

**CANCER REFLECTED IN JHON GREEN'S NOVEL *THE FAULT IN OUR STARS*
(2012) : A SOCIOLOGICAL APPROACH**



Submitted as a Partial Fulfillment of the Requirements for Getting Bachelor Degree in
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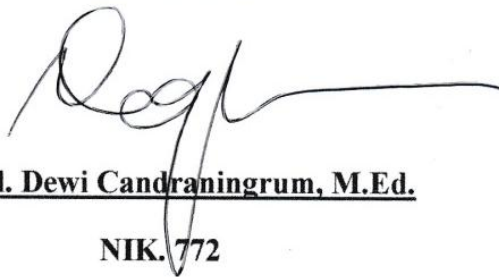
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TESTIMONY

I hereby stated wholeheartedly that I write the research paper entitled "**CANCER REFLECTED IN JHON GREEN'S NOVEL *THE FAULT IN OUR STARS* (2012) : A SOCIOLOGICAL APPROACH**". It is not plagiarism nor made by others. The things related to other people's works are written in the quotations and included in bibliography. If it is the proved that I cheat, I am ready to take the responsibilities, including the withdrawal of my academic degree.

Surakarta, 06 Agustus 2019



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ABSTRACT

The main problem of this research is cancer. Someone who has their cancer must experience a major change in their lives. The purpose of this study is to analyze this novel based on a sociological approach. The author uses qualitative methods. Author uses two data sources: primary and secondary. The primary data source from this study is the novel *The Fault in Our Stars* by John Green. Secondary data from this study were obtained from some information related to the novel. Data collection method is descriptive qualitative. Based on the analysis, the researchers came to several conclusions. This research raises the problem of the main character and figure about cancer. This is proven by their lives that they are facing cancer.

However, cancer does not prevent them from achieving their dreams. The main character's view of death and the process of death has changed from distrust of the afterlife to his belief that death is not the end of everything and the existence of the afterlife.

Keywords: *The Fault in Our Stars*, Cancer, Character, Sociological Approach.

ABSTRAK

Masalah utama dari penelitian ini adalah kanker. Seseorang yang terkena kanker mereka harus mengalami sebuah perubahan besar dalam hidup mereka. Tujuan dari penelitian ini adalah untuk menganalisis novel ini berdasarkan pendekatan sosiologis. Penulis menggunakan metode kualitatif. Penulis menggunakan dua sumber data: primer dan sekunder. Sumber data primer dari penelitian ini adalah novel *The Fault in Our Stars* karya John Green. Data sekunder dari penelitian ini diperoleh dari beberapa informasi yang berhubungan dengan novel tersebut. Metode pengumpulan data adalah deskriptif kualitatif. Berdasarkan pada analisis, peneliti mendapatkan beberapa kesimpulan. Penelitian ini memunculkan masalah terhadap tokoh utama dan tokoh tambahan tentang kanker. Ini dibuktikan oleh kehidupan mereka bahwa mereka telah sedang menghadapi kanker. Tetapi, kanker tidak menghalangi mereka untuk meraih mimpi. Pandangan karakter utama akan kematian dan proses kematian telah berubah dari ketidakpercayaan akan alam baka menjadi kepercayaannya bahwa kematian bukanlah akhir dari segalanya dan akan adanya alam baka.

Kata kunci: *The Fault in Our Stars*, Kanker, Karakter, Pendekatan Sosiologis.

1. INTRODUCTION

In this era many people know about cancer. Cancer to be the one chronic disease that have high increase that makes people feel hopeless. According World Health Organization (WHO) cancer is one of the term describing a person with the rise of abnormal cells in the body when the number of cells too much it will be spread to all the part of human body. Psychologically, people affected by cancer will feel lonely lives like having a short life with the time of their arranged death. In the medical world, cancer cells continue to grow and make new cells uncontrollably. They remove normal cells and replace them with cancer cells. This causes problems in the part of

the body where cancer begins (American Cancer Society, 2010: 1). Usually cancer sufferers feel that there is no future for them. With a short life they just want to fill their lives by waiting and doing nothing. But not all cancer sufferers do that, some people sometimes do their own activities to fight cancer.

Cancer has been known since humans first carried out their activities. The emergence of cancer evolution associated with recent technological developments allows the rapid sequence of cancer to grow, and with the emergence of single cells and deep sequences, which allows quantitative measurements of cell fractions that store specific mutations in a tumor.

The Fault In Our Stars is the sixth novel written by John Green published in 2012. The story is narrated by a sixteen-year-old cancer patient Hazel Grace Lancaster who was forced by her parents to attend a support group at the "Literal Heart of Jesus" and she met and fell in love with seventeen-year-old Augustus Waters, a former basketball player who also a cancer sufferer who caused one of his legs to be amputated. The story of this novel is about people who had diagnosed cancer by having chronic cancer. Cancer make patient must be struggle of their life. In novel *The Fault In Our Stars* by John Green, there are a lot of feelings experience by Hazel Graze as main character in story. Hazel Grace become a person who desperate when cancer was in her body. She back to turn out to be confident again after meeting with a man has name Agustus Waters in Support Club. Cancer in this novel related to real life with a people who have cancer. Seven from ten people who suffering from the cancer have spirit and must struggle to keep their life to get more longer life. And a lot of people success to kill the cancer cell with their struggle.

The Fault in Our Stars received a lot of critical praise. Critics mostly praise this book because of its strong character, language, theme, and new perspective on cancer and romance. The combination of melancholy, sweet, philosophical and funny still runs tragic realism. John Green, they only make this novel a story that can be enjoyed alive and more moving. Elegantly designed books may be the best. This novel tells the love story of Augustus and Hazel is a real picture. John Green is among those who are ambitious in doing a job for a work.

From Hazel Grace as the main character in this novel can give us an example of how cancer patients struggle to deal with cancer in their lives. And besides that what we can learn from this novel is about the importance of a struggle for life, especially for cancer sufferers. Based on the illustration above, the researcher analyzes the novel by using a sociological approach.

2. RESEARCH METHOD

In analyzing the novel *The Fault In Our Stars*, researchers used qualitative research that was in the form of descriptive. This type of research is literary work with the aim of finding out the effects of cancer disease experienced by the main subjects in this novel, and to discover how a cancer patient can live a life like a normal person in general.

The object of the study is how the cancer reflected in *The Fault in Ours Stars* (2012) by John Green. The researcher analyzed using Sociological Approach. The type of data carried out by the researcher is about analysis through dialogue, narration, quotes and character figures in the novel. This data source is taken from various other references related to case studies such as John Green's biography, related articles and also internet sources. The technique used to analyze the data has been collected is descriptive method analysis. This analysis is focused on finding reflected cancer depicted in the main character in the novel *The Fault In Our Stars* (2012). First, collect data by reading novels as primary data to find problems. Second, make notes of the primary data according to the data needed for analysis. Third, conclude the problem based on existing data.

3. ANALYSIS AND DISCUSSION

3.1 Social Background

John Green's novel, *The Fault in Our Stars* is one of the literary works written in the twentieth century. It was one of the important periods of American history for a number of major discoveries. The social structure also contributes to the place settings in this novel. The setting of this novel takes place in Indianapolis. Indianapolis is the capital of the U.S. state in Indiana.

Indianapolis is the capital of the U.S. state in Indiana. The United States is a developed country also related to the story of John Green's novel *The Fault in Our Stars* which illustrates that in the 20th century there were many important places

in Indianapolis that influenced the progress of society. First is the Memorial or Memorial is a research hospital in Indianapolis. Second is North Central. North Central is a public high school in Indianapolis, Indiana, United States. It is part of the Washington Township Metropolitan School District. Augustus joined the basketball team in high school. He is a good player. Augustus Waters studied at Central North school before he had osteosarcoma.

3.2 Main Character

a. Hazel Grace

Hazel Grace is sixteen years old and she has been dealing with a thyroid cancer that spreads to her lungs. Since then she must fight to stay alive. All day long she needed to use an oxygen tube that she had to carry wherever she went.

Hazel is described as a creative girl in thinking, she is a smart girl by looking at everything critical than others because of its nature, she always positively thinks to survive.

“I kept thinking that it sounded like a dragon breathing in time with me, like I had this pet dragon who was cuddled up next to me and cared enough about me to time his breaths to mine. I was thinking about that as I sank into sleep.” (chapter 8 page 53)

Other than, she also lived as a cancer girl but didn't make Hazel despair. She lived her life bravely and also never give up fighting the reality of the life.

“Another staircase led up to the room where the van Pels family had lived, this one steeper than the last and eighteen steps, essentially a glorified ladder. I got to the threshold and looked up and figured I could not do it, but also knew the only way through was up.” (page 84)

b. Augustus Waters

Augustus Waters is former sufferer of osteosarcoma which caused him to lose his leg. One of the traits that Augustus is positive, with this trait that Augustus has been able to change the Hazel Grace's way almost desperate to live her life.

"Without Pain, How Could We Know Joy?" (chap 2)

Augustus lost one of his legs, his cancer began to strike back pain, tumors began to go away at him not only in his bones, but almost in all parts of his body. But Augustus did not despair, he remained strong and optimistic about his days.

"I'll fight it. I'll fight it for you. Don't you worry about me, Hazel Grace. I'm okay. I'll find a way to hang around and annoy you for a long time." (Chap 13.288)

August is a funny and joking person. It was seen when Augustus took Hazel to his house and managed to make his father immediately irritated by joking about the habits of his father and mother who like to make placards on every occasion and in every piece of their home furniture.

"That's exactly what we found with families at Memorial when we were in the thick of it with Gus's treatment," his dad said. "Everybody was so kind. Strong, too. In the darkest days, the Lord puts the best people into your life."

"I like the freaking Encouragements. I really do. I just can't admit it because I'm a teenager." His dad rolled his eyes.

(chap 2)

The patient side of August is seen when he tells story when he spends his time with his ex-girlfriend Caroline, a brain cancer girl who turns Caroline into a monster, but Augustus stays patient while she accepts Caroline.

“It took forever. It took almost a year, and it was a year of me hanging out with this girl who would, like, just start laughing out of nowhere and point at my prosthetic and call me Stumpy.” (chap 11)

3.3 Social Enviroment

Hazel and Augustus besides from themselves are also influenced by environmental factors around them. Their living environment also had a big influence on those who lived with cancer. Their character development is also influenced by their closest people, their environment and their own cancer. like Mrs. Lancaster, who is the mother of Hazel Grace, was the initial factor in the change in character development, as seen from what her mother said when she told Hazel Grace to go to a support group.

“Mom: “Hazel, you’re a teenager. You’re not a little kid anymore. You need to make friends, get out of the house, and live your life.”

Support groups and friends are the factors that most influence the development of Hazel and Augustus's character. Hazel becomes an open, sociable person and has friends. While Augustus in the group supports finding someone who he loves, Hazel Grace. Survival is the way Hazel and Augustus survive cancer and fight hard to live a normal life.

“Late in the winter of my seventeenth year, my mother decided I was deressed, presumably because I rarely left the house, spent quite a lot of time in bed, read the same book over and over, ate infrequently, and devoted quite a bit of my abundant free time to thinking about death.

And also I should attend a weekly Suport Group.

“This support Group featured a rotating cast of characters in various states of tumor-driven unwellness.

“The Support Group, of course, was depressing as hell. It met every Wednesday in the basement of a stone-walled Episcopal church shaped like a cross.

When receiving the Support Group, Hazel met Isaac. He is a friend of Augustus Waters. One his eye was taken while he was a child. This is one proof of the struggle of Isaac because he only has one eye that is still struggling to win the challenge.

“The only redeeming facet of Support Group was this kid named Isaac, a long-faced, Skinny guy with straight blond hair swept over one eye.

“And his eyes were the problem. He had some fantastically improbable eye cancer. One eye had been cut out when he was a kid.....

3.4 Religious Aspect

The novel *The Fault in Our Stars* by John Green reflects an American religion in its plot through character. In this novel he praises the main character, Hazel Grace is a Christian girl. He came to the Episcopal Church along with other Supporting Group members because he met Support Groups every Wednesday held in the stone-walled basement of the Episcopal Church. It can be concluded that the main religion told in *The Fault in Our Stars* is Christian. In this novel, the Episcopal church is like the heart of Jesus.

Support groups certainly also feel very depressed when any meeting every Wednesday in the basement of a stone-walled Episcopal church shaped like a cross. The group members sit in a circle in the middle of the cross where Jesus' heart should be. Patrick is the Leader of the Support Group and the only person over eighteen in that room is talking about the heart of Jesus every frightening encounter all about how we as young cancer sufferers is sitting right in the heart of Christ who is very holy and what even so.

4. CONCLUSION

Based on the analysis in the discussion chapter it can be seen that the main characters Hazel Grace and Augustus Waters in the novel *The Fault in Our Stars*, John Green's work, can be concluded experiencing a change (round character) and these changes also influence the habits and behavior of Hazel and Augustus. Hazel, a girl with lung cancer, had to use a portable tank to help her breathe, while Augustus Waters, who had osteosarcoma, made her lose one of her legs and use a prosthetic foot. Hazel Grace was originally a lonely girl, and only spent her time at home, reading books and watching TV being a personal figure who was open, sociable and had friends. Hazel's change occurred when she decided to go to a support group meeting which was actually forced by her mother, because she thought Hazel was depressed. At the meeting, he met with Augustus Waters. While the change in character from Augustus Waters occurred when his illness struck again. Augustus who initially thought and tried to deal with everything alone without the help of others because he felt he did not want to be pitied finally realized that he needed someone else in his life and in the end had to continue to thank everyone for what they did for him when his cancer recurred and be a weak person.

In a literary work stored messages that the narrator wants to convey to all readers of his work. Likewise, John Green, he wanted to convey in his work *The Fault in Our Stars*, that: We must also view cancer sufferers as normal human beings who have dreams and ideals (besides healing), desires and other worldly desires. Be patient in any circumstances, keep the spirit in living life, think positively and do not underestimate health.

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