

FRIENDSHIP REFLECTED IN JOHN GREEN'S *LOOKING FOR ALASKA* (2005): A SOCIOLOGICAL APPROACH



Submitted as a Partial Fulfillment of the Requirements For Getting Bachelor Degree of Education In English Department School Of Teacher Training And Education

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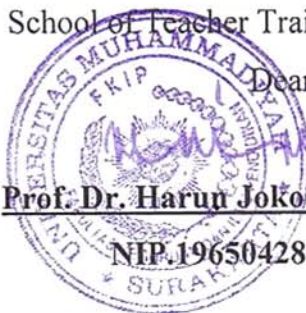
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Abstrak

Penelitian ini merupakan penelitian tentang Looking For Alaska oleh John Green dilihat dari perspektif sosiological. Tujuan dari penelitian ini adalah untuk menemukan dan menjelaskan tentang apa itu pertemanan, bagaimana pertemanan bisa mengubah karakter seseorang. Perubahan karakter ini dialami oleh Miles sebagai karakter utama. Penelitian ini merupakan penelitian kualitatif yang menerapkan metode analisis isi. Objek dari penelitian ini adalah sebuah novel yang berjudul Looking For Alaska yang ditulis oleh John Green pada tahun 2005 dan datanya adalah kalimat-kalimat yang berkaitan dengan pengertian pertemanan yang ditemukan di dalam novel. Analisis data dilakukan dengan mengelompokkan dan mengkategorikan data untuk menemukan kesimpulan. Untuk mendapatkan reabilitas, peneliti membaca dan membaca ulang novel dengan hati-hati dan kemudian mencatat data ke dalam kerangka sistematis berdasarkan teori. Hasil dari penelitian ini menunjukkan dua poin, poin pertama adalah jenis-jenis pertemanan yang merubah karakter Miles yang ditunjukkan ke dalam delapan kategori: 1) Miles mencoba merokok, 2) Miles mencoba minum, 3) Miles membuat masalah dengan Elang. Poin kedua adalah pengertian pertemanan yaitu: 1) pertemanan hanya untuk keperluan, 2) pertemanan hanya untuk kesenangan, 3) pertemanan yang sesungguhnya. Miles adalah laki-laki yang pemalu sebelum dia pindah ke Cluver Greek. Dia bertemu dengan teman-teman baru yang mengubah karakter Miles menjadi lebih terbuka. Analisis pengertian pertemanan bertujuan untuk membedakan antara analisis sosiological dalam penelitian literatur analisis sosiological di bidang penelitian lain.

Kata kunci: *Pertemanan, Sosiological, Looking For Alaska, John Green*

Abstract

This research is the study of *Looking for Alaska* by John Green viewed from a sociological approach. The purposes of the research are to find out and explain the kinds of what friendship is and how friendships can change characters. The character change is experienced by Miles as the main character. This research is a qualitative study applying content analysis method. The object of this research is a novel entitled *Looking for Alaska* by John Green (2005) and the data are sentences related to definition of friendship found in the novel. The data analysis was conducted by classifying and categorizing the data to find the inferences. In order to gain reliability, the researcher read and reread the novel carefully and then recorded the data into a systematic framework based on the theory. The results of this study show two points, the first point is the types of friendships that change the characters of Miles shown into eight categories: 1) Miles tried smoke, 2) Miles

tried to drink, 3) Miles make trouble with Eagles. The second point is the definition of friendship that are: 1) friendship of utility, 2) friendship of pleasure, 3) friendship of good. Miles is shy man before he moved to Cluver Creek. He meets new friends who change the characters of Miles to be more open with other. Analysis of understanding of friendship aims to distinguish between sociological analysis in research literature sociological analysis in other fields of research.

Keywords: Friendship, Sociological, Looking For Alaska, John Green

1. INTRODUCTION

Literature has many examples such as novels, poetry, drama, and ect. The novel is collection of many ideas, stories, and characters, bound with the writer's imagination to become a story. It means, when the author makes their literary work, that is an expression of the problem from the novel. The kinds of the novel problems are love, struggle for life, conflict of life, war, violence or about our life. Author usually makes the simple issues or sometimes the issues always happen in society, for example about friendship.

Friendship can be used as issue of novel. John Green's novel tells about friendship, how about friendship's adventure, how friendship can change characters of someone. *Looking for Alaska* tells about Miles "Purde" Halter who decide go to boarding school in Alabama. He wants to find something great and fantastic. He meets new friends' names Colonel, Takumi, Lara, and Alaska's "Mysterious-Impulsive" Young, the gorgeous, clever, funny, sexy girl of human history.

The reasons author takes this issue because, first, this novel is very interesting. From this novel researcher can know how friendship can change character of someone. Second, because of friends people have many adventures; can be a good or bad experience or maybe a unique experience. Third, this novel also has a mystery to solve.

The problem statement of the study will focus on the definition of friendship in *Looking for Alaska* novel. The objective of the study is to analyze the definition

of friendship reflected in John Green's *Looking for Alaska* based on a Sociological Approach.

There are some journals of the novel *Looking for Alaska*, the first journal wrote by Tiina Ojanen 2010 from London publish as Journal of Adolescence with the title "*Intrinsic and extrinsic motivation in early adolescents' friendship development: Friendship selection, influence, and prospective friendship quality*", that discussed about the choice of adolescent friendship is by the influence of social environment including friendship in social media. The second journal wrote by Maria Papapolydorou 2014 from British Journal of Sociology of Education with the title "*When you see a normal person ...': social class and **friendship** networks among teenage students*", that discussed about the way social status influence in the friendships of teenage students. Social class is method to show how the friendship takes place in the society. The third journal wrote by Mary Healy 2011 from Springer Science Business Media B.V. with title "*Civic Friendship*" that discussed about the concept of 'Civic Friendship' as a philosophical model for a conceptualization of 'belonging'. This friendship looks at Aristotle's theory about friendship based on pleasure. The next journal wrote by John H. Boman 2012 publish as J Youth Adolescence with title "*Investigating Friendship Quality: An Exploration of Self-Control and Social Control Theories' Friendship Hypotheses*" that discuss about the relationship of friendship with delinquency that occurs because of friendship. Social concepts usually affect the malefactor to do delinquency. The next journal wrote by Julian Pitt 2016 publish as Journal of Ethnographic Theory with title "*The paradox of friendship*" that discussed about friendship that happened in family.

2. METHOD

In analyzing *Looking for Alaska* novel by John Green (2005), researcher use qualitative research. The research does not use enumeration and calculation. The researcher classifies her research into qualitative research because the research does not need a statistic data to analyze and explore the facts. Type of data in this research is textual data. It consists of word, phrase, and sentences. The data

sources consist of two categories they are primary data source and secondary data source. The primary data source is the novel *Looking for Alaska* itself. The secondary data source is about behaviorist and all relevant materials in the novel. The techniques of data collection the writer used are reading and understanding *Looking for Alaska* novel as well as the secondary data source from the other books, identifying data that can be analyzed, classifying data into some categories, determining the theory of literature which is relevant for analyzing the data, and searching the other reference that can be used to analyze data. The object of the study is to analyze the fear reflected in *Looking for Alaska* novel (2005) with a sociological approach. The analysis is beginning from the structural analysis of the work and finally the sociological approach analysis of the literary works. The steps to analyze the data are as follows: first, analyzing the data based on its structural elements, and the second, analyzing the data based on psychoanalytic analysis. The steps to analyze the data are as follows: first, analyzing the data based on sociological approach, and the second, analyzing the data based on definition of friendship by Aristotle.

3. FINDING AND DISCUSSION

3.1 Finding

3.1.1 Sociological Approach

According to Laurensen and Swingewood, sociology is “Essentially the scientific, objective study of man in society, the study of social institution and social processes” (Laurensen and Swingewood, 1972: 11). Sociology learns about social life in society. People form a group to socialize. Sociology covers individuals with groups or groups with groups. Sociology is including individual and social. Social aspect in sociology is like economy, family, and society. Society is contains of individual interaction and they have relationship named friendship.

Novel *Looking for Alaska* (2005) is explaining about friendship that happen in the boarding school named Cluver Greek. In this research paper the researcher elaborates sociological analysis with the issue of the novel that kind of friendship.

All analysis is conducted through a sociological approach. The main character of the novel *Looking For Alaska* (2005) by John Green is Miles who moves to Cluver Creek. Miles is shy person and like read novel, especially last word of the novel. Miles' characters change after he meets new friends like, Colonel, Alaska, Takumi, Lara. Miles is often invited to go to the edge of the lake to smoke or drink alcohol. Miles also make a problem because of his friends. The kind of *character changes* by Miles after he meet new friends in the boarding school are:

The kinds of Miles's character changes because of friendship are described and explained as follows:

3.1.2 Miles Tries to Smoke

The novel explains character changes by Miles. Miles tries to smoke because of Colonel. Because of social environments, Miles wants to try to smoking. First time he tries to smoke, when he invite by Colonel in the lake. Miles wants to try to smoking after he is alone in the lake. He sits on the swing and enjoys on the lake to find some fresh air and wait for Alaska if she comes to the lake. But many bugs come because it was already dark, so Miles decides to smoke. He thinks if the smoke will drive away the bugs from him. But after he starts to smoking, he feels nauseous and dizzy.

3.1.3 Miles Tries to Drink

Miles tries to drink on campus; it is first time he drinks alcohol. Miles is person that never drinks and his parents are also not allowing him to drink and smoke. In another moment, he moves to boarding school and gets his new friends who have different characters with him, he begins to change himself and tries things that he never do before like drinking alcohol.

3.1.4 Miles Makes Problems with The Eagle

Miles makes problem with the Eagle. The Eagle is code name of Mr. Starnes, he is a dean of students. In school, Miles makes troubles with Eagle. He make a

joke with the Eagle like, exploded of firecrackers, violate the school rules, and hack the Eagle's computer.

After analyzing Miles's character changes, researcher also analyzes friendship using Aristotle's theory. The kind of Aristotle theory explains as follows:

3.1.5 Friendship Of Utility

According to Aristotle (1934), friendship of utility is the friendships that form are friendships where there is no love but they just want to make a profit that can result from such friendship. This friendship usually only happens in the classroom or in groups that only need the benefits of others only.

3.1.6 Friendship of Pleasure

Friendship of pleasure is similar to friendship utility. This friendship just wants the profit from others and does not really want to be friends. This is type of friendship that only looking for the pleasure, but this friendship is mutually beneficial each other. Friendship of pleasure is a friendship that gives benefit to each other. The novel *Looking for Alaska* by John Green (2005) also explains about friendship of pleasure. Friendship of pleasure in here is shown by Miles, Takumi, and Lara.

3.1.7 Friendship of Good

According to Aristotle (1934), friendship of the good is a friendship that creates goodness for best friends. This friendship can be long last because the friends will accept any advantages and disadvantages of other friends. This type of friendship of Good happens between Miles as a main character on the novel *Looking for Alaska* by John Green (2005) with Colonel and Alaska.

3.2 Discussion

After analyzing the relationship between friendship and society in the novel *Looking for Alaska* by John Green 2005, the researcher continues the study for the

next step, that is discussion. Everybody knows that people need friends in their life on society. Society itself is part of sociology. Sociology learns about social life in society. People make a group in society. Sociology covers individuals with groups or groups with groups. *Looking for Alaska* is novel that wrote by John Green and the novel tell about friendship, how about friendship's adventure, how friendship can change characters of someone.

The main character in the novel is Miles "Purde" Halter who decides to go to boarding school in Alabama. He wants to find something which is great and fantastic. After move in Cluver Creek, he meets new friends' named Colonel, Alaska, Takumi, Lara. Miles changes his character because of his friends. Friendships usually can change a person's character, and it can be better or worse. Friendship is either a virtue or involves virtue Aristotle (1934). Friendship can give a positive impact on one people's life.

Miles greatly changed his character after he becomes a friend with Colonel, Alaska, Takumi and Lara. He changes as someone who different from himself. After being friends with them, Miles becomes an open person. He tries to smoke, drinks alcohol and violates his school rules. Many adventures showed in this novel, for example they make problem with school's rule and Weekday Warrior. They always make problems with the Eagle or Mr. Starnes because they are violate the smoking ban at school. They also save many alcohols in their hideout. Not only breaking school rules, they also do ignorance in Eagle's house, they firecrackers to be used as a diversion when Colonel and Alaska go to Eagle house to change all students' score and sent it to their parents.

Friendship can give a positive impact on one people's life. Helping each other and being open to each other can strengthen friendship. Good friendship is a friend who can accept any advantages and disadvantages of others. The relationship must also be able to share stories and secrets to friends. As a good friend we have to open ourselves to our friends so that our problems may be helped by friends.

Miles makes a friendship with the Colonel and Alaska. Alaska tells all the events that she had experienced to the Colonel and Miles. Colonel and Alaska are

very open and always tell their entire problem to Miles. They share the secrets they had, like Alaska that tells if she buried wine in forest near the lake. Alaska has same hobby with Miles that is read the books. Alaska and Miles are being closer, because they have the same hobby. Friendship of good is makes from the same hobby or equality that individuals have.

People who are very close to friends will feel a deep sadness when their friends left. Miles and Colonel get sad experience when Alaska dies in an accident. Colonel and Miles really lost their best friend. They are confused about what they will do. They cannot breathe normally because they feel very frustrated because of the sadness. They try to investigate why Alaska died, but they give up in investigating the mystery of Alaska's death. They also cannot be sure whether Alaska died because of suicide or accident.

Finally, from the discussion above, it can be concluded that friendship is related to social life. Friendship can change a person's character to be good or bad. From the overview above, it is also clear that the friendship is related to social aspect. It makes unity and cannot be separated from each other.

4. Conclusion

After analyzing the overall of *Looking for Alaska* novel by John Green (2005) in detail and analysis sociological approach for indicators related to the theory and describes the meaning of friendship, the researcher conclude as follows: sociological approach is related with friendship. Sociology learns about social life in society. Sociology is including individual and society. Society contains of individual interaction and they have relationship named friendship. Friendship makes by John Green in novel *Looking for Alaska* (2005) becomes an interesting issue to discuss. Friendship in here can change character of someone, like change Miles's character. After being friends with Colonel, Alaska, Takumi and Lara, Miles's characters are changed like; 1) trying to smoke, 2) drink alcohol, and 3) violate his school rules.

Miles “Purde” Halter who decides goes to boarding school in Alabama. After move in Cluver Creek, he meets new friends’ names Colonel, Alaska, Takumi, Lara. Miles changes his character because of his friends. He becomes someone different from himself. After being friends with them, Miles become an open person, he tries to smoke, drink alcohol and violate his school rules. Many adventures were done by Miles and his friends at school.

The second is based on sociological approach, the *Looking for Alaska* novel by John Green (2005) also concern in sociological approach that is shown on the meaning of friendship. We can see clearly that the content of the novel can be related to the society. John Green describes if people also need friends in life. As explained John Green, friend can change character of someone. A lot of characters which are changed by Miles, it is because of friendship. In social life we have many friends who will change our character, whether it is a good character or a bad character. John Green is able to make the climax of the story is interesting. He makes Alaska as a friend of Miles and Colonel dies in an accident. It makes Miles and Colonel very lost a best friend who always there for them, who always share stories and hobbies with them. A change of character by Miles makes him to investigate the case of Alaska's death and involves many people at his school to help him. He gives up investigating the Mystery about Alaska, because Miles does not be sure whether Alaska died because of suicide or accident.

From the story the researcher can take the positive values about friendship, such as sharing sadness or happiness, solving problem, having fun together. First is the example of sharing sadness or happiness which can be found in the novel *Looking for Alaska* by John Green (2005) are: Miles, Colonel, and Alaska always share the story about them to each other. Alaska always tells about her new boyfriend, her hobbies or when her boyfriend makes her sad. Colonel shares to Miles about story in the school, when he hates the Weekly Warrior and also when Colonel has girlfriend. Miles and Colonel also sharing about Alaska's death, they feel sadness because they lose their bestfriend. Second is the example of solving problem which can be found in the novel *Looking for Alaska* by John Green

(2005) is: Colonel and Alaska help Miles to solve the problem with Weekly Warrior. They make a plan to revenge Weekly Warrior because they make Miles in trouble. Third is the example of having fun together which can be found in the novel *Looking for Alaska* by John Green (2005) are: Miles, Colonel, Alaska and Takumi makes a joke with Eagle. They are lit firecrackers to distracting the Eagle, so that they can enter Eagle's house and change the Weekly Warrior score. Miles, Colonel, and Alaska also having fun when they are drink alcohol because they can tell anything to their best friend. The conclusion, have friends can make us happy, because friends can help us to solve our problems and friends always beside us to hear our stories.

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