

## CHAPTER I

### INTRODUCTION

#### A. Background of the Study

Love is a valuable thing in human life. No one does not need love. Every person has their own interpretation about what love is. They have their own description about love. Every person has different understanding about love. Even so they will agree that they need to be loved or love. “Every human being wants to be loved. This is not a wholly incomprehensible statement. With the exception of some people with personality disorders, everyone wants to be loved. The feeling that one experiences, especially when they know that they are loved, is indescribable” (Chapman, 2011: 18). According to Maslow’s hierarchy in Chapman (2011:18). “People have a need for intimate relationships, love, affection, and belonging and will seek to overcome feelings of aloneness and alienation.”

Love according to Elkrief, love is complete acceptance, when we let someone to be exactly as they are, without any believe that they aren’t good enough, without any belief that they would be “better” if they were different, this is love. Love is completely unconditional, love has no conditions. Love is a feeling that can be unconditional, no matter what a partner does, feelings toward them do not change (Nicholson, 2011). When we truly love someone, we can’t stop loving them, no matter of what they do or say. If our love is depending on how the other person act, then this love is completely conditional. We often confuse this to be love, but this is just positive thoughts about someone. This is just you like what a person says or does, not loving them. Love is selfless. True love does not want anything in return, because there is nothing it desires. We just love for the sake of love. When we love someone, we don’t look for them to fill our needs, to love us back, and all those types of things. If those are what we are looking for, then we are just using the other person. Because true love means you just give without expecting something in back.

Nicholas Charles Sparks was born December 31, 1965 in Omaha, Nebraska. He is an American novelist, screenwriter and producer. He has published eighteen novels and two non-fiction books. Several of his novels have become international bestsellers, and eleven of his romantic-drama novels have been adapted to film with multimillion-dollar box office grosses. Sparks was inspired to start writing when he was 19 years old. He later at the age of 28, Nicholas decided to make another concerted, even more serious, effort at writing. Each of Nicholas' novels has ranked as an international bestseller. After *The Notebook*, additional novels followed in rapid succession, including *Message in a Bottle*, published in 1998, and *A Walk to Remember*, published in 1999. After that came *The Rescue* in 2000, *A Bend in the Road* in 2001, *Nights in Rodanthe* in 2002, and *The Guardian* and *The Wedding* in 2003. Sparks coauthored *Three Weeks with My Brother* with his brother, Micah, in 2004, and then returned to solo works with *True Believer* and *At First Sight* in 2005, *Dear John* in 2006, *The Choice* in 2007, and *The Lucky One* in 2008. In 1999, *Message in a Bottle* became the first of Nicholas' novels to be released as a movie. A movie version of *A Walk to Remember* was released in 2002, followed by *The Notebook* in 2004 and *Nights in Rodanthe* in 2008, *The Last Song* (2009), *Safe Haven* (2010), *The Best of Me* (2011), and *The Longest Ride* (2013) as well as the 2004 non-fiction memoir *Three Weeks With My Brother*, co-written with his brother Micah. His eighteenth novel, *See Me*, published on October 12, 2015. His newest book, *Two by Two*, was published on October 4, 2016. Film adaptations of Nicholas Sparks novels, including *The Choice*, *The Longest Ride*, *The Best of Me*, *Safe Haven* (on all of which he served as a producer), *The Lucky One*, *Message in a Bottle*, *A Walk to Remember*, *The Notebook*, *Nights in Rodanthe*, *Dear John* and *The Last Song*, have had a cumulative worldwide gross of over billion dollars.

<http://www.biography.com/people/nicholas-sparks-562686>

*Dear John* is a romance novel written by Nicholas Sparks released in 2006. The story is about John Tyree, who went into the army. During his holiday, he met Savannah and they were spending their time together. However Savannah has to go

back to school and John has to go back to Germany to serve his country. While they are far away, they promise to write a letter for each other. When John got another break, he spent his time with Savannah. Finally when September 11 happens, John has to serve his country for two years longer. Savannah try to understand about that and they keep writing to each other. When John is in Germany, he gets a letter from Savannah, she tells him that she is falling in love with another guy. John is very angry because of that he decided to stay longer in the army. Unfortunately he has to go home because of his father sick and then passed away. Because of that also John knew that Savannah husband is also in hospital. Savannah's husband will die soon if he did not get the medication he needs. Nevertheless, John sells his dads coin collection and makes an anonymous donation for Savannah's husband. So her husband can get the medication he needs. Savannah never knows and never sees John again.

The basic theory in this research is psychoanalysis theory. In order to get a full picture of this important human experience, need to use Psychoanalytic analysis. Because love can seem like an extremely abstract concept, it was important and concrete enough to study using psychoanalysis theory. One cannot discuss the psychology of love without discussing one of psychology's forefathers, Sigmund Freud. Freud was an Austrian neurologist, and is considered the father of psychoanalysis. "Freud had a great deal of theories for pretty much everything conceivable, from dreams and their meanings, to love and hysteria. Freud believed that love and sexuality were extremely intertwined, and beginning at a very young age, one experiences these feelings, although they are often misguided". According to Freud in (Chapman, 2011: 20) Psychoanalytic theory of personality argues that human behavior is the result of the interactions among three component parts of the mind: the id, ego, and superego.

There are some reasons why the writer chooses this novel because this novel has been inspiration the researcher about what the real love is, we know that every person has their own definition about love. Moreover, this novel tells how people

supposed to love. Love without expecting in return, love is just giving. Love is not always having happy ending

The second is this novel is very popular, even the novel has been adapted into a movie. So it is also helped the researcher to have better understanding in this novel by watching the movie. Even though between the novel and the movie have a little bit differences in the part of ending.

The third is this novel has moral value, this novel tells the reader about what sincerity is. The character in this novel, John plays important role about this. He donated his money for Savannah's husband without even she knew about it. He gave without expecting back. There is amazing sincerity for what he did.

Based on the previous reason the researcher will observe The Meaning of Love in the Dear John novel by using psychoanalytic analysis by Sigmund Freud because the Freud's theory is suitable to analyze how is the character of John analyzed by using psychoanalytic analysis and to describe the meaning of love in *Dear John* novel. So the researcher constructs the title: **THE MEANING OF LOVE REFLECTED IN NICHOLAS SPARK'S *DEAR JOHN* NOVEL (2006): A PSYCHOANALYTIC ANALYSIS**

## **B. Problem Statement**

The problem statements of this research are:

1. How is the character of John analyzed using psychoanalytic analysis?
2. What is the meaning of love in *Dear John* novel?

## **C. Objectives of the Study**

Dealing with problem statements above, the objectives of this study are:

1. To describe the character of John analyzed using psychoanalytic approach
2. To discover the meaning of love in the *Dear John* novel.

**D. Benefits or Advantages of the Study**

This research is expected to provide following benefits, they are:

1. The research is expected to contribute the literary study.
2. To give information to the readers about the meaning of love.
3. To provide some inputs for the students who intend to analyze *Dear John* further.
4. The research enriches the literary study, particularly among the students of Muhammadiyah University of Surakarta.

**E. Research Paper Organization**

The organizations of this research are:

Chapter I is introduction, which contains background of the study, problem statement, objective of the study, benefits of the study and paper organization. Chapter II is literature review, which contains underlying theory and previous study. Chapter III is research method, which contains type of the study, object of the data, type of data and data source, method of collecting data and technique of analyzing data. Chapter IV is finding and discussion. Chapter V provides the conclusion of the research.