

JOHN'S BIG HEART IN NICHOLAS SPARK'S

***DEAR JOHN* NOVEL (2006):**

A PSYCHOANALYTIC APPROACH

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Proposed by:

OKTI ERMAWATI

A 320090182

SCHOOL OF TEACHER TRAINING AND EDUCATION

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SURAT PERSETUJUAN

Yang bertanda tangan ini pembimbing/ skripsi/ tugas akhir :

Nama : : Drs. Abdillah Nugroho, M.Hum

NIP/NIK : 589

Nama : Siti Fatimah, S.Pd, M.Hum.

NIP/NIK : 850

Telah membaca dan mencermati naskah artikel publikasi ilmiah, yang merupakan ringkasan skripsi/ tugas akhir dari mahasiswa:

Nama : Okti Ermawati

NIM : A 320 090 182

Program Studi : Pendidikan Bahasa Inggris

Judul Skripsi : JOHN'S BIG HEART IN NICHOLAS SPARKS DEAR JOHN NOVEL
(2006): A PSYCHOANALYTIC APPROACH

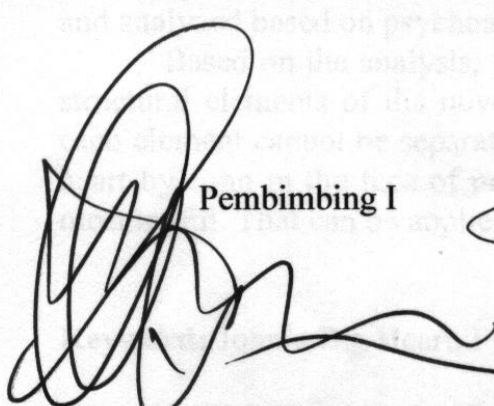
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Pembimbing I

Pembimbing II


Drs. Abdillah Nugroho, M.Hum

NIK. 589


Siti Fatimah, S.Pd, M. Hum

NIK. 850

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ABSTRACT

OKTI ERMAWATI. A 320 090 182. JOHNS BIG HEART IN NICHOLAS SPARKS'S *DEAR JOHN* NOVEL (2006): A PSYCHOANALYTIC APPROACH. RESEARCH PAPER. MUHAMMADIYAH UNIVERSITY OF SURAKARTA. 2013.

The major problem of this study is how big heart is reflected in *Dear John* novel by Nicholas Sparks's. The objective of this study is to analyze the novel based on its structural elements and to analyze the novel based on the psychoanalytic approach.

This study is a literary work, which can be categorized into a qualitative study. In this study the researcher uses two data sources, namely primary data and secondary data sources. The primary data source and the object of study is the *Dear John* novel itself, meanwhile the secondary one is any literature related to this study. The data are collected by searching data through the internet, library and analyzed based on psychoanalytic theory.

Based on the analysis, the researcher draws some conclusions. Firstly, the structural elements of the novel have an important role to build up the story so each element cannot be separated from the other. The second is the attitude of big heart by John in the face of problems and accept the fact, make this novel more meaningful. That can be applied in accordance with the psychoanalytic theory.

Keyword: John's Big Heart, Psychoanalytic

A. Introduction

1. Background of the Study

God creates human with many differences. Differences of opinion, behavior, choice, trait, feeling, and the differences of determining in life since. It takes attitude to face and solve the problems in life, one of which is the attitude of great heart. Big heart is the attitude of self-sacrifice that is based on a sense of sincerity that one aims to make other people happy.

Talk about big heart, there is a novel taken by the writer to be analyzed as a phenomena of a big heart person. *Dear John* is a novel that tells about a man named John who got survival in his own life to be a big heart man. In his life, John faced many problems. He was confronted with some choices that made him must decide and if he get the wrong decision he could be in trouble.

The research of *Dear John* is important due to the following four reasons. First, *Dear John* are that it is an inspiring book. Second is the simple plot of the story. The last, the main character is John.

Based on the reason the writer will observe *Dear John* novel by using psychoanalytic theory. So the writer constructs the title JOHN'S BIG HEART IN NICHOLAS SPARK'S *DEAR JOHN* NOVEL (2006): A PSYCHOANALYTIC APPROACH.

2. Literature Review

The researcher attempt to provide some literature reviews that have been done on the novel *Dear John* by Nicholas Sparks. The author did not find the results of research on this novel Muhammadiyah University of Surakarta, so the authors sought to find in any other university by browsing the site internet. To prove the originality of the study, the writer presents the previous studies that have been conducted in the different studies.

The first research was conducted by Esa Yolanda Putri (UIN Syarif Hidayatullah Jakarta, 2012) entitled “An analysis of stylistics in *Dear John* novel by Nicholas Sparks”. The result of her study was about figurative language and the meaning of each figurative language used by the author in the novel *Dear John*.

The second research was conducted by Rohana (University of Sumatra Utara, 2011) entitled “Major Character Conflicts In *Dear John*’s Novel”. The discussion in this thesis focused on the analysis of the kinds of conflicts that are in both figures, the novel written by Nicholas Sparks.

3. Problem Statement

Based on the research background above, the researcher proposes the problem of the study as “How is John’s Big Heart reflected in Nicholas Sparks’s *Dear John* Novel (2006)?”

4. Limitation of the Study

This study focus as on describing and analyzing reflection of John’s Big Heart in Nicholas Sparks’s *Dear John* novel using a psychoanalytic approach.

5. Objective of the Study

To analyze Nicholas Sparks’s *Dear John* novel (2006) based on Structural Elements of the novel and to describe big heart in *Dear John* novel based on A Psychoanalytic Approach.

6. Benefit of the Study

The benefits expected from this study are the following:

- a. The study is projected to give more contribution and information to the larger body of knowledge, particularly in the literary studies.
- b. The study is expected to enrich the knowledge and experience of the writer and other universities interested in literary studies.

7. Underlying Theory

a. Psychoanalytic Theory

Psychoanalysis is the branch of psychological study that focuses on the personality of human being. According to Freud, “Psychoanalysis reflects to the changing valve in the society and it plays a role in the changing of valves” (Pervin, 1984: 21). Psychoanalytic theory emphasis on the following concepts psychological determinism, the unconscious, behavior as goal directed and expressive of interplay among forces or dynamics and the behavior as an outgrowth of events in the last time on the individual.

According to Sigmund Freud's psychoanalytic theory, personality consists of three elements. These three elements of personality known as the *id*, *ego* and *superego* are working together to create complex human behaviors. According to Freud, *id*, *ego* and *superego* “are not persons, places, or physical things they are the names given to certain motivational forces whose existence is inferred from the way people behave” (Feist, 1985: 24).

According to Freud (Burger, 1986: 56), *id* is “the most basic system of personality where the innate instinct exists”. The *id* is the only component of personality that is present from birth. Aspects of personality are fully conscious and inclusive of instinctive behavior. *Ego* is the component of personality that is responsible for dealing with reality. According to Koeswara (1991:33-34), “*Ego* is a personality system that acts as individual director to the object of reality, and perform its functions based on the principle reality”. According Kartono (1996:129) *superego* is the highest substance on humans, which provides guidance lines ethical and norms that must be adhered to.

b. Big Heart

Basically, big heart attitude is the mental attitude, to be ready to accept whatever the consequences and results of a life lived. People with big hearts not let the hatred and hostility master heart. When facing difficult times will remain tough, not let lost in grief and despair.

As man is constituted, each part of his being – mind, emotions, etc. The things that make a person can decide to act big heart is sincere. Sincere means honesty in the expression of true or deep feelings and generally understood to be truth in word and act. One who means what he says is a sincere person. By sincere, person understand that the man acts according to his conscience.

c. Structural Element of the Novel

In literary work can find two elements: the intrinsic and extrinsic element. Extrinsic elements deal with the elements that build from the outside of the story. And the intrinsic elements deal with elements that form the story inside, such as: character and characterization, setting plot, point of view, style and theme.

B. Research Method

1. Type of the Study

In this study, the writer applies qualitative research. The data sources are library and literary data. Its purpose is to analyze using psychoanalytic approach. The step to conduct the research are as follows: 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 finally 5) determining technique of data analyze.

2. Object of the Study

The object of the study is *Dear John* Novel written by Nicholas Spark's and published by Warner Books (2006). It is analyzed by using psychoanalytic approach.

3. Type of the Data and the Data Source

There are two types of data, namely primary and secondary data. The primary data sources of this study are *Dear John* (2006) novel written by Nicholas Sparks's. The data involves dialogues, characters, action and the whole narration, which are relevant to the subject matter of this research. Secondary data is the supporting data taken from other sources such as essay, articles, biography of Nicholas Spark's, internet and other relevant information.

4. Technique of the Data Collection

The technique of data collection are as follows:

- a. Reading the novel repeatedly.
- b. Taking notes of important parts both primary and secondary data.
- c. Arranging the data into several groups based on its theoretical category.
- d. Selecting particular parts considered important and relevant for analysis.
- e. Drawing conclusion and formulate its pedagogical suggestion.

5. Technique of the Data Analysis

The technique used in analyzing data is descriptive analysis. It concerns with the structural element of the novel and Psychoanalytic approach.

C. Research Finding and Discussion

In this research finding, the research analyzed some points in order to analyze *Dear John* Novel (2006) using Structural Analysis and Psychoanalytic Approach

1. Structural Elements of *Dear John* Novel

a. Character and Characterization

There are two kinds of characters in the novel, namely major and minor characters. Major character is the important character in the story meanwhile minor character is the supporting character to support major character.

Major character is John. A soldier which was once the rebels, into the army for maturation itself. He is very dear to his father and he loved Savannah. He is loyal men and true, chose to sacrifice for the happiness of her lover. Models with short hair and he has several tattoos.

Minor character are Savannah, Tim, Tony, Mr. Tyree, Mr. Curtis and Mrs. Curtis. Savannah is a smart girl which always gets a perfect score. She has a best friend since childhood who became her husband, he is Tim. Tim is a good man, adult and wise in dealing with the problem. One of them is forgiving John action that has been hit and blessed John with Savannah although he does love Savannah. In physically, he is tall, lanky, dark hair that was already receding parted neatly to the side.

b. Setting

Setting of place among others are in Wilmington City is the John's home and meeting with Savannah, Lenoir City, Chapel Hill City is a Savannah apartment and hospital when treated to Tim, in Germany is training John, and in Iraq. For setting the time, the story takes place between 2000 and 2006.

c. Plot

The novel begins with by narration John Tyree, a young rebel frustrated because the condition of his father is different with the others. He joined the Army in the Infantry Division who trained in Germany. In 2000 while leave, John meets with

Savannah Lynn Curtis. Only a few days to meet, they have to fall in love.

Part of complication is when Jon was in Iraq. John is sent to Iraq to fight against the government of Saddam Hussein. When John returned to the camp, he received a letter from Savannah. This news is very painful because Savannah says that she was married to someone. Climax in this novel is when John's father died after battling heart disease and her sudden leave of absence. John took time to visit Savannah and Savannah just found out that her husband is Tim. Savannah tells that Tim was in the hospital because of illness Cellulitis and detected lung cancer. Savannah wants to be part of a team of MD Anderson trial that tested the vaccine treatment, but he did not have the funds. John sold the coins and the proceeds given anonymously Savannah. In this novel, the resolution is Tim cured of lung cancer with the help of John

d. Style

The use of figurative language in the novel is not too much. Included in the story are only style personification, simile, and metonymy. The author also uses mixing words in that sentence, English, Italian and Latin. The words are *lasagna* is Italian and *biochemotherapy* is Latin language. The selection of words used in the storytelling is not difficult. The story can be easily understood by using a simple choice of words.

e. Point of Story

Point of view is divided into two kinds, first, is participant of the first person narrator. It means that the author introduces himself as a character in the story. Then, the second is non-participant or third person narrator. In this point of view, the author does not involve himself as the character in

the story (Barnet, 1963: 38). In this case, the *Dear John* novel using the first person narrator, who does involve in the story.

f. Theme

This novel has several themes which can be observed. However, the writer chooses one theme that is appropriate to the approach which is used by the writer. The theme is “Sacrifice true love for happiness lover”. This theme is considered with the approach because unnatural selfish can hurt anybody else.

2. Psychoanalytic Analysis

a. Analysis of John’s Personality

In this session the writer will explain about John’s personality and compare his *id*, *superego*, and *ego*.

The first cases, John's *id* is his desire to fill his life with looking for fun and forget about the state of the relationship between him and his father who not harmonious. Previously, when John listens to the story of his father's coin again, her emotions makes his father so sad and their communications becomes increasingly rare. He's bored with the situation like it, he wants to have fun with woman and her friends while drinking beer. John's *superego* occurs when John realizes that he can not have fun forever. He's still young and has a future that must be achieved. The state of his father grow old also makes John though to do things that can make his father please and proud. In this case, John's *ego* is by joining the military. When it's two armies are passed by while he is sitting on the beach while thinking about the future. He tell also that an army like that. Originally he attempt to register in the marines, but then registration is closed. Eventually he enrolls in the army serving in the Infantry Division.

The second case, *id* of John is when he wants to resign as army and return home to marry Savannah. The desire to live free and happy with Savannah. But on September 11th, 3 months before he resign, there is a major event in his country that makes everyone angry and grieving. John's *superego* is this an opportunity for him to join the fight to defend his country. During the army, he is assigned only to maintain peace on the border. One by one his friends register for the term of two years. John who is waiting for the time to resign, feeling will be the loser if he leaves his friends fight. He feels a sense of patriotism is higher than the desire to return home. John's *ego* as he stay in Germany and join the register with his two year stint as his friends. John asks the opinion of Savannah about the decision. Savannah understands the state of John and supports that decision, even he proud of John. Then he make a great sacrifice in his life by choosing to serve in the country.

b. Analysis of John's Big Heart

In this novel, John as the main character is capable of being a big heart. Not easy to be big-hearted because there will be sacrificed. But by being a big heart, John felt better and makes his life meaningful in life. Choosing to serve the country and to help healing Savannah husband was John's big heart attitude. Both of these can be realized in psychoanalytic theory.

The first of John's big heart is shown when he first *id* appears that the desire to return home and are free of duty as a army. John's *superego* is thought to delay the return. Finally, John's *ego* decided not to go home. He signed up again as the army for 2 years.

The second of John's big heart is shown when his second *id* appears on the desire to have the Savannah. John's *superego* is not to take advantage of the state Tim just for happiness. In this

case, John's *ego* is to help the healing Tim. John sells the coins legacy from his father. He give the proceeds to the lawyer in Lenoir transferred to the account for aid Tim without giving identity. He did not want to get into their lives again, because it will be very painful to be remembered for he and them.

D. Conclusion

After analyzing the novel based on the structural analysis, the writer thinly that this novel has a good story in combining the human feeling. The author Nicholas Sparks also wants to extend the message for the audience. It is about the obsession to fix automaton and the moral value is never give up on other things. In *Dear John* novel, Nicholas Sparks described the big heart phenomenon in John's life. He also make characters, setting, plot, style, point of view and theme.

Referring to the problem statement and the analysis in the previous chapter, the researcher finally takes some conclusions. There are many actions that showing big heart attitude, one of them is to sacrifice as practiced by John. The first sacrifice for the country and the second for Savannah. John chose to defend the country that in the end he sacrifices relationship with Savannah. Then there is the opportunity to have Savannah, but John chose to sacrifice for Savannah happines by selling all the coins heritage.

Based on the analysis the researcher can conclude that everyone has an obsession with something in their lifes. Moreover, in the *Dear John* novel the researcher finds that one of the major character's personality has the never give up to fix something. It is able to be some paradigm for other people to try doing the best for their special big heart. Therefore, it includes the psychoanalytic phenomena.

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