

# CHAPTER I

## INTRODUCTION

### **A. Background of Study**

Many things have probably changed. People have gotten taller, their body weighs more, and they are able to do things that could not when they were young. In twenty years, human being will look and feel different than their do now changes is part of life as a human. These changes are generally gradual.

Insects also got through changes in their life-times. Their bodies change from the time they are eggs until they are adult. But their bodies change in ways that are different from the change in human bodies. People's bodies keep the same basic structure as people grow. Insects change in more dramatic ways as they develop from eggs to adults. What are these called? This called a metamorphosis.

The word metamorphosis comes from Greek words that mean "changes shape". Metamorphosis is the process in which a dramatic change in body structure occurs during development. Insect go through metamorphosis as they develop from eggs to adults. As an insect passes through each stage of metamorphosis, it may look very different or it might also look similar to the stages before. Sometimes new body structures appear in one of the stages for example, caterpillars change from small worm, like insects into butterflies with wings, which is a dramatic change.

Only a continuous process of transformation: the natural life of things is metamorphosis. In any genre, metamorphic transformation tries to capture an essential fact that all people are creatures in process physically, mentally, emotionally, morally, and spiritually. The transformations of human beings most interested in are the ordinary and extraordinary transformation of human beings, and people look for analogues in the natural as well as spiritual world. In the caterpillar become butterfly, the tadpole become frog, and the saint become sinner.

Metamorphosis means a rapid transformation from one object to another or a distinct or even degenerative change in appearance, personality, condition, or function. The concept of metamorphosis is commonly used in pieces of literature to describe an extreme change in character or form. In the novel *A Walk to Remember* the protagonist of a story is the main character who traditionally undergoes some sort of change. He or she must usually overcome some opposing force. In this novel, the protagonist is Landon Carter who tells his story in the same manner as one might hear a bildungsroman, or the story of a young man's coming of age. Although this simple story cannot be truly labeled this way, it nonetheless is one in which the readers learn how Landon changes and become a true man in the seventeenth year of his life.

*A Walk to Remember* is an interesting novel because it is based on a true story. The novel shows the readers the understanding of reality in this life. The story is about how people have the capacity to change for the better as seen by all the characteristics in the story, a young man's coming of Landon

changes and become a true man in the seventeenth year of his life. Sparks mixes the story of a person wants to find who he is and who he wants to be with the romance story about a man a woman who fall in love. It is Jamie who helps him find the real man inside of himself, the man who can be kind and gentle and compassionate and who might never have found himself without her. *A Walk to Remember* is a heart wrenching account of a young, first love and the choices and steps a person will take to provide another with happiness. Sparks chooses the best words to describe the characteristics in the novel, so that the reader can easily identify each character with their feelings. The book lets the reader explore their own feelings about love, about god's plan, faith, and also about how al human have the capacity to change to be better person.

Nicholas Sparks who has the real name Nicholas Charles Sparks was born in Omaha, Nebraska on New Year's Eve, December 31, 1965; he is the son of Patrick Michael Sparks and Jill Emma Marie Sparks. As a child, Sparks lived in Minnesota, Los Angeles and Grand Island, Nebraska, finally settling in Fair Oaks, California at the age of eight. His father was a professor, his mother a homemaker, then optometrist's assistant. He lived in Fair Oaks through high school, graduated valedictorian in 1984, and received a full track scholarship to the University of Notre Dame. Sparks was the middle of three children with an older brother Michael Earl Sparks (b. Dec. 1964), and a younger sister Danielle Sparks (b. Dec. 1966, d. June,2000). Danielle Sparks is the inspiration for the main character in his novel *A Walk to Remember*. Sparks and his wife Catherine, who met on spring break in 1988, were married

in July, 1989. While living in Sacramento, he wrote his second novel in that same year, though again, it was not published. He worked a variety of jobs over the next three years, including real estate appraisal, waiting tables, selling dental products by phone, and started his own small manufacturing business which struggled from the beginning. He moved from Sacramento, California to North Carolina in 1992.

(<http://www.nicholassparks.com/AboutNicholas.asp?PageID=1>).

In 1994, at the age of 28, he wrote *The Notebook* over a period of six months. In October, 1995, rights to *The Notebook* were sold to Warner Books. It was published in October, 1996 and he followed that with *Message in a Bottle* (1998), *A Walk to Remember* (1999), *The Rescue* (2000), *A Bend in the Road* (2001) and *Nights in Rodanthe* (2002), *The Guardian* (2003), *The Wedding* (2003), *Three Weeks with my Brother* (2004), *True Believer* (2005) and *At First Sight* (2005), *Dear John* (2006), *The Choice* (2007), *The lucky One* (2008), *The Last Song* (2009), *Safe Haven* (2010), and *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*, was published on October 12, 2015. His newest book, *Two by Two*, was published on October 4, 2016. Eleven of his novels have been made into film (<http://nicholassparks.com/about/>). All with Warner Books. All were domestic and international best sellers and were translated into more than 35 languages. Further, some of his novels, *Message in a Bottle*,

*A Walk to Remember*, *The Notebook* and *Nights in Rodanthe* were adapted into movie version.

(<http://www.hhsdrama.com/documents/BioNicholasSparks.pdf>).

Interesting fact: Sparks and J.K. Rowling, author of the Harry Potter novels, are the only two authors to ever have both a hardcover and paperback on the New York Times Best Seller list at the same time for over a year. In this thesis, the researcher will only focus on the novel *A Walk to Remember*.

*A Walk to Remember* is inspired by the experience of Danielle, Sparks' sister who got cancer. It tells about Landon and Jamie as the major character. The story started with Landon Carter, a 57 year-old man from Beaufort, North Carolina, narrates the story of his seventeenth year, the year that changed his life. Begins his story with the line, "When i was seventeen, my life changed forever." He asserts that no one in his hometown would question that a 17 year old could know that, at such a young age, his life was irrevocably different. He tells the reader how he takes part in the Christmas play at the urging of a strange girl he had known and teased for being different all his life. Her name is Jamie Sullivan, the seventeen year-old girl who is dying of cancer, but who gives impacts on the lives of everyone around her. She is the deeply religious daughter of the local Baptist minister. Through his experiences with her during the play and other times that Jamie impacts on his life, Landon falls in love with her, only to discover that she is dying of cancer. At first, he could not take the reality that she was sick, but he still love her and

takes her as she is. In the seven months that he spends with her, he become a different man forever.

All human have the capacity of change to become a better person, it is followed by desire and changing effort. Intentional change theory is a complex system, intentional change describes the essential components and process of desirable, sustainable change in one's behavior, thoughts, feelings, and perceptions. The "change" may be in a person's actions, habits or competencies. It is related with individual psychology because individual psychology which studies about human being life or human personality.

Adler in Hoffman (1994) "Individual psychology focused on the study about human social nature, striving for mastery and effort to overcome feeling or inferiority of compensation".

Individual psychology is a term used specifically to refer to the psychological method or science founded by the Vinnese psychiatrist Alfred Adler (Fall, Holden, & Marquis, 2002). According to Adler as ousted by Rcyman (1985-95) individual psychology is a science that attempt to understand the experimen and behaviors of person fundamental attitude forward life. Fundamental attitude forward life is metamorphosis or transformation. The metamorphosis or transformation from bad manner to be better person can be seen in the a novel *A Walk to Remember*. This novel, *A Walk to Remember*, published in 1999, was made into a movie which grossed an estimated \$13.57 million on its opening weekend. It is inspired by his Nicholas sister's life and courage. Nicholas is also the co-author of *Wokini: A*

*Lakota Journey to Happiness and Self-Understanding*. This novel was a main selection for the Literary Guild and the Doubleday Book Club.

The researcher is interested in analyzing Nicholas Sparks' novel because most of most of his works are widely known and read. *Secondly*, interesting aspect is about the characteristic of Sparks' novel; love is often raised as the main topic of his works. Sparks writes romance novels with the perfect words to describe the nature of the characters, so that the reader can identify with the feelings in their hearts to explore their own feelings and memories of love.

Thirdly, *A Walk to Remember* is chosen because the story is beautiful; it is a story of the beauty, power and innocence of first love, the story gives us more knowledge about life.

The last, there are many interesting elements in the novel that the readers can learn such as the values of love, sacrifice or religion, but the most attractive elements is the metamorphosis process of the character Landon when he was seventeen his life changed forever. Not an easy thing to do when someone fights to change and become a better person. Landon Carter describing in the novel as someone who mischievous, disobedient, impious, and pessimistic.

Landon isn't completely bad, but he seems to have no direction. It is only when Jamie Sullivan comes into his life that he begins to see how wrong he has been to make fun of others and to have no real goals to reach for. After Landon Carter close with Jamie Sullivan, he is described as polite, mature,

religious, optimistic, and generous. With Jamie's help, he finds his way to become a better man and ultimately lives a better life.

In the end, he becomes more religious, more compassionate, more loyal, and more sensitive. He credits it all to Jamie, but his coming of age is also because he is basically a good young man who just needed to find his way. Then another interesting aspect is *A Walk to Remember* is a popular novel written by Nicholas Sparks in 1999.

It can be seen from the fact in which the novel has been adapted into movie. The novel was adapted into movie at 2002. From the attractive element of the factors that influence the metamorphosis process of the character and the researcher personal interesting about the story, therefore the researcher propose to write a thesis entitled *Metamorphosis of Landon Carter: An Individual Psychological Perspective Study on Nicholas Spark's A Walk to Remember*.

## **B. Limitation of the Study**

In this research, the researcher limits the problem to make the research easier. The researcher focuses this research on an individual psychology on metamorphosis of Landon Carter from Nicholas Spark's *A Walk to Remember* (Alfred Adler perspective).

## **C. Problem Statement**

Based on the previous background of study, the researcher aims to analyzing the problems, as follow:

The major problem of the study are as follows:

1. What are the indicators of metamorphosis?
2. What are the causes of Landon's metamorphosis?
3. What are the effects of the factors toward Landon's metamorphosis process?
4. Why did the author address metamorphosis in *A Walk to Remember* novel?

#### **D. Objective of the Study**

Based on the problem statement above, the researcher proposes the objectives of the study as follows:

1. To identify the indicators of metamorphosis
2. To find out the causes contributing of changes
3. To find out the effects towards Landon's metamorphosis process
4. To reveal the reason why Nicholas Sparks addressed a metamorphosis in *A Walk to Remember*.

#### **E. Benefit of the Study**

The researcher expects that this research give the benefits theoretically and practically, as follow:

1. Theoretical Benefits

The study is projected to give a novel contribution and information to the large body of knowledge particulary in the literary studies.

2. Practical Benefit

- a. The result of the study are expected to be able to improve the ability of students in studying English through literatures.
- b. This study also useful to everyone that analysing novel. For him or her this study hopely can be used as a guides.

#### **F. Research Paper Organization**

The research consists of five chapters. Chapter one is introduction. This chapter involves the background of the study, limitation of the study, problem statement, objective of the study, benefit of the study, and paper organization. The second chapter of this study is underlying theory which consists of previous study, theoritical review, and theoritical frame work. The third chapter is research method which consists of type of the study, object of the study, data and data source, technique of collecting data, and technique of analyzing data. The fourth chapter is research finding and discussion, and the last chapter is conclusion and suggestion.