

**THE ROMANTIC RELATIONSHIP REFLECTED IN *THE NOTEBOOK*
NOVEL BY NICHOLAS SPARKS (1996) : A SOCIOLOGICAL APPROACH**



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by

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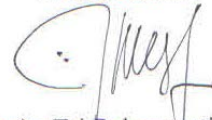
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The researcher



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ABSTRACT

Humanbeings as a God's creature has a sense and consciousness of themselves. They have the desire to build happiness with others, that is what encourages them to interact and build an intimate and romantic relationship with others. The objectives of the study is to explain the indicators of romantic relationship related to the theory, to describe how the romantic relationship is depicted in the world and to know why the author addressed the romantic relationship as the issue in the novel. The method used in this research is descriptive analysis and analyze the data using sociological approach. The result of this research shows the indicators of the romantic relationship in the novel, how the romantic relationship depicted in the novel, and the reason why the author addressing the romantic relationship in the novel. The researcher also finds the sociological perspective using the three principles of Renne Wellek and Austin Warren. The researcher found that the sociology of the literary work become the one of the three principles which most leaning with the issue related to alzheimer's disease which one of social reality that happened in society.

Keywords : The romantic relationship, Sociological approach, The Notebook

ABSTRAK

Manusia sebagai makhluk ciptaan Tuhan memiliki akal dan kesadaran pada diri mereka sendiri. Mereka mempunyai keinginan untuk membangun kebahagiaan dengan orang lain, hal itu lah yang mendorong mereka untuk berinteraksi dan membangun hubungan romantis dengan sesamanya. Tujuan dari penelitian ini adalah untuk menjelaskan indikator adanya hubungan romantis yang berkenaan dengan teori, untuk mendeskripsikan bagaimana hubungan romantis tergambar dalam novel, serta untuk mengetahui mengapa penulis menambahkan hubungan romantis sebagai isu dalam novel tersebut. Metode yang digunakan dalam penelitian ini adalah metode deskriptif analisis serta analisis data menggunakan teori sosiologi. Hasil dari penelitian ini menunjukkan beberapa indikator adanya hubungan romantis yang ada di dalam novel, bagaimana hubungan romantis tergambar dalam novel serta alasan mengapa penulis menambahkan hubungan romantis sebagai isu dalam novel tersebut. Penulis juga mencari perspektif sosiologis menggunakan beberapa prinsip yang di kemukakan oleh Renne Wellek dan Austin Warren. Dari penelitian tersebut, penulis menyimpulkan bahwa sosiologi sastra menjadi salah satu dari tiga prinsip yang paling cocok dengan isu yang berhubungan dengan penyakit alzheimer, dimana fenomena penyakit tersebut juga menjadi salah satu realitas sosial yang terjadi di masyarakat.

Kata kunci : Hubungan Romantis, Teori Sosiologi, The Notebook

1. INTRODUCTION

The Notebook has been researched by seven researchers using different issues and theories. Five of them discuss the structural elements of the novel which fourth of them focus on the main character, while one of them focus on plots of the story. The first is analysing the main character in *The Notebook* novel that is Noah Calhoun who has a loving character (Puspa Arum Restuningtyas, 2016). The second is analysing the personality structure upheaval experienced by the main character on the novel (Muhammad Rizky Kurniawan). The third, is describing the character figures and some conflicts experienced by the main character in the novel (Silvina Ayu Ardiantina, 2012). The fourth is analysing the novel based on its structural elements (Yuli Andria Fajarini, 2008). While the last and different one is analysing the leading character's conflict in the novel (Agreny Melisa Simamora, 2014). And the two of them focus on reviewing the novel. The first is analyze the differences between *The Notebook* Novel with the film adaptation (Amanda Andriany and Valentina Widya S, 2017). The second one is a book review related to strength and weaknesses of the novel (Andina Dwi Kanti, 2011).

Looking from some previous researchs above, the writer had not found the romantic relationship as the main issue that has been analyzed. So the writer choose the romantic relationship as the main issue to be analyzed in this research. 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 them to interact and build an intimate and romantic relationship with others. This is because basically romantic relationship can develop into an intimate and sexual relationship, which is the basis of family formation.

This research conducts *The Notebook* novel with the issue of the romantic relationship by using sociological theory. It aims to describe how the issue of the romantic relationship can be found in the novel. In this research, the researcher also found the sociological perspective using the

three principles of Renne Wellek and Austin Warren. The researcher found that the sociology of the literary work become the one of the three principles which most leaning with the issue related to alzheimer's disease which one of social reality that happened in society.

2. METHOD

In this research, the researcher use descriptive qualitative research study which is takes the source data from words and other written text. The object of the research is *The Notebook* novel by Nicholas Sparks and the researcher analyze it by using Sociological Approach proposed by RenneWellek and Austin Warren. Then, the issue that will be studied are the romantic relationship depicted in the novel. The type of data in this research is the narrations that delivered by the author and the dialogues between the characters, while the data sources taken from primary data sources and secondary data sources. The primary data sources inthis study is in *The Notebook* novel by Nicholas Sparks (1996) and the secondary data sources are taken from other sources, which are related to the primary data that support the analysis. They are book, internet data, journals, and virtual references as documentation. In the technique of analyzing data, the researcher has five steps. First, reading the novel comprehensively. Then, reading some related reference to observe the theory, data and information. After that, paraphrasing the theory of data from electronic book and the novel. Accessing to the internet to get several information and article related to the object of the study and finally the researcher try to make a summary and determining (title, issue, topic, theory) about the novel. The technique of data analysis in this research paper is descriptive qualitative analysis where the researcher identifies the romantic relationship that become the main issue in *The Notebook* novel by Nicholas Sparks (1996) using Sociological Approach proposed by Rene Wellek and Austin Warren.

3. FINDINGS AND DISCUSSIONS

3.1 The Indicators of Romantic Relationship

Based on the story of this novel, there are 3 indicators that indicate the existence of romantic relationship in *The Notebook* (1996) novel. As follows: passion to get together with the loved one, intimate relationship between partner and commitment to themselves and their relationship.

3.1.1 Passion to Get Together With the Loved One

Passion refers to sources of motivation which can arise the passion in having romantic relationship. The passion component also leads to romance, physical attraction, sexual consummation, and related phenomena in loving relationship. From the explanation above, it can be concluded that actually Noah and Allie still have the desire or passion to get together. Those passions led to some actions have done by them as an effort to get together and be united. It clearly seems through passion of Noah to always to get together with Allie, someone he loves and also passion of Allie to meet and to get together with Noah after many years apart.

3.1.2 Intimate Relationship Between Partner

The intimacy component refers to feelings of closeness, connectedness, and bondedness in loving relationship. Thus, includes feelings that can give a sense of warmth and compassionate in having romantic relationship. Intimacy in having relationship seems clearly between Noah and Allie in this story. The intimacy showed through name call that used and some actions done by the characters, where it shows that they have closeness and intimate relationship.

3.1.3 Commitment to Themselves and Their Relationship

Commitment component of love refers to two aspects, there are commitment that one loves a certain other and commitment to maintain their love. Commitment in having relationship also can be seen clearly from the content of this novel. However, commitment

that seems in this novel more refers to a commitment of Noah to maintain his love just for Allie.

3.2 The Depiction of Romantic Relationship in the Novel

The romantic relationship is depicted in the novel through character of figures, setting of the story which includes setting of place and setting of time, and the last one is through some events that happened in the story.

3.2.1 Characters of figures

Sparks creates so many types of characters in the novel. In here, the researcher divides it into four types of characters that are related to the issue. There are faithful, poetic, always struggling to get Allie back and Willing to do an efforts.

a. Faithful

It clearly seems in this story that Noah as Allie's boyfriend always accompany her even she gets alzheimer in the final years of her life.

b. Poetic

In this story, Noah is a poetic character. His ability to make and read poetry come hereditary from his father. As long as Noah's father still alive, he really loves poetry. He always teach Noah to learn about poetry, especially how to make and read it.

c. Always struggling to get Allie back

It clearly seems that Noah as Allie's boyfriend always struggling to get Allie back to him. As seem on The Notebook novel chapter *Ghosts*, when Noah and Allie separated, Noah always writes letter to Allie and send it to her almost three years, but he never received a reply.

d. Willing to do an efforts

As long as they were apart for many years, Noah never stopped to do an efforts even he knows that Allie might not be back to him. But during his loneliness, he still tried to embody

Allie's dream to have a house that has been dreamed by her since they were together.

3.2.2 Setting of the story

The second depiction of romantic relation can be seen from setting of the story. Setting itself includes setting of place and setting of time. Discuss about setting of place, the location where this story take place is in New Bern, North Carolina. New Bern is a small southern town and quiet town on the coast of North Carolina. Located in Craven County, New Bern is the second oldest town in North Carolina. Talking about New Bern, there are many beautiful places there, such as the town center, lake, Croatan forest and any other. While setting of time in the story includes time and ambience which depicts a romance.

3.2.3 Events that happened in the story

The depiction of romantic relation also can be seen from some events that happened in the story. There are some events showed love journey of Noah and Allie, start from the first time they met till they get back together. Those events such as first time they met at the town festival, disagreement of Allie's parents, read a newspaper, go to the lake and the last one is Allie gets Alzheimer.

3.3 The Reason Why the Author Addressed the Issue

Reported from The National Center for Health Statistics (NCHS), Alzheimer sufferer especially in countries part of North America positioned the highest rate if it compared with another diseases such as depression and diabetes. It proved that Alzheimer's disease become the most prevalent effect over the lack of attention and affection from nearby peoples or several problems that faced by them during their life time.

From the explanation above, it can be concluded that actually Nicholas Sparks adding those issue to the novel in order to the readers especially the youth understand that peoples who suffering Alzheimer still needs attention and affection from their family or people around

them. They want to get sincerely love as common peoples. Therefore, do not ever make their existence as a burden. Precisely of attention, affection and closeness from peoples they love who could recover their memories.

3.4 Discussion

After looking for some findings above, the researcher try to analyze those findings using sosiological approach by Renne Wellek and Austin Warren. The researcher found that from the three of major principles of sociological theory which di proposed by Renne Wellek and Austin Warren, the researcher conclude that the sociology of the literary work become the one of principles which most leaning with the issue. The sociology of the literary work become the most suitable principle if it relate with the problem that being discussed in this research, because basically literature itself used as social document where it can be made to yield the outlines of social history and also the things contained in it is the social reality that happened in society. While we know that the number of Alzheimer's sufferer also become the social issue or social reality in that time. It can be proved by the percentage of long-term care services users with a diagnosis of some diseases from NCHS (The National Center for Health Statistics) which shows that percentage of Alzheimers sufferer positioned the highest position if it compared with another diseases such as dementias, depression and diabetes. So it can be concluded that Alzheimer become the main problem in that time so it become the reason of Nicholas Sparks to added the romantic relationship as the main issue in the novel entitled *The Notebook*.

Because basically, Alzheimer's sufferer are the people who still alive, they do not people who have died. Actually, Alzheimer's sufferer are the people who still healthy and sane. They still need attention and affection from people around them. It is inappropriate if their child put them into a nursing home. Instead of caring at home can recover their memories, because they will get enough attention and affection from their family and people around them. So, the the researcher thought that the decision to put them into a nursing

home is a wrong decision. They still want to build a good relationship with others.

Those things encourages the writer Nicholas Spark to writes a novel entitled The Notebook by added the romantic relationship as the main theme of this novel. It purposed in order to the readers especially youth understand that interaction and a harmonious relationship very needed by them. Need to know that ages and diseases does not preclude them to get attention and affection other people.

4. CONCLUSION

Based on the analysis of the previous chapter, the researcher finds out that there are three conclusions for the answer to the problem statements.

Firstly, that there are three indicators of romantic relationship depicted in the novel as follows: passion to get together with the loved one, an intimate relationship between partner, commitment to themselves and their relationship. Passion to get together with the loved one refers to sources of motivation which is arise the passion in having romantic relationship. Its component also leads to romance, physical attraction, sexual consummation, and related phenomena in loving relationship. The intimate relationship between couple refers to feelings of closeness, connectedness, and bondedness in loving relationship. Thus includes feelings that can give a sense of warmth and compassionate in having romantic relationship. The last one is commitment to themselves and their relationship, it refers to commitment to love a certain other and commitment to maintain their love.

Secondly, the romantic relationship is depicted in the novel through character of figure in the story, setting of the story, and some events that happened in the story. In creating characters, the researcher found that there are four types of characters depicted in the novel, as follows: faithful, poetic, always struggling to get Allie back and willing to do the efforts. In the setting of the story, the researcher found there are two kind of setting, as follows: setting of places and setting of time. Setting of places itself includes the town

center and the lake near Croatan forest, while setting of time includes time and ambience where it shows romantic ambience. In creating events, the researcher also found that there are five plots/events of romantic relationship depicted in the novel as follows; The Town Festival, Disagreement of Allie's parents, Read a Newspaper, Swans and Storms and the last one is suffering Alzheimer.

Thirdly, the reasons why Nicholas Spark addresses the romantic relationship in this novel are because he wants to tell the readers especially youth in order that they can understand that Alzheimer's sufferer still needs attention and affection from their family or people around them. They want to get sincerely love as common people. Instead of attention, affection and closeness from people they love who could recover their memories.

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