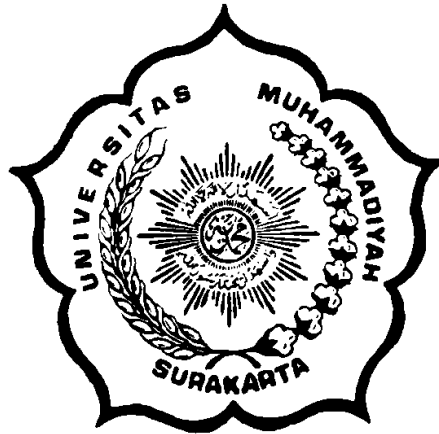


**DIFFERENT CLASS REFLECTED IN NICHOLAS SPARK'S THE BEST of ME NOVEL
(1976): A MARXIST APPROACH.**



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**Submitted as a Partial Fulfillment of The Requirements For
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by:

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2016

APPROVAL

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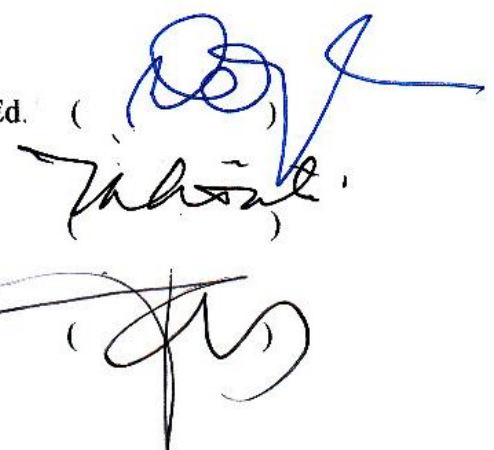
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**DIFFERENT CLASS REFLECTED IN NICHOLAS SPARK'S THE BEST of ME NOVEL
(1976): A MARXIST APPROACH.**

Abstrak

Tujuan dari penelitian ini adalah untuk menganalisis novel dari Nicholas Spark yang berjudul The Best of Me berdasarkan unsur-unsur struktural novel dan kelas yang berbeda dalam karakter mayor dan minor tercermin dalam Nicholas Spark The Best of Me berdasarkan pendekatan marxis. Penelitian ini merupakan penelitian kualitatif. Objek dari penelitian ini adalah Novel The Best of Me karya Nicholas Spark ini yang diterbitkan pada tahun 1976. Hal ini dianalisis dengan menggunakan pendekatan Marxis. Metode pengumpulan data; membaca novel berulang kali, membuat catatan dari bagian penting dalam data primer dan sekunder, yang mendasari kata yang penting, frasa dan kalimat yang berhubungan dengan penelitian, mengatur data ke dalam beberapa bagian berdasarkan klasifikasinya, memilih data dengan menolak relevan informasi yang tidak mendukung topik penelitian, menarik kesimpulan dari analisis yang telah dilakukan di bekas bab dan merumuskan saran pedagogis nya. Hasil penelitian menunjukkan bahwa analisis struktural The Best of Me baru terdiri dari karakter dan karakterisasi dimana Dawson dan Amanda sebagai karakter utama dan karakter minor adalah Frank Ridley, Tommy Cole, Ted Cole. Tema dari novel The Best of Me adalah hubungan kecelakaan menjadi kecelakaan keluarga tragis. Setting tempat dari novel The Best of Me terdiri dari setting tempat dan setting waktu. Plot di The Best of Me baru menggunakan komplikasi, eksposisi, klimaks, resolusi. Sudut pandang novel ini berasal dari penulis di mana ia ingin memiliki rumus novel roman ke ilmu pengetahuan. Analisis marxisme dari novel terdiri dari, 1) The materialisme dialektika terdiri dari tesis adalah kondisi nyata kehidupan sosial karakter dalam novel terutama kondisi Dawson di mana dia sebagai orang miskin. Antitesis adalah hidup sosial yang hidup dalam status yang tinggi. Sinthesis muncul sebagai dampak dari tesis di atas dan antitesis. 2) Materialisme historis dalam novel The Best of Me menunjukkan bahwa masyarakat menggunakan pengadilan dan penjara untuk memberikan hukuman bagi orang-orang yang bersalah. Polisi juga bagian dari senjata pemerintah untuk menjaga keadilan dalam masyarakat. 3) Perjuangan kelas di novel The Best of Me baru menunjukkan bahwa ada konflik kelas antara kelas bawah dan kelas tinggi. 4) Keterasingan di novel The Best of Me Novel muncul di mana ada beberapa kesengsaraan dalam kehidupan Dawson. 5) Resolusi adalah Cara untuk mendapatkan hak dan posisi yang Sama dalam semua aspek kehidupan di masyarakat.

Kata kunci: Marxis, The Best of Me, Perbedaan kelas yang berbeda.

Abstracts

The objectives of this study are to analyze Nicholas Spark's *The Best of Me* novel based on the structural elements of the novel and the different class in major and minor characters reflected in Nicholas Spark's *The Best of Me* based on a marxist approach. The research is qualitative research. The object of the study is *The Best of Me* novel by Nicholas Spark's which is published in 1976. It is analyzed by using Marxist approach. The method of collecting data are; reading the novel repeatedly, taking notes of important part in both primary and secondary data, underlying the important word, phrases and sentences which are related to the study, arranging the data into several part based on its classification, selecting the data by rejecting the irrelevant information which does not support the topic of the study, drawing the conclusion of the analysis that has already done in the former chapter and formulating its pedagogical suggestion. The results of the study show that the structural analysis of *The Best of Me* novel consists of character and characterization where Dawson and Amanda as the major character and the minor character is Frank Ridley, Tommy Cole, Ted Cole. The theme of *The Best of Me* novel is an accident relationship becomes a tragic family accident. The setting in *The Best of Me* novel consists of setting of place and setting of time. The plot in *The Best of Me* novel using complication, exposition, climax, resolution. The point of view the novel is coming from the author where he wants to have the romance novel formula down to a science. The Marxism analysis of the novel consists of, 1) *the dialectical materialism* consists of the thesis is a real condition of social life of the character within the novel especially the condition of Dawson where he lives as a poor man. The antithesis is a social live which is live in a high status. The sinthesis appears as the impact of the above thesis and antithesis. 2) *The historical materialism* in the *best of Me* novel shows that the society use the court and prison to judge give the punishment for people that guilty. The police also part of government weapon to keep the justice in society. 3) *The class struggle* in the *Best of Me* novel shows that there are class conflict between the lower class and high class. 4) *The alienation* in the *Best of Me* novel appears where there is some certain amazing misery hapened in Dawson's life. 5) *The Resolution* is a way to get equal right and position in all aspect of life in society.

Keywords: Marxist, The Best of Me novel, Different class

1. INTRODUCTION

Social class and socioeconomic status are areas of interest that have been studied empirically, albeit mostly exclusively, as having the potentials for producing a plethora of positive and negative outcomes that influence

individual behavior and the manner in which organizations respond to clients. While these variables are widely used in disciplines such as sociology and cultural studies, as social identity categories, there appears a mismatched paucity of interest in alternative, perhaps more viable, social equity indicators in the field of public administration. (Oldfield, 2001).

Marxism is a settled body of theory or doctrine, and on the other hand, that Literature is settled of work, or kinds of work, with known general qualities and properties. Marxism, in many fields, and perhaps especially in cultural theory, has experienced at once a significant revival and a related openness and flexibility of theoretical development. Literature, mean while, for related reasons, has become problematic in quite new ways. This involves, necessarily, reviewing earlier positions, both Marxist and non-Marxist. I was already relatively familiar with Marxist, or at least socialist and communist, political and economic analysis and argument. My experience of growing up in a working-class family had led me to accept the basic political position which they supported and clarified. (William, 1977:01).

Nicholas Sparks is an American screenwriter and novelist, born on 31st December 1965 to Patrick Michael Sparks and Jill Emma Marie. He was the middle of three children. He was raised as a Catholic and he still follows the Catholic faith. He is very religious man; going to Church, Sunday school and confessions. His son is an altar boy. As a young kid he moved a lot as his father was continuing with his education. In 1974 his family finally settled in Fair Oaks in California where he graduated from Bella Vista High School as a valedictorian. For further studies he went to University of Notre Dame where he got a full track and field scholarship and graduated in 1988.

The reason why the researcher takes this title in this research is because the researcher wants to raise a story about issues that deal with differences of social classes. From the story it is hoped to give a lesson of the kinds of relations that is better not to see from classified differences. In which the story, the differences of classes or caste will not be taken as reasons for someone to have relationship. From distinctions of class or caste, someone can

know where that is to be acquired in relationship that is contradiction between different families.

In distinctions of caste and this one I can conclude that we can learn a lesson about distinctions of caste to the community in the former times, which is that caste very influential on a relationship that will result in farewell between the two sides. Before undergoing knee a relationship should get to know first before the relationship it was a very remote that in the end must be indivisible for reasons of a difference a caste. According to Suseno (2001: 5) Marxism is the term for ideology about the relation between economic, social and political concept. Marxist is an ideology that studies the social, economical, historical, revolutionary problem based on the social conflict in the society. So, the researcher gives the title **“Different Class reflected in Nicholas Spark’s *The Best of Me* (1976): A Marxist Approach.”**

The objectives of this study are to analyze Nicholas Spark’s *The Best of Me* novel based on the structural elements of the novel and the different class in major and minor characters reflected in Nicholas Spark’s *The Best of Me* based on a marxist approach.

The research was written by Iqbal Budi Ravsanjani in Dian Nuswantoro 2015 from University Semarang with title “Cohesive devices in the Translation of the Novels “*The Best of Me*” by Nicholas Sparks into “Yang Terbaik Dariku” by Ambhita Dhyaningrum”. In this research, the researcher describes the previous study that relevant with this study. There is literature review concerning with *The Best of Me Novel* by Nicholas Sparks. In her research, she concluded that focuses on the conflict with the relationship result of the different class.

Marxism is the political, economic and social theories of Karl Marx including the belief that the struggle between social classes is major force in history and that there should eventually be a society in which there are no classes. According to Suseno (2001) Marxism is the term for ideology about their relation between economic, social, and political concept. Marxism is an

ideology that studies the social, economical, historical, revolutionary problem based on the social conflicts in society.

Marxism is a settled body of theory or doctrine, and on the other hand, that Literature is settled of work, or kinds of work, with known general qualities and properties. Marxism, in many fields, and perhaps especially in cultural theory, has experienced at once a significant revival and a related openness and flexibility of theoretical development. Literature, mean while, for related reasons, has become problematic in quite new ways. This involves, necessarily, reviewing earlier positions, both Marxist and non-Marxist. I was already relatively familiar with Marxist, or at least socialist and communist, political and economic analysis and argument. My experience of growing up in a working-class family had led me to accept the basic political position which they supported and clarified (William, 1977:01).

1.1. The major principles of Marxist Issue

There are five major principles of Marxist theory, namely: Dialectical Materialism, Historitcal Materialism, Class Struggle, Alienation and Revolution.

1.1.1 Dialectical Materialism

Dialectical materialism is a philosophy of science and nature, based on the writings of Karl Marx and Friedrich Engels, and develops largely in Russia and the Soviet Union. The main idea dialectical of the evolution of the natural world and emergence of new qualities of being at new stages of evolution.

Dialectical materialism is political and historical event result from the conflict of social forces and is interpretable as a series of contradictions and their solutions. The conflict is seen as caused by material needs. Fokkema (1998: 104) said that principle in dialectical materialism can change the social problem. Marx and Engels use it in the social development, they are sure that materialism movement between the bourgeoisie and the proletariat will go to the down of capitalism and resulted social development.

1.1.2 **Historical Materialism**

Historical materialism is a methodological approach to the study of society, economics, and history as the materialist conception of history. It is a theory of socioeconomic development according to which change in material condition (technology and productive capacity) are the primary influence on how society and the economy are organized. According to Selden (1985: 24) the historical materialism refers to human being create their material lives. The relations of dominance and subordination which government the social and economic order of a particular phase of human history will in sense determine the whole cultural life of the society.

1.1.3 **Class Struggle**

Generally, class struggle means conflict between the bourgeoisie and the proletariat. Class Struggle focuses on the struggle of the oppressed class against the oppressor (Hartisekar and Abadi, 2001:35). The basic reason in class struggle is economic aspect, in which economic shows the level of social class in society. Class conflict can take many different forms: direct violence, such as wars fought for resources and cheap labor or indirect violence, such as deaths from poverty, starvation, illness or unsafe working conditions, coercion, such as the threat of losing a job pulling an important investment. Marx (in Suseno, 2001:113) explains that class struggle have occurred in very form of society, no matter what its economic structure, or mode of production: slavery, feudalism, or capitalism.

1.1.4 **Alienation**

Alienation is the systematic result of living in a socially stratified society, because being a mechanistic part of a social class alienates a person from his and her humanity. Hartisekar and Abadi (2001: 30) state that Alienation means of the existence of the world

is strange for human being. The world stands in above and against human as an object, although the world can be the creation of human object, although the world can be creation of human object. So basically alienation happens both in world and human in passive and receptive as subject which is separated from the object.

1.1.5 **Revolution**

The result of the class struggle is revolution. According to Marx (in Blessler, 1999:212) argues that all societies are progressing; believing progress is reactionary or revolutionary. He also assert that as a society progresses from a feudal system as its economic mode of production to a more market- based economy, the actual process for producing, distributing, and consuming good becomes more complex. The oppressed try to make a change in order to get better condition. Hornby (1995: 108) explains that revolution as a complete or dramatic change of method or condition. Revolution is the way for the proletariat to abolish class stratification and end the exploitation in society. Revolution is a way to get equal right and position in all aspect of life in society.

1.2. **Notion of the Different class**

The terms *social class* and *socioeconomic status* are used interchangeably throughout this article. Social class has been conceptualized through both structural and procession approaches, whereby the former interprets class as a matrix of fixed categories in which individuals move up or down a continuum while the latter interprets class as group identities shaped by common, shared experiences (Wright & Shin, 1988). Structural approaches of class analysis typically measure social class through indicators of socioeconomic status such as income, occupation, and education. Weber (1947) categorized classes as working class, lower-middle class, intelligentsia, and upper class.

Social class and socioeconomic status are areas of interest that have been studied empirically, albeit mostly exclusively, as having the potentials for producing a plethora of positive and negative outcomes that influence individual behavior and the manner in which organizations respond to clients. While these variables are widely used in disciplines such as sociology and cultural studies, as social identity categories, there appears a mismatched paucity of interest in alternative, perhaps more viable, social equity indicators in the field of public administration. (Oldfield, 2001).

2. RESEARCH METHOD

The research is qualitative research. The object of the study is *The Best of Me* novel by Nicholas Spark's which is published in 1976. It is analyzed by using Marxist approach. The method of collecting data are; reading the novel repeatedly, taking notes of important part in both primary and secondary data, underlying the important word, phrases and sentences which are related to the study, arranging the data into several part based on its classification, selecting the data by rejecting the irrelevant information which does not support the topic of the study, drawing the conclusion of the analysis that has already done in the former chapter and formulating its pedagogical suggestion.

3. RESEARCH FINDING

a. Dialectical Materialism

The thesis is a real condition of social life of the character within the novel especially the condition of Dawson where he lives as a poor man. Dawson is poor and born into a family that traditionally breeds "moonshiners and drug dealers, alcoholics, wife beaters, abusive fathers and mothers, thieves and pimps, and above all, pathologically violent" members. The condition of his poor can be seen on below quotation.

He was an only child, his mom had run off when he was three, and his dad had done the world a favor by drinking himself to death. Dawson hadn't talked to anyone in his family in years, nor did he intend to renew their acquaintance now. (The best Of me/par.2/Pg.19)

The above data shows the part of Dawson condition where he lives in the middle of poor family. Social background in America caused a lot of change for society especially the social status in America. The poor condition is a thesis as the idea that contains a form of incompleteness that gives rise to the antithesis, a conflicting idea. The bad condition of Dawson can be seen that when he was a child (three years old), his mother had run off avoiding their family condition. Because of that condition, his father also became an alcoholic man until he drank himself to death.

The antithesis also appears as a contradiction of thesis within the *Best of Me* novel. In thesis there is a social live of a certain society that is low. They live in a bad condition with a bad treatment, where there is violency, crimes, and other bad habit. While as an antithesis there is a social live which is live in a high status. It can be seen on below quotation.

Until the day Amanda Collier entered his world. Though he'd known of Amanda for years—there was only one high school in Pamlico County and he'd gone to school with her most of his life—it wasn't until the spring of his junior year that they exchanged more than a few words for the first time. (The best Of me/par.4/Pg.26-27).

The above quotation shows that the opposite live of Dawson who lived in a poor neighbourhood. Amanda (Dawson's boy friend) she lives in a rich family where education for her is very important until college. So, it can be seen that the life of rich people in America always involved with high education and great job. Below quotation also tells about the education of Amanda when she decided to take a high education in college.

The sinthesis finally appears as the impact of the above thesis and antithesis. In the *best of Me* novel, there are two classes that appears low and high class. A couple came from a different social status, Amanda from

rich family while Dawson from poor family, both separated because of their different status. So it become the sithesis. Below is the quotation that support the sinthesis.

As the impact of those statuses, Amanda's family rejects Amanda and Dawson's relationship. A lot of negative statement appears from Amanda's family, such as Dawson will ruins Amanda's life. It can be seen on below quotation.

"He'll drag you down, Amanda, but right now you're too young to understand that. So if you want the freedom of being an adult, you'll also have to assume the responsibilities. Ruin your life by staying with Dawson— we're not going to stop you. But we're not going to help you, either." (The best Of me/par.4/Pg.32).

The above quotation shows that Amanda's family did not supported Amanda's relationship because of their different status. As the impact of the difference, they thing that Amanda will not get happines.

b. Historical Materialism

The historical materialism in the *best of Me* novel can be seen on below quotation.

Dawson found that out firsthand when he was eighteen, and then again at twenty-three, when he finally left for good. It wasn't easy being a Cole anywhere in Pamlico County, Oriental in particular. As far as he knew, every Cole in the family tree going back as far as his great-grandfather had spent time in prison. (The best Of me/par.2/Pg.20).

By the time Dawson got out of prison, things had become desperate for the Bonner family. Dawson didn't learn of that until he went to the farmhouse to apologize almost six months later. (The best Of me/par.1/Pg.103).

The above quotation shows that the society use the court and prison to judge give the punishment for people that guilty. Dawson as a Cole family, knew that his family always involve in crime and they never far from prison. Their crime record in town was so great. But, in the novel, it shows that the prison only the place to give punishment without any of trial in court. The victim is Dawson him self. Eventhough his family

always involve in crime, but he always try to avoided it. But the time says differently, because of his family bad social background, he becomes the victime of justice. It is not right if the prison as a government weapon is only used for the place to punish people.

c. Class Struggle

The class struggle in the *Best of Me* novel can be seen on below quotation.

“He’ll drag you down, Amanda, but right now you’re too young to understand that. So if you want the freedom of being an adult, you’ll also have to assume the responsibilities. Ruin your life by staying with Dawson— we’re not going to stop you. But we’re not going to help you, either.” (The best Of me/par.4/Pg.32).

“This has gone on long enough,” her mother began, and in a voice that was surprisingly calm, she told Amanda that if she continued to see Dawson, she would have to move out of the house in September and start paying her own bills, and they wouldn’t pay for her to attend college, either. (The best Of me/par.3/Pg.32).

The both quotation above shows that there are class conflict between the lower class and high class. Where Amanda’s family who live as a high class family, refuse Amanda and Dawson’s relationship because Dawson coming from the lower class. There are warns given by Amanda’s parent related to the different status, where Amanda’s parent will move their house if Amanda still make relationship with Dawson (The best Of me/par.3/Pg.32). So, a lot of advice given by Amanda’s parent about their relationship. They tell her that the relationship can ruin her live.

d. Alienation

The alienation in the *Best of Me* novel appears where there is some certain amazing misery hapened in Dawson’s life. It makes Dawson feels like that misery become part of his life and he can not escape from it. He also feels that the world never accept him in a good ways.

In the fourteen years he’d worked on oil rigs, he thought he’d seen it all. In 1997, he’d watched as a helicopter lost control as it was about to land. (The best Of me/par.2/Pg.10).

The above quotation is an incident that happened in 1997 when he worked at the oil rig. Dawson watched a helicopter lose control and crash. This is the first event that he can not forget. Every day he feels a sleep. Then the next incident happened four years later.

e. Revolution

To adjust the condition of different status, Dawson tries to follow all of the activity in society. On his age, when he was a teenager, he also takes an education in high school in Pamlico County. He wants to run from his bad image about the poverty of his family.

Though he'd known of Amanda for years—there was only one high school in Pamlico County and he'd gone to school with her most of his life—it wasn't until the spring of his junior year that they exchanged more than a few words for the first time. (The Best of Me/par.4/Pg.26-27).

The above quotation is a revolution of Dawson where he wants to adjust the status with people around him. By taking the education high, people no longer perceive pity with him.

4. CONCLUSION

The structural analysis of *The Best of Me* novel consists of character and characterization where Dawson and Amanda as the major character and the minor character is Frank Ridley, Tommy Cole, Ted Cole. The theme of *The Best of Me* novel is an accident relationship become a tragic family accident. The setting in *The Best of Me* novel consists of setting of place and setting of time. The plot in *The Best of Me* novel using complication, exposition, climax, resolution. The point of view the novel is coming from the reader and the author of the novel where everyone has many kinds of perception. First, the view from the author itself, where he wants to have the romance novel formula down to a science. The author adds the presence of unexplained mystical presences that help shape the characters' lives. Ultimately, like the characters being haunted, by ghosts, past loves, and the

possibilities of what could have been. Second, the view from readers where there is a complicated relationship between couple Amanda and Dawson.

The marxism analysis of the novel consists of dialectical materialism, historical materialism, class struggle, alienation, and revolution that supporting the marxism within the novel. 1) *The dialectical materialism* consists of thesis, antithesis, and synthesis. The thesis is a real condition of social life of the character within the novel especially the condition of Dawson where he lives as a poor man. The antithesis is a social live which is live in a high status. Amanda (Dawson's boy friend) she lives in a rich family where education for her is very important until college. The sinthesis appears as the impact of the above thesis and antithesis. 2) *The historical materialism* in the *best of Me* novel shows that the society use the court and prison to judge give the punishment for people that guilty. It is not right if the prison as a government weapon is only used for the place to punish people. The police also part of government weapon to keep the justice in society. The other government material that is used in the novel is the education institution and health company such as university and hospital. 3) *The class struggle* in the *Best of Me* novel shows that there are class conflict between the lower class and high class. Where Amanda's family who live as a high class family, refuse Amanda and Dawson's relationship because Dawson coming from the lower class. 4) *The alienation* in the *Best of Me* novel appears where there is some certain amazing misery hapened in Dawson's life. It makes Dawson feels like that misery become part of his life and he can not escape from it. 5) *The Resolution* is a way to get equal right and position in all aspect of life in society. To adjust the condition of different status, Dawson tries to followed all of the activity in society. Dawson makes decision to send some of his money for his family. He struggles to fullfil his destiny as a god and responsible man by working and send the money to his family.

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