

# CHAPTER I

## INTRODUCTION

### A. Background of the Study

Cancer is a complex genetic disease that is caused primarily by environmental factors. The cancer-causing agents (carcinogens) can be present in food and water, in the air, and in chemicals and sunlight that people are exposed to (Alison, 2001: 1).

Morange (2012: 609) states that evolutionary vision of cancer states that the development of a tumour is a process comparable to the evolution of organisms. It results from the occurrence of mutations, the formation of cellular clones characterized by the presence or absence of these mutations, and the possible competition between these clones. The speciation theory of cancer belongs to these evolutionary models of cancer.

Cancer has been known since human societies first recorded their activities. The rise of the evolutionary vision of cancer is linked with the recent technological developments permitting the fast sequencing of full genomes, and with the advent of single cell and deep sequencing, which allow a quantitative measure of the fraction of cells harbouring a specific mutation within a tumour. These studies have demonstrated intra-tumour genetic heterogeneity and helped to characterize the genetic relations between metastases and the tumours of origin, as well as the genetic variations associated with the relapses that often follow a treatment (Morange, 2012: 609).

The causes of serious ill-health in the world are changing. Infection as a major cause is giving way to non-communicable diseases such as cardiovascular disease and cancer. In 1996 there were 10 million new cancer cases worldwide and six million deaths attributed to cancer. In 2020 there are predicted to be 20 million new cases and 12 million deaths. Part of the reason for this is that life expectancy is steadily rising and most cancers are more common in an ageing population. More significantly, a globalization of unhealthy lifestyles,

particularly cigarette smoking and the adoption of many features of the modern Western diet (high fat, low fibre content) will increase cancer incidence (Alison, 2001: 1).

*The Fault in Our Stars* novel was written by John Green published in January 2012. The title of this novel is inspired by Shakespeare's play *Julius Caesar*, in which the nobleman Cassius says to Brutus: "The fault, dear Brutus, is not in our stars, but in ourselves, that we are underlings". The story is narrated by Hazel Grace Lancaster. Hazel Grace is sixteen years old and she has been dealing with a thyroid cancer that spreads to her lungs. She is forced by her mother to attend a Support Group in Episcopal Church. She meets and falls in love with Augustus Waters. He is seventeen years old and he has been dealing with an osteosarcoma that causes one of his legs amputated. He uses a prosthetic leg (Green, 2012).

Augustus Waters and Hazel Grace like reading very much. They like to talk about their favorite novels. Augustus gives Hazel *The Price of Dawn* novel and Hazel recommends *An Imperial Affliction*. *An Imperial Affliction* is a novel about a girl named Anna who has cancer, and it is the only account she's read of living with cancer that matches with her life. She speculates about the novel's mysterious author, Peter Van Houten who fled to Amsterdam after the novel was published and hasn't been heard until now. They are very curious about the ending of *An Imperial Affliction*. A week after Hazel and Augustus discuss the literary meaning of *An Imperial Affliction*, he sends an email to Van Houten's assistant, Lidewij Vligenthart. They wrote to Van Houten with questions regarding the novel's ending and the fate of Anna's mother. Van Houten eventually replies, he explains that he can only answer Hazel's questions if Hazel and Augustus go to Amsterdam. Through Lidewij, Hazel and Augustus are invited to come to Amsterdam for meeting Peter Van Houten. In Amsterdam, Augustus confesses his love for Hazel. Hazel and Augustus finally meet Van Houten but are shocked to find that he is an alcoholic man (Green, 2012).

Augustus confesses that his health is not as good as Hazel that had been led to believe. Augustus and Hazel affirm their love and support for each other. Upon their return to Indianapolis, Augustus' health gets worse and he is taken

care in the ER for a few days. Fearing his death, Augustus invites Isaac and Hazel to his pre-funeral, where they give eulogies. Augustus died after he is taken care in the ER. After this traumatic event, Van Houten shows up at Augustus' funeral to apologize to Hazel (Green, 2012).

Hazel learns that Augustus was writing a sequel about *An Imperial Affliction*. Hazel reads Augustus' words. He says getting hurt in this world, but we get to choose who we allow to hurt us, and that he is happy with his choice, and Augustus hopes Hazel likes her choice too. The book closes with Hazel stating that she does (Green, 2012).

There are four reasons why the writer takes the title “*Cancer*” in **The Fault in Our Stars** novel: first is because of character and characterization of the novel. Second is because of plot of the novel. Third, *The Fault in Our Stars* has a good quality novel. Fourth is because cancer that becomes the main issue of the novel is reflected well.

The first because of character and characterization. This novel has a strong character. Hazel Grace and Augustus are the major characters in this novel. Hazel has thyroid cancer that has spread to her lungs and Augustus Waters has osteosarcoma that caused him to lose his leg. The writer will be more shows the readers about the efforts of characters in *The Fault in Our Stars* novel to against cancer.

The second reason is because of plot of the novel. This novel uses traditional plot line. The first part of novel begins introducing the character of the novel, after that the conflict of the major characters. The conflict consists of rising action until climax and finally the resolution from the conflict.

The third reason, *The Fault in Our Stars* has a good quality novel. In this novel, the author gives the moral message that the person has to be strong in his or her life although there are many problems that make us to be a weakness person. In *The Fault in Our Stars* novel tells how the cancer sufferers try to against cancer although they have many weakness but they always against the cancer to reach the happiness in their life.

The fourth reason is because cancer that becomes the main issue of the novel is reflected well. In this novel, John Green covers how strong efforts of Hazel Grace, Augustus Waters and other cancer sufferers struggle to against cancer. They joined a support group in the "Literal Heart of Jesus" to show the other that they must to be strong and always struggle although they have a cancer.

Based on the illustration above about Hazel and Augustus to solve their problems in their life, the researcher is interested in analyzing the novel with the title: **CANCER IN JOHN GREEN'S *THE FAULT IN OUR STARS* NOVEL (2012): A SOCIOLOGICAL APPROACH.**

## **B. Previous Studies**

This research deals with previous researches but it has difference in some matters. The previous study is mentioned here to prove that his research is different from others.

The first research was conducted by Rosida, Ana Fathiya (Gunadarma University, 2014) entitled *Optimism As Reflected In Augustus Waters Character Of John Green's The Fault In Our Stars*. Her research aims are to find out the optimism of Augustus Waters as reflected in the novel *The Fault in Our Stars* and the influence of his optimism to his friends.

The second research was conducted by Niode, Santi Husain (Sam Ratulangi University, 2015) entitled *Analisis Tema Dalam Novel The Fault In Our Stars Karya John Green*. Her research aim is to analyze the theme in *The Fault in Our Stars* novel through the characters, plot and setting.

The third research was conducted by Fahrizky, Rindang Barta (Semarang State University, 2015) entitled *English-Indonesian Translation of Idiomatic Expressions in John Green's The Fault In Our Stars*. Her research aims are to identify what idiomatic of *The Fault in Our Stars* novel and to find out the accuracy level of idiomatic translation of the novel.

The fourth research was conducted by Idriani, Dini (IAIN Antasari, 2015) entitled *The Analysis of Figurative Languages in Novel The Fault in Our Stars*

by John Green. Her research aim is to find the figurative languages from John Green's *The Fault in Our Stars*.

Based on the previous studies above, the researcher found some similarities. The similarity here is about *The Fault in Our Stars* novel as the object of the study. Meanwhile the difference of previous studies above is about the issue or the problem to analyze in the research paper and the theory that is used. The first previous studies discussed about the optimism of Augustus Waters as reflected in the novel *The Fault in Our Stars* and the influence of his optimism to his friends. The second previous studies discussed about the theme in *The Fault in Our Stars* novel through the characters, plot and setting. The third previous studies discussed about the idiomatic of *The Fault in Our Stars* novel and the accuracy level of idiomatic translation of the novel. The last previous studies discussed about the figurative languages from John Green's *The Fault in Our Stars*.

Previous studies above have similarity and difference with this research paper. The similarity here is about *The Fault in Our Stars* novel as the object of the study. The difference in this research paper discusses about cancer using sociological approach as the theory.

### **C. Problem Statement**

In this study, the writer proposes a single problem statement. The major problem is cancer which reflected in John Green's *The Fault in Our Stars* novel. It explains Hazel Grace, Augustus Waters and other cancer sufferers' manner to against cancer and stay alive with their ill and weakness. Based on the background of choosing the subject above, the researcher was going to focus the research on the cancer of cancer sufferers to solve her problems in *The Fault in Our Stars* novel with the problem of this study as follow: "How is the cancer reflected in John Green's *The Fault in Our Stars* novel?"

**D. Limitation of the Study**

The writer focuses this research in analyzing cancer reflected in John Green's *The Fault in Our Stars* novel published in 2012 using Sociological Approach.

**E. Objectives of the Study**

Dealing with the problem statement above, the objectives of the study are as follows:

1. To analyze the John Green's *The Fault in Our Stars* (2012) based on the structural elements of the novel.
2. To analyze cancer in *The Fault in Our Stars* (2012) based on sociological approach.

**F. Benefit of the Study**

The benefits of this study are as follows:

**a. Theoretical Benefits**

This study is gives contribution and information to the larger body of knowledge, an academic reference by other researchers to conduct further research and particularly literary studies on *The Fault in Our Stars* novel.

**b. Practical Benefits**

To get better understanding of the novel, in literary field as references to other researchers in analyzing the novel especially based on sociological approach.

**G. Research Method****1. The Type of Research**

The type of research, which is used by the writer, is descriptive qualitative research. Descriptive qualitative is a type of research which result the descriptive data in the form of written or oral words from the observed object.

## **2. Object of Research**

The object of research is *Cancer* that reflected in *The Fault in Our Stars* novel (2012) written by John Green and publishing by Penguin Books in New York. It is analyzed by using a sociological approach.

## **3. The Type of Data Source**

### **a. Primary Data Source**

The primary data sources in this research are *The Fault in Our Star* novel (2012) written by John Green. The data involve dialogues, characters, action and the whole narration, which are relevant to the subject matter of this research.

### **b. Secondary Data Source**

Secondary data source are taken from other materials related to the data required such as from internet, some of guided books, and the notes which taken by the writer when reading the novel.

## **4. Technique of the Data Collection**

The technique of data collection is the researcher reads the novel repeatedly and tries to imagine and understand the novel. Then she takes notes and underlines the important words, phrases of the sentences, which are related to the study. Next, she tries to relate the data collected and the point of discussion.

## **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 sociological approach.

## **H. Research Organization**

The research organization of *Cancer John Green's The Fault in Our Stars Novel (2012): a Sociological Approach* to make it easier to be understood is as follows:

Chapter I is Introduction, it consists of Background of the Study, Literature Review, Problem Statement, Limitation of the Study, Objectives of the Study, and Benefits of the Study, Research Method, and Research Organization.

Chapter II is Underlying Theory, consisting of Sociology of Literature, Major Principles of Sociological, The notion of Cancer, Structural Elements of the Novel, and Theoretical Application.

Chapter III is Social Background of American Society in the Twenty Century which covers social aspects, economic aspects, political aspects, science and technological aspects, cultural aspects, religious aspects and sociological aspect of the writer.

Chapter IV is the Structural Analysis of *The Fault in Our Stars* Novel; it consists of Characters and Characterization, Setting, Plot, Point of View, Style and Theme.

Chapter V is Sociological Analysis of *The Fault in Our Stars* novel that consists of social aspects, political aspects, economic aspects, cultural aspects, religious aspects, cancer analysis and the last is Discussion.

Chapter VI is Conclusion, Pedagogical Implication and Suggestion.