stated that according to Jonathan he has a lot of things to learn about flying. It is better for him to learn how to fly rather than collecting food.

In the story of Jonathan Livingston Seagull there are two kinds of conflict that happened inside Jonathan himself.
4.1.1 Conflict Against the Tendency of Having: Perfection Relates to the Fundamental Option where One is “To Be”

From the story, the reader knows that Jonathan tries hard to be as the other gulls of the flocks about which perfection means collecting food for their life. For the flocks flying is not important. In their perfection, it is not flying that matters but eating (Bach, p. 6). In Jonathan’s way of thinking, it is not eating that is important. For him there is another meaningful thing that he could do rather than just collecting food. It is proved from the statement in the story which says “…For most gulls, it is not flying that matters, but eating. For this gull, though, it is not eating that mattered, but flight” (Bach, p. 6). Jonathan could become more than the ordinary gull, he could learn flying and he could learn to fly beyond limit.

Jonathan’s dream of flying is not easy to be reached, he has to be able to find the voice inside him that leads him to find perfection for his own self. He has to find his inner signals and try to follow it. On the way of finding his inner signals, Jonathan faces a difficulty in listening to the voice that shows his ability in flying. It makes him think that he is just the ordinary seagull that will not be able to fly beyond limit, as said in Bach’s that,

” The voice faded, and Jonathan agreed. The place for a seagull at night is on shore, and from this moment forth, he vowed, he would be a normal gull. It would make everyone happier.”
"But no, he thought, I am done with the way I was, I am done with everything learned. I am a seagull like every other seagull, and I will fly like one. So he climbed painfully to a hundred feet and flapped his wings harder, pressing for shore.” (Bach, p. 21)

It is clearly stated that for the first time Jonathan erases his dream to fly beyond limit. He thinks that he is just a seagull that is limited by his nature, he lives only
for collecting food not for flying. This conflict in Jonathan’s self makes him not able to listen to the voice within and then he could not actualize his self. Jonathan tries very hard to find his inner signals and follow it, but it was worthless. It is said that

"Jonathan was not alert to listen. It’s pretty, he thought. The moon and the lights twinkling on the water, throwing out little beacon trails through the night, and all so peaceful and still…”

"There in the night, a hundred feet in the air, Jonathan Livingston Seagull – blinked. His pain, his resolutions, vanished” (Bach, p. 24)

While carrying his dream, Jonathan still could not listen to his inner signals. By doing this Jonathan’s self actualization is blocked. One self could be actualized only if one could listen to his inner signals and follow it.

As the time is running by, Jonathan still carries his dream of flying inside him. He knows that actually he could actualize his self by practicing to fly. One day, finally Jonathan realizes what he could do to be able to fly, he finally gets his inner signals. It’s written that ” Short wings. A falcon’s short wings! That’s the answer! What fool I’ve been! All I need is a tiny little wing, all I need is to fold most of my wings and fly on just the tips alone! Short wings!” (Bach, p. 24).

These inner signals help Jonathan to find out his real dream in life. Finally he realizes that he, himself, could make an effort to be able to fly. Jonathan needs to find an effort to actualize his self. This actualization process could be fulfilled by practicing flying. All he needs is to practice flying as what a falcon does.

Practicing flying becomes one of the self actualization processes. By practicing flying, Jonathan shows that he is doing something as an effort to fulfill his dream to be able to fly beyond limit. Practicing flying helps Jonathan in revealing his potentials and developing it into a good ability in flying. That means
that Jonathan tries hard to grow in his ability so that he could reach his dream to fly beyond limit. Jonathan is doing something as an effort against the tendency of having.

Jonathan shows that actually by having an effort to fulfill his own dream, he is trying to do something as an effort to be something that he wants to be. He does against his social norm of having. He does not think about his way to survive only, but he thinks more about his way to be something extraordinary, something that helps him to grow into a better person. This kind of thought and effort prove that Jonathan’s perfection tends to be something rather than to have something.

From the conflict inside himself about perfection, Jonathan finally finds that actually for him, perfection is “to be”. It means that perfection for Jonathan is not about collecting food but about how to fly beyond limit in the open sky. It is clearly stated that

”… How much more there is now to living! Instead of our drab slogging forth and back to the fishing boats, there’s a reason to life! We could lift ourselves out of ignorance, we could find ourselves as creatures of excellence and intelligence and skill. We could be free! We could learn to fly!” (Bach, p. 27)

For Jonathan, being free in the sky by flying high is everything. By doing that, he could make a meaning to his life. He could live his life with something extraordinary, he calls it as fly beyond limit.

### 4.1.2 Conflict against the Negative Image: Perfection is Achievable

The internal conflict that happens within Jonathan also raised the question whether perfection is real or not. This question is asking about whether Jonathan’s perfection of flying beyond limit could be fulfilled or not. In *The Farther Reaches*
of *Human Being* by Maslow, it is said that in actualizing oneself, human being has
to go through some steps that lead to self actualization (p. 43). Jonathan
Livingston Seagull also goes through some steps of self actualization that lead
him to reach his perfection, the perfection of flying.

At first, the perfection of flying for Jonathan seems as unreal things that
could not be reached. There is a voice within him which tells that he is just an
ordinary gull that lives by collecting food. This statement is said in *Jonathan
Livingston Seagull* as follows:

"as he sank low in the water, a strange hollow voice sounded within him. There’s
no way around it. I am a seagull. I am limited by my nature. If I were meant to fly
at a speed, I’d have a falcon’s short wings, and live on mice instead of fish. My
father was right. I must forget this foolishness. I must fly home to the Flock and
be content as I am, as a poor limited seagull.” (Bach, p. 21)

Jonathan almost gives up in reaching his perfection. He thinks that all his efforts
are worthless because he is limited, he is just a seagull. His perfection seemed far
away and difficult to be fulfilled. But there is also another voice inside Jonathan
that tells him about his ability, he could be more than a gull. It is said in Bach that

"Short wings. A falcon’s short wings!"

"That’s the answer! What fool I’ve been! All I need is a tiny little wing, all I need
is to fold most of my wings and fly on just the tips alone! Short wings!"

"His vows of a moment before were forgotten, swept away in that great swift
wind. Yet he felt guiltless, breaking the promises he had made himself. Such
promises are only for the gulls that accept the ordinary. One who was touched
excellence in his learning has no need of that kind of promise.” (Bach, p. 24)

Suddenly Jonathan found a way out to reach for his perfection. Jonathan realizes
that he is more than an ordinary gull. Jonathan has to fight with his own self to
find his perfection. To be able to find his perfection, Jonathan has to be able to
actualize his self, he has to find his potentials and make it worth. Jonathan has to
follow the steps of self actualizing to find that his perfection of flying is real.
Those steps are experiencing, making a growth choice, letting the self emerge, being honest and taking responsibility, listening to our own self, using intelligence, realizing and having peak experience, opening oneself up to himself.

4.1.2.1 Experiencing

In Maslow’s *The Farther Reaches of Human Nature*, it is said that a self actualizes person is a person that experiencing something with a mature sense. Human being should have a consciousness in experiencing an important moment in his life. This consciousness in the process of experiencing will help human being in sensing the importance of an experience to his life.

Jonathan has a lot of experiences of flying as his important moment. He does realize that those moments bring him up to the higher level of his flying ability. In Bach’s *Jonathan Livingston Seagull*, it is said that “The subject was speed, and in a week’s practice he learned more about speed than the fastest gull alive.” (Bach, p. 15). Jonathan Seagull finds that he has some practicing moments. He realizes that by the time of learning, he could get a good ability in flying. That is why he practices flying a lot. It is clearly stated that Jonathan has the step of experiencing in actualizing his self. Jonathan does believe that his practice of flying becomes something important in his life. This practice helps him to get his ability to fly beyond limit.

4.1.2.2 Making a Growth Choice

In life, a person faces many choices, some choices bring progression and some others bring regression to human life. Making a growth choice means that human being should make choices that bring progression to his life. Human being
should be able to decide what kind of decision that could bring a progression to his life. If it is already done, it means that the person already did the self actualization process.

In his life as a gull, Jonathan Livingston Seagull also faces some choices that should be chosen, he has to choose whether he should be as the ordinary seagull or he should reach his perfection to fly beyond limit. Jonathan realizes about these choices, and finally he decided to learn how to fly, he does not want to be an ordinary seagull that lives only for collecting food. As it is said in Bach that

”It wasn’t long before Jonathan Gull was off by himself again, far out at sea, hungry, happy, learning.” (Bach, p. 15)
”...Yet he felt guiltless, breaking the promises he had made himself. Such promises are only for the gulls that accept the ordinary. One who was touched excellence in his learning has no need of that kind of promise.” (Bach, p. 25)

From those statements it is clearly stated that Jonathan finally makes a decision to learn flying. This decision is a growth choice because by deciding to learn flying Jonathan brings a progress to his life. He could fly beyond limit by deciding to learn flying without being afraid of being outcast.

4.1.2.3 Letting the Self Emerge

Letting self emerge means that a human being could recognize the inner signals that he has and listens to those signals. By listening to this voice, a human being could let himself emerge and grow to the positive side. By doing this step, human being could realize and do what is needed for his self growth.

In Bach’s Jonathan Livingston Seagull, Jonathan as the main character takes this step for his self growth, even though for the first time he did not realize and listen to his inner signals. It is said that
"The voice faded, and Jonathan agreed. The place for a seagull at night is on shore, and from this moment forth, he vowed, he would be a normal gull. It would make everyone happier." (Bach, p. 21)
"He felt better for his decision to be just another one of the flock. There would be no ties now to the force that had driven him to learn, there would be no more challenge and no more failure. And it was pretty, just stop thinking, and fly through the dark, toward the lights above the beach." (Bach, p. 24)

It is clearly stated that the first time Jonathan did not listen to his inner signals which tell him that he is actually more than a gull, he could fly in the dark. Jonathan still thinks that he is just an ordinary seagull like the others. But after a few times flying in silence, finally Jonathan could realize what his inner signals try to tell him. As it is said in Bach, "Get down! Seagulls never fly in the dark! If you were meant to fly in the dark, you’d have the eyes of an owl! You’d have charts for brains! You’d have a falcon’s short wings!" (Bach, p. 24). This quote explains that finally Jonathan realizes that to be able to fly he should has short wings. It is the result that he gets when he listened to his inner signals. These inner signals help Jonathan to find out the way to be able to fly better. This finding makes Jonathan change his mind to be just like the ordinary seagull, Jonathan holds on to his perfection to learn flying.

By listening to his inner signals, Jonathan finds the way to be able to fly beyond limit. By listening to his inner signals Jonathan could make a choice that leads him to grow in progression. By doing this Jonathan could let himself emerge and find his potential. And by doing this step, Jonathan let him self actualized.

4.1.2.4 Being Honest and Taking Responsibility

Human being has his own weakness and strength. Sometimes human being feels ashamed to admit their own weaknesses and sometimes human being becomes very proud of their own strength. Maslow describes that to be a self
actualized person, a human being should be able to admit their own strength and weakness. Human being also should be able to show their real self to their surroundings, human being should become their own selves. If this happens then a human being could be said as an honest person, who already admits their own strength and weakness, this kind of person is a person that are already knows what kind of life that he wants to have. When a human being has already known about what kind of life that he wants to have, that person should also be responsible for the kind of life that he has already chosen. He should be able to make his life meaningful.

In the story of Jonathan Livingston Seagull, Jonathan tries hard to be honest with himself about who he really is. At first he becomes a little bit unsure about his ability to fly. It is stated about Jonathan’s uncertainty of his flying ability and he decided to become the ordinary seagull. But after thinking and listening to his inner signals, Jonathan finds that his dream in life is to fly beyond limit, which is why he decided to practice flying and become the extraordinary seagull. It is as said in Bach that

"His vows of a moment before were forgotten, swept away in that great swift wind. Yet he felt guiltless, breaking the promises he had made himself. Such promises are only for the gulls that accept the ordinary. One who was touched excellence in his learning has no need of that kind of promise.” (Bach, p. 25)

It is stated about Jonathan’s honesty to make his life meaningful by learning flying. Jonathan believes that he could become extraordinary, he could fly beyond limit. After finding the honesty in life, Jonathan also faced to his responsibility of his own choice. The consequence of his choice is that he would be outcasted from his community of seagull. Jonathan accepts that outcasting, because he already
makes his decision on his own life. All those actions that he takes show Jonathan’s responsibility to take the risk of his decision to be a seagull that has his own dream to be able to fly.

4.1.2.5 Listening to One Own Self

Listening to own self means that one, as a human being, should be able to decide what to do in his life to make this life become a better life. A human being should be able to decide to say yes or no to any choice he has. Jonathan is a brave gull that dares to say yes to his choice, the choice of flying. It is said that "…when they hear of it, he thought, of the Breakthrough, they’ll be wild with joy. How much more there is now to living! Instead of our drab slogging forth and back to the fishing boats, there’s a reason to life! We could lift ourselves out of ignorance, we could find ourselves as creatures of excellence and intelligence and skill. We could be free! We could learn to fly!” (Bach, p. 27)

After deciding to learn flying and dare to be outcasted from his flock, Jonathan should be able to listen to his own self. It means that Jonathan now could decide what he really wants to be and to do by listening to his own self. By doing this, Jonathan could see his future clearly.

In the story of Jonathan Livingston Seagull, it is clearly stated that "We’re from your flock Jonathan. We are your brothers.” The words were strong and calm. We’ve come to take you higher, to take you home.” "But you could Jonathan. For you have learned. One school is finished, and the time has come for another to begin.” ”… they were right. He could fly higher, and it was time to go home.” "I’m ready” he said at last

”And Jonathan Livingston Seagull rose with the two star bright gulls to disappear into perfect dark sky.” (Bach, p. 46-47)

Jonathan finally could see his destiny as a seagull that wants to fly beyond limit. He could be outcasted from his flock but he does not worry about that, because he
knows that he has already made a right choice. At last, he decided to make his life become a better life by joining the other extraordinary flock that also learns to fly. In this new flock, Jonathan finds the new place called home, Jonathan really finds his destiny to fly. Jonathan really gets his self actualizes by choosing his own destiny to fly.

4.1.2.6 Using Intelligence

As a human being, man lives to find knowledge and learn about something to improve the quality of his life. As said in Maslow’s The Farther Reaches of Human Nature, human being is always dealing with intelligence in life. As a self actualized person, human being will always try to improve his knowledge and intelligence. Not only that, he will also try to learn how to apply his knowledge and intelligence in his life, so that his knowledge and intelligence will be useful for him and his surroundings.

Jonathan Livingston, who lives as a seagull, also has this kind of thinking in his life. He has a different way of thinking from his surroundings. He lives to improve his knowledge and intelligence as a seagull, not only knowledge and intelligence about collecting food in such an ordinary way but also knowledge and intelligence about flying. He tries to learn a lot about flying even though he has to learn it by his own self, as it is said in Bach that

"Time after time it happened. Careful as he was, working at the very peak of his ability, he lost control at high speed.” (Bach, p. 15)

"“the key, he thought at last, dripping wet, must be to hold the wings still at high speeds – to flap up to fifty and then hold the wings still.” (Bach, p. 20)

" Short wings. A falcon’s short wings!"

“That’s the answer! What fool I’ve been! All I need is a tiny little wing, all I need is to fold most of my wings and fly on just the tips alone! Short wings!”

(Bach, p. 24)
Those quotations clearly stated about the way that Jonathan takes to learn about flying. He learned to fly by himself, he tries to use different ways in flying to find the most suitable way so that he could fly at high speed in the best way of flying.

As a highly motivated seagull that tries to learn about flying, Jonathan does not stop there, he learns more and more about flying. Even he already has a good ability in flying, he still tries hard to find the best way to apply his ability. It is said in Bach’s that all Jonathan has to do is having a falcon’s short wings. He tries to fold his wings to have the falcon’s short wings. Finally he discovers the loop, the slow roll. (Bach, p. 24) Jonathan uses a lot of his time to practice more and more. There is no day without practicing to fly. By doing this, Jonathan could improve his flying ability.

As a seagull with good ability in flying, Jonathan is not afraid to share his knowledge, intelligence, and skill in flying to the other seagulls. It is said that ”…But I want no honors. I have no wish to be leader. I want only to share what I’ve found, to show those horizons out ahead for us all. He stepped forward.“(Bach, 31). Jonathan wants the entire seagull community to live with the new way of living, out of the ordinary things that they usually do. Something that could bring their life into a new life of seagull’s history, something that Jonathan called as the breakthrough. Jonathan is not a seagull that is proud of his self, he does not want to be a leader even though he already has a good ability in flying. All he wants to do is only to share what he has with the other.

With this kind of thought, Jonathan shows that actually he is an extraordinary seagull. He lives to find something new, he lives to find the
Breakthrough. Jonathan shows that he is a self actualized person who wants to make his life meaningful.

4.1.2.7 Realizing and Having Peak Experience

A human being must have a special moment in their life. He must appreciate and memorize that moment as his peak experience. According to Maslow, peak experience is the special moment when someone feels happy, proud and satisfied because of his achievement in life. Peak experience will be realized and appreciated by someone if that person already actualized his own self. When this happens, that person will appreciate his peak experience as his very special moment (p. 46).

Jonathan himself also has his own peak experience, especially when he gets an achievement in his flying practice. In Bach’s Jonathan Livingston Seagull, it is said that Jonathan finally realized that he has to fold his wings to have falcon’s short wings. Short wings would help him to be able to fly higher than before (Bach, p. 24). Jonathan feels very happy when he gets a new achievement in his flying, although it is just a matter of an answer for his failure in practicing flying which tells him about short wings. For Jonathan this new thought will help him much in his effort to be able to fly beyond limit and find his breakthrough.

Besides that the story of Jonathan Livingston Seagull also said that

”...when they hear of it, he thought, of the Breakthrough, they’ll be wild with joy.” (Bach, p. 27)

”what he had once hoped for the Flock, he now gained for himself alone; he learned to fly, and was not sorry for the price that he had paid. Jonathan Seagull discovered that boredom and fear and anger are the reason that a gull’s life is so short, and with these gone from his thought, he lived a long fine life indeed.” (Bach, p. 36)
Jonathan also has a different point of view about his peak experience. He always thinks that his peak experience, his special moment of achievement, does not belong to his own self. He could share his peak experience to the others so that all seagulls could get something from the achievement that Jonathan gets.

Jonathan is helped by his peak experience. He realized about all of his potentials after having his peak experience. This awareness of peak experience helps Jonathan in transforming himself as an ordinary seagull to become the extraordinary seagull that is able to fly beyond limit. Finally Jonathan realizes his ability in flying, he finally practices a lot to fly, and then he is able to reach his self transformation. He transforms his self from the ordinary seagull that only fly for collecting food to become a seagull that is able to fly high in order to give meaning to his life.

After having his peak experience, Jonathan practices a lot to fly better. He is trying hard to fly high. Not only that, he also finally realizes that he could share his ability to the other gull. For Jonathan his peak experience brings a lot of positive effects to his life as a seagull. Those positive effects include his awareness about the way to be able to fly high by having short wings as falcon’s wings. It means that he has to be able to find the way to wrap his wings. Another positive effect that he gets is he that he is able to fly beyond limit, he realizes his ability and he could improve it. Another important effect that he gets is that he could share his ability of flying to the other gulls that want to be able to fly beyond limit. Jonathan could find his breakthrough and new way of life by
appreciating his peak experience, although he has to be outcasted from his own flock. It shows that Jonathan could actualize himself towards his peak experience.

4.1.2.8 Opening Oneself up to Himself

In the story of Jonathan Livingston Seagull, Jonathan is being outcasted because of his idea of perfection, flying beyond limit. It is written that

”…Centered for shame? Impossible! The Breakthrough! They couldn’t understand! They’re wrong, they’re wrong!”

”To be centered for shame meant that he would be cast out of gull society, banished to a solitary life on the Far Cliffs.” (Bach, p. 34)

Jonathan Livingston does not regret his decision to find a breakthrough in his life, although he has to be casted out. The important thing is that he already knows what he likes and doesn’t like, what he wants to do and doesn’t want to do. The important one is that he knows what he wants to do in his life. He wants to be able to fly beyond limit. By finding those things, Jonathan already finds his defenses in life.

Finding defenses in life means finding out who a person really is, what he likes and does not like, what he wants to do and does not want to do, what is good or bad for him, and the important thing is that finding out what will he do in life, mission of his life. The action of finding defenses is usually difficult to do because it is dealing with unpleasant effect. Just like what happened to Jonathan, he is being cast out when he is already dealing with finding his defenses. Human being should have courage to deal with this action. He should be brave to face the risk of finding defenses, just like Jonathan does. When someone has already found his defenses and give courage to it, it means that that person already found his self actualization.
All those steps of self actualization that is taken by Jonathan shows us Jonathan’s effort in reaching his perfection. With those efforts he made, finally Jonathan shows us who Jonathan really is. He is a seagull that wants to fight for his dream although he is outcast and ignored by his society. Jonathan shows his self actualization in the process of reaching his perfection. He could make his life meaningful by learning to fly. For Jonathan the breakthrough of flying beyond limit is a worthy thing that should be fought for. For Jonathan, flying beyond limit is real thing that could be reached.

All the steps that Jonathan takes to be able to fly, show us that Jonathan perfection of flying is reachable. Jonathan’s perfection of flying is not a utopia. It is proof by the final experience that Jonathan gets. He could follow the steps that he has to go through to be able to fly. After going through all of those steps, Jonathan shows us that flying beyond limit is reachable. He proves that his perfection is real.

The conflicts that happen within Jonathan becomes the basis of his fight. From the conflicts, Jonathan gets his maturity in making his decision related to his own future. He started to think about his perfection when there are some emotion and mind conflict within himself. The conflicts lead Jonathan to find the way of his perfection, what he really wants to be able to do. He finally decides to fly beyond limit. He made many efforts to reach that dream even though he has to fight against his own mind. Finally Jonathan could reach his perfection of flying beyond limit and become the extraordinary seagull.
From the explanation above, Jonathan’s conflicts against himself covered two main problems. The first one is the conflict against the tendency of having which results in the perfection of being. Jonathan could make a decision to learn to fly and doing his effort to reach that perfection. He is not just learning to fly to collect food but it is more likely because of the sake of flying beyond limit. The second conflict is the conflict against Jonathan’s negative self image in his ability of learning to fly. From this conflict, Jonathan shows that his perfection is real. He could make an effort to show that a seagull could fly high beyond the limit. By having a lot of practice and a self confidence in his skill, Jonathan shows the dream of flying is not only a utopia. It is real and achievable.

4.2 Jonathan’s Conflicts Against the Society

The other conflict that happened in the story of Jonathan Livingston Seagull is Jonathan’s conflicts against the society. This conflict happened because of different opinion of perfection between Jonathan and his society of gulls. Jonathan’s perfection is about flying beyond limit while the gulls’ society’s perfection is collecting food to live. As said in the theory of self actualization, Jonathan has to make a choice that leads him to a better life. By doing that, Jonathan shows that he could actualize himself. Not only that, by doing this, it means that Jonathan also has a motivation to make his life meaningful. As said in the motivation theory that by motivating his self to be able to fly and practicing to fly, Jonathan choose to make his life meaningful. The meaning of his life is to fly
beyond limit. Jonathan’s conflicts against his flock provide the answer of perfection in Jonathan’s life.

4.2.1 Conflict Against the Habits: Perfection Manifests in Excellence

In our daily life, there are some social rules that manage human behavior. Mostly people try hard not to act against the rule, because usually people who are against the rule will be marked as a rebel and they will be ignored or outcast. This is what usually happens in human social life. Most people think to act as the ordinary people, they do not want to be marked as an extraordinary people in the negative point of view. The same thing also happened in Jonathan’s life. His society has its own rule that have been used for years. This rule manages what should be done and what should not be done by a seagull. Jonathan comes and brings his new thought about his perfection which is against the tradition of his flock.

Every one has their own perfection, their own dream that should be fulfilled. Perfection will be different for everyone, depends on what kind of life that is wanted by that person. The way that is used to fulfill the perfection also may be different. The conflicts happen between Jonathan and his society describe the tendency of Jonathan to fight against the habits which are in his society for years. These habits include the mind mapping of the society, especially the elder, about their habitual activity in life and also their mind mapping about the meaning of life that they have as seagull.

The Conflict that happened between Jonathan and the flock also answers questions about Jonathan’s perfection. Whether perfection is “to have” or
perfection is “to be”. If perfection is “to have”, it means that perfection is about collecting food and eating, just like the Flock’s idea of perfection. If perfection is “to be”, it means that perfection is about flying, just like Jonathan’s idea. it becomes the different thought between Jonathan and his society about their habits that should be or should not be done.

According to Erich Fromm’s *To Have or To Be?*, the words having and being are very powerful to be used to determine human character and also social life (Fromm, p. 4). It means that the words having and being will have a big effect towards what perfection is. Having is always related to possession of something, whether that thing is real or not. While being is related to a motivation inside human being that has a result in form of an action to show the motivation inside.

According to the habits of the flock, perfection is to have, they only live for collecting food, they could only survive by collecting food. There is no importance of learning flying except to collect food. While Jonathan thinks that perfection is to have. He could be something more by learning to fly higher. Flying could make a seagull become something more than just an ordinary seagull. Flying high beyond limit could make a breakthrough in a seagull’s life.

In the story of *Jonathan Livingston Seagull*, the conflict that happened between Jonathan and his Society also shows the difference between perfection of “to be” and perfection of “to have”, as it is said in the story that

"Why, Jon, why? his mother asked. “Why is it so hard to be like the rest of the flock, Jon? Why couldn’t you leave low flying to the pelicoulds, the albatross? Why don’t you eat? Son, you’re bone and feathers!”

"I don’t mind being bone and feathers mom. I just want to know what I could do in the air and what I couldn’t, that’s all. I just want to know.” (Bach, p. 14)
"...If you must study, then study food, and how to get it. This flying business is all very well, but you couldn’t eat glide, you know. Don’t you forget that the reason you fly is to eat.” (Bach, p. 15)

For the flock society, Seagull just bone and feathers, they are limited by their nature. All they have to do is eat to survive in life. There is no motivation inside the flock to learn another thing because for years they already have tradition of eating to survive. Having food is the most important thing for them. While for Jonathan, there is another thing that could be learned eventhough he is just bone and feathers. He does not mind being bone and feathers, but it could not limit him to be more than an ordinary seagull. There is a motivation inside him that pushes him to show that outside being bone and feather, a seagull could learn flying, learn something new rather than just eating. This motivation inside Jonathan pushes him to practice flying by himself and ignores the tradition of the flock.

The conflict starts to be more complicated because of the different points of view of life purpose between Jonathan and his community. The first difference between Jonathan’s perfection and his society is about what is the most important in a seagull’s life. It is said in Bach’s that

"Most gulls don’t bother to learn more than the simplest facts of flight – how to get from shore to food and back again. For most gulls, it is not flying that matters, but eating. For this gull, though, it was not eating that mattered, but flight. More than anything else, Jonathan Livingston Seagull loved to fly.” (Bach, p. 14)

Habitually, the flocks fly only for collecting food. Nothing is more important than eating. For them it is useless and wasting time to learn flying, it is better for them to use their time in collecting food because all they have to do is stay alive by eating because it is their habit. While for Jonathan it is flying that is more
important rather than eating. He loves flying very much. Jonathan’s perfection breaks the first rule of the seagull society.

Jonathan and his society have different opinion also about what should be learn by young seagulls, as said in Bach’s *Jonathan Livingston Seagull*

”... I just want to know what I could do in the air and what I couldn’t, that’s all. I just want to know.” (Bach, p. 14)

”... If you must study, then study food, and how to get it. This flying business is all very well, but you couldn’t eat glide, you know. Don’t you forget that the reason you fly is to eat.”

"Jonathan nodded obediently. For the next few days he tried to behave like the other gulls; he really tried, screeching and fighting with the flock around the piers and fishing boats, diving on scraps of fish and bread. But he couldn’t make it work.” (Bach, p. 15)

For the society, young seagulls have to learn about how to collect food not how to fly high. For them it is useless to learn about flying. The important thing to learn is about how to collect food because they could only survive if they eat, and they could not eat glide. That is why flying is not very important, they only use their flying ability to collect food at the shore. But for Jonathan flying is very important. He could learn a lot of things in the air. His curiosity is answered by practicing flying. For Jonathan knowing about something, especially flying, is more important rather than only collecting food to survive.

The conflicts that happen between Jonathan and his society also include the difference mind mapping about the meaning of life. The conflict starts to come up when Jonathan starts to think about his perfection in life, the perfection of flying. Jonathan realizes that actually his perfection is actually against the habits of the society that prohibits the member of the society to learn flying except for collecting food. It is clearly stated that
"Seagulls, as you know, never falter, never stall. To stall in the air is for them
disgrace and it is dishonor."
"But Jonathan Livingston Seagull, unashamed, stretching his wings again in that
trembling hard curve – slowing, and stalling once more – was no ordinary bird."
(Bach, p. 13)

Seagulls only live by collecting food at the shore, they do not fly high in the sky.
For them flying means nothing except a dishonor behavior. Jonathan knows well
that he is not allowed to practice flying, but he still holds on to his belief about
flying high in the sky. For him nothing is more important than flying.

Jonathan has a new thought about what a flock’s life should be, but this
thought is against the tradition of the seagulls that has been kept for years.
Jonathan thinks that as a gull, he should have a higher purpose of life, a gull
should have a meaning in life. This meaning could help the gull to learn, to
discover and to be free. This meaning for Jonathan is his perfection on flying
beyond limit. This kind of thought is different from the Elders’ thought. For them
life means staying alive as long as possible because for them life is unpredictable,
they would not know what will happen tomorrow. And the only way to stay alive
is by collecting food not learning to fly.

The conflicts happened between Jonathan and his society of gulls result in
the outcast of Jonathan. Jonathan holds on to his perfection about bringing new
meaning in life. He knows the risk that he must take because of his perfection, and
he is not afraid of it. He feels sad because the flock do not believe in the glory of
flight, they refused to see a breakthrough that will lead them into freedom (Bach,
p. 62). Jonathan keeps on practicing flying and reaching for his perfection.
4.2.2 Conflict against Egoism: Perfection Culminates in the Habit of Sharing

This different perception of perfection in a seagull’s life results in the outcast of Jonathan. Jonathan holds on to his dream to bring freedom to his life by learning flying. This action is considered breaking the gulls’ tradition about staying alive by collecting food. As said in Bach that

”...one day Jonathan Livingston Seagull, you shall learn that irresponsibility does not pay. Life is the unknown and the unknowable, except we are put into this world to eat, to stay alive as long as we possibly could.”

”...Who is more responsible than a gull who finds and follows a meaning, a higher purpose for life? For a thousand years we have scrabbled after fish heads, but now we have a reason to live – to learn, to discover, to be free! Give me one chance; let me show you what I’ve found...” (Bach,p. 34-35)

The punishment that Jonathan gets from his society shows that in fulfilling someone’s perfection there is a risk that may come toward each action that human being takes. Just like Jonathan, he have another reason to live, not just eating, he finds his purpose of life, he finds freedom while flying in the air. He is meaning his life by flying. But for the flock the meaning of life is eating and it could not be changed by every seagull.

One day after reaching his peak experience in flying, Jonathan is judged by the flocks. He was accused to be a dishonor seagull because he breaks the tradition of the seagulls. Actually Jonathan feels happy about his breakthrough. He aims to share his breakthrough with the flocks, but they refuse it, as said in Bach that

”...for his reckless irresponsibility “ the solemn voice intoned, “violating the dignity and tradition of the gull family...”

”...one day Jonathan Livingston Seagull, you shall learn that irresponsibility does not pay. Life is the unknown and the unknowable, except we are put into this world to eat, to stay alive as long as we possibly could.”

” A seagull never speaks back to the council Flock, but it was Jonathan’s voice raised. “Irresponsibility? My brothers!” he cried. “Who is more responsible than a
gull who finds and follows a meaning, a higher purpose for life? For a thousand years we have scrabbled after fish heads, but now we have a reason to live – to learn, to discover, to be free! Give me one chance; let me show you what I’ve found…” (Bach, p. 34-35)

For Jonathan his breakthrough becomes his very peak experience, but for the society it is dishonorable act. They accuse Jonathan who violates the dignity and traditions of the gull. For them, Jonathan has irresponsibility by learning flying for the sake of flying itself not for the sake of collecting food for staying alive. For Jonathan his peak experience of flying is the breakthrough for all seagulls. He is willing to share his breakthrough to his society, so that all seagulls could find a new meaning of their life. Jonathan wants all seagulls to be free by being able to fly beyond limit. In Jonathan’s opinion being able to fly high beyond limit will help seagulls to see the other world beyond their society. It will help them to be able to find the meaning of their own life.

In this conflict, perfection results in the ability to fight the egoism. Jonathan is able to fight his egoism related to the possession of the skill to fly. Jonathan has the will to share. He wants to share his flying ability to his society even though they neglect it. but Jonathan’s willingness to share his ability does not stop there, he finds his new flock and share his ability to them. In this new flock, Jonathan’s skill of flying is worthful. His willingness to share the ability of flying becomes the result of his fight towards egoism and it shows Jonathan’s perfection of life as a seagull. Jonathan really strives to actualize his potential in flying with his will to meaning. He tries so hard even though he has to be outcaste from his community. He himself could feel his potential and make an effort to make his dream come true.
Perfection is different for each person. Human being will have their dream of life. In reaching this perfection human being should have motivation and action. It will be useless if there is only motivation without any action. Human being also has to be brave to mean their life. They should be brave to take each risk that may be the result of their action in fulfilling their perfection. And after reaching their own perfection, human being also has to have the will to share his perfection to others, so that other people will be able to reach their own perfection in life. As said before in the theory of motivation that a human being should be able to make his life meaningful. In the story of Jonathan Livingston Seagull, Jonathan shows us that by having the will to share, a human being could make his life meaningful because he could fight against his egoism.
CHAPTER 5

CONCLUSIONS AND SUGGESTIONS

This chapter provides the conclusions and the suggestion of the study. This chapter is divided into two parts. The first part discusses the conclusion of the result of the study. The second part provides the suggestion about the application of this study related to education.

5.1 Conclusions

In the story of Jonathan Livingston Seagull, there are two kinds of conflict. The first one is Jonathan’s conflicts against himself. The second one is Jonathan’s conflict against his society. These conflict reveal the idea of perfection in this story. There are four meanings of perfection revealed in this study, they are perfection is achievable, perfection relates to the fundamental option where on is ‘to be’, perfection occurs in self actualization and manifests in excellence, perfection culminates in the habit of sharing.

5.1.1 Perfection is Achievable

Jonathan’s biggest dream is to be able to fly beyond limit. Jonathan tries so hard to practice flying and get some knowledge about flying. He has to be able to realize his perfection and go through the steps of self actualization. He has to show the real Jonathan within himself and actualize that real Jonathan, so that he has a bravery to realize his dream even though he has to encounter his social rules. Jonathan shows his self actualization by being brave to break the rule and making his own choice. He goes through some failures in practicing flying. He does not
give up eventhough he has to fall and get hurt. He still believes that he is able to fly. By holding on to his belief and practicing a lot, Jonathan is able to fly. With those efforts and bravery, finally Jonathan reaches his dream to fly high. By showing his self actualization, Jonathan could prove that he has a real perfection that he could reach by following the process of self actualization.

Jonathan proves that by keeping on practicing and believing, he could achieve his flying ability which means a lot to Jonathan. He could prove that a seagull is more than bone and feathers, a seagull could do something big in his life. A seagull is a living thing that could do something outside the ordinary thing, a seagull could fly beyond limit and reach a higher place that he dreamed of.

**5.1.2 Perfection Relates to the Fundamental Option where One is “To Be”**

In the process of reaching his flying ability, Jonathan also passes through the process of choosing and deciding. Jonathan has to decide whether he chooses to be as the flock which learn to fly for the sake of eating for staying alive or he chooses to learn flying for the sake of flying itself. Jonathan goes through his conflict against the sake of having, he chooses to be something in his life. It means that, Jonathan has to do something to show his want to be an extraordinary seagull. Jonathan chooses to practice flying and put an effort to be able to fly for the sake of flying itself. This want results in his effort to practice flying.

Jonathan thinks about the way to be the extraordinary seagull, he does not think about his way to survive by collecting food only. He does against his social norms. Jonathan chooses to break the norm and practice flying all the time. Those actions taken, shows that Jonathan really do something as an effort to be
something. This effort results in Jonathan flying ability. Finally, Jonathan could be the extraordinary seagull who has the ability to fly beyond limit as an achievement in the sake of flying itself.

5.1.3 Perfection Manifests in Excellence

Jonathan passes the process of learning to fly before he finally could fly beyond limit. The process that he goes through leads him to be able to fly beyond limit. This process becomes the real perfection of Jonathan, because by this process of learning, Jonathan becomes a self actualized seagull. He goes through the process of self actualization before he could reach his ability of flying. not only that, Jonathan could find his own self as a seagull, he could recognize his weakness and strength as a seagull by passing the self actualization process. By the process of learning to fly, Jonathan also learns how to actualize himself. By the process in learning to fly beyond limit, Jonathan could find the real seagull within himself. When finding the real seagull within himself, Jonathan actualizes himself totally.

After being able to actualize himself, Jonathan find his dream, what he really wants in life. He really wants to be able to fly beyond limit. Jonathan breaks the olders’ rule and norm about what should be done by a seagull. Jonathan holds on to his perfection of flying. Jonathan practices flying day by day without any anxious feeling of the other gull’s opinion about him, without being afraid of the outcast. With his courage and principle, finally Jonathan could reach his flying ability. Finally Jonathan perfection is showed by the excellence of his flying skill.
5.1.4 Perfection Culminates in the Habit of Sharing

Jonathan learns a lot about flying and love based on his personal experience and also from his new flock in heaven. He learned about how to share and being together with others. Finally Jonathan realizes that there might be another flock who has the same destiny as himself. He has to make a choice whether he will keep his skill for the flock in his new family or he will try a new step to help the other flock on earth. Jonathan realizes about his duty to help the other flock that might have the same destiny as himself. Because of his kindness and will to help the other flock, Jonathan decides to go back to earth. He decided to helps the other flock that might have the same destiny as himself, being outcast.

Jonathan is not afraid of leaving his new family eventhough he has to fight alone to teach the other gulls how to be able to fly well. In this new flock, Jonathan become a master of flying who has the will to share his ability to the other gulls. In this place, Jonathan learns a lot about flying, perfection, heaven and also loves. In this place, Jonathan learns that he could achieve another perfection of him which is the will to share. This heaven shows Jonathan that he could achieve his real perfection of sharing. By his willingness to share and help other gulls, Jonathan learns another perfection of life, that is love.

From all of the perfection that Jonathan gets, the process of learning and also the living experience that Jonathan has, finally Jonathan could reach the higher place of himself. A place where Jonathan gets himself as a new Jonathan seagull that full of skill, purpose of life and also love in life. Jonathan finally could reach the
higher place of him and become an extraordinary seagull who dares to fight for his dream.

5.2 Suggestions for the Implementation of Teaching Learning Process

The study of the idea of perfection in *Jonathan Livingston Seagull* provides some moral values that are good for education. This study provides a lot of positive values revealed from the story for anyone who read this study, especially for the students. The result of the study of this story may be a very useful and real example to manage their goal of life and priority.

The first implication to be applied in the education system is about how to help the students to be able to actualize themselves. The students might get the value of this study relates to the example of Jonathan’s self actualization revealed in this study. In this study, the students could find out the process of their self actualization, the students could reach their peak experience. It becomes the duty of the school and the education manager to provide the way to take the students to their self actualization. The teacher should be able to make the students realize that they have their peak experience. For example, the teacher should be able to give the student compliments for their achievement in the test. This will make the students realize his ability and peak experience. Not only that, the school should also provide any kind of subject that help the students to go through the process of self actualization. For example, by providing music and art class. From this class the students could produce their own symphony or artwork. The duty of the school is how to help the students to show their work to other people. The school
could make a kind of activity where the parents or people from outside of the school could see the students artwork or science work. This will help the students to get their peak experience.

The students could find out the peak of their achievement in their education process. By realizing and achieving their peak experience, the students are motivated to learn more and more so that they could have another happy moment in achieving their peak experience related to their success in education. And if they get more and more peak experiences, the students will give effort to get more peak experiences. They will do something for their peak experiences, and if they are doing effort for their peak experience, it means that they start to actualize their self.

Another positive implication from this study that could be applied in education system is that about how to fight for the students negative self image. Mostly, students feel that they are weak in one subject at school. This mind set will put the students in Jonathan’s position before he realizes his ability. They should put their hardest effort to prove that they have ability in that subject. This is the kind of mind set that should be had by the students. They should mirror Jonathan’s effort to go against his weakness. The school should be able to provide kind of education that will support their students to have positive point of view about their ability.

The students should be able to go against their negative self image. They have to put in their mind that they are able and they are strong. This ability should be able to be developed by the school and the teacher. Both parties should be able
to help students to built their self confidence and strong body. The school should be able to provide and develop their subject of study that is related to the development of students’s physical skills. For example, the school should be able to develop their physical subject which will help the students to do some exercises related to their health. Not only that, the school could also develop their music and art subjects that will help the students to develop their art skills. To help students develop their speaking ability, the school could provide debate class for the students.

Another way that the school could help the students to develop their physical skill is by choosing the right teacher for each subject. By choosing the right teacher, the school also helps the students to learn from the right source. The teacher should be able to recognize his students’ ability and try to develop it in the right way. If this is happenning, the teacher will be able to built the students’ self confidence of their skill. If this is happenning, then the students’ will put aside their negative self image because they know that they have ability in their own skill.

Another way that the school could help the students to put aside their negative self image is by providing special time for the students to make their own reflection. Reflection where the students contemplate to get to know their own self more deeply. The reflection could be given the last day of the week after they finish their class. This kind of reflection will help the students to recognize their own self, their own characteristics. By doing this, they will find out their true self
and they will be more confident to find out their ability and develop it in the right way.

The other positive implication that might be applied in the education system is about how to make the students become active learners. Sometimes, students tend to be passive learners. Mostly, students are waiting for their teacher to learn. They become passive learner because they only get one way learning. The students should be able to reach what they want just like Jonathan does. The students should be more active in learning. The school has another duty to create two way learning, from the students themselves and from the teachers. The school should be able to provide any kind of method that will help the students to be active in learning. For example, the teacher could provide a class discussion and sharing, where the students are given a topic and they have to prepare it for their sharing. By doing this, the students are motivated to learn by themselves. The other students will also become active by asking question on what they do not understand. By using this method, the students will move their body and brain to collect knowledge for themselves. They will not become passive learners and waiting for the knowledge. The students have to run and chase for the knowledge. They have to do something if they want to be something. That is why the school needs to provide some subjects which relates to the students’ skill. Those subjects will help them to be more active.

The other good implication from this study is about how to direct the students to have the habit of sharing. The moral value that the students’ should also have from this study is the habit of sharing, just like what Jonathan has as his
proof of love to his flock. The school and the teacher should be able to built the
students’ will to share when the students reach their excellence in skill and
knowledge. The school should able to make the will to share as a new habit in the
school. It can be done by providing group sharing and group project that will help
the students to cooperate with each other and to share their own knowledge and
skill that each individual has. By providing presentation or discussion class, the
students who have more knowledge on certain topic could share what they know
to the other students. This method will help the students to develop their
knowledge and skill at the same time. This kind of teaching learning process will
help the students to learn from other students. This kind of method will develop
the student’s will to share and soon it will become a new habit of sharing in the
school.

Each student should has this kind of moral value in their own self. Just like
Jonathan does, he wants to share his ability of flying to the flock. This is a good
example of good habit that should be had by every student. The school, especially
the teacher should be able to gain students’ awareness of sharing.

Those suggestions will be able to help the students to gain their knowledge
and skill, develop it and also share it with the others. The teacher will be the
source for the students to be able to get knowledge and develop it. While the
school should be able to be the place that provides students with the source of
information and a bridge for them to develop their self. The school should be able
to develop students’ competence, conscience and compassion.
This story is full of values that could be shared. Everyone could get a lot of positive effect from this story. The story of Jonathan Livingston Seagull is a real portrait of human life. It provides a lot of spirit for us to do something for our own life. From this story we could learn that we have to do something if we want to be something.
REFERENCES


Fromm, E. (1976). *To have or to be?*. New York: Harper and Row Publisher.


APPENDICES
Appendix 1

Jonathan Livingston Seagull

The book tells the story of Jonathan Livingston Seagull, a seagull who is bored with the daily squabbles over food. Seized by a passion for flight, he pushes himself, learning everything he can about flying, until finally his unwillingness to conform results in his expulsion from his flock. An outcast, he continues to learn, becoming increasingly pleased with his abilities as he leads an idyllic life.

One day, Jonathan is met by two gulls who take him to a "higher place of existence" in that there is no heaven but a better world found through perfection of knowledge, where he meets other gulls who love to fly. He discovers that his sheer tenacity and desire to learn make him "pretty well a one-in-a-million bird." Jonathan befriends the wisest gull in this new place, named Chiang, who takes him beyond his previous learning, teaching him how to move instantaneously to anywhere else in the Universe. The secret, Chiang says, is to "begin by knowing that you have already arrived." Not satisfied with his new life, Jonathan returns to Earth to find others like him, to bring them his learning and to spread his love for flight. His mission is successful, gathering around him others who have been outlawed for not conforming. Ultimately, the very first of his students, Fletcher Lynd Seagull, becomes a teacher in his own right and Jonathan leaves to teach other flocks.
Part One

Part one of the book finds young Jonathan Livingston frustrated with the meaningless materialism and conformity and limitation of the seagull life. He is seized with a passion for flight of all kinds, and his soul soars as he experiments with exhilarating challenges of daring and triumphant aerial feats. Eventually, his lack of conformity to the limited seagull life leads him into conflict with his flock, and they turn their backs on him, casting him out of their society and exiling him. Not deterred by this, Jonathan continues his efforts to reach higher and higher flight goals, finding he is often successful but eventually he can fly no higher. He is then met by two radiant, loving seagulls who explain to him that he has learned much, and that they are there now to teach him more.

Part Two

Jonathan transcends into a society where all the gulls enjoy flying. He is only capable of this after practicing hard alone for a long time (described in the first part). In this other society, real respect emerges as a contrast of the coercive force that was keeping the former "Breakfast Flock" together. The learning process, linking the highly experienced teacher and the diligent student, is raised into almost sacred levels, suggesting that this may be the true relation between human and God. Because of this, each has been described as believing that human and God, regardless of the all immense difference, are sharing something of great importance that can bind them
together: "You've got to understand that a seagull is an unlimited idea of freedom, an image of the Great Gull." He realizes that you have to be true to yourself: "You have the freedom to be yourself, your true self, here and now, and nothing can stand in your way."

**Part Three**

In the third part of the book are the last words of Jonathan's teacher: "Keep working on love." Through his teachings, Jonathan understands that the spirit cannot be really free without the ability to forgive, and that the way to progress leads—for him, at least—through becoming a teacher, not just through working hard as a student. Jonathan returns to the Breakfast Flock to share his newly discovered ideals and the recent tremendous experience, ready for the difficult fight against the current rules of that society. The ability to forgive seems to be a mandatory "passing condition."

"Do you want to fly so much that you will forgive the Flock, and learn, and go back to them one day and work to help them know?" Jonathan asks his first student, Fletcher Lynd Seagull, before getting into any further talks. The idea that the stronger can reach more by leaving the weaker friends behind seems totally rejected.


Accessed on January 27, 2012 at 02.59 pm
PLAGIAT MERUPAKAN TINDAKAN TIDAK TERPUJI

Appendix 2
Appendix 3

Richard Bach Biography

Born in 1936 in Oak Park, Ill., son of Roland Robert and Ruth Helen (Shaw) Bach, the American Richard Bach is the great-great-great-grandson of JS Bach the great composer we all know. He attended Long Beach State College (now California State University, Long Beach) in 1955.

An airplane pilot, he got married with his first wife and had six children, then divorced and left his family in part because he didn't believe in marriage. One of his children, Jonathan, wrote a book about his relation with his father he never knew, Above the Clouds. Everything concerning airplane was his field, including motion picture stunt pilot, Air Force tactical fighter pilot, an aviation technical writer and flight instructor. He even got involved as an narrator & stunt pilot in the movie Nothing by Chance, based on his book.

Though Aviation was his true passion, he always wanted to write; since high school, one of his gym teachers made him realize his potential. Since 1959 he had this idea of a bird learning to pass beyond the walls of limitations, Jonathan Livingston Seagull, which came through a "Cinerama on my wall". Almost all his books used airplanes as a way to pass the message. In Running From Safety, Mr. Bach shares with us his childhood: at age 8, he lost one of his brother: Bobby. From his book, we also know that he has a much older brother: Roy.

R. Bach met his wife, Leslie Parrish through the shooting of the movie Jonathan Livingston Seagull in 1973, based on his book. It his said that he sued
the production for changing the movie without his permission. In fact, those who
saw the movie noticed that his name wasn't mentioned, only the copyrights for the
title "Jonathan Livingston Seagull ". My only explanation would be that he didn't
want to be part of this. And if I put together what Bach said in his book Bridge
Across Forever and what I've read, Leslie was some sort of a moderator between
the two parties to get an arrangement for the movie.

Then they went their way, far enough from Hollywood, somewhere between
1977 and 1981. Finally, they got married in 81. Since then, Richard Bach tried
what he called the closest thing to flying: paragliding. Recently Leslie and
Richard got divorced.

Accessed on January 27, 2012 at 03.01 pm
PLAGIAT MERUPAKAN TINDAKAN TIDAK TERPUJI

Appendix 4