

CHAPTER I

INTRODUCTION

A. Background of the Study

Dear John is an American romantic drama film. It was released theatrically in North America on February 5, 2010. Written by Jamie Linden, it is adapted from Nicholas Sparks's novel of the same name. It is produced by Marty Bowen, Wyck Godfrey, and Ryan Kavanaugh. This movie is played by famous actors and actresses whose acting capabilities are undoubtedly awesome. They are: Amanda Seyfried, Channing Tatum, Henry Thomas, Richard Jenkins and Scott Porter. The music is managed by Deborah Lurie. The Cinematography is managed by Terry Stacey. This movie is edited by Kristina Boden. The movie is made in Studio Relativy Media. It is distributed by Screen Gems. The running time of this movie is 107 minutes. The country of the film is United States. This movie uses English Language. This movie spent \$ 25,000,00 (<http://www.imdb.com/title/tt0989757/maindetails>).

Dear John movie is directed by Lasse Hallstrom, a Swedish film director. *Dear John* is his twenty-three movie. He was nominated for an Academy Award for Best Director and writer for *My Life as a Dog (Mitt liv som hund)* (1985). His first notable American success was *What's Eating Gilbert Graphe* (1993). He gotten up to his greatest level of prominence when he was nominated for an Academic Award for best director for *the critically acclaimed*

movie *The Cider Rules* (1999) and then later directed the well-received film *Chocolate* (2000), both which were nominated for the academic Award for Best Picture (<http://www.imdb.com/name/nm0002120/>).

Dear John is a story about an army, John Tyree. This story begins when John meets Savannah in the beach on spring break. Over two weeks, Savannah and John fall in love. Then John meets Savannah's family and her friends, Tim and his son, Alan who has autism.

Savannah meets John's father who is obsessed with his coin collection. After that Savannah says to John, that his father is autistic, it makes John upset and get into fight with Savannah's friend. But, next day John apologizes to Tim and leaves Savannah a note. Then they spend one last day together before they split.

John and Savannah continue their relationship through letters. The September 11 attack makes John reconsider to continue his job. Over the next two years, they still send their letters. After that, John waits Savannah's letter, but when it arrives, the content of the letter gives information that she has been engaged to someone else. John is depressed and then burns all the Savannah's letters.

Four years ago, John knows that his father has a stroke, so he sees his father in the hospital, but his father is in a grave condition. Then he goes home and writes a letter to his father and reads to him at the hospital. In his letter, he says that his father is the most important person in his life. Then his father dies.

John visits Savannah but John is shocked, because he knows that Savannah is married with Tim. He knows why Savannah gets married with Tim. The reason is Tim has lymphoma. Then John goes to the hospital to visit Tim with Savannah. Tim tells John that Savannah still loves him. After that John says goodbye to Savannah and he makes a decision to sell his father's coin collections. The sale of coin collections is used to help Tim's treatment. After that, John comes back to his duty. A month later, John receives a letter from Savannah, telling him that Tim dies after two months. The story ends showing John as a civilian, carrying his bike and sees Savannah in a coffee shop. They make eye contact and hugging.

Dear John has many responses. There are positive responses and negative responses from audience. The positive response is from audience, box office market and also award nomination industry. Positive response is from audience named Douglas Young (2010) who says that this movie tells the story of what happens to young lovers when time and distance from each other begins to test their true love. Over the next several years, they write love letters to each other telling everything about themselves. As time goes by, Savannah finds another person who needs her more than John, even though she still loves him. She writes to John a final letter saying good-bye. This is one story that happens many times during WWII and is still happening to current soldiers today. That is why this story seems so real to the audience. Nicky (2010) says that this movie makes tug for audiences, and gets teary eyed. John, his character has a tough

life, and relationship between him and his father make fall in sad. Toughsoulja toughsoulja (2010) says this film is good when the movie finishes, because the girls will like it cause they can connect with it.

Besides the good responses, *Dear John* also gains some negative responses. Astevenzas 2010 says that between a novel and the movie do not match. Tim and Alan characters are not like a novel. This is making fail to meet the success. Ariel.com, 2010, says that this movie is implausible, laughably foolish romantic element from beginning to end is used in this maudlin mess & all the many plot holes filled with sugar & spice & no charm, grace, style or writing ability at all. Seronja, 2010, says that this movie is boring and the love story is totally unoriginal and dumb. Savannah does not need to marry her friend because of his child. This means, which is crazy to take such a big responsibility without need, the kid can move to its family or something. She's not the only person in the world.(The Internet Movie Database, 2011)

Dear John is a number one movie with \$30,468,614 in its opening weekend. It was made in October 13, 2008. This movie runtime is 108 minutes, released in VCD and DVD distributed by Sony Screen Gems. In United States it is played in ten weeks with total performance on 2.969 screens from its firstly release on February 5, 2010. The success of *Dear John* also happens in United Kingdom (played in 402 screens or five weeks),. The good response from public makes *Dear John* which only had \$25,000,000 for their budget; finally gain

\$114,977,104 for their world wide gross.

(<http://www.boxofficemojo.com/movies/?id=dearjohn.htm>)

Dear John is nominated for 8 Academy Awards. There are from MTV Movie Awards 2010, best female performance is Amanda Seyfried and best male performance is Channing Tatum. From Teen Choice Awards 2010, category of Drama Movie Actor is Channing Tatum, Drama Movie Actress is Amanda Seyfried and category of Chemistry movie are Channing Tatum and Amanda Seyfried, and Choice Movie is Drama. People's choice Awards, USA, 2011, nominated it is a Favorite Drama Movie (<http://www.imdb.com/title/tt0989757/awards>)

Dear John is an interesting movie. There are four aspects that make this movie really interesting. The first is *Dear John* has uncommon story; this is a romantic drama movie with good characters. In this movie, Channing Tatum who plays as John Tyree is a wonderful actor. He makes the character of a soldier who confronts between love and duty. He shows to audience about the choice between love and duty as a soldier. Amanda Seyfried plays as the girl that falls in love, and Richard Jenkins plays as John father's autism, they make the audience drop their tears.

The second aspect is setting of the movie. The setting in the movie is Wilmington, NC and Lenior, NC. Began in 2000 and ends with epilogue in 2006. Lasse Hallstrom brought the audients to see the scene of John's action.

The third is plot of this movie. This aspect can make this movie interesting. When John is on a holiday, he meets Savannah. Then, they fall in love. After that, John must be back to Germany for his duty until one year. After one year, there is an accident which makes John over stay, although John wants to follow the army. It makes a question for Savannah that she must wait for John or leave him.

The last is John's feeling about the tension between love and duty. It is reflected in *Dear John*. It is one of appealing aspects that is interesting to be studied. Lasse Hallstrom, the director shows some psychological problems faced by John Tyree as one of major characters in this movie. It becomes when John must leave Savannah to his responsibility, John must extend when the country gets accident, and many others are the objects of psychological study. In this case the researcher is intended to conduct a study on psychological aspect of the character of this movie. Then, the researcher focuses more on John's feeling when tension between love and duty, it is one of the major character in this movie.

Based on the previous reasons the writer will observe *Dear John* movie by using psychological theory. So the writer constructs the title **BETWEEN LOVE AND DUTY REFLECTED IN LASSE HALLSTROM'S DEAR JOHN MOVIE (2010): A PSYCHOANALYTIC CRITICISM.**

B. Literature Review

The previous study about *Dear John* is conducted by Siti Fitria Rofi, Maulana Malik Ibrahim State Islamic University of Malang (2011), entitled “A Psycholinguistic Study on the Language Produced by an autistic character in *Dear John* movie”. She uses psycholinguistic to analyze the data. The aim of the study is to find how the autistic character produces the language. Therefore, this study focuses in seeking the kind of expressive language disorder occurs in the conversation.

The difference between the writer and the one previous writer is the theme and the perspective. Siti Fitria Rofi writes about how the autistic character produces the language by using psycholinguistic perspective, while the writer means to analyze the movie based on psychoanalysis criticism. The writer analyzes how John’s feeling is when contracted between love and duty in *Dear John* movie, and this research uses psychoanalytic criticism.

C. Problem Statement

The problem of the study is how the tension between love and duty is reflected in Lasse Hallstrom’s *Dear John* movie (2010)?

D. Limitation of the Study

To carry out the study, the researcher needs to limit the study. In this study, the researcher will focus on how the tension between love and duty that is

reflected in Lasse Hallstrom's *Dear John* movie (2010). In analyzing this movie, the researcher uses psychoanalytic criticism.

E. Objectives of the Study

The objectives of the study are mentioned as follows, to analyze Lasse Hallstrom's *Dear John* movie based on the structural elements of the movie and to describe John's feeling when confronted between love and duty in Lasse Hallstrom's *Dear John* movie based on psychoanalytic criticism.

F. Benefits of the Study

The benefits of the study are:

1. Theoretical Benefit

The study is expected to give a new contribution and information to the larger body of knowledge, particularly the literary studies on *Dear John* movie and novel.

2. Practical Benefit

The study is expected to enrich knowledge and experience of the writer and other students of Muhammadiyah University of Surakarta or another university who have interest in literary study on the movie from psychoanalytic criticism.

G. Research Method

1. Type of the Study

In this research, the writer uses a qualitative research. It is a library research while the data sources are using literary data. It aims to analyze the

movie using psychoanalysis perspective. The steps to conduct this research are (1) determining the type of the study, (2) determining the object of the study, (3) determining data and data source, (4) determining technique of data collection, and (5) determining technique of data analysis.

2. Object of the study

The object of the study is *Dear John* movie directed by Lasse hallstom and published by Screen Gems. It is analyzed using psychoanalysis approach.

3. Types of Data and Data Source

The type of data is text and image. In the movie, text is the form of dialogue in movie script. Meanwhile, the image is describing overall events and the visualization of the movie. The type of data sources consists of primary data source and secondary data sources.

a. Primary Data Sources

The primary data sources of the study are *Dear John* movie directed by Lasse Hallstrom from Screen Gems and the script movie written by Jamie Linden.

b. Secondary Data Sources

The secondary data sources are books such as *Theories of personality*, *Theory of Literature*, and other sources that support the analysis.

4. Technique of Data Collection

The technique of data collections are image capturing and note taking, with the steps as follows:

- a. Watching the movie for several times.
- b. Reading the movie script.
- c. Determining the character that will be analyzed.
- d. Taking notes of important parts in both primary and secondary data.
- e. Classifying and determining the relevant data.
- f. Taking notes from the material and some other resources related to the movie and the analysis.

5. Technique of the Data Analysis

The technique of the data analysis is descriptive analysis. It concerns with the structural elements of the movie and psychoanalysis approach.

H. Research Paper Organization

This research paper is divided into five chapters. Chapter One is introduction, involves background of the study, literature review, problem statement, limitation of the study, objective of the study, research method and paper organization. Chapter Two is underlying theory, which contains the notion of psychoanalytic theory, the main principles of Sigmund Freud's theory and theoretical application. Chapter Three is structural analysis, which contains character and characterization, setting, plot, point of view theme and style. Beside, this chapter contains discussion of the structural elements of the movie.

Chapter Four is psychoanalytic analysis and the last chapter, chapter Five is conclusion and suggestion.