READER’S RESPONSE TO DOMESTIC VIOLENCE IN NICHOLAS SPARKS’S SAFE HAVEN NOVEL (2010)

Submitted as Partial Fulfillment of the Requirement for Getting Bachelor Degree of Education in English Department

by:

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PUBLICATION ARTICLE

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READER’S RESPONSE TO DOMESTIC VIOLENCE IN NICHOLAS SPARK’S SAFE HAVEN NOVEL (2010)

ABSTRACT

This study aims to investigate reader’s response to domestic violence in Safe Haven novel (2010) by Nicholas Sparks. This research belongs to qualitative. In analyzing reader’s response, the researcher uses Richard Beach theory of reader’s response. The primary data source is reader’s response of Safe Haven novel taken from goodreads website. The secondary data sources are other sources such as journals and articles related to the primary data. The result of this research shows following conclusion. First, there are five dominant issues reviewed by the reader in Safe Haven novel, namely character and characterization, ending of the story, domestic violence, message of the story, and adaptation to movie. Second, the background of the reviewers belongs to male and female gender that comes from America, Asia, Europe, Australia, and Africa. Those responses come from 2010 until 2017. Third, domestic violence issue divided into two topics such as the cause of domestic violence and the effect of domestic violence. Domestic violence caused by abusive relationship, psychopath, danger, and horror, while the effect domestic violence are traumatic and run away wife.

Keywords: reader’s response, domestic violence, Safe Haven novel

1. INTRODUCTION

This research is about domestic violence in Safe Haven novel (2010) by Nicholas Sparks. Some researchers used Safe Haven novel as a primary source
and used different theory to analyze this novel. There are Mentari Andriani, Noviyanti, and Marchella. Mentari Andriani (2014) comes from Gunadarma University. She conducted the research as *Domestic Violence as Experienced by Katie in Nicholas Sparks, Safe Haven: A Feminism Study*. She analyzes the domestic violence happened by Katie as the main character of *Safe Haven* novel using a feminism study. Noviyanti (2015) from Makassar University also conducted the research entitled *The Portrait of Domestic Violence in Nicholas Sparks, Safe Haven*. She focuses on the domestic violence experienced by the character in *Safe Haven* novel. Then, the third research comes from Marchella (2015) from Sanata Dharma University entitle *The Equivalence and Readability of the Translation of The Discourse Markers in Nicholas Sparks’ Safe Haven*. Marchella analyzes the equivalence and readability of the translation of the discourse marks in this novel using discourse analysis.

*Safe Haven* novel written by Nicholas Sparks in 2010 describes domestic violence experienced by the character. Many researchers raised this issue by analyzing the intrinsic elements of the novel. However, not many researchers reviewed the issue of domestic violence using analysis of the extrinsic elements. Extrinsic elements are literary elements, which can be found outside the literary work but indirectly influence the structure of literary work. According to Wellek (1949), one of extrinsic element is the reader. Reader is one of the elements of literary work that has important role. The existence of literary work is depends on the reader. A literary work will be worth it as long as it has the responses of the reader continually.

In this study, the researcher analyzes the issue of domestic violence using reader’s response analysis. Reader’s response analysis focuses on the reader or audience reaction to a particular text. The text can be of any genre including short story, poem, script, novel, etc. The reader response movement is a literary theory in which meaning is understood in the context of the reader. Question about the process of reading, the interpretation of the text, and literary meaning are all centered on the reader. Reader response theory “is not a conceptually unified critical position, but a term that has come be associated with a works of critics
who use the word reader, the reading process, and response to mark out an area investigation” Thompkins (1980: ix). Although there is disagreement among the various theories of reader-oriented criticism, they all emphasize that the meaning of a text is dependent on the contribution of the reader. Richard Beach (1993:6) stated that the reader express their responses based on their emotion, what they feel when facing their difficulty in understanding the literary work. “To corporate or verify their opinion with other, to build a social relationship through sharing responses or to clarify their attitude”. The quotation above explains that reader response theory has many different aims. It can be shown the feeling of the reader that they can express what their feeling to explore what their difficulty in understanding the different thing. Surely, the reader has many different opinions about what they feel.

2. RESEARCH METHOD

This study is a descriptive qualitative research that employs the method of collecting describing, classifying and analyzing data, and the drawing a conclusion. The object of the study are material object and formal object. Material object is Safe Haven novel (2010) by Nicholas Sparks. Then formal object is reader’s response of Safe Haven novel (2010) found in goodreads website. The researcher use reader’s response theory to analyze the responses of this novel. In analyzing data, the researcher uses purposive sampling technique. Until April 72017, Safe haven has 12.619 reviewers. Sampling got by taking one per eighty-five from 12.619 reviewers. It got 150 responses. Sampling is based on elaborative criteria. Data sources get from two kinds of data, primary data source and secondary data source. Primary data source is reader’s response of Safe Haven novel (2010) by Nicholas Sparks from good reads website. Secondary data sources collected from books, journals, articles, and other sources that support the analysis.
3. FINDINGS AND DISCUSSION

After analyzing data by using Beach’s theories in strategies to analyze data, the writer finds 150 data as follows:

### 3.1 Dominant Issue

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>No.</th>
<th>Dominant Issue</th>
<th>Review</th>
<th>Total Responses</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>Favor</td>
<td>Unfavor</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>Male</td>
<td>Female</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1.</td>
<td>Character and Characterization</td>
<td>11/7.3%</td>
<td>27/18%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2.</td>
<td>Ending of The Story</td>
<td>5/3.4%</td>
<td>23/16.7%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>3.</td>
<td>Domestic Violence</td>
<td>-</td>
<td>-</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>4.</td>
<td>Message of The Story</td>
<td>5/3.4%</td>
<td>16/10.6%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>5.</td>
<td>Adaptation to Movie</td>
<td>-</td>
<td>2/1.4%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Total</td>
<td>21/14%</td>
<td>68/45.4%</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

#### 3.1.1 Character and Characterization

Character and characterization has 49 responses (32.7%) both positive and negative responses. The positive responses showed 38 posted or in percentage is 25.3%. It includes 11 responses from male (7.3%) and 27 responses (18%) from female reviewers. The reason why female reviewers gave positive response more than male reviewers given is because the story is about the struggle of Katie, a woman who escaped from an abusive husband. For that reason, female reviewers more interested to give their responses because the main character has the same gender with them. The other reason is about the theme of this story. The relationship between Katie and Alex was perfect and touched makes the theme of the novel became romantic. Female reviewers loved romantic theme, so they gave favor responses.

#### 3.1.2 Ending of the Story

The second issue is about ending of the story. There were 35 responses or 23.4% data from 100% dominant issues. There are 28 reviewers (20.1%) who satisfied with the ending of the story. It showed five responses from male reviewers or 3.4% and 23 responses or 16.7% from female reviewers. The
reviewers very satisfied with the ending of the story wherever Joe, Katie’s friend was going to pan out until Kevin arrived in the town. Then, it is also unpredictable story where Kevin’s demise was so tragic drinking too much alcohol. In the end, Katie has a happy live with a man she loved named Alex.

The ending of the story also has negative responses. In amount of seven or 4.7% includes four male reviewers (2%) and three female reviewers (2.7%), the reader feels disappointed with the ending created by Sparks’ because there was seems like unreasonable thing when Joe using a magical way to pan out Kevin. It is not necessary with the life in modern era.

3.1.3 Domestic Violence

The third dominant issue is talking about domestic violence doing by Kevin to his wife Katie, the main character in the novel. Safe Haven showed clearly domestic violence doing by the antagonist to the protagonist every time and everywhere. Kevin always forces Katie physically, psychologically, and sexually. It makes the reader become critic to give responses about it. There were 28 responses about domestic violence. The responses also showed in percentage in range 100%. Domestic violence has responses in amount of 18.7% Male reviewers gave 4.7% and female reviewers gave 14%. No one both men and women gave positive responses about domestic violence doing by husband to his wife, so they gave negative responses of the issue. It showed on the table that in amount of seven, male reviewers did not agree about the existence of domestic violence, because it was so dangerous when domestic violence happened by wife in their daily life moreover the abuser in a psychopath condition. They did not agree with the existence of domestic violence such as in physically, psychologically, or emotionally. They taught that it can make the bad effect to women.

Table data showed that 21 female reviewers to seven male reviewers gave their responses about domestic violence. Female reviewers gave more review than male does, because the victim that experienced domestic violence has the same gender of them, so they more interested to give a comment or feedback to this. Then, in amount of seven, male reviewers also gave their responses about
domestic violence. As female does, they gave negative comment about domestic violence issue happened by women. Although they have the different gender with the main character that experienced domestic violence on this novel, they against domestic violence doing by their gender reckon in the bad effect caused by domestic violence.

3.1.4 Message of the Story

The next dominant issue is about message of the novel. There were 21 responses or 14% in range of 100%. The responses include five responses (3.4%) from male reviewers and sixteen responses (10.6%) from female reviewers. All of their responses were positive responses. The reviewers told that the novel has a good moral value especially in marriage’s life. The novel told that someone must have a bravery to escape from dangerous abusive relationship because they are responsible for their own happiness and restart the new whole life better with someone they loved.

No one of the reviewers both male and female gave the negative responses about the message found in the Safe Haven novel. They think that Safe Haven is a good story with wonderful message must read by everyone especially in a marital relationship. It also good to read by them who falling in love so they do not do the domestic violence to their partner.

3.1.5 Adaptation into a Movie

The last dominant issue is about the adaptation of Safe Haven novel into a movie. Safe Haven novel adapted into movie on February 14th 2013 by Lasse Hallstrom. Table data showed that there were 17 responses (11.4%) about adaptation of novel to movie. Two female reviewers (1.4%) gave positive responses because they think that the movie is so good and enjoyable to watch with some scenes that make the audience became nervous when saw the scenes.

The rests are 15 reviewers (10.1%) includes five male reviewers (3.4%) and ten female reviewers (6.7%) that feel disappointing about the adaption of novel into a movie. The reviewer said that there were many things have changes when it turns into a movie. Many details were left out and does not mentioned. Table data showed that there was no positive comment given by male reviewers.
It because of male reviewers read the novel first, then watched the movie they found then there were some scenes in the novel did not mentioned in movie. They felt disappointed, the story of the novel more fascinating than the movie.

The reason why the reviewers both male and female reviewers gave negative comment more than positive comment is because they felt disappointed with the adaptation of *Safe Haven* novel into the movie. They taught that the movie does not better than the novel. There were many details left out and did not mentioned when in turn into the movie.

### 3.2 Response Related to the Background of the Reviewers

#### 3.2.1 Response Related to the Place of Origin

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>No.</th>
<th>Background</th>
<th>Number</th>
<th>Frequency/Percentage</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>Favor</td>
<td>Infavor</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1.</td>
<td>America</td>
<td>53/35.3%</td>
<td>34/22.7%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2.</td>
<td>Asia</td>
<td>17/11.4%</td>
<td>12/8%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>3.</td>
<td>Europe</td>
<td>14/9.4%</td>
<td>9/6%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>4.</td>
<td>Australia</td>
<td>5/3.4%</td>
<td>4/2.6%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>5.</td>
<td>Africa</td>
<td>-</td>
<td>2/1.4%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Total</td>
<td>89/59.4%</td>
<td>61/40.6%</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

The most responses come from America. It shows 87 responses (58%) of total responses. Those responses are both positive and negative responses. Positive response showed 43 reviewers or 35.3% and negative showed 34 reviewers or 22.7% in percentage. The second comes from Asia with 27 responses. In range between 100%, Asia gives contribution for responses in 19.4%. Those responses were includes positive responses in amount of 17 or 11.4% responses and negative responses in amount of 12 responses or 8% in percentage. The third comes from Europe. There were 23 responses. In range between 100%, the percentage of response from Europe showed 15.4%. The responses both positive and negative responses. Positive responses showed 14 data or 9.4% in percentage, and negative responses showed nine data or 6% in percentage. The fourth comes from Australia. There were nine responses. In percentage showed 6% responses from 100% data. Data showed positive responses in amount of 3.4% and negative responses in amount of 2.6%. The last responses come from Africa. There were just two reviewers gave their responses about this novel. In range of 100%, there
are just 1.4% reviewers from Africa. All of 100% data showed negative responses.

The reason why American reviewers gave more responses because *Safe Haven* novel was published in America, so it became popular in the state. Then, the reason why African reviewers gave just two responses is because there is not enough understanding about English language so the readers depend on the translation’s novel while they read the story. It also because African have less understanding about goodreads website. They do not know yet that they can use it to leave a comment about a novel. They also do not know to use it. Those are two basic reasons of this case.

### 3.2.2 Response Related to Gender

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>No.</th>
<th>Gender</th>
<th>Frequency/Percentage</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>1.</td>
<td>Female</td>
<td>106/70.7%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2.</td>
<td>Male</td>
<td>44/29.4%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Total</td>
<td>150/100%</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

The highest percentage was from female responses. In range between 100%, female responses shows 70.7% and male response shows 29.4% that consists of favor and unfavor responses. If we calculate by adding those numbers of percentage, it will show 100% as the total of the responses percentage.

The reason why female reviewers gave more responses than male does because the novel has a romantic theme. Female more interested to the romantic novel one, so they read the novel more than male does. The other reason is about the main character in this novel, Katie. Katie has a female gender same as female reviewers, so they more sympathy to know widely about the novel.

### 3.2.3 Responses Related to Year

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>No.</th>
<th>Year</th>
<th>Frequency/Percentage</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>1.</td>
<td>2010</td>
<td>16/10.7%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2.</td>
<td>2011</td>
<td>7/4.7%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>3.</td>
<td>2012</td>
<td>23/15.3%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>4.</td>
<td>2013</td>
<td>43/28.7%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>5.</td>
<td>2014</td>
<td>16/10.7%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>6.</td>
<td>2015</td>
<td>17/11.3%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>7.</td>
<td>2016</td>
<td>21/14%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>8.</td>
<td>2017</td>
<td>7/4.7%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Total</td>
<td>150/100%</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
Reader’s response of *Safe Haven* novel happens in 2010 until 2017. The highest percentage happens in 2013. In range between 100%, reviewers in 2013 showed their responses in amount of 28.7%, continued by responses in 2012 in amount of 15.3%, 2016 with 14% responses, 11.3% responses in 2015, then 2010 and 2014 with 10.7% data responses, and the last one, lower percentage happens in 2011 and 2017 in amount of 4.7% data responses.

The highest data response occurs in 2013. There is a reason why the highest data occurs in 2013. There is that *Safe Haven* novel was published in September 2010, but the film’s director Lasse Hallstorm adapts this novel into a movie on 2013. On that reason, *Safe Haven* became popular in America, so the curiosity about this novel has increased, as the effect of curiosity, the responses of the novel also increased in 2013.

In 2010 since the newest novel published, the reader did not show their highest data percentage. They just gave 10.7% of responses. It because the novel was published in the end of 2010, especially in September. On that reason, the reader did not know well about the novel, so they are gave a little contribution of responses in 2010 in *Safe Haven* novel. The lower percentage occurs in 2011 and 2017 in amount of 4.7%. The reason why the reviewers gave just 4.7% in 2011 is because of the novel was published in the end of 2010. So, in 2011 the novel has not known widely to the public. Then, 2017 is the longest time since the newest novel, so in that year the number of the readers was decreased.

### 3.3 Response of Domestic Violence
#### 3.3.1 Views of Domestic Violence by Place of Origin

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>No.</th>
<th>Place of Origin</th>
<th>Frequency/Percentage</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>1.</td>
<td>America</td>
<td>19/64.2%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2.</td>
<td>Asia</td>
<td>4/14.3%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>3.</td>
<td>Australia</td>
<td>2/7.2%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>4.</td>
<td>Europe</td>
<td>2/7.2%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>5.</td>
<td>Africa</td>
<td>1/3.6%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Total</td>
<td></td>
<td>28/100%</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
In range between 100%, American reviewers gave the most responses in amount of 64.2%, continued by Asia with four reviewers or 14.3%, Australia with two reviewers or 7.2%, Europe also gave two responses in 7.2% of percentage, and the last which just only gave one contribution in responses of domestic violence is Africa with 3.6%. If we calculate by adding those numbers of percentage, it will show 100% as the total of the responses percentage.

The reason why American reviewers gave more responses of domestic violence because Safe Haven novel was published in America, so it became popular in the state. They are more interested to discuss domestic violence wherever it occurs in their states. Then, the reason why African reviewers gave just two responses because there is not enough understanding about English language so the reader depends on the novel’s translation while they read the story. It also because African have less understanding about goodreads website. They do not know yet that they can use it to leave a comment about a novel. They also do not know to use it. Those are two basic reasons of this case.

### 3.3.2 Views of Domestic Violence by Gender

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>No.</th>
<th>Continent</th>
<th>Gender</th>
<th>Total</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>Male</td>
<td>Female</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1.</td>
<td>America</td>
<td>3/10.7%</td>
<td>16/57.1%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2.</td>
<td>Asia</td>
<td>2/7.1%</td>
<td>2/7.1%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>3.</td>
<td>Australia</td>
<td>1/3.6%</td>
<td>1/3.6%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>4.</td>
<td>Europe</td>
<td>1/3.6%</td>
<td>1/3.6%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>5.</td>
<td>Africa</td>
<td>-</td>
<td>1/3.5%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Total</td>
<td>7/25%</td>
<td>21/75%</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

The highest percentage was from female response. In range between 100%, female response shows 75% then male response shows 25%. Their responses showed unsatisfied responses at all. If we calculate by adding those numbers of percentage, it will show 100% as the total of the responses percentage.

### 3.3.3 Domestic Violence Based on the Cause

The cause of domestic violence includes abusive relationship, psychopath, danger and horror. Abusive relationship as the result why people escaped from their partner. Abusive relationship is not good for human physically and psychologically. The reviewers support Katie’s way to escaped
from her husband and looking for better relationship. Then, both male and female reviewers did not agree for this case, so all of the reviewers gave negative responses about domestic violence as the effect of psychological condition. They did not agree for psychopathic evil husband hurt his wife. Psychopath as the actor of domestic violence is more dangerous to abuse because they will lose their control and hurt or sometimes kill their victim. The readers cannot imagine how it does because it was very bad and undulated remember the effect for physic and physiologic is harmful. The readers said that domestic violence is something horror and danger to be experienced.

3.3.4 Domestic Violence Based on the Effect

The other reviewers gave responses about the effect of domestic violence such as traumatic and run away wife. Individuals who have experienced domestic violence are in process of healing both physically and emotionally from multiple traumas. These traumas can have various effects on the mind, body, and spirit such as depression, trauma and disassociation for the victims.

The reviewers said that Katie is a brave woman to escape from her evil psychopath husband. They think that Katie also smart for run away from her husband remember her husband is the abuser of domestic violence. They agree for Katie’s decision leave her pain past and support Katie for better life with a better man because it more better to run away from abusive relationship and take the risks than must have forever life with the abuser.

4. CONCLUSION

The data of this research taken from goodreads website about reader’s responses of Safe Haven novel. There are five kinds of dominant issues found in the data. They are domestic violence, character and characterization, the ending of the story, the adaptation of the movie, and the message of the story. The researcher has done analyzed 150 data based on reader’s response theory by Beach. In range between 100% from 150 data, 49 or 32.7% belongs to character and characterization, 35 responses or 23.4% data belongs to ending of the story, 28 responses or 18.7% data belongs to domestic violence, 21 responses or 14%
data belongs to the message of the story, and the last 17 responses or 11.4% data belongs to the adaptation to movie,

The researcher has analyzes the background of the reviewers based on place of origin, gender, and year. Place of the origin from the reviewers are America, Asia, Europe, Australia and Africa. Then, gender of the reviewers includes male and female. The reviewers gave their responses from 2010 until 2017.

The responses of domestic violence found in reader’s response of Safe Haven novel is 28 (18.7%) responses come from male and female. The reader has divided the responses into two categories. There are the cause of domestic violence consists of abusive relationship, psychopath, danger, horror, and the effect of domestic violence are traumatic and run away wife. The readers said that domestic violence caused by abusive relationship is not good for human especially for women in physic and psychological. It was so dangerous and horror things to do, moreover the abuser in psychopath condition. On the other cases, it can make bad effect for human mental such as traumatic and stress. The reader supports the victim of domestic violence to escape and run away from the abusive partner.

REFERENCES


