

CHAPTER I

INTRODUCTION

A. Background of the Study

Altruism (altruisme) is a voluntary act of helping others, selflessness, or doing good deeds (Shroder, Penner, Dovidio, & Piliavin, 1995:26). The people, who are willing to do altruism usually think that altruism is useful to those who receive the altruistic deed, although he has to sacrifice himself. Altruism involves providing a positive benefit for other people. Among others, parents sacrifice many things, including time and sleep, to take care of their children. In short, altruism is the act of sacrificing something precious for others because it may help the people change their lives for the better. In daily life, altruisms for now rarely done by the people, because this era people are only thinking of himself, without regard for others. For example, parents altruism time and sleep to take care their children. In fact, altruism is the act of a very precious because it can help people change their lives for the better. So, the writer would take the issue of the importance of altruism for happiness of others.

The importance of altruism not only becomes the attention of many people, but also becomes the attention of the authors in literary world, one of them is Nicholas Sparks. He has written over ten books, like *Message in a Bottle* (1998), *A Walk to Remember* (1999), *The Rescue* (2000), *A Bend in the Road* (2001), *Nights in Rodanthe* (2002), *The Guardian* (2003), *The Wedding* (2003), *True Believer* (2005), *At First Sight* (2005), *Dear John* (2006), *The Choice* (2007), *The Lucky One* (2008), *The Last Song* (2009), *Safe Haven* (2010), *The Best of Me* (2011), and *The Longest Ride* (2013). Some of those works have been made into the film, including *Dear John*.

Dear John novel is romantic novel which shows her concern about altruism. It tells the altruism of love between John and Savannah. John and Savannah's story is quick, intense and care-free at the beginning but as the relationship grew, circumstances unraveled which tested their love to each other. Since , John's mother died. Richard Jenkins (John's father) must take care John with his own. Richard Jenkins became afraid of people and more interested with his coin collection. According to Savannah, John's father has autism. In a summer vacation, he met Savannah Lynn Curtis, a student looking attractive. John was in his hometown of Wilmington, North Carolina for two weeks leave from his job in Germany. While Savannah spend his vacation by join a group of volunteers to help build house for poor families. The group is led by a friend of Savannah, Tim Wheddon.

In short time, love grew in hearts of John and Savannah. Their relationship was kind of long distant relationship. John is still to finish his work in the army before he married with Savannah. When separated, John promise that he will soon return to marry Savannah that could wait until John returned. They decided to write to each other. Savannah was the one who first wrote and decided to communication by letters. When the tenure of John had ended, there was a tragic events of 11 September make John felt that his energy is still required and decided to go on duty even though he really wanted to go home to see Savannah. John re-apply for two-year term and was sent to Irak. He believes Savannah understand with his decision. Since, John in Irak, the letters always began with "Dear John" was reduced. John getting problem and a letter from Savannah will not come again. Since , John and Savannah broken. Savannah began a relationship with Tim. When John return from work as soldiers. Savannah and Tim were married. Savannah want to marry with Tim because she wanted to help Tim to keep Alan. Savannah cares with Alan because he is autistic. Savannah took over taking care of Alan because she is the

only one besides Tim who can take care of Alan. She decides to altruism herself for Alan because this condition.

In a literary work, the work of a novel which is produced by an author doesn't always necessarily correspond with the hope of all readers of the work, as well as in the novel. Some readers have a positive and negative response.

The negative response by Miss Erin is the ending of the novel not good, because the novel not finished with a happy ending. I hate Nicholas Sparks' writing and the story is simple and not a lot of conflict by Kristy. And the last based on Miss Kiky said the story in this novel is easy to guess or no surprise and the story is too long.

The positive response is the ending is to some extent depressing, but I do have to give it to Sparks because he paints a realistic picture, based on Arlene. Other reader argued that this novel don't show many conflict. I would recommend this read to anyone who wanted something easy to read that would not make you think, based on Katsumi. Melanie Chapin thought that this novel was a great book, great story, and easy to read. I'm a huge Nicolas Sparks fan & have read all of his books now. This is one of my favorites novel.

The research of *Dear John* is important due to the following three reasons. First, *Dear John* is written in first-person perspective, this novel tells the love story of John Tyree, a member of the US army. The story is beautifully told from these characters that are well rounded characters. It is full of surprise and the illustrations of the book delight the researcher when reading the novel. This is the story of altruism of John to happiness of Savannah.

The second, the main character is Savannah. When, the researcher read the synopsis of the Dear John novel, she thought that Savannah is the antagonist character because she made John broken heart. However, after reading the novel until end, it is not like what the reseacher thought at first. Savannah is the kindest character. Savannah married with Tim because she wanted to help Tim to keep Alan. She decides to altruism herself for Alan.

The third reason is this novel has a moral message conveyed in this story. The researcher wants to explore the importance of altruism to happiness of others. In this novel , John as the main characters in this story who have kindest character. for the happiness of Savannah, John willing to altruism Savannah married with Tim.

Based on the illustration above, the writer is interested to analyze this novel by using psychological of literature entitled THE IMPORTANT OF ALTRUISM FOR HAPPINESS OF OTHERS IN NICHOLAS SPARKS DEAR JOHN NOVEL (2006) : A PSYCHOANALYTIC APPROACH.

B. Problem Statement

Based on the background of the study above, the problem will be formulated as follows:

1. What are the motivation of altruism reflected in the novel ?
2. How is the altruism portrayed in the novel ?
3. Why is altruism an important issue in the novel ?

C. Objectives of the Study

Dealing with problem statement above, the writer formulates the objectives of the study as follows:

1. To findout the motivation of altruism
2. To describe the altruism in the novel.
3. To describe the important of altruism for happiness of others in the *Dear John* novel.

D. Limitation of the Study

The researcher focuses this research in analyzing the important of altruism for happiness of others in Nicholas Sparks *Dear John* novel (2006), psychoanalytic approach.

E. Benefits of the Study

The benefit expected from this study are the following:

1. Theoretical Benefit

The study is projected to give more contribution and information to the larger body of knowledge, particularly in the literary studies.

2. Practical Benefit

The study is expected to enrich the knowledge and experience of the writer and other universities interested in literary studies.

F. Paper of Organization

The research paper of “the important of altruism for happiness of others in Nicholas Sparks *Dear John* novel (2006), a psychoanalytic approach. The details of the paper organization are : **Chapter one** is introduction. It consists of Background of the Study, Problem Statement, Limitation of the Study, Objective of the Study, Benefits of the Study, and Paper Organization. **Chapter two** is Literature Review. It consists of Previous Study and Underlying Theory (Notion of Psychoanalytic Approach, System of Personality). **Chapter three** is Research Method. It consists of Object of the Research, Types of the Data and the Data Source, Technique of Data Collection, and Technique of Data Analysis. Chapter four is Psychology Analysis of

Nicholas Sparks's novel Dear John. Chapter five is Conclusion and Suggestion.
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Chapter Five is Conclusion and Suggestion.