

CHAPTER I INTRODUCTION

A. Background of the Study

Family is a social institution which arises from marriage between a man and a woman depends on one another for emotional, physical, and financial support. The most important elements of family are the husband, wife, and children. Wife is a woman that holds a key position in the shaping of the next generation, and in the life of their husband. Woman is so valuable to the success of the family, in which giving birth to children, putting up the daily pressure of life, dealing with the demands of children, maintaining a good relationship with her husband, and raising great children to function well in society. Therefore, woman must have a healthy mind, body, and human ethics.

Woman and children are more danger to experience domestic violence doing by someone closed to them. It because of them is in a weak condition. They often experience abusive thing physically and psychologically. They had forbidden expressing their own opinion and decision.

Domestic violence is a pattern of abuse doing by someone to their partner in marriage. The player of domestic violence will control and minimize the right of their partner. When their partner did not commit their desire, abuser will get emotionally to hurt their partner physically and psychologically.

McCue, (2008:54) stated that domestic violence is a construction of abusive condition to against their partner in marriage who did not have the same taught with them. Domestic violence often occurs and experienced by women in society. A woman does not have equal rights and institutional power. They are exploited, marginalized, rendered powerless and suffer from cultural imperialism, this provides the social context in which domestic violence exists and sometimes thrives. The oppression of women and the right of husbands to physically abuse their women is rooted in a long patriarchal tradition, the tradition that men are the rulers of their homes and those women are to obey them.

Domestic violence in marriage doing by husband to wives has many forms. They are including physical abuse such as punching, slapping, hitting, biting, pinching, kicking, pulling hair out, pushing, shoving, burning, and strangling. A psychological abuse includes threatening, insulting, humiliating, isolating or neglecting. Sexual abuse of women includes using force, intimidating them to acts sexual performs, or having sex with them when they do not want to have sex (Edlin & Golanty, 2007: 514).

Domestic violence is not a new thing anymore. It becomes serious cases around the world. Women are the most victim of domestic violence than men. The effect caused by domestic violence is so harmful. The survivor will get injury on their body or the most danger thing to do is they will kill by the abuser. Said in the United States, the Department of Justice reported that four in five victims of domestic violence were women (Catalano, 2012: 2).

World Health Organization (2013) reported on their journal entitled, “Global and Regional Estimates of Violence against Women: Prevalence and Health Effects of Intimate Partner Violence and Non-Partner Sexual Violence,” found that around of the world, eighty percent women experience domestic violence. Forty two percent of them experienced domestic violence in form of physically, psychologically, and sexually. Then, thirty eight percent the rest were murdered and killed by their intimate partner.

Domestic violence become a serious problem should handle by all participant includes family, society, and government. Nicholas Sparks, an American novelist, screenwriter, and producer try to write a story of domestic violence in a different way. He shows the domestic violence happened by Katie in an epic writing with a setting in California, United States entitle “*Safe Haven*”.

Safe Haven is one of a romantic novel written by Nicholas Sparks. It was published in September 14th 2010 by Grand Central Publishing, United States of America. The novel has a thick as 432 pages. *Safe Haven* won the 2010 Goodreads Choice Award for Romance Novel and was nominated for the 2010 Goodreads Choice Award for realism and romance novel.

Safe Haven (2010) follows the domestic violence experienced by Katie, the main protagonist in the novel. Katie had a marriage with a guy named Kevin. Kevin is an antagonist character who had a profession as a detective. On the other hand, he is a psychopath. He often does abusive things to his wife Katie in the form of physically, psychologically, and sexually. Kevin cannot live without his wife so he becomes overprotective to Katie. Katie cannot stand anymore with her husband who always hurts her. Several times she tries to escape from her husband, but is always found and detected easily by Kevin. Until one day, she successfully escapes and runs away into a North California town of Southport. She begins a new life there and changes her name to Erin to hide her identity. On her run away, she falls in love with a man with two children, Alex. They have a relationship and love each other. Even though Katie is happy to live with Alex, she is still afraid of the dark secret that is still running on his head. A serious problem happens when Kevin has detected Katie with Alex. Kevin becomes uncontrolled and wants to kill Katie. He gets jealous seriously. Finally, with the kindness of Joe, Kevin has to leave the town. Then, Katie chooses Alex as her partner in life and leaves Kevin her abusive husband. In the end of the story, Kevin the psychopath is already dead because he is drinking too much alcohol in their life.

There are many public responses about this novel that have an issue about domestic violence. They said that *Safe Haven* is a very beautiful literary work about domestic violence. It tells us the journey of women who want to escape from an abusive relationship. Then, the writing style made by the author makes the reader become touched and involved in this story. Besides that general reason, there are some reasons why the researcher is interested in this novel to be analyzed. First, the character and characterization is interesting to discuss, especially the main character, Katie. She is a strong and brave woman who faces her abusive husband like Kevin. She is brave enough to escape from an abusive relationship and take all the risks. Then, Alex is a lovely daddy who falls in love with Katie. Both of them had a great chemistry in their relationship. It was so flawless, romantic, and touching.

The second one is about the theme and subject matter. *Safe Haven* is a powerful story of a love, friendship, trust, romance, and courage. It is mixed into a

good combination of literary work. This theme will make the readers become speechless when they read the novel. While the subject matter such as happiness, sadness, sorrow, pain, and strength enriched this novel to be good readings.

The last reason is about the message of this novel that very inspiring. Nicholas try entered the message that everything need a struggle, anyone can forget their past and change their future to better life. Based on the background above, the researcher construct the title as the research paper as **READER'S RESPONSE TO DOMESTIC VIOLENCE IN NICHOLAS SPARKS'S SAFE HAVEN NOVEL (2010).**

B. Problem Statement

The problem statements of this research are:

1. What are the dominant issues responded by the reviewers in *Safe Haven* novel?
2. How is the issue of domestic violence responded by the reviewers in *Safe Haven* novel?
3. How is the response related to the background of the reviewers in *Safe Haven* novel?

C. Objectives of the Study

Conducting the research, the researcher formulates the objectives of the study as follows:

1. To identify the dominant issues responded by reviewers in *Safe Haven* novel.
2. To describe the issue of domestic violence of reviewers response in *Safe Haven* novel.
3. To analyze the response related to the background of the reviewers in *Safe Haven* novel.

D. Limitation of the Study

The limitation is focuses on the research in analyzing how is reader's response to domestic violence in Nicholas Sparks' *Safe Haven* novel (2010).

E. Benefit of the Study

This study expected to give two kinds of benefit. There are theoretical benefit and practical benefit.

1. Theoretical Benefit

The study is projected to give a theoretical contribution of knowledge to the academic reference especially in reader's response analysis. It can be a reference for other researcher to conduct further research on this *Safe Haven* novel.

2. Practical Benefit

This study is useful to enlarge knowledge and experience of the writer and the other researcher to conduct research on *Safe Haven* novel, especially using reader's response analysis.

F. Paper Organization

This research consists of five chapters. Chapter I is presenting introduction, which consists of background of the study, problem statements, objectives of the study, limitation of the study, the benefit of the study, and paper organization. Chapter II is literature review; it describes underlying theory, previous studies, and novelty. Chapter III is research method; it contains type of research, object of the study, type of data and data source, technique of data collection, and technique of data analysis. Chapter IV is the analysis and discussion. Chapter V is the last chapter of this research paper that consists of conclusion, suggestion, and pedagogical implication.