

CHAPTER I

INTRODUCTION

A. Background of the Study

Cancer is an illness which includes as terminal illness. Terminal illness is a condition where the patient is expected to be death in the short period time. Most of cancer's patient cannot be cured, especially when their condition is getting worse. But some people are cured from this illness. It depends on their struggle to be cured and how serious their condition is. According to WHO (www.who.int), there are three types of illness, such as type I, type II, and type III. Type I sometimes happens in the both of rich and poor countries, and the number of the illness balance in each country, for example cancer. Type II is happening in the both of rich and poor countries, but the most happen is in the poor country, for example Tuberculosis and AIDs. Type III is happening in the developing country, for example leishmaniasis or malaria. So, cancer includes as illness type I, and it can happen in both of rich and poor countries.

WHO (www.who.int) defines health as “a state of complete physical, mental and social well-being and not merely the absence of disease or infirmity”. The definition has been criticized over 60 years, but it has never been changed. The requirement for complete health would leave most of people unhealthy in most of time. In 2012, 56 million people died every year in the world. 68% of all deaths caused by noncommunicable diseases such as cardiovascular diseases, cancers, diabetes, and chronic lungs diseases. High-income countries have the highest deaths caused by NCDs, 87%, followed by upper-middle income countries in 81%. It is lower in low-income countries (32 %) and lower-middle income countries (57%).

Cancer's patient responds the illness in different ways. Some of them cannot accept the illness, but some of them can. People who cannot accept this illness would say that God is unfair, while people who accept this illness would say that God is fair and they believe that God has a reason to give them the illness. People who cannot

accept this illness blame to the God for what happen to them. They cannot accept this illness as a gift from God, where behind it there is a hidden meaning from God. Everything happens with a reason, so God has a beautiful reason for us. People who have this illness and cannot accept it, always blame to God, and think that it is unfair. They always think themselves in the rest of their life. They believe that they will die soon, so it is useless if they do anything in their life. They just think their illness as disrepute in their life, and they are not happy living in this world. This thinking makes their condition get worse because they are not be grateful to God. God always listens to every person's pray, so if they think that they will die soon, maybe God accept their prayer.

However, most of people think that God is fair. People who have this thinking, will accept anything that happens in their life as a gift from God. They believe that God never give them difficulty beyond their ability, because they always think that God is fair to every person in this world. People who believe that the illness is from God will accept the illness happily and they believe it happens to them because of a reason. They believe that illness is a part of fate in their life. Fate is everything that happens to every person in this world now and in the future. No one can change their fate before God. People who have positive thinking about their illness never spend the rest of their life doing nothing, but they always do positive activity. Sometimes they join in Cancer Support group, where all cancer patients gather there. They are sharing their own story. They believe that they can be cured one day. People who have cured from this illness, will help another people to support them doing their life, and ask them not to give up. Behind it all, God has hidden meaning to them. There are many stories about cancer in this world, some of them have been filmed, such as *My Sister Keeper* and *The Fault in Our Stars*.

People should concern their health as the main priority. No one knows what God's decision to us. We look so healthy today, but we can get this illness on the other day. Most of people live healthy to prevent this illness. The simple way to prevent this illness is by living healthy, doing sport everyday, eating healthy food

and the important thing is always pray to the God to give us health. When healthy people feel unhealthy, they check up in the hospital to know their illness. Not rarely people feel the symptom of cancer. People who have this symptom, feel afraid, but they prepare for the worst probability. They try to accept anything that happens to them. But sometimes they are wrong about their feel. Doctor says that they are healthy. People who have ever had this experience will be careful doing their life in the future. They will be more careful, keep their body and their food.

Cancer pays attention of much people. Most people sees cancer as a deadly illness, hard to be cured. This phenomena do not only get pay attention from WHO, doctor, nutrient specialist, but also the society in the world. One of them is John Green. He created a novel with the title *The Fault in Our Stars*, which is published in 2012.

The Fault in Our Stars is a novel about a patient with cancer, named Hazel Grace Lancaster who had lived for thirteen years with terminal illness. This novel is interesting, because it tells us about the struggle of Hazel to fight cancer and to survive. She uses portable oxygen tank because there is a problem with their lungs. She should attend *Support Group* session once a week, until she meets with the one she loves, his name is August Waters. They fall in love each other. Because of that reason, they want to live longer or even live together forever to share their love and happiness. Both of them support each other to fight their illness. Their parents also agree with their relationship and support them.

John Michael Green was born on August 24, 1977 in Indianapolis, Indiana. He is the New York Times bestselling author of *Looking for Alaska*, *An Abundance of Katherines*, *Paper Towns*, and *The Fault in Our Stars*. He is also the coauthor, with David Levithan, of *Will Grayson, Will Grayson*. He was 2006 recipient of the Michael L. Printz Award, a 2009 Edgar Award winner, and has twice been a finalist for the Los Angeles Times Book Prize. Green's books have been published in much languages.

In 2007, Green and his brother Hank make video blogs and posted some video to *Youtube*. After long time since resumed the *Youtube*, they continue to upload two videos a week. They have more than 500 million viewers, and their channel become the most popular channel in the history of online video. He is also active twitter and has more than 3.8 million followers.

There are some reasons why the researcher analyzes this novel. First, the strong character of Hazel Grace Lancaster to do her life. She is a patient with cancer and diagnosed by doctor when she was thirteen. Now she is seventeenth years old, so she has lived with cancer for four years. During four years, she is trying to accept about her illness and fighting to be cured, at least it is not getting worse.

Second reason is about plot of the story. The story is about patient with cancer, but not too much about cancer. There is friendship and love story between the characters. *The Fault in Our Stars* include as an adult novel, but teenagers can also read it. The writer can make story more interesting to read, and the reader is not bored to read it. There is a part where the tension can make the reader feel it too.

Third reason is about the theme. The theme of the novel is about illness. This novel describes about terminal illness. Hazel, who is the main character is a patient with cancer. But she never gives up about her illness. Her parent and her friends support Hazel in all way, as long as she is doing her best to live longer, and to live happily.

Fourth reason is about language. The language is simple. The writer uses simple language which always use in everyday life. The language is easy to understand, so the reader is not confused. The diction in this novel is also good. The story is also explained so clear in each chapter. So it doesn't make the reader confused.

Fifth reason is about this novel was adapted to a film in 2014. Published in 2012 *The Fault in Our Stars* become New York Time Bestselling. In 2014, the novel was adapted to a film. The film is almost same with the novel, but it has a

differentiation. Both of the novel and film are amazing. The actor and actresses who played in the Film can feel the psychological feeling so it makes the film great.

By the description above, the researcher analyzes the novel using Humanistic Psychology Approach to make deep understanding about the characteristic of the novel. The researcher wants to look for the emotional feeling between the characters. So that, the researcher is encouraged to entitle the research as following: *Living with Cancer Reflected in John Green's The Fault in Our Stars (2012): Humanistic Psychology Approach*.

B. Problem Statement

The researcher aims analyzing the problem:

1. What is the first response of every character when they know they get cancer?
2. How can the characters live with cancer?
3. Why is cancer part of the writer's concern?

C. Objective of the Study

Conducting the research, the objectives of the study are to know:

1. The first response of every character when they know they get cancer.
2. The characters can live with cancer.
3. The writer concerns about the cancer part.

D. Benefit of the Study

The researcher expected a lot that the research which investigates the issue "*Living with Cancer Reflected in John's Green The Fault in Our Stars* novel bears many benefit. The benefit of the study will be differentiated into two benefits:

1. Theoretical Benefits

The result of this study is to give information and contribution of knowledge to the academic reference. It is also as a reference for other students who want to

conduct further research and particularly literary studies on *The Fault in Our Stars* novel.

2. Practical Benefits

The study is expected to enrich knowledge and experience for the writer in many things and for other students of Muhammadiyah University of Surakarta or for others universities that have the same interest in literary study on the literature from *Humanistic Approach*.

E. Paper Organization

This research paper organization of “*Living with Cancer Reflected in John Green’s The Fault in Our Stars (2012)*” is as follows:

Chapter I is introduction, which consists of the background of the study, problem statement, objective of the study, benefit of the study and research paper organization. Chapter II concerns with literature review, which describe the underlying theory and previous study. Chapter III is research method. Chapter IV comprises of the structural analysis of the novel, which includes the narrative elements, technical elements, and discussion. Chapter V consists of conclusion and suggestion.