

# **CHAPTER I**

## **INTRODUCTION**

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

Romantic relationship in married life is the desire of everyone, especially for those who are already or will through the life of the household, because basically romantic relationship is the foundation of a harmonious family's formation. However, not everyone can embody the desire. There are many factors that affect the absence of romantic relationship in married life, for example the busyness of a husband or wife in their work so they rarely meet and spend time with their family. It is what caused romantic relationship among family members is not awakened. Actually, romantic relationship itself can be built by everyone, not the exception of an ordinary people. Many people assumed that romantic relationship only can be created among people who have abundant material and live in luxury or popularity, but it does not guarantee the formation of romantic relationship. On the other hand, people who have modest lives, away from the luxuries, has low education status, low economic and social status in society, they are the truly people who can build an ideal relationship. All seems clearly, like the phenomenon that happened nowadays, there are so many artists who live in luxury and popularity but they do not feel happy in their marriage. As a result, many of their marriage are led to the divorce. Meanwhile, ordinary people who come from lower classes can build a harmonious family filled with love and sincerity even their life is far from luxury and popularity. Moreover, their households can be everlasting till elderly. Talking about romantic relationship, there is one of American novelist writers who concern about this theme and poured it into one of his work. He is Nicholas Sparks.

Nicholas Sparks is an American screenwriter and novelist who was born on 31st December 1965 in Omaha, Nebraska. He is the second child of Patrick Michael and Jill Emma Marie. Since Sparks was born, he had led a

larger nomadic life, his family moved from one place to another place for living. In 1973, Sparks with his family moved from Los Angeles to Grand Island, Nebraska for one year, then, they moved to Fair Oaks, California on December 1, 1974. At the same time, Sparks survived an elementary school and he allowed to continue up the educational ladder. When Sparks fourteen years old, his brain was kicked, and finally he ended up his study as the valedictorian. Sparks come back to Los Angeles to continue his study in Senior High School. At the same time, he holds a number of school records and he received a full track scholarship in the University Of Notre Dame. After receiving a full scholarship, he got injured and breaking Notre Dame record. He spent the rest of the year icing on his Achilles tendon. Looking of his condition, his mother asked him to do something like writing a book, in order to make Sparks moved from his condition and not just to pout. Because of his mother's pressure, he starts to writes. *The Passing*, become his first novel that written by him but it was never published. In March, 1988, he met a beautiful girl named Cathy. Cathy is a young girl from New Hampshire and she was his first love. In 1989, they were married and have two children named Miles Andrew and Ryan Cody. During their marriage, there are many things that inspired Sparks to write a novel about love, which one of his inspirations comes from his wife's grandparents. At that time, he wants write a novel which a love story become the main topic on it. He would create a sense of tragedy necessary for a quality love story in his novel. Sparks also thought about a plot of his story almost two months before writing the novel. He typed out 80.000 words and cut it by 28.000 words. Finally, in January 1995 he finished writes a novel entitled *The Notebook*.

*The Notebook* is a romantic novel first published in 1996. Nicholas Sparks poured the romantic relationship as the main theme on his novel. By using the novel, he wants to take the readers to enter into the world of his novel. So, they can understand what the story is. He writes it systematically, it makes the readers easy to grasp the content of this novel which the content of this novel is about the everlasting power of "true love". In *The Notebook*

novel, Sparks also shows the great of faithfulness in love. It gives more inspirations for people, especially for teenagers for having relationship.

*The Notebook* is made by Nicholas Sparks based on true story. This novel inspired from his wife's grandparents who have rare and great relationship which everlasting even they often faced many problems and obstacles in their life. Sparks thought about a plot of this story almost two months before writing this novel. He would create a sense of tragedy necessary for a quality love story in this novel. He typed out 80.000 words and cut it by 28.000 words, but finally in January 1995 he finished writes this book. *The Notebook* novel itself consists of 12 chapters and 498 pages inside it. This novel told on two levels, the first is the story of a couple named Noah Calhoun and Allie Hamilton. The first level, *The Notebook* tells how Noah and Allie met, fell in love, lost each other, and then finally found each other again. The second is the present day when Noah and Allie have grown old and live together. The end of their love is tragically changed by Allie's Alzheimer's diagnosis, but they have no power over their love.

*The Notebook* is a fascinating novel. There are three reasons why the researcher is interested to study this novel. First, this novel tells about the story of first love, which turns into true love. The novel conveys about how Noah as the major character can maintain of his first love, even there are many obstacles that must be faced by him. From the first time Noah and Allie met, Allie's mother did not agree with their relationship because the difference social class between them, then Allie engaged to Lon, and the last Allie was suffering Alzheimer's. Noah never goes away from Allie and kept waiting for her until she was back to him again. Second, the setting of place in *The Notebook* novel takes place in a small southern town. That is New Bern, North Carolina. The researcher concerns with that town because it is a small town that can make us feel like we can go back to the quiet and romantic period. The last is *The Notebook* has some moral message inside its story. One of the messages is this story can makes the readers feel what the main characters feel, so they can build an empathy with others. This story

also gives the lessons for everyone who reads, that if we want to get or achieved something, we should work hard and make an effort, because the great thing does not come easily.

In this research, the researcher analyzed the romantic relationship as seem in Nicholas Sparks's novel entitled *The Notebook*. The romantic relationship is interesting to be discussed because human being as a God's creature has a sense and consciousness of themselves, they have the desire to build happiness with someone else that is what encourages people to interact and build an intimate relationship with others. This is because basically romantic relationship can bring happiness to every human being. On the other hand, romantic relationship that built by two individuals can develop into an intimate and sexual relationship which is the basis of family formation. Based on those reasons, the researcher believes that this issue is worth to be discussed further.

Because of the relationship between the subject matter and the content of the novel, the researcher decided to make a research paper entitled THE ROMANTIC RELATIONSHIP REFLECTED IN "THE NOTEBOOK" NOVEL BY NICHOLAS SPARKS (1996): SOCIOLOGICAL APPROACH.

## **B. Research Questions**

Based on some reasons explained in the background of the study above and to make this research easier to solve, the researcher studies the particular problems as stated below:

1. What are the indicators of romantic relationship reflected in the novel?
2. How is the romantic relationship depicted in the novel?
3. Why is the romantic relationship specifically addressed by the author in the world?

## **C. Objectives of the Study**

Looking at the research questions above, there are the objective of the study, first is to explain the indicators of romantic relationship related to the theory, then is to describe how the romantic relationship is depicted in the

world, the last is to know why the author addressed the romantic relationship in the novel.

#### **D. The Significance of the Study**

The result of the study is expected to be used theoretically and practically:

Theoretically: The result of this study is expected to accumulate the research on *The Notebook* novel by Nicholas Sparks. By doing so, we can get many perspectives on literary study.

Practically: The study can give many advantages for the readers to understanding about the real meaning of romantic relationship, because basically romantic relationship can bring happiness to every human being. On the other hand, romantic relationship that built by two individuals can develop into an intimate and sexual relationship which is the basis of family formation.

#### **E. Paper Organization**

In this section, the researcher give a briefly description about the whole content of this research proposal, starting from the first chapter until the last chapter. The first chapter consists of background of the study which contains the reasons why this study must be conducted. Problem statement contains the formulation of the problem about what are the things that indicate the existence of romantic relationship in the novel and how the romantic relationship is depicted in the novel. Objective of this study, to explain the problem faced by the main characters on the novel, to describe how the romantic relationship is depicted in the world, to reveal why the author addressed the romantic relationship in the novel and to analyze some causes of the problem and to show the actions that have done by the main characters and the last one is the significance of the study, the significance of the study can give many advantages for the readers to understanding about the real meaning of romantic relationship. The second chapter, the second chapter contains about the theories that used to analyze the issue in the novel.

In this research, researcher used the theory of Sociological of Literature by Renne Wellek and Austin Warren (1948). On the other hand, in this chapter also contains the previous study that has been conducted by the previous researchers and surely some issues that appointed by the previous researchers are supporting this research. And the third chapter contains the methods that used in this research, that includes the type of research which the type of this study is qualitative one with descriptive approach, then the object that will be studied are the romantic relationship between the main characters. Then the type of data and data source, the type of data in this research consists of primary and secondary data. The primary data derive from the texts of the novel focusing on the romantic relationship between Noah and Allie as the main characters in the novel. The secondary data covers some data that support the analysis. It can be criticism of *The Notebook* novel, Journals of the novel and what not, the next is the method of collecting data and technique of collecting data, technique of the data collection is done through library research with the following steps; to read the novel, to sort the texts of the novel that relate with the issue and paraphrasing from electronic book. Technique of the data analysis is carried out by applying the theory of Sociological by Renne Wellek and Austin Warren.

#### **F. Novelty**

The researchers above are similar to what the writer conducts. What makes this research different is that the writer analyzes the romantic relationship between Noah Callhoun and Allie Hamilton who faced any problems over their relationship in *The Notebook* novel by Nicholas Sparks using sociological approach by Renne Wellek and Austin Warren.