

# CHAPTER I

## INTRODUCTION

### 1.1 Background of the Study

Understanding a literature work may not be as easy as many people think. Each person may have different perspectives or thoughts once they've read literature works. As Wellek and Warren stated in their book *Theory of Literature* (1948:44), "Literature represents life, and life is, in large measure, a social reality, even though the natural world and the inner of subjective world of the individual has also been object of literary imitation". Hence, literature is associated with all aspects of human's life in this universe including relationships between individuals or community as well as with the environment.

Literature is about presentation of human life. Literature is reflection of the social realities in their life. "Literature and sociology are not wholly distinct disciplines but, on the contrary, complement each other in our understanding of society (Laurenson and Swingewood, 1972: 13). It means literary and sociology have a close relationship.

The terms of Sociology comes from Latin and Greek, the word is "socius and logos", socius in Greek which means friend, friendship or community. While the logos comes science or also talk about anything. Thus literally the term "sociology can mean the science of society (Abdulsyani, 1987). Literature is a work of works of fiction that is the outcome of construction design by additional natural emotion that is able to expose the skill of beauty are both based aspects of language as well as aspects of meaning (Fananie, 2000).

Love a widely discussed topic in literature and art for centuries, has also become an interesting theme in psychology, as it is considered an important emotion in the life of a human being. It stimulates people, even in cultures beyond the Western world, to commit to lasting relationships, such as marriage or

cohabitation (Hoesni et al. 2013: 59-68). This has relevant repercussions on the life and evolution of men and women, who thus ensure a necessary rearing for children and develop their social intelligence and cooperative skills (Fletcher et al. 2015: 20-36).

Love is a feeling that is especially expressed by the people involved in romantic relationships and is considered, along with a number of other factors (such as intimacy, commitment, and affection), one of the most significant components for a satisfying relationship and for its duration (O'Leary et al. 2012: 241-249). These are aspects that, within the wider scope of relationship quality, are related to subjective well-being, especially in terms of happiness, life satisfaction, and the existence of more positive past experiences as opposed to negative feelings (Dush, 2005: 607-627)

The Notebook novel was written by Nicholas Sparks, an American author. This novel was first published by Warner Books on October 1, 1996 in United States. In *The Notebook* novel contains of 214 pages. The Notebook is a romantic novel based on true story. The novel was later adapted into a popular film of the same name, in 2004. This was Nicholas Sparks' first published novel. It was the third written after *The Passing* and *The Royal Murders*, which he did not publish. He wrote it over a period of six months in 1994. The Notebook was a hardcover best seller for more than a year. In interviews, Sparks said he was inspired to write the novel by the grandparents of his wife, who had been married for more than 60 years and yet still loved each other. He wished that by writing down this love story, his readers could really walk away with a renewed spirit of hope.

Sparks was born in Omaha, Nebraska on December 31, 1965. Sparks had been living towns to towns until he finally settled down in Fair Oaks, California at the age of eight. He lived here through high school, graduated valedictorian in 1984, and received a full track scholarship to the University of Notre Dame. Sparks graduated with high honors in 1988 and majored Business Finance. Sparks married to a woman named Catherine at 1989. In 1990, collaborated with Billy

Mills, he wrote a book entitled "*The Olympic Gold Medalist*", and it was published by Feather Publishing before later being picked up by Random House. Though the publicity was quite scant, the sales reached up to 50,000 copies in the first year of release. In 1992, Nicholas Sparks moved from Sacramento, California to North Carolina. In 1994, at the age of 28, he wrote *The Notebook* novel, and it was published in October 1996, and he followed that with *Message in a Bottle* (1998), *A Walk to Remember* (1999), *The Rescue* (2000), *A Bend in the Road* (2001), *Nights in Rodanthe* (2002), *The Guardian* (2003), *The Wedding* (2003), *True Believer* (2005), *At First Sight* (a sequel to *True Believer*) (2005), *Dear John* (2006), *The Choice* (2007), *The Lucky One* (2008) and a non-fiction memoir, *Three Weeks With My Brother* (2004), written with his brother, Micah. All of his books were published by Warner Books / Grand Central Publishing. All were domestic and international bestsellers, and his work have been translated into more than 35 languages.

The story of the novel is about two people falling in love but the mother of the woman does not agree the relationship when her daughter has relationship with the man. The name of the man is Noah and the name of the woman is Allie. Finally, her mother takes Allie to move to another place, so Noah cannot meet her. When Allie and Noah have long distance relationship, Noah always sends letter to Allie's house but that letters are not conferred with Allie and kept by Allie's mother. Noah sends letter during 2,5 years, but Allie doesn't send a reply his letters, and Noah tries to move on from Allie. But, Noah cannot move on from Allie, when he tries to forget Allie, he cannot forget Allie and think about Allie all the time. As long as she grows, Allie tries to forget Noah and finds another man. The name is Lon. They are getting married but three weeks before marriage, Allie looks at the magazine and finds Noah in article. And then Allie decides to meet Noah. Finally, Allie meets Noah and falls in love again. Allie cancels her marriage with Lon and lives happily with Noah. When Noah and Allie become old, Allie has fallen ill. The disease is Alzheimer. Alzheimer is disease about memory, that memory can make Allie remember no one else in her live. And

when Noah knows that disease, Noah tries to make Allie remember with their story. Noah always visits her room where she sleeps. Noah tells the story by reading his notebook. Noah writes their story in notebook when Noah can't forget their story, he can read it. And he uses the notebook for Allie's memory recovery. At night, when Noah tells their story, Allie remembers who she is and who Noah is, that is a miracle. The next night, Noah does not want to be far apart with Allie, and then Noah comes to her room and sleeps with Allie. In the morning, when nurse comes in Allie's room, the nurse is shocked to find Noah and Allie died.

There are three reasons why the writer 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 the major character can maintain of his first love, though many obstacles face him, from the first time Noah and Allie met, Allie's mom did not agree with their relationship, then Allie engaged to Lon, and the last Allie was suffering from Alzheimer's. Noah never turned 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 writer concerns with that town because small town feed into a nostalgia that people have for the way things used to be. Simpler, less rushed, more community oriented things like that. The last is *The Notebook* has some crucial message inside its story. Noah is a hard worker. That is why his former boss, Morris Goldman gave some inheritance for him. Another important message is to remove the selfishness. Earlier, Allie's mom, Anne didn't allow her to have relation with Noah because of social influences. However, Anne is conscious that Allie is her daughter and she loves Noah more.

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.

Based on the description above, the researcher proposes to conduct a research entitled “The Romantic Relationship Reflected In *The Notebook* Novel By Nicholas Sparks (1996) : A Sociological Approach”

### **1.2 Problem Statement**

Based on the background of choosing the subject above, the researcher formulates the problem statement of the study is:

1. How is the romantic relationship between Noah and Allie reflected in *The Notebook* novel?
2. What is the correlation between the romantic relationship and sociological approach reflected in *The Notebook* novel?

### **1.3 Objective of the Study**

The objectives of the study are as follows:

1. To explain the romantic relationship between Noah and Allie in *The Notebook* novel
2. To explain the correlation between the romantic relationship and sociological approach in *The Notebook* novel

### **1.4 Benefits of the Study**

Two kinds of benefits which can be gained from the study are as follows:

#### **1. Theoretical Benefits**

The study is expected to give additional information, particularly to the further studies of *The Notebook* novel by using Sociological Approach.

#### **2. Practical Benefits**

The study is expected to understand more about novels, especially the romantic relationship in *The Notebook* novels from a sociological approach.

### **1.5 Paper Organization**

This research is divided into five chapters: Chapter I is the introduction which consist of background of the study, problem statement, research objectives, research benefits/advantages, and research paper organization. Chapter II is the literature review which consist of previous study, underlying theory that are romantic relationship and sociological theory, and the last is novelty. Chapter III is research method; in this chapter the researcher explains the type of the study, object of the study, type of data and data source, method of collecting data and technique of analyzing data. Chapter IV is findings and discussion. Chapter V is conclusion and sugesstion. The last is, Bibliography.