

CHAPTER I INTRODUCTION

A. Background of the Study

Literature is a work created by an artists. Many types of literary works such as poetry, novel, film, short stories, etc. Literary works are made containing many moral values and life lessons that we can take from it. They usually express their works based on reality in life or people around them.

Laurenson and Swingewood (1972, p.11) argued “literature is about presentation of human life. Literature is reflection of the social realities in our life”. Literature and sociology have a close relationship. Sociology have same meaning with literature because literature reflected about real life of human and sociology reflected about human as a society.

According to Karen De Witt (1994), “family is the one people which closest with us. They always with us and always full with love”. People in the world have their own family with the characteristics in each person. They have their own characteristics to complete each others. Each family have their own ways to keep their family always compact and take care of each others.

Family is some people around us and they make us feel love with them, they the first people we met in our lives. Family is individuals who has special meaning. Time has passed, the ancient family is different from the present family. The ancient family loved their families so much that they guarded and love each others to survive as a whole family. A purpose is something you have to strive for. A family member must have a principle that makes their family complete and there is no possibility of split of.

In modern times, many families are not romantic and harmonious even they quarreled in front of their children. This are causes the child grow into a tough that cause juvenile delinquency. This certainly causes the child emotionally and psychologically hurt. The frequent domestic violence will cause a break in marriage. Based on Kilbride, Johnson, and Streissguth on the book of sociology by Kenneth J. Neubeck and Davita Silven (2005, p.153), maintain “one’s birth-order position in the family may greatly affect siblings interactions as well as parents-child interactions”. These interaction become part of one’s socialization experiences. For example, firstborn children tend to be more strictly disciplined, to receive more attention, to

remain in school longer, and to be higher achievers than later-born siblings. With second-born children, parents are more relaxed and tend to be less authoritative.

Family is the basic units of society. Among various social problems that arise, family divorce is one of the concerns in society. Every family has its own problems depending on how they can solve the problem well or separation. It is a concern to the public to analyze the occurrence of divorce in the family. Family conflicts usually occur in a relationship between family members. Conflict can not be solved if the related party has reached the climax in the problem.

Kanneth and Davita (2005) stated: "Sociology is the scientific study about life in society. There are a way to be a good society and how to interact with people around us. In sociology, there is a science of how humanity regulates and maintains social stability and go about altering the society in which they live" (p. 3).

In *The Best of Me* novel by Nicholas Sparks, Dawson Cole and Amanda pair of lovers when they were in senior high school. After 20 years, they met again in a small house where their memories are in senior high school and that is Tuck's house. Tuck is an old man who met Dawson accidentally when he tried to escape from his father. He got into Tuck's old garage and that is where they got to know each other. They lived together. Tuck is a good man and take care of him. One day Dawson had grown up and discovered that Tuck had died. He is very sad because only Tuck he had at the time. Finally, Tuck handed over the little house to him along with the beautiful garden of Tuck's wife relic.

Dawson's family has been famous since his grandfather because the Cole's family has moonshiners business and they are known as a cruel criminal family. Dawson Cole, the one member of Cole's family, he is a good man and he does not want to imitate the behavior of his big family known to be cruel. He is gentleman, friendly, and polite to the surrounding community. But they do not believe in Dawson because he belongs to Cole family. Therefore, he decided to run away from home and choose to stay at Tuck's home. He lived at Tuck's home without his father. He is happy to take care of the house and its garden. Amanda who has free time, she decided to visit his teenager homes with Dawson. They both spend time together.

The next day, Amanda and Dawson visited the Tuck's lawyer and they spread his ashes to the Tuck's wife's cabin. They had lunch, discussing, and spending time together. But she has to go home and he still lives at Tuck's home to repair his car. During this time, his cousin, Crazy Ted, stalking Dawson by sneaking to kill him. He

had done something like this when on an explosion oil rig, Dawson knew it, they hit each other.

Dawson goes to a bar by driving his car. When on the street, he meets his hordes of cousins and his father. Dawson did not know that beside his car it was his cousins. Dawson's father was in front of Dawson's car and finally he was shot in the head by his own father. As the same time, Amanda's son had an accident and needed a heart, the Dawson's heart was finally donated to him. Amanda who knows this is sad.

Based on review above, the materials, theory, previous study and discussion is different with the other researchers. This is analysis about *The Best of Me* novel by Nicholas Sparks. While in this research, the researcher focuses on conflict with the relationship between Dawson Cole's Family.

B. Problem Statement

Based on the description above, the research question are:

1. What are the indicators of family disintegration?
2. How is family disintegration reflected in novel *The Best of Me*?
3. How is sociological research in novel *The Best of Me*?

C. Limitation of the Study

The writer focuses on the research in analyzing disintegration toward character Dawson Cole's family in Nicholas Sparks "*The Best of Me*" (2011) on a Sociological study.

D. Objective of the Research

Based on the description above, the researcher make some goals as follows :

1. To describe the kinds of indicators of family disintegration.
2. To analyze disintegration in Nicholas Sparks's *The Best of Me* based on a Sociological study.
3. To describe the reason why the author address disintegration in *The Best of Me*.

E. Benefits of the Study

1. Theoretical Benefits

The goal of this research are to give some knowledge about literature and sociology and give information about *The Best of Me* novel.

2. Practical Benefits

This research has purpose that makes readers likes literature and can give description about a work that can be used as a research.

F. Novelty of The Research

The difference between this research and the previous researcher is this research emphasizes on analyzing family disintegration which reflected by the character Dawson Cole. The researcher wants to investigate Dawson's character. Based on the explanation above and also the researcher intends to conduct a research using Nicholas Sparks's novel and entitles this research "Family Disintegration in Nicholas Sparks's *The Best of Me* Novel".