

CHAPTER I INTRODUCTION

This first chapter introduces background of the study, problem of statements, objectives of the study, benefits of the study, and organization of the paper.

A. Background of the Study

Nowadays, there are many kind of hazardous cancer found. One of them is Lung cancer. Lung cancer, according to American Cancer Society is an abnormal cell in one or both lungs that start to grow uncontrollable. When the cell in the lungs starts growing, they can spread to the other parts of human body. This condition is very harmful for the human body. Smoking habits and frequent exposure to air pollution became the biggest factor causing this disease. Siegel in *A Cancer Journal for Clinicians* gives statements that cancer is becoming the most health problem and the deadliest disease in United States. Generally, people who suffer lung cancer are 65 years old or above. However, in some cases, teenagers and even children can be suffering this disease too. Concerning that many case found in lung cancer disease, many people who are not suffering this disease show their concern through many ways. John Green as a novel writer's show his concern in lung cancer by writing novel about a girl suffer this disease. Through the one of his novel, John Green's trying to show another side of life of cancer sufferer.

John Michael Green as well-known as John Green was born in Indianapolis August 24, 1977. John Green is an American author, vlogger, screenwriter, producer, actor and editor. As a novel author, Green have produced a few novels such as *Looking for Alaska*; *An Abundance of Katharine's*; *Paper Town*; *Let it Snow: Three Holiday Romances*; *Will Grayson, Will Grayson*, and *The Fault in Our Stars*. With a double major in English and Religious studies, Green graduated his education from Kenyon College in 2000. At Nationwide Children's Hospital in Columbus, Ohio, Green spent five months after his graduate to working as a student's

chaplain. Green become an Episcopal priest and make him know about children suffering life-threatening illnesses. By this experience of working in a hospital, Green inspired in write *The Fault in Our Stars* novel.

The Fault in Our Stars is a story about a girl, Hazel Grace Lancaster who has lung-cancer. Every day, she has an oxygen tank to help her breath properly. Hazel Grace Lancaster unwillingly should go to a cancer patients support group by her mother request. She does not really like to attend that group until she meets Augustus Walters. Then, through the group Hazel and Augustus interested each other. They give each other favorite book to read. The book Hazel gives to Gus is '*An Imperial Affliction*'. Hazel explains the brilliance of *An Imperial Affliction*. It is a novel about a girl who has cancer. She describes how the novel annoyingly ends unclear. Hazel very interested with the author, Peter Van Houten. She told Augustus that she really wants to meet Peter Van Houten. However, Van Houten is in Amsterdam and whether Hazel or Gus do not have enough money to go there. Moreover, Hazel condition is not good enough to travel that far. By the serious decision, both of them are permitted to take a trip with Hazel's mother. When they are arrived in Amsterdam, they met with Peter Van Houten. But they have to facing the facts that Van Houten is not a good guy. They meet Houten in drunken condition and do not get any answer of Hazel's questions. They leave Van Houten's in totally disappointment.

The next day, Gus tells Hazel that his cancer is spread everywhere. Augustus's condition weakens quickly. Augustus set up a prefuneral for himself. Hazel and Isaac give compliment. At the end of story, Augustus dies eight days later after his prefuneral and send a message to Hazel through Peter Van Houten.

The Fault in Our Stars is the sixth novel written by John Green. The book was first published in United States, January 10, 2012 by Dutton Books. It is cover edited by Rodrigo Coral using media type print (hardcover) and using paperback for 313 pages novel. The genre of this

novel is young adult novel and it is a realistic fiction. The title of this novel inspired by Act 1, scene 2 of Shakespeare's play Julius Caesar, in which nobleman Cassius says to Brutus "The fault, dear Brutus, is not in our stars, but in ourselves, that we are underlings".

The Fault in Our Stars take in the number one best seller novel liston New York Times Best Seller in January 2012. As it is best seller, the book sold almost one million copies in the first year after it published. In Indonesia, the novel translated into Bahasa by Ingrid Dwijani Nimpoeno and published by Qanita. The pages of this novel in Indonesia have more than the original novel, that is 424 pages. At year 2014, the novel was adapted into film with the same title *The Fault in Our Stars*. Same as the novel, the film is the number one on the box office movie in 2014. This film produced by Wyck Godfrey and Marty Bowen, and it is distributed by 20th Century Fox in June 06, 2014. The main character in the novel; Hazel Grace Lancaster play by Shailene Woodly and Augustus Walters by Ansel Egort.

Beside *The Fault in Our Stars* novel and it film that reach popularity, John Green also have many tribute for his work. Green won the 2006 Printz Award for his first work, *Looking for Alaska*. The novel was awarded by the American Library Association (ALA) and appeared on the ALA's annual list Top 10 Best Book for Young Adults. Another work of his novel that filmed is *Paper Towns*, but it was not as familiar as *The Fault in Our Stars*. In 2014, John Green involved Time Magazine's list of the 100 Most Influential People in the world.

The Fault in Our Stars is the most interesting novel. The novel serves both of the love story and also tell about the struggle of life. Although it is an interested novel, *The Fault in Our Stars* also has positive and negative opinion from the readers. Some of the readers gave their view to the story line in the novel. They praise the author brilliance and the life lesson from the novel. However, some of them are not interested with the novel because they do not like the story of love and sadness.

There is some reason the writer chooses *The Fault in Our Stars* as an object in this research. First, the novel “*The Fault in Our Stars*” not only serves the story about love between teenagers, but also gives inspiring life lesson for anyone. Second, as a best seller novel, *The Fault in Our Stars* has many readers from all over the world. The writer desire to analyze the readers review for the novel, especially for those who gives their reviews towards the lung cancer in the novel. To help the writer in analyzing their review, the writer use Readers-response Theory.

As a result of elaborations above, the researcher proposes a research entitled “**Concern in Lung Cancer in John Green’s *The Fault in Our Stars* Novel (2012): A Readers Response Theory**”.

B. Problem Statements

From the background above, the writer focuses on the research problems that are:

1. What are the major issues in *The Fault in Our Stars* novel responded by the readers?
2. How do readers’ response to the issues of lung cancer?
3. How is the readers’ response related to the background of the readers?

C. Objectives of the Study

Based on the problem of statements above, the objectives of the study are as following:

1. To identify the major issues in *The Fault in Our Stars* novel responded by the readers.
2. To describe how the readers’ response to the issues of lung cancer.
3. To analyze the readers’ response related to the background of the readers.

D. Benefits of the Study

The benefits of this study are as follows:

1. Theoretical Benefits

The results of this research are expected to give useful contribution for the body of knowledge. Also, this study can give an information and reference for the other researcher to conduct literary studies especially on *The Fault in Our Stars* novel.

2. Practical Benefits

Practically this research will be useful for me as a researcher and the others researchers to enrich the knowledge in writing and understanding the readers-response theory. The writer hopes that this study can help the other researcher in understanding in literary field as references or previous study analyzing *The Fault in Our Stars* novel especially based on Readers-Response Theory.

E. Organization of the Study

This research is arranged into three chapters. Chapter one is Introduction which contains background of the study, problem of statements, objectives of the study, benefits of the study and the organization of the study. Chapter two is literature review. In this chapter have two parts. First parts deal with the underlying theory related to the research; definition of Reader-response theory, notion of cancer, and notion of lung cancer. The second part of this chapter is the previous study about the novel *The Fault in Our Stars*. Chapter three is the research methodology. It consists of five subchapters. The first is the type of the research. Second, object of the study. Third, data and data source. Fourth, method of collecting data and the last is technique of analyze data.

Chapter four is the finding and discussion. This chapter is divide into three parts. The first part is the major issues. Second part is readers' response towards lung cancer issue. The last part is the relation between the readers' response and their background. Chapter five is conclusion, suggestion, and pedagogical implication.