SELF ACTUALIZATION OF THE MAIN CHARACTER ON THE INTO THE WILD FILM

A Thesis

Submitted to Letters and Humanities Faculty
In Partial Fulfillment of the Requirements for the Strata One Degree (S1)

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ABSTRACT


This Research is aimed at finding out the Character of Christopher McCandless as the main Character in the film *Into the Wild* described and the way of Christopher McCandless reaches his Self actualization through his Journey into the wild in Alaska based on Hierarchy of Human needs of Abraham H. Maslow’s theory. The Writer also analyzes motivation, characteristics, behavior, thought and ideology that the main character has. The Writer identifies the problem of the main character needs which are revealed in his searching for self actualization, and how the main character fulfilling his need is. The method that is used in his research is descriptive qualitative. The data are analyzed by reading, understanding and identifying.

From the data analysis the writer finds out that the main character in the film *Into The Wild* through his journey to Alaska has fulfilled his human needs and finally he can reaches self actualization needs as the peak of hierarchy after struggling through a solitary existence for several months in the Alaska. At the peak of hierarchy he gets the wisdom that changes his originally thought about the happiness and human relationship. But when he realizes it and decides to return to the civilization, he trapped by the flow of the river until he dies in his dream land, Alaska.
APPROVEMENT

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The thesis entitled “Self Actualization The Main Character on The Into The Wild Film” has been defended before the Adab and Humanities Faculty’s Examination Committee on May, 2010. The thesis has already been accepted as a partial fulfillment of the requirement for Strata One Degree (S1)

Jakarta, June 2010

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DECLARATION

I hereby declare that this submission is my own work and that, to the best of my knowledge and belief, it contains no material previously published or written by another person nor material which to a substantial extent has been accepted for the award of any other degree or diploma of the university or other institute of higher learning, except where due acknowledgement has been made in the text.

Jakarta, June 2010

TB. Faisal Sahuri
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In the name of Allah, The Most Gracious and The Most Merciful

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The writer
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CHAPTER I
INTRODUCTION

A. Background of the Study

Films are cultural artifacts created by specific cultures, which reflect those cultures and in turn affect them. Film is considered to be an important art form, a source of popular entertainment and a powerful method for educating citizens about mental illness or other societal problems. The visual elements of cinema give motion pictures a universal power of communication.¹

Film does not only become something that entertains but also can inspire the viewer if it is shown attractively. Many aspects of life become story theme in film, for example psychology. Film as a medium to describe psychological topics is including development over the life cycles (particularly childhood and adolescence), family dynamics and mental illness. Film with psychological themes becomes popular for various reasons. Some psychological film becomes popular because it is adapted from the best seller novel or books for example American Psycho (2000). Some others based on true life story. For example, the pursuit of happiness (2006) and Into the wild (2007)

Into the wild is one of the films that has psychological themes. It is based on true story and have booked with the same title, the story tell about Christopher McCandless (Emile Hirsch) a young Virginia man who divorces himself from his friends, family, and possessions in search of a greater spiritual knowledge and

communion with nature. Upon his 1990 graduation from Emory University in Atlanta, he walks away from his family, burning all his money and sends his nearly 25,000-dollar life savings to Oxfam International. Instead of the normal life his parents planned for him, Chris rechristens himself "Alexander Supertramp" and heads west in his beaten-up automobile until it no longer runs, at which point he takes up hitch hiking. The goal journey on the horizon is Alaska.²

As a Backpacker, McCandless set off on a zigzagging two-year journey that took him from South Dakota to Southern California, from the Sea of Cortez to the Alaskan wilderness By hook or by crook -- but without his limited cash, which he symbolically sets a flame -- Chris determines to make it to his personal promised land, with stops along the way to experience America and its people. These adventures include a kayak trip down dangerous rapids, a gig working in a grain mill, extended stays with a hippie couple and a kindly old widower -- and enough cold, hunger, and exhaustion to leave him emotionally defeated more than once

McCandless decides to live in the wild, without the advents of human society. Living in a bus in the midst of the Alaskan wilderness with nothing more than some basic supplies, McCandless keeps a careful diary of his time, his thoughts, and his reasons for fleeing from society makes the decision to return to society, but is unfortunately forced to return to his bus only to find the stream he crossed in the snow has become an impassable raging torrent and that he is trapped. With no means of sustaining himself adequately he takes to eating berries

and fauna, that he identifies using a book. Unfortunately, he awakes one morning to find that the berries he consumed the night before were poisonous, and causes him to starve in his so sought after isolation. He spends a little more than 100 days in the wild, all the while being suspected of causing damage on local cabin owners’ land, and finding himself stuck in his situation. He writes often of his reasons, but eventually decides that nature is only a refuge for a short while, that true happiness can only be shared with others. In his final days, McCandless is weakened by hunger and the cold, he perished apparently from starvation and he died in his dream land, Alaska.

The struggle and spirit of the main character in the *Into The Wild* film who traveling to Alaska, and spend time with the Nature, with ‘real’ existence and away from the trappings of the modern world is interested to be analyzed, because of that the writer try to analyze how the film describe the Christopher McCandless’ character and explain his journey to fulfill his self actualization needs to Alaska and Abraham H. Maslow’s Theory (The Hierarchy of Human Needs) is the most suitable theory to justify and answer the problem.

**B. Focus of the Study**

Based on the background of the study above, this research is Focused on how the main character, Christopher McCandles fulfill his needs for self actualization in his journey to Alaska in the *Into The Wild* Film using Maslow’s Hierarchy of human needs theory.
C. Research Question

The questions in this research are:

1. How is Christopher McCandles described in the film Into The Wild

2. How does Christopher McCandles fulfill and reaches his self actualization needs in his journey to Alaska viewed from Abraham H. Maslow’s the Hierarchy of Human Needs Theory

D. Significances of the Research

The writer hopes that the research can be useful for the readers who are interested in the film- field especially for those who want to know about the self actualization analysis from the main character. It is also hoped that the result of the research can be used for English Letters Department, the Faculty of Letters and Humanities, State Islamic University Syarif Hidayatullah, Jakarta as one of the references in studying character in the film and its social life

E. Research Methodology

1. Objective

   1. To explain the character of Christopher McCandless in Into the Wild Film

   2. To explain how Christopher McCandles reaches his self actualization in his journey to Alaska viewed from Abraham H. Maslow’s the Hierarchy of Needs Theory
2. Method

The method that is used in this research is descriptive qualitative method. In this research the writer will describe the collected data. Data are selected by watching the film, reading the script, noting some important data and browsing internet.

3. Instrument

The instrument of the research is the writer himself. The writer as the subject of the research is watching the film Into The wild and then marking some of the characteristics of the main character and analyze by using Maslow’s The Hierarchy of Human Needs theory.

4. Technique of Data Analysis

In this Research, the writer used Humanistic Psychological Approach of Abraham H. Maslow’s Theories (The Hierarchy of Needs) especially self actualization needs. The writer uses the descriptive analytical technique to analyze some kind of the characteristics of the main character. First the writer watch the film carefully for several times, this is aimed to learn contents of film intensively so it can prevent misunderstanding in the analyzing that has related to self actualization theory. Then, the writer gives annotation about the film. Finally, the writer relates it to the self actualization theory.
5. Unit of Analysis

The unit of Analysis that is used in this research is *Into the Wild* film. *Into the wild* is a 2007 film that produced by Paramount Vantages, directed and written by Sean Pean.
CHAPTER II
THEORETICAL FRAMEWORK

A. The Definition of Film

The unit of this study is Film. To analyze film the writer must know the definition of film. There are some definitions of films, Film is a motion picture and the motion called intermittent movement. Movement that showed because of limitedness of human eyes and brain ability to catch changing pictures. Ankersmit says “the change from one to other is so quick-at least 16 times per second- that the eye has no time to appreciate the stillness of each picture, but blends the whole sequences into continues movement”.

According to oxford dictionary that film is a series of moving pictures recorded with sound that tells a story, show on television or at the cinema/moving theater. Film is not always as an entertainment but also recognized as an art form. Boggs and Petric says “the tremendous expense involved in producing motion pictures reminds us that film is both industry and an art film. Film also employs the compositional elements of the visual arts.

With watching film someone can see the art side and audiovisual at the same time; also make the viewers not bored and easy to remember the story because it has an interesting form, unlike the novel and the poem, film communicates concrete images and sounds. Yet, film is a new way to enjoy one of

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an art form, because the viewers directly watch the image, hear the sound and follow the plot with gratify

B. Character and Characterization in Film

There are five elements present in all films: plot, emotional effect or mood, character and style or texture.\(^7\) Those are basic elements described on film. Film can visualize from story fiction and played by a figure. A figure in a film or the viewer know it as a character, maybe described as actors or actress.

**A character** is any person, persona, identity or entity whose existence originates from a work of fiction.\(^8\) With character and can represent the emotion of character performance.

Some of us maybe not interested in a film most human elements- but from character- there is little change that we will be interested in the film as a whole. Because from the true thoughts attitudes and emotions, character can be revealed in subtle ways through the stress, pitch and pause patterns of their speech.\(^9\)

The viewers can watch what the film expressed about the person or story life character is a big part of films. It is representing the emotion between the performances and audiences. By character the viewer can get the theme and understand the story. Alfred Hitchcock says “I don’t want to film a slice of life” because people can get that at home, in the street, or even on the movie theater.

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\(^7\) *Ibid.* p. 11


They do not to have pay money to see a slice of life and I void out and out fantasy because people should be able to identify with the characters.\(^{10}\)

The viewers must know what the character is, if the viewer can recognize how the characters, they can feel the emotion and memorable personality of the characters. To be interesting Character must seem real, understandable and worth caring about, that means character conforms to the laws of probability and necessity (by reflecting externally observable truths about human nature. They conforms to some inner truth (man as we want to him to be), or they are made to seem real by the convincing art of the actor.\(^{11}\)

If characters are truly credible, it is almost impossible to remain completely neutral toward them. We must respond to them some ways. We may admire them for heroic action and their nobility and pity them for their failures. We may love them or identify with them for their ordinary human qualities. We may laugh at them for their ignorance or laugh with them because theirs is human ignorance that we all share. If we have negative reactions toward them, we may detest them for their greed, their cruelty, their selfishness and their underhanded methods. Or we may scorn them for their cowardice.

Character also has **Characterization**. Characterization is away to identify a character that described physically or seen from attitudes and how he or she behaves.\(^{12}\) In other words, characterization is character development and the process of creating character. It is the presentation of attitudes and behavior of

\(^{10}\) *Ibid* p. 31

\(^{11}\) Joseph M. Boggs and Dennis W Petric (2000). *loc. cit*

imaginary person in order to make them credible to the audience. In films, characterization depends on functions. The character is followed from what he has to do in the play. Play tend to emphasize the distinctions between major characters, whose actions and fate are the focus of the plot and minor ones, who facilitate what happens.\textsuperscript{13}

It is also the main point to really know how the character, such as in \textit{Erin Brokovich} film describes about the main female character \textit{Erin Brokovich}, was a smart and struggle woman.

According to the book literature: reading fiction, poetry and drama by Robert Di Yanni there are six major methods of revealing character in fiction:

1. Narrative summary without judgment
2. Narrative description with implied or explicit judgement
3. Surface details of dress and physical appearance
4. Characters’ action – what they do
5. Character speech – what they say (and how they say it)
6. Characters’ consciousness – what they think and feel\textsuperscript{14}

C. Maslow's Hierarchy of Needs Theory

1. Maslow's Hierarchy of Human Needs Theory

Abraham Harold Maslow (1908-1970) an American psychologist and leading of humanistic psychology, developed a theory of motivation describing the process by which an individual progresses from basic needs (such as food) to the highest need. He called the highest need that human tend for achieved is a self actualization, the fulfillment of one’s greatest human potential. The hierarchy of needs is often represented as a pyramid, with the larger to lower levels representing the lower needs and the upper point representing the need for self actualization. Each level of the pyramid is dependent on the previous level.\textsuperscript{15}

The first needs in Maslow’s Hierarchy of need in Maslow’s hierarchy contain the set of physiological needs necessary of bodily homeostatic, quiescence, and survival. All the other needs in the hierarchy (safety and security, love and belongingness, self Esteem and self-Actualization) are Psychological in nature human needs.\textsuperscript{16}

The following Maslow’s Hierarchy of needs, represented as a pyramid below:

\textsuperscript{16} Johnmarshall Reeve. Understanding motivation and emotion (New York: Harcourt Brace College Publisher. 2004), p. 311
1. Physiological Needs

The first level of the hierarchy consists of physiological needs. The body aims to achieve homeostatic, an equilibrium of the different factors, that consist of the blood, salt content, sugar content, fat content, calcium content, oxygen content, constant hydrogen-ion level/acid base level, constant blood temperature. This physical equilibrium can be obtained with food, drink, sleep, shelter, fresh air, a proper temperature, etc. If all of human’s needs are unmet then the physiological takes the highest priority. Given hunger for love and food, a human is more likely to find a solution for the latter first. As a result all of the other desires can capacities are pushed on to the back burner.

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The physiological needs are shown at the top of the hierarchy because they tend to have highest strength until they are somewhat satisfied. These are the basic human need to sustain life it self-food, clothing and shelter. Until these basic need are satisfied to, the degree needed for the sufficient operation of the body, the majority of a person’s activity will probably be at this level, and the other will provide little motivation. When these basic needs begin to be fulfilled, rather than physiological needs other levels of needs become important. Furthermore, these newly emerged needs motivate and dominate the behavior of individual. And when these needs are somewhat satiated, other needs emerge, and so on climbing up the hierarchy

2. Safety Needs

When the physiological needs are met, then the human turns towards to safety needs. Safety attains the highest priority over all other desires. A functioning society tends to provide this to its members. Sometimes the desire for safety outweighs the desire to easily satisfy physiological needs. These needs are essentially the need to be free of the fear physical danger and deprivation of the basic physiological needs. In other words, this is a need for self–preservation. In addition to the here and now, there is a concern for the future.

Abraham Maslow may categorize roughly as the safety needs (security, stability, dependency, protection, freedom for fear, from anxiety, from chaos, need for structure, order, law, limits, strength in the protector and so on).

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19 Kartono kartini, Psychology Abnormal, (Bandung: Ghalia, 1972), p. 60
Will people be able to maintain their property and/or job so they can provide food and shelter tomorrow and the next day? If an individual’s safety or security is in danger, other thing seems unimportant.

3. Love or Belonging Needs

If both the physiological and the Safety needs are fairly well gratified, there will emerge the love and affection and belongingness needs, and the whole cycle already described will repeat itself with this new center. Now the person will fell hunger for belonging needs. He needs accompany in his life and desperately hunger to love and to be loved from other people. It can be from friends, a sweetheart, a wife or children whether in small group like a family or in broader group. The love needs are not equivalent to sexual needs. If expressed sexually, sexuality can at points be considered solely for its physiological basis. Sexual intimacy can serve to satisfy one’s need to belong. Maslow argues that individuals seek to overcome feeling of loneliness and alienation. This involves both gives receiving love, affection and sense of belonging.

4. Esteem Needs

After all mentioned needs above have already fulfilled. Everyone has a strong desire for a stable, firmly based, usually high evaluation of themselves, for

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21 Maslow, Abraham, Motivasi dengan pendekatan hierarki kebutuhan, (Jakarta; Bulan Bintang, 1994) p. 25
Self respect, or self esteem, and for the esteem of others. Self esteem is the value we place on ourselves. It is our assessment of our worth as a human being based on our approval or disapproval of ourselves and our behavior. These needs may therefore be classified into two subsidiary sets. These are, first the desire for strength, for achievement, for adequacy for mastery and competency, for confidence in the face of the world and for independence and freedom. Second they are the desire for reputation of prestige (defining it as respect or esteem from other people), status, fame and glory, dominance, recognition, attention, importance, dignity or appreciation.

When the esteem needs are satisfied, one has feelings of self confidence and self worth and sees oneself as having a purpose in the world. When these needs are not satisfied, individual has feelings of self frustrated, maladjustment can occur, typified by feeling of inferiority, weakness and helplessness. All of the preceding four levels needs above, Maslow call deficit needs (or D-needs). If you don’t have enough of something -- i.e. you have a deficit -- you feel the need. But if you get all you need, you feel nothing at all. In other words, they cease to be motivating. As the old blues song goes, “you don’t miss your water till your well runs dry”

5. The Self-actualization needs

The last level is a bit different. Maslow has used a variety of terms to refer to this level: He has called being needs (or B-needs, in contrast to D-needs) these

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B needs are values such as truth, honesty, beauty and goodness and they provide meaning to the life of self-actualized individual.\textsuperscript{24}

The need for self actualization is the full development and use of an individual’s abilities and talents, satisfying his or her physical, social, intellectual and emotional needs. Once esteem needs begin to be adequately satisfied, the self-actualization needs become more pre-potent. Self actualization is the need to maximize one’s potential, whatever it may be.\textsuperscript{25}

As Maslow expressed it "A musician must make music, an artist must paint, a poet must write, a professor must teach. if he is to be at peace with himself. What a man can be, he must be". This is the need we may call self-actualization, It refers to man's desire for fulfillment, namely to the tendency for him to become actually in what he is potentially: to become everything that one is capable of becoming. Individuals satisfy this need in different ways. For one person it may be expressed in the desire to be an ideal mother, for another it may be expressed athletically, while still there may be another starting it by playing the piano. In a combat, a soldier may put his life on the line and rush a machine gun nest in an attempt to destroy it, knowing full well that his chances for survival are low. He is not doing it for affiliation or recognition, but for rather what he thinks is important. In this case, you may consider the soldier to have self actualized, to be maximizing the potential of what is important to him at that time. The way self

\textsuperscript{24}Ibid, p. 291

\textsuperscript{25}Sudarwan and IM, Metode penelitian untuk ilmu prilaku: pedoman penulisan majalah, acuan dasar bagi mahasiswa program S1 dan peneliti pemula (studi masalah prilaku), (Jakarta: PT. Bumi Aksara, cetakan kedua. 2000), p. 169
actualization is expressed can change over the life cycle. For example a self actualized athlete may eventually look for other areas in which to maximize potential as his or her physical attributes change over time or as his or her horizons broaden. In addition, the hierarchy does not necessarily follow the pattern described by Maslow. It was not his intent to say that this hierarchy applies universally. Maslow felt that this was a typical pattern that operates most of the time. He realized, however, that there were numerous exceptions to this general tendency.

2. **Self-Actualization**

Self-Actualization is a term that has been used in various psychology theories, often in slightly different ways (e.g., Goldstein, Maslow, Rogers). The term was originally introduced by the organismic theorist Kurt Goldstein for the motive to realize all of one's potentialities. In his view, it is the master motive—indeed, the only real motive a person has, all others being merely manifestations of it. However, the concept was brought to prominence in Abraham Maslow's hierarchy of needs theory as the final level of psychological development that can be achieved when all basic and mental needs are fulfilled and the "actualization" of the full personal potential takes place.

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26 Goble g Frank, *mazhab ketiga psikologi humanistik Abraham maslow*, (Yogyakarta: Kanisius, 1987), p.107
27 *Ibid*, p. 108
Self actualization resides at the top of Maslow's hierarchy of needs and is considered a part of the humanistic approach to personality. The humanistic perspective has been called "The third force" in psychology.\footnote{Sdrow, Lester M and Rickabaugh, Cheryl A. \textit{Psychology fifth edition}, (New York: Mcgrawhill, 2002), p. 17} The humanistic Psychology focuses on healthy, motivated people and tries to determine how they define the self while maximizing their potential.\footnote{Freud, A. \textit{The ego and the mechanisms of defense}. (London: Hogarth, 1937), p. 5} Stemming from this branch of psychology is Maslow's hierarchy of needs. According to Maslow, people have lower order needs that in general must be fulfilled before high order needs can be satisfied. As a person moves up Maslow's hierarchy of needs, eventually they will reach the summit—self actualization
3. Characteristics of Self Actualizing People

Maslow studied healthy people when most psychologists study sick people. After 20 years of study of people who had the "full use and exploitation of talents, capacities, potentialities, etc." he made a list the characteristics of Self actualizing people

a. Realistic

Realistically oriented, Self Actualizing persons have a more efficient perception of reality. They have comfortable relations with it. This is extended to all areas of life. Self Actualizing persons are unthreatened, unfrightened by the unknown. they have a superior ability to reason, to see the truth. They are logical and efficient.

b. Acceptance

Accept themselves, others and the natural world the way they are. Sees human nature as is, have a lack of crippling guilt or shame, enjoy themselves without regret or apology, they have no unnecessary inhibitions.

c. Spontaneity, Simplicity, Naturalness

Spontaneous in their inner life, thoughts and impulses, they are unhampered by convention. Their ethics is autonomous, they are individuals, and are motivated to continual growth.

d. Problem Centering

Focus on problems outside themselves, other centered. They have a mission in life requiring much energy, their mission is their reason for existence. They are serene, characterized by a lack of worry, and are devoted to duty.
e. Detachment: The Need for Privacy

Alone but not lonely, unflappable, retain dignity amid confusion and personal misfortunes, objective. They are self starters, responsible for themselves, own their behavior.

f. Autonomy: Independent of Culture and Environment

Self actualization people's rely on inner self for satisfaction. Stable in the face of hard knocks, they are self contained, independent from love and respect.

g. Continued Freshness of Appreciation

Have a fresh rather than stereotyped appreciation of people and things. Appreciation of the basic good in life, moment to moment living is thrilling, transcending and spiritual. They live the present moment to the fullest.

h. Peak experiences

Feelings of limitless horizons opening up to the vision, the feeling of being simultaneously more powerful and also more helpless than one ever was before, the feeling of ecstasy and wonder and awe, the loss of placement in time and space with, finally, the conviction that something extremely important and valuable had happened, so that the subject was to some extent transformed and strengthened even in his daily life by such experiences. "Abraham Maslow

Maslow asked his subjects to think of the most wonderful experience or experiences of their lives--the happiest moments, extatic moments, moments of rapture, perhaps from being in live, or from listening to music or suddenly "being hit" by a book or a painting or from some great creative moment. He found that people undergoing peak experiences felt more integrated, more at one with the
world, more in command of their own lives, more spontaneous, less aware of space and time, more perceptive, more self determined, more playful.\textsuperscript{30}

**Effects of peak experiences:**

The removal of neurotic symptoms

A tendency to view oneself in a more healthy way

Change in one's view of other people and of one's relations with them

Change in one's view of the world

The release of creativity, spontaneity and expressiveness

A tendency to remember the experience and to try to duplicate it

A tendency to view life in general as more worthwhile. \textsuperscript{31}

i.  **Gemeinschaftsgefühl**

Identification, sympathy, and affection for mankind, kinship with the good, the bad and the ugly, older-brother attitude. Truth is clear to him, can see things others cannot see.

j.  **Interpersonal relations**

Profound, intimate relationships with few. Capable of greater love than others consider possible. Benevolence, affection and friendliness shown to everyone.

k.  **Democratic values and attitudes**

Able to learn from anyone, humble. Friendly with anyone regardless of class, education, political belief, race or color.


I. Discrimination: means and ends, Good and Evil

Do not confuse between means and ends. They do not do wrong. Enjoy the here and now, getting to goal--not just the result. They make the most tedious task an enjoyable game. They have their own inner moral standards (appearing amoral to others).

m. Philosohpical, unhostile sense of humor

Jokes are teaching metaphors, intrinsic to the situation, spontaneous, can laugh at themselves, never make jokes that hurt others.

n. Creativity

Inborn uniqueness that carries over into everything they do, see the real and true more easily, original, inventive and less inhibited.

o. Resistance to enculturation: Transcendence of any particular culture

Inner detachment from culture, folkways are used but of no consequence, calm long term culture improvement, indignation with injustice, inner autonomy and outer acceptance. Transcend the environment rather than just cope.

p. Imperfections

Painfully aware of own imperfections, joyfully aware of own growth process. Impatient with self when stuck, real life pain, not imagined.

q. Values

Philosophical acceptance of the nature of his self, human nature, social life, nature, physical reality, remains realistically human.
r. Resolution of dichotomies

Polar opposites merge into a third, higher phenomenon, as though the two have united, work becomes play, most childlike person is most wise, opposite forces no longer felt as a conflict. Desires are in excellent accord with reason. Maslow says there are two processes necessary for self-actualization: self exploration and action. The deeper the self exploration, the closer one comes to self-actualization.\(^{32}\)

CHAPTER III
RESEARCH FINDINGS

A. Character and Characteristics of Christopher McCandless

1. Character of Christopher McCandless

The writer divides this chapter into two parts. First, the writer will analyze the character and characteristics of main character in the *Into the Wild* film then the writer will analyze how the main character fulfilled his Self actualization through his journey to Alaska.

Character is someone who acts, appears or is referred to as playing a part in a literary work. In a film character is an important element that can make the story different from novel. In *Into the Wild* film, Emile Hirsch plays as Christopher McCandless, the main character. In this film Christopher McCandless is a main or major Character because the film itself tells about Christopher McCandless life since he graduates from Emory University until his death in his dream land, in Alaska wilderness. Here are some characteristics.

2. Characteristics of Christopher McCandless

1. Clever

Chris is a clever and smart student. He got good marks in his study in Emory University. His mark almost all of A. we know it from the explanation of his sister Carine below:

Carine: “Towards the end of June, Chris had mailed our parents his final grade report. (Walt and Billie open the envelope). Almost all A’s. “A” in Apartheid in South African Society and History of Anthropological Thought; A- in Contemporary African Politics and the Food Crisis in Africa; and on it went. Clever boy, my brother, ….” (Minute 00.24.03 - 00.24.19)

Because of his good marks in Emory University, he has an opportunity to gets scholarship in the Harvard University, one of the best and prestigious University in United States. We can see it from the dialogue between Chris and his parent below:

Chris: “My grades are gonna be good enough, I think, to get into Harvard Law”
Billie: “wow Chris that’s wondwefull”
Walt: “That’s a big deal. What do you have left in your college fund?
Chris: “It’s an inheritance, dad. I’ve only been spending it as a college fund...Exactly twenty-four thousand five hundred dollars and sixty-eight cents.
Billie: “That’s very specific.”
Chris: ”I had to go to the bank this morning.”
Walt: “Well, we’ll certainly contribute the balance for Harvard”
Chris: ”Yeah. I’ve got to figure out what I’m going to do. I got a lot of things to pack and organize here first”.
(Minute 00.17.31 - 00.17.41)

From the dialogue above we can see Chris expresses his future goal to attend the prestigious Harvard law and he tries to convinces his parent that he is clever enough to enter Harvard University

2. Idealistic

Another characteristic of Christopher McCandless is an idealist. In his life Chris measures himself and around him with the high standardization morality. It is described by his sister Carine below:
Carine: “He never did tell mom and dad that he knew. But Chris measured himself and those around him by an impossibly rigorous moral code. He loathed what he considered mom and dad’s hypocrisy and resented what they considered guidance. Chris submitted to dad’s authority through college but I knew he raged inwardly the whole time. It was inevitable that Chris would rebel. And when he did, he did it with characteristic” (Minute 00.19.28 - 00.19.39)

Chris’ mind and idea is influenced mostly by the writers like Jack London, Leo Tolstoy and Henry David Thoreau through their works that Chris has read. It is supported by the dialogue below:

Jan: “Come on Chris. You look like a loved kid. Be fair”
Chris: “Fair?”
Jan: “You know what I mean.”
Chris: “I’ll paraphrase Thoreau…Rather than love, than money, than fairness, give me truth.” (Minute 00.28.37 - 00.28.49)

From the quotation above Chris quotes the Thoreau’s words one of his favourite authors to speaks up his idea about the things or the situation

As a young man with high spirit, stubborn and rather arrogant makes him has selfish idealism, he feels he is an idealist that has the great opinions about life. See the picture (1), in that picture we can see Chris burns his money before he leaves his car. His idea about the money can be seen from the dialogue between Chris or Alex and Jan below:

Jan: “Alex could have a vehicle. If he didn’t burn his money. Why would you want to do that?”
Chris: “I don’t need money. It makes people cautious”
Jan: “Well, you have to be a little cautious Alex. That book of yours is all well and fine but you can’t depend entirely on leaves and berries” (Minute 00.27.43 - 00.27.57)

Another proof from his selfish idealism also can be seen from the dialogue about the job and his living choice below:
Ron: "How old are you?"
Chris: "Twenty-three."
Ron: "Twenty-three years old! Son, don’t you think you should be getting an education? And a job? And making something of this life?"
Chris: "Look Mr. Franz. I think careers are a twentieth century invention and I don’t want one. You don’t need to worry about me. I have a college education. I’m not destitute. I’m living like this by choice."
Ron: "In the dirt?"
Chris: "(laughs) Yeah, in the dirt" (Minutes 01.47.50 – 01.48.15)

From the dialogues above we know that Chris as a young idealist has Resistance to enculturation, and naive all at once, because in fact Chris needs money and he also works to looks for money to live.

We can see another Chris’ idealism about human relationship and happiness when he talks it with Ronald Franz

Chris: “I’ll miss you too, Ron. But you’re wrong if you think the joy of life comes principally from human relationships. God’s placed it all around us. It’s in everything. In anything we can experience. People just have to change the way they think about those things. You ought to put a little camper on the back of your pick-up and go take a look at some of the great work god’s done out here in the American west” (Minutes 01.56.45 – 01.57.02)

He also keeps the idealism and values that he believed, like no sex before marriage. It can be seen when Tracy’s parents went into town and he finds Tracy, a teenager girl who loves Chris very much, laying on the bed inside, wearing a skimp white girl’s tank top and underpants. And she asked Chris to make love with her but Chris refused it.

It is supported by the dialogue below

Tracy: “My parents went into town”.
Chris: “No!”
Tracy: “Yes, they did. They went to call my grandma for Christmas.”
Chris: “No, I mean, no, we can’t do that.”
Tracy: “Why not?” (Minutes 01.35.50 – 01.36.15)

His idea and morality not only for human being but also for the nature include animal. It can be seen from the situation when Chris hunting the Caribou. See the picture (2), in that picture Chris stumbles upon a caribou as it steps out from the woods. He lines up his rifle on the animal, about to pull the trigger, when its calf appears beside it. He lowers his rifle, unwilling to take a shot that would separate mother and child. (Minute 00.12.10 - 00.12.27)

3. Friendly

Chris is a friendly person, in the film we can see Chris meets with many persons and he could be a friend with people he met along his journey to Alaska furthermore they very like him.

See the dialogue below when Chris meet Mads and Sonja a young adventurer couple:

Mads: “Hello!”
Chris: “Hello”
Mads: “You can join us!” We have hotdogs!
Mads: “I am Mads.”
Chris: “Hi. Alex.”
Sonja : “I am Sonja, Hello Alex”.
Mads: “We are from Copenhagen. And you are from the rapids”
Chris: “I am.”

It also can be seen in another dialogue when Chris meets with Jan and Rainey

Chris : “Oh. That’s okay. Thanks for stopping.”
Jan : “This door’s a little tricky, I’ll get it. early 50’s, definitely Woodstock...”

Jan : “Hop in, that’s Rainey.”

Rainey: “Hey, I’m Rainey.”

Jan : “And I’m Jan.”

Chris : “Hey, Rainey. Hi, Jan. I’m Alex”.

Rainey: “Alex of the hat”

Chris : “(closing the side door) Yeah” (Minute 18.12 - 18.17)

We know from the film that Chris be friend and makes relationship with the people along his journey to Alaska, he also make Interpersonal relations with some of them like with Jan, Rainey and Wayne.

Chris in every make relationship with his new friends always suppose all of them same and without any discriminations, from Jane and Rainey, Wayne, Madja and Sonia until Ron, Chris able to learn from anyone, humble and friendly with all of them regardless of class, education, political belief, race or color though he usually put a limit on them.

4. Humorist

Although Chris seems like a serious man but actually he is a humorist person. See the dialogue below:

Rainey: “Were you out there a long time hitching?”

Chris : “Couple of days. But sometimes I forget to put my thumb out.”

Jan : “Probably, the rest of the time, that hat scares ‘em away”. Chris checks himself in the rearview mirror and gets a kick out of what he sees (Minute 19.52 - 19.57)

Another prove that Chris is a humorist guy we can see when Chris talking about Jan with Rainey.

It can be seen from the dialogue below:
Rainey: “You think what?” (Chris is looking off at Jan walking in the distance).

Chris: “I think she’s probably quietly disconnecting. It doesn’t feel right to her to be close to you if there’s a hole of some kind somewhere else.”

Rainey: “That’s a helluva insight. Jesus!...You’re not Jesus, are you? You gonna walk on that water and get her back for me?”

Chris: “Actually, I’m a little afraid of water. It’s true. But it’s something I’ve got to get over sometime.” (Minute 31.54 - 32.44)

From the dialogue above we know that Chris has sense of humor and his sense of humor is the spontaneous, thoughtful type, intrinsic to the situation. His humor also does not involve hostility, superiority, or sarcasm and he never makes jokes that hurt others.

5. An Adventurer

In the film that is very clear that Christopher Johnson Mccandless or Alexander Supertramp is an Adventurer. He walked, hitched, and explored America for two years before he died from starvation and partial poisoning in Alaska.

According to Carine’s explanation we know that Chris has adventure talent and hobbies since he were young.

Carine: “Chris had always been driven, had always been an adventurer. When he was four years old... he once wandered six blocks away from home at three o’clock in the morning. He was found in a neighbor’s kitchen, up on a chair, digging into their candy drawer.” (Minute 01.00.50 – 01.01.25)
Before Chris starting his Adventure without his Datsun car that hit by the flood in the Lake mead in Arizona, Chris changes his name with Alexander Supertramp. It is described below:

Chris : “I need a name”.

See the picture (3), in that picture we can see Chris takes a swallow of water. Rinses his mouth spits it out then checks his bearded face in the mirror. He likes what he sees. As he wipes the corners of his mouth with a tissue and throws it into the bin below the sink, he notices a discarded tube of lipstick. He picks it up. It’s down to its end. Yet with what lipstick remains, he writes on the mirror:

**ALEXANDER SUPERTRAMP JULY 1990** (Minute 00.23.30 – 00.23.42)

Chris very enjoyed all the process as long his adventure. In the picture (4a) – (4c) we can see Chris’ adventure as a backpacker from one city to another by foot, ride in with the car that passed along the road and got a ride with the train.

As a young adventurer Chris also like the extreme and challenging outdoor activities such as hiking, kayaking, and climbing the cliff and mountain. see the picture (5a) – (5c)

Chris write his adventure on his belt skin in Ron’s house before he go to Alaska, it can be seen when Chris or Alex is inscribed at the belt's left end; then the initials C.J.M. (for Christopher Johnson McCandless) frame a skull and crossbones.

Chris: “Across the strip of cowhide one sees a rendering of two-lane blacktop, a No U turn sign, a thunderstorm producing a flash flood that engulfs a car, a hitchhiker's thumb, an eagle, the Sierra
Nevada, salmon cavorting in the Pacific Ocean, the Pacific Coast Highway from Oregon to Washington, the Rocky Mountains, Montana wheat fields, a South Dakota rattlesnake, Westerberg's house in Carthage, the Colorado River rapids, a canoe beached beside a tent, Las Vegas, and at the buckle end, finally, the letter N"

Ron: “What’s the N stand for?”

Chris: “..North”  

(Minute 01.53.41 - 01.54.12)

Beside in his belt, He also writes his two years great adventure in the wall of the bus with poetic words and his doctrine after he came in Alaska, we can see when Chris re-enters the bus and pulls his pen from his pocket, scribbling on the wall of the bus

Chris: “Two Years he walks the earth no phone, no pool no pets, no cigarettes, ultimate freedom. An extremist and aesthetic. Voyager whose home is the road. Escaped from Atlanta. Thou shalt not return ‘cause the “west is the best.” And now after two rambling years, comes the final and greatest adventure. The climactic battle to kill the false being within and victoriously conclude the spiritual revolution. No longer to be poisoned by civilization, he flees, and walks alone upon the land to become lost in the wild”. Chris signs his doctrine -

Alexander Supertramp May 1992  

(Minute 00.10.56 - 00.12.56)

6. Ambitious

Another characteristics of Christopher McCandless is ambitious, Chris have ambition to against his father by disappeared, Chris learns of what his father did and grows angry at the hypocrisy of his father’s expectations. After five years of dwelling on his anger, Chris decides that he cannot stand human hypocrisy and disappears, attempting to teach his family a lesson as well so he decided going into the wild in Alaska. We know it from Carine’s quotation below:
Carine: “Dad’s arrogance made him conveniently oblivious to the pain he caused”…. My father is a brilliant man. But he had made some terrible mistakes. And to some extent, it seemed Chris was making him pay an awful price.” (Minutes 55.25 – 56.59)

And she also says about Chris ambition to rebel to his father:

Carine: “...He loathed what he considered parent’s hypocrisy and resented what they considered guidance. Chris submitted to his father’s authority through college but I knew he raged inwardly the whole time. It was inevitable that Chris would rebel. And when he did, he did it with characteristic immoderation” (Minutes 57.25 – 57.58)

Another Chris’ ambitious character is when he tells his planning to Alaska. He said it proudly to Wayne. We can see it from the dialogue below

Wayne: ” Outdoors-man. What’s the interest in all that?”
Chris: ” I’m thinking about going to Alaska”.
Wayne: ”Alaska, Alaska? Or city Alaska? The city Alaska does have markets”.
Chris: (with a drunken, excited energy) “No, Alaska, Alaska. I want to be all the way out there. On my own. No map. No watch. No axe. Just out there. Big mountains, rivers, sky. Game. Just be out there in it. In the wild”.
Wayne: “In the wild.”
Chris: “Yeah. Maybe write a book about my travels. About getting out of this sick society.” (Minute 00.43.52 - 00.44.54)

His ambitious planning going into the wild in Alaska also not only told him to Wayne but also to another people he met like Rainey and Jan and Ron. We can see when He says to Rainey about his planning to Alaska ambitiously.

Rainey: ” How long can you stay with us?”

Chris: “Well, I’m waiting on a check from my last job to come into Salton City the day after Christmas. I’ve got to start thinking about getting ready for Alaska. When the sun gets a little lower tonight, I’m going to start a calisthenics routine. I think after the check comes in, I’ll try to find some mountains I can climb everyday till spring comes. I gotta see how far the money’s gonna go.” (Minute 01.27.02 - 01.27.22)
From the dialogues above, we know that going into the wild in Alaska is Chris’ biggest ambition. It is like a mission in his life and the mission is the reason for his existence. Chris is very ambitious in his mission and planning it seriously, He also practices hard everydays as the preparation to Alaska.

7. **Independent**

Independent is the quality of someone which is not dependent on or controlled by other person or things, not relying on others; no need to work for a living. As a student who graduate from high school, Christopher Mccandless becomes a man who does not depend on his family especially in financial. Even though he can ask money to his parent to fulfill his needs, but he not does that

His independent can be seen when Chris refuse anything that given their parent for him, include a new Cadillac car to change his old Datsun car as the gift from his parent for his graduation. It can be seen from dialogue below:

*Billie:* “Well, your father and I want to make a present to you.”
*Walt:* “Yes. We want to get you a new car.”
*Chris:* “A new car? Why the hell would I want a new car? The Datsun runs great. (Mocking the Cadillac) Do you think I want some fancy boat? Or are you worried about what the neighbors might think?”
*Chris:* “…..I don’t need a new car. I don’t want a new car. I don’t want anything. Thing, thing, thing. But, thanks anyway”  
*(Minute 00.18.09 - 00.19.07)*

And of course Chris’ independent character can be seen clearly as long as he lives in Alaska for months with no one human company. See the picture (6a) –

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(6c), in that picture we can see that Chris lives in the magic Bus alone, looking for foods, hunting, cooking and make every activities by himself.

B. Christopher McCandless’ Journey to Self-Actualization

Christopher McCandless goes ‘Into the Wild’ to give satisfaction for his self actualization needs. His journey to self actualization can be justified and explained through Maslow’s hierarchy of needs theory. Maslow’s hierarchy of needs is most commonly depicted as a five leveled pyramid. Each level contains specific types of needs, with the lower levels being the more basic. Starting from the bottom, they are: physiological needs, safety needs, social needs, esteem needs, and self actualization. The first four levels of the hierarchy are what are called D-needs. D-needs are all mainly physiological needs that if not met, cause one to feel anxious. The fifth and top level of the hierarchy, self-actualization, is what is known as a B-need. This need for self actualization, unlike the physiological needs which can be fulfilled, is a motivation that endures and drives one’s behavior.

The main idea is that each level of the pyramid doesn’t come into focus until the lower levels have been met. The first level of Maslow’s hierarchy, physiological needs, encompasses all of a human’s basic animal needs such as eating, drinking, sleeping, and breathing. Growing up, McCandless had no limit to these things. His family was fairly wealthy, and McCandless’s physiological needs were met. When McCandless left, however, he had little money for food and drink, had poor places to sleep, and was in greater position to be placed in
danger. For most of the film, Chris lived off of large bags of rice and seemed to be fine with it. It wasn’t until his primary journey, when he stayed in Alaska, that McCandless truly had to tend to his physiological needs. He was all alone, having to find his own food. If McCandless couldn’t do it on his own, there will be no one else to help him, and the writer believe that is part of his self-actualization. McCandless’s diary entries of the time spent in Alaska. The only topic that was addressed in his entries was food. It seems only right that his entries were filled with the physiological needs of the first level of Maslow’s hierarchy, as he was living without much help.

McCandless also made more long-term plans while in Alaska that would fulfill more of his safety needs, the second level of Maslow’s hierarchy. Like the first level, Chris has all the ways to fulfill safety needs growing up with his family. He had shelter, steady resources, good health, and employment. In the wild, however, he had little but he has “long term” list. The list included things such as mapping the area, making clothing, making a bridge, and forming hunting trails. These tasks obviously are on his “long term” list because they are on the second level of the hierarchy, while most of Chris’s attention was focused on food. While Chris did not necessarily complete his list, he did fulfill his need for safety through his shelter (the magic bus) and his ability to steadily hunt and gather food.

McCandless, aside from his family problems, was a master at fulfilling his social and esteem needs, the third and fourth level of Maslow’s hierarchy. It seemed that throughout the film Chris could charm and get along with anyone he
wanted and had little self esteem problems. Chris has strong and close relationship with his sister, Carine. It is probable that if not for McCandless’s father’s affair, Chris may very well have had a similar relationship with his parents. Chris’s need to reach the top of the hierarchy and fulfill his self-actualization needs got in the way somewhat with his social needs. Ron Franz, who grew very close to McCandless, inquired if he could adopt him but this does not fit into Chris’s plans, so he avoid the question. This shows that McCandless could and did fulfill his social needs, though he usually put a limit on them. There is also no hint that Chris had any esteem problems.

McCandless has no problem fitting in with society, even though what he is looking for the exact opposite. He is completely confident in his self and his ability to handle problems. Chris obviously does not lack in the ‘esteem’ category, which many argue was his downfall. Finally, the top level of Maslow’s hierarchy, self-actualization, is what McCandless’s trip was all about.

Self actualization is the top of Maslow’s hierarchy of needs theory. It is about the quest of reaching one’s full potential as a person. Unlike lower needs, this need is never fully satisfied; as one grows psychologically there are always new opportunities to continue to grow. The self actualized person has had his lower level basic needs met. He is already loved and loving. He already has won esteem from others and thinks well of himself.35

The film is about self actualization process, deals with the subject of a young man Christopher Johnson McCandless or "Alexander Supertramp" who

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35 Harold W. Bernard and Wesley C.Huckins (1975), op.cit  p.102
creates a new life, a self discovery for himself by abandoning his family and upbringing and taking to the road for a nomadic existence adventure to Alaska. His great a journey to the Alaskan wilderness was not seeking a new landscape, but a sense of peace within himself, a chance to calm the turbulent emotions stemming from a complicated relationship with his parents, particularly his father. The way he sought to deal with his feelings was to change his identity and sever the possibility of being trapped in any intimate human. However, after struggling through a solitary existence for several months, Chris began to soften and acknowledge the possibility that human relationships were more of a necessity than he had originally thought. Chris made the decision to return to the civilization he had come from and knock down his wall of isolation but he was trapped by the flow of the river, Chris slowly starves to death.

Christopher Johnson McCandless is a fresh graduate student from Emory University, Chris with thoughts of law school bids farewell to his conventional life. He tells no-one. He burns his social security card, bank cards, driver license, and donates his life savings of 24,000 to charity. He sets out on an adventure with one goal in mind, explore the Alaska wilderness and live off the land.

Like what the writer have analyze above that Chris’ complicated relationship with his parent especially his father is one of the reason why Chris ran off into the wild in Alaska. Chris’ father holds Chris to very high expectations, which Chris attempts to live up to. Eventually, Chris discovers that his father was still married to a women namely Marcia for seven years while with his mother (Billie), attempting to maintain a home with both women. The two women
discover what he has done when Chris is only 2 years old, forcing Walt and Billie to move. It takes four more years before Walt divorces Marcia and marries Billie, and during their relationship frequent fights can be remembered by Chris and his sister. In high school, many years later, Chris learns of what his father did and grows angry at the hypocrisy of his father’s expectations, after five years of dwelling on his anger, Chris decides that he cannot stand human hypocrisy and disappear, attempting to teach his parent a lesson as well.

On the way his adventure to Alaska, he meets several interesting characters and he make close relationship with some of them. One of them is Ron Franz that become the last Chris’ friends before he going to the wild after his long journey for two years

  \textit{Ron : "I’m going to miss you when you go"}
  \textit{Chris: “I’ll miss you too, Ron, But you’re wrong if you think the joy of life comes principally from human relationships. God’s placed it all around us. It’s in everything. In anything we can experience. People just have to change the way they think about those things. You ought to put a little camper on the back of your pick-up and go take a look at some of the great work god’s done out here in the American west".} (Minute 02.06.05 - 02.06.55)

From the dialogue above we know that Chris, even he make relationship with many people along his journey people but he always does not want restricted and being trapped in any intimate human

According to Abraham Maslow himself, "a musician must make music, an artist must paint, a poet must write, if he is to be at peace with himself. What a man can be, he must be. Self actualization refers to man's desire for fulfillment to
become everything that one is capable of becoming.” This is precisely what drove Chris. In an effort to prove himself, he lived off of the land alone.

After two years finally he comes in his final destination from his journey, Alaska. Chris enter into the forest, In the wilderness in Alaska he live with no human companies, he try alone without being lonely he fill his daily activity with hunting and gathering food, contemplates to seeks the truth and transcending spiritual by reading books and when stuck, he play a game like a child. See the picture (7)

However, after struggling through a solitary existence for several months, Chris began to soften and acknowledge the possibility that human relationships were more of a necessity than he had originally thought

In the film in week 9 in Alaska, We can see Chris reading Tolstoy’s Family Happiness in his magic bus, (page what Chris reads): See the picture (8)

“I have lived through much and now I think I have found what is needed for happiness. A quiet, secluded life in the country with the possibility of being useful to people...”

Chris sits amongst the pink bunches of fireweed choking the vehicles wheel wells, growing higher than the axles, his back leaning against the bus, finishing the reading of “Family Happiness.” (page: what Chris reads):

“And then, on top of all that, you for a mate, and children, perhaps - what more can the heart of a man desire?”

Chris looks up from his book. A gentle breeze tickles morning flowers. The sunlight dances in a coppice of aspen and leaves of trees above.

(Minute 01.40.10 - 01.42.10)

From the description above we can see that Chris has getting an Peak Experiences, a wisdom. Like what Maslow said “Individuals who are self-actualized often have peak experiences, or moments of intense joy, wonder, awe
and ecstasy. After these experiences, people feel inspired, strengthened, renewed or transformed. Christopher Mccandless has finding true enlightenment that changes his view of the world and his idea about relationship with the family and with other people

Upon these personal realizations, Chris makes the decision to return to the civilization he had come from and knock down his wall of isolation, but he is trapped by the flow of the river because the snow have melt. Upon finding that he is trapped by the flow of the river, Chris decides back to the bus and then he writes down in his journal,

“Disaster! River crossing impossible!! rained in- lonely, scared”. (Minute 01.45.40)

From the what Chris have written, "lonely, scared." We know that he had found peace with those around him and the misgivings toward his parents that he had entered the wilderness with had mellowed as he realized that he wanted to be around other people, And he begin thinking realistically

After he can not go home and trapped into the wild everything is going worst, Chris write in his journal and we can see in the text

” Day 100 – made it. But in the weakest condition of life. Too weak to out. Have literally become trapped in the wild “ (Minute 02.03.10 - 02.03.15)

Chris begin starvation, he increasingly thin and pale, he adds holes to his belt leather to accommodate his shrinking waistline, see the picture (9). Chris also begin frustrate about his condition in Alaska.

Chris’ weak condition also caused by the poison from the plants he eat, we know it from one scene in the film. We can see Chris crawls back to his copy of *Tanaina Plantlore*, flipping the pages one by one until he arrives at the photograph identifying the wild potato root and the word “edible” beside it. He reads the page to its conclusion and as almost an afterthought, turns the page to see if there might be more. The word – *poison* jumps off the page at him.

*The book describes the tiny green seeds of the potato root and warns that those with: “lateral veins, such as those invisible on the leaflets of wild sweet peas are poisonous.” ...leading to partial motor paralysis......inhibition of digestion... ...nausea, starvation and death...”*  
(Minute 01.59.40 - 01.61.30)

Chris plops himself down into the middle of the bus. He shakes his head as if trying to say something, and then considers his rifle and abundant ammunition. But taking his own life to avoid the agony of starvation is not an option for him. The frustration builds enough adrenaline in him to scream out. He does, but with a low, gurgled animal sound. He shakes it off and looks to his copy of *Doctor Zhivago* for distraction. Thumbing through the pages he focuses his eyes on the page. (The page: what he reads): *And that an unshared happiness is not happiness...*

Chris writes down within the pages of the book, scribbling across the page, the sentence he write:

> “Happiness only real when shared”  

(Minute 02.10.10 - 02.10.30)

He flips backwards a couple of pages to where he had written the quote, He tears the back cover off the book and scratching the pencil across its blank side, writing these words quickly, as if in panic:
“I Have had a happy life and thank the lord, goodbye and God bless all!”
(Minute 02.12.35 - 02.12.58)

When Chris’ health was beginning to fade and he realized that death was on the horizon, he crawled into the sleeping bag and slipped into unconsciousness.

We can see Chris, approaching the Annandale house. His backpack on and body healthy. Billie his mother parts the curtains, ecstatic to see Chris approach, alive and healthy. We see but do not hear her call to Chris father, Walt. A smiling Chris steps up the curb, approaching home. Walt and Billie run out the front door to their returning son. Chris, he dispatches his backpack to the ground and runs toward his parents’ embrace, see the picture (10).

(Chris Voice): “What if you saw me running into your arms... (Chris, Walt, and Billie on the cusp of a jubilant and loving embrace). Would you see then... ...what I see now? “The last airy expulsion of his breath” (Minute 02.12.15 - 02.13.30)

Chris looking at the sky, a cathartic tear falls from his left eye. see the picture (11). Another from his right as the obscuring cloud clears the sun. His open face as the clearing light of the sun shines in his eyes. It is a face of peace, love, a face of true, deep serenity. The eyes joyously open and the corners of his mouth ease into the subtle smile of euphoric wisdom. Chris died with a smile realizing his quest was fulfilled.

From the explanation above, the Writer analyzing that Christopher Johnson McCandless or Alexander Supertramp has reach self actualization needs through his Journey to Alaska. His adventure to Alaska is an expedition of self-
discovery, in his contemplacy in the woods of Alaska he found the peak experience, a true enlightenment that change his idealism and his perspective about the happiness and the relationship with his family and with another people. Although he did end up dying due to the ironic circumstances, He did what he set out to do and was truly happy about it. He changes his original vision about the human relationship like what he has said “...But you’re wrong if you think the joy of life comes principally from human relationships” and he also said and believed that “don’t need human relationships to be happy...” He changes all of it with his note that reflect his new vision “Happiness only real when shared”
CHAPTER IV
CONCLUSIONS AND SUGGESTIONS

A. Conclusions

Into the Wild is a film Directed and written by Sean Penn, based on the non-fiction bestseller book by Jon Krakauer. The film tells about twenty-two years old Christopher McCandless’ two-year journey, across the United States to reach “ultimate freedom” in Alaska. Christopher McCandless comes from a large family in Atlanta. He lived a privileged life. He had learned that his mother was his father’s secretary and that his father had left his wife and family to marry her. This disturbed Chris, he was angry and wanted to rebel against his parents, especially his father, by going into the wild. He is indifferent to his lifestyle and the culture of America. He wants to shed his material belongings. Chris is an avid reader and is deeply influenced by Jack London, Leo Tolstoy and Henry David Thoreau whom had forsaken a life of wealth and privilege to wander amongst the destitute. For several years he had been emulating the counts asceticism and moral rigor to an astonishing level. He believes that he does not need human relationships to be happy because God has placed it all around us.

After graduating from Emory University, Christopher McCandless with thoughts of law school bids farewell to his conventional life. He tells no-one. He burns his social security card, bank cards, drivers license, and donates his life savings of 24,000 to charity. He changes his name to "Alexander Supertramp” and sets out on a cross country adventure with one goal in mind, Alaska wilderness
and live off the land. Chris ends up taking a circuitous route which lasts two years to Alaska and encounters many interesting people which he leaves memorable impressions on.

However once alone in Alaska, Chris realizes that his whole joy in life has been in the journey rather than the destination, and human relationships were more of a necessity than he had originally thought. Throughout his trip Chris had been bringing joy and happiness to those he met and befriended, upon these personal realizations, Chris makes the decision to return to the civilization but he was trapped by the flow of the river. In the end of the film Chris slowly starves to death and is somewhat trapped in isolation. He discovers the truth that he writes in his journal: “Happiness is only real when shared”

The changes that Chris made show that in certain level human being needs to alter their life in order to reach his self actualization needs. Referring to Abraham H. Maslow’s Hierarchy of Human Needs Theory, it is understandable the stages of needs that Chris have made. Chris fulfills his human needs and can reach his self actualization through his journey to Alaska.

For the physiological needs, Chris fills his physiological needs through his parent who gave him upper middle class life that makes him has everything in his life. He fills his safety needs through having a comfortable house that make him feel save in it, a magic bus when he lives in the wild in Alaska and he also has the persons who always protect and help him. Love and belongingness needs through having family with his sister that he loves very much and he also has close friends along his journey to Alaska. He fills his esteem needs with his educational in
Emory college and his successful adventure to Alaska, along the journey to Alaska he has many relations most of them respect and salute to him and finally he can reach his self-actualization through his journey into the wild in Alaska. In his contemplacy in the woods of Alaska he found the peak experience, a true enlightenment that changes his idealism and his perspective about the happiness and the relationship with his family and with another people.

Christopher McCandless is not crazy, nor does he has a death-wish. He simply has needs and desires for self-actualization that more unique and unusual. Maslow’s hierarchy of needs does a particularly well job describing Chris’ reasoning and behavior, and demonstrating that his actions are actually quite normal. Everyone has reasons for their actions, and most fulfill their need for self-actualization through careers and hobbies. Chris, instead of fulfilling his self-actualization needs through society, did so by going “Into The Wild.”

B. Suggestions

For other researchers who want to analyze film, the first thing they have to do, they must watch that film carefully. It is better for them to watch that film again and again to know more and exactly what the message that can be explored from that film. The researcher also should use the right theory or approach in order to have the right comprehension of the film itself. In this occasion the writer use Abraham Maslow’s The hierarchy of human needs theory, but it is possible for the other researchers to use another theory or approach in analyzing this film. The other researchers who want to analyze this film can also use some aspects in
film that are used by the writer to get a broader comprehension of the film. The writer realizes that this analysis is imperfect. It is needed deep research to relate more references that support this research.

Finally, the writer hopes this research will be able to enrich the literary studies and by reading the thesis the writer also hopes the research can be useful for the reader.
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APPENDICES

- Into The Wild VCD Cover
PICTURES OF “INTO THE WILD” FILM

Picture 1

Picture 2

Picture 3

Picture 4a

Picture 4b

Picture 4c