

CHAPTER I

INTRODUCTION

1.1. Background of the Study

Literature is a written work that has the meaning of the writing itself. Literature has many examples such as novels, poetry, drama, and ect. According to Grace “Literature can be defined as a creative work of art, an object that an artist makes” (Grace, 1965: 55). Meyer (1997: 1) stated that “literary works, prototypical characteristics include careful use of language, being written in a literary genre (poetry, prose fiction, or drama), being read aesthetically, and containing many weak implicates”. 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. How someone feel, how situation happen in the novel or about characters can be interest topic that will be explain.

Many issue can be create by author to makes a novel. Author usually makes the simple issues or sometimes the issues always happen in life, for example about friendship. In life, people must have friends to accompany in life. When people feel alone or sad friends have many ideas to make other friends laugh with their humors. According to Plato (1989: 139) “Friendship is a deceptive whole by claiming that it is true at least to the extent that it is love of opposites”. According to Ravichandran “friendship can exist between the same sex: man man, woman-woman, or opposite sex: man-woman. It transcends age and could subsist between even an old man and a small boy” (Ravichandran, 1999: 23). Elyot (1998: 58) stated that “friendship is something very special in that *“it is a blessed and stable connexion of sundry wills make of two persons one, in having and suffering”*”. Rawlins (1992: 9) argues that friendship is an “institutionalized non-institution”. Sivertsen (2013: 19) stated

that, “any relationship between friends represents a complex set of challenges arising from contextual and interactional dialectics which the friends both create and manage”

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 likes with famous last words has only made him crave the “Great Perhaps” (Francois Rabelais, Poet) even more. He meets new friends’ names Colonel, Takumi, Lara, and Alaska's "Mysterious-Impulsive" Young, the gorgeous, clever, funny, sexy girl of human history. Making friends with his new friends in Culver Creek makes Miles changes. He is a very shy male figure. In the dorm he is roommate with Colonel, who has the opposite characters of himself. Miles is often invited to go to the edge of the lake to smoke or drink alcohol. It's all that Purge did not do.

Their adventures are about how they make problem with the wealthy Weekday Warrior, the school rules they are doing and they have to deal with the eagle eyes of Mr. Starnes. Alaska fled from the dormitory and will head to the grave to mourn his dead mother. He is very upset because he forgot about the day his mother died, which is the worst day of his life. Miles and Colonel let her go because they were not aware of the danger of drunk driving, because they were drunk. Eventually Miles and Colonel helped Alaska escape the dormitory. And the next day, all the students are gathered to the field by The Eagle, to be informed that Alaska Young is dead.

The days after the accident were filled with sadness and confusion. Miles, The Colonel, Takumi, and Lara still do not believe that Alaska was as soon as died, after a "fun" night with Miles. They tried to find out where Alaska went the day she left. And why he looks so messy. They went to the scene, asked the police, asked Alaska's ex-boyfriend, asked Alaska's Dad and still had no further clue than "straight and fast" Alaska had written in his diary.

Eventually Miles and the Colonel come to terms with their loss and grief and give up on the mystery of Alaska; then they throw themselves into their studies. The Old Man assigns a final exam essay that asks how each student personally gets out of their own labyrinth of suffering. Miles, *finally*, has some answers for the question and writes about them in his final exam, thus writing himself out of his own labyrinth of suffering about Alaska.

Looking For Alaska is first novel that wrote by John Green. He is the #1 New York Times bestselling author of *Looking for Alaska*, *An Abundance of Katherines*, *Paper Towns*. He is also the coauthor, with David Levithan, of *Will Grayson, Will Grayson*. He was the 2006 recipient of the Michael L. Printz Award, a 2009 Edgar Award winner, and has twice been a finalist for the Los Angeles Times Book Prize. Green's books have been published in more than 55 languages and over 24 million copies are in print. John is also an active Twitter user with more than 5 million followers. In June 2014, the movie adaptation of *The Fault in Our Stars* was released, directed by Josh Boone, produced by Fox 2000 and Temple Hill, and starring Shailene Woodley, Ansel Elgort, and Nat Wolff.

The reason author takes this issue because, first, this novel is very interesting. From this novel we can know how friendship can change character of someone. The novel explains if Miles changes his character because of his friends. He is a very shy male figure but after met new friends he greatly changed his character. They make Miles try to smoking and drinking. Miles never did it when he still in his home, but when he met his new friends he try something that he never did it before.

Second, because of friends people have many adventures; can be a good or bad experience or maybe a unique experience. Many adventures showed in this novel, for example they make problem with school's rule and Weekday Warrior. They always make problem with the Eagle or Mr. Starnes because they violating 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.

Third, this novel also has a mystery to solve. Like when Alaska died in a car accident. Her friends are confused why he got into an accident. They also heard that Alaska died of suicide, but they thought it was impossible for someone like Alaska. They did a simulation when Alaska was drunk and ask all the people near Alaska about the problems that happened with Alaska. They tried to find out where Alaska went the day she left. And why he looks so messy before she goes from campus.

Based on the background above, the researcher encouraged to entitle the research as the following: **“Friendship Reflected in John Green’s Looking for Alaska (2005): A Sociological Approach”**

1.2 Literary Review

The authors personally think that *Looking for Alaska* is a meaningful novel to read and also to be a research object. 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 effect of early adolescents' intrinsic and extrinsic friendship motivation on friendship selection and social influence by utilizing social network modeling. The aims of this study are to know about how to influence friendships through social networks and how to find friendship when they interact with each other through social networking.

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 class plays out in the friendships of teenage students. Social-class 'sameness' is considered to

be an element that importantly exemplifies the quality of their friendships, and hence close, inter-class friendships were significantly less common than close, intra-class ones. The aims of this study are to know that social class is of continuous importance in teenagers' lives and despite some argentic negotiation of class boundaries, as in the case of omnivorousness, students' friendship networks are dynamically informed by class inequalities.

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'. Such a concept, would hold enormous interest for educators in enabling the identification of particular virtues, attitudes and values that would need to be taught and nurtured to enable the civic relationship to be passed on from generation to generation. That it can be understood within the Aristotelian typology as either a form of utility friendship or as a form of virtue friendship. The aims of this study are to find out if civic friendship may not be the most appropriate model and that attempts to resolve the problems.

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 discussed about the relationship between friendship quality and delinquency. Social control and self-control theories both premise that delinquents will have largely fractured, weak, and "cold and brittle" friendships. The aims of this study is investigates how variations in perceptions of friendship quality are related to the delinquency, maternal attachment, school attachment, and self-control levels of both a participant and his/her close friend.

The next journal wrote by Julian Pitt 2016 publish as Journal of Ethnographic Theory with title "*The paradox of friendship*" that discussed about the opposition between kin and friend is analytically

1.5 Benefit of the Study

misleading. Each of these social forms generates contradictions that ideas of kinship cannot fully resolve, and these problems would seem to be part of friendship's subject matter. The aims of this study is to know if help and implicit demands for a reciprocal counter-gesture, is more usefully compared to the paradox of the Maussian gift, with its studied spontaneity and dire consequences of refusal.

Based on the journal reviews above, the previous studies are different with the present research. The similarity of this study and those journal reviews is in the issue that the researcher takes “friendship” as the topic to analyze. However, this present research is different with the previous research. The previous researches study about friendship in real society like friendship in family, effect of friendship, friendship in social networking. The present research is about friendship that can change character of someone. This present research also uses novel “*Looking for Alaska*” to be an object for the research. Friendship in the novel tells more about change, adventure, love and pain. Based on the previous study above, the researcher analyze “**Friendship Reflected in John Green’s *Looking for Alaska* (2005): A Sociological Approach**”

1.3 Problem Statement

The problems of this research formulated as follows:

- 1.3.1 How is Miles’s character changes which described in the novel?
- 1.3.2 What are the types of friendship in the novel?

1.4 Objective of the Study

The objectives of researches:

- 1.4.1 To know how is Miles’s character changes which described in the novel
- 1.4.2 To know what are the types of friendship in the novel

1.5 Benefit of the Study

The researcher expected a lot that the researches which investigate the issue “Friendship” toward the character Miles in this *Looking for Alaska* novel have many benefits. The benefits of this study will be differentiated into two benefits:

1.5.1 Theoretical Benefits

The result of this study is expected to be able to give information and contribution of knowledge to the academic reference. It can be also as a reference for the other researchers who want to conduct further research and particularly the literary studies on this *Looking for Alaska* novel.

1.5.2 Practical Benefits

The study is expected to enrich knowledge and experience for the writers in many things and for other students of Muhammadiyah University of Surakarta or for the other universities where has the same interest in literary study on the literature from a Sociological Approach.