MACKENZIE ALLEN PHILLIPS’ ATTITUDE
TOWARDS THE GREAT SADNESS
AS SEEN IN WM. PAUL YOUNG’S THE SHACK

A THESIS

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

By
BENYDICTUS SIUMLALA MARTIN SUMARNO
Student Number: 06 1214 043

ENGLISH LANGUAGE EDUCATION STUDY PROGRAM
DEPARTMENT OF LANGUAGE AND ARTS EDUCATION
FACULTY OF TEACHERS TRAINING AND EDUCATION
SANATA DHARMA UNIVERSITY
YOGYAKARTA
2011
MACKENZIE ALLEN PHILLIPS’ ATTITUDE TOWARDS THE GREAT SADNESS AS SEEN IN WM. PAUL YOUNG’S THE SHACK

A THESIS

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

By

BENYDICTUS SIUMLALA MARTIN SUMARNO
Student Number: 06 1214 043

ENGLISH LANGUAGE EDUCATION STUDY PROGRAM
DEPARTMENT OF LANGUAGE AND ARTS EDUCATION
FACULTY OF TEACHERS TRAINING AND EDUCATION
SANATA DHARMA UNIVERSITY
YOGYAKARTA
2011
A Thesis on

MACKENZIE ALLEN PHILLIPS’ ATTITUDE TOWARDS THE GREAT SADNESS AS SEEN IN WM. PAUL YOUNG’S THE SHACK

By

Benydictus Siumlala Martin Sumarno
Student Number: 06 1214 043

Approved by

Sponsor

Drs. Antonius Herujiyanto, M.A., Ph.D.

Date
January 10, 2011
MACKENZIE ALLEN PHILLIPS’ ATTITUDE TOWARDS THE GREAT SADNESS AS SEEN IN WM. PAUL YOUNG’S THE SHACK

By
Benydictus Siumlala Martin Sumarno
Student Number: 06 1214 043

Defended before the Board of Examiners
On January 20, 2011
And Declared Acceptable

Board of Examiners

Chairperson : C. Turyandari, S.Pd., M.Pd.
Secretary : Made Frida Yulia, S.Pd., M.Pd.
Member : Drs. Antonius Herujianto, M.A., Ph.D.
Member : Drs. Y. B. Gunawan, M.A.
Member : Ch. Kristiyani, S.Pd., M.Pd.

Yogyakarta, January 20, 2011
Faculty of Teachers Training and Education
Sanata Dharma University
Dean:

Drs. Tarsisius Sarkim, M.Ed., Ph.D.
STATEMENT OF WORK'S ORIGINALITY

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

Yogyakarta, January 20, 2011

The writer

Benydictus Siumlala Martin Sumarno
06 1214 043
ABSTRACT


This study analyzes WM. Paul Young’s novel The Shack. The analysis of this study focuses on the main character of the novel, Mackenzie Allen Phillips. He is a man who is about to turn fifty-six who lost his little daughter, Missy. After Missy’s death, Mack experiences a rare fortune when God invites him to come and talk in the shack, the last place when Missy’s remains were found, confirming the terrible reality that Missy had been murdered. This story provides an unusual and creative story, quite brave in the image of God which it presents, and it might trigger more questions about God and the relationship between God and human beings. The aim of this study is to analyze Mackenzie Allen Phillips’ attitude toward the death of Missy, his daughter.

There are two questions discussed in this study. They are: (1) How is Mackenzie Allen Phillips portrayed in this novel? (2) How does Mackenzie Allen Phillips react to the death of his daughter, Missy?

This study uses a psychological approach as the main approach. In addition to the theory of character and characterization, the theory of human needs and the theory of motivation are also used significantly. The primary source for this study is the novel The Shack by WM. Paul Young. The other sources to support this study are books on literary approaches and theories, books about psychological approaches, and also the journals taken from the internet.

Mackenzie Allen Phillips’ character is portrayed as ordinary, not-so-religious, smart, and angry. Mack has a unique relationship with God, such a love-hate relationship. Mack has to deal with the death of his daughter Missy, and how he deals with it will have an impact on the rest of his family and also Mack’s relationship with God. Long before the tragedy of Missy’s death, Mack has already had terrible experiences concerning family and God. Mack receives an invitation to come to the shack, and it was written by God. Mack’s decision to fulfill the invitation is actually his own will to forgive himself. To achieve forgiveness, Mack has to regain all the human needs that he lost after Missy’s death. God is involved in this process. This study is provided to show how Mack regains his human needs and how Mack finally becomes a person with the ability to forgive.

At the end of this thesis, some suggestions are given for future researchers who have similar interests in the novel The Shack. It is suggested that future researchers might make an analysis of the plot of The Shack, concerning its similarities to some stories written in The Holy Bible, such as the story when Jesus and Mack walk together on the water. Also, future researchers might analyze the symbols used in the novel, because there are so many symbols and meanings in this novel.
ABSTRAK


Ada dua pertanyaan yang dibahas dalam skripsi ini: (1) Bagaimana karakter Mackenzie Allen Phillips digambarkan dalam novel ini? (2) Bagaimana reaksi Mackenzie Allen Phillips terhadap kematian anak perempuannya, Missy?


di kitab suci, seperti ketika Yesus dan Mack berjalan bersama di atas air. Juga, peneliti lain disarankan untuk menganalisis simbol-simbol pada novel ini, karena novel ini mempunyai simbol-simbol yang sangat beragam, baik dari segi simbol itu sendiri dan makna yang dimiliki masing-masing simbol.
A Dedication to:

You, and only to You

Thank you for everything
LEMBAR PERNYATAAN PERSETUJUAN PUBLIKASI KARYA ILMIAH UNTUK KEPENTINGAN AKADEMIS

Yang bertanda tangan di bawah ini, saya mahasiswa Universitas Sanata Dharma:

Nama: Benydictus Siumlala Martin Sumarno

Nomor Mahasiswa: 06 1214 043

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

*Mackenzie Allen Phillips’ Attitude towards the Great Sadness as Seen in WM. Paul Young’s The Shack*

beserta perangkat yang diperlukan. 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, dan 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 pernyataan ini yang saya buat dengan sebenarnya.

Dibuat di Yogyakarta

Pada tanggal: 2 Februari 2011

Yang menyatakan

(Benydictus Siumlala Martin Sumarno)
ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

I would like to thank Jesus Christ for looking after me and taking care of me during the completion of this thesis. He loves me in any circumstances, good and bad, bright and dark. He loves me as what I am, no matter what.

I dedicate this thesis to every wonderful person who helps me anytime I need some hands. My deepest thanks go to my major sponsor, Drs. Antonius Herujiyanto, M.A., Ph.D. for his willingness to help me so I can accomplish this thesis. I would have been nothing without their patience and advice. I also thank all the lecturers of the English Education Study Program for guiding and sharing their knowledge during my study in Sanata Dharma University and all PBI secretariat staff for their services and guidelines.

I think my gratitude is not enough to express how much I appreciate what my family has done to me. I would like to thank my great father, Bapak Matheus Sumarno, and my super mother, Ibu Emilia Tiur Mina for the life they have given to me, and also for all the love and support that will last until the day I die. I also thank my brothers and sister, Bang Alex, Cici, and Dani for all their support.

My special thanks go to my PBI fellows, especially PBI 2006, for all their jokes and ridiculous attitudes that always make me laugh when I was down. My deepest gratitude goes to Adi Jember, Yoga, Doan Becak, Hosana, Pak Guntur Thunder (for being my personal library), Dika Bendol, Doni, Jati Kirjo, Andre Kisruh, Pak Petra Ndut, Agri Mupet, and all of my friends whom I cannot mention
one by one. I also thank my play performance group (Wiwit, Rimpenk, In, Ruth, Manda, Dewati, Leona, Alit, Niken, Tika and Rista), my PPL fellows (Vita and Nia) and my SPD mates (Oda, Emiko, Ditha, Jalu, Dian, Priska, Wida) for their cooperation and love when we worked together in such difficult classes. The last, I would like to say thanks to my lighting crew fellows, Aditkoel, Marshel, Sedik, and Mas Dedi Kadal for giving me such experiences of teamwork.

I would like to say thanks for being so good to me and I would say thanks once more for being too good to me. God blesses.

Benydictus Siumlala Martin Sumarno
# TABLE OF CONTENTS

**TITLE PAGE** ........................................................................................................ i

**APPROVAL PAGE** .............................................................................................. ii

**STATEMENT OF WORK’S ORIGINALITY** ........................................................... iv

**ABSTRACT** ....................................................................................................... v

**ABSTRAK** ......................................................................................................... vi

**DEDICATION PAGE** ........................................................................................... viii

**LEMBAR PERNYATAAN PERSETUJUAN PUBLIKASI**

**ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS** ................................................................................... ix

**TABLE OF CONTENTS** .................................................................................... xi

**LIST OF FIGURES** ............................................................................................ xiv

**LIST OF APPENDICES** ....................................................................................... xv

**CHAPTER I INTRODUCTION** ............................................................................. 1

A. Background of the Study ............................................................................. 1

B. Objectives of the Study ............................................................................. 4

C. Problem Formulation ............................................................................. 4

D. Benefits of the Study ............................................................................. 4

E. Definition of Terms.................................................................................. 5
CHAPTER II REVIEW OF RELATED LITERATURE ............................ 7

A. Theoretical Review ............................................................... 7
   1. Theory of Critical Approach .............................................. 7
   2. Theory of Character and Characterization .......................... 8
   3. Theory of Motivation ......................................................... 10
   4. Theory of Needs ............................................................... 11

B. Theoretical Framework ......................................................... 15

CHAPTER III METHODOLOGY .................................................. 17

A. Subject Matter .................................................................... 17

B. Approach of the Study ........................................................ 18

C. Procedures of the Study ....................................................... 18

CHAPTER IV ANALYSIS ............................................................ 20

A. Mackenzie Allen Phillips’ Character as Depicted in The Shack ...... 20
   1. Mack’s Character Before and During The Great Sadness ...... 21
   2. Mack’s Character After The Great Sadness ......................... 26

B. Mack’s Reaction Toward Missy’s Death: The Great Sadness ........ 28
   1. Mack’s Reaction Toward The Great Sadness ........................ 29
   2. The Meaning of Mack’s Reaction Toward The Great Sadness 35
      a. The Search: The Human Needs ............................... 35
      b. Safety Needs ......................................................... 42
c. Love and Belongingness Needs ................................................................. 43

d. Self Esteem Needs .................................................................................... 45

e. Cognitive Needs ..................................................................................... 50

f. Aesthetic Needs ...................................................................................... 51

g. Self Actualization Needs ................................................................. 52

h. Transcendence Needs ........................................................................ 53

CHAPTER V CONCLUSION AND SUGGESTIONS ........................................... 56

A. Conclusion ............................................................................................ 56

B. Suggestion ............................................................................................ 58

a. Suggestions for Further Research ..................................................... 58

b. Suggestions for Teaching Implementation ................................... 59

REFERENCES
LIST OF FIGURES

Figure 1: Maslow’s five stages hierarchy of needs ....................................................... 12
Figure 2: Maslow’s eight stages hierarchy of needs ..................................................... 14
LIST OF APPENDICES

Appendix A: Summary of *The Shack* .........................................................64

Appendix B: William Paul Young’s Biography ........................................66

Appendix C: Lesson Plan ...........................................................................70
CHAPTER I
INTRODUCTION

This Chapter consists of five parts, namely Background of the Study, Objectives of the Study, Problem Formulation, Benefits of the Study, and Definition of Terms. The reason why WM. Paul Young’s *The Shack* is used as the object of the study is presented in the Background of the Study. The Objectives of the Study deal with the goal of the study. There are three problems stated in the Problem Formulation. The Benefits of the Study contain the advantages the readers can get through the study. The terms which are significantly used in the study are explained in the Definition of Terms.

A. Background of the Study

_The Shack_ by WM. Paul Young is a brave novel about a conversation between a man and God; The Father, The Son, and The Holy Spirit. The main character, Mackenzie Allen Phillips, had a very rare opportunity to talk to God, something which is dreamed by every man in the world. In this rare occasion to have a conversation with God, Mack struggles to find the answer about The Great Sadness; the death of Missy. People often blame God for bad things happening in their lives; that something does not work as it was planned, that everything always goes wrong. WM. Paul Young _The Shack_ may offer the answer that is being looked for, but it
might also implies another way to run, to escape, that proves one’s inability to deal with reality.

Mackenzie Allen Phillips is a father who misses his little daughter, Mellissa (Missy). He lost Missy while he was trying to save his two other kids. The time after the death of Missy is the time of The Great Sadness. He does not understand why The Great Father, God, did such misery to him. While he is dealing with The Great Sadness, he also has to be a strong father and husband in front of his family. Mack realizes that the family has already lost Missy, and Mack knows that they cannot stand if they have to lose a father too.

Death is part of human life. It is just another common thing in human life, like rain, sunset, and wind. However, it is normal if death, especially the death of the beloved one, brings pain. Dealing with pain is what makes a man a man. There is no one in this world lives without pain, so actually, the problem that Mack faces during the novel *The Shack* is the problem that everyone must deal with in their daily life. The difference lies in how someone deals with his or her own problem. Mack deals with his problem in a different way, which can be a great reference for everyone who read this novel.

In this study, a novel is used as the subject of the study. According to Milligan (1983: 4) a novel, as a work of literature, is more in touch with reality, as it helps the readers see things as they really are. A novel is a kind of imitation of life, which can help the readers to deal with reality. Through a novel, the readers can find so many lessons, experiences, stories, or anything that enrich their knowledge. As one
kind of arts, a novel might also be explained as a reality which is pictured according to the novelist point of views and values, where he tries to make the readers see what he sees. This reality of the writer is delivered to the readers through the novel and all of its aspects such as character, plot, setting, conflict, etc.

Although a novel is a picture of the reality, but still, it is not the reality; there is always an imaginary world found by the readers in a fiction work like a novel. Thus, fiction offers a form of compensation, which is according to Leavis and Thompson as seen Storey’s book is, “the very reverse of recreation, in that it tends, not to strengthen and refresh the addict of living, but to increase his unfitness by habituating him to weak evasions, to the refusal to face reality at all” (Storey, 2003: 29). Fiction can be a sort of addictive drug that leads a reader to a very diverse point of view in seeing daily life. A novel might also divert the readers’ point of view in seeing reality; trapped in the life of the character of a certain novel which is ‘ideal’.

The aim of this study is, thus, to see the attitude of Mackenzie Allen Phillips, the main character of WM. Paul Young’s The Shack, toward the events taking place within the character’s family. The focus of this study is Mackenzie Allen Phillips’ attitude in dealing with the death of his daughter. In order to accomplish the aim of the study, two points are proposed: first, how Mackenzie Allen Phillips’ character during the Great Sadness is portrayed in the novel, second, how Mackenzie Allen Phillips deals with the death of Missy; the Great Sadness.
B. Objectives of the Study

The purpose of this study is to examine Mackenzie Allen Phillips’ attitude toward the Great Sadness as seen in WM. Paul Young’s *The Shack*.

C. Problem Formulation

The problem formulation of this thesis that will be discussed can be elaborated as follows:

1. How is Mackenzie Allen Phillips portrayed in this novel?
2. How does Mackenzie Allen Phillips react to the Great Sadness?

D. Benefits of the Study

This study hopefully will help the readers in taking the values of a novel, for it is a portrait of reality. Nevertheless, although the novel is a portrait of reality, it is not the reality. This study will hopefully help future researchers in accomplishing their study about literary works, especially novels.

Especially for future research about *The Shack* by WM. Paul Young, this thesis, hopefully, will become a very useful resource for future researchers in completing their research. This thesis only covers a small part of the novel, so there are still much more to be studied by future researchers.
E. Definition of Terms

In order to make a better comprehension of this study, it would be necessary to pay attention to some definition terms which will be used within the analysis. These terms will be the key for this study to accomplish the objectives of the study. The terms are:

1. **The Great Sadness**

   The Great Sadness is a range of time after Missy disappears. Missy’s death is a great loss for the family and it brings a deep misery within the family.

2. **The Shack**

   Shack is a small building, usually made of wood or metal, that has not been built well (Hornby, 2000: 1221).

   In the novel *The Shack*, it means the place where Mack finds the last trail of his daughter, Missy. It is an abandoned cabin in the middle of the forest. The shack is a place where Mack would never want to go. Also, it is a place for Mack to have conversations with God.

3. **Attitude**

   According to Hornby (2000: 71), attitude is the way you think and feel about somebody or something; the way that you behave toward somebody or something that shows how you feel and think.

4. **Character**

   According to Abrams (1981:20) character is a person presented in dramatic or relative work, who is interpreted by the reader as being endowed with
moral and dispositional qualities that are expressed in what they say—the dialogue—and what they do—the action.

In this study the term character means the person who becomes the focus of the study. This character will later be observed deeply through nine ways to analyze a character presented by Murphy (1972).

5. Characterization

According to Holman and Harmon characterization is the creation of imaginary persons so that they exist for the reader as life like (1986: 84). In this study, characterization is how the characters behave and think in the novel.
CHAPTER II

REVIEW OF RELATED LITERATURE

This chapter reviews some theories related to the study. This chapter is divided into two parts namely Review of Related Theories and Theoretical Framework. The Review of Related Theories consists of the theory of critical approach, character and characterization, theory of needs, and theory of motivation. Theoretical framework helps to focus on analysis the subject of the study.

A. Theoretical Review

In order to find the answers of the questions which has been formulated in the problem formulation, the presence of some theories will be very significant to support the answers. The theories are as follows:

1. The Theory of Critical Approach

   The critical approach is used to guide the study and keep it to stay focus on the novel being studied. This approach is also utilized to gain deeper understanding about the novel. Ideas and discussions about the novel can be expressed and studied through critical approach. According to Kennedy and Gioia (1999: 1932-1974), the critic toward literary work is not an abstract. It is natural for human to give response to the work of literature. They underline that literary criticism is related to human thought, since it gives an opportunity to people to express their idea or critic on it (1999: 1931).
2. Theory of Character and Characterization

Character plays a very important part in a novel; it is the center of the story which is written. Readers can also get the point that the writer wants to deliver through the character. Many readers feel that they and the character of a novel share so many things in common.

a. Theory of Character

According to Abrams (1981: 20), characters are defined as the persons presented in dramatic or narrative work, who are interpreted by the reader as being endowed with the moral and disposition qualities that are expressed in what they say - the dialogue, and by what they do - the action.

Stanton (1975: 17) has two definition of the terms character. First, character may designate the individual who appears in the story. Second, it refers to the description of attitude, interest, desire, emotion and moral principle of individual.

b. Theory of Characterization

According to Holman and Harmon characterization is the creation of imaginary persons so that they exist for the reader as life like (1986: 84).

Murphy (1972: 161-173) presents nine ways to analyze a character. It helps in making the character comes alive for the readers. The nine ways of characterization by Murphy are also used to gain a deeper understanding about the character.
1) **Personal description**

In this novel, William P. Young describes Mack through Willie’s eyes. It is coherent with Murphy, that appearance and clothes are used by the author to describe the protagonist’s character (1970: 161).

2) **Character as seen by another**

Mack’s character is mostly portrayed by Willie, another character in the book *The Shack* (1970: 162). In the novel, Willie is depicted as Mack’s closest friend who knows everything about Mack.

3) **Speech**

A deeper understanding about Mackenzie Allen Phillips can also be observed through the speeches produced by the character in the novel, or by the conversations the character has with other characters (1970: 164).

4) **Past life**

The character of Mack is also observed through his past experiences as seen in the novel (1970: 166).

5) **Conversation of others**

The character of Mack can also be observed through the conversation of others about him (1970: 167).

6) **Reactions**

Mackenzie Allen Phillip’s character can be observed through his reactions toward events and situations happened in his life (1970: 168).
7) Direct comment

The character’s direct comment can also be used to gain a deeper understanding about the character (1970: 1670).

8) Thought

Mackenzie Allen Phillips thought also means to understand his character (1970: 172).

9) Mannerism

Mackenzie Allen Phillips’ habit described by William P. Young is another way to understood Mack’s character, since a person’s character can be observed through the person’s mannerism and habit (1970: 173).

c. Theory of Motivation

Since the main goal of this thesis is to analyze the Mackenzie Allen Phillips’ struggle in dealing with the death of Missy, his beloved daughter, then Mackenzie Allen Phillips’ motivation in doing such struggle is worth to be observed. The main question is the motivation of Mackenzie Allen Phillips in fulfilling the invitation sent by Papa, when Mack is not yet sure that it was really Papa who invited him. The theories proposed by Buck, Murray, and Smith are used in order to accomplish the study of Mackenzie Allen Phillips’ motivation in this thesis.

According to Buck (1985), in Worcel, Shebilske (1989: 417), motivation is an arousal or energy that directs behavior. Smith (1982:282) strengthens the theory above by stating that motivation is defined as an internal process that influences the
direction, persistence, and vigor of goal directed behavior. In order to reach the certain goal, human beings and animals are moved by the internal factor, which is motivation. Motivation also drives human beings act and behave in certain behavior that supporting their effort in achieving their goals. In brief, motivation always influences behavior.

According to Murray (1964: 7), motivation is related to behavior because it is involved in all kinds of behavior: learning, performing, perceiving, attending, remembering, forgetting, thinking, creating, and feeling. It affects someone’s behavior because motivation may act as the fuel for someone to behave in specific manner.

d. Theory of Needs

Maslow proposes that much of human behavior can be explained by the individual’s tendency to seek personal goals that make life rewarding and meaningful (Hjelle and Zielger, 1981: 368). Maslow presents that human motivation in needs hierarchy. The needs are physiological needs, safety needs, belongingness and love needs, esteem needs and self actualization (Hjelle and Zielger, 1981: 368-374).
Maslow’s Hierarchy of Needs
(original five-stage model)

- **Self-actualisation**
  - personal growth and fulfillment
- **Esteem needs**
  - achievement, status, responsibility, reputation
- **Belongingness and Love needs**
  - family, affection, relationships, work group, etc
- **Safety needs**
  - protection, security, order, law, limits, stability, etc
- **Biological and Physiological needs**
  - basic life needs - air, food, drink, shelter, warmth, sex, sleep, etc

The first needs are physiological needs, which are the basic, powerful, and obvious of all needs. The physiological needs deal with the biological maintenance of the organism. It has to be fulfilled in minimal level before the individual is motivated by higher-order needs. These needs of physiological refer to the biological needs, such as food, oxygen, activity and sleep, sex, protection from extreme temperature, and sensory stimulation (Huit, 2001).

Safety needs are the second needs. Safety needs consist of one’s needs for protection, security, stability, freedom from fear and anxiety, certainty, structure, and predictability (Huit, 2001).

Figure 1: Hierarchy of Needs by Maslow
The third needs are the needs of belongingness and love. In order to be emerged, the physiological and safety needs must have been fulfilled. Since no one can live alone, then the needs of affection, love, and belongingness are very important (Huitt, 2001).

The fourth needs are the esteem needs. These needs are divided into two part; one part deals with self-respect (self-value) and esteem of others (other-value). Self-respect deals with self-confidence, competency, control, sufficiency, achievement, independence, and freedom. On the other hand, esteem of others involves prestige, position, good reputation, and appreciation. In order to gain such needs, an individual will do something deals with competencies, achievement, personal adequacy, and mastery. If an individual can achieve the needs of esteem, confidence within the domain of action that involves others, reputation and prestige, and respect from others will be gained (Huitt, 2001).

Self actualization needs are the last needs. An individual who has succeeded to achieve this highest level forces his or her talent, capacity, and personality to the full use and exploitation. To self actualize is “to become the kind of person one wants to become-to reach the peak of someone’s potential.” (Hjelle and Zielger, 1981: 373)

However, the steps of those needs might not always work based on the theory. There are no guarantee that, for example, the safety needs will not appear before the physiological needs. Maslow, in Huit (2001), states that most people have been able to fulfill most of their basic needs. Nevertheless, there are some other basic
needs which are not yet fulfilled, and those needs give massive influence in human behavior.

Nevertheless, the original form of Maslow’s hierarchy of needs develops. Nowadays, instead of only five stages, the hierarchy has eight stages. The eight stages of Maslow’s hierarchy of needs can be seen in the diagram below.

![Maslow’s Hierarchy of Needs](image)

Figure 2: Eight-stage model based on Maslow
According to Sears (2010) cognitive needs refer to the curiosity of human beings, to the need to know and understand. It is obvious, since learning is natural events for all human beings. From the chart, it can be seen that cognitive needs demand self-awareness. One should aware that he or she needs to know something, and proceed to satisfy his or her curiosity.

Meanwhile, Sears (2010) observes aesthetic needs as “…the work… now has the potential to be literally work of art, something produced by a true ‘professional’.” Sears also states by doing such, one will have ‘the potential to become a means of self-expression.’

The last addition in Maslow’s chart is the transcendence needs. Sears (2010) has a statement about transcendence:

Even a person who is "self-actualized" may still feel that something is missing. The person may feel a longing for connection with the surrounding community, and for the environment in which we all live. The need for transcendence does not refer to leaving the "material world" behind, but rather refers to the transcendence of the sense that the individual is an isolated, lonely being.

It implies that the needs of transcendence come after the self-actualization needs because after actualization, a person needs to share the actualization with other, even one might help other people to become actualized; help others to also actualize.

B. Theoretical Framework

In order to answer the questions stated in the problem formulation, some theories related to the topic are used. Since the thesis is analyzing the main character
of a novel, then the theories of character and characterization are used. The theories are used to analyze Mack’s character before, during, and after *the Great Sadness*. The theories of character used in this study are the theory proposed by Abrams, Kenney, Henkle, and Stanton, and the theory of characterization by Murphy. Those theories are chosen because they can provide various ways in analyzing a character.

Since the study is dealing with the attitude of a character, then the motivation and needs of the character is very important. Dealing with the importance of motivation and human needs in this study, the theories of motivation by Buck, Murray, and Smith and the theory of human needs by Maslow are used significantly in this study. Those theories will be used to explain Mackenzie Allen Phillips attitude toward the death of Missy, his daughter.
CHAPTER III

METHODOLOGY

This chapter consists of three parts. There are subject matter, approach, and procedures. The subject matter is dealing with the subject of the study. Then, the approaches concern with the literature approaches used in analyzing the novel. Steps used in completing the study are explained in the procedure part.

A. Subject Matter

The subject matter in this study is William P. Young’s *The Shack*. This novel, which was directly written in English, was published in English by Windblown Media. The novel consists of 250 pages and it is divided into 18 chapters, excluding the foreword and the after words. The story is about a man in vengeance and his conversation with God. He is so furious to God, The One he used to trust, for the dead of his daughter. During the moment of anger, he accepts an invitation from God himself to meet and talk about him and his life.

Mackenzie Allen Phillips is the central character of this novel. He has four children, and one of his children is murdered by a serial killer in a holiday camp. After his lost, he finds himself blaming God for the burden he has to live with. One day he receives a letter from unknown sender, who asks him to come back to the old shack in the wood where he found the last trace of his daughter. Scared but also filled with anger and vengeance, he goes back, fulfilling the invitation, and he came back to
the shack. What he finds in *The Shack* is surprising, because there, he met the form of The Trinity; The Father, The Son, and The Holy Spirit.

**B. Approach of the Study**

The focus of this study is on the character of Mackenzie Allen Phillips and his struggle dealing with the death of Missy, his daughter. In order to accomplish the aim of the study, the psychological approach is used, especially the theory of motivation and the theory of needs. The psychological approach is used to have a deep understanding about how the character of Mackenzie Allen Phillips is depicted in this novel.

**C. Procedures of the Study**

In order to accomplish the objectives of the study, a library research is conducted to collect theories related. The primary data was William P. Young’s novel entitled *The Shack*. The theories were taken from various sources, which were closely related to the study, such as internet and other books. Some steps are taken during the process of the study. The steps would be clarified in the following paragraph.

In analyzing the novel, there were four steps that were applied respectively. The first step was having a deep level reading through reading it for several times to get a deep understanding about the story and the subject which was about to be analyzed. A thorough reading also helped in making notes of points, quotation, and also summary of the story, which were used to find the significant
element of the story. The second step was referring some references that are related to the studies of William P. Young’s *The Shack* and theories of literature focusing on narrative and fiction, psychological approach. The third step is using some theories about motivation and needs to support the analysis. The fourth step is applying the theories in analyzing the main character, Mackenzie Allen Phillips. The last step was drawing a conclusion of all steps. This part contained the statement that is based on the answer to the problems and a broader conclusion that related to the topic of the study.
CHAPTER IV

ANALYSIS

This chapter presents the findings of the study, and it is divided into two parts. The first part analyzes Mackenzie Allen Phillips’ character before The Great Sadness and the second part discusses Mack’s reaction toward the death of Missy, his beloved daughter.

A. Mackenzie Allen Phillips’ Character as Depicted in The Shack

Stanton (1965: 17) states that the word “character” refers to people who are in the novel. WM. Paul Young created some characters in the novel The Shack. Among the characters, Mackenzie Allen Phillips and The Trinity are the main character. Yet, Mackenzie Allen Phillips is the most significant character since Mack is the center of the whole story of The Shack. Mack is the key of the novel (Henkle, 1977: 178-171). Mack is the dynamic major character in this novel because during the novel, Mack experiences a personality changes.

Mackenzie Allen Phillips is a typical American man who is just about to turn fifty-six (p.11). Physically, he is described as slightly overweight, balding, short white guy, which describe a lot of men in The United States (p.12). Mack works as a businessman who sells high technology gadgets and he does most of his work from a little home office in Wildcat Road (p.12). Although Mack is just an ordinary man, but
for those who truly know him, Mack is different; especially after the Missy’s tragedy and Mack’s visit to the shack.

Mack is married to Nanette A. Samuelson, and this couple has five children, Jon, Tyler, Josh, Katherine (Kate), and Melissa (Missy). The family lives in Oregon. Mack has an ordinary family life with a wife and kids until The Great Sadness comes and changes everything. In this part, the description of Mackenzie Allen Phillips characteristics is examined. The theory used to describe Mackenzie Allen Phillips character is the theory proposed by Kenney (1988: 32-34), where the three traits, social, physical, and psychological that build up a character is presented. These three traits are considered in describing Mackenzie Allen Phillips’ character in the following explanation.

1. Mackenzie Allen Phillips’ Character Before and During the Great Sadness

These are Mackenzie Allen Phillips character before and during the Great Sadness. Before and during the Great Sadness, Mack is depicted as an ordinary, not-so-religious, reflective, and angry man.

a. Ordinary

Being seen from his appearance, Mack is an ordinary man; a typical American man in his fifties. It is coherent with Murphy, that appearance and clothes are used by the author to describe the protagonist’s character (1970: 161).
As I pen these words, I reflect on the Mack I’ve always known, quite ordinary, and certainly not anyone particularly special, except to those who truly know him. He is just about to turn fifty-six, and he is a rather unremarkable, slightly overweight, balding, short white guy, which describes a lot of men in these parts. You probably wouldn’t notice him in a crowd or feel uncomfortable sitting next to him while he snoozes on the MAX (metro transit) during his once-a-week trip into town for a sales meeting. (p.12)

It can be seen that from his outer appearance, Mack is an ordinary man. Mack is someone that is usually being seen in the mass transportation, or in the public place. But, despite of his outer appearance, Mack has a special beauty within him, and only those who are close enough to him can see that beauty. That is the reason for the novelist to put himself as the best friend of Mack, because Mack is someone who will be ordinary for someone who does not truly know him, but he is extraordinary to everyone who knows him well enough. Being Mack’s best friend, the novelist will be able to tell stories about Mack in depth.

b. Not-so-Religious

Mackenzie Allen Phillips has a very unique relationship with God. Although Mack still attends Sunday mass sometimes, he still feels that God abandons him. Applying Murphy’s statement that one’s character can be described from the point of view of the other people in the novel (1970: 162), Will, Mack’s best friend, describes the not-so-religious character of Mack.

His favorite topics are all about God and creation and why people believe what they do. His eyes light up and he gets this smile that curls at the corners of his lips, and suddenly, like a little kid, the tiredness melts away and he becomes ageless and
hardly able to contain himself. But at the same time, Mack is not very religious. He seems to have a love/hate relationship with religion, and maybe even with the God he suspects is brooding, distant, and aloof. Little barbs of sarcasm occasionally spill through the cracks in his reserve like piercing darts dripped in poison from a well deep inside. Although we sometimes both show up on Sundays at the same local pew and pulpit Bible church (The Fifty-fifth Independent Assembly of Saint John the Baptist, we like to call it), you can tell he is not too comfortable here. (p. 22)

Will’s comment about Mack’s relationship with God also describes Mackenzie Allen Phillips’ character. Here, Will compares the way Mack faces the world and God with Nan’s path:

While Mack has struggled in the world with many shades of gray, hers is mostly black and white… While Mack’s relationship with God is wide, Nan’s is deep. (p. 13)

As a former seminary student, Mack’s knowledge about theology and theories about God is out of questions. Despite his broad knowledge about theology, Mack still hates God for what had happened to him in his childhood. He has such a love and hate relationship with God(p.12). Mack acknowledges, but he does not rely on God. This character is build through Mack’s past experience. Murphy (1970: 166) states that the character can also be observed through his past experience as seen in the novel.

Mack was born somewhere in the Midwest, a farm boy in an Irish-American family committed to calloused hands and rigorous rules. Although externally religious, his overly strict church-elder father was a closet drinker, especially when the rain didn’t come, or come too early, and most of the times in between… I know his daddy was not a fall-asleep-happy kind of alcoholic, but a vicious, mean, beat-your-wife-and-then-ask-God-for-forgiveness drunk. (p. 9)
From this scene, it can be seen that Mack does have some problems with God and religious person. From what he has experienced, Mack knows that a religious man does not make the man a good man. It is proven by his father, although his father is widely known as someone religious, but at home, Mack’s father is nothing more but a drunk who always beat his family. That is why Will, Mack’s best friend, describes Mack’s relationship with God as wide. Instead, Nan has shallow information about God, but she does know that God loves everyone. Her relationship with God is deep. She does not have to know theory and study theology to come to God.

c. Contemplative

Mack is a contemplative and reflective person, despite of his ordinary look. Regarding to Murphy’s theory that one’s character can be described from the point of view of the other people in the novel (1970: 162), Will’s point of view once again shows the character of Mack.

In the world of talkers, Mack is a thinker and a doer. He doesn’t say much unless you ask him directly, which most folks have learned not to do. When he does speak you wonder if he isn’t sort of alien who sees the landscape of human ideas and experiences differently than everybody else (p.11).

It can be concluded that Mack is a contemplative and reflective person since he is not a talker, but a thinker and a doer. It is so hard nowadays to find people who prefer to do than to talk. He also has a different way of thinking compared to
other people. There is also a scene that shows Mack as a reflective and contemplative person. Mack has the ability of pointing out people’s faults and humiliating them while maintaining his own sense of false power and control (p.11). Only a genius can do such a thing in a daily conversation, and Mack is able to do it.

d. Angry

In his relationship with God, Mack hates God for some reasons. According to Smith, this fury Mack has deep in his heart can be analyzed through his past experience (1970:166). Mack had a dark experiences about his father, which is also about God and religion, when he was a child.

It all came to a head when thirteen-year-old Mackenzie reluctantly bared his soul to a church leader during a youth revival. Overtaken by the conviction of the moment, Mack confessed in tears that he hadn’t done anything to help his mama as he witnessed, on more than one occasion, his drunken dad beat her unconscious. What Mack failed to consider was that his confessor worked and churched with his father, and by the time he got home his daddy was waiting for him on the front porch, with his mama and sisters conspicuously absent. He later learned that they had been shuttled off to his aunt May’s in order to give his father some freedom to teach his rebellious son a lesson about respect. For almost two days, tied to the big oak at the back of the house, he was beaten with a belt and Bible verses every time his dad woke from a stupor and put down his bottle.

Two weeks later, when Mack was finally able to put one foot in front of the other again, he just up and walked away from home. But before he left, he put varmint poison in every bottle of booze he could find on the farm... He crept back into the house and slipped a note under his mama’s pillow while his father lay snoring off another binge. It just said, “Someday I hope you can forgive me.” He swore he would never look back, and he didn’t—not for a long time. (p.10)
It can be seen through the childhood experience of Mack that he is angry. He is angry to his father, a fake religious man who always beat his wife and children. Mack is also angry to God for having such a religious man like his father. It also can be concluded that Mack did kill his father with varmint poison. Mack is finally able to kill his own father, and that shows how furious he becomes.

2. Mackenzie Allen Phillips’ Character After the Great Sadness

After his experience in the shack, Mack turns into someone who is truly different. He becomes someone who can actualize himself, full of hope, and he somehow, believes.

a. Self Actualized

Mack is now a self actualized person. The evidence of this is Mack’s ability to forgive his father for what his father has done to him in his childhood (p.217). Mack also convinces Nan that every word he tells Nan is true, about his meeting with God.

When Nan noticed that his eyes had opened, she quietly approached so as not to wake their daughter and kissed him. “I believe you,” she whispered, and he nodded and smiled, surprised by how important that was to hear. It was probably the drugs that were making him so emotional, he thought. (p.247)
According to Murphy (1970), Mack’s character can be observed through his reactions toward event and situations happened in his life. That Mack is now a self actualized person is proven by his reaction toward Nan’s words.

The last evidence, Mack can assure Kate that it was never Kate’s fault. Mack does not forgive Kate because there is nothing to be forgiven. Mack helps Kate to be also self actualized (p.246).

b. Joyful

Mack’s experience in the shack assures Mack that the Great sadness is gone. Mack is able to forgive his father and himself, and there is no more regret inside Mack for Missy’s death. He enjoys his life with his family, because Mack knows there is someone out there who is taking care of him and his family.

Well, there you have it—at least as it was told to me. I am sure there will be some who wonder whether everything really happened as Mack recalls it, or if the accident and morphine made him just a little bit loopy. As for Mack, he continues to live his normal productive life and remains adamant that every word of the story is true. All the changes in his life, he tells me are enough evidence for him. The Great Sadness is gone, and he experiences most days with a profound sense of joy. (p.249)

A character can be observed through another character in the novel (Murphy, 1970). Willie’s comment about Mack above is the evidence of Mack’s new character. Mack is able to grasp every joy in everything happens in his life, including Missy’s death. The Great Sadness is no longer a part of is life.
c. Full of Hope

A character can be observed through another character in the novel (Murphy, 1970). Willie’s comment about Mack is pictured Mack’s transformation into someone who is full of hope.

If you ever get a chance to hang out with Mack, you will soon learn that he’s hoping for a new revolution, one of love and kindness—a revolution that revolves around Jesus and what he did for us all and what he continues to do in anyone who has a hunger for reconciliation and a place to call home. (p.250)

Mack, who did not really believe in God, relies on Jesus and he never stops hoping. Mack even hopes the best for the killer; he wants to forgive him (p.250). The new Mack brings hope to his environment, especially his family.

B. Mack’s Reaction Toward Missy’s Death: The Great Sadness

Mack’s reaction toward The Great Sadness is dealing with his moment with God in the shack. There is an assumption that actually, it is not God that Mack meets in the shack, but the reflection of himself. The shack itself is actually more than just an abandoned cabin where Mack finds the remains of his daughter Missy. The Shack symbolizes the hidden place inside Mack that Mack tries to forget. This hidden side of Mack, then, is touched by God. It is true that God involves in everything happens in human life, but not in such ways as the novel The Shack is telling. To analyze the attitude of Mack toward Missy’s death in the shack, Mack’s reaction will be observed in two meanings: surface meaning and deeper meaning. The
process of acquiring the deeper meaning of Mack’s attitude will use the theory of human needs proposed by Maslow in Huitt (2001).

1. Mack’s Reaction Toward the Great Sadness

The moment after Missy disappearance is called as *The Great Sadness*. This term is pictured as a burden for Mack; a ghost that is always attached to Mack wherever he goes. There are at some ways chosen by Mack to free himself from The Great Sadness, including fulfilling the invitation sent by ‘Papa’. The theory of character and motivation are involved here since this part is intended to study the character development experienced by Mack during the Great Sadness and Mack’s motivation to fulfill the invitation to come to the shack.

The Great Sadness is a term used by WM. Paul Young to express the burden Mack has to deal with after Missy’s gone. In fact, there are three problems that Mack has to deal with. First, he has to be a good father for the rest of the family. Second, he has to deal with Kate, another daughter he has. Kate also feels that she is to blame for Missy’s death. The third is that Mack has to deal with his relationship with God which is getting much worse.

Actually, Mack has done quite well in solving the first problem, although there is a moment when he appears to forget about Josh and Kate.

“Sarah has Josh and Kate back at your campsite, so don’t worry about them,” Vicki told him between sobs.

*Oh, God,* Mack thought, having totally forgotten about his other two. *What kind of father am I?* Although he was relieved
that Sarah had them, he now wished even more that Nan was here. (p.47)

It is quite normal in that situation when there is a moment Mack forgets about Josh and Kate. But later on, Mack tries to show his best effort to his children. He tries to be a father who embraces the kids even in a very dark situation. At that very moment, Mack’s motivation is to be a strong father for his children. Motivation always influences behavior, and Mack’s reaction for forgetting Josh and Kate shows it.

The three headed back to Mack’s site. Jesse ran ahead to let Sarah know that Amber was safe, but that Missy’s whereabouts still unknown. Arriving at camp, Mack hugged and encouraged Josh and Kate as best he could, trying to appear calm for their sakes… Mack gave her a quick hug and thanked her, and after kissing his children he joined the other two men as they jogged toward the campground office. (p.48)

He does feel guilt for forgetting his two other children, but Mack is doing well to encourage his daughter and son. The children are shocked because of Missy disappearance. Mack realizes that his family needs him and that they are certainly going down if he fails to cope with his own sadness. It also fits Mack’s motivation, which is to be a good and strong father for the rest of his children.

But in the end, Mack is a man, who fails his duty as a father. It can be seen from the novel that Mack cannot take the burden anymore and fall.

A few hours later, Mack and his two children drove to the hotel in Joseph that had become the staging grounds for the growing search. The proprietors had kindly offered them a complimentary room and as he moved a few of his things into it his exhaustion began to get the better of him. He had gratefully accepted Officer Dalton’s offer to take his children
down to a local dinner for some food, and now, sitting down on the edge of the bed, he was swept helplessly away in the unrelenting and merciless grip of growing despair, slowly rocking back and forth. Soul-shredding sobs and groans clawed to the surface from the core of his being. And that is how Nan found him. Two broken lovers, they held each other and wept as Mack poured out his sorrow and Nan tried to hold him in one piece. (p.56)

At this point, Mack needs help to cope with his problem, and Nan comes. Nan becomes the savior for Mack at this point. She is also upset and greatly sad at that moment, but she still helps Mack to stay in one piece. Nan knows that she and the family need Mack, even more than before. Nan, as a wife, has successfully save Mack from the sadness that haunts him. Nan really helps Mack at this very point.

At some point in the process, Mack attempted to emerge from his own pain and grief, at least with his family. They had lost a sister and daughter, but it would be wrong for them to lose a father and husband as well... The Great Sadness has descended and in differing degrees cloaked everyone whose life had touched Missy’s. Mack and Nan weathered the storm of loss together with reasonable success, and in some ways they were closer for it. Nan had made it clear from the start, and repeatedly, that she did not blame Mack in any way for what happened. Understandably, it took Mack much longer to himself off the hook, even a little bit. (p.66)

It is Kate who is most affected by the tragedy happened to her beloved sister. Kate thinks that she is to blame for Missy’s death. It all begins with Kate’s wish to have a canoe trip.

About that time Josh and Kate, having completed their ordered chores, showed up to ask if they could go out in the Ducette’s canoe one last time; they promised to wear life jacket... He wasn’t too concerned. Their campsite was only a stone throw from the lake, and they promised to stay close to
shore. Mack would be able to keep an eye on them while he continued packing up the camp. (p.42)

Then, the canoe trip becomes not as smooth as it has been planned. The canoe loses its balance and rolls over into the water. Mack spontaneously and instinctively bursts into the water to save his children. It takes quite a long time for Mack to save Josh (p.43) and at that moment of saving, Missy is gone.

Mack stood on the shore, doubled over and still trying to catch his breath. It took a few minutes before he even thought about Missy. Remembering that she had been coloring in her book at the table, he walked up the bank to where he could see the campsite, but there was no sign of her. His pace quickened as he hurried to the tent-trailer, calling her name as calmly as he could manage. No response. She was not there. Even though his heart skipped a beat, he rationalized that in the confusion someone had seen to her, probably Sarah Madison or Vicki Ducette, or one of the older kids. (p.45)

This moment causes a terrible memory for Josh and Kate, especially Kate since she also feels guilty. She thinks that she’s the one to blame for Missy’s being gone. In order to see how Mack deals with Kate and her guilty feeling, the analysis about Mack’s weekend in the shack has to be concluded.

The third problem Mack has to deal with is his own relationship with God. Actually, Mack has already had the feeling of hate even before The Great Sadness comes to his life. The cause of this feeling is his past experience. Starting from the age of thirteen, he has to live alone without a family.

Thirteen is too young to be all grown up, but Mack had little choice and adapted quickly. He doesn’t talk too much about the years that followed. Most of it was spent overseas, working his way around the world, sending money to his grandparents, who passed it on to his mama. In one of those
distant countries I think he had even picked up a gun in some kind of terrible conflict; he’s hated war with a dark passion ever since I’ve known him. (p.11)

The Great Sadness; Missy’s death, brings Mack relationship with God to a whole new level which is much worse than before. He feels that there is no good in following God at all.

The more Mack thought about it, the more confused and irritated he became. Who sent the damn note? Whether it was God or the killer or some prankster, what did it matter? Whichever way he looked at it, he felt as if he were being toyed with. And anyway, what good does following God at all? Look where it got him.

But in spite of his anger and depression, Mack knew that he needed some answers. He realized he was stuck, and Sunday prayers and hymns weren’t cutting it anymore, if they ever really had. Cloistered spirituality seemed to change nothing in the lives of the people he knew, except maybe Nan. But she was special. God might really love her. She wasn’t a screw up like him. He was sick of God and God’s religion, sick of all the little religious clubs that didn’t seem to make any real difference or effect any real changes. Yes, Mack wanted more, and he was about to get much more than he bargained for. (p.68)

Mack starts to thinks that God hates him because he is not as special as Nan. Moreover, Mack feels that religious activity has become useless for him. That is why, Mack wants some answer directly from God, and the note which is sent to him is confusing.

The fury of Mack to God is clearly seen when he finally arrives at the shack and finds nothing.

In a blind rage, Mack grabbed the nearest chair and flung it at the window. It smashed into pieces. He picked up one of the legs and began destroying everything he could. Groans and
moans of despair and fury burst through his lips as he beat his wrath into the terrible place. “I hate you!” In a frenzy he pounded out his rage until he was exhausted and spent… As the mix of emotions ebbed and flowed, his anger giving way to pain, a fresh wave of sorrow began to mix with his confusion. “So, where are you? I thought you wanted to meet me here. Well, I’m here, God. And you? You’re nowhere to be found! You’ve never been around when I’ve needed you—not when I was a little boy, not when I lost Missy. Not now! Some ‘Papa’ you are!” He spat out the words. (p.80)

From this scene in the shack, it can be seen that the rage inside Mack has already been accumulated. The pain of Mack’s childhood, the pain of Missy’s death, and the pain of being toyed at the shack makes Mack furious. He is very disappointed. He had a father who is a heavy-drinker, then, he also feels that he is not a good father either because he could not save Missy. The last, he feels that God is also not a good father, because God is never there for him when he needed someone.

Through some scenes above, it can be seen that Mack really hates God. Although he hates God that much, he still comes to the shack, fulfilling the invitation. According to Smith (1982:282) motivation is defined as an internal process that influences the direction, persistence, and vigor of goal directed behavior. Mack’s goal is to have the answer of the death of Missy, his beloved daughter. Mack is curious why God did not save Missy while everybody say that God is kind. So actually, Mack’s goal in fulfilling God’s invitation is to find the goodness within the pain of the death of Missy: The Great Sadness. However, it will be far from enough if Mack’s motivation is only being seen through the surface meaning, especially because the one Mack is going to meet is God. To deeply analyze Mack’s motivation,
the rest of the novel will be observed using the theory of human needs proposed by Maslow for the deeper meaning. It is done so that there will be no mistake about the character of God in the novel *The Shack*, and also to prevent failure in analyzing Mack’s attitude toward *The Great Sadness*.

2. The Meaning of Mack’s Reaction Toward The Great Sadness

   The deeper meaning of Mack’s reaction toward The Great Sadness will be explained by using the theory of needs. As a human being, Mack has needs that have to be fulfilled. The theory of needs proposed by Maslow will be important in analyzing Mack’s attitude toward Missy’s death.

   a. The Search: The Human Needs

      The first reaction of Mack is to be a good father for the rest of the family after Missy is missing. The third and the fifth needs proposed by Maslow, in Huit (2001) are involved here. The third needs proposed by Maslow are the needs of belongingness and love. In order to emerge, the physiological and safety needs must have been fulfilled. Since no one can live alone, then the needs of affection, love, and belongingness are very important (Huit, 2001).

      When Missy disappears, there is a moment when Mack totally forgets his other children, Josh and Kate. Actually, it is normal for Mack to forget his other children since at that time Missy needs his affection more than the other children.
Actually it is quite normal, in certain situation, but Mack is still disappointed with himself. Mack is disappointed because actually he feels that he still has the affection, love, and belongingness provided by Kate and Josh. These needs of Mack, which are provided by his other children, make Mack feels sorry to himself for forgetting them.

“Sarah has Josh and Kate back at your campsite, so don’t worry about them,” Vicki told him between sobs.

_Oh, God_, Mack thought, having totally forgotten about his other two. _What kind of father am I?_ Although he was relieved that Sarah had them, he now wished even more that Nan was here. (p.47)

Mack wishes that Nan was there. In surface meaning, Mack statement means that Mack is hoping that Nan was there so that Nan could take care of the other children while Mack himself puts his mind and strength in the search of Missy. Instead, in deeper meaning, Mack’s wish means that he needs the fulfillment of the third needs. In such a situation, Mack needs love and affection; someone who he can share the burden with. The fulfillment of love and affection can be seen through the scene below, when Nan finally arrives.

He had gratefully accepted Officer Dalton’s offer to take his children down to a local dinner for some food, and now, sitting down on the edge of the bed, he was swept helplessly away in the unrelenting and merciless grip of growing despair, slowly rocking back and forth. Soul-shredding sobs and groans clawed to the surface from the core of his being. And that is how Nan found him. Two broken lovers, they held each other and wept as Mack poared out his sorrow and Nan tried to hold him in one piece. (p.56)
At that time, in such a moment, Mack really needs love and affection that can only be given by Nan. By the time Nan comes, Mack finally grasps the love and affection that he desperately needs.

There are also a correlation between Mack’s disappointment and the fifth need, self actualization. In this point, Mack actually feels that he had failed in fulfilling his fifth human need, to actualize himself as a good father. According to Hjelle and Zielger (1981: 373), to self actualize is “to become the kind of person one wants to become—to reach the peak of someone’s potential.” Here, Mack thinks that he had failed to become that kind of person that he has always wanted, a good father. The moment of forgetting his other children adds the burden of this feeling of failure. The worst is Mack actually feels that he is not better than his father. It is proven when Mack cries while he asks forgiveness.

As his eyes adjusted the dimness, he began to make out the details of the room by the afternoon light filtering in through the broken windows. Stepping into the main room, he recognized the old chairs and table. Mack couldn’t help himself as his eyes were drawn to the one place he could not bear to look. Even after a few years, the faded bloodstain was still clearly visible in the wood near the fireplace where they had found Missy’s dress. *I’m so sorry, honey.* Tears began to well up in his eyes. (p.79)

Mack reaction toward Kate within *The Great Sadness* is also worth to be observed. After Missy’s death, Kate put herself as someone to be accused for *The Great Sadness*. Mack has to face the fact that he is loosing the needs of belongingness and love that he used to have from Kate.
At some point in the process, Mack attempted to emerge from his own pain and grief, at least with his family. They had lost a sister and daughter, but it would be wrong for them to lose a father and husband as well... *The Great Sadness* has descended and in differing degrees cloaked everyone whose life had touched Missy’s. Mack and Nan weathered the storm of loss together with reasonable success, and in some ways they were closer for it. Nan had made it clear from the start, and repeatedly, that she did not blame Mack in any way for what happened. Understandably, it took Mack much longer to himself off the hook, even a little bit. (p.66)

Mack’s effort to help Kate deal with Kate’s feeling of guilty. Thus, it is not really Mack’s responsibility as a father. Kate’s reaction toward her sister’s death is reducing the amount of affection and love that Mack has. That is why Mack has to find a way to take Kate out from her shell of guilt. It is also an effort of Mack to actualize himself and regain the fifth need, self actualization. However, Nan takes a very important part here, because she does not blame on Mack for everything, not even a little bit (p.66).

In terms of fulfilling needs, there are more than one human needs that Mack wants to fulfill when he comes and fulfills the invitation sent by ‘Papa’ to come to the shack, since the one Mack is going to meet is God. Although Mack comes to the shack to find out the answer for the sorrow he has to live in, but there are deeper meaning dealing with needs fulfillment that Mack seeks. Mack seeks almost all needs, except the physiological needs.

The first need Mack has to fulfill is the safety needs. Safety need is the second needs. It consists of one’s needs for protection, security, stability, freedom from fear and anxiety, certainty, structure, and predictability (Huiit, 2001). So, the
purpose of Mack to visit the shack is to find protection from extreme temperature, which means to find a place to protect him from *The Great Sadness*. Although there is a feeling of doubt in Mack before he fulfill the invitation, but a part of him believes that he will meet God if he comes to the shack.

Mack continued, “And no one who knows us that well would ever send a note like this. I’m thinking only God would…maybe.”(p.73)

The fact that there is a possibility of meeting God in the shack forces Mack to fulfill the invitation. There is only one person in this world that can provide a shelter for Mack during *The Great Sadness*, God. It is true that Mack is trying to find the answer for his ultimate question, but actually Mack is looking for a figure of father that can protect him, especially from *The Great Sadness*.

The third needs are the needs of belongingness and love. In order to be emerged, the safety needs must have been fulfilled. Since no one can live alone, then the needs of affection, love, and belongingness are very important (Huitt, 2001). Mack actually gets such needs from Nan and his children, but as seen through Mack’s past experience, Mack needs someone that can love him as a child. Mack has never had a good father, and Mack did not have much memory with his mother and sisters, since Mack left his family right after he murdered his father (p.10). The love and affection that is needed by Mack is love and affection from a figure of father. The need of belongingness also takes part here, since Mack has never had the sense of belongingness from a father.
The fourth needs are the esteem needs. These needs are divided into two part; one part deals with self-respect (self-value) and the other deals with esteem of others (other-value). Self-respect deals with self-confidence, competency, control, sufficiency, achievement, independence, and freedom. On the other hand, esteem of others involves prestige, position, good reputation, and appreciation. In order to gain such needs, an individual will do something deals with competencies, achievement, personal adequacy, and mastery. If an individual can achieve the needs of esteem, confidence within the domain of action that involves others, reputation and prestige, and respect from others will be gained (Huitt, 2001)

The first part of the fourth needs deals with self-respect or self-value. Mack comes to the shack in order to regain his needs of self-respect. Actually, there is a massive effort from Mack of removing the guilt from his own shoulders by blaming God. The question about Missy’s death Mack wants to ask to God right after he arrives at the shack is also an effort to tell him that everything happens is not Mack’s fault. From this fact, it can be seen that, in depth, Mack feels guilty. He still thinks that The Great Sadness is his fault. Although Nan is convincing him that it is not his fault, but by seeing the fact that Mack is fulfilling the invitation, it can be seen that the guilt still exists deep inside Mack. That is why Mack still has the feeling of fear when he comes to the shack and brings a gun with him.

Suddenly, something moved close by. Startled, he froze, silent and alert. With his heart pounding in his ears and his mouth suddenly dry, he slowly reached behind his back, sliding the pistol from his belt. Snapping off the safety, he peered intensely into the dark underbrush, trying to see or hear
anything that might explain the noise and slow the rush of adrenaline. But whatever had moved had now stopped. (p.78)

The fear experienced by Mack can be explained as the guilt felt by Mack. If Mack really believed that it was God who had invited him, then Mack would not have needed to carry a gun with him. The gun symbolizes Mack protecting his need of self-value from his feeling guilty. Mack just does not realize that at that moment, he does not have that need anymore, and that is the reason for him to come to the shack to meet God; to regain his need of self-value.

Self actualization is the last need. An individual who has succeeded to achieve this highest level forces his or her talent, capacity, and personality to the full use and exploitation. To self actualize is “to become the kind of person one wants to become-to reach the peak of someone’s potential.” (Hjelle and Zielger, 1981: 373)

Self actualization is also the need that Mack wants to regain by coming to the shack. In the process of loosing Missy, Mack is also loosing his self actualization as a good father. By loosing his self actualization as a good father, then he becomes a ‘bad father’. There is an implication here that this feeling makes Mack think that he is just the same as his own father, someone who Mack never wants to be. It also implies that Mack wants to actualize himself as someone, whoever he is, but certainly not his father. When he looses Missy, he feels that he fail to actualize himself, and becomes someone like his father. That is why Mack needs to regain his self actualization.
b. Safety Needs

In brief, Mack’s decision to fulfill God’s invitation to come to the shack is actually Mack’s effort to fulfill the needs proposed by Maslow. However, there is still one question left. The question is whether Mack finds the fulfillment of his human needs or not. The process can be seen through Mack’s several conversations with God within the novel. Mack’s finding will be analyzed to find out whether he finds the needs or not.

At the very moment Mack arrives in the shack, Mack does not meet his goal. Mack finds these needs right after he decides to leave the shack. He had barely walked fifty feet up the trail when he felt a sudden rush of warm air overtake him from behind. The chirping of a songbird broke the icy silence. The path in front of him rapidly lost its veneer of snow and ice, as if someone were blow-drying it. Mack stopped and watched as all around him the white covering dissolved and was replaced by emerging and radiant growth. Three weeks of spring unfurled before him in thirty seconds. He rubbed his eyes and steadied himself in the swirl of activity. Even the light snow that had begun to fall had changed to tiny blossoms lazily drifting to the ground. (p.82)

The sudden change of the environment around the shack is the pre-answer of Mack’s needs. It can be seen that the freezing and dark situation is suddenly changing into a warm and bright situation, and it provides Mack with the warmth, and the feeling of safe, which allow Mack to grab his second needs, safety needs. Mack feels safe right after he decides to enter the shack once again, for he feels that there is something live and warm inside (p.84). Mack decides to come back to the shack, and all of the sudden, he gains his second needs.
Instinctively he jumped back, but he was too slow. With speed that belied her size, she crossed the distance between them and engulfed him in her arms, lifting him clear off his feet and spinning around him around like a little child. And all the while she was shouting his name—“Mackenzie Allen Phillips”—with the ardor of someone seeing a long-lost and deeply loved relative. She finally set him back on earth and, with her hands on his shoulders, pushed him back as if to get a good look at him. (p.84)

In this situation, Mack gains the feeling of being loved, although it comes from someone he barely knows, but Mack can feel the purity of the love that the woman gives. Here, the character of God is depicted as a big African-American woman (p.84). God does not appear in a male form because Mack has a bad memory about a figure of a father, so Mack sees God as a woman. It can be seen that Mack himself who decides what he wants to see, that is why Mack sees a figure of a mother, instead of a man. This love that Mack gets from the woman is fulfilling his needs of safety, the second needs. He knows that the woman will not harm him in any circumstances.

c. Love and Belongingness Needs

Chapter Seven of *The Shack* starts with the fulfillment of Mack’s third needs, love and belongingness. It starts with the example of love and belongingness.

Mack was shocked at the scene in front of him. It appeared that Jesus had dropped a large bowl of some sort of batter or sauce on the floor, and it was everywhere. It must have landed close to Papa because the lower portion of her skirt and bare feet were covered in the gooey mess. They were laughing so hard that Mack didn’t think they were breathing. Sarayu said something about human being clumsy, and all three started
roaring again. Finally, Jesus brushed past Mack and returned a minute later with a large basin of water and towels. Sarayu had already started wiping the goop from the floor and cupboards, but Jesus went straight to Papa and kneeling at her feet, began to wipe off the front of her clothes. He worked down to her feet and gently lifted one foot at a time, which he directed into the basin where he cleaned and massaged it. (p.106)

At first, Mack is given an example of love and belongingness, and the example is something that Mack usually faces from his daily life. Just simple case, when one of the children drops the dinner. The different is, Mack sees the scene from a very different perspective, and Mack realizes it.

As he leaned against the doorway watching, Mack was full of thoughts. So this was God in relationship? It was beautiful and so appealing. He knew that it didn’t matter whose fault it was—the mess from some bowl that had been broken, that a planned dish would not be shared. Obviously, what was truly important here was the love they had for one another and the fullness it brought them. He shook his head. How different this was from the way he sometimes treated the ones he loved. (p.107)

It opens Mack’s eyes about the fact that he often treats people he loves badly, and it includes his family. Mack has killed his father with the varmint poison and had left his mother and sisters before (p.10). Yet, beyond such a feeling, Mack actually feels something else. Mack is starting to feel that Missy’s death is not his fault, and also it is not anybody faults. Missy’s death is symbolized by the dish that Jesus has dropped, so there is no body to be blamed. The scene is also Mack’s creation. He creates this scene in the process of healing himself, and further, healing his family from *The Great Sadness*. 
d. Self Esteem Needs

Most of Mack’s conversations with God in the shack deal with his fourth needs. Maslow, in Huit (2001) states that the fourth needs are the esteem needs. These needs are divided into two part; one part deals with self-respect (self-value) and esteem of others (other-value). Self-respect deals with self-confidence, competency, control, sufficiency, achievement, independence, and freedom. On the other hand, esteem of others involves prestige, position, good reputation, and appreciation. In order to gain such needs, an individual will do something deals with competencies, achievement, personal adequacy, and mastery. If an individual can achieve the needs of esteem, confidence within the domain of action that involves others, reputation and prestige, and respect from others will be gained (Huit, 2001).

During his weekend in the shack, Mack gains both, self-value and other-value. He gains his self-value by reducing the burden of The Great Sadness, and gains his other-value by conversations with God, especially Jesus. Through Jesus, he can gain most of the needs because Jesus, according to Mack, is the most ‘human’ figure compared to the other self of God. Mack starts to honor himself again by the dinner talk he has with Papa, Jesus, and Sarayu.

Conversation seemed almost normal. Mack was asked about each of the children, except Missy, and he talked about their various struggles and triumphs. When he spoke of his concerns for Kate, the three nodded with concerned expressions but offered him no counsel and wisdom. He also answered questions about his friends, and Sarayu seemed most interested in asking about Nan. (p.108)
Mack is being appreciated by the trinity of God, and Mack can feel the feeling of being accepted, of being valued. The moment when someone can value him or herself is the time when someone is being valued by other people, and Mack feels this. Although God knows everything Mack is going to talk about, but still, they put themselves as human, and they truly listen to Mack. Actually, this scene is showing the period when Mack finally hears himself. It shows the moment when Mack finally gets the time alone with himself to value himself.

Mackenzie Allen Phillips, then, also gets the chance to know himself better by the conversation he has with Jesus in the night after the dinner.

“Jesus?”
“Yes, Mackenzie?”
“I am surprised by one thing about you.”
“Really? What?”
“I guess I expected you to be more”—be careful here Mack—“uh...well, humanly striking.”
Jesus chuckled. “Humanly striking? You mean handsome.”
Now he was laughing.
“Well, I was trying to avoid that, but yes. Somehow I thought you’d be the ideal man, you know, athletic and overwhelmingly good-looking.”
“It’s my nose, isn’t it?”
Mack didn’t know what to say.
Jesus laughed. “I am Jewish, you know. My grandfather on my mother’s side had a big nose. In fact, most of the men on my mom’s side had big noses.”
“I just thought you’d be better looking.”
“By whose standards? Anyway, once you really get to know me, it won’t matter to you.” (p.113)

Mack achieves one more lesson here about self value. When he talks to Jesus, Jesus is saying a word about standard. Mack is a good father, and no one doubts about it, even Missy. However, when Mack looses Missy, Mack starts to put
himself into the standard of a good and bad father that is actually made by Mack himself. Mack has a standard about a bad father, who is his own father, and he does not want to be any like his father. Though, when Missy is gone, he starts to put himself into the same level with his father. The conversation about good and bad looking actually talks about good and bad father. Mack is invited to start to value himself in this part.

However, there is some time when Mack still feels the guilt of Missy’s death. It is pictured when Mack explodes his anger to God.

“How can you say that with all the pain in this world, all the wars and disasters that destroy thousands?” Mack’s voice quieted to a whisper. “And what is the value in a little girl being murdered by some twisted deviant?” there it was again the question that lay burning a hole in his soul. “You may not cause those things, but you certainly don’t stop them.” (p.127)

Mack does not talk to God, but he talks to himself. There is still something which is not yet completed in the fulfillment of his self-value needs. Through Mack’s words, it can be analyzed that Mack actually knows that he does not cause Missy’s death, but he aware, that as a man, Mack cannot do anything to stop it. Mack still has the feeling of guilt inside of him.

On page 135, it can be seen the moment when Mack realizes the power to decide good-and bad. This is the essence of what Mack is searching, his self-value. Mack starts to realize that he has the power to decide good and bad, and he is using that power in order to find who is to be blamed for The Great Sadness.

Mack thought for a moment before answering. “Well, I haven’t really thought about that. I guess I would say that
something is good when I like it—when it makes me feel good or gives me a sense of security. Conversely, I’d call evil something that causes me pain or costs me something I want.” (p.136)

Mack starts to understand that the level good or bad is something that is made, and it is made by Mack himself. When he thinks that he is to blame for Missy’s death, he is actually put himself into the box of bad, the box that he made himself, and he calls it as bad because it costs him something and Mack does not like it. Mack does not like to loose Missy, and he calls it as bad, as *The Great Sadness*.

Chapter Eleven is the ultimate way for Mack to rediscover his self-value and other value. In Chapter Eleven it can be seen the struggle of Mack to have a decision that it is not his fault that Missy has passed away. It is started with a long and dark cave where Jesus takes him into.

Taking a deep breath and with his hands outstretched in front of him, he ventured a couple of small steps into the inky darkness and stopped. For seized him as he tried to breathe, unsure whether or not to continue. As his stomach clenched he felt in again: The Great Sadness settling on his shoulders with its full weight, almost suffocating him. He desperately wanted to back out into the light, but in the end he believed that Jesus would not have sent him in here without a good purpose. He pressed in farther. (p.153)

Mack enters the last stage of finding his self-value. Inside the cave, Mack meets a beautiful woman who asks him a lot about his love to his children, and Mack answers that he does not love one of them more than any of the others. I love each of them differently (p156). But then, Mack has the weird experience. He is asked to
choose from the children, who will be sent to heaven and who will be thrown away to hell. As a father, Mack, in any circumstances, will not be able to do this.

“So you suppose then, that God does this easily, but you cannot? Come now Mackenzie. Which three of your five children will you sentence to hell? Katie is struggling with you the most right now. She treats you badly and has said hurtful things to you. Perhaps she is the first and most logical choice. What about her? You are the judge, Mackenzie, and you must choose.” (p.164)

Instead of doing this, Mack keeps on blaming himself for Missy’s death; he is forgetting his other children. By pretending he is a strong father, he lies to his children. Mack realizes that if he does not want Katie to blame herself, then Mack has to forgive himself first. This moment of judgment also makes Mack realize the fact that although Missy has gone, but Missy still brings Mack’s whole heart and love with her, no matter where she is now. This moment of judgment is the moment when Mack finally forgives himself and starts to regain his self-value. He starts to respect himself again.

Once Mack regains his self-value, then he starts to respect others once again. It is done in order to gain the other-value, and it is start by forgiving people who have hurt Mack, including Mack’s father.

“Daddy!” yelled Mack, and he threw himself onto the man who could not even look at his son. In the howl of wind and flame, Mack took his father’s face in his two hands, forcing his dad to look him in the face so he could stammer the words he had always wanted to say: “Daddy, I’m so sorry! Daddy, I love you!” The light of his words seemed to blast darkness out of his father’s colors, turning them bloodred. They exchanged sobbing words of confession and forgiveness, as a love greater than either one healed them. (p.127)
Although Mack asks forgiveness from his father, but it is also an expression to say that he has already forgiven his father for what his father has done to Mack when Mack is still a little child. By forgiving his father, and all of the people who have made some mistakes to him, Mack has finally gained the needs of other-value, and it means that the esteem needs has finally being found.

e. Cognitive needs

In terms of Mack’s experience with God, cognitive needs mean the need to get the answer of the bad things happen to Mack’s life. Mack’s curiosity and fury about Missy’s death has delivered him to an experience of searching cognitive needs. Mack finds it in his experience in the shack, and Mack finds it at the same time when he gains his esteem needs back. Mack’s experience with Sophia has given Mack his self-esteem needs and cognitive needs at once. Mack finally recognizes the mystery beyond Missy’s death.

“She didn’t have to, McKenzie. This was no plan of Papa’s. Papa has never needed evil to accomplish her good purposes. It is your humans who have embraced evil, and Papa has responded with goodness. What happened to Missy was the work of evil, and no one in your world is immune from it.” (p. 167)

Mack gets the answer that Missy’s death has nothing to do with God. He gets the knowledge that it is human who hurt each other and God has done goodness to stop it. Mack finally wants to trust God, instead of keep judging (p. 167). There is an action from Mack after he knows the truth about God.
It is true that Mack’s knowledge about God and religion is broad, since he graduated from a seminary. The cognitive needs here mean the needs of Mack to know about the mystery of Missy’s death, instead of Bible-based knowledge. The result of the fulfillment of these needs is the will from Mack himself to appreciate life, and to appreciate God. Therefore, after gaining this needs, Mack will soon gain his aesthetic needs.

f. Aesthetic Needs

Mack gains his aesthetic needs while he has a conversation with Sarayu about emotions. Mack realizes that there is nothing evil in emotions, instead, emotions are beautiful.

“Mackenzie.” Sarayu seemed to rise up into the air. Mack still had a difficult time looking right at her, but with the late-afternoon sun reflecting off the water, it was even worse. “Emotions are the color of the soul – they are spectacular and incredible. When you don’t feel, the world becomes dull and colorless. Just think how The Great Sadness reduced the range of color in your life down to monotones and flat grays and blacks.” (p. 198)

Sarayu’s speech about emotions guides Mack to gain his aesthetic needs. Mack realizes that he had treated emotions in a wrong way. Instead of something negative, emotions draws color in Mack’s life. It is The Great Sadness that has turned Mack’s life into something that Mack cannot appreciate. After having some time with Sarayu, Mack starts to appreciate his life, as something gorgeous, once again.
g. Self Actualization Needs

Mack has achieved all of his needs during his weekend in the shack. To complete his searching, Mack has to complete the final needs, which is self actualization.

Self actualization is the last need. An individual who has succeeded to achieve this highest level forces his or her talent, capacity, and personality to the full use and exploitation. To self actualize is “to become the kind of person one wants to become-to reach the peak of someone’s potential.” (Hjelle and Zielger, 1981: 373)

To actualize his self is the last needs that Mack searches. In order to complete the searching, Mack has to deal with Missy’s remains. Papa takes Mack to the place where Missy’s body is hidden by the murder, and they take the body out of the cave and wrap it. Mack brings the body to the shack, where Jesus and Sarayu are waiting, and holds the body of his daughter close to his heart (p.232). When they arrive in the shack, Jesus has prepared a small coffin for Missy.

Even though Mack carried the burden of Missy’s body back to the cabin, the time passed quickly. When they arrived at the shack, Jesus and Sarayu were waiting by the back door. Jesus gently relieved him of his burden and together they went to the shop where he had been working. Mack had not entered here since his arrival and was surprised as its simplicity. Light streaming through large windows caught and reflected wood dust still hanging in the air. The walls and workbenches, covered with all manner of tools, were organized to easily facilitate the shop’s activities. This was clearly the sanctuary of the master craftsman.

Directly before them stood his work, a masterpiece of art in which to lay the remains of Missy. As Mack walked around the box, he immediately recognized the etchings in the wood. On closer examination he discovered that details of Missy’s life were carved into the wood. He found an engraving of Missy with her cat, Judas. There was another of Mack sitting in a chair reading a
Dr. Seuss to her. All the family was visible in scenes worked into the sides and top: Nan and Missy making cookies, the trip to Wallowa Lake with the tram ascending the mountain, and even Missy coloring at the camp table along with an accurate representation of the ladybug pin the killer had left behind. There was even a rendering of Missy standing and smiling as she looked into the waterfall, knowing her daddy was on the other side. Interspersed throughout were flowers and animals that were Missy’s favorites. (p.233)

This is the point when Mack has to leave everything that has been hurting him since *The Great Sadness*. Mack has to let Missy go, because now Mack has known that he loves Missy, and nothing is going to change it, not even the space or time. The engraving in Missy’s coffin is the symbol for the beautiful memory Mack has with his family. He does not have to forget everything, but he absolutely cannot live within it. By doing this, Mack’s searching of human needs is over. He regains all the human needs back.

**h. Transcendence**

By regaining his human needs back, Mack becomes a whole new person. He is still Mack, but without the anger and fury to God. When Mack completes his human needs, he automatically has the way to solve the problem faced by his family. It can be seen mostly when Mack finally talks to Kate about Missy’s death.

Her skepticism eroded to the point where she agreed to find a way for her and Mack to have some time alone with Kate. Mack would not tell her why and that made her nervous, but she was willing to trust him in the matter. Josh was sent on an errand, leaving just the three of them.
Mack reached out his hand and Kate took it. “Kate,” he began, his voice still a little weak and raspy, “I want you to know that I love you with all my heart.”

“I love you too, Daddy.” Seeing him like this had evidently softened her a little.

He smiled and then grew serious again, still holding onto her hand.

“I want to talk to you about Missy.”

Kate jerked back as if stung by a yellow jacket, her face turning dark. Instinctively she tried to pull her hand away, but Mack held tight, which took a considerable portion of his strength. She glanced around. Nan came up and put her arm around her. Kate was trembling. “Why?” she demanded in a whisper.

“Katie, it wasn’t your fault.”

Now she hesitated, almost as if she had been caught with a secret. “What’s not my fault?”

Again, it took effort to get the words out, but she clearly heard. “That we lost Missy.” Tears rolled down his cheeks as he struggled with those simple words.

Again she recoiled, turning away from him.

“Honey, no one blames you for what happened.”

Her silence lasted only a few second longer before the dam burst. “But, if I hadn’t been careless in the canoe, you wouldn’t have had to…” Her voice filled with self-loathing.

Mack interrupted with a hand on her arm. “That’s what I’m trying to tell you, honey. It wasn’t your fault.”

Kate sobbed as her father’s words penetrated her war-ravaged heart. “But I’ve always thought it was my fault. And I thought that you and Mom blamed me, and I didn’t mean…”

“None of us meant for this to happen, Kate. It just happened, and we’ll learn to live through it. But we’ll learn together. Okay?” (p.246)

This is the moment when Mack finally says the words that heal Kate from her guilt. The moment needs effort, and only a person that can actualize himself is able to do such thing to someone he loves, and Mack does. Mack releases Kate from the feeling of guilt and from the thought that everyone blames her. The moment Mack releases Kate proves that Mack has accomplished his search of his own human needs.
God touches Mack to open himself for forgiveness. By doing such, Mack will automatically regain his human needs back, the needs that disappear from Mack along with Missy’s death. The process actually is about forgiveness. Mack forgives the killer; Mack forgives his father, and forgives himself. The last, after regaining his transcendence needs, Mack is able to make Kate forgive herself for Missy’s death. By doing such forgiveness, Mack is finally able to take the burden off. *The Great Sadness* is no longer existed.
CHAPTER V
CONCLUSION AND SUGGESTION

This chapter is divided into two parts. The first part contains the conclusion of the whole analysis of WM. Paul Young’s *The Shack*. The second part covers the suggestions for further research and some implementations for teaching.

A. Conclusion

Having analyzed the novel *The Shack* by WM. Paul Young, it can be concluded that before and during the *Great Sadness*, Mack is an ordinary, not-so-religious, reflective, and angry man. He is ordinary because he has a typical appearance for an American man. Mack also has a unique relationship with God, such a love-hate relationship. Then, Mack is a reflective man, but it can be only seen by people who know him well enough, or at least by people who had the chance to talk to him. The last, Mack is an angry person, in term of his relationship with God. It happens because Mack has a bad childhood memory, and also because he misses his daughter, Missy. However, after the shack, when the *Great Sadness* is finally gone, Mack turns into someone who is truly different. He is still ordinary, but now he is self-actualized, joyful, and also full of hope. He can actualize himself and also actualize others, including his wife Nan, and his daughter Kate. Mack’s life also becomes full of joy, because he can forgive his father, so there is no regret inside
Mack anymore. The last, Mack hopes. He now relies on God, instead of making enemy with Him.

Through a deep analysis, it is found that Mack reacts in a very human attitude toward the death of Missy, his daughter. Mack reacts by keeping himself calm and strong so that the rest of the family can realize that they still have hope, and so that the family can accept Missy’s gone. Although Mack appears to be calm and strong, it can be seen that actually Mack himself has his own human needs to be fulfilled in term of Missy’s death. Missy’s death brings Mack to the reality that he still has needs that are not yet fulfilled. His decision to come to the shack and meet God is a choice to fulfill his human needs.

The story of Mack is a story that everybody has. People often blame God for terrible things which happen in their lives, the same as Mack. How people deal with it is the main idea that determine the result of the struggle. The problem is, God does not come to people in such a way. It would be so unfair if God came only for Mack to release him from the burden. So, the experience of God and Mack in the shack has to be seen as a spiritual experience, which means God is involved, but not in the way written in the novel. Actually the person that Mack meets in the shack is Mack himself. The shack itself is a process for Mack to regain his human needs, as proposed by Maslow.

The book *The Shack* itself is a great book. It shows the reader a unique way to deal with a problem, since the problem that the book provides is the problem that people usually have within their daily lives. The book teaches the reader to
appreciate him or herself, appreciate others, and appreciate relationships between him or her and others.

B. Suggestions

This part consists of two parts. The first suggestions are for the future researchers. The second ones are for teaching implementation. For future researchers, there are two suggestions regarding the aspects that can be analyzed and studied in this study based on the subject. For teaching implementation, the importance of literature work within English teaching and the example of a material based on a literature work will be provided.

1. Suggestions for Further Research

First, *The Shack* is using so many situations that can also be found in the Holy Bible. There is a moment in the novel when Mack is invited by Jesus to walk on the water together (p.144), for an example. It is suggested for further researchers to find the similarity between the plot of *The Shack* and The Holy Bible, because it may help the reader to understand the way God acts in human daily life.

Second, *The Shack* contains so many symbols that can mean so many things. The symbols in *The Shack* are often the daily situation that people face in their routine, but those symbols can also mean something else than just a routine problems. Further researchers can take the study of symbol as their study because it might be challenging and the result will be useful for the reader.
There are so many things to learn by reading this novel. The result of this study is only a little part of the massive lessons that the novel *The Shack* offers. God is always around, in every circumstance. However, God does not appear in the way that is written in the novel. By putting aside the thought, the readers will gain more lessons from the novel, but if the thought remains, there is a danger of hoping too much and it can be ended by running away from the reality of life.

The second, the readers have to realize that *The Shack* is the story of their daily life. Mack is the representation of everyone. Nowadays, people doubt God for things happen in their lives. The process that Mack experiences can be experienced by everyone, as long as they let God comes and helps them to recognize themselves; to talk to themselves. *The Shack* is a work of fiction, but fiction is a picture of reality, so the readers can use this fiction to learn how to deal with reality, instead of running away from it.

### 2. Suggestion for Teaching Implementation

According to Mujumdar (2010), Literature has been included in the syllabi of higher education since a long time ago and it is continued even now. Everywhere around the world, there is a massive demand of English language learning since English is a language for international communication. Therefore, it is important to use literature works in an English language learning process since it provides the contextual material for the learners.

Lazar (1993) says that if the materials are carefully chosen, students will feel what they do in the classroom is relevant and meaningful to their own lives. This
is another advantage of using literature in a classroom. However, teachers have to choose the material carefully so that the material chosen will be useful for teaching and learning process.

A novel is selected as one of the materials because novel is interesting. Students will not be bored of learning English through novel. Second, the novel provides the real context and situation where English is commonly used by the native speakers. Mujumdar (2010) states that:

The reason for the need and purpose of study of English literature may possible in its increasing reputation as the literature of world language. With this, the native English Literature is considered essential and important as part of the learning process of the English language. It might be learned and studied for its literary aspects, to know and enjoy, English in original native expressions and to be acquainted with the works of great literary masters.

Students will enjoy the teaching and learning process using the novel because they will enjoy the story. The students will be encouraged to know a new knowledge provided by the novel.

**Teaching Reading Using The Shack for the Second Grade of Senior High School**

This section will provide a suggestion of teaching reading skill for the second grade of senior high school students, especially for the second semester students.

A story about the Multnomah tribe’s princess will be used as the reading passage, since the material deals with narrative text. According to Paulston and Bruder (1976: 164) intensive reading technique focuses students’ attention through
instruction on the linguistic features which enable them to decode the message. The intensive reading technique will be used as the main technique in this suggestion. The teaching procedures will be:

**Pre-reading**

1. The teacher asks some students some questions related to narrative. It is useful to encourage their past experience about literature and also to increase their curiosity.
2. The teacher gives the text to the students.

** Whilst Reading**

1. The students are given some time to read the text.
2. The students are asked to find the meaning of the words provided in the vocabulary section.
3. The students work on the true or false section.
4. The students answer the questions related to narrative text.
5. The teacher gives some questions about the text provided.
6. The students discuss the text with the teacher.

**Post Reading**

1. The teacher asks some students to tell their opinion about the text, and also their feeling about the text.
REFERENCES


(http://www.pdfstop.com/view/aHR0cDovL3BzeWNoLWNoLWZucmF1ZS5jb20uZ29vZ2xlcy9tYXNsb3cuZG9j, accessed on November 10, 2010).


http://faculty.mdc.edu/jmcnair/joe%20lynn%20jr/Articles/abraham%20maslow%27s%20hierarchy%20of%20needs.htm

(http://www.bkone.co.in/clubBK/MaslowsHierarchyofNeeds.asp)
Appendix A

Summary of *The Shack*

Mackenzie Allen Phillips was an ordinary man and a father of five children, Jon, Tyler, Josh, Kate, and Missy. Although he seemed to be common, but actually Mack had a bad memory about his father, a religious man who always tortured his family. Mack did not want to be a man like his father.

One day, Mack brought three of his children, Josh, Kate, and Missy on a holiday camp. The holiday trip that was supposed to be fun and relaxing became terror, because Missy disappeared. Missy was kidnapped by a killer and she was killed. Mack had to deal with the pain, the pain that he called as *The Great Sadness*.

A few years after Missy’s death, Mack received a note. It was written by God and God asked Mack to come back to the shack, the place where the remains of Missy were found. Mack went to the shack, hoping that he would have the answer about Missy’s death and about the misery that happened in his life.

During his weekend in the shack, Mack experienced a wonderful time with God, Jesus, and Sarayu, the entities of God. He had time with God, mostly in the kitchen. Mack spent his time with Jesus walking on the water. He also had a time with Sarayu. Mack spent almost all time to talk about Missy, and he found that God had nothing to do with Missy’s death. It was not God who did it; it was Mack’s fellow human.
Finally, after his time with God, Mack had to deal with *The Great Sadness*. He had to release *The Great Sadness*, the ghost that had been haunting him for years. He also had to deal with his pain while he met his father and forgave him, and also when God showed him the path to Missy’s body, which was hidden inside a cave near the shack.

When he got home, Mack had a car accident. Getting better, he tried to tell everything to Nan, his wife, and to Will, his best friend. Mack also finally had the courage to tell Kate that it was not her fault. Kate always blamed herself for Missy’s death and Mack convinced her that Missy’s death was not everybody’s fault. Coming back from the shack, Mack became a new person; a better one.
Appendix B

William Paul Young’s Short Biography

We live in a world where ‘normal’ does not truly exist except as an idea or concept. For each of us, where and how we grew up plays a foundational role in our sense of ‘normal’, and only when we begin to experience the ‘bigness and diversity’ of the world are we tempted to evaluate our roots.

I thought the way I grew up was ‘normal’ but I think most would probably agree that my history and journey have been a bit unusual. I was the eldest of four, born May 11th, 1955, in Grande Prairie, Alberta, Canada, but the majority of my first decade was lived with my missionary parents in the highlands of Netherlands New Guinea (West Papua), among the Dani, a technologically stone age tribal people. These became my family and as the first white child and outsider who ever spoke their language, I was granted unusual access into their culture and community. Although at times a fierce warring people, steeped in the worship of spirits and even occasionally practicing ritualistic cannibalism, they also provided a deep sense of identity that remains an indelible element of my character and person.

By the time I was flown away to boarding school at age 6, I was in most respects a white Dani. In the middle of a school year, my family unexpectedly returned to the West. My father worked as a Pastor for a number of small churches in Western Canada and by the time I graduated, I had already attended thirteen different
schools. I paid my way through Bible College working as a radio disc jockey, lifeguard and even a stint in the oil fields of northern Alberta. I spent one summer in the Philippines and another touring with a drama troupe before working in Washington D.C. at Fellowship House, an international guest house. Completing my undergraduate degree in Religion, I graduated summa cum laude from Warner Pacific College in Portland, Oregon.

The following year, I met and married Kim Warren and for a time worked on staff at a large suburban church while attending seminary. I have owned businesses and worked for others in diverse industries, from insurance to construction, venture capital companies to telecom, contract work to food processing; whatever was needed to help feed and house my growing family. I have always been a writer, whether songs, poetry, short stories or newsletters; never for public consumption but for friends and family. While I have extensively written for business, creating web content, business plans, white papers etc.,

The Shack was a story written for my six children, with no thought or intention to publish. It is as much a surprise to me as to anyone else that I am now an ‘author’. Overall, I am a very simple guy; I have one wife, six kids, two daughter-in-laws and five grandchildren (one of them yet to be seen). I worked as a general manager, janitor and inside sales guy for a friend who owns a small manufacturers rep company in Milwaukie, Oregon, and I lived for a time in a small rented house in Gresham, Oregon, that Kim has made into a marvelous home. My time is spent loving the people that are a part of my life. I am surrounded by people of faith and
we have incredible friends; now you are one of those. Oh yeah... and I wrote this book.

These are some of the facts of my life, but they don’t begin to tell the real story. That would take much more room than is available here. The journey has been both incredible and unbearable, a desperate grasping after grace and wholeness. These facts don’t tell you about the pain of trying to adjust to different cultures, of life losses that were almost too staggering to bear, of walking down railroad tracks at night in the middle of winter screaming into the windstorm, of living with an underlying volume of shame so deep and loud that it constantly threatened any sense of sanity, of dreams not only destroyed but obliterated by personal failure, of hope so tenuous that only the trigger seemed to offer a solution. These few facts also do not speak to the potency of love and forgiveness, the arduous road of reconciliation, the surprises of grace and community, of transformational healing and the unexpected emergence of joy.

Facts alone might help you understand where a person has been, but often hide who they actually are. The Shack will tell you much more about me than a few facts ever could. In some ways my life is partly revealed in both characters- Mack and Missy. But at writer is always more. That about sums up my life. For me, everything is about Jesus and Father and the Holy Spirit, and relationships, and life is an adventure of faith lived one day at a time. Any aspirations, visions and dreams died a long time ago and I have absolutely no interest in resurrecting them (they would stink by now anyway). I have finally figured out that I have nothing to lose by
living a life of faith. I know more joy every minute of every day than seems appropriate, but I love the wastefulness of my Papa’s grace and presence. For me, everything in my life that matters is perfect!

(Taken from: http://windrumors.com/bio/)
Appendix C

LESSON PLAN

Grade : Senior High School

Subject : English

Class/Semester : XI / 2

Competence Standard : To identify meaning in short functional text and monologue in form of narrative, explanation, and discussion in daily life context and in order to access knowledge.

Basic Competence : To respond meaning and rhetorical steps in essay text accurately, fluently, and acceptably in various contexts of daily life and in order to access knowledge.

Indicator :

- To identify the generic structure of narrative text.
- To identify the language features and characteristics of narrative text.

Time Allocation : 2 x 45’

A. Learning Objective

Students are able to identify the generic structure, language feature and characteristics of narrative text and to read a short narrative text.
## B. Learning Method

- Teaching, brainstorming, discussion, explanation, practice, exercises

## C. Learning Activities

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>No</th>
<th>Activities</th>
<th>Time Allocation</th>
<th>Methods</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>1</td>
<td>Pre-Activities</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>- Greet</td>
<td>10’</td>
<td>Explanation</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>- The students and the teacher review what the students have learned about narrative text</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2</td>
<td>Whilst Activities</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>- The students are given an exercise individually (reading the story about an Indian Princess taken from the novel <em>The Shack</em> by WM. Paul Young).</td>
<td>30’</td>
<td>Exercise and discussion.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>- The students are to work on exercise based on the story about the Indian princess.</td>
<td>20’</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>- The students are to discuss their result with their friends.</td>
<td>25’</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>3</td>
<td>Post-Activities</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>---</td>
<td>---</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>- The students are to conclude what they have learned today about narrative text.</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>- The students are to notify their difficulties in today’s learning.</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>- The students are to conclude the whole material that they have learned today.</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>5’</td>
<td>Discussion.</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

D. Sources


E. Evaluation

- Form: reading and writing exercise
- Instrument: handout
The Reading Text

_The Sacrifice of the Indian Princess_

The foursome stopped at Multnomah Falls to buy a coloring book and crayons for Missy and two inexpensive, waterproof disposable cameras for Kate and Josh. They then decided to climb the short distance up the trail to the bridge facing the falls. There had once been a path that led around the main pool and into the shallow cave behind the tumbling water, but, unfortunately, it had been blocked off by the park authorities because of erosion. Missy loved it here, and she begged her daddy to tell the legend of the beautiful Indian maid, the daughter of a chief of the Multnomah tribe. It took some coaxing, but Mack finally relented and retold the story as they all stared up into the mists shrouding the falling cascade.

The tale centered on a princess, the only child left to her aging father. The chief loved his daughter clearly and carefully picked out a husband for her, a young warrior chief of the Clastop tribe, whom he knew she loved. The two tribes came together to celebrate the days of the wedding feast, but before it could begin, a terrible sickness began to spread among the men, killing many.

The elders and the chiefs met to discuss what they could do about the wasting disease that was quickly decimating their warriors. The oldest medicine man among
them spoke of how his own father, when aged and near death, had foretold of a
terrible sickness that would kill their men, an illness that could be stopped only if a
pure and innocent daughter of a chief would willingly give up her life for her people.
In order to fulfill the prophecy, she must voluntarily climb to a cliff above the Big
River and from there jump to her death onto the rocks below.

A dozen young women, all daughter of the various chief, were brought before
the council. After considerable debate the elders decided that they could not ask for
such a precious sacrifice, especially for a legend they weren’t sure was true.

But the disease continued to spread unabated among the men, and eventually
the young warrior chief, the husband-to-be, fell ill with the sickness. The princess
who loved him knew in her heart that something had to be done, and after cooling his
fever and kissing him softly on the forehead, she slipped away.

It took her all night and the next day to reach the place spoken in the legend, a
towering cliff overlooking the big river and the lands beyond. After praying and
giving herself to the Great Spirit, she fulfilled the prophecy by jumping without
hesitation to her death on the rocks below.

Back at the villages the next morning, those who had been sick arose well and
strong. There was great joy and celebration until the young warrior discovered that
his beloved bride was missing. As the awareness of what had happened spread
rapidly among the people, many began the journey to the place where they knew they would find her. As they silently gathered around her broken body at the base of the cliff, her grief-stricken father cried out to the Great Spirit, asking that her sacrifice would always be remembered. At that moment, water began to fall from the place where she had jumped, turning into a fine mist that fell at their feet, slowly forming a beautiful pool.

(Taken from: *The Shack*, 2007, page 29-30)
**Vocabularies**

**Match the provided words!**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Maid</th>
<th>Kening, dahi</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Prophecy</td>
<td>Keraguan</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Forehead</td>
<td>Tebing yang terjal</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Cliff</td>
<td>Kesedihan</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Hesitation</td>
<td>Perawan, gadis</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Bride</td>
<td>Kabut</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Grief</td>
<td>Ramalan</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Mist</td>
<td>Pengantin wanita</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**Decide whether the statements below are true or false!**

1. The legend is about a princess from the Clastop tribe. ( T / F )

2. There was a sickness that spread among the tribes and killed many. ( T / F )

3. The oldest medicine man was the young princess’ father. ( T / F )

4. The young warrior was not affected by the disease. ( T / F )
5. The young princess sacrificed herself only for her beloved warrior. (T/F)

Narrative always has orientation, complication(s), and resolution. Now please identify the orientation, complication(s), and resolution of ‘The Sacrifice of the Indian Princess’!

1. What is the orientation of the story (who, when, where)?
2. What is/are the complication(s) of the story?
3. What is the resolution of the story?